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**TO THE**

## **Punjab Legislative Assembly Debates**

**From 1st November, 1943, to 27th March, 1944**

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**Vol. XXII**

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## **OFFICIAL REPORT**



**Lahore :**

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**1944**

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 (Khushab, Muhammadan, Rural).

### MINISTERS

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

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

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

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

The Hon'ble Sardar Shaikat Hyat-Khan, Minister of Public Works (Attock North, Muhammadan, Rural).

### PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARIES

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

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).

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

Sardar Jagjit Singh, Man, Home (Central Punjab Landholders).

Khan Bahadur Mian Allah Yar Khan Daulatana, Education, Medical Relief and Public Health (Mailsi, Muhammadan, Rural).

### PARLIAMENTARY PRIVATE SECRETARIES

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

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

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

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

Sardar Lal Singh (Ludhiana Central, Sikh, Rural).

Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Suraj Mal, B.A., LL.B. (Hansi, General, Rural).

Mian Sultan Mahmud Hotiana, B.A. (Pakpattan, Muhammadan, Rural).

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

### MEMBERS

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

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

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

### MEMBERS—CONTD.

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

Ahmad Yar Khan, Khan Sahib 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).

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

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

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

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

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

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Brijraj Saran, Kanwar, M.A. (East Punjab Landholders).

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

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

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

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

Dina Nath, Major, M.B.E. (Kangra South, General, Rural).

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

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

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

Faqir Hussain Khan, Khan Bahadur Chaudhri (Tarn Taran Muhammadan, Rural).

Farman Ali Khan, Subedar-Major Raja (Gujar Khan, Muhammadan, Rural).

Fatchjang Singh, Captain Bhai (South-East, Sikh, Rural).

Fateh Khan, Khan Sahib Raja (Rawalpindi East, Muhammadan, Rural).

## MEMBERS—CONTD.

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 Fateh Sher Khan, Malik (Montgomery, Muhammadan, Rural).  
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 Fazal Karim Bakhsh, Khan Sahib Mian (Muzaaffargarh 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).  
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 Hari Singh, Sardar (Kangra and Northern Hoshiarpur, Sikh, Rural).  
 Harjab Singh, Sardar (Hoshiarpur South, Sikh, Rural).  
 Harnam Das, Lala (Lyallpur and Jhang, General—Reserved Seat, Rural).  
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 Het Ram, Rai Bahadur Chaudhri (Hissar South, General, Rural).  
 Itikhar Hussain Khan, Nawab (Ferozepore Central, Muhammadan, Rural).  
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 Jafar Ali Khan, Chaudhri (Okara, Muhammadan, Rural).  
 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).  
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 Kartar Singh, Sardar (Lyallpur East, Sikh, Rural).  
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 Kishan Singh, Sardar (Amritsar Central, Sikh, Rural).  
 Krishna Gopal Dutt, Chaudhri (North-Eastern Towns, General, Urban).  
 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, Sayed (Attock South, Muhammadan, Rural).  
 Mubarik Ali Shah, Captain, Sayed, M.B.E. (Jhang Central, Muhammadan, Rural).

## MEMBERS—CONTD.

Muhammad Abdul Rahman Khan, Chaudhri (Jullundur North, Muhammadan, Rural).  
 Muhammad Akram Khan, Khan Bahadur Raja (Jhelum, Muhammadan, Rural).  
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 Mohammad Amin, Khan Sahib Shaikh (Multan Division Towns, Muhammadan, Urban).  
 Muhammad Ashraf, Chaudhri (South-West Gujrat, Muhammadan, Rural).  
 Muhammad Azam Khan, Sardar (Dera Ghazi Khan North, Muhammadan, Rural).  
 Muhammad Faiyaz Ali Khan, Nawabzada (Karnal, 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 Makhdum Sayed (Alipur, Muhammadan, Rural).  
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 Muhammad Hussain, Sardar (Chun an, Muhammadan Rural).  
 Muhammad Itikhar-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, K. S. Chaudhri (Bhaiwal, 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).  
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 Muhammad Wilayat Hussain Jeelani, Makhdumzada Haji Sayed (Lodhran, Muhammadan, Rural).  
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 Mukand Lal Puri, Rai Bahadur (Rawalpindi Division, General, Rural).  
 Mula Singh, Sardar (Hoshiarpur West, General—Reserved Seat Rural).  
 Mumtaz Muhammad Khan Daulatana Mian (West Punjab Landholders).  
 Muni Lal Kalra, Pandit (Ludhiana and Ferozepore General, (Rural)).  
 Mushtaq Ahmad Gurmami, Khan Bahadur Mian (Muzaaffargarh North, Muhammadan, Rural).  
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 Nazafar Khan, Khan Bahadur Captain, Malik, M.B.E. (Mianwali South, Muhammadan, Rural).  
 Mohy-ud-Din, Khan Bahadur Chaudhri (Gujranwala North, Muhammadan, Rural).  
 Nasir-ud-Din Shah, Khan Sahib Pir (Toba Tek Singh, Muhammadan, Rural).



## MEMBERS—CONTD.

Nasrullah Khan, Rana (Hoshiarpur West, Muhammadan, Rural).  
 Naunihal Singh Mann, Captain Sardar, M.B.E., (Sheikhupura West, Sikh Rural).  
 Nawazish Ali Shah, Sayed (Jhang East, Muhammadan, Rural).  
 Nur Ahmad Khan, Khan Bahadur Mian (Dipalpur Muhammadan, Rural).  
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 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, 3 R al).  
 Raghbir Kaur, Shrimati (Amritsar Sikh, Women).  
 Rallia Ram, Mr. K. L. (West Central Punjab, Indian Christian).  
 Ram Sarup, 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, Shaikh, 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).

## MEMBERS—CONCLD.

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).  
 Shah Nawaz, Mrs. J. A. (Outer Lahore, Muhammadan Women, Urban).  
 Shanno Devi Sehgal, Shrimati (West Multan Division, General, Rural).  
 Sher Singh, Sardar (Montgomery, Sikh, 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).  
 Sumar Singh, Chaudhri, B.A., LL.B. (South-East Gurgaon, General Rural).  
 Talib Hussain Khan, Khan (Jhang West, Muhammadan, Rural).  
 Tara Singh Sardar Sahib Sardar (Ferozepore South, Sikh, Rural).  
 Teja Singh Swatantar, 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 Hiraj, Khan Bahadur Sard ar (Kabirwala Muhammadan, Rural).

## ADVOCATE-GENERAL

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

# PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

## TENTH AND ELEVENTH SESSIONS OF THE PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

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# PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

## TENTH SESSION OF THE FIRST PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Monday, 1st November 1948

*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—*

The Honourable Sardar Shaukat Hyat-Khan (Attock North (Muhammadan, Rural).

Mian Mumtaz Muhammad Khan (West Punjab Landholders).

### REFERENCES TO LATE CHAUDHRI JALAL-UD-DIN AMBER

**Premier** (The Honourable Malik Khizar Hayat): Sir, it is my painful duty to refer to the sad death of a colleague of ours and a member of this House, Mr. Jalal-ud-Din Amber. Most honourable members would remember that when we met last he was hale and hearty and in the best of spirits. Subsequently he suffered a great shock by the death of his son who was a distinguished Government servant. The shock was so severe for him that he did not recover from it and I think that it hastened his death.

Mr. Jalal-ud-Din started his career as a Government servant and eventually rose to be a tahsildar and retired as such some years ago. He then interested himself in politics and he was so popular among his community that at the last general elections they returned him as their representative. As a member of this House I think he will be long remembered as a man who made witty and humorous speeches. He was a poet himself and he either started his speeches with a verse or ended them with one, and enlivened the debates of the House. He was a gentleman of many great qualities of head and heart, popular amongst all sections of the House, and not only in this House, but also outside it. He has left many friends who will greatly miss him. He has left behind a widow and a son who is now serving in the Air Force. I am sure all sections of the House would join me when I suggest to you that we should pass a resolution expressing our sorrow and sympathy at this loss and that the same should be conveyed to the members of the bereaved family.

**Sardar Santokh Singh** (Eastern Towns, Sikh, Urban): I join the Honourable Premier in lamenting the death of our colleague, Mr. Jalal-ud-Din Amber. He was one of the most illustrious members on this side of the House and he always tried to do his duty honestly to both sides. Whenever he had to make a speech on a subject he worked at it with diligence and with industry. In him we have lost a very earnest worker, a good friend and one of the most illustrious members of the House. I suggest that we adjourn the House out of respect for the memory of the deceased. I believe that in so doing we would only be following the convention that has always been observed, and I, with your permission, move that this House do now adjourn as a mark of respect for and in memory of our distinguished friend.

**Premier**: May I say a word in this connection to explain why I did not suggest that? When on a similar occasion the House was dealing with this subject, some of the honourable members suggested that we should not adjourn for the whole day. I think it was Sardar Sohan Singh Josh who initiated the proposal that if there was a sad occurrence of this sort we should try to establish a

[Hon. Premier.]

convention of passing a resolution of condolence all standing, and then adjourning only for five or ten minutes. I wanted to consult the Leader of the Opposition, but as he came in a little late I am sorry I could not do so. If it meets with the wishes of the House, I think we might adopt that course, that is, of passing a resolution and then adjourning for five or ten minutes.

**Sardar Santokh Singh :** We on this side, all desire that we do adjourn for the whole day.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** My suggestion is that there should be no controversy. The House has always adjourned in the past. There should be no controversy about the subject, because it would be sheer disrespect to our colleague if we enter into a controversy on such a point.

**Premier :** Will you please allow me to refer to the remarks of our late Premier? This is what he said—

I agree to some extent with the remarks made by my honourable friend Sardar Sohan Singh Josh that in view of the present circumstances we should be very careful about the value and utility of time. But so far as the setting up of a convention as suggested by my friend is concerned, I think if the honourable members, present in this House, want to establish it, they should decide in its favour for the purpose of applying it on some future occasions; though it is my fervent desire that, in future, no one from amongst us should depart for the next world.

I am sorry to say that the author of those remarks was the first to depart for the next world.

But in this frail world death must come, as it is inevitable and hence we can set up a convention that on occasions like this, we should pass a condolence resolution standing and observe silence for a few minutes as a mark of respect to the memory of the deceased. But I am of the opinion that the application of this convention would not be opportune in the present case. I would, therefore, request my honourable friend Mr. Josh not to press his point.

It was on that ground that I did not move for the adjournment of the House. I was only interpreting the wishes of the House. It was for that reason that I suggested that a condolence resolution conveying the sympathies of the House to the members of the bereaved family be adopted and further as a token of respect for the deceased we might adjourn for fifteen minutes and then commence our business.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang** (West Lahore Division, General, Rural): I entirely agree with Sardar Sahib, the Leader of the Opposition, that as precedents up to this time have been in favour of adjournment it would be a sign of disrespect to the deceased member of the House if that practice were not adhered to on this occasion. What I would suggest is that the House may adjourn for the day with the resolution, if the Premier considers it proper to move it just now, that in future adjournment would only be for half an hour or so, so that there may be no invidious distinction between one member and another. A departure from the past practice may be made from next time when some one dies from either the other side or this side or from the centre so that there would be no discrimination. No one knows whose turn it may be next. I do not want anyone to depart before his time.

**Premier :** May I point out that the convention has to start from somewhere and this was the understanding that the House had come to last time? I am only trying to interpret the wishes of the House and nothing more.

**Mr. Speaker :** The resolution of condolence and sympathy may be passed by all members standing. The question is :

That a message of condolence and sympathy be conveyed to the family of the deceased.

*The motion was adopted by all members standing.*

**Mr. Speaker :** Now the House may decide the other point.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** My suggestion is that we should not adopt the convention at this stage. Let us pass a resolution to the effect, that the House in future shall adjourn for 15 minutes or half an hour on the death of a member. We do not know whose turn it will be next, whether it will be on that side or on this side or from the centre. So let us adopt the convention after passing a resolution to that effect.

**Diwan Bahadur S. P. Singha :** Let us not enter into any controversy at this stage. Let us have a clear resolution. We can adopt it from next time.

**Sheikh Sadiq Hasan :** Sir, the suggestion made is not clear. Suppose a member dies on the day on which the Assembly is sitting, then will the Assembly continue to sit? Will not the members participate in the *Janaza* prayers of the deceased member?

**Mian Abdul Aziz :** There should be no distinction between one member and another.

**Mr. Speaker :** The question is :

That the Assembly be adjourned for the day as a mark of respect to the memory of the deceased.

*The motion was adopted unanimously.*

*The Assembly then adjourned with the consent of the House till 12 noon on Tuesday, 2nd November 1949.*

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# PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

## TENTH SESSION OF THE FIRST PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

*Tuesday, 2nd November 1949*

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

### STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

#### POLITICAL, SECURITY AND CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE PRISONERS

##### STATEMENT BY PREMIER

**Premier :** Before reply is given to starred question No. 8776, I would like to make a statement with your permission. I would like to do so now as most of these questions relate to political prisoners.

In view of the large number of questions about what are termed political prisoners, I think it would be convenient if at this opening stage I make a general statement on the position. In the last session, following the policy of my predecessor, I declined to answer on the floor of the House questions relating to persons arrested in connection with the Congress movement of August 1942—

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Is there any person who has been convicted now ?

**Premier :** Wait please. —but offered to supply information privately for the personal information of the member putting the question. The reason for this policy was that it was clear that the Question Hour was being employed, not as a genuine medium for eliciting information but as a method of sustaining and later reviving interest in the activities of an illegal organisation. That there was justification for this view is shown by the fact that I do not recollect any occasion on which advantage was taken of my offer to supply information privately. I think it is now possible to modify this attitude and I will endeavour to provide such information as is readily available in records at headquarter offices in Lahore, but I am afraid I am not able to undertake to get from district officers highly detailed information. It is not in the public interest to do this in the conditions created by the war. The amount of time, labour and correspondence which is involved in collecting and checking detailed information from district offices is not perhaps realised, but I think it is impossible to throw this extra heavy burden on already over-worked officers or to justify the very considerable consumption of paper involved. This is the general rule, but if I am convinced that a question raises a matter of great importance I will, of course, direct the collection of information.

As a background to this change I will first of all give some figures. We are constantly reviewing cases of civil disobedience detenus, and more than half of the total number who were arrested since August 1942 have already been released. The most recent review was a general one of those detained under the orders of district officers and began last August and is now practically complete.



[Premier]

Seventy-five persons have already been released as a result of this review and orders are under issue for the release of 8 others and a few more may also be expected. The total number of civil disobedience detenus in jail on 26th October 1943 was 304. Of these about one-third are of more than local importance, and their release will be governed by the general all-India policy towards the Congress movement. In some cases, of course, it has been necessary to impose certain restrictions after release and the number of such orders in force is 96. Further reviews of the cases of these prisoners will take place later as the prevailing conditions permit in accordance with the all-India policy governing the attitude to this movement. Other persons detained as security prisoners by the Punjab Government for reasons not connected with the civil disobedience movement itself numbered 181 on 26th October 1943. Their cases are also reviewed from time to time, and in fact 23 have been released in the last three months as a result of examination by Government. The cases of those persons who have been detained for more than one year are reviewed by a committee consisting of two non-officials including one of the status of a Judge of the High Court, together with the Inspector-General of Police. This committee sat last year and over fifty persons were released as a result of its recommendations. The committee is about to sit again to examine further cases that are now ripe for consideration.

The conditions of detention of civil disobedience prisoners are also continually under review, and many modifications and concessions have been introduced from time to time. The diet allowance has been raised on two occasions and now stands at Rs. 1-4-0 per head per day, and Superintendents of Jails are authorised to meet the wishes of detenus in the matter of diet as far as possible. I have also ordered that supplementation of diet up to Rs. 10 per mensem may be permitted. As a result of recent orders the number of letters that may be written has been raised to two per week, and the number to be received has been increased to four per week and a certain amount of correspondence on business matters is permitted. They have also been allowed to wear their own shoes and clothes and use their own bedding, and are supplied with various newspapers in English, Urdu and Gurmukhi. Apart from the use of the jail library which has always been at their disposal, and the keeping of religious books which has always been allowed, five books per month are now permitted to be sent in to each prisoner and the stipulation that such books should be first presented to the jail library has been withdrawn. In-door games, cards and so forth are allowed. So far, except in special cases, interviews have not been permitted in accordance with the general policy of the Government of India with regard to their own prisoners. In the case of serious illness of detenus or their near relatives, releases on parole have been permitted. Government are criticised in the press for not releasing more prisoners on parole and not making such releases quicker, but each case has to be carefully considered and due enquiry has to be made, as I regret to say that many such applications appear to be based on a quite unwarranted pessimistic view of the alleged illnesses.

I hope this statement will serve as a background to the many questions pending; as I have said, answers to particular questions will be given where the information is readily available provided, of course, it is not contrary to public interest, and I think this policy should satisfy honourable members who are genuinely seeking information.

**Mian Abdul Aziz :** Is that a defence sheet or a defence statement ?

## PROFESSOR PRITAM SINGH

**\*8776. Sardar Ajit Singh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that Professor Pritam Singh of Sikh National College, Lahore, was arrested on or about the 21st February 1948 ;

(b) if so, the offence for which he has been arrested ;

(c) whether he is still detained in a police station ;

(d) whether it is a fact that he is being tortured by the police ; if so, what action does he propose to take in the matter ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** (Syed Amjad Ali Shah) : (a) to (c) Yes. He was arrested under rule 129 of the Defence of India Rules on 20th February 1948 for taking a prominent part in the Congress civil disobedience movement. He was subsequently detained as a civil disobedience prisoner under rule 26 of the Defence of India Rules and is at present in the District Jail, Jhelum.

(d) *Part I.*—No.

*Part II.*—Does not arise.

REFUSAL OF PERMISSION TO TAKE OUT THE PROCESSION OF  
MUSLIM LEAGUERS AT KARNAL

**\*8806. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the district authorities at Karnal did not permit the District Muslim League Workers, Karnal, in 1942, to take out procession of the most prominent Muslim Leaguers who attended the Muslim League Conference then held at Karnal ; if so, why ;

(b) whether it is a fact that the only Sikh resident of M. Biana, Tehsil and District Karnal (a village in the Jagir of Nawab of Kunjpura) was granted permission to take out a procession and to hold a Sikh conference in Biana village against the wishes of the Jagirdar and in spite of the strong protest made by the Muslims of the locality ; if so, the reasons therefor ;

(c) whether it is a fact that fiery speeches were made during the conference held at M. Biana, and if so, the action taken or intended to be taken in the matter against those who have been responsible for this discriminative treatment ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** (Syed Amjad Ali Shah) : (a) No. The only application made was for permission for volunteers to parade and wear uniform. This was referred to Government and permission could not be granted in view of the general ban contained in the notification of the Government of India in the Home Department, No. 74/3/40-Pol.II of the 5th of August 1940 which is applicable to all organisations.

(b) No such application was made to the district authorities. A purely religious Dewan was held, to which the Nawab of Kunjpura did not object ; in fact he accorded his assent as a member of the committee appointed by the Deputy Commissioner to settle outstanding questions between the Muslims and Sikhs of the village.

(c) *Part I.*—No.

*Part II.*—Does not arise.

*Juma PRAYERS*

**\*8808. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether his attention has been invited to an assurance given by the late Premier in reply to starred question No. 6100 put by me on the 23rd February 1940<sup>1</sup>, to the effect that Muslim employees of the Government who desired to go to say their *Juma* prayers could do so and none could prohibit them from doing so ;

(b) whether it is a fact that he had admitted in reply to the aforesaid question that 2 hours' leave would be allowed for the *Muslims* to say their *Juma* prayers ;

(c) whether it is also a fact that he very kindly promised in that connection to issue instructions in this respect to all the heads of departments ; if so, whether an order of any department has been brought to his notice putting obstacles in the way of the *Muslims* about the offering of *Juma* prayers ; if so, the action he intends to take in the matter ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** (Syed Amjad Ali Shah) : (a) Yes.

(b) No time was specified. All that the late Premier said was—

“Orders have been in force for many years directing the heads of all offices in the Punjab to give any *Muslim* official who may apply for it, leave on Friday for a sufficient time to enable him to take part in the *Juma* prayers. Similar arrangements are made in Government schools, and Government do not think that any further orders are necessary ”.

(c) The reply to the first two parts is in the negative ; the last part of the question, therefore, does not arise.

**KIT ALLOWANCE TO CLERICAL ESTABLISHMENT AT SIMLA DURING WINTER**

**\*8831. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Will the Honourable Finance Minister be pleased to state—

(a) whether he is aware of the fact that the Government of India have granted a kit allowance during the coming winter to their clerical establishment serving at Simla ;

(b) whether the Punjab Government intends to grant any kit allowance to their clerical establishment which is required at Simla during the next winter ; if not, the reasons therefor ?

**The Honourable Sir Manohar Lal :** (a) The Punjab Government have no knowledge whether the Government of India have granted a kit allowance for the coming winter to their employees at Simla.

(b) No. The position of Punjab Government employees at Simla is different from that of the Government of India employees. The Punjab Government employees are stationed there permanently for the whole year round. The position of Government of India employees varies a good deal. For the higher cost of living at Simla the Punjab Government pay an adequate compensatory allowance to their non-gazetted staff stationed permanently at Simla. The question of increase in the compensatory allowance is at present under the consideration of Government.

ENTRANTS TO THE P. C. S. (EXECUTIVE)

**\*8832. Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Riasat Ali:** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

- (a) the number of P. C. S. (Executive Branch) recruited since 1st September 1939 ;
- (b) the various registers from which they have been recruited during this period ;
- (c) the number recruited from each register ;
- (d) the percentage fixed under each category ;
- (e) whether the number of those recruited from Civil Secretariat (clerical branch) during the year 1942-48 exceeds the fixed quota ;
- (f) if so, why ;
- (g) if the Government have decided upon the total or partial abolition of this branch of recruitment on account of its over-representation in service ;
- (h) if not, why ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** (Syed Amjad Ali Shah): (a) 92.

(b) (i) Register A-I—Tahsildars and Naib-Tahsildars ;

(ii) Register A-II—Members of the subordinate services holding ministerial appointments ;

(iii) Register B—Persons accepted as candidates on the result of competitive examinations and

(iv) Register C—Direct nomination.

(c) (i) A-I—31

(ii) A-II—14

(iii) B—19, and

(iv) C—28.

(d) (i) A-I—37½ per cent

(ii) A-II—12½ per cent

(iii) B—25 per cent

(iv) C—25 per cent

(e) No, in view of the number of vacancies reserved for register B and C.

(f) Does not arise.

(g) No.

(h) There is no significant over-representation.

SHORTAGE OF SUGAR, CHARCOAL AND FIREWOOD IN URBAN AREAS

**8834. Rai Bahadur Lala Gopal Das:** Will the Honourable Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(a) whether he is aware that there is acute shortage of sugar, charcoal and firewood in the urban-areas of the Punjab ;

(b) the steps which Government have taken or propose to take to guard against shortage of these articles and other articles of necessity, including wheat in the coming months especially till next April ;

[R. B. L. Gopal Das]

(c) whether he is aware that black markets in the necessities of life, especially sugar and fuel are flourishing in towns and exorbitant rates are being charged by unscrupulous persons for them ; if so, the steps which the authorities have taken to put an end to the black markets ;

(d) whether it is a fact that adequate supplies of sugar were not provided regularly to the various depôts opened from time to time for the purpose in various parts of Lahore, with the result that a number of the depôts were closed down and those which continued functioning supplied only very small and inadequate quantities of sugar to families at irregular intervals causing great hardship to the people ;

(e) whether Government took any action against persons, officials or non-officials, responsible for this state of affairs ; if not, why not ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Chaudhri Tikka Ram) : (a) Yes, but this is not true of all commodities, e.g., there is no acute shortage of sugar.

(b) Government is taking necessary steps to ensure supplies of these articles.

(c) No. Whenever any case is reported, action is taken against the culprit.

(d) No. Attempt has all along been made by the District Magistrate, Lahore, to supply sugar equitably to all classes of public.

(e) The persons who have been found profiteering and hoarding against the orders issued by the Government are prosecuted.

**Rai Bahadur Lala Gopal Das** : I understand that in Jagadhri there is an acute shortage of sugar, but my honourable friend says that there is no shortage of sugar there. Does he know that Diwali was not celebrated in Jagadhri for want of sugar ?

**The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh** (Minister for Development) : I have no information. I had a talk with the District Magistrate of Ambala and he said that it had not been reported to him.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh** : How many depôts are there in Lahore which are distributing sugar ?

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

#### RETIRED GOVERNMENT SERVANTS RE-EMPLOYED IN PUNJAB

**\*8836. Rai Bahadur Lala Gopal Das** : Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state the number and names of retired pensioned Government servants re-employed in the services of the Punjab Government during the last three years ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** (Syed Amjad Ali Shah) : If the honourable member wishes to ask about any particular department, I will see if enquiries can be made. He will understand that retired Government servants have been employed in some numbers because it is the policy of Government to stop direct recruitment and to reserve such vacancies for those with war service.

#### SPEECHES DELIVERED BY THE HONOURABLE MINISTER FOR PUBLIC WORKS

**\*8842. Rai Bahadur Lala Gopal Das** : Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state whether the statements made in the speeches delivered during

the months of June and July 1943, by the Honourable Minister for Public Works at Hissar, Ferozepore, Sheikhpura and other places represent the policy of the Government?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** (Syed Amjad Ali Shah): Questions of policy cannot appropriately be dealt with in reply to Assembly questions.

\*8847—\*8849. *Cancelled.*

#### POLICE OFFICERS IN HISSAR

**\*8853. Khan Sahib Chaudhri Sahib Dad Khan:** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) how many police officers in the Hissar district have been recommended for promotion, promoted or rewarded since 1st April 1942, with their names, rank and reasons for promotion;

(b) how many police officers have been dismissed, degraded or punished since 1st April 1942, in the Hissar district, with their names and rank and the date when they were punished and the reason for their punishment?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** (Syed Amjad Ali Shah): (a) and (b). It is not the practice to disclose the names of officers in such cases. Promotions from one rank to another, and from one grade to another in the same rank are made by selection tempered by seniority, efficiency and honesty being the main factors governing selection. The punishment of dismissal is awarded only for the gravest acts of misconduct or as the cumulative effect of continued misconduct proving incorrigibility and complete unfitness for police service.

The time and labour involved in collecting the information now sought is out of all proportion to any possible benefit to be obtained. Presumably the honourable member has some case or cases in mind. If so, I will see what enquiries can be made if he will give specific examples.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh:** With regard to part (b) of the question, may I know how many police officers were sacked for taking bribe? Can the Parliamentary Private Secretary give any information on that point?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary:** I have already stated that the punishment of dismissal is awarded only for the gravest acts of misconduct. If my honourable friend gives me any specific instance, I shall endeavour to answer.

#### MR. JAI PRAKASH NARAIN

**\*8856. Sardar Kapoor Singh:** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether he is aware of the fact that Mr. Jai Prakash Narain, General Secretary, All-India Congress Socialist Party, was recently arrested in the Punjab; if so, where and how the arrest was effected and whether any reward has been paid to anyone for helping the police in making the arrest; if so, how much and to whom;

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

(c) the particular law or Act under which he has been arrested and the place and period of his confinement;

(d) the facilities given to him regarding interviews, correspondence, books, newspapers and diet;

[S. Kapoor Singh.]

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

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** (Syed Amjad Ali Shah) : It is correct that Jai Prakash Narain was recently arrested in the Punjab. He was arrested under rule 129, Defence of India Rules, and is now detained under rule 26. The general condition of his health at the time of his arrest was good and his weight was normal. There has been no deterioration since. He is being given the food prescribed for class I security prisoners and is allowed books and newspapers. It is not in the public interest to answer the remaining questions.

MR. INDAR PRAKASH ANAND

**\*8857. Sardar Kapoor Singh** : Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that Mr. Indar Prakash Anand, M.A., Assistant Secretary, Indian Chamber of Commerce, Calcutta, who came to the Punjab sometime ago to purchase rice for Bengal was recently arrested at Simla by the Punjab Police ; if so, under what particular law or Act he was arrested and the period and place of his detention ;

(b) the facilities given to him regarding diet, correspondence, interviews and books ;

(c) his weight at the time of arrest and at present ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** (Syed Amjad Ali Shah) : Mr. Indar Prakash Anand, Assistant Secretary, Indian Chamber of Commerce, Calcutta, was recently arrested in the Punjab under rule 129, Defence of India Rules, for subversive activities, for which his commercial activities were a convenient cover. He is still detained under that rule. His weight at the time of his arrest was normal, and there has been no loss of weight since his arrest. He is being given the diet prescribed for Class I security prisoners. It is not in the public interest to give any further information.

PT. RAM RUP SHARMA

**\*8858. Sardar Kapoor Singh** : Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state whether he is aware of the fact that Mrs. Ram Rup Sharma recently made a representation to the Punjab Government for an adequate family allowance during the detention of her husband, Pandit Ram Rup Sharma of the Peoples Insurance Company, Lahore ; if so, with what results ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** (Syed Amjad Ali Shah) : Yes. It is under consideration.

COWS SUFFERING FROM TUBERCULOSIS

**\*8835. Chaudhri Sumer Singh** : Will the Honourable Minister for Development be pleased to state whether he is aware of the fact that T.B. a fatal disease is found amongst cows and other cattle in certain villages in Hissar tahsil particularly and also in other tahsils in District Hissar ; if so, the names of the villages in which this disease is prevalent and action taken by the Department concerned to cure the animals suffering from this disease and to check its progress and also if possible the number of cattle that have died so far since the spread of this disease in the Ilaga ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Chaudhri Tikka Ram) : T. B. is a fatal disease but no case of an animal suffering from it has been reported from any village in the Hissar or any other tehsil of Hissar district.

The latter portion of the question does not arise.

#### LOSS OF CATTLE IN HISSAR DISTRICT

**\*8864. Chaudhri Sumer Singh** : Will the Honourable Minister for Development be pleased to state tahsil-wise the number of cows, bullocks, bulls, camels, horses, mares and buffaloes according to the cattle census report for the years, 1921, 1931 and 1941, separately, in Hissar District, and also state the reduction in the number of each of these classes of cattle that has taken place due to famine in Hissar last year and the action that the Government has taken or proposes to take to make up the loss ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Chaudhri Tikka Ram) : I regret that the answer to this question is not yet ready.

#### COMMUNAL REPRESENTATION IN HISSAR DISTRICT BOARD SERVICE

**\*8887. Khan Sahib Chaudhri Sahib Dad Khan** : Will the Honourable Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether in the Hissar District Board the muslim representation in its services has been improved since 20th July 1937, if so, what appointments of muslims have taken place together with their names, pay, post, etc ;

(b) how many posts fell vacant in the services of the Hissar District Board since 20th July 1937, in the general and Engineering Branches, how they were filled together with the name of the person filling the vacancy and his pay ?

**The Honourable Sardar Shaukat Hyat Khan** : I regret that the answer to this question is not yet ready.

#### DEARNESS AND HILL ALLOWANCES TO SUBORDINATE STAFF AT HILL STATIONS

**\*8830. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad** : Will the Honourable Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) whether he is aware of the fact that at hill stations such as Simla and others the necessities of life are selling at higher prices than in the plains ;

(b) whether Government have ever taken into consideration the question of raising the dearness as well as hill allowances for the officials in subordinate services at the hill stations ; if so, with what result ?

**The Honourable Sir Manohar Lal** : (a) Yes. Prices are generally higher at hill stations than in the plains.

(b) Compensatory allowances are granted by Government to Government servants stationed at hill stations for the high cost of living. The question of increase in the compensatory allowance to staff permanently stationed at Simla is receiving the attention of Government.

As a result of further rise in prices Government have recently revised the rates of dearness allowance for all Government servants whether stationed at hill stations or in the plains drawing pay up to Rs. 250 per mensem.



## ANTI-CORRUPTION DEPARTMENT

**\*8843. Rai Bahadur Lala Gopal Das :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) the number of persons, community-wise excluding peons, employed by the Punjab Government in the Anti-Corruption Department ;

(b) the number of Hindu and Muslim Government employees of various departments in the Punjab against whom investigations have been conducted by the staff of the above named department, so far ;

(c) the number of Government employees, community-wise, against whom action has been taken as a result of investigations made by the Anti-Corruption Department ;

(d) the number of cases, community-wise, in which the said Department declared the allegations of corruption as baseless or did not proceed with enquiries for one reason or another ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary (Syed Amjad Ali Shah) :** A statement is laid on the table.

(a)

*Executive Staff—*

Muslims	..	..	..	..	13
Hindus	..	..	..	..	2
Sikhs	..	..	..	..	4

*Clerical Staff—*

Muslims	..	..	..	..	3
Hindu	..	..	..	..	1

*Note—One short in Executive Staff.*

(b) Hindus	..	..	..	..	62
Muslims	..	..	..	..	45

In addition to the above number the Agency conducted investigation against 35 Sikhs and 14 Christians and others.

(c)—

	Action taken	Pending final decision	Pending investigation
	1	2	3
Hindus .. .. .	18	19	5
Muslims .. .. .	15	14	1
Sikhs .. .. .	9	3	5
Christians and others .. .. .	5	5	..

(d) Hindus	..	..	..	..	21
Muslims	..	..	..	..	20
Sikhs	..	..	..	..	14
Christians and others	..	..	..	..	4

\*8852. {  
 \*8854. { Cancelled.  
 \*8855. {

MASTER KABUL SINGH

**\*8859. Sardar Kapoor Singh:** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that Master Kabul Singh recently requested the Punjab Government to transfer him to some jail near his village because the members of his family have no means to travel long distances after every fortnight for an interview with him; if so, with what result;

(b) whether it is a fact that Master Kabul Singh has been transferred to the Jhang District Jail from the Gujrat Jail which means more inconvenience to his family; if so, the reasons therefor?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** (Syed Amjad Ali Shah): (a) Yes. The request was rejected as he is being given a liberal allowance amounting to Rs. 60 in addition to his considerable landed property, and in the circumstances it should be ample to cover such expenses.

(b) Yes. It is not in the public interest to disclose the reasons for his transfer from Gujrat to Jhang. The honourable member will be interested to know that Master Kabul Singh has since been released on parole for a period of 15 days.

MAL-TREATMENT OF SECURITY PRISONERS IN LAHORE FORT

**\*8862. Sardar Kapoor Singh:** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether Sardar Sardul Singh Caveeshar was given any extra facilities during his detention from March to September 1948, in the Lahore Fort over and above those allowed under the rules for security prisoners in the Punjab; if so, what were those facilities;

(b) whether he is aware of the fact that in his representations to the Lahore High Court, the Home Member, Government of India, and other officials, Sardar Sardul Singh Caveeshar stated that no extra facilities were allowed to him beyond those allowed under Punjab Security Prisoners Rules;

(c) whether it is a fact that Sardar Sardul Singh Caveeshar was punished during the period of his detention by the Deputy Inspector-General (Criminal Investigation Department); if so, the reasons therefor and whether he could do so under the Security Prisoners Rules;

(d) under whose order Sardar Sardul Singh Caveeshar, Lala Shankar Lal of Delhi, Mr. Diwjin Bose, Mr. Arvind Bose, nephew of Mr. Sarat Chandra Bose, were subjected to interrogation and tortures in the Lahore Fort for seven months during the last year;

(e) whether it is a fact that several Government of India Detenus specially sent to the Punjab made serious complaints in writing about illegal and inhuman treatment meted out to them by the Punjab Criminal Investigation Department in the Lahore Fort to His Excellency the Governor-General in Council, His Excellency the Governor of the Punjab, the members of the Executive Council and the Honourable Ministers of Provincial Governments and Home Member, Government of India but they were withheld by the Punjab Criminal Investigation Department; if so under whose orders this was done and the reasons therefor?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** (Syed Amjad Ali Shah): These persons are detained under the orders of the Government of India, and questions about them cannot be raised on the floor of this House but should be addressed to the Central Government.

## SARDAR SARDUL SINGH CAVEESHAR

**\*8863. Sardar Kapoor Singh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether he is aware of the fact that in his representation to the Lahore High Court under section 491, Indian Penal Code, in June 1948, Sardar Sardul Singh Caveeshar made serious allegations against certain Criminal Investigation Department Officers of the Punjab Government about the illegal and criminal treatment meted out to him during his detention in the Lahore Fort in August 1942;

(b) whether he is aware of the fact that the Lahore High Court suggested that the petitioner could file civil and criminal suits against the Criminal Investigation Department, Punjab, to get redress;

(c) whether it is a fact that Sardar Sardul Singh Caveeshar was not allowed to see his legal adviser so that he might give instructions to him to file civil and criminal suits against the Criminal Investigation Department, Punjab, for the inhuman and illegal treatment meted out to him during his detention in the Lahore Fort; if so, why;

(d) whether it is a fact that the Punjab Criminal Investigation Department did not furnish a copy of the detention orders to Mr. Caveeshar which he required for the purpose of making an appeal to the Lahore High Court and the Federal Court, India; if so, why?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** (Syed 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, but should be addressed to the Government of India.

## FLOODS IN THE RIVER BEAS

**\*8838. Rai Bahadur Lala Gopal Das :** Will the Honourable Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) the extent of the damage caused by the floods in the River Beas during the month of August 1948, to villages in the Kangra district, especially in Indore, Re, Sanaur, Chandran and the surrounding areas;

(b) the total number of villages affected, the approximate area of land that went under water, the value of the crops which have been ruined or damaged and the number of cattle lost on account of the floods;

(c) the steps which Government have taken to give relief to the sufferers; the amount, if any, of land revenue remitted, the sum of money sanctioned by Government for relief work in this connection and the amount actually spent thereof, the number of people rendered homeless and the measures adopted to provide food and shelter to them;

(d) whether any loss of human life has been reported as a consequence of the above mentioned floods; if so, how much?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Chaudhri Tikka Ram): I regret the reply is not yet ready.

## TEACHING OF HINDI AND GURMUKHI

**\*8833. Rai Bahadur Lala Gopal Das :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) how the sum of Rs. 10,000 allotted for teaching Hindi and Gurmukhi in schools has so far been spent;

(b) whether it is a fact that no substantial increase in the number of students learning Hindi in schools has resulted up till now and whether it is a fact that the amount of Rs. 10,000 has proved to be utterly inadequate for the purpose of encouraging the study of Hindi and Gurmukhi ;

(c) whether it is the intention of Government to supplement this grant by additional expenditure ; if not, the reasons therefor ;

(d) the special steps which Government propose to take to encourage the study of Hindi and Gurmukhi in the Province ?

**The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye :** (a) A sum of Rs. 10,000 provided in the current year's budget for the teaching of scriptural languages in primary schools has not been spent. The introduction of a second vernacular at the primary stage raised certain educational problems dealing with the internal organisation of class work. These problems have been carefully considered, in consultation with the Divisional Inspectors and it is hoped to begin the teaching of these languages very soon.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) It was felt that the provision of Rs. 10,000 for this purpose was insufficient and accordingly provision for Rs. 20,000 has been made in the Schedule of New Expenditure for the year 1944-45, subject to the vote of the Assembly.

(d) It is proposed to introduce the teaching of scriptural languages in a few selected schools in each district as an experimental measure.

**Rai Bahadur Lala Gopal Das :** The Honourable Minister has used the word "soon". May I know whether he would be able to define the word "soon," whether it means this year, next year or 40 years hence ?

**Minister :** As soon as circumstances permit.

**Rai Bahadur Lala Gopal Das :** What do you mean by the words "circumstances permit"?

**Minister :** As soon as the preliminary points are settled the provision is there. The honourable member is perhaps aware that this proposal was not initiated in the first instance in the Education Department. We provided this amount and asked the Education Department to look into this matter and to make the necessary arrangements. They are now busy with certain problems.

**Rai Bahadur Lala Gopal Das :** Is this provision of Rs. 10,000 an eye-wash ?

**Minister :** It is always good to have an eye-wash.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** What is the proportion of this money to be used for the propagation of Punjabi language ?

**Minister :** The honourable member can solve the mathematical problem himself : he has got the budget before him.

#### FINANCIAL ADVISER TO CO-OPERATIVE DEPARTMENT

**\*8745. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Will the Honourable Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(a) the name of the person who has been selected for training as Financial Adviser, Co-operative Department, on retirement of the present Financial Adviser ;

[K. S. Khwaja Ghulam Samad.]

(b) whether it is a fact that he is an officer of Provincial Co-operative Service, Class II;

(c) the number and names of the officers in class II mentioned above, if any, who have been overlooked in making this selection?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Chaudhri Tikka Ram): (a) It is not the practice to give names.

(b) Yes.

(c) 1st part—10.

2nd Part—As in (a) above.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad**: May I know whether the person selected for this job possesses any special qualifications for being selected?

**Parliamentary Secretary**: Yes, he does.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad**: How many officers has he superseded by this selection?

**Parliamentary Secretary**: I have already given the number in answer to Part (c), 1st Part, namely 10.

#### AMBALA MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE

**\*8822. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad**: Will the Honourable Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the local authorities of Ambala have recommended to Government the supersession of the Ambala City Municipal Committee; if so, the reasons stated by them for this action;

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

**The Honourable Sardar Shaukat Hyat Khan**: (a) Yes, on account of general mal-administration and in particular because of the committee's weak financial condition.

(b) An official president has been appointed and it is hoped that this change will improve matters.

**Mian Abdul Aziz**: What is the total number of superseded committees in the province at this stage?

**Minister for Public Works**: I should like to have notice for this question.

**Premier**: Lahore is certainly one of them. (*Laughter*).

#### UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

##### SIKH CLERKS IN THE CIVIL SECRETARIAT

**1683. Sardar Ajit Singh**: Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) the number of senior clerks, community-wise and year-wise, in the Civil Secretariat in the years 1937 to 1948;

(b) what share has been fixed for the Sikh community in the clerical establishment of the Civil Secretariat ;

(c) whether it is a fact that the share of the Sikh community has during these years decreased in that establishment instead of increasing ; if so, the steps intended to be taken to make up the deficiency ?

**The Honourable Malik Khizar Hayat :** (a) The information is as follows :—

Year	Muslims	Hindus	Sikhs	Anglo-Indians	Indian Christians	Scheduled castes	Total
1937	20	16	5	3	..	..	44
1938	23	14	7	2	..	..	46
1939	23	17	7	1	1	..	49
1940	24	25	8	2	2	..	61
1941	21	23	9	2	2	..	57
1942	23	25	7	2	1	..	58
1943	31	18	12	2	1	2	66

(b) 20 per cent.

(c) No.

#### SIKH SUPERINTENDENTS IN THE FINANCIAL COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE

**1684. Sardar Ajit Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) the number of superintendents in the Financial Commissioners' Office, community-wise, and year-wise, in the years 1937 to 1943 ;

(b) whether it is a fact that the claims of the Sikh community have so far been ignored at the time of appointment of superintendents in the vacancies that have arisen from time to time ; if so, why and what steps are intended to be taken to remove this grievance of the Sikh community ?

**The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram :** (a) The required information is given below :—

Name of year				NUMBER OF SUPERINTENDENTS COMMUNITY-WISE			
				Europeans and Anglo-Indians	Muslims	Hindus	Sikhs
1937	..	..	..	3	1	2	..
1938	..	..	..	3	1	2	..
1939	..	..	..	3	2	2	..
1940	..	..	..	2	3	2	1
1941	..	..	..	2	3	2	1
1942	..	..	..	2	3	3	1
1943 (up to date)	..	..	..	2	3	3	1

(b) *First part*—Promotion to the posts of superintendents is made on merit without regard to communal consideration.

*Second part*.—Does not arise.

## SIKH STENOGRAPHERS IN FINANCIAL COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE

**1685. Sardar Ajit Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) the number of Sikh stenographers in the Financial Commissioners' Office, community-wise and year-wise, in the years 1937 to 1943 ;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Sikh community has so far been ignored in the matter of appointment to the posts of stenographers in the said office ; if so, when this grievance of the Sikh community is intended to be removed ?

**The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram :** I must decline with regret to answer questions which savour of communalism. I am sorry to have to adopt this attitude but Government consider it necessary in the public interest to establish a convention in connection with such questions. I shall, however, always be prepared to examine any particular instance of disproportionate representation which the honourable member may bring to my notice in a more informal way.

## SIKH CLERKS IN THE FINANCIAL COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE

**1686. Sardar Ajit Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) the number of senior and junior clerks, community-wise and year-wise in the Financial Commissioners' Office, in the years 1937 to 1943 ;

(b) what steps were taken or are intended to be taken to give representation to the Sikh community in this cadre of the service ?

**The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram :** Part (a)—A statement giving the required information is given below :—

Name of year	NUMBER OF POSTS OF JUNIOR AND SENIOR CLERKS HELD COMMUNITY-WISE					
	Anglo- Indians and Europeans	Muslims	Hindus	Sikhs	Others	
					Indian Christians	Sched- uled castes
On 1st January 1937 ..	2	23	24	11	1	..
On 1st January 1938 ..	3	22	25	11	1	..
On 1st January 1939 ..	3	22	26	10	..	..
On 1st January 1940 ..	3	29	22	10	1	..
On 1st January 1941 ..	1	44	27	16	1	..
On 1st January 1942 ..	2	45	28	20	1	..
1943 (up to date) ..	..	49	25	24	1	2

**Part (b).** Very clear and strict instructions already exist both on communal and class proportions in respect of the initial appointment 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.

**REPRESENTATION OF SIKHS IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE FINANCIAL COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE.**

**1687. Sardar Ajit Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) the number of Sikhs employed in the Financial Commissioners' Office in the years 1937 to 1943 year-wise;

(b) the share allotted to the Sikh community in the clerical establishment of the office of the Financial Commissioners;

(c) what steps have been taken or are intended to be taken to give due representation to the Sikh community in this service?

**The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram :** I must decline with regret to answer questions which savour of communalism. I am sorry to have to adopt this attitude but Government consider it necessary in the public interest to establish a convention in connection with such questions. I shall, however, always be prepared to examine any particular instance of disproportionate representation which the honourable member may bring to my notice in a more informal way.

**SIKH SUPERINTENDENTS IN THE CIVIL SECRETARIAT**

**1688. Sardar Ajit Singh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) the number of superintendents, community-wise and year-wise, in the Civil Secretariat in the years 1937 to 1943;

(b) the reasons why the vacancy of a superintendent in 1941 was filled by a non-Sikh, when the Sikh community was already unrepresented;

(c) the steps intended to be taken to remove this grievance of the Sikh community?

**The Honourable Malik Khizar Hayat :** (a) The information is as follows :—

Year	Muslims	Hindus	Sikhs	Anglo-Indians	Indians Christians	Total
1937	4	6	..	4	..	14
1938	4	7	1	5	..	17
1939	4	8	1	5	..	18
1940	5	6	1	5	..	17
1941	5	6	..	5	..	16
1942	5	6	..	5	1	17
1943	5	10	3	4	1	23

(b) Communal considerations are not and cannot be observed in making promotions from one grade to another. Such promotions are based on seniority.



[Premier.]

(c) In making direct recruitment the communal formula laid down by Government whereby the Sikhs get 20 per cent of the total vacancies is strictly adhered to.

#### SIKH CLERICAL ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CIVIL SECRETARIAT

**1689. Sardar Ajit Singh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) the number of Sikh employees in the clerical establishment of the Civil Secretariat in the years 1937 to 1948, year wise ;

(b) the share allotted to that community in this service ;

(c) whether it is a fact that the number of Sikh employees has, during the past few years, decreased instead of increasing ; if so, the steps intended to be taken to make up the deficiency ?

**The Honourable Malik Khizar Hayat :** (a) The information is as follows :—

Year					Number of Sikh employees	Total	Percentage
1937	..	..	..	..	27	233	11·6
1938	..	..	..	..	32	250	12·8
1939	..	..	..	..	32	271	11·8
1940	..	..	..	..	36	293	12·3
1941	..	..	..	..	38	302	12·6
1942	..	..	..	..	35	309	11·3
1943	..	..	..	..	51	365	14·0

(b) 20 per cent

(c) No.

#### SIKH HEADMASTERS IN THE MULTAN DIVISION

**1690. Sardar Ajit Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) the number at present of Headmasters of the Government High Schools, communitywise, in the Multan Division ;

(b) the number at present of Headmasters of the District Board and Municipal Board High Schools, communitywise in the Multan Division ;

(c) the share fixed for the Sikh community in that cadre of the service in question in this Division ;

(d) whether it is a fact that the Sikh community is inadequately represented among these Headmasters ; if so, the steps intended to be taken to give it its due share ?

**The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye :**

	Hindus	Muslims	Sikhs	Total
(a) .. .. .	3	13	1	17
(b) D. B. High Schools ..	1	7	1	9
M. B. High Schools ..	5	1	..	6
N. A. C. High Schools ..	1	2	..	3
Cantt. Board High Schools ..	..	..	1	1

(c) No share fixed.

(d) Does not arise.

#### SIKHS IN THE LAND REVENUE DEPARTMENT

**1691. Sardar Ajit Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) the representation of the Sikhs in the Land Revenue Department in the years 1937 to 1943, year wise ;

(b) what share has been allotted to the Sikh community in this Department ;

(c) what steps were taken or intended to be taken to give due representation to the Sikh community in this Department ?

**The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram :** (a) The attention of the honourable member is invited to the printed annual consolidated statements showing the proportionate representation of the various communities serving in the different departments of Punjab Government ; copies of which will be found in the Library of Assembly Office.

(b) 20 per cent.

(c) Recruitment to the various services is now made strictly in accordance with the communal proportions fixed by Government for the various communities.

#### SIKHS IN THE CLERICAL STAFF OF THE HIGH COURT

**1692. Sardar Ajit Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) the representation of the Sikhs in the clerical staff of the High Court in the years 1937 to 1943, yearwise ;

(b) what steps have been taken or are intended to be taken to give due representations to the Sikh community in this service ?

**The Honourable Sir Manohar Lal :** (a) The honourable member is invited to refer to the annual consolidation statements showing communal representation in Government departments for the years 1937 to 1942. The present representation of the Sikhs is 28 out of 219.

(b) In making new appointments the Sikhs are given the representation fixed for the community.

## SIKHS IN THE GOVERNMENT PRINTING, PUNJAB

**1693. Sardar Ajit Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) the representation of the Sikhs in the establishment and office of the Government Printing, Punjab, in the years 1937, 1938, 1939, 1940, 1941, 1942, 1943, separately ;

(b) what steps have been taken or proposed to be taken to make up the deficiency of the Sikhs in the above-mentioned establishment and office ?

**The Honourable Sir Manohar Lal :** (a)

					Per cent.
1937	..	..	..	..	4·8
1938	..	..	..	..	4·7
1939	..	..	..	..	4·7
1940	..	..	..	..	4·8
1941	..	..	..	..	11·5
1942	..	..	..	..	9·6
1943	..	..	..	..	11·2

(b) The Superintendent of the Government Printing Press has been authorised to vary in favour of Sikhs the rotation of appointments in each block of ten appointments.

## SIKHS IN THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

**1694. Sardar Ajit Singh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to lay on the table of the House a statement showing :—

(a) the representation of various communities in the Police Department in the years 1937 to 1948, yearwise ;

(b) the share fixed for the Sikh community in this department ;

(c) whether it is a fact that the percentage of the Sikhs in this department has decreased during the last few years instead of increasing ; if so, what steps are intended to be taken to remove this grievance of the Sikh community ?

**The Honourable Malik Khizar Hayat :** (a) 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 consolidated statement showing the proportionate representation of the various communities in the different departments of the Punjab Government which is published annually.

(b) In the interest of efficiency it is not considered possible to observe the ordinary communal proportions, prescribed for recruitment in the various services in the case of the police.

(c) No.

## SIKH INSPECTORS OF POLICE

**1695. Sardar Ajit Singh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) the number of Inspectors of Police in the Province, community-wise and yearwise in the years 1937 to 1948 ;

(b) the share allotted to the Sikh community in this cadre of the police service ;

(c) What steps have been taken or are intended to be taken to give due representation to the Sikh community in this service ?

**The Honourable Malik Khizar Hayat :** (a) The attention of the honourable member is invited to the consolidated statements showing the proportionate representations of the various communities in the different departments of the Punjab Government which is published annually.

(b) and (c) No communal proportion for recruitment to the rank of Inspector has been fixed. Ten per cent of the vacancies to this rank of the police service are filled by direct appointment, and the remainder by the promotion of sub-inspectors. Direct appointments, normally made by selecting the best available candidates, irrespective of community, have been stopped for the duration of the war as the vacancies are being reserved to be filled after the war by candidates with war services to their credit. Promotions are made strictly by selection tempered by seniority, efficiency and honesty. It is, therefore, not possible to give any fixed representation to any particular community. Every endeavour is, however, made to secure a fair distribution among the various communities.

#### SIKHS AMONG UPPER SUBORDINATES OF THE IRRIGATION DEPARTMENT

**1696. Sardar Ajit Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) the number of Upper Subordinates in the Irrigation Department of the Public Works Department communitywise and year wise, in the years 1937 to 1943 ;

(b) the share allotted to the Sikh community in this service ;

(c) whether it is a fact that the number of Sikhs has decreased during the last few years instead of increasing in this department ; if so, the steps that are intended to be taken to remove this grievance of the Sikhs in this service ?

**The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram :** (a) The required information is given in the statement below :—

Year	No. of U. S. R. on 1st January, each year	Hindus	Muslims	Sikhs
1937 .. .. .	22	14	3	5
1938 .. .. .	20	13	3	4
1939 .. .. .	16	12	3	1
1940 .. .. .	14	10	3	1
1941 .. .. .	15	11	3	1
1942 .. .. .	13	10	2	1
1943 .. .. .	12	10	1	1

(b) and (c) Do not arise as this is an obsolescent service, and there is no fresh recruitment.

**SIKH TEACHERSSES IN THE P. E. S. CLASS I (WOMEN'S BRANCH)**

**1697. Sardar Ajit Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) the number of teachers in the P. E. S., Class I (Women's Branch) in the years 1937 to 1948, year wise and communitywise ;

(b) the share fixed for Sikh community in this branch of the Education Department ;

(c) why the claims of the Sikh community have been ignored so far as this branch of the Education Department is concerned ; what steps are intended to be taken to give due share to the Sikh community in this service ?

**The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye :** (a) The honourable member is referred to the consolidated statement showing the proportionate representation of the various communities serving in the different department of the Punjab Government for the years 1937 to 1948.

(b) No communal representation has been fixed for P. E. S.

(c) The policy of Government in the matter of communal representation is well known, and every effort is made to give due representation to every community.

**SIKHS AMONG OFFICERS OF THE P. E. S., CLASS I (MEN'S BRANCH)**

**1698. Sardar Ajit Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) the number of officers, communitywise and yearwise, in the P. E. S., Class I (Men's Branch) in the years 1937 to 1948 ;

(b) the number of employees, community wise and year wise, in the Subordinate Service (A. V. Section) in the years 1937 to 1948 ;

(c) the share fixed for the Sikh community in this branch of service ;

(d) the reasons of the inadequate representations of the Sikh community in this branch of the service and the steps taken or are intended to be taken to give due representation to the Sikh community ?

**The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye :** (a) and (b) The honourable member is referred to the figures given in the Consolidated Statement showing the proportionate representation of the various communities serving in the different departments of the Punjab Government for the years 1937 to 1948.

(c) There is no communal representation fixed for the Punjab Educational Service. For recruitment to the Subordinate Educational Service it is 20 per cent. Sikhs.

(d) 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.

**SIKHS IN THE SUBORDINATE EDUCATIONAL SERVICE**

**1699. Sardar Ajit Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) the number of Sikhs in the Subordinate Educational Service in the years 1937 to 1948, yearwise ;

(b) what is the percentage for the Sikhs fixed in the Subordinate Educational Service;

(c) what steps were taken or are intended to be taken to bring the representation up to the required percentage?

**The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye :** (a) The honourable member is referred to the consolidated statements showing the proportionate representation of the various communities serving in the different departments of the Punjab Government as it stood on 1st January 1937 to 1948.

(b) In February 1939, the percentage of recruitment of Sikhs to the Subordinate Educational Service was fixed at 20 per cent, subject to the supreme need for efficiency.

(c) The proportion is being strictly adhered to.

**COMMUNAL REPRESENTATION IN THE GAZETTED OFFICERS OF THE AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT POSTED IN AMBALA DIVISION**

**1700. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Will the Honourable Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(a) the number of Gazetted Officers of the Agriculture Department posted in the Ambala Division, communitywise with their designations;

(b) the action that the Government intend to take to give adequate representation to the under-represented community in the Agriculture Department in the Ambala Division?

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

Serial No.	Designation	Community
1	D.D.A., Hansi .. .. .	Hindu.
2	E.A.D.A., Hansi .. .. .	Do.
3	E.A.D.A., Rohtak .. .. .	Do.
4	E.A.D.A., Gurgaon .. .. .	Sikh.
5	E. A.D.A., Ambala .. .. .	Do.
6	Fodder Specialist, Sirsa .. .. .	Muslim.

(b) In the Agriculture Department communal proportions are not maintained by divisions but only recruitment is made on communal lines, for the province as a whole.

**SUB-ASSISTANT SURGEONS**

**1701. Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Riasat Ali :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) the total number of Sub-Assistant Surgeons in the Province;

(b) the number of those attached to hospitals other than rural dispensaries;

(c) the number of women in the above cadre;

(d) the stations to which they are attached;

[K. B. Ch. Riasat An]

- (e) the names of sub-charges in the hospitals located at the three tahsil headquarters in the Gujranwala District, i.e. (Wazirabad, Hafizabad, Gujranwala);
- (f) the date of their transfer to each one of these hospitals;
- (g) the original place of residence of the incumbent in each case;
- (h) the rules governing the appointment of ladies to hospitals other than female hospitals;
- (i) whether the rules require the appointment of a lady sub-charge in the Civil (male) hospital at a station where a fully-equipped female hospital already exists?

**The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye :** The time and labour involved in collecting the information asked for would not be commensurate with its value when obtained.

#### PUNJAB CIVIL SERVICE POSTS CARRYING SPECIAL ALLOWANCES

**1702. Rai Bahadur Lala Gopal Das :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

- (a) the total number of P.C.S. posts in the Punjab carrying special allowances;
- (b) the number of Hindus and Sikhs respectively among the holders of such posts;
- (c) the reasons why a very large number of these posts are being at present held by members of one particular community and the reasons why Hindu officers are not getting their due share of these posts?

**The Honourable Malik Khizar Hayat :** (a) 65

(b) Hindus	..	..	..	..	19
Sikhs	..	..	..	..	11
Muslims	..	..	..	..	31
Others	..	..	..	..	4

(c) Communal proportions do not apply to these posts which are filled on grounds of suitability and administrative convenience. But as the honourable member will see Hindu officers happen to occupy approximately the share which is fixed for them in the case of fresh recruitment.

#### ADJOURNMENT MOTIONS

**Mr. Speaker :** I have carefully considered all the motions<sup>1</sup> of which notice has been given, and I am sorry that I hold all of them to be out of order.

#### RESOLUTIONS OF THE ASSEMBLY

##### ACTION TAKEN BY GOVERNMENT

**Secretary :** Statement showing the action taken by Government on resolutions passed by the Punjab Legislative Assembly since October 1942 is laid on the table.

<sup>1</sup>Vide Appendix at page 67 *infra*

**STATEMENT SHOWING ACTION TAKEN BY GOVERNMENT ON RESOLUTIONS  
PASSED BY THE PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY SINCE OCTOBER 1942.**

Serial No.	Terms of resolution passed	Volume No. and page of Legislative Assembly debates	Action taken
1	This Assembly recommends to Government to convey to the Government of India the wishes of this House that the prices of the articles which agricultural and poor urban classes have to purchase for their domestic or professional requirements should be controlled like the prices of foodgrains.	Volume XX-No. 3, dated 29th October 1942, pages 110—133.	The resolution along with a copy of the debates on it, was forwarded to the Government of India, Department of Commerce, for such action as they deemed necessary.
2	This Assembly recommends to Government to convey to the Government of India the earnest suggestion of this House that an amount of at least Rs. 150 crores out of the Central Revenues should be allocated to the Provincial Governments, in proportion to the number of combatants furnished by their province in the present war, to assist in the post-war reconstruction with special provision for rehabilitating the soldiers and their families.	Volume XX-No. 3, dated 29th October 1942, pages 133—155.	A copy of the resolution was forwarded to the Government of India, Defence Department, The Punjab Government supported the proposal.
3	This Assembly recommends to the Government that a suitable co-operative marketing organization should be devised both for the sale of agricultural produce and the products of cottage industries.	Volume XX-No. 3, dated 29th October 1942, pages 153-154.	<p>Government have taken the following steps to promote co-operative marketing :—</p> <p>(1) An officer with specialized knowledge of market practices has been appointed to promote co-operative organizations for the marketing of agricultural produce and the produce of cottage industries.</p> <p>(2) The existing co-operative commission shops have been placed under the charge of a better type of manager having practical experience of marketing.</p> <p>(3) Two sale societies which will grade, pool and sell jointly the produce of their members are in the course of being organized, Government having provided expert staff for their supervision and management during the first three years.</p> <p>(4) Special staff have been appointed to supervise the Co-operative Sugarcane Producers Society at Jagadhri.</p> <p>(5) Possibilities are being examined of starting co-operative marketing for milk, ghee, ground nuts, vegetables and fruits.</p> <p>2. The problem is receiving the attention of the Co-operative Department and the Registrar will submit further proposals in this behalf in due course for the consideration of Government.</p>



## LEAVE OF ABSENCE OF M.L.A.'s

**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. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma writes :—

As I am detained under Rule 26 of the Defence of India Rules and my detention is palpably without any trial, I cannot attend the Assembly. Leave for absence may kindly be granted.

2. Munshi Hari Lal writes :—

As I am detained under Rule 26 of the Defence of India Rules and my detention is palpably without any trial, I cannot attend the Assembly. Leave for absence may kindly be granted.

3. Seth Sudarshan writes :—

I should be grateful if you would, under provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935, place before the Legislative Assembly my request to be permitted to absent myself from its sittings due to causes beyond my control.

4. Mr. Duni Chand writes :—

As my health does not allow me to attend the meetings of the Assembly, I beg to apply for permission of the Assembly for leave of absence for the current session as required under clause 11, sub-clause (1) of Chapter 4 of the Punjab Constitutional Manual, 1938, Volume II, containing the constitution and Rules of procedure of the Legislative Assembly.

Question is—

That the permission asked for be granted.

*The motion was carried.*

## HOURS OF SITTING

**Premier :** I beg to move—

That on and from Thursday, the 4th November 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 7 p.m. on Fridays.

**Mr. Speaker :** Motion moved is—

That on and from Thursday, the 4th November 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 7 p.m. on Fridays.

**Mian Abdul Aziz :** Sir, the time for the meeting of the Assembly is fixed under the Rules of Procedure but at the beginning of each and every session this motion is brought forward by the Honourable Premier. You know, Sir, that the time has been advanced by one hour and this 12 o'clock means 11 o'clock. I think it would be better if our rules are changed and this motion is not brought before the House every time. Under the circumstances I would suggest a compromise and that is that instead of 12 we should sit from 1 p.m. (*Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :* Why not 2 p.m. ?) That would be really very good. I have been making this suggestion in the past also and it would be very convenient if my suggestion is accepted. If, however, there is some ulterior motive behind this change that is another matter. You have got a majority and you can do whatever you like.

**Mian Muhammad Nurullah :** I strongly support the views of the honourable Mian Abdul Aziz. If his suggestion is accepted it will help us in taking our meals. Many of us have to go to take our lunch and sometimes we have to go without it.

**Mr. Speaker :** Question is—

That on and from Thursday, the 4th November 1943, to the end of the session on the days of the 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 7 p.m. on Fridays.

*The motion was carried.*

### SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES (1st INSTALMENT), 1943-44

**Minister for Finance** (The Honourable Dr. Sir Manohar Lal) : I beg to present the Supplementary Estimates (1st Instalment) for the year 1943-44. Demands made therein are made on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor.

### AMENDMENTS TO MOTOR VEHICLES RULES

**Minister for Public Works** (The Honourable Sirdar Shaikat Hyat-Khan) : I beg to lay on the table the amendments<sup>1</sup> made in the Punjab Motor Vehicles Rules, 1940.

### THE APPROPRIATION ACCOUNTS AND FINANCE ACCOUNTS FOR 1941-42 AND AUDIT REPORTS THEREON

**Minister for Finance :** I beg to present the Appropriation Accounts and Finance Accounts of the Punjab Government for the year 1941-42 and the Audit Reports thereon.

### NORTH-WESTERN RAILWAY LOCAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

#### ELECTION OF REPRESENTATIVES

**Minister for Public Works :** I move—

That this Assembly shall elect on such date as may be fixed by the Honourable Speaker and through the method of proportional representation and single transferable vote, two representatives who shall be members of the Assembly to serve on the North-Western Railway Local Advisory Committee representing rural interests and the travelling public.

*The motion was carried.*

**Mr. Speaker :** I propose to fix Monday, the 8th November 1943, as the date for holding election of the two representatives of the Punjab Legislative Assembly to serve on the North Western Railway Local Advisory Committee. Members should send in nominations for the purpose on the proposal forms to be had from the office so as to reach the Assembly office not later than 6 p.m., on Friday, the 5th November 1943. The election, if it is necessary to hold one, will be held on Monday, the 8th November 1943.

### MATERNITY BENEFIT BILL

**Minister for Finance** (The Honourable Dr. Sir Manohar Lal) : I beg to present the Report of the Select Committee on the Punjab Maternity Benefit Bill.

Sir, I beg to move—

That the Punjab Maternity Benefit Bill as reported by the select committee be taken into consideration.

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

**Mr. Speaker :** Motion moved is—

That the Punjab Maternity Benefit Bill as reported by the select committee be taken into consideration.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh** (Amritsar North, Sikh, Rural) : I move—

That the Punjab Maternity Benefit Bill as reported by the select committee be circulated for eliciting opinion thereon.

(*Punjabi*) : Sir, so far as the principle underlying this Bill is concerned, I presume there is none amongst us who disputes it. All are agreed upon the fact that expectant mothers employed in various factories should be given leave with pay or wages for a period before and after delivery. In bringing forward this measure the Government also seems to have accepted this principle. But the way in which they want to give a practical shape to it calls for a few words from this side of the House.

The very first thing which should be taken into consideration in this connection is the extremely low standard of living prevalent among the women industrial workers. The lack of proper and wholesome food is the cause of a very high rate of mortality during child birth among the working class women. As compared with the expectant mothers from other classes of society the incidence of mortality is higher among women who work in industrial establishments. The reason is that the latter get very low wages which do not even suffice to provide them with sustenance enough for themselves and consequently they are unable to afford the heavy expenses involved in labour cases. Under the capitalistic system confinement is a very expensive affair and not to speak of the poor working classes even the middle class families find it hard to pay for the extra attention and nourishment essential for the mother during and after the rigours of labour. It is meet and proper, therefore, for the millowners who employ such women in their factories to help them in their confinement, but it is no less the duty of the Government themselves to extend maternity benefit to these women. It should not be overlooked that these mothers are the pivots on which society revolves. They help to maintain society by their progeny and who knows how many of them are going to be the future leaders of mankind. Those times are gone when the capitalists used to oppose such measures and used to say that it will be a burden to factory-owners. Today we know of such humanitarian capitalists who have come forward of their own accord and have introduced the principle of maternity benefit to their own factories. So nobody will oppose this measure. Nor does the opinion carry any weight today that by the enactment of this law the number of women labourers will be decreased, because the number of women labourers has increased, instead of decreasing, in the countries wherein this law has already been introduced.

About twelve and a half years ago, in June 1931, the Royal Commission for labour in India reported as follows :—

"We believe the time is ripe for the introduction of legislation throughout India making a maternity benefit scheme compulsory in respect of women permanently employed in industrial establishments on full-time processes".

To-day after a long sleep of twelve and a half years, our Government has come forward and introduced in this House a Bill which contains practically all the recommendations of the Commission except a few minor changes here and there. There, in that report, the Commission has recommended that a mother should get wages for four weeks, that is 28 days before and after the delivery. Here, in this Bill, our Government has enhanced this period of 28 days to 30 days. What a big change they have made! The Government seems to be

unaware of the changes that have taken place during these twelve years. The labourer today is not the same as he was twelve years ago. He has been enlightened by the trade unions ; he has been influenced by political movements ; and what is more, the world is advancing and there is no place for worn out things in it. The labour world today does not demand such things and as I have said before there is no need for such demands today, because the factory-owners are introducing such measures of their own accord. What we need today is the introduction of social insurance schemes or some such other progressive measures.

But the Honourable Sir Manohar Lal, the Minister in charge of the Bill does not feel it necessary to go out of his blue books and official reports. He does not seem to be concerned with what is happening outside India, say in Russia and other European countries. Our Government knows only to wake up once after 12 years, to copy an old report word by word and to present it before the House in the form of a new Bill. Does the Government not realize that there has been an industrial revolution in this country, that the capitalism has progressed, that the number of trade unions has increased and last of all the number of factory labourers, especially the women labourers, has increased by hundreds ? The Honourable Minister spends most of his time in his house, office or library. He does not bother about the outer world and what is happening there. He prefers to remain an arm chair politician without any imagination.

The said Royal Commission report says that the seasonal and part time labourers should not be given this benefit. Our Government has copied out the same thing in its Bill. Now I must bring it to your notice, sir, that all the ginning factories in this province are seasonal and work for only six months during a year, and ginning factories contain more women labourers than other factories. It means that a large number of women are being deprived of the benefit sought to be introduced by this measure only because 12 years ago a certain Commission was pleased to make a certain recommendation.

Now if you see the financial aspect of the scheme you would find that in social insurance system, cost of maternity benefit is shared by the State, the employer and the worker, and this amount of money becomes a sort of provident fund which can be used both in days of sickness and maternity. My submission therefore, is that the Government ought to have followed those lines while amending the Bill. It is a pity that in this measure we do not find such provisions. Though our province claims to be a leading province in this country, yet I would say the Government have not followed in the true sense even those schemes which are being carried out by other civilised and leading countries of the world. Now what the Government have done is this. They have taken some provisions from the legislations made by Bombay and the Central Provinces and some from the Report of the Royal Commission. But the selection of provisions is very haphazard and incomplete. For instance, the Royal Commission recommends for benefit at the rate of the woman's average daily earnings calculated on the total wages earned during a period of three months preceding the day of her confinement or at the rate of eight annas per day, whichever is less, and Government have provided that benefit should be given at the rate of her average daily earnings calculated by dividing the total wages earned by the woman during the three months preceding the date on which she gives notice, or at the rate of eight annas a day whichever is greater. This is the only achievement of which they feel proud. Then the Royal Commission has recommended that the qualifying period for benefit should be twelve or nine months' service. Government have accepted nine months' service. Again what an achievement ! The Bill provides that the women will have to submit twice medical certificates to the

[S. Sohan Singh Josh.]

factory owner and it is a well-known fact that no medical certificate is given free of charge. It means that for one certificate she will have to pay at least five rupees to the doctor and as she has to produce two certificates she will have to give her 20 days' wages for getting them. So my submission is that greater facility ought to have been given to the woman. For instance, if two workers of a factory come and say that a certain woman is pregnant or she would be confined to bed after a month or she has given birth to a child and therefore she may be excused for one month, the employer should believe them. Government have provided in the Bill a period of thirty days following the day of delivery and I have given notice of an amendment to extend it to forty days. In this connection what I want to submit is that the doctor's fee for medical certificates should be paid by the employer. But it is a pity that no such provision has been made in the Bill.

Now in order to show to you that the Royal Commission in their Report have said something more, I would like to read out a line to you which runs as follows :—

Probably the best method is to give the woman a maternity benefit in any event and an additional confinement bonus only if a trained midwife is employed or hospital treatment is adopted.

Now instead of encouraging the pregnant women by providing them facilities to be looked after by trained midwives or making the State and the employer bear the entire cost of the benefit, the Government have laid aside this useful suggestion of the Royal Commission. Moreover this Bill, as the House is aware, was referred to the Select Committee for substantial changes to be made. But I am sorry to remark that no substantial change has been introduced in it in spite of the fact that the subject of this Bill is of vital importance. Now let me tell you as to how women are medically looked after in Russia during their maternity days. This book is Soviet Communism by Sidney and Beatrice Webb and I do not think the Honourable Minister, Sir Manohar Lal, would take objection to any line of it, as he likes the authors himself.

For the woman about to become a mother who is employed at a wage or salary in any kind of work in town or country, or who is the wife of anyone so employed, the U.S.S.R. offers, entirely free of charge, without any individual contribution, wherever the system is in full operation, medical care during pregnancy, admission for confinement to a maternity hospital, twelve or sixteen weeks' leave of absence from her work.

Now it is obvious that equality for women cannot be attained unless they are looked after on the lines referred to above. I, therefore, submit with all the force at my command that every woman worker till she discharges this function should be granted allowance sufficient to meet her 'functional expenses'. Some of my honourable friends might have heard women complaining that they wished they had been born men instead of women. This complaint is enough to show the miseries of the women-folk in India. But in Russia the case is reverse. There men envy women. Now I would like to read out a few lines to you from the same book to illustrate how far the Russian women workers are well off as compared with the Indian women workers.

In a satirical novel we read an amusing reference to the privileged position which women occupy as employees owing to the provision of maternity benefit.

She's pregnant again.

"Who?" I asked in surprise, unable to make head or tail of the events which had transpired during my brief absence.

"What do you mean, Who? Kokina, of course! Just look at her red head;

"Kokina eat, leaning over her desk and smelling out the latest news. Her face was thoughtful, but calm." The instructor whispered.

"I assure you, she's already a document of protection in her pocket. Cannot undermine her."

"What is the matter?" I asked, looking round at my colleagues. There was a feeling of utter gloom, and our department resembled an undertaker's parlour rather than a decorous soviet institution.

"The devil knows. There's talk of dissolving us", said the instructor. "There's no sorrow or sighing in that quarter! It's too bad I'm not a lady. They get their pleasure, and then a three months' leave with full salary and no fear of being dismissed—It's a great life."

In this satirical novel the author gives a vivid description of life in Russia.

There the condition of workers is much better than any where in the world. In Russia men envy the facilities afforded to women workers in factories. Whenever a pregnant woman worker enters into a shop to make some purchases, etc., she is not made to wait any longer and everything is made available to her in no time. During her pregnancy she is granted every conveyance facilities. In fact priority certificates are issued to her for trams, etc. In short, in Russia every facility is being afforded to women during their pregnancy. So far as our province is concerned, the case is quite the reverse. It was not expected of the Honourable Finance Minister who is a great intellectualist himself and who has fully studied the vast subject of economics, to have presented this Bill now before the House in such a defective form. I make bold to submit that the Bill in its present form is very defective and it should be re-circulated and improved with a view to improving the hard lot of women workers. In considering this Bill it is high time that Government should keep in view the demands put forward by trade unions in respect of social insurance schemes, etc.

Further, I wish to lay before the House some difficulties which arise from this Bill. Suppose a pregnant woman worker, after being examined by a doctor, is recommended for grant of leave of one month and the delivery takes place after the period of 30 days, what provision is there for affording any protection to these women workers? I wish to bring this point home to my honourable friends sitting opposite that there is no provision in this Bill if the delivery of a pregnant woman worker takes place a week after the time allowed in this Bill now before the House. One point more I wish to impress upon the Government. A pregnant woman often falls sick before or after her delivery takes place and there is no provision about giving her protection and maternity benefit during this period.

Last but not the least I wish to point out that the present Bill is an extract from the Report of the Royal Commission, which was appointed some twelve and a half years ago. With all the emphasis at my command, I urge upon the Government to provide adequate maternity facilities to women workers in factories. When these words, I move that the Bill as reported by the Select Committee be re-circulated for eliciting public opinion.

**Mr. Speaker :** Question is—

That the Punjab Maternity Benefit Bill as reported by the select committee be circulated for eliciting opinion thereon.

*The motion was lost.*

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** In spite of several very good points that have been raised by Sardar Sohan Singh Josh, the Government members have not taken care to answer any of those points. Under these circumstances I do not think it would be of any use for me to put my motion<sup>1</sup> before the House and to speak on the subject. I do not therefore move it.

<sup>1</sup>That the Punjab Maternity Benefit Bill as reported by the Select Committee be re-committed to the same Select Committee for re-consideration and improvement with instructions to present its report by the 1st of December 1943.

**Mr. Speaker :** The question is—

That the Punjab Maternity Benefit Bill as reported by the select committee be taken into consideration.

*The motion was carried.*

**Mr. Speaker :** The House will now proceed to consider the Bill clause by clause.

*Clause 1*

**Mr. Speaker :** The question is—

That clause 1 stand part of the Bill.

*The motion was carried.*

*Clause 2*

**Mr. Speaker :** The question is—

That clause 2 stand part of the Bill.

*The motion was carried.*

*Clause 3*

**Mian Muhammad Nurullah** (Lyallpur, Muhammadan, Rural) : I beg to move—

That in line 3, for the word "thirty" the word "forty" be substituted and in line 7, for the word "thirty" the word "forty" be substituted.

The object of my motion is that thirty days are not enough for the recovery of a woman who has given birth to a child. In Islam and even in other religions the proper period is forty days. It is called *chilla*.

(Urdu) : If a woman worker starts working in the factory during *chilla*, the result will be that her health will be gradually shattered and this will eventually tell upon the health of the sucking babe. May I know from the honourable members sitting opposite that if forty days' rest is not allowed to women workers after their delivery, who will be responsible for the under-feeding and ill-nourishment of their infants? At present the death rate of children in our province is already very high and if due care is not taken for the upkeep of child welfare, I am afraid they will be doing a great dis-service to the public in general and the women workers in particular. By allowing only 30 days' rest to a woman worker in a factory, Government will be responsible for the ill-health of both the woman worker and the baby. In this connection it is but meet and proper on the part of the Government to allow 40 days' rest instead of 30 days. If this is done, the result will be that these woman will discharge their duty more efficiently. In this connection I wish to bring home this point to my honourable friends sitting opposite that probably in big factories of Europe only 28 days' rest is allowed to a *zacha*. But I wish to remind them of the numerous facilities afforded to them in the form of medical aids, etc., which stand no chances in our province. Unless Government forces the employers to allow 40 days' rest to pregnant women workers after delivery, the health of these women and their babies will continue to suffer.

You might be knowing that immediately following the day of her delivery a woman bleeds continuously. This period is called *Nafas* in Urdu and it is after this that she should be asked to resume work. If during the course of bleeding she is made to work, it is quite possible that she may run down in her health

with the natural consequence that her efficiency will be impaired. It will be detrimental in the interests of work to ask such a woman to resume her duty within the span of 40 days.

With these words I move my amendment.

**Mr. Speaker :** Clause under consideration, amendment moved is—

That in line 3, for the word "thirty", the word "forty" be substituted.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang** (West Lahore Division, General, Rural) :

Sir, I beg to support this amendment. My personal opinion really is that no woman who is expectant should be allowed to work in any factory. But as there is poverty in this country, poor women have to work for their living and to maintain their families and as they are forced to work it is necessary that their work should be made as light as possible and all possible facilities should be given to them. The motion moved by my learned friend is very necessary and I am very glad to find that even in Islamic literature, the period is 40 days. I know that in Ayurvedic literature it is laid down that the body of a woman, after she has been confined in delivery, is not restored to its normal condition before the expiry of 40 days. I have also been told that modern allopathic doctors have now recognised that it is so. So the truth which was discovered by our ancient people has now been rediscovered by modern doctors. It is, therefore, necessary that a period of 40 days should be allowed. It may be that factory owners may think it a hardship, but certainly it is not such a hardship that they should not be prepared to bear. It is more important that the health of women and the children that they bear, should be maintained than that a few rupees more should be added to the profit of industrialists or the factory owners. It is, therefore, a very strong and very necessary amendment moved by my honourable friend and I expect that the Government will not haggle over this. It is a very small matter. I think every industrialist would agree and would have no objection if the period is raised to 40 days.

**Finance Minister** (The Honourable Dr. Sir Manohar Lal) : Sir, I am afraid I am not able to agree to the amendment proposed, and I shall have a few words to say in this connection. This is a most liberal provision made by our legislature. It cannot be said that the select committee that considered this matter placed a restrictive interpretation, or made an illiberal provision in this matter. You will remember that originally the figure stood at 28 days and now it has been made 30 days. It is not necessary to import any religion into this matter, nor do I feel competent to express any opinion on the medical aspect of the question. In the province of Bengal, where recently this matter was considered at some length, the provision of maternity benefit is for 28 days. I think there is no reason to suppose that in the Punjab, the provision of 30 days would prove inadequate or ineffective. I am not in a position to accept the amendment proposed by my honourable friend, Mian Muhammad Nurullah.

**Mr. E. Few :** I think my honourable friend, Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang has said that 30 days period is not sufficient to recuperate after child birth. Is he aware that due to advanced medical science recognised maternity institutions have reduced the period after confinement in hospitals from ten to five days?

**Sardar Santokh Singh** (Eastern Towns, Sikh, Urban) : Sir, to my mind this is a matter which should admit of no two opinions, specially when my honourable friends, Mian Muhammad Nurullah and Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang, have made the position so very clear. I, who own some factories, can say—and my honourable friend Dr. Narang will bear me out that the factory owners will



[S. Santokh Singh.]

not at all raise any objection to this. I still hope that the Government will see its way to accept this amendment that has been moved from this side of the House.

**Premier :** We can always reconsider the matter. Let us hear the factory owners' points of view. We have come to a decision and let us stick to it for the present. If there is a demand we will change the period at once. We are at present going ahead of every other province. Let us see the result.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma** (Kangra West General, Rural) (*Urdu*) : Mr. Speaker, it is a matter of great surprise to us that the amendment moved by our honourable friend Mian Muhammad Nurullah is not accepted by the Government. There could be nothing less amazing for us than the refusal of the Honourable Minister of Finance. He was pleased to say that in 1939, a Bill of similar nature was presented and passed. In that Bill, the period of exemption for the employment of a woman who gave birth to a child in a factory was 28 days. I guess that the authors of that Bill might have been Englishmen or men who take pride in imitating Englishmen who might be unaware of the conditions of the Punjab. In England, they have prescribed the period of 28 days, but in the Punjab this period is not enough. The standard of health in England is different from that of the Punjab. The Honourable Minister has only increased the number of days by two. I submit that the period of 30 days is hopelessly insufficient in view of the conditions of the Punjab.

In my opinion the Honourable Minister has not given full consideration to this aspect of the matter. In England women might really be able to work after 28 days of their giving birth to babies. But the Honourable Minister did not care to consider the comparative weaker health of our women who are not able to work within that limited time. He made a token addition of two days and must have thought that it would meet the need of Indian women. Then he referred to the Bengal Act of 1922. But did he ascertain as to how many children die out of every 100 children in Bengal? Since the introduction of the said Act, the condition in Bengal ought to have been thoroughly studied. (*Finance Minister* : You may enlighten me now). It was the duty of the Minister to make that enquiry. The death rate of children in Bengal is above normal since the introduction of that Act.

With these few words I support the amendment as the Honourable Minister has not given any satisfactory and convincing argument in favour of the clause as it stands at present.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh** (Amritsar North, Sikh Rural) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, There stands an amendment in my name also. I am glad that even Dr. Sfr Gokul Chand Narang and Sardar Santokh Singh who themselves are factory owners have signified their agreement to the proposed amendment, namely, that 40 days may be substituted for 30 days. Now when even the factory owners are agreeable to this amendment, the Government need not try to be over sympathetic towards the owners of factories, otherwise the Punjabi saying will aptly apply to their case. In fact it fits them. It runs as under :—

(ماں) نالوں ہیجلی پتیر کتن

With these words, I strongly support the amendment.

**Mr. Speaker :** Question is—

That in line 3, for the word "thirty" the word "forty" be substituted.

*The Assembly divided : Ayes 15, Noes, 62*

AYES, 15

Abdul Aziz, Mian.  
Amar Nath Shah, Lala.  
Barkat Ali, Malik.  
Bhagat Ram Sharma, Pandit.  
Girdhari Das, Mahant.  
Gokul Chand Narang, Dr. Sir.  
Mazhar Ali Azhar, Maulvi.  
Muhammad Abdul Rahman Khan,  
Chaudhri.

Muhammad Nurullah, Mian.  
Raghubir Kaur, Shrimati.  
Santokh Singh, Sardar.  
Sohan Singh Josh, Sardar.  
Teja Singh, Sardar.  
Ujjal Singh, Sardar Bahadur  
Sardar.  
Uttam Singh Dugal, Sardar.

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Abdul Haye, The Honourable Mian.  
Abdul Rab, Mian.  
Ahmad Yar Khan, Khan Sahib  
Chaudhri.  
Allah Bakhsh Khan, Khan Bahadur  
Nawab Malik Sir.  
Amir-ud-Din, Khan Bahadur Mian.  
Amjad Ali Shah, Sayed.  
Anant Ram, Chaudhri.  
Ashiq Hussain, Nawab Major.  
Brijraj Saran, Kanwar.  
Chhotu Ram, The Honourable Chaudhri  
Sir.  
Dina Nath, Major.  
Faiz Muhammad, Khan Bahadur  
Shaikh.  
Faqir Chand, Chaudhri.  
Farman Ali Khan, Subedar-Major  
Raja.  
Fateh Khan, Khan Sahib Raja.  
Fateh Muhammad, Captain Mian.  
Fazal Din, Khan Sahib Chaudhri.  
Fazal Karim Bakhsh, Khan Sahib  
Mian.  
Ghazanfar Ali Khan, Raja.  
Ghulam Basul, Chaudhri.  
Ghulam Samad, Khan Sahib  
Khawaja.  
Gopal Singh (American), Sardar.  
Gurbachan Singh, Sardar Bahadur  
Sardar.  
Habib Ullah Khan, Malik.  
Haibat Khan Dahi, Khan.  
Hans Raj, Bhagat.  
Harnam Das, Lala.  
Harnam Singh, Captain Sodhi.  
Het Ram, Rai Bahadur Chaudhri.  
Jafar Ali Khan, Chaudhri.  
Jagjit Singh Man, Sardar.  
Jugal Kishore, Chaudhri.

Khizar Hayat, The Honourable  
Malik.  
Manohar Lal, The Honourable Dr. Sir.  
Mohar Singh, Rao.  
Muhammad Akram Khan, Khan  
Bahadur Raja.  
Muhammad Ashraf, Chaudhri.  
Muhammad Azam Khan, Sardar.  
Muhammad Hassan Khan Gur-  
chani, Khan Bahadur Sardar.  
Muhammad Jamal Khan Leghari,  
Khan Bahadur Nawab Sir.  
Muhammad Qasim, Chaudhri.  
Muhammad Saadat Ali Khan, Khan  
Bahadur Khan.  
Muhammad Sarfraz Khan, Chaudhri.  
Muhammad Sarfraz Khan, Raja.  
Muhammad Yusuf Khan, Khan.  
Mumtaz Muhammad Khan Daultana  
Mian.  
Muzaffar Khan, Khan Bahadur  
Captain Malik.  
Nasir-ud-Din Shah, Khan Sahib Pir.  
Nasrullah Khan, Rana.  
Nur Ahmad Khan, Khan Bahadur  
Mian.  
Prem Singh, Chaudhri.  
Pritam Singh Siddhu, Sardar.  
Ram Sarup, Chaudhri.  
Ripudaman Singh, Rai Sahib Thakur.  
Sahib Dad Khan, Khan Sahib  
Chaudhri.  
Sardar Khan Noon, Major Malik.  
Sahadat Khan, Khan Sahib Rai.  
Shaukat Hyat-Khan, The Honourable  
Sardar.  
Sultan Mahmood Hotiana, Mian.  
Sumer Singh, Chaudhri.  
Talib Hussain Khan, Khan.  
Tara Singh, Sardar.

**Mr. Speaker :** Question is—

That clause 3 stand part of the Bill.

*The motion was carried.*

#### Clause 4

**Mian Muhammad Nurullah** (Lyallpur, Muhammadan Rural) : I beg to move—

That in sub-clause (1), line 11, for the word 'eight' the word 'twelve' be substituted.

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

(Urdu) : It has been laid down in clause 4 (1) that every woman employed in a factory shall be entitled to payment of maternity benefit at the rate of her average daily earnings or at the rate of eight annas a day, whichever is greater. The object of my amendment is that such women workers should be paid twelve annas instead of eight annas a day as maternity benefit. We all know that in these days the value of money has fallen enormously and the payment of eight annas as maternity benefit to women workers in factories will not help them to any great extent. In fact nowadays this petty sum is not even sufficient for purchasing one's daily bread. Consequently I have proposed that the rate of maternity benefit be raised to twelve annas a day. Sir, it is a matter of great regret that amendments sponsored from this side of the House are rejected even though they may be very reasonable ones. It appears that the mentality of my friends opposite has undergone a change. Now instead of zamindara mentality they have developed *sahukara* mentality. They have just now rejected an amendment which was calculated to benefit women workers in factories to the extent of Rs. 5 only. In view of this *sahukara* mentality of theirs I do not think that my amendment, which benefits the women workers in factories to the extent of Rs. 7½, will find favour with them.

In my suggestion I have proposed twelve annas instead of eight annas as provided by the Bill, thus increasing the original figure by four annas per day. I do not know the source from which they have copied out the figure and think it to be sufficient as a living wage but I do know that eight annas are not enough to buy even a single square meal to-day. They have probably overlooked the fact that the value of a rupee has gone down considerably. In the present changed times neither the mother nor the baby itself can sustain on mere eight annas. If the rate of maternity benefit is increased to twelve annas per day, it will enable the mother to somehow make both ends meet. The Government did not accept the previous amendment but they should at least accede to this proposal so that this additional sum of Rs. 7-8-0 may help the poor woman to tide over the period of her confinement and keep herself in a healthy state.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker :** Clause under consideration, amendment moved—

That in sub-clause (1), line 11, for the word 'eight' the word 'twelve' be substituted.

**Minister of Finance :** I am prepared to accept the amendment.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker :** The question is—

That in sub-clause (1), line 11, for the word 'eight' the word 'twelve' be substituted.

*The motion was carried.*

**Mr. Deputy Speaker :** The question is—

That clause 4 as amended stand part of the Bill.

*The motion was carried.*

## Clause 5

**Mian Muhammad Nurullah** (Lyallpur, Muslim, Rural), (Urdu) : Sir, I beg to move—

That in sub-clause (2), line 2, between the words "shall" and "permit" the words "keep a record and" be inserted.

The object of this amendment is simply this that when a women has orally given notice of the fact that she is expecting a child it should go on the record so that afterwards no confusion may arise in respect of the fact whether a notice was given or not. I hope it will meet with the Honourable Minister's approval.

**Minister of Finance** : That is a matter for rules. If the honourable member brings it to my attention later, I shall make a provision to this effect in the rules.

**Mian Muhammad Nurullah** : If this point will be incorporated in the rules, I shall not press my amendment.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker** : The question is—

That clause 5 stand part of the Bill.

*The motion was carried.*

## Clause 6 to 14

**Mr. Deputy Speaker** : The question is—

That clauses 6 to 14 stand part of the Bill.

*The motion was carried.*

## Title.

**Mr. Deputy 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 Maternity Benefit Bill as amended be passed.

*The motion was carried.*

## TRADE EMPLOYEES (AMENDMENT) BILL

**Minister of Finance** (The Honourable Dr. Sir Manohar Lal) : I beg to present the report of the select committee on the Punjab Trade Employees (Amendment) Bill. I also move—

That the Punjab Trade Employees (Amendment) Bill as reported by the select committee be taken into consideration.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker** : Motion moved—

That the Punjab Trade Employees (Amendment) Bill as reported by the select committee be taken into consideration.

**Sardar Teja Singh Swatantar** (Lahore West, Sikh, Rural) (Punjabi) : Sir, I beg to move—

That the Punjab Trade Employees (Amendment) Bill as reported by the select committee be circulated for eliciting opinion thereon.

Sir, this motion is being moved to show that the amendments as recommended by the select committee do not cut much ice and the Bill remains as defective as ever. As the defects are still there I suggest that it should be circulated for some time, so that the public may have an opportunity of expressing their opinion in respect of it.

If we have a look at the Bill, as it has emerged out of the select committee, we find that there has been made little if any improvement. On the other hand,

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we get acquainted with certain shortcomings of the select committee in taking this Bill into consideration. First of all, we find that the committee have made no efforts to acquaint themselves with the view-point of the employees by inviting their representatives to lay before them their woes and grievances. No heed has been paid to the fact as admitted by the Honourable Minister for Finance that they are in a most unenviable plight. No one knows how many hours they have to work, how forced labour is exacted from them and what treatment is being meted out to them. No attempt has been made to know the real state of affairs as it prevails in the large commercial concerns in the important towns of the province.

The second point that I would like to bring to your notice is that the members of the select committee have not considered the Bill thoroughly. Only two meetings of the committee were held. The time spent at these two meetings was not sufficient to read the text of the Bill even. So you can imagine, Sir, what could be the value of the amendments that have been proposed by the select committee to the original Bill and whether the recommendations of the select committee could be trusted as valuable suggestions for removing the drawbacks of the original Bill. Moreover the meetings were held in Simla and not in any city which was a business centre and where the people were going to be affected by the reforms sought to be introduced by this Bill. How could the committee know what objections the public has? The committee should have toured the whole of the province or at least its business centres. It should have tried to come in contact with the trade unions, public bodies like the Maneemi Udhekari Sabha, Amritsar, and the representative bodies of those trade employees which organise them and publish tracts and other literature for their benefit. But nothing of the sort has been done. This shows that the report which is before the House is out and out one-sided. The Chiefs of the Government and the big capitalists who were the members of this committee have joined hands and have been doing what pleased them. As a matter of fact the report speaks for itself. Just go through it and you will find that absolutely no improvement is made in the original Bill. No thought has been given to the problems arising out of this measure. No effort has been made to study the troubles of the poor. The select committee has done everything in a formal manner and so its amendments mean nothing. Therefore, you will not mind, Sir, if I venture to bring to the notice of this House some of the drawbacks of this measure.

In the original Bill as well as in the Bill as amended by the select committee some of the clauses are contradictory and in some cases the Bill nullifies itself. The first thing against which I have serious objections is the hours of employment. It is provided in the original Act that no person shall be employed for more than 10 hours in a day. Personally I am of the opinion that 10 hours' work a day is too much. Why should it not be 6 hours as is the case in Government offices? Perhaps it will be argued that in offices mental and not physical work is done. Such arguments carry no weight. But let us leave that question and come to something more important. Previously shops remained open for 15 hours in summer and 12½ hours in winter. Now the working hours are fixed from 6 a. m. to 10 p. m., that is 16 hours in summer and from 7-30 a. m. to 9-30 p. m., that is 14 hours in winter. In other words, the shops or commercial establishments shall remain open for either 14 hours or 16 hours daily. My objection is that in spite of the provision that no servant shall be employed for more than 10 hours a day, there is every possibility, and practically it will always be so, that these servants will have to work for all the hours the shops are open. No doubt there is a provision for interval, but the time and period of the interval is not fixed.

It has been left to the sweet will of the employer. In other countries like France, etc., the time of interval is fixed by the Government itself. Even in ordinary factories the hours of interval are fixed and the employees are allowed to go out of the gate of such factories for that time. What would be the result of all this? An employee will have to come to the shop early in the morning at 6 a. m. in summer and at 7-30 a. m. in winter. It would be impossible for him to take bath or to wash his face even before coming to the shop. A person employed in a shop will have to resume his duties early in the morning without attending to his religious duties, without reading his newspaper, without having a chat with his children and without buying the household necessities of the day. And he will be forced to work till the closing hours of the shop without being given any interval. So he will be leaving his work at 10 p. m. in summer and 9-30 p. m. in winter. In other words, he will not be able to take evening walk, nor will he be left any time to attend any club. He will be just like an animal brought out early in the morning, put in harness all day long and taken back to its place late in the evening, as if he has no other work, no other responsibility, and no other interest. What is more—the owner of the establishment is allowed to employ him over time as well. His plight will be even worse than that of an animal. Even animals are allowed to rest in the interval. But the poor man will not be allowed any interval, although a provision for interval is there in the Bill, because no method of checking is provided therein. Not only that, even the methods to save oneself from the provisions of the law are also suggested. For example, suppose an employee is in the shop at the time which is fixed for interval by the shop owner and the Inspector comes up for checking. Under the threat of dismissal, the said employee could easily be forced to state before the Inspector that he is a member of the family of the employer and is sitting there just to while away the time. The proposed section 2-A (j) will always be at his service to save him.

In my opinion every employer should be asked to keep a record wherein all the particulars about a new employee should be entered on the very day when he joins that establishment, and these entries should be thoroughly checked. The employers should not be allowed to fill up the first line only and to write "ditto, ditto", on every following line. Sir, this is how the Bill nullifies itself. In spite of the fact that the hours of employment are fixed, there are such other provisions in the Bill, for example, that of working hours and of excepting the relations of the employers; that it would be very easy for the establishment owners to avoid it safely.

*(At this stage Mr. Speaker resumed the chair.)*

Besides, a number of shops have been exempted from this Bill and shops affected by this measure can be counted on one's finger tips. For instance, restaurants, hotels, *tandoors* and places like these do not fall under the purview of this measure and the young people working in these shops have to undergo untold miseries, as the petty employers are callous and careless towards their betterment. They may wallow in mud, they may roll about in dust, they may live or die, but their employers are heedless towards them. They are only concerned with their 'pound of flesh'. Sir, it is a thousand pities that no provision has been made in the Bill to hold a check on this callous treatment meted out to the boys of young age.

Then one "day off" has been granted as compensation for a festival holiday on which a shop can remain open. But the trouble is that the poor

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trade employees can neither get time in the morning nor in the evening to say their prayers. It is really very hard on them if they are not spared even on their festival days to attend to their religious pursuits. May I ask the Honourable Minister in charge as to what consideration has been given for employees to attend to religious pursuits if the shops are to remain open even on annual festival days? Apart from that if the shops are to remain open on Ids, Ram Naomis and Dusehras, how can a trade employee take out his wife and children to enjoy the festival? Does Government mean that he may go out for enjoyment on the next day when the whole humdrum of the festival is over? So, this provision is meaningless and I would submit that in the first instance one "day off" in compensation is not enough. But if the employees are not allowed gazetted holidays they should be given at least festival holidays to enjoy with their children. To give one "off day" as compensatory day is indeed an improvement, I do admit. But at the same time I am sorry to remark that the provision is defective as giving one "off day" would be like giving remission to a prisoner in his sentence—nothing more than that.

Furthermore, a trade employee has to produce a medical certificate in case of sickness and it is a well-known fact that no medical certificate is given free of charge. He has to pay for it and to add to his miseries his pay is deducted as long as the poor man is confined to bed. To fall ill is a sin for a trade employee. No sooner is he taken ill and goes home than a new man is employed in his place. This is what happens in most cases. On the one hand, he falls ill and, on the other, his services are dispensed with. In this way the poor employee suffers doubly. May I ask the Government whether there is any provision in the amended Bill to improve this hardship to the employees? Now, let me say one word with regard to casual leave granted to trade employees. It is a general complaint that at needed time, for instance, marriage or death of a relative they have to cringe for leave, and sometimes they have to promise to work overtime in lieu of the granted leave. After such extreme prostrations they get casual leave. It is a pity that there is no provision in this respect in the amended Bill. Besides, the trade employees are denied even their accumulated leave while it is a general practice everywhere that 14 days' leave is permissible in a year. But a trade employee is hard-pressed by unlimited restrictions, so much so that he has to work for 16 hours a day and attend to his business even on festivals. In spite of the fact that his week constitutes of 54 hours and a year of 351 days, he is not given his due by the employer so far as leave is concerned. If he asks for leave in time, the employer evades him by saying that as they are having a rush of customers, he should postpone it till some other opportune time and when the year is practically over the employer gets over his head and says "Well, you should have asked for leave in time; now the year is over, and I am afraid you cannot get leave now." "Well, Sir, I did ask you for leave in time, but you told me not to go on leave because of rush of customers", the employee says. The reply that he generally gets is this. "It was up to you to go on leave or not to go; that was not my business; I just told you in the interest of my shop, you ought not to have acceded to my wishes; I would have employed another man at that time; now I cannot give you leave." In this way poor employees are treated at the time of asking for accumulated leave. It is most regrettable that no check has been placed on such injustices done to the trade employees in respect of leave.

Now so far as the provision regarding double salary in lieu of overtime work is concerned, it is well and good on the face of it. But may I ask the

Government whether they have collected facts and figures regarding overtime work done by the trade employees or devised any method of registration for this purpose? Supposing it is 10 o'clock in the evening and a trade employee works overtime for two hours. I ask, is there any provision for keeping record of such overtime work? May I further ask as to whether there is any provision for rest on the next day for the employee who has done overtime work? Sir, my conclusion is that in spite of the Bill trade employees will continue to suffer from injustice as the employers will make them work like donkeys.

Now, if the working day is considered to be of ten hours, I would like to submit that the Government should see to it that it is really of ten hours. My point is that it must be a continuous day and it can be done in case shopkeepers form a habit of opening their shops, say, at 12 noon and closing them at 10 in the evening. In this way, if business hours are fixed, the employees would be benefited to a great extent as they would be able to attend to their private affairs up till twelve o'clock—the opening time of their shops. Thus their worries and troubles would comparatively lessen.

I wish to bring this point home to my honourable friends sitting opposite that this Act, on account of fixed hours in factories, works very efficiently in other countries. So far as the Trade Employees (Amendment) Bill is concerned, I wish to submit that it is very defective. Moreover, the biggest provision in this Bill is about the dismissals of the employees. The usual practice all over the world is one month's notice or one month's pay. In this connection I wish to quote an instance. If the services of a person, employed on a meagre monthly pay of Rs. 40 or Rs. 50, are dispensed with by the employer's sweet will, he, after being dismissed, has no other alternative except to knock at the door of the employer for his re-appointment or the final settlement of his payments due to him. The employer refuses to re-appoint him on the ground of his inefficiency. The poor employee hunts for a job somewhere else and at the same time continues knocking at the door of the previous employer for his emoluments. Even if he were to bring a civil suit against him and the magistrate, after having been satisfied to the effect that his services were dispensed with by the employer without any sufficient cause, ordered the employer to pay the compensation to the employee which should not exceed Rs. 40 or Rs. 50 (in other words the pay of the employee), he and not the employer would suffer for this inadequate compensation. I wish to point out that there is no provision in respect of adequate compensation allowed to the employees. Sometimes the employee whose services have been dispensed with by the employer's sweet will, does not get time enough to knock at his door daily and at the same time is not in a position to bring any civil suit against him due to lack of finances, and as a consequence the poor employee is bound to forego his pay which he earned by the sweat of his brow. I wish to point out that it has grown a habit with the employers to evade the provisions of this Act and they always succeed in this unfair play.

If my honourable friends sitting opposite were to compare the Trade Employees Acts of other countries with that of our province, they would find that there are large number of loopholes in our Trade Employees Act. In our province the employees are at the mercy of the employers. Poor employees in shops are hard hit on account of their meagre wages. It is very difficult for them to make their both ends meet. They are unable to give an ordinary education to their children, not to speak of the fulfilment of other obligations. Government afford various concessions to their servants from time to time in the



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form of pensions, provident funds, etc., but do not make the employers provide these very facilities to their employees, who work day and night for the benefit of their employers.

One thing more that I need impress upon the Government and that is this. Government should regulate the working hours of the labourers in general and the young labourers in particular. Government should make it a point to afford various facilities to young labourers in the form of increase of pay, etc. If a young labourer is fond of devoting some time to his studies, he is not in a position to do so. On the one hand, he gets a meagre pay, while on the other hand, he does not get any time to devote to his studies. There is a provision about the working hours in the amending Bill now before the House. Here I wish to make a suggestion and that is this. Government should make the employers provide ample time to young labourers to devote to their studies. Government should devise ways and means for making vigilant inspections to see that young labourers are afforded adequate facilities to attend to their studies.

Lastly, I wish to submit that this Bill now before the House has many loopholes in it and it in no way would ameliorate the hard lot of the poor labourers. Government should make all-out efforts to save the trade employees from injustice meted out to them from time to time. With these words, Sir, I urge upon the Government to circulate this Bill for eliciting opinion.

**Mr. Speaker :** Motion under consideration, amendment moved—

That the Punjab Trades Employees (Amendment) Bill as reported by the select committee be circulated for eliciting opinion thereon.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh** (Amritsar North, Sikh, Rural) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, I wish to make a few observations in regard to the Bill now before the House. This Bill in its present form is very defective. The object of this Bill is to make the employer close his shop for one day in a week with a view to giving a day of rest to the employees. But I make bold to say that unless the Government could enforce one close day the Bill would be of no avail. In this connection, I wish to inform my honourable friend Sir Chhotu Ram, who boasts of safeguarding the interests of the poor people, that his objective of having one close day is being defeated before his very eyes, and he is sitting helpless because his party interests require of him to do so. Shops never remain closed for a single day. From this we arrive at the conclusion that those persons who get employed under the Trade Employees Act, would never enjoy even a single day's rest. I wish to bring this point home to my honourable friends sitting opposite that by wasting time and public money in passing this Bill in this House, they will not be doing any good to the public. If they really wish to do some good to the public, it is but meet and proper for the Government to make all the shopkeepers close all shops at least once a week. If my memory does not fail me, I remember that the intention of the mover of this Bill now before the House in the beginning was to benefit the trade employees in this manner. My honourable friend Sir Chhotu Ram too was personally in favour of helping the trade employees, but he had to stick to the instructions issued by his party and he could not help changing his mind. Sir Manohar Lal is strangling this Bill.

**Mr. Speaker :** Order please. The Honourable Member should not be personal.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** All right, Sir. What I say is that if this amendment is not accepted by the Honourable Sir Manohar Lal, this Bill will become ineffective. With these words, I urge upon the Government to accept the amendment regarding the circulation of the Bill for eliciting opinion thereon.

**Finance Minister** (The Honourable Dr. Sir Manohar Lal): Sir, the honourable members, who have spoken in support of this motion, seem to be entirely unconscious that this is only an amending Bill. Now, the Punjab Trade Employees Act of 1940, which was brought into force some time about June 1940, was intended to limit the hours of work of shop assistants and commercial employees and to make certain regulations concerning their holidays, wages and terms of service. I make bold to say that in each of these regards this amending Bill, introduced after an experience of 2 years, carries matters further entirely in the interest of shop assistants. (*An honourable member :* Were the shop assistants consulted?) Please be patient. It has been said that not on a single day do these shop assistants have holiday. Now, if my honourable friends were asked to go across to the gardens here on Sundays, they will see what a mass of these people enjoy a complete holiday on Sundays. Muslim shopkeepers close their shops often on Fridays. It is a travesty of facts, and I fail to understand how any responsible member can sponsor such a notion that no shop assistant gets any holidays whatsoever. If you will examine this Bill particularly regarding the assistance which it renders to young persons by curtailing their hours of labour and by seeing that their means of livelihood are not reduced on account of long interval of hours which they get, you will find at once what a big step it is in the way of ameliorating the conditions of shop assistants. It has been said, 'has the Honourable Minister been inside the shops?' I have not been inside the shops where whistles are blown in the morning—as my honourable friend stated—because no such practice exists in any shop. But I am in a position to say that I probably go inside more shops every week of the month and every month of the year than the gentlemen who have made this completely irresponsible statement. You have only to examine this Bill in the light that it is not a new Bill, and it is a Bill that was unanimously accepted by the select committee. My honourable friend, who has made this motion, was bold enough to cast reflections both on the original constitution of the committee that was constituted by this House and later on the method by which they carried their work at Simla. May I say on behalf of the select committee, on which this wholly uncalled for attack has been made, that they examined this Bill for two days. They sat for 3 to 4 hours each day. The Bill was duly entrusted to them by the members of this House—for consideration, and they reached a unanimous decision after all due examination. I am sorry to see that it should be open to any member whatsoever to say that those members did not know their business and did not carry out their work properly.

**Mr. Speaker :** Question is—

That the Punjab Trade Employees (Amendment) Bill as reported by the select committee be circulated for eliciting opinion thereon.

*The motion was lost.*

**Mr. Speaker :** The question is—

That the Punjab Trade Employees (Amendment) Bill as reported by the select committee be taken into consideration.

*The motion was carried.*

**Mr. Speaker :** Now, the House will proceed to consider the Bill clause by clause. As there are no amendments, I will put the whole Bill to the vote of the House. The question is—

That all the clauses of the Bill as reported by the select committee 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.*

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

That the Punjab Trade Employees (Amendment) Bill be passed.

*The motion was carried*

## REPORT OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

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

That the Report of the Public Accounts Committee on the Appropriation Accounts and Finance Accounts of the Punjab Government for the year 1940-41 be taken into consideration and adopted.

*The motion was carried.*

## EXCESS GRANT

### JAILS AND CONVICT SETTLEMENTS

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

That an additional sum not exceeding Rs. 2,06,664 be granted to the Governor to meet the excess expenditure incurred during the year ended 31st March 1941, in respect of Jails and Convict Settlements.

This Demand is made on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor.

*The motion was carried.*

## DISTRICT BOARDS BILL

**Minister for Public Works** (The Honourable Sardar Shaikat Hyat-Khan): Sir, I beg to move—

That the Punjab District Boards Bill, as reported by the select committee, be taken into consideration.

**Mr. Speaker :** Motion moved is—

That the Punjab District Boards Bill, as reported by the select committee, be taken into consideration.

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

That the Punjab District Boards Bill, as reported by the select committee, be re-committed to the same select committee for re-consideration and improvement with instructions to submit its report by the 1st of March 1944.

Sir, when we were discussing the Punjab District Boards Bill for the first time, we had a long discussion.

**Mr. Speaker :** The Honourable member's motion does not appear to be properly worded. The object of recommitment has to be specified in the motion.

**Syed Amjad Ali Shah :** Sir, Art. 127 (R. 96) is very clear : it says—

(b) that the Bill as reported by the select committee be re-committed to the same select committee either —

(i) with respect to particular clauses or amendments only or

(ii) with instructions to the select committee to make some particular or additional provision in the Bill.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** The rule nowhere says that the particular amendment should be specified in the motion.

**Mr. Speaker :** The rule says "with respect to particular clauses or amendments". Therefore, the motion is out of order.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh** (Amritsar North, Sikh, Rural) (*Punjabi*) :  
Sir, I beg to move:—

That the Punjab District Board Bill, as reported by the select committee, be circulated for eliciting opinion thereon.

Sir, I do not propose to make any speech at the present moment, as some of my honourable friends wish to express their opinion about this matter. The Bill is defective from various points of view. But I do not wish to take the time of the House by making any speech at this time. I, therefore, resume my seat, so that other honourable members may have their say.

**Mr. Speaker :** Motion under consideration, amendment moved is—

That the Punjab District Boards Bill as reported by the select committee be circulated for eliciting opinion thereon.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma** (Kangra West, General, Rural) (*Urdu*) :  
Sir, when the Bill under consideration was introduced in this House for the first time, we had a full discussion over it at that time, and it was hoped that the select committee would give due weight to the important suggestions which different honourable members had made for its improvement. Some honourable members who had personal experience of the working of the different local bodies had also made several important proposals for improving the Bill. But I have now carefully gone into the report of the select committee to see if all those important points which we had stressed during the course of that debate had now been carried out or not. After a detailed and minute study of this report I am sorry to say that our cries have proved cries in the wilderness and no weight seems to have been attached to our forceful recommendations. No improvement in the Bill has resulted on the expected lines. In fact no amendment has been carried out in the Bill during the select committee stage in the light of our suggestions. And the very provisions which were set out in the original Bill have been left intact in the Bill as amended by the select committee. For instance, one of the sections, which previously met with stiff opposition from these benches, related to the appointment and removal of the Executive Officers. In the original Bill it was laid down that an Executive Officer would be removed from office only if at a meeting of the Board not less than two-thirds of the total number of members constituting the Board for the time being vote in favour of a resolution in this behalf. This provision is intact in the Bill and no change has been effected in it. I personally think that in the first instance there is absolutely no need for the appointment of Executive Officers. If, however, Government cannot do without them they should not give them so much security of office. Under the existing provision an Executive Officer can be removed only if two-thirds of the total number of members of the Board vote for his removal. This in effect means that he cannot be removed at all. My submission is that if the retention of any Executive Officer is considered to be against the best interests of the Board he should be removed from office even if only a bare majority demands his removal. I do not know what benefit will accrue to Government by retaining this clause in the Bill. Do they want to create any official bloc in the District Boards? The Government think that after all some parties will be formed in the District Boards and no single group will ever be able to bring up its

[Pt. Bhagat Ram Sharma]

strength to two-thirds of the total number of members constituting the boards and hence the removal of the Executive Officers would become impossible. That is what it really comes to. The very appointment of Executive Officers in the district boards is a negation of the principle of local self-government which Government have already granted to the people. But the Government do not want to rest content with the appointment of Executive Officers only. They want also to ensure that the Executive Officers, who would be no other than the nominees of the Government, be not removed from office very easily. It is with the object of making their tenure more secure that they have provided that the Executive Officers would be removed from office only if two-thirds of members of Boards vote for their removal. Anyway at present I do not want to go into the details of this matter. When the consideration of the Bill is taken up clause by clause, I will throw further light on the matter.

The second point which I want to make is in regard to section 27, which is perhaps the most retrograde one in the whole Bill. Under the provisions of this section Government can remove any elected member of any district board at their own sweet will. There are many sub-sections in this section under which elected members of district boards can be removed from membership of the said institutions. But I will confine myself to only two of them, which in my opinion are the most important. It is stated in sub-clause (e) :

If his continuance in office is, in the opinion of the provincial Government, contrary to the interests of the public,

Sir, if we take the dictionary meaning of the words 'interests of the public' we would find that the interpretation put upon them by Government so far has been quite different. In fact the meaning which Government have taken of these words is to be found in no dictionary at all. We know very well that often Government have refused to answer questions, which were quite in the public interest, on the floor of House, on the ground that they were against the interests of the public. That was simply an excuse for not answering our questions. So far I have not been able to discover any dictionary where the words 'interests of the public' have been defined as Government interpret them. If Government have any such dictionary in their store-house, let them come forward with it. Anyhow the way in which Government had been refusing to answer our questions on the plea of public interest leads us to conclude and rightly so, that they would, at any time when they so desire, remove any member of the district board on the ground that his continuance in office is against the best interests of the public. I think that even in the time of bureaucratic Government nobody ever dared to make any such provision in any legislation. The 'credit' goes to the Government, who claim to be the people's Government, that they are making such a provision in the District Board Bill. It simply means that the vote of the public will have absolutely no weight. It will be Government to whose sweet will any member would owe his membership. In other words, it means that Government are taking away with one hand what they have given with the other. If this is merely a drafting mistake then I have nothing to say against it. But if it is the real intention of Government, it simply means that under the provisions of this subsection they want to deprive the people of the right which they want to give them under this measure of choosing their own representatives for the district boards. I therefore request the Honourable Member-in-charge of the Bill to tell us as to what necessity has arisen, after so many years of the successful working of the local bodies, to make such a provision in the District Board Bill. If Government really want to keep in their hands

the right to remove any member of a district board they can do so under another provision. And that is that:—

If in the opinion of the Provincial Government, he has flagrantly abused his position as a member of the Board or has acted in any manner contrary to his oath or affirmation of allegiance or has been responsible for the loss, waste or mis-application of any money or property of the Board.

Under the provisions of this subsection any member of a district board, who abuses his position as such, can be removed from the membership of that board. I do not see any reason why two similar provisions are being made in the Bill. One will suffice. There is absolutely no need for the other. With these words, I support the circulation motion moved by my friend Sardar Sohan Singh Josh.

**Minister for Public Works** (The Honourable Sardar Shaikat Hyat-Khan): Sir, while opposing the amendment moved by my honourable friend opposite and his allegation about undemocratic action on our part, I would say that whatever we have done is in the best interest of democracy. (*Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma*: Is it?) It will be noted, Sir, that this Bill was introduced in November 1942 and was then referred to a select committee which consisted of some very able members of this House. They considered this Bill carefully and decided on certain amendments which have been provided in the Bill. They recommended that the Bill had not been so altered as to require re-publication. Their report was last presented by me to this House in March this year and honourable members will notice that a good many months have passed for my honourable friends and for the general public to judge and form their opinions on this Bill. It has already been commented upon by the press and furthermore I may point out that the best public opinion is enshrined in the members of this House and that there should be no further need for circulation. My honourable friend's criticism of the Executive Officer seems to have been based on some misunderstanding. I will deal with that when the matter itself comes up. The question of a removal of a member for misbehaviour was also raised by my honourable friend. I would request him to read the clause carefully and then point out to me which is the best way of removing a member who has not done anything wrong legally but who has committed a moral crime which is not befitting the position of a member of a district board. Does my honourable friend want that dishonest men, men who have misappropriated the funds, who have gone back on their oath of allegiance and who have generally not behaved as honourable members of a district board ought to, should be kept on in the district boards?

This power has been taken by the Government, but my honourable friend forgets that the present Government is the people's Government. It has been elected by the popular vote and if such a Government decided whether a man has misbehaved or not in his capacity as a member of a district board, I am sure there should be no objection to that. If, however, my honourable friend thinks it objectionable he can surely bring in a motion of no-confidence against such a government.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma**: What do you understand by public interest?

**Minister for Public Works**: I will deal with that point now since my honourable friend opposite insists. Now, how will he deal with cases of members of district boards who have misbehaved with school mistresses? No legal action may be possible against such members, but that will be misdemeanour which is against all public interest. The honourable member should know these things better. I must say that the criticism is out of date. If it had come seven years earlier against the bureaucratic Government that then

[Minister of Public Works]

existed it may have been justifiable, but now we are the custodians of the rights and liberties of the people. We have been elected by them and I can assure you that we shall not allow anything to infringe the public rights and liberty. With these words I oppose the motion.

**Mian Abdul Aziz** (Outer Lahore, Muslim, Urban) (*Urdu*): Sir, the Honourable Minister of Public Works has opposed the motion for the circulation of the District Boards Bill for eliciting public opinion thereon. This is not the first time that the Government has adopted such an attitude in respect of a measure which directly concerns and tremendously affects the public at large. Even at the time of the presentation of the City of Lahore Corporation Bill, it was submitted that in the matter of municipal or other local bodies Acts which were largely concerned with the general public, it was imperative that the opinions of those who were going to be affected by them should be obtained. These Acts are concerned with local self-government and therefore call for an expression of opinion from the public. It may be argued that since the members of this House have been popularly elected, their opinion is as good as that of those who were instrumental in returning them to the provincial legislature. True, but cannot the same argument hold good in the case of those members of the House who have also been duly returned by their constituents but who do not see eye to eye with the Government in respect of certain provisions of this Bill and are therefore opposed to it? Yet I know what the result is going to be. With the majority at their back the Government will only do as they please and will get such Bills through without carrying out any amendment, however important it may be. As was also pointed out by my honourable friend Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma such vague terms as 'against the public interest' occur in the Bill, but no attempt has been made by the Government to explain and clarify their meanings. If that is not done there is a great danger of their being misused by either the local authorities or the Government themselves. Even ordinary actions by individuals might be construed to constitute a menace 'to the public interest' and members may be removed on this pretext. I know that such things have been happening over a number of years in municipal committees, where members having the confidence of the majority of their voters but unfortunately not being *persona grata* with the Government or the local authorities, were removed from the committees on flimsy grounds. Whenever a protest was lodged against such action the Government came out with the handy phrase that 'their continuing on the committee was against the public interest'. This use of such a dangerous weapon in so ordinary matters is deplorable. The Honourable Minister may be an expert in military matters, but he does not have any experience of the working of the district boards either as a member or in any other capacity, barring a smattering of knowledge gained during the few months that he has been in charge of the local self-government portfolio. I beg to submit that if the Government really intend to take over the administration of the local bodies in their own hands they should be honest about it and say so. Why do they take shelter behind such meaningless phrases? The Honourable Minister was pleased to cite the instance of members carrying on affairs with school mistresses as acts prejudicial to the public interest. Hundreds of such cases daily occur among Government servants but in how many cases is this extreme step of removal adopted? In cases of moral laxity all that is done is to call for an explanation of his conduct from the person concerned. But it is sheer highhandedness to resort to extreme measures on the plea of 'public interest' in ordinary matters.

**Minister of Public Works :** Is laxity of character an ordinary matter ?

**Mian Abdul Aziz :** I know what is happening in the Corporation, but how many of its employees have been removed ?

**Minister of Public Works :** May I remind Mian Sahib that he is discussing the District Boards Bill and not the Corporation Bill ?

**Mian Abdul Aziz :** It is one and the same thing. The principle is the same everywhere, and if the Honourable Minister takes cognizance of a certain action by a member of the district board he should not shut his eyes to such actions elsewhere.

Again, Sir, if the Government wish to nominate technical experts, they are welcome to do so, but they should not overlook the proportion of elected and nominated members in public bodies. Otherwise there is a great danger of the nominated bloc playing into the hands of the local authorities and thus nullifying the very object of local self-government. Even during the debate on the Corporation Bill a tussle had ensued over the question of 5/8 th majority for the election of the Executive Officer. I say that if you want to usurp the powers of the members, why do you not do away with them ? Why deceive the public by making a pretence of extending the principle of local self-government to the people of this province ? You are at perfect liberty to remove members who prove themselves to be corrupt and also to raise the standard of qualifications for the members who seek election to local bodies, but you should not encroach upon the rights of the people by adopting indirect methods.

3 P.M.

The District Boards Bill is going to affect the rural areas and it is, therefore, the duty of the Government to make every effort to elicit the opinion of the rural public.

With these words, I support the circulation motion now before the House.

**Mian Muhammad Narullah** (Lyallpur, Muhammadan, Rural (Urdu): Sir, the Bill as amended by the select committee, which is before the House at this time, has many shortcomings. I too was a member of the select committee. But I was alone. My voice was feeble. I could not make myself heard to the other members who were almost of the same opinion. What can a single person do in the face of opposition from the party in power ? I succeeded in getting accepted only an amendment or two. Now as the Bill was placed before the House for clause by clause consideration, I read it a bit more carefully and the result is that I have given notice of about 60 to 80 amendments from the first 80 pages. The Government being in majority may not care to accept my amendments, but I am sure that if the Honourable Minister in charge of the Bill would consider them carefully he would be pleased to accept at least a few of them, whether they be of consequential nature or whether they are about the principles involved.

Sir, this Bill cuts at the very root of the principle of local self-government. For example, read section 11 (3). It says—

Every election or appointment of a member of a Board shall be notified by the Provincial Government, but the Provincial Government may refuse to notify the election of any person who could be removed from office under any of the provisions of this Act, or of any person whom the Provincial Government, for any reason which it may deem to affect adversely the public interest, may consider unfit to be a member of the Board ; and upon such refusal the election of such person shall be void and another person shall be elected in his place, and the person whose election the Provincial Government has refused to notify shall be disqualified for election for a period not exceeding seven years unless the Provincial Government otherwise directs.



[M. Nuhammad Murullah]

How dangerous a power in the hands of Government and how it reduces the local self-government to a mere farce! First you give to public the right of electing a member, you fix the date, the election is held; all sorts of troubles are borne. As a result the public elects a representative, who may be good or bad, but there is no denying the fact that he represents the public of his constituency. Local self-government means that the elected members should sit on the district board and manage its affairs. So far as the principle goes, the Provincial Autonomy is just like the local self-government. But how contradictory it looks that the present Government proposes to take such power that it can reduce the local self-government to nullity. You want that you may be given powers to disqualify an elected member of a local body for any arbitrary cause or because he does not suit the local officers. The Government or its officers can coin any reason for not notifying him after election. That is simply unjust. He is newly elected. He has not yet functioned as a member. In case you disqualify him after he is notified and has worked as a member for some time and is found inefficient or corrupt, nobody would take exception to his being turned out. But not to notify a member after election and not only that but to disqualify him for seven years is simply unjust and unreasonable. This is not furthering the cause of local self-government, but hindering its progress.

I would like to give an example here. This happened in a municipal committee of which I too am a member. One Malik Sahib was elected a member. Somebody lodged a report against him about something that had happened five years before and that too was an ordinary thing—something about a few *gamias* at some party function. It was represented that he should not be notified on that account. As a result of that the said gentleman was not notified and was disqualified for five or seven years. Afterwards on the occasion of electing the executive officer for that municipal committee it was found that we had the majority of 16 out of 26. Had that gentleman been a member we would have been in a position to elect our own executive officer by a majority of 17 out of 26. But now we were helpless. Someone had ulterior motives in taking that step against this member, and I must admit that that step of the Government proved successful and it succeeded in making the votes of 16 members useless.

I think their intention was to debar us from electing our man. My point is that there are petition laws to nullify the election of a member. So when they have a right to fight against an elected member, why should the Government have such arbitrary powers in their hands and make this Bill a reactionary measure? May I also point out that in Executive Officers Act, municipal committees are given a right to elect their own executive officers? Here the board has no power and the Government on the other hand has been given power to appoint the Executive Authority. He cannot be removed because with an official and nominated bloc it would be impossible to secure three-fourths votes of the members. I do feel that certain members sitting opposite are one with me so far as this matter is concerned, but they are bound to vote for their Party. My point is that the right for electing executive officer has been given to municipal committees and not to district boards. This is not justice and if such provisions had not been present in the Bill, we could have said that local self-government would improve. But what the Government want to do is to keep arbitrary powers in their hands just to ignore the rights of others. I would, therefore, like to submit that district boards should be given powers to elect their executive officers and in case they are unable to do so, the Government can have their own

Executive Authority without fear of its being removed. Next, Sir, if under the Provincial Autonomy we can do without a nominated bloc in this Assembly, can we not do without nominations in district boards? I do not see any reason why the district boards should not be given the right to elect all the members. However, if the Government are bent upon having a nominated bloc, they may reduce the number of nominated members. I want the Government to reduce the number of nominated members because I apprehend that nominated members would always influence the decisions of the boards. Reducing the nominated members would mean improvement in local self-government. I fail to understand the reason why Government should have powers to remove a Chairman who has been elected by majority and in whom members have confidence. I ask, why should the Government stand in their way? When it has been provided that members will elect their Chairman by bare majority, they should not in any case refuse to accept him as such. Sir, the members, at the first instance are elected, then they elect their Chairman and if even then the election of the Chairman is not notified and accepted by the Government it means negation of local self-government. In case the district board does not elect its Chairman the Government can by all means elect him. An elected Chairman must be notified. If he proves incapable the Government can disqualify him for any number of years. Then why this arbitrary power? As my amendments which I have given notice of, go a long way to greatly improve local self-government, I would request the Minister in charge to accept them, if he is not willing to circulate the Bill for eliciting public opinion.

With these remarks, Sir, I resume my seat.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad** (Southern Towns, Muhammadan Urban) (Urdu): Sir, before the District Boards Bill was handed over to me in its original form, I was under the impression that all the defects therein would be completely washed off. But I found it quite contrary to my hopes. There is no doubt that the original Bill has been a bit improved, but that is inadequate and totally disappointing. The select committee has also made useful alterations. But the introduction of Executive Authority is quite contrary to the principles of self-government. It is a well known fact that since the executive officers have been thrust upon the municipal committees, the condition of the municipalities has worsened and the powers of the members have been limited to a great extent, so much so that they are reduced to insignificance.

I wish to make a few submissions in regard to the clauses in the District Boards Bill now before the House regarding appointment of Executive Authority and it is the prominent feature of this Bill. I make bold to say that executive officers have been made all-powerful in municipalities. I had a mind to deal with the question of executive officers at length but unfortunately the time at my disposal is very short. I would therefore deal with this subject briefly. My honourable friends, who just preceded me, have already given expression to their thoughts. I also wish to point out that the appointment of executive authorities in district boards is a negation of the principles of local self-government as well as democracy.

Further, I wish to submit that there exist many clauses in the Bill in connection with the election of members, but at the same time Government have inserted some clauses relating to powers, which in my opinion are most retrograde. So far as local self-government is concerned I wish to point out that there should

[K. S. Khawaja Ghulam Samad]

be no nominations in the district boards. There are no nominations in this House. Every member knows it full well that by the introduction of nomination the puppets of the Ministers and local officers are recommended and the independent workers are overlooked. The Honourable Minister would say in reply that the minorities who cannot get in by election have to be brought into these bodies by nomination. With all deference to what the Honourable Minister may say I submit that nomination is not the proper remedy for making up the deficiencies of their seats. This can be remedied only by introducing separate electorate in all the local bodies throughout the province, just like the Assemblies.

**Mian Abdul Rab :** May I draw the attention of the honourable member to the fact that we have separate electorates for this House whereas we have joint electorates for district boards? Where is the need for nomination to this House?

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** I know that there are joint electorates in some municipalities, but there are many other municipalities where the joint electorate system does not exist at all.

**Mian Abdul Rab :** We are at present talking of district boards and not of municipal committees.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** I am giving instances of municipal committees. I am referring to the appointment of executive officers in municipal committees in order to show how executive officers are working in municipal committees. I wanted to point out that with the appointment of executive officers the position of the municipal committees has been worsened and the same will happen in the district boards if Executive Authorities are thrust upon district boards.

**Mian Abdul Rab :** That is no answer.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Please do not interrupt. I was dealing with nominations. It is high time that Government should abolish the nominations to the district boards altogether and introduce the system of separate electorates in local bodies. With all the emphasis at my command I urge upon the Government to empower the district boards to elect as many members as possible. Unfortunately I belong to a division where we are in a minority. The treatment already meted out to us there, is known to all the honourable members. Our rights have been trampled upon. We are under-represented, so much so that our share in the services is hardly five per cent. The reason is that the communities in majority have no regard for minorities. I wish to urge upon the Government to abolish the appointment of non-official Chairmen to the district boards after reconsidering all the clauses of the Bill now before the House. With these words, Sir, I resume my seat.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Abdul Rahman Khan** (Jullundur North, Muhammadan, Rural) (*Punjabi*): Sir, I rise to support the circulation motion moved by my honourable friend Mian Muhammad Nurullah. Before entering into details, I wish to quote the following Punjabi maxim which in my opinion is the *summum bonum* of my speech:—

آدین دے دال والیا میوا آگے بھی سواد گوا جاوین

Since the advent of the British in India, they claim to have been training the Indians in the art of self-government. It is on this ground that the Britishers say that they have left the administration of district boards and municipalities.

in the hands of the Indians, with a view to enabling them to govern their own country. As a matter of fact the administration of the district boards and the municipalities was given in the hands of Indians in order to train them in the art of local self-government. These Britishers in the capacity of official members in the previous Legislative Council of our province could not dare to appoint executive officers in district boards and municipalities. If they had done so, it would defeat the very purpose for which these institutions were introduced.

In the beginning of their rule in India, the British, in order to avoid the bad name of unpopularity that was bound to result by all the actions detrimental to the Indian interests, granted Provincial Autonomy. The purpose of this was to throw the onus on the ministries and to make them responsible for the consequences. These Indian Ministers were made instrumental in the hands of the British and thus they became unpopular. But so far as the Ministers of our province are concerned, I wish to submit that they excel even the British in their actions and in order to please them they always try their level best to dance to their tune.

So far as the district boards are concerned, I wish to point out that public elect such persons to be the members of these boards who in their opinion are efficient and fit for pleading the public cause. Then these members elect Presidents and Vice-Presidents who work honorarily. They also elect amongst themselves an efficient and suitable person to be their Secretary who has to carry on the administration of the district boards efficiently. But may I ask my honourable friends sitting opposite whether the executive officers appointed by them would be more efficient than these elected members working at present, who have so far shown a good record of efficient work? I cannot understand how these executive officers are superior to others. However I wish to point out that by appointing executive officers, there will be no freedom in the administration of district boards and the executive officers will dance to the tune of the Ministers. It seems that the Government intend appointing their own favourites as executive officers by giving them huge salaries. The money of the district boards, which is to be used for the welfare of public, would thus be wasted unnecessarily. These executive officers will not take any keen interest in public welfare and they will more often waste the public money at the instance of the Government without any rhyme or reason. Government will thus be responsible for undermining the two main principles of self-government, namely, the working of the district boards for the welfare of the public and the promise of the British Government to train Indians for self-government.

Further, I wish to point out that the President, Vice-President and the Secretary are the only fit persons to carry on the administration of the district boards in the interests of the public. In this connection, I wish to submit that the deputy commissioners who are already experienced and efficient officers preside over these district boards. I really fail to understand as to why the Government intend appointing executive officers, when the administration of the district boards and municipalities is already in the hands of these efficient officers. With all the emphasis at my command I urge upon the Government not to appoint the executive officers. With these words, Sir, I support the circulation motion now before the House.

**Mian Abdul Rab** (Jullundur South, Muhammadan, Rural) (Urdu): Sir, my learned friend Chaudhri Abdul Rahman Khan, while speaking in support of the circulation motion was pleased to put forward an unsound reason. I have

[M. Abdul Rab]

reasons to differ from him. I feel it was not a cogent reason. However, if I narrate to him an incident, I am sure he will be convinced of the futility of his argument, and perhaps then he may begin to feel why he was so bold in supporting this motion.

Among others, one of his arguments was that our Government is imposing restrictions upon the officers of the district boards, thereby limiting their rights and checking their authority. I assert, it is all a baseless argument. He ignores the fact that relatively considered, the Provincial Government is in the position of a Central Government as compared with the administration of the district boards which are local bodies in its charge. When the Government at the Centre is our own government, i. e., the government of the people, why fear the little supervision over the district boards? My friend should not oppose and criticise this Bill on the mere pretext that a little check is provided over the administration of the district boards. This little check will be beneficial for the boards. Let me give you an instance just to illustrate my point. If no check by a teacher is exercised over his promising youths they are likely to be led astray. If they are let loose, they will forget their lessons, become impertinent and thus by and by be incorrigible ones. On this analogy, I remind my learned friend about the state of affairs of the very district board of which he has the honour to be a member. I ask him how the arrangements of giving education to the boys was likely to be disturbed in the times of a certain deputy commissioner and what was the cause of such a serious situation having arisen. If it had not been due to the opportune help of our late Premier and the support of the Honourable Mian Abdul Haye and the Honourable Malik Khizar Hayat who was then in charge of the local bodies, I apprehend the state of affairs would have been worse than ever. My honourable friend should be thankful for the timely intervention of our Government. Our Government interferes only when it feels that the administration is suffering or when—

**Mian Abdul Aziz :** You are too eulogistic for your Government.

**Mian Abdul Rab :** You are only pleased by criticising and interrupting. Opposition is your job.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Abdul Rahman Khan :** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. The instance quoted by my honourable friend is not correct. When the Government has appointed deputy commissioners over us. I do not think there is any need for appointing executive officers also.

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

**Mian Abdul Rab :** Sir, according to my friend the elected members of the district board are given preference over the nominated members. If that is so, may I ask him as to why no elected member raised any voice when the Education Budget of the District Board, Jullundur, was being reduced by 50 per cent. No body then protested or raised his voice.

Sir, now after having dealt with the argument advanced by my honourable friend, I now turn to the criticism levelled against the Government by my friend Khawaja Sahib. He was pleased to say that the system of nomination should be abolished, because, owing to this very system, the rights of the Mussalmans are trampled over very seriously. He referred to the state of affairs of the Mussalmans of the Ambala division and the differential treatment meted out to them. If his plea is accepted, I fear his contention fails altogether. I assert that with a view to make the voice of a minority effective, the system of

nomination is urgently needed. Besides with a view to give representation to the scheduled castes, one perforce needs the help of the system of nomination. Above all, often the Government needs the services of experts, and with a view to secure their representation no other system can be more effective than that of nomination. My honourable friend Mian Muhammad Nurullah was pleased to say, why should the Government, for instance, want to have the right not to notify the election of a member, even if he was elected by a majority? He asserted that if a person could command majority and the electors wanted him to represent them, why should the Government stand in his way? I submit that his contention is true to some extent but sometimes it happens that an objectionable man comes in and the Government wants to keep to themselves the right of removing such a member. Moreover my friend's opposition towards the appointment of non-official chairman is also not valid. The Government is there to watch over the administration. The rights are specified and the representatives of the people are also there to safeguard their rights.

On these grounds, sir, I oppose the circulation motion and I urge upon the Government to see that this Bill be passed as soon as possible.

**Khan Sahib Chaudhri Sahib Dad Khan** (Hissar, Muhammadan, Rural) (Urdu): Mr. Speaker, the Bill which is now before us is objectionable. If one were to keep in view the doings, nay, rather the misdoings of the district boards, I am sure no one will hold it justifiable. Among other instances, to quote a few, I take the example of Ambala division as stated by my honourable friend Khawaja Sahib. I, too, speak on the authority of my personal experience. During the short span of six years, in the Hissar District Board not even a single Mussalman peon has been appointed. If such differential treatment has been continuously meted out to the Mussalmans of my division as well, I am afraid this Bill would do no better. If the Government cannot do justice of their own accord we will compel them to do justice. The Government can circulate instructions, but it does not care whether they are acted upon. A favourite member of the Unionist party without whom no sub-committee is complete, said that these instructions are hollow threats and the majority does not care a bit. This is the mentality of the majority in the Hissar district whose leader is the dictator of this party.

Sir, there is plenty of favouritism in the district boards and even the Government cannot stop it. The honourable members of the Unionist Party themselves believe in favouritism and follow their dictator blindly. Muslims have no guts to stand against him. We are so helpless that even if we want to get a *chaprasi* appointed, we are absolutely unable to succeed. The non-official chairman would not care a fig for the interests of Muslims in our district of Hissar where our education is also suffering. No grant-in-aid is granted to any Muslim school, although ten or twelve thousand rupees are annually granted to Hindu institutions. In Hissar the condition of Muslims is better untold. They are worse than the untouchables. All this has happened in spite of the fact that there is a majority of Muslims in this Government and in this province. No one listens to their cries. I may submit that a Muslim school applied eight times for a grant-in-aid, but was refused flatly. Similarly five thousand rupees or so were granted twice to the local Jat High School. If a Muslim applies for extension on the ground of efficiency and good health, he is refused extension of service. On the other hand, if a Hindu applies for extension, he is retained in service without any hitch, although his health may be very poor and his record may be bad. In short our rights are being trampled

[K. S. Ch. Sahib Dad Khan]

under foot and if we raise our voice in protest against such high-handedness of the official and non-official Hindus, none cares for us. As I have already said, we cannot get even a *chaprasi* appointed in the district boards under an official Chairman, the non-official Chairman will do away with our education.

I would, therefore, strongly appeal to the Government to take some suitable steps for removing the legitimate grievances of the Muslims of Hissar. I hope the Government would provide in this Bill for the safeguards of the Muslim interests of the district or take education in their hand.

**Sardar Teja Singh Swatantar** (Lahore West, Sikh, Rural (*Punjabi*)): Mr. Speaker, it is well-known to every one here that the institution of district boards was intended to be the first step towards setting up democracy in this country. The idea was to train the villagers in the art of democracy by giving them the right of vote for electing their own representatives to manage their local affairs in the local bodies. For this purpose local rate is charged by the Government which is necessary to finance the administration of the district boards. Government has authorised the boards to make necessary arrangements for roads, education and health of the zamindars. Now the imposition of this tax and the setting up of the boards were really intended to democratise the people. To give further impetus to democracy, the Government removed the nominated bloc from the provincial Legislatures, as no provision was made for nomination under the Government of India Act, 1935. This was the end of dyarchy to which the Government of India Act of 1935 had dealt a death blow. This nominated bloc had been in existence since 1861. But I am sorry to note that whereas it has been removed from the provincial Legislature, it is now being introduced in the district boards. As I have already stated the district boards were basic schools, so to say, of democracy in this country. It is a pity indeed that the institution of democracy is being spoiled in our country at the very fountain head, that is, in the district boards where the people begin to learn it. Why should there be any nominated members at all? In this House which is much more responsible than the district boards, no need for nominated members is being felt. The province is safe without them. But in the district boards which are not half so responsible, the Government is insisting on keeping the nominated element uptil now. It means that democracy is being killed in the bud. How can the people who become accustomed to official bloc in the boards rise to withstand the official pressure in this House? But sections 19 and 28 of the proposed Bill provide for official and nominated element in the district boards. Democracy is not being given full play in these institutions. The Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Executive Officer can all be nominated from among the salaried officials in the district boards. Some members are also nominated members. This step hinders the proper growth of democracy in this country. The principle of adult franchise should be freely adopted without any let or hindrance. That is the only way to train people in the art of democracy. They should be allowed to manage their own affairs locally without any official interference. Government should not have the power of removing any elected member or Chairman. By keeping such powers in its hand, the Government wins the people by favouritism. It simply means that Government want to keep the question of appointment and removal of Chairmen of district boards in their own hands, so that they may be in a position to appoint whomsoever they favour as Chairman of any board. The ground is being prepared for it. Then the appointment and removal of executive officers will, in effect,

rest with Government. Besides Government have reserved to themselves the right of removing any member of the district board, on the ground of public interest. What is meant by the words 'public interest'? My friends have discussed the words 'public interest' at length. But let me tell them that to the Unionist Government the words 'public interest' simply mean their self-interest. According to their own dictionary this is the definition of the words 'public interest'. Therefore it would be well for my friends not to put them in an awkward position by pressing them to explain these words. Anyway if my friends want to enact this measure for educating our peasantry, whose representatives we are in this House, and want to train them as to how best they can manage their own affairs, as to how they can prepare their budget, as to how they can build their roads, hospitals and schools, then we will support them wholeheartedly. But if they have no such intention and want to keep the public in the dark, I may warn them that their efforts will be in vain. It will be simply labour lost. I may tell them that now the people are not sleeping. They are wide awake and they will certainly oppose the setting up of such district boards as my friends want to. Let them drive this idea out of their heads that the people are not awake or that by giving certain appointments to some favourites they can persuade them to return men of their own choice at the time of next elections. Let them not kill democracy in the name of democracy. But instead they should turn their attention to the real needs of the people. They should educate the people as to how best they can manage their own affairs. Let them train the people in all those arts which are necessary to live like honourable and decent men. If this is not the intention of my friends, let them drop this Bill once and for all. With these remarks I support the circulation motion moved by my friend Sardar Sohan Singh Josh.

**Mr. Speaker :** The Question is—

That the Punjab District Boards Bill as reported by the select committee be circulated for eliciting opinion thereon.

*The motion was lost.*

**Mr. Speaker :** The Question is—

That the Punjab District Boards Bill as reported by the select committee be taken into consideration.

*The motion was carried.*

**Mr. Speaker :** Now the House will proceed to consider the Bill clause by clause.

#### Clause 1

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Khan Bahadur Shaikh Faiz Muhammad) : I move—

That in sub-clause (1), line 2, for the figures "1942" the figures "1943" be substituted.

*The motion was carried.*

**Mr. Speaker :** The Question is—

That clause (1) as amended stand part of the Bill.

*The motion was carried.*

#### Clause 2

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Khan Bahadur Shaikh Faiz Muhammad) :

I move—

That in sub-clause (c), line 2, between the words "any" and "house" the word "shop" be inserted.

*The motion was carried.*



**Mian Muhammad Nurullah** (Lyallpur, Muhammadan, Rural): I beg to move—

That in part (i), lines 2—10, the words “or, if the ..... this Act” be deleted.

In part (i) of the clause the words ‘Executive Authority’ have been defined. It has been laid down—

“ ‘Executive Authority’ means the chairman of a Board’ that is all I want. I do not want to proceed further where it has been provided—

“ or, if the Provincial Government so directs, a person appointed by the Provincial Government to exercise, perform or discharge the powers, duties and functions which are conferred or imposed on the Executive Authority by or under this Act.”

I want that there should be no executive authority in the board at all. If this amendment of mine is accepted it would mean that there would be no executive authority and if there is any it would be the chairman of the board who will be elected by the board. In that case the interests of those who voted and the interest of local self-government will be properly safeguarded and nobody would be able to say that this was a reactionary measure. That is why I want these words to be deleted.

**Mr. Speaker :** Clause under consideration, amendment moved is—

That in part (i), lines 2—10, the words “or, if the ..... this Act” be deleted.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma** (Kangra West, General, Rural): The purpose of this amendment is just to limit the definition of executive authority to the chairman of the board.

4 P.M. If this amendment is accepted, the charge levelled against the Bill that it is retrograde will vanish. This amendment will take away the sting from the Bill. The executive authority will then be the person who will be duly elected by the members of the board who in their turn will be the elected representatives of the people of the district. This amendment, if accepted, will bring the Bill up-to-date and in accord with the principles of democracy. In these circumstances I am sure the Minister in charge will accept the amendment and thus prove that he is really democratic in his views.

**Minister of Public Works** (The Honourable Sardar Shaukat Hyat-Khan): I have very carefully heard what my honourable friends opposite have said, but I regret to say they have not said anything very convincing. They have simply opposed the definition of executive authority pertaining to the appointment of a person by the Government. This provision of executive authority has been put in order to provide for those boards which cannot look after their own affairs properly. It is to safeguard the interests of district boards against party factions and presidents who are themselves incompetent to carry out the administration of their district boards. Nothing new has been introduced in this Bill. My honourable friend Sir Gokul Chand Narang sitting opposite will tell you how necessary it was to have executive officers for municipal committees. A similar necessity has been felt for district boards also and therefore a provision has been introduced in this Bill. Further more, if you look into the Acts of the United Provinces, Bengal, Bihar, the Central Provinces and Bombay, you will find that they provide for a separate executive authority. Moreover, this provision is only meant for the cases of those boards which are on the brink of supersession for maladministration. I may also add that this provision will be sparingly used by the Government and in extreme cases only. The executive authority will be appointed as a court of wards of district boards till they improve their internal affairs and when the Government feels that a certain district board has improved its administration and that there is no need for it to be superseded.

it will restore the powers of the president. With these words I beg to oppose the amendment.

**Mr. Speaker :** The question is—

That in part (i), lines 2—10, the words 'or, if the.....this Act' be deleted.

*The motion was lost.*

**Mr. Speaker :** The question is—

That clause 2 as amended stand part of the Bill.

*The motion was carried.*

### Clause 3

**Mian Muhammad Nurullah** (Lyallpur, Muhammadan, Rural) : I beg to move—

That in sub-clause (1), lines 5—7, the words 'but the provincial Government.....think fit' be deleted.

This sub-clause deals with the levy of a local rate of one anna for every rupee of the annual value of the land. It also provides for the increase by Government of this rate on the recommendation of the board. I consider that the latter provision is unnecessary and undesirable. The Government should not have the power to increase this rate. Otherwise what will happen is that an inefficient district board may squander its resources and in order to cover up its position may recommend to the Government to increase the rate. This provision will thus encourage inefficiency and extravagance on the part of the district board. The rate of one anna provided in the sub-clause is sufficient and there is no justification for the Government to have power to increase it. Therefore the Government should not take this power in the interests of the board and of the people.

**Mr. Speaker :** Clause under consideration, amendment moved —

That in sub-clause (1), lines 5—7, the words "but the Provincial Government.....think fit" be deleted.

**Minister for Public Works** (The Honourable Sardar Shaukat Hyat-Khan) : Sir, once again I get up to oppose the amendment. I am surprised to find that an amendment of this nature should be moved by an honourable member like Mian Nurullah who himself was a member of the Select Committee and who took part in the deliberations of that Committee and did not consider it necessary to put in a note of dissent. The honourable member has had plenty of time to read this Bill and if he had taken the trouble of reading it he would not have suggested what he has done now. He says that the Government shall not on the recommendation of a district board increase the local rate. Government is not on its own going to increase the rate unless the district board apply for and if a district board wishes to increase its income for beneficent purposes and for betterment of life in the district board, I do not see why Government should stand in the way of the betterment of rural areas. I am sure that if my honourable friend takes a little pain and gives a thought to his amendment, he will withdraw it. Surely the elected representatives of the province should be able to keep that power in cases where to protect public interests. If the district board tries to increase it, Government wants to keep the power to step in to stop unnecessary hardship. With these words I oppose the amendment.

**Mr. Speaker :** The question is—

That in sub-clause (1), lines 5—7, the words "but the Provincial Government.....think fit" be deleted.

*The motion was lost.*

**Mian Muhammad Nurullah** (Lyallpur, Muhammadan, Rural): Sir, I beg to move—

That the proviso to sub-clause (I) be deleted.

The proviso reads:—

Provided that the Provincial Government may by notification abolish or reduce any rate imposed under this Chapter or may exempt any land or any class of land from liability in respect of such rate.

Why should Government keep these powers for invidious distinction? This is not a power which is necessary for working the boards and I do not think there are any classes of land on which any exemption will be necessary later on or where reduction or abolition of the rate would be expedient. I think that this is an unnecessary power and should be abolished.

**Mr. Speaker**: Clause under consideration, amendment moved—

The the proviso to sub-clause (I) be deleted.

**Minister for Public Works** (The Honourable Sardar Shaukat Hyat-Khan): Sir, the honourable member opposite does not seem to understand the meaning of elasticity. Any Government which binds itself too much and too rigidly to any set of rules may find itself confronted with some unforeseen difficulties for which they want to depart from general practice. For instance, in this case a certain land in the district board area belongs to a religious institution or may belong to some charitable organisation or may, on the other hand, be land which has been over-assessed, or a district board is over-taxing its people. Surely the Government as a custodian of the rights of the people should come to their rescue and reduce the rates, if necessary. On the other hand, if there is a board which for some reason does not increase the rate, there again Government must have power to see that the rates are properly fixed. I would once again request my honourable friend to read the clause properly and give it a thought dispassionately, and I am sure he will be inclined to withdraw his amendment altogether.

**Mian Muhammad Nurullah**: I do not wish to press my amendment.

*The amendment was by leave withdrawn.*

**Mr. Speaker**: The question is—

That clause 3 stand part of the Bill.

*The motion was carried.*

#### *Clauses 4 and 5*

**Mr. Speaker**: The question is—

That clauses 4 and 5 stand part of the Bill.

*The motion was carried.*

#### *Clause 6*

**Mian Muhammad Nurullah** (Lyallpur, Muhammadan, Rural): I beg to move—

That part (a) of the proviso be deleted.

Part (a) of the proviso reads—

Provided that—

(a) if there are two or more Boards in a district the proceeds of the local rate levied in such district shall be credited to the funds of each Board in such proportion of the net proceeds of the local rate, after deduction of the expenses of collection, as the Provincial Government may by general or special order direct.

[M. Muhammad Nurullah]

This is absolutely contradictory to clause 9 (1). May I draw your attention to clause 9 (1)? It reads—

The Provincial Government shall by notification constitute for each district a Board .. Here it says that there shall be one board, whereas part (a) of proviso to clause 6 speaks of two district boards. How can there be two district boards in one district? So it is absolutely redundant and unnecessary. I hope the Honourable Minister will accept my amendment.

**Mr. Speaker :** Clause under consideration, amendment moved—

That part (a) of the proviso be deleted.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** There is no ambiguity about section 9. There cannot be any possibility of there being more than one board in any one district. In these circumstances part (a) of section 6 becomes absolutely redundant. I do not know why the Minister in charge is persisting in not accepting this very reasonable amendment.

**Minister of Public Works :** It is most painful to hear some of the objections which are being raised. Surely if the honourable members had taken the trouble of reading sub-clause (6) of clause 9 of the Bill they would have found there can be two boards in one district. Therefore it is not wrong to provide for a contingency which is provided elsewhere in the Bill. Clause 9 (6) says—

Notwithstanding anything contained in subsection (1) the Provincial Government may constitute two Boards in one district.

**Mr. Speaker :** The question is—

That part (a) of the proviso be deleted.

*The motion was lost.*

**Mr. Speaker :** The question is—

That clause 6 stand part of the Bill.

*The motion was carried.*

#### Clauses 7 to 10

**Mr. Speaker :** The question is—

That clauses 7 to 10 stand part of the Bill.

*The motion was carried.*

#### Clause 11

**Mian Muhammad Nurullah (Lyallpur, Muhammadan, Rural) :** I beg to move—

That in sub-clause (1), line 3, between the words "twenty" and "as" the words "or more than fifty" be inserted.

If you read this clause you will find that it is one of the most important clauses of the Bill. It prescribes the constitution of the Board. Clause 11 says—

A Board shall consist of such number of members not less than twenty as the Provincial Government may from time to time by notification direct.

My amendment, if accepted, would make it read as follows:—

A Board shall consist of such number of members not less than twenty or more than fifty as the Provincial Government may from time to time by notification direct.

There are about 30 districts in the province and very few boards which are big enough to have a membership of more than 50, probably one or two in the whole province. I thought that if you limit the minimum number to 20 you might as well limit the maximum number at 50. It might lead to certain difficulties

if there are more than 50 members. There might be a change after the new elections take place. It is necessary to limit the upper number because in many cases the board may otherwise become unwieldy and the hall may not be big enough to hold both the members as well as the public. I therefore think that the upper limit also should be fixed.

**Mr. Speaker :** Clause under consideration, amendment moved—

That in sub-clause (1), line 3, between the words "twenty" and "as" the words "or more than fifty" be inserted.

**Minister of Public Works** (The Honourable Sardar Shaukat Hyat-Khan): I do not know what has led the honourable member to move his amendment. Surely he realises that the number of members in a district board is a matter which depends on the men in the district. (*Interruption*). My honourable friend here suggests that it equally depends on the women also. True. So the number keeps on fluctuating. Once if you fix the number and the population of the district goes up, you cannot alter that number. It is therefore unnecessary to fix the number of members of a district board. Take, for instance, Lyallpur. It may have a population of 10 lakhs now. It may be 15 lakhs in another 10 or 15 years. So I cannot see any point in my honourable friend's amendment and I beg to oppose it.

**Mr. Speaker :** The question is—

That in sub-clause (1), line 3, between the words "twenty" and "as" the words "or more than fifty" be inserted.

*The motion was lost.*

**Mian Muhammad Nurullah** (Lyallpur, Muhammadan, Rural): I beg to move—

That for part (a) of the proviso to sub-clause (2) the following be substituted :—

(a) the number of elected members shall not be less than eighty per cent but once fixed shall not be decreased.

Part (a) of the proviso as it is now in the Bill reads—

The number of elected members once fixed shall not be decreased unless the Board makes a request in this behalf or the District Board area is reduced.

In my opinion there should be no nominated members and the board should consist of 100 per cent elected members. But arguments are advanced that the minorities should be protected.

*At this stage the Assembly adjourned till 12 noon on Thursday, 4th November 1943.*

## APPENDIX

(Vide Page 28 ante)

1. **Sardar Sohan Singh Josh, M. L. A.**, 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 continued detention, without trial, of the Opposition Leader Lala Bhim Sen Sachar and other Congress members of the Assembly for more than 14 months.
2. **Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma, M.L. A.**, to ask leave 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 failure of the Government to allow Lala Duni Chand, interned M. L. A., to attend the session of the Punjab Legislative Assembly to be held on the 1st November 1943.
3. **Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma**: 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 failure of the Government to allow Pandit Muni Lal Kalia interned M. L. A., to attend the session of the Assembly to be held on 1st November 1943.
4. **Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma**: 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 failure of the Government to allow Sardar Hari Singh, interned M. L. A., to attend the session of the Assembly to be held on 1st November 1943.
5. **Sardar Sohan Singh Josh**: To ask for leave to make a motion for the adjournment of the business of the House for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely, the failure of the Government to allow Master Hari Singh, Lala Duni Chand, Pandit Muni Lal Kalia, and Ch. Krishen Gopal Dutt, M. L. As., to attend this Assembly.
6. **Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma**: 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 discriminatory and ineffective order of the District Magistrate, Lahore, regarding milk control in Lahore, in the last week of August 1943.
7. **Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma, M. L. A.**, 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 failure of the Punjab Government to allow interned M. L.As. of the Punjab Legislative Assembly to attend the session of the Assembly to be held on the 1st November 1943.
8. **Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma, M. L. A.**, 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 failure of the Government to release the members of the Punjab Legislative Assembly who are detained in different jails of the Punjab.
9. **Sardar Sohan Singh Josh, M. L. A.**, 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 misuse of authority by the District Magistrate, Lahore, in illegally arresting Mr. A. C. Bai and releasing him a few days later in the month of September 1943.
10. **Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma, M. L. A.**, 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 exposures made by Sardar Sardul Singh Kaveeshar in his recent petition and statement before the High Court of Judicature at Lahore.
11. **Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma, M. L. A.**, 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 attitude adopted by the representatives of the Punjab Government regarding the Price Control measures of the Central Government.

1911

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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

TENTH SESSION OF THE FIRST PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE  
ASSEMBLY

Thursday, 4th. November 1948.

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

## STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

### CONGRESS PRISONERS

**\*8865. Sardar Teja Singh Swatantar :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state whether the Punjab Government propose to release the August, 1942 Congress Prisoners ? If not, whether the Government have ever considered the question of the release of these prisoners ? If so, with what results ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Mir Maqbool Mahmood) :** Government are constantly reviewing cases and as a result of the various reviews 251 detenues have been released out of a total of 555 since the original arrests in August 1942.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** May I know from the Parliamentary Secretary whether the Government have considered the cases of the M. L. As<sup>1</sup>, who are detained ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** A separate question on this subject is coming up ; I will then give the reply.

### CONGRESS PRISONERS.

**\*8866. Sardar Teja Singh Swatantar :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state the number and names of the prisons in which the Congress prisoners of August 1942, have been kept and the nature of the facilities, if any, given to them ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Mir Maqbool Mahmood) :** The Civil Disobedience detenues are *in the main* confined in the following jails :—

Central Jail, Lahore.

Women's Jail, Lahore.

Old Central Jail, Multan.

District Jail, Ambala.

District Jail, Ferozepore.

District Jail, Sialkot.

District Jail, Mianwali.

In regard to facilities allowed to the Civil Disobedience detenues the honourable member's attention is invited to the statement made by the Honourable Premier on the floor of the House.<sup>1</sup>

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Can the Parliamentary Secretary tell me how many prisoners there are in the Mianwali district jail ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I would like a notice for that question.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Can he not supply this information with regard to any jails ?



**Parliamentary Secretary :** If the honourable member will refer to the question he will find that he asked the names of the prisons where they are kept. He did not ask for the numbers in the jails. I am sorry I have not got that information with me now.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** My point is whether the Parliamentary Secretary has got information on that point.

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I can say subject to correction that less than half a dozen of such prisoners are in Mianwali.

#### FOOD CONFERENCES

\*8867. **Sardar Teja Singh Swatanter :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to lay on the table of the House copies of the speeches delivered by the representatives of the Punjab Government at the Food Conferences convened by the Central Government since the last session of the Punjab Assembly was held ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Mir Maqbool Mahmood) :** Discussions at the Food Conferences do not take the form of previously prepared speeches, but mostly of extempore views when a particular question comes up for discussion. As the proceedings of the conferences are not open to the public or the press, it is not possible to place on the table of the House copies of the speeches asked for. A copy, however, of the written statement of the Honourable Minister of Development distributed at the Fourth All-India Conference is placed on the table of the House.<sup>1</sup>

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** May I know the reason why other speeches made in the Conference from time to time are not available ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I am afraid my honourable friend opposite did not follow my answer. What I stated was that the Conference was not open to the press or the public.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Why should they expose the policy of the Government or expose the Government to the public ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** So far as the policy of the Government is concerned, it has been made clear more than once ; and even on the resolution which we will be discussing today the Government will publicly state its policy in this matter of which both the people of the Punjab and the Government can well be proud.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Why then should the speeches delivered at the Conferences not be placed here ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** The speeches were privileged and private and it is not the habit of the Government to divulge privileged speeches delivered at places which are not open to public ; whatever is embodied in those speeches in respect of the policy of the Government will be laid before the House in the course of the debate today.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** May I know whether by the words " private speeches " the Parliamentary Secretary means the recriminations that were levelled by one provincial government against another and so on and so forth ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I would not like to add anything to what I have stated.

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

## WAR FUND

**\*8871. Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) the amount collected for the War Fund through the efforts of the Officers of the Punjab Government;

(b) whether any cases of misappropriation by Government officials have been brought to the notice of the Punjab Government since the last session of the Assembly, if so, the amount so misappropriated;

(c) whether any action has been taken by the Government against those officials who misappropriated the amount referred to above; if not, whether the Government contemplates taking any action in this matter?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Mir Maqbool Mahmood) :** (a) The amount subscribed to His Excellency's War Purposes Fund up to the end of September 1948 is Rs. 1,68,65,159; it is not possible to specify what amount has been collected through the efforts of officers of the Punjab Government, since it represents the co-operative efforts of the people of the province.

(b) and (c). The details are not readily available and the collection of the information will involve a great deal of time and trouble. If the honourable member wishes to ask about any particular alleged instance, I will have enquiries made. I may, however, add that action taken against dishonest Government servants generally is reported to the Assembly annually in a statement. I would like to add that collections for war funds by Government officers have now been stopped as announced in the press.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** May I know if the cases are so numerous that the Government cannot collect the exact figures?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** The honourable member would not be justified in making that presumption. When the statement is laid before the Assembly he will see it for himself; I understand that no case has been proved so far against any individual.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Is the Parliamentary Secretary aware of the note published by the Government of the Punjab saying therein that misappropriations did take place in the Punjab?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I am not aware of any such note. If my honourable friend will invite my attention to it, I shall be glad to see it.

**Premier :** Is the honourable member referring to the *communiqué*?

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Yes, in that *communiqué* it was admitted that misappropriations did take place and that was one of the reasons why the collection of war funds by Government officials was stopped.

**Premier :** There were allegations and not admissions, that is why we stopped them. Moreover we thought that the collections should be as entirely voluntary as can be possible under the circumstances.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** May I ask the Honourable Premier whether he had any particular persons in his mind when that misappropriation item was added in that note or the *communiqué*, whatever you may call it?

**Premier :** When did we say that all war fund collectors were angels? The same number of dishonest people that you find in other spheres of life were amongst the war fund collectors too. As that was the method used by dishonest

[Premier.]

people, we thought that instead of collecting gifts for war funds, we should emphasise subscriptions to war loans which can be of use to the people later on. We further thought that we should stop collections through Government servants and I think the honourable member should be grateful for that step.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** May I know whether any instance of misappropriation was brought to the notice of the Honourable Premier or not by the subordinates ?

**Premier :** Yes, there were allegations and some instances were brought to my notice.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** What action is being contemplated against those persons ?

**Premier :** Enquiries were made in every case. Some were proved to be groundless, in others there was substance and enquiries are proceeding. Wherever there was the least shadow of doubt action has been taken and a statement about such dishonest Government servants against whom cases are proved is usually placed before the House.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Is the Honourable Premier aware of so many instances which were quoted in this House that police officers had been misappropriating money ? Were those instances also investigated at that time ?

**Premier :** If there was any substance in them, they have been looked into, but if we begin to take as proved all the things said here, then nobody would be safe in this land.

#### FAMILY ALLOWANCES TO SECURITY PRISONERS

**\*8874. Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) the number of applications made up to date by the security prisoners for the grant of allowances since the last session of the Punjab Legislative Assembly;

(b) the number of applications among those accepted and rejected, respectively;

(c) the amount of family allowance, if any, granted in each case ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Mir Maqbool Mahmood) :** The result of furnishing the information will not be commensurate with the labour involved in collecting it. If the honourable member is interested in any particular cases, necessary information will be supplied.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** I will avail myself of it and see how much information is available.

MR. E.P. MOON

**\*8875. Lala Bhagat Ram Choda :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state whether any correspondence recently passed between the Government of India and the Punjab Government regarding the resignation of Mr. E. P. Moon, I. C. S., previous District Magistrate of Amritsar; if so, what was the opinion of the Provincial Government tendered to the Central Government in the matter and whether any influence was used to persuade Mr. Moon not to resign for the duration of the war ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Mir Maqbool Mahmood):** Mr. Moon applied for permission to retire and the application was recommended by the Punjab Government and sanctioned by the Secretary of State. Correspondence in such cases is privileged and I have, therefore, nothing more to add.

CONGRESS DETENUS

**\*3876. Lala Bhagat Ram Choda:** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state whether any correspondence has recently passed between the Central Government and the Provincial Government on the question of the release of Congress Detenus of 1942; if so, the reply given by the Provincial Government to the Central Government in this connection?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Mir Maqbool Mahmood):** It is not in the public interest to answer this question.

MAHATMA GANDHI'S LETTER

**\*3877. Lala Bhagat Ram Choda:** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state whether the Punjab Government was consulted recently by the Central Government regarding Mahatma Gandhi's letter which he wrote to the Home Department, Government of India, regarding famine conditions prevailing in the country?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Mir Maqbool Mahmood):** No.

DETENUS

**\*3896. Mian Muhammad Nurullah:** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

- (a) the categories of detenus in the province;
- (b) their numbers in each category;
- (c) the reasons for their detention;
- (d) the nature of amenities and facilities provided for each category of the detenus in the province?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Mir Maqbool Mahmood):** (a) Civil Disobedience prisoners, security prisoners Class I and security prisoners Class II.

(b) Civil Disobedience prisoners—804; security prisoners Class I—122, and security prisoners Class II—80.

(c) With a view to preventing them from acting in any manner prejudicial to the public safety or the maintenance of public order.

(d) The honourable member is referred to the statement made by the Honourable Premier on the floor of the House on 2nd November, 1943<sup>1</sup>.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh:** May I know if there is any class 3 for security prisoners?

**Parliamentary Secretary:** Not so far.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh:** Is the Parliamentary Secretary aware that there are people who are detained under the Defence of India Rules in the Montgomery Central Jail and they are placed in class (C)?

**Parliamentary Secretary:** The honourable member asked for information regarding the categories of detenus in the province and that information has been given to him. If he wants further information with regard to any specific case, he may give notice.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** My honourable friend has mentioned only two categories, class 1 and class 2. I want to know whether there is any category of class 3 for security prisoners detained under the Defence of India Rules?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** No.

**Mian Muhammad Nurullah :** Regarding part (c) of the question, may I know if any member of the public has ever made an application that such and such person should be detained otherwise he would be in danger?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** My honourable friend is aware that law and order is the responsibility of the representatives of people sitting on the Government benches, who take action where needed in the interests of the province.

**Mian Muhammad Nurullah :** I just asked whether there was any application and you could say 'yes' or 'no'.

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I have stated that all such cases are disposed of and orders are passed by the representatives of the people sitting on the Treasury benches.

#### M. L. A. DETENUS

**\*8897. Mian Muhammad Nurullah :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) the names of the M. L. As., Punjab, still under detention together with the reasons for detention in each case and whether there is any chance of any or all of them being released soon ;

(b) if not, when are they likely to be released ;

(c) whether the cause of detention in the case of the M. L. As. mentioned above is individual or collective action on their part ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Mir Maqbool Mahmood) :** (a) Mr. Dev Raj Sethi, Mian Iftikhar-ud-Din, Pandit Sri Ram Sharma, Chaudhri Sahib Ram, Sardar Partab Singh, Shrimati Shanno Devi, Munshi Hari Lal, Diwan Chaman Lal, Mr. Bhim Sen Sachar, Seth Sudarshan, Sardar Chanan Singh, Dr. Sant Ram Seth, Baba Rur Singh, Sardar Harjap Singh, Master Kabul Singh and Chaudhri Kartar Singh are under detention for reasons connected with the maintenance of public order.

(b) This depends on future circumstances.

(c) Both.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Can the Parliamentary Secretary supply us with information as to what prejudicial activities are going on ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** It is not in public interest to do so.

#### M. L. As.

**\*8898. Mian Muhammad Nurullah :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) the names of the M. L. As., Punjab, whose movements are restricted for one reason or another ;

(b) the reasons for these restrictions ;

(c) when the above-named restrictions are likely to be removed ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Mir Maqbool Mahmood): (a) and (b) Messrs. Duni Chand of Ambala, Duni Chand of Lahore and Muni Lal Kalia were detained for reasons connected with the public safety and the maintenance of public order and were released from jail solely on the ground of ill-health and are therefore subject to certain restrictions. Master Hari Singh is restricted under the orders of the Kapurthala Government.

(c) This depends on future circumstances.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma**: May I know whether in the opinion of the Parliamentary Secretary they will attend the sessions of this House in spite of all the restrictions placed on them?

**Parliamentary Secretary**: I am not prepared to give my personal opinion on a hypothetical question of that nature.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma**: May I know whether he thinks that if a particular member, who is restricted in his village, comes to this House, this activity of his will be something prejudicial to the successful prosecution of the War?

**Parliamentary Secretary**: My honourable friend can see me privately and I shall explain to him the procedure according to Parliamentary Practice.

#### POLITICAL PRISONERS

\*8870. **Sardar Sohan Singh Josh**: Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) the number and names up to date of political prisoners convicted since the last session of the Assembly, for violating the Jail rules?

(b) the punishment awarded in each case mentioned in (a);

(c) whether any appeals were made by the accused; if so, with what results?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Mir Maqbool Mahmood): I regret that the information asked for by the honourable member is not readily available in Headquarter offices in Lahore; and in the present conditions created by the war, it is very difficult to undertake to secure it by enquiries from out-stations, as this would impose a burden on already over-worked officers and also involve consumption of paper that would be incommensurate with the results to be achieved.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh**: May I know whether any cases at all were started against political prisoners in the Montgomery Jail?

**Parliamentary Secretary**: I want notice.

#### FEMALE EDUCATION

\*8840. **Rai Bahadur Lala Gopal Das**: Will the Honourable Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) the sum set apart from the Special Development Fund and other funds for encouraging female education in the Punjab; the amount actually spent during the last 3 years and the balance thereof now available for the purpose;

(b) whether Government are aware that the amount that is being spent at present for the education of girls and women in the Kangra district is utterly inadequate considering the needs of the backward people of the Kangra Valley;

[R. B. Gopal Das.]

if so, the steps which Government propose to take to encourage female education in the Kangra Valley and whether it is the intention of the Government to allot a larger sum in future for this purpose?

**The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye :** (a) Special development grant sanctioned for education is spent on model schools for boys and there is no special fund exclusively set apart for female education.

(b) The total expenditure on female education from provincial revenues has increased by about Rs. 5,00,000 from Rs. 21,49,274 in 1937-38 to Rs. 26,87,134 in 1941-42. Government is most anxious to expand girls' education as and when more funds are available, and the district of Kangra will receive its due share.

#### GIRL STUDENTS IN SHAHPUR SCHOOLS

**\*8841. Rai Bahadur Lala Gopal Das :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education be pleased to state the number of girl students studying Urdu, Hindi and Gurmukhi in the Primary, Middle and High Schools in Shahpur district and the number of schools in the said district with Urdu or Hindi as the medium of instruction, respectively?

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

#### COWS, ETC., SUFFERING FROM TUBERCULOSIS IN HISSAR DISTRICT

**\*8837. Rai Bahadur Lala Gopal Das :** Will the Honourable Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(a) whether the cows and other animals in the villages near Hissar City which lie in the Zails of Dabra, Navali, Nangathala, Kharar, Patan, suffered after the last famine in Hissar district from tuberculosis or other serious diseases and whether the animals in other parts of Hissar district also suffered likewise; if so, the steps taken by Government to prevent the spread of disease in the area and to cure the afflicted animals;

(b) the extent of decrease in the number of cattle in Hissar district as a sequel to the recent famine; and the steps taken by Government to make up the deficiency;

(c) whether Government are aware that in recent months a large number of cattle have been exported from Hissar and the districts in its neighbourhood for sale and if so, the steps, if any, taken to prohibit such export;

(d) whether it is a fact that the Hissar District Board prohibited the sale of male calves in its cattle shows, if so, whether he will be pleased to lay a copy of the Board's resolution on the table of the House?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Chauhdri Tikka Ram) :** I regret that the answer to this question is not yet ready.

#### SUGAR SUPPLY IN BADDOWAL VILLAGE

**\*8860. Sardar Kapur Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(a) whether he is aware of the fact that it was brought to the notice of the district authorities, Ludhiana, by the Secretary, Congress Parliamentary Party, Punjab, in the first week of September, 1948, that the Lambersdars of village Baddowal in the Ludhiana district, who were authorised to supply sugar to the

inhabitants of the village were supplying it at the rate of two seers a rupee which meant six chataks per rupee less than the control rate ;

(b) whether it is a fact that it was stated in the representation that the people who did not pay the chakidars tax were not to be supplied with sugar in village Baddowal ;

(c) if the reply to part (a) be in the affirmative, the action taken on the representation of the Secretary, Congress Parliamentary Party, mentioned above ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Chandhri Tikka Ram) :** (a) Yes.

(b) No, nor is this allegation correct.

(c) An investigation was carried out and the rates were reduced in August and September. The previous charge was due to a miscalculation for which the lambedars were not to blame.

## SUMMONING OF ASSEMBLY

### POINT OF ORDER

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** On a point of order, Sir, and it is this. This time the Punjab Legislative Assembly was summoned under section 62 of the Government of India Act and the notice thereof was sent on the 16th October 1948. This notice was extraordinary in the history of the Punjab Legislative Assembly since 1937. Since the inauguration of the present Legislative Assembly we were always given one month's notice. But now, so far as the shortness of the notice is concerned, it is a record.

**Mr. Speaker :** Is that a point of order ?

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Yes, Sir, I am just stating it.

**Premier :** Is there any period of notice provided for calling the Assembly ?

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** I am referring to no law. I am only referring to the practice. My point of order is this that this is a non-official day.

**Mr. Speaker :** The honourable member is objecting to the date of the Assembly Session fixed by His Excellency the Governor. That is not a matter which can be decided by this House or by me.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** The rules provide that Thursday should be a non-official day.

**Premier :** And so you have got it.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** My point of order is this that due to shortness of notice we could not avail ourselves of the non-official day, because under the rules we require 15 days to send notice of our resolutions. If some people have sent notice of their resolutions it was due to extraordinary vigilance on their part. It is not that all the members have availed themselves of this day.

**Mr. Speaker :** Is there any rule which requires the Assembly office to ask members to send in notices so many days before ? The honourable member could have given notice 4 or 5 months ago.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** This time the Assembly was prorogued. Members send in their notices when they receive notice that the Assembly has been summoned on such and such day. I have already submitted that in exceptional cases where a member is extraordinarily vigilant he may have sent in his notice.



**Premier :** Sir, I recollect that last year we met at the same time as we have met today. The food position was such that we thought we must discuss it as early as possible. I think that all members, who take a reasonable view would say that the question is of such importance that it should be discussed on a non-official day. Could the honourable member think of anything more important than the food position?

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Is there any precedent? (*Voices from Treasury Benches : So many.*)

### SIKH GURDWARAS (AMENDMENT) BILL

**Sardar Kartar Singh** (Lyallpur East, Sikh, Rural) : Sir, I move—  
That leave be granted to introduce the Sikh Gurdwaras (Amendment) Bill.

**Mr. Speaker :** Is there any objection to leave being granted?

**Sardar Uttam Singh Duggal :** Yes, Sir.

**Sardar Kartar Singh** (*Punjab*) : Sir, I am introducing this amending Bill in order to remove those defects which have come to light during the last 16 years' working of the Sikh Gurdwaras Act, 1925. It consists of 17 clauses. Under the previous Act only the Sikhs of the British Punjab had been given representation on the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee and the Sikhs residing outside the British Punjab had not been given any representation worth mention. In fact limited representation was given to them and that too by means of nominations. So it has been proposed in the amending Bill that the number of co-opted members of the Committee be increased from 14 to 20 with a view to give greater representation to Sikhs residing outside the British Punjab.

The second reason for the introduction of this Bill is the unfortunate fact that untouchability has not yet been wholly eradicated from among the Sikh community and consequently the backward sections of it have so far gone without any representation. It is to satisfy their demand as well as to give a practical shape to the proposal put forward by the whole Panth in support of their demand that a provision for the reservation of 10 seats has been made for them.

The third reason is that there are some 6 or 7 verbal amendments required to be made in order to remove certain defects which create difficulties for the law courts.

Besides these it is also proposed that the life of the Board and the Committees be enhanced from three to five years as has been done in the case of the district boards and the provincial legislatures.

Again under the Gurdwaras Act as at present in force the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee is permitted to spend a sum of Rs. 3,000 only on religious, educational and charitable purposes out of its general fund, which is quite inadequate. Although a sum of one lakh of rupees is received annually as *dasavandh* and the Committee is at liberty to spend as much as it likes on its office and office requirements and litigation, yet it cannot spend more than Rs. 3,000 on education and religious preaching. It is proposed to increase this limit to twenty-thousand rupees.

At the time of the passing of the Gurdwara Act in 1925 the Government did not like the idea of the Sikhs gaining strength by the formation of a central body. This struggle between the Government and the Sikh community lasted for about 5 years and at long last the Government passed this Act in its present form which enabled Gurdwara funds to be squandered on unnecessary

items of expenditure. But now that we have a Punjabi Government the time is ripe for an overhaul of the existing state of affairs. It is very essential that the central sacred places of the Sikhs, such as the birth place of Guru Nanak, etc. should be taken over by the Central Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee.

Some of my honourable friends seem to take exception to this amending Bill and appear somewhat nervous, but I would like to assure them that there is no intention on our part to rush this Bill through and they will have ample opportunity of having their say during its discussion. Moreover I quite agree with the Government's proposal that this Bill should be circulated for eliciting public opinion. When the Sikh community has had time to consider it and to express its opinion upon it, my honourable friend Sardar Uttam Singh Duggal and others will be able to form a more correct opinion about this measure. I would, therefore, request them to let this Bill see the light of day and be judged on its merits.

With these words I hope and request that honourable members will support my Bill and would give me leave to introduce in this House.

**Mr. Speaker :** Motion moved—

That leave be granted to introduce the Sikh Gurdwaras (Amendment) Bill.

**Sardar Uttam Singh Duggal** (North-West Punjab, Sikh, Rural) : Sir, I rise to oppose the introduction of this Bill. According to the statement of objects and reasons, the mover of this Bill has not been able to make out any case. I can see that this Bill has been introduced to do away altogether with the committees that were constituted under section 85 of the Gurdwaras Act. In these committees the Akali Party had a majority, but it cannot be said that the minorities were not represented. The minority point of view was always there and that acted as a check on the improper activities of the Akali Party. Now this Bill puts an end to the minority representation and takes away all the power directly into its own hands. The fact cannot be disputed that the Akali Party has been abusing its powers. Cases of embezzlement and misapplication of Gurdwara funds were not rare. The correctness of the fact that I am submitting before you can be amply borne out by the audit reports of the auditors appointed on the recommendation of the Akali Party itself. However defective the Gurdwaras Act is, it gives some representation to the minority, but this Bill is now taking away all the powers which were given in that Act, and I make bold to say that it is a great necessity to improve that position, but instead of that, the entire representation of the minority is being taken away.

**Mr. Speaker,** the object of this Bill is that the majority should have full hand in the Gurdwara funds and that they should be able to do what they like at their own sweet will and without any hindrance from any quarter. It is a strange thing that the local residents should be entirely overlooked in the management of the Gurdwaras. As a matter of fact local residents of that place are much more interested than the people outside and it is fair that the local people should have some say in the management of the Gurdwaras. This Bill will worsen the position of the Sikh community and it is as unwanted as it is suicidal for the interests of the Panth, and I would earnestly appeal to the Honourable Minister for Development and the Honourable Sikh members on that side as well as on this side of the House that they should not support this Bill merely because it is the desire of the Akali Party just to achieve their object. They must look to the interest of their own community. I would, therefore, press, with all the emphasis at my command, and in fairness to the Sikh community, that this Bill should be killed at this stage.

**Mr. Speaker :** The question is—

That leave be granted to introduce the Sikh Gurdwaras (Amendment) Bill.

*The motion was carried.*

**Sardar Kartar Singh :** I introduce the Sikh Gurdwaras (Amendment) Bill.

**Minister for Education (The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye) :** Sir, before we proceed further may I say a word with your permission? The Bill, which has now been introduced as you are aware, is a private member's Bill, and we know the difficulties that beset its path. We have after careful deliberation decided to give time to Giani Kartar Singh to make his second motion during this session on a day allotted for Government business. If the motion he wants to make is one for circulation for eliciting public opinion, Government would support it and accept it.

## RESOLUTION

### CONTROL OF WHEAT PRICE

**Sardar Lal Singh (Ludhiana Central, Sikh, Rural) :** Sir, I beg to move—

This Assembly recommends to the Government to convey to the Government of India the emphatic opinion of this House that any attempt to control the price of wheat will result in very keen resentment and discontent among the agricultural classes.

Sir, this question of food has become a very hot topic. These discussions have gone on for the last two or three years, but since the calamity which has overtaken our sister province, Bengal, this question has assumed a very serious shape. Unfortunately we are living in abnormal times. The war is on. News are censored. Control is in a few hands and it is not possible for the average man in the street to find out what is really the truth or on whom the blame lies. The result has been that those who have been loudest in propaganda are winning and blame is being thrown in quarters where it should not be. Each important man is trying to push the blame from himself to another as far as he can. This controversy has now reached the House of Parliament and I am afraid the statement in that House and in the white paper that has recently been issued are so mis-leading and based on incorrect information (*hear, hear*) that it is the duty of this House to raise its loud voice of protest against all the propaganda that has been going on and to make it known to the outside world how the average grower, the average cultivator in the village, who feeds all this population, feels on this topic of price control.

Sir, we did have a foretaste of this price control a year or a year and-a-half back when the price of wheat was fixed. We should remember that the question is only of price control and by this I mean that it is felt that the present price which is being fetched for wheat is too high and those who are in power are trying to lower it to a level which suits their convenience or perhaps their inclinations. It does not need repetition that the Punjab is very seriously concerned in this matter not only because it is the biggest producer of wheat in India but also because the war conditions imposed upon Indian villagers are abnormal and their attention is not merely directed towards their economic side but also directed towards the war efforts that they have been called upon and are even now being called upon to put forward. When the price of wheat was fixed at Rs. 5 per maund, the result was that wheat was not available. Even in this capital city of Lahore people were in a state of panic. No wheat was available. The mills and atta shops shut their doors and on the top of that came the fact about which voice was

raised even in this House. There were several questions put asking whether it was not a fact that people who were in charge of buying wheat for the Defence forces were paying prices higher than Rs. 5. The question was not once or twice but several times mooted in this House and it was actually stated that the military authorities were paying Rs. 2 higher than the control price fixed at that time. At that time the control price was Rs. 5 and the poor grower was at the mercy of these control authorities. He lived as best as he could while all the other people who had anything to sell had their wares worth in gold. The prices of all other commodities continued to soar and they are even now soaring. In many cases they have gone 10 or 12 or 15 times the normal or the pre-war prices. It is the Bengal situation which has brought this question to the forefront now and the question is whether any blame can be apportioned to this province. We have every sympathy for the poor sufferers of Bengal and the whole province has not shown mere lip sympathy but has done everything it can possibly do to help the Bengal sufferers. It has sent trains of grain and rice and wheat. Subscriptions have been liberally given by all bodies and persons, and so far as the Punjab is concerned, there is no doubt that it feels very much about this calamity which has overtaken Bengal. But when it is a question of probing as to what is this famine due to, whose creation it is, whether it is the creation of God or whether it is the creation of man, it is quite a different question. If we cannot find it out, surely the blame should not lie on the most silent man, the poor grower because he happens to have no voice either in the press or on the platform. He is the most silent man because he works more than he talks and it is in defence of that most silent, of that poor villager, that I have got up to-day and am putting in a plea against the reimposition of price control in this province. In doing so I want to be very brief as many honourable members wish to speak on this question.

Now the present price of wheat is in the neighbourhood of Rs. 10 per maund. Is it a high price? Is it a price which can be considered abnormal in these abnormal times? Can it by any stretch of reason be considered that the price of wheat at Rs. 10 a maund in this province is too high? I am not an economist myself. But it has been amply proved not only by economists but by other people who have some knowledge of agriculture, that the price of Rs. 2 or 3 is an abnormally low price. If people outside this province think that because they have been used to getting this wheat in the neighbourhood of three rupees per maund before the War they should get it now at one or two rupees per maund more, then I think that that is most unreasonable. The indebtedness, poor state and present economic condition of the peasant of this province is due to the fact that for years together he has been labouring under these low prices. He has had no voice in the matter. The people who have the control of the destinies of this country, have been more or less unsympathetic towards him. We have been trying in this Assembly and this Government has been trying, to reduce his indebtedness but the poor peasant has not come back to normal so far. It is due to the fact that during all these past decades his wheat has been fetching a low price in the neighbourhood of about three rupees. What would have been the normal price in civilised countries whose destinies are in their own hands? I think it has been amply proved that the normal price of wheat should have been in the neighbourhood of four rupees—a few annas this way or that way. If that is true—and I do not think that there is anybody to controvert it—that the normal price of wheat not only in this country

1 p.m.

[ **S. Lal Singh** ]

but in other countries should be in the neighbourhood of rupees four—a few annas this way or that way—and if at the moment the peasant is asking for about ten rupees, then it comes to only this, that the result of his sweat and labour is fetching double the price that he should have got in normal times. If that is so, that means that the price of wheat has only now, due to the War, come to nearly double. That means also that the Punjab peasant is only getting for a year or two—I should say only  $1\frac{1}{2}$  years—about double the price that is due to him. Let us see what has happened elsewhere. I am told that millowners, owning cloth mills the value of which was one or two lakhs, are making profits double the value of those mills. (*An honourable member*: All are being taxed). Yes, all are being taxed, but are we not aware how those taxes are being taken and how they are being given? We know how it is managed and how people can spread the shares and how they can give them to their relatives who are paupers perhaps and how these taxes can be reduced to a minimum. So, that need not be the reason that because excess profits tax is there, these millowners are being taxed to their capacity. I do not believe it for a moment that these millowners and profit earners are being taxed to their capacity. The prices of gold and all these commodities show the index of the fact that these people have grown rich during the last two or three years and so rich that almost a revolution is on in the economic sphere.

It is a strange fact that all the odium falls on the Punjab where the staple crop is wheat whereas the price of rice produced in Bengal, Madras and other provinces has risen by eight times and yet there is no voice against the increase of the prices of rice. Let us suppose that the price of wheat has risen three times the pre-war price. We know that rice price has risen to eight times the pre-war price. The very fact that nothing has been done to control the price of rice shows that the question is being decided by one-sided reasoning. My honourable friend on my left asks me, are they not going to grow? I say I do not know, but I say that so far propaganda has been entirely against the Punjab not only here but in the Houses of Parliament. The White Paper there seems to show that wheat has been withheld.

Leaving aside the outside causes, there is the question of cost of production. The cost of production of cereals in the Punjab has risen about five or six times. The ordinary bullock that used to cost about Rs. 60 or 70 or at the most Rs. 100, is not available even at the price of Rs. 400 or Rs. 500. Young bullocks that have not gone to the plough and are not fit for being put to the plough are being sold at Rs. 120.

**Pir Akbar Ali**: That might be in Ludhiana but that is not the case elsewhere. The price at other places is between Rs. 400 and Rs. 500.

**Sardar Lal Singh**: The prices of all other commodities such as iron for their tools, etc., have gone up seven or eight times above the pre-war or 1939-40 prices.

Let us now take labour. Labour which is very necessary for the peasant has gone up at least three times. The peasant has got to employ labour for his hoeing, for his reaping, for his sowing and so on. The price of that labour has gone up perhaps three times or more. We could have an indication that the question of price control is on the minds of these people when they brought out a *communiqué* the other day under the Defence of India Rules that they are going to control the prices of consumers' goods. So far as the intention is concerned, there is nothing wrong about it but just at this fag end, after four years of this War, when

prices have already gone up, when people have made their pile and have become experts in dodging control and these taxes, to bring about this little piece of paper is nothing but an eye-wash. They know it themselves that to control the consumers' goods at this stage is impracticable. Even if the control is imposed, that can be put into practice in the cities and not in the village areas and small towns with which the grower of food is concerned. I say that this assurance that they are going to control the price of the consumers' goods is merely a political stunt so that they can clear their way for reducing the price of wheat. Everybody knows that this is impracticable and they have done so for the reason that they may be able to say that because they have controlled the prices of consumers' goods, therefore, they are now out to control the price of wheat. I think it is little short of bluff. That price control will be on paper only and it will be like looking a stable just after the horse has been stolen. The War is about to end. Prices have begun to decline and now to come out and say that they are going to control the prices so that they can buy cheap wheat from the Punjab will be most unfair to this province.

In this controversy several things have happened. Let us come to a conclusion whether the price of Rs. 9 or 10 is really high. A statement was issued by the Honourable Minister of Development, Punjab, some days ago. Not only in that but in the Food Conference he made these statements in black and white :—

The Punjab Government made no profit on the sale or export of its wheat, rice or any other agricultural produce to the Centre or deficit provinces, while all other provinces did as detailed below :—

(a) The United Provinces Government levied a surcharge of Rs. 3-2-0 per maund of gur and Rs. 4 per maund of oil seeds and pulses exported to other provinces.

(b) The Sind Government purchased wheat from its cultivators at the controlled price of Rs. 7 per maund and sold it to deficit areas at the level of Punjab prices.

That means that the Sind Government took with one hand at the price of Rs. 7 and gave it to the people at Rs. 10 or Rs. 11 thus pocketing three or four rupees for itself.

Further on he says :—

The Sind Government purchased rice from its cultivators at the controlled price of Rs. 9 per maund and sold it to deficit areas at Rs. 13 and for some time at Rs. 17 per maund.

All this profit-making occurred with the full knowledge of the Government of India and despite protests from other provinces.

Even the Government of India made a profit of about one rupee per maund on wheat purchased on its behalf in the Punjab and sold to deficit provinces, the average price paid by Government of India being Rs. 10-10-0 and the pool price charged by them being Rs. 11-10-0 per maund.

The word 'pool' is a misnomer. Wheat is almost the sole produce of the Punjab and a little wheat is, of course, produced in the United Provinces also. Even the Government of India have been making a profit of about one rupee per maund without any justification for it. Then the statement says that the United Provinces Government has been making a certain quantity of surcharge on each maund that was sold to those poor people who were said to be starving. The Sind Government was making a profit of Rs. 3 per maund. The Central Government also has been making a profit of Re. 1 per maund, but the Punjab Government made not a pie. These statements are either true or not true. If they are not true, then why did the Government of India not produce the facts and figures? If they are true, then it means simply that Nero was fiddling while Rome was burning. This is what it comes to that these people went on with their own schemes, regardless of the state of people and their starvation and without forethought at all, or they were being misadvised by some body. It was just by chance that the Bengal crisis came in. The poor Bengal villagers

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shouted so high that it became a crisis and their voice was heard. This trouble was the creation of men and it directed the attention of the country and Parliament. They started quarrelling and they apportioned some blame somewhere and they easily picked up the Punjab, which has not got even the Punjab press behind it. The question is simply this. It is a question of propaganda *versus* facts. Is the propaganda to win or are the facts to be brought to the surface at all? If the facts are to be brought to the surface, I think it is the duty of the members of this House, not only inside the House but also outside, to bring these facts before the world that the Punjab is not making anything and the price that a Punjabi grower is getting is the lowest price that any other commodity is fetching in this war and that a grave injustice will be done by re imposing price control on the wheat of the Punjab.

In the Houses of Parliament, I am told that a White Paper was issued and one of our leading papers of Lahore has made mention of it. (*An honourable member from Treasury Benches*: It is Black Paper). It goes to show that price control in the Punjab is essential. Now, that leading paper of Lahore, under the caption "Punjab blamed" says:—

Looking beyond Bengal the White Paper discussed the food position in several provinces. It says: "The Punjab has more than fulfilled its quotas of rice and millets for the other provinces but has been backward in parting with its wheat surplus which was rated at one million tons, a very conservative figure considering its record crop this year."

This White Paper has been issued by the people sitting in London to whom figures are being supplied by the Government of India. The Punjab Government has no direct approach. Even on the question of changing the language or allowing the members to speak in Punjabi, I think, we had to do it through the Central Government. In the present case they supplied the information to London. It is not correct "that the Punjab has been backward in parting with its wheat surplus which was rated at one million tons, a very conservative figure considering its record crop this year."

Now, in the statement issued by the Honourable Minister it is said:—

In the current wheat season the Punjab has promised a million tons of wheat, and has already accounted for more than half of the total supplies promised.

Either the White Paper is correct or the statement of the Honourable Minister is correct. One of them is surely wrong. (*Minister of Development*: White Paper is wrong). On what basis does this White Paper say that the Punjab has been withholding its wheat? Half the season has gone and it has given more than its quota.

In another statement made sometime about the beginning of this year when this control came on, it was decided that 5 or 6 agencies should have the work of distributing wheat to other provinces and the Government should pay all those people. Here are the figures. They show that during the months of May, June, July, August and September 1943, the wheat that was purchased amounted to several lakhs of tons and the despatches in the beginning were only fractional. For example, in May the Punjabi villagers came to mandis with 147 thousand tons of wheat. How much was taken away? Only 12 thousand tons. I shall say that about 8 per cent of the total wheat that was brought to the mandis was carried away and so it went on till about the month of August. In August, when this cry of famine from Bengal reached us then they started despatching wheat. That was forced by sheer public opinion and they not only called for wheat but despatched.

despatched it. It is clear that the Punjab is not at all backward in parting with its wheat. But who is backward? It is the people who have got the management of despatching wheat from here.

The White Paper further says:—

• High wheat prices are its main desire—

I wonder whose main desire it is not to have higher prices, as if it was a discovery made by the writers of this White Paper.

High wheat prices are its main desire and both the landlords and cultivators by instinct and persuasion—

For the use of the word 'landlord' honourable members of this house should be able to read between the lines as to who has been reporting about the landlords—

by instinct and persuasion, are inclined to hold back stocks in anticipation of higher prices. It is on the face of it beneath commonsense to express ideas like this. Again—

As the Punjab knows that it holds a very large percentage of India's wheat stocks, which must be bought for the defence services and deficit areas, successful price control in the Punjab— which is so essential to a successful all-India price control—

It was from this sentence that it was concluded that price control was essential. This is not at all the interpretation of this sentence. It says—

—which is so essential to a successful all-India price control—depends very much on the building up of a large foodgrain reserve from imports which would also have the important effect of unfreezing the Punjab supplies. Despatches of wheat to other areas have of late been very unsatisfactory.

On the other hand despatches of wheat have been much better than ever before.

I need not waste the time of the House to show that statements are being made by people who seem to be thinking through their heads rather than their brains and which are not based on facts at all. If they are, we should have the facts and figures and would then be able to decide. The blame for not making wheat available to outside provinces does not lie with the poor grower at all. Once he goes to the mandi his job is finished. It is the job of the other people to carry. So much for the bungling of the Central Government. They have done everything, but have not done one thing, i.e., they did not arrange for its storage, where it was to be kept, how it was to be divided and how it was to be made available to people who were suffering the most. No arrangements have at all been made about these matters. As I have said before it is a question of propaganda versus facts. It is very important to note that in our own province the food-grower has not got any voice in the press and the people who are the loudest happen to be the commercial class. If and when they choose they can hoodwink New Delhi. It is for want of propaganda on behalf of this poor grower of the Punjab that he is suffering and all these retrograde measures are being piled upon him and because he has got no voice in the administration of the Central Government for even making his opinion clear on this question.

\*There is one more point. Supposing the Central Government want to impose price control, there are one or two pertinent questions which I would put to them. In these abnormal times some sort of relief is being given to these men not through the efforts of the Central Government but through change in the circumstances in the international situation. Till now the grower had been left to his own lot, and here comes a bright corner in his life when he is making a little more than what he normally does. When normal times come again and there is a slump in prices, will the Central Government come forward in any shape of form to give aid to the poor grower in the Punjab, and say 'When prices were high we did not allow you to get those prices, now that prices are low we give you a few crores of rupees?'



[S. Lal Singh.]

Will they do it? That is a pertinent question that is, if they impose price control now, will they in future come to their aid in any shape or form? Mere promises will not do. When the time comes I do not think they will earmark a few crores of rupees for these people. So, I do not think they are entitled to impose price control. It is a moot question whether they can take up this attitude. With these words I commend this resolution for the acceptance of the House.

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

This Assembly recommends to the Government to convey to the Government of India the emphatic opinion of this House that any attempt to control the price of wheat will result in very keen resentment and discontent among the agricultural classes.

**Premier** (The Honourable Malik Khizar Hayat) : Sir, I intend to intervene at this early stage in order to make certain general observations and give some figures about the food position in the Punjab, so that the House may take them into consideration in forming its own opinion. As the mover of the resolution has said we here have to put forward the case of the silent sufferer—the cultivator—who has neither the press behind him nor the machinery of propaganda in his hands. I feel confident that the facts will disprove the misunderstanding created on this issue, and nothing is so telling as hard and true facts.

The Punjab, as you know, is a land of peasant proprietors solely dependent on agriculture, and wheat is their mainstay. In order to appreciate the position of the growers to-day we must go back a little and review the condition in which they found themselves just before the war. During the depression period preceding the war the price of wheat went down to Re. 1-6-0 to Re. 1-4-0 per maund and the grower found himself in a plight which is hard to describe. He was faced with great difficulties. The rural debt in or about 1935 was in the vicinity of two hundred crores, and gold and silver was fast leaving the home of the peasant proprietor. The figures for the period show that gold was going abroad at a rate which created a sensation all over India. With the outbreak of war prices did go up, but what did we find? In the name of national need wheat control was enforced; and we did not murmur. The silent sufferer went on sending recruits, and his war record in this connection is unparalleled in the whole of India. (Applause). In this record (barring Britain) we excelled everybody else.

Let us see what he has done on the food front. He accepted price control of wheat without murmur at a time when the prices of his other necessities of life were shooting up and nobody took the trouble of controlling them. The result was obvious and the zamindar soon found himself in great difficulties. He had to face a situation in which only one item, i.e., wheat which he produced was controlled at Rs. 5 a maund while the prices of all other necessities of life went on soaring. The peasant proprietor, the silent villager, was thus the greatest sufferer in spite of his making the greatest sacrifice. The natural result of this control was that wheat was not available. Government themselves found it difficult to get wheat at the control rate for its defence forces, and they had to pay, in some cases, two rupees per maund above the control rate. In other words, this artificial rate failed because the commodity could not be available at a price which was both unnatural and unjustified. The result was that they had to decontrol it. As was expected, the prices did go up slightly, but they soon stabilised. You will remember, Sir, that after enquiring from the Government of India, I made a declaration on the floor of this House during the last budget session that statutory price control would not be enforced in primary markets. The prices after that remained at a reasonable level; they were reasonable at the time of harvest but unfortunately purchases were not made then. Had that been done,

the difficulties that we had to face later would not have arisen. Then, Sir, a rumour campaign was started and attempts were made to get wheat from the growers at a rate lower than the market rate and some people tried to make money out of it. Some members of this House and some other representatives of the public had to caution the zamindars to beware of such rumours and not to be cheated. This reasonable warning, Sir, has been misrepresented, though it was one which the representatives of the people had every right to give so that the zamindars should not be cheated. I would not like to say here who was responsible for that rumour campaign and how it was started—it is all well-known—but that reasonable advice was misrepresented as advice to hoard. Facts belie this accusation. If it was advice to hoard, the result would have been that grain would not have come to the mandis. But what actually happened was the reverse. The arrival of wheat in mandis during that period was 30 to 35 per cent higher than last year. This surely could not be interpreted as hoarding. The Honourable Minister in charge will supply the details about each mandi. What I have stated is clear proof that the hoarding element was entirely absent in the growers, and a good crop increased arrivals. Still a 35 per cent increase is a very material increase indeed.

So much for the arrivals of wheat and now I come to the question of price. The United Provinces, another surplus province, has been allowed to sell at Rs. 3 a maund higher than the Punjab. That province is being governed under Section 98 and is directly under the control of the Central Government and there the price was allowed to be Rs. 3 more per maund than in this province where there is elected Ministry responsible to the people! What is the difference so far as the cultivator is concerned? The cultivator who is on the left bank of the Jumna is getting Rs. 3 more per maund than the cultivator on the right bank of the Jumna. If this is not discrimination against the Punjab growers what else is it? This is what we have had to protest against and are protesting against even to-day. (*Hear, hear*). (*Khan Bahadur Mian Mushtaq Ahmed Gurmiani*: The Punjab grower enjoys the benefits of democracy).

Now Sir, I will let the House know what this silent man—the Punjab grower—has done so far as the 'grow more food' campaign is concerned. As soon as the Punjab Government realised that there would be a dearth of food they started what is known as the 'grow more food' campaign. I am proud to say that the Punjab leads in this direction also. (*Hear, hear*). In this connection, Sir, the Punjab alone has added 88 lacs of acres to its area under cultivation, which is 40 per cent of the extra area in the whole of India. That is what the Punjab grower has done.

Let us examine what we have done in connection with the supply of surplus foodgrains. Some may have said, perhaps, that Punjab is lagging behind. But last year the official quota of the Punjab was 8½ lac tons and with our consent this was increased to 9 lac tons. The Punjab not only supplied this full quota fixed by the Government of India but actually exceeded it by 50 thousand tons. (*Hear, hear*). Our response in respect of other foodgrains was similar. Now I come to the current year for which the wheat quota fixed was 10 lac tons and out of this, civil needs were 3 lacs and 20 thousand tons. If we include 132,000 tons frozen with the banks we have supplied not only the entire civil needs but given an excess of 72 thousand tons. (*Hear, hear*). The only demand that we have yet to supply is that of the military for the defence forces, and there too I may assure the House that we will not be found wanting in our duty to supply food to our own brethren. (*Hear, hear*). The demand yet to be supplied is less than 2 lac tons. The reason why more has not been supplied on military account

[Premier.]

is that there is one agent who buys for military needs who cannot buy more than 1,200 tons per day as there is not milling capacity for more. Our stocks are there but the milling capacity is limited. That is the only demand that the Punjab has yet to meet. My figures are up to the end of September, and up to date figures will be supplied by the Honourable Minister in charge.

In regard to other food grains also we have exceeded the quota. I will give figures in regard to each one of them—I may add that I am only giving the excess amount supplied—

					Tons
Rice	..	..	..	..	65,000
Gram	..	..	..	..	10,000
Milleta	..	..	..	..	2,084
Maize	..	..	..	..	11,766
Barley	..	..	..	..	5,294

These figures are up to the end of September. The latest figures will be supplied to the House by my honourable colleague.

In the face of these facts, Sir, it is really strange that anybody should charge the Punjab with hoarding or lack of responsibility. We are aware of the conditions which Bengal is enduring and I need hardly assure the House that we want to do our utmost to help them and already our province has not been found wanting. We will be prepared even to the extent of cutting our own rations, to help these starving millions. (*Hear, hear*). At the same time, we cannot lose sight of the primary responsibility that rests with us, the elected representatives of the people, to see that our stocks do not go down to such an extent that we ourselves may be threatened with what has happened in Bengal. We have to guard against that danger. Short of that our policy is to help the defence services, to help the war effort and to help the deficit provinces, particularly Bengal. We want to see the sufferings of Bengal ended as soon as possible.

This resolution deals with price control which has been recommended by a committee of experts. I am sorry to say that in that committee the grower was not represented adequately, in fact he was not represented at all. Naturally therefore, the case of the Punjab grower was never put before this committee and consequently they were not in full possession of the facts of his case when they made their recommendations. But full credit is due to the representatives of the Punjab, who at the first opportunity, at the Food Conference, put the Punjab case very ably. The committee's recommendations had, however, been published before the Punjab representatives could put the Punjab case. Why are we opposed to wheat price control? Our position is clear. If every article is controlled there should be no objection to the control of prices of food stuffs. The silent villager is not so greedy as to stand against anything fair and proper. But what do facts show? While the price of wheat has risen by 280 per cent, the prices of other necessities of life for which the silent villager has to pay have gone up by 550 per cent. Certainly we cannot allow this wide disparity to prevail. If the prices of other commodities are brought down, the grower of the Punjab will have no objection to bringing down the price of wheat. What has been done by the Central Government to control such prices? Recently an ordinance has been published in which Government are empowered to control the prices of other commodities also. We have been hearing of this control for the last four years. I hope the ordinance will have the desired effect before the war ends. That, however, remains to be seen. But we are not prepared to accept control

of prices of food grains if the prices of other commodities are not similarly controlled. We cannot allow one class of people to be victimised while others escape. That is where the Punjab stands. We want only fair play. If the prices of other commodities come down, then there will be a case for the price of food grains also to come down, but not before. We must see that the control of prices of other commodities is real and not merely paper control. That is our position.

Then comes the question, how is this control to be enforced? Last time the Government of India tried the experiment and failed. This time the control may involve in its train requisitioning and penal laws which will create administrative difficulties which I, for one, would not like to visualise. If the commodity is not to be found, how can it be traced? It would mean employing a large part of the Burma invasion forces to search small peasants' houses who have furnished recruits. This will bring with it a lot of difficulties. I would, therefore, caution everybody against such a proposition.

As for the argument put forward that there has been an abnormal rise in Punjab prices, I must say that as far as I can see the prices have been steady so far. They have been ranging in the same vicinity for the last few months. Ample purchases can be made now. It is only a question of paying market prices. If the ceiling prices are fixed low, it is not the fault of the grower. *(Interruption)*. Ceiling prices have been fixed at present. But it is the market rates that control the sale. You cannot have an artificial price. If you do want to fix an artificial price, do so for every article. For other commodities they have got a criterion, that is, cost of production plus a profit of so much per cent. If they do that for agricultural produce, that would be fair play.

I would, therefore, like to reiterate that any proposal to enforce a statutory price control is full of difficulties and anybody who takes up that responsibility should think twice before he does so. Our policy in this connection has been not to make any profit. Our policy is a fair deal for the grower and the consumer, and the elimination of profiteering as far as possible. If there has been any profiteering at other points, it has been in spite of us. We have tried to keep our hands, the hands of the representatives of the growers, clean, and I hope that this fact will be appreciated. But still, what do we find? In the House of Lords some people who were misinformed, or insufficiently informed, have gone and criticised the Punjab grower and the Punjab zamindar. All I can say is that they were not in possession of the facts. If they had been, I cannot imagine that they would have been responsible for the remarks ascribed to them. I would emphasise in the special circumstances of the present day, we are mainly the selling province and the Government of India, whether on behalf of deficit provinces or of the army, happen to be the sole purchasers. Those who know trade and business are aware that the relations between the sole purchaser, the monopolist, and the sole seller are not always ideal. In such a case, it is only fair play that before a responsible minister of His Majesty's Government expresses his opinion in respect of a province where provincial autonomy is functioning, the Government of that province should have been given a chance to put their case. *(Hear, hear and cheers)*. I hope that in future they will establish a healthy convention of this kind as fair play demands. Otherwise it must create misunderstandings for nothing. I am sure that those responsible for such remarks will themselves recognise, when these facts are put before them, that the Punjab grower has a glorious record on the food front as on the war front and in every other sphere of war activity. *(Cheers)*.

**Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh** (Western Towns, Sikh, Urban) : The problem of food shortage in some parts of India must be approached in a dispassionate and sympathetic manner. One of the provinces of this great agricultural country is at the present moment in the grip of acute famine of unparalleled magnitude and daily we are hearing harrowing tales of starvation and suffering. Humanitarianism no less than patriotism demands that this problem should be considered from a broader angle of vision. I do realise that this famine is more a man-made famine than one caused by forces of nature. But recriminations, or apportioning blame, or for the matter of that making political capital out of this grave crisis, will be of no avail.

These things rather confuse the issue than help a solution of the real problem. But this does not mean that any errors, defects and shortcomings in dealing with this great problem or the grave situation in the past should not be removed. As a matter of fact we have to act in the light of past experience. I need not go into the history of price control as the whole question has been very well stated in the Memorandum prepared by Sardar Baldev Singh and now very clearly stated on the floor of this House by the Honourable Premier. The fact remains that price control was instituted last year and most of us have had a bitter taste of it. In fact the whole country demanded its removal and it was in the light of experience and pressing demand of the people of the whole of India that price control was ultimately nipped. We know that when ceiling prices were fixed last year, black markets sprang up and the greatest sufferer was the average man or I might say the poor man. The richer people could buy in black markets at any price all the foodgrains, but the poor people could not approach or had not the means to approach the black market, and wheat practically disappeared. Mill-owners started purchases in the villages at very much higher prices than the controlled price and I am sorry to say that the worst sinner even in that respect was the Government of India (*hear, hear*), because the Government of India purchased wheat in those days for the military requirements at Rs. 2 to 3 higher than the control price. Ultimately, as I have said, control had to be lifted and when it was lifted naturally on sentimental grounds more than on economic factors price level shot up between Rs. 12 and Rs. 18 in the Punjab but only for a short time and the prices again fell to a modest and reasonable level. During the recent months prices remained practically at the same level, slightly lower than what they were before the harvest, but purchases were not made in time and then all of a sudden the price level shot up, but then the purchasing agency of the Government of India behaved in a business like manner and prices again fell to a reasonable level, with the result that they have been rolling more or less between Rs. 10 and Rs. 11 per maund. The Punjab as has been stated by the Honourable Premier and also in the Memorandum, was able to meet the full demand of the Government of India during the last year and even during this year the Punjab has been able to meet more than half the quota of one million tons. Wheat has been steadily flowing into the market. Wheat arrivals have been fairly heavy throughout, as a matter of fact heavier than what they were during the same period last year and but for the freezing order, I should think, the arrivals would have been much heavier during this time of the year, but I shall deal with this point later.

**Mr. Speaker :** The honourable member can have only fifteen minutes because many other members also wish to speak.

**Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh :** There was no difficulty in procuring wheat. The price of Rs. 11 per maund cannot be considered a very high price so that there can be no justification for a control. When wheat is

procurable in abundance and it is coming into the markets for sale at Rs. 10-4-0 or Rs. 10-12-0 per maund, there is no justification to institute any control.

As has been stated, the Government of India came forward with a freezing order. I think it was at the beginning of October or the end of September. I cannot understand why the Government of India, in spite of the heavy arrivals in the mandi and in spite of the fact that they had been getting all the wheat that they wanted, came in and interfered with the ordinary channels of trade. What is the explanation? The explanation given is that the Government of India did not like certain big speculators to accumulate stocks. That is all hypothetical. Did the Government of India make any enquiries from the Punjab Government with regard to that matter? What were the data on which they proceeded to give that freezing order. I think it was most unjustified and uncalled for, and the result will be that the arrivals in mandis will not be so heavy as were generally expected at this time of the year.

Now I pass on to the question why there has not been such a relief provided to Bengal when wheat has been procured in large quantities. The reasons must be found elsewhere. There have been the transfer difficulties. Wheat purchased in May and June had not been cleared until August. In fact one or two big merchants gave it in the press that the wheat had been purchased and given to them in July but that they had not been able to get waggons until September. The Minister for Development stated that the purchases made in May or June were not cleared till the end of March.

Then there was another difficulty — lack of foresight and timely arrangement for storage and distribution. The less said about this matter the better, because we know that the mills and big middlemen and may be, certain Governments, made a lot of money. The mills had a clear margin of Rs. 2 or 3 a maund and still the Bengal Government allowed it at the expense of the starving population. I think that this has been stated also by the Government of India and stated by no less an authority than my honourable friend, the Minister of Development. I do not know whether he has received any reply from the Government of India to that charge.

2 p.m.

**Minister of Development :** None so far.

**Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh :** I leave that question alone. I believe that rationing is entirely unjustified and uncalled for in a surplus province. But if that course were to help Bengal, I would be the first to suggest it myself. But I am extremely doubtful that these measures will be of real assistance to Bengal. I am against price control for five reasons. In the first place past experience is against it. In the second place, it will require a huge administrative machinery to make the whole thing work smoothly and will still present great difficulties in a province full of peasant proprietors. In other parts of the world, say, Great Britain, they might have been successful in introducing price control for the simple reason that a greater proportion of their foodstuffs is imported and there is no question of requisitioning so much. But in this province you have to requisition from 80,000 villages and from small peasant proprietors. In the next place the prices of wheat in the Punjab have not risen to an unreasonable extent and not to the same extent to which the prices of other commodities particularly the requirements of the zamindars, have risen. Lastly, ceiling prices can only be justified if you are able to guarantee a minimum price. Take the case of every other country. In other countries you have a minimum price wherever a maximum price has been fixed. Even

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in the depression period of 1933-1934 every other country guaranteed a minimum price. Take the case of Great Britain for instance. In 1932-33, £45 millions were given as assistance to wheat growers. In 1933-34, £71 millions were given. Even now Great Britain is able to maintain a low price level for the food stuffs generally because it is giving bounties to the extent of £180 millions per annum. I am quoting these figures from the Economist. Australia in 1931-32 provided 8 million pounds to help the wheat grower. The same is the case with the United States of America and Canada and other countries. But what has been the policy of the Government of India in this respect? What are they doing instead of helping the farmer? I have stated enough in regard to wheat. Let me now deal with cotton. An order has recently been promulgated by the Government of India by which export of short staple cotton of  $\frac{2}{8}$  has been absolutely prohibited, with the result that the prices of long staple and medium staple cotton which are grown in this province have come down by Rs. 30 or 40 a candy within the last week or ten days. On the other hand what has the Egyptian Government done? A deputation from this country has gone to Egypt. The Government of Egypt has raised the price of cotton by 85 to 100 per cent. I am quoting from the figures that I have here. That is the case in other countries, whereas in India, the Government of India in the first instance tries to bring down the price of cotton by stopping hedge contracts, which it has now allowed but it now wants to stop exports. I fully realise that the Government is anxious to prevent an undue rise in prices and to provide the requirements of the people at reasonable prices. But they seem to have peculiar notions with regard to these matters. Another instance which I would like to quote is this. I have seen it in one of the latest magazines. It says that the Government of India want to fight inflation by one method and that is by prohibiting or minimising its purchase of supplies from Indian industries, a most amazing thing. If that is the sort of thing that the Government of India want to do, they do not realise that there has been a tremendous expansion of industries in this country on account of war and we hope that there will be still expansion of industries after the war. India is not going to depend upon other countries for its needs which she is able to manufacture during war time in this country. Also they do not realise that by these higher agricultural prices, the purchasing power of the general masses of this country has gone up and that with the rise in purchasing power and the industrial development there is a market. Industrial power and purchasing power go hand in hand. There is bound to be a great fillip to industrial development if there is a higher purchasing power. Therefore there is no reason on earth why the purchasing power of the cultivator should be cut down by one method or the other. There can be no two opinions that we must render all assistance to Bengal. If it were possible for the Punjab to render any greater help than it is at present rendering by rationing or price control, I would be the first person to advocate them. But I am extremely doubtful, in fact I am quite certain, that these two methods suggested by the Government of India will not help Bengal. On the other hand, they will create great resentment in the minds of the cultivator and the general public of this province and will reduce its purchasing power. The one thing that I want to suggest is this. The Punjab has played its part well. Let other parts of India and the Government of India play their part also. Let the Government of India, for instance, forego the railway freight on goods going to Bengal. Why should they charge any freight on them? In other countries, for instance, Great Britain, as I said they are spending £180 millions per annum in helping the farmer in keeping the prices down. So why should not the Government of

India forego the railway freight for the foodstuffs despatched to Bengal? In that way Bengal will be able to buy the foodstuffs at a level at which they are purchased in the Punjab and prosperity and happiness will again return to Bengal.

**Sardar Teja Singh Swatanter** (Lahore West, Sikh, Rural) (*Punjab*): Sir, I oppose this resolution. This resolution is drafted by taking into consideration the condition in the Punjab only, which is, however, a limited view point. The results, in case this resolution is carried out and is acted upon, are ignored. The only serious question before us at this time is that of Bengal. Now the question is not of Bengal only but that of the whole of India. Nay, not of India only, but of the whole world and its nations which are fighting for the cause of liberty at this time. Bengal is at the front line. Its cities are being bombed. Fifth column activities are being carried on there. Fifth columnists are being poured there from every side, through air and through jungles. There already exists a party which favours the Japanese and is mis-directing the public there by circulating different rumours such as that the Japanese are bringing rice and that Mr. Bose is coming with a force. The food situation in Bengal is being made use of and the people are being incited to give up the idea of defence.

The situation has been so worsened that it is almost equal to coming out of a frying pan and falling into a blazing fire. The nervousness of people on account of untold miseries of famine on the one hand and the enemy propaganda through 5th column on the other, has gained enough ground for fascism. And if Japan availing of this opportune time launches an offensive, unprecedented catastrophe will occur as it occurred in Burma. So I would like to submit that this is a Military problem and it has close bearing on the question of the defence of India. I may also point it out that if Bengal is not relieved of famine at this moment and is not properly defended now, other neighbouring provinces would also suffer the same fate, one by one. The Government, therefore, must not forget this maximum that a stitch in time saves nine. If the Government do not catch time by its fore-lock the enemy is sure to steal a march over us and thus it is possible that the defence of India will be at stake. It is quite possible that it may affect very adversely the fortune of China and more still the southern parts of Russia can be invaded. That is why this problem of food in India has become a problem of the Allies and is straining the minds of Governments both in White House and in White Hall. Since food problem can create many complications in War, much thought is being given to it. My honourable friends would remember the historical and political collapse that took place at the time of Rani Jinda on account of insufficient rations sent out to the Sikh forces. By giving this instance I want to point out the importance attached to the food supply problem and also to tell my honourable friends sitting opposite that food supply has close bearing on the question of War. It is, therefore, meet and proper for us to give our full consideration to this question. We should not be optimistic about the end of the War. It is not going to be finished this year which is about to close shortly. The War may continue for another three years because no other front has been opened as yet and there is still a great offensive to be launched in Europe where a hard and decisive battle is yet to take place. May, I, therefore, submit that to sit idle, without taking an offensive against Japan till that time, will prove against the interests of India. During that period complications would go on increasing every day and will ultimately result against the interests of defence of India. It is no use gainsaying the fact that India is now completely in the warzone and now we can hear the thundering of guns at the doors of India. We should, therefore, leave no stone unturned for



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the defence of our country. Then, Sir, there is every possibility of any eventuality and calamity and I think, before an operation on a large scale is taken against Japan, we should set up an effective and well-organised rationing machinery on the one hand and on the other hand bring ourselves on war footing so that we may be able to do our bit in the war of democracy against fascism. When the prolongation of war seems inevitable, as I have already submitted, we must intensify our efforts with a view to meet the exigencies of war.

Then, Sir, I fail to understand the arguments put forward by Sir Chhotu Ram against the control of the price of wheat. He has remarked that there is no necessity for a rationing scheme here in the Punjab as we are not lacking in any commodity. It is a further reason when the conditions are favourable and satisfactory, why we should devise ways and means for bearing the forthcoming trials. My honourable friends should not forget that the Punjab is not the only province to put pressure on the Central Government. Other provinces are also there to put pressure on that Government. Sir, Only the Punjab Government has criticised the Central Government for instituting the price control saying that that had resulted in utter failure. But let me submit, Sir, that the failure of price control is due to the lack of proper machinery set up by the Government and to the incapacity of the present machinery to handle such problems. The hoarders proved stronger than the Government and Government accepted its defeat in not pushing the control through. The fault lies with the hoarders. The stockists hoarded wheat through their agents and it was the stockists who defeated the Government. But at the same time I am constrained to remark that the main fault was due to the rotten machinery which had proved inefficient to bring the stockists to book and I would not also hesitate to say that the central machinery employed for rationing system was corrupt. I may also point out that most of the arguments advanced from the other side of the House have nothing to do with the real subject under discussion. Some of the honourable members have criticised the Central Government while supporting this resolution. But it has really pained me to find that none of them has stood in his seat to put forward the basic and essential factors required for the defence of India. It has also been said from the Government side that the price control would prove detrimental to the interests of kisans as they would be adversely affected by it. It seems to me nothing but an eye-wash for kisans because the fact of the matter is that wheat has passed from the hands of Kisans into the hands of stockists, banks, and agents of the Government. So wheat can be discovered from stockists, banks, big zamindars, and agency holders and not from petty, and middle class kisans. For instance, 1½ lakhs of tons of wheat has recently been frozen with some banks. It is, in fact, lying with big zamindars who are anxiously waiting for prices to shoot up. As a matter of fact a petty zamindar has to meet his immediate expenses just after the harvest because the economic factors are such with this poor community. Now keeping all these facts and the present condition prevailing in the country in view I can unhesitatingly say that wheat at present is not with the poor kisan but with the big zamindar and the stockists and now it is they whose interests might be injured by the price control.

Then, Sir, another argument advanced from the other side was to the effect that the Government of India had already experienced price control and found it unworkable. It has therefore been suggested by some of my honourable friends sitting opposite that the Government of India should not commit

the same mistake again. Sir, the fact of the matter was this. The Government of India failed to work out the rationing scheme for the simple reason that they could not put up an efficient machinery for carrying out the price control. Supply side was not managed before issuing the orders for control. The Government of India ought to have come out into the market equipped with sufficient funds for purchasing big stocks of wheat. But they were under the impression that orders of a Deputy Commissioner would make the scheme practicable in the Punjab. This calculation of the Central Government proved incorrect because wheat was lying with the stockists while orders were coming out from Deputy Commissioner's office. So those orders could not serve the purpose for which they were issued. In certain cases searches were made by the police but in vain. Even now the Honourable Premier has said that searches would be necessary for control. But I would submit to him, through you, Sir, that the machinery itself is corrupt and the police leaves the defaulters free on accepting bribe. The hoarders cannot be brought to book unless and until the machinery itself is improved.

My honourable friend Sir Chhotu Ram put forth various reasons against the enforcement of price control in the Punjab. The Government of our province encourages hoarders to multiply their wealth and thus corruption is the order of the day. The present unpleasant situation caused by unstable economy is harassing the poor sections of the public and especially labour to a great extent. It is but meet and proper for the Government to put an end to this unstable economy with a view to ameliorating the hard lot of the poor people.

The Honourable Sir Chhotu Ram says that control demands a big machinery and that entails large sums of money. In this connection I wish to submit that Government spends huge amounts yearly in establishing new police posts and jails and does not make any suitable arrangements for the supply of foodgrains to the poor people of the province. Government provides huge amounts in the Budget to meet the expenses in connection with the arresting and throwing people in jails. But when they are asked to do something really good in the form of setting up an efficient machinery for carrying out the rationing scheme, they put in the excuse that they are short of money. I agree with the Honourable Premier who said that control of price of wheat would not be feasible and if Government of India wanted to enforce the control order, they must control the prices of other articles too which an agriculturist has to purchase. In this connection I wish to point out that not only should the prices of wheat, cloth and oil be controlled, but an all-round control of the prices of commodities should be effected. It really ill behoves the Government to oppose this control order. The present conditions demand that an all-out effort should be made to institute an all-round control of the agricultural produce and other articles which an agriculturist has to purchase. So far as a poor kisan is concerned his interests are injured because unlike a Zamindar he cannot afford stocking any wheat or other foodgrains with him. It is but meet and proper for the Government to devise ways and means so that the poor kisan receives a reasonable price for his agricultural produce in the market, and gets industrial goods at a corresponding price.

Further I wish to submit that by enforcing an efficient and an all-round control over the prices of food stocks and other articles which an agriculturist has to purchase, Government would succeed in effecting a stable economy. My honourable friends sitting opposite are aware of the fact that there is a great economic instability in India on account of the abundance of currency notes.

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This inflation along with ever fluctuating and uneven prices has caused nervousness amongst the people of the country. I urge upon the Government to put an end to such a state of affairs.

I was pleased to hear the speeches of the Honourable Premier, the Revenue Minister and the Development Minister, who in the course of their speeches gave assurances to the effect that they would not see Bengal dying of starvation but would instead try their level best to send there as much quantity of food stuffs as they could spare. But at the same time they encourage the hoarders to multiply their wealth by profiteering. It really ill-behoves the Government to resort to such unfair measures as are detrimental to the safety of India in general and the poor section of the people in particular. The present appalling conditions force us to solve this problem of food supply with a view to fulfilling our duty in respect of world freedom in general and the defence of India in particular.

It is in the fitness of things that Government should fix the prices of all foodstuffs and thus allow the poor farmer to get a reasonable price for his agricultural produce. I would also suggest that Government should send sufficient quantity of foodstuffs to all the deficit provinces near the Front and this can only be done if strict control order is enforced and an effective check is placed on the hoarders and the profiteers. In view of these circumstances which are prevailing in our province and outside our province, I wish to submit that this problem should be solved on an all-India basis. With these words I strongly oppose the resolution now before the House and urge upon the Government to consider my submissions.

**Minister for Development** (The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh): Sir, I am sorry to deprive the Leader of the Opposition of the opportunity of speaking at this stage. I want to place before the House the latest facts and figures about the food situation in the province and I am sure, that would be helpful to the Leader of the Opposition before he makes his speech. Under the basic plan we were supposed to export a million tons of wheat. Of this, 320,254 tons were for civil consumption and 460,000 tons were for defence services. The wheat produce, over which we have had no control and which the agents of deficit provinces were free to buy in this province, amounted to 119,747 tons. The reduction which was allowed including Delhi and the Punjab, is one lakh tons. Under the basic plan we were supposed to supply 150,000 tons of gram, 22,000 tons of barley, 200,000 tons of millets, 8,000 tons of maize and 50,000 tons of rice. This was our quota under the basic plan.

Now, I will tell you what we have done up to the end of October of this year. For civil consumption in deficit areas, the total purchases up to the end of the last month are 258,953 tons, that is, only 61,301 tons remain to be purchased. It must be remembered that we have still full five months to supply this total quota. You must have seen that as a result of the freezing order of the Government of India, we have in our banks 132,000 tons of wheat. From this quantity about 60,800 tons of civil requirements of the deficit areas will be met and that means that in the Punjab we will have 70,000 tons in excess of our civil quota and this 70,000 tons will be put at the disposal of the defence services, (*hear, hear*), or in other words, it is clear from facts and figures that the Punjab has met all its obligations, as far as wheat is concerned, five months in advance of the wheat year. (*Hear, hear*).

Now, coming to the defence requirements, the total purchases up to the end of the last month were 187,588 tons. As has been made clear before, the Punjab Government is not at all concerned as far as these purchases are concerned. They are made through one firm only and depend on the milling capacity of the mills that are working for the Defence Department. These mills cannot crush more than 1,200 tons per day and it is most probably due to that reason that they have not been able to buy all their requirements. But taking into consideration 71,212 tons that will be surplus from the freezing stocks, the total quantity which the Defence Department is supposed to buy up to the end of March 1944, is less than 2 lakh tons. I have absolutely no doubt that before the end of the next wheat year we will be supplying this quota in full.

Coming to the wheat produce, which is purchased by the agents of deficit provinces, the position at present is that we are only concerned with issuing the permits. They have purchased up till now 54,000 tons, leaving a balance of 65,696 tons. We have protested against this practice of the agents of deficit areas buying direct in our province and we were prepared to take this responsibility, but I do not know the reason why the Government of India have not agreed to the purchase of wheat produce through the agents of the Punjab Government.

About gram, I have already told you that our total quota was 150,000 tons and we have not only supplied our full quota up till now, but we have exceeded our total obligation by 15,953 tons. As regards barley we have to buy only 22,000 tons and we have exceeded our quota by 9,178 tons. Our quota for millets on the whole was 2 lakhs tons and I am glad to say that we have exceeded that quota by 2,384 tons. We were supposed to supply 5,000 tons of maize up till now and we have exceeded our quota by 11,868 tons. Coming to rice, our total quota for the whole year was 50,000 tons only and I am glad and proud of the achievement of the Punjab that we have supplied up to date 68,572 tons in excess of the quota fixed for the province. Some of the honourable members may ask the reason for the undespached quota. I may say for the information of the House that the difficulty has been with regard to the allotment of wagons. We get from the Railway a certain number of wagons for a certain period and the difficulty lies somewhere else and not with the Punjab.

I do not wish to deal with the criticism of some of the honourable members particularly of my friend over there, Sardar Teja Singh Swatantar. I will have an opportunity of replying to his criticism at the end of the debate. I wanted to give these figures in order to facilitate the work of the members who are going to speak after me.

**Sardar Santokh Singh** (Eastern Towns, Sikh, (Urban): Mr. Speaker, the point for consideration at the present moment is whether or not there is any necessity for price control. I am not opposed to the price control as such for all time, but the question we have to consider at the moment is whether such a necessity exists at the present moment. I have given my serious thought to this matter and have come to the definite conclusion that the control of prices at the present moment is not at all necessary. (Cheers). My point is that the crop this year was really a bumper one. We were very fortunate in having a very big crop and out of that we had the privilege and pleasure, if I might say, of despatching a good deal to the provinces which needed it most. The Punjab, I agree with the Premier, has done its level best and as necessity arises I am sure Punjab will not be slow to send further consignments. My friend Sardar Teja Singh has

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probably been under the impression that if the control was imposed all the wheat will find its way to Bengal. I must say in this respect that he is entirely mistaken. (Cheers). It is all a question of the law of supply and demand. We know that the Government of India was very anxious to fix last year the control price at much below the market rate. I feel that they would not be so unwise as to make the same mistake again. If they did so there is no guarantee that wheat will be sown this winter on the same scale as it was sown last year. If wheat is not sown I do not know where it can come from. It will be neither in my pocket nor in the pocket of the Premier. The present is the time to offer every possible attraction to the zamindar. After all he is a worldly man. At the time of sowing if the zamindar, whether rightly or wrongly, comes under the impression that the price of wheat either this year or next year is going to be reduced) he will not be so unwise as to sow it on so large a scale as he would otherwise do. After all he sows the crop that gives him the best advantage. I know from experience that certain crops in certain places were continued to be sown in spite of Government restrictions and in spite of penalties imposed by Government. About the year 1902, in Kashmir I remember perfectly well that linseed was sown on a very large scale and Government wanted to replace it with wheat. They passed all the penal laws, subjecting people to penalties but in spite of all this, linseed went on to be sown in as large a quantity as ever before because it was paying the zamindar to do so. Time, however, came after two years when wheat fetched greater price and automatically the whole thing changed. Wheat took the place of linseed and was sown on a large scale. As I have said, it is the law of supply and demand. The zamindar knows it too well what crop pays him more and what does not pay. I would submit with all the emphasis that I can command that the present would be the most inopportune time for the Government of India to take measures which may go to reduce the sowings and in consequence, the crop of the next year. (Applause). We know that the rains have been rather uneven this year. There have been good rains in some places but not in other places, so that we cannot expect to have as good a crop next year as we had the good fortune to have this year. This is a factor which must be taken into consideration and must not escape our attention. It is all very well for my friend to say that wheat will find its way to Bengal as if by magic, if wheat control was imposed. My friend does not seem to know, that, wherever control is imposed it scares away the supplies and creates black markets. This thing has got to be taken into consideration. After all we have got to consider whether the present system has or has not worked well. To my mind the present system has worked very well. The Government is the largest single buyer. It can shape the price in any manner it likes. It is the bounden duty of the Government to protect the rights and privileges of the zamindar as it is its bounden duty to look to the interests of the consumer. It has got to do both these things. If the Government finds, as the largest single buyer, that the price of wheat has gone up unduly then it is its duty to bring down the price of wheat. While I say that there is no necessity whatsoever of controlling the price at present, I make a suggestion that some ceiling price should be fixed so that those people who are genuinely under the impression that the prices may unduly rise later and cause any amount of discomfort to the poor consumer, may have some satisfaction of mind. In fixing the ceiling price it will be for the Government of India to take into consideration all the circumstances prevailing and make sure that prices will not be unnecessarily raised. It will do away with the alarm that some people genuinely feel that the price later on might be raised to Rs. 14 or 15 which the poor

consumer is not in a position to pay. That contingency has got to be provided for. I am not unaware of the fact that the Punjab Government has been careful enough to make some purchases which they are keeping in reserve for such an eventuality that might arise. In that connection I will make a suggestion that it should not try to make any profit over this stock as it did last year, but sell it to the poor people in the urban areas and to men engaged in labour at the same rate at which it has actually purchased it. After all it has purchased the stock to meet any eventuality, and there could be no greater eventuality than this when the poor consumer has to pay such a high price for wheat. I know, as the Premier has said, when the price of wheat went down to Rs. 1-6-0 or 1-8-0 nobody came to the rescue of the poor agriculturist; he should not now be stopped from making a legitimate profit. After all no one is guaranteeing him the minimum price. I know from experience that in America—which is a much wealthier country than our province—they tried this very thing and signally failed after losing crores of dollars. I do not wish that such a catastrophe should befall this province, and I do hope that the Government will build more reserve, if necessary, for sale to the poor urban people and the labourers in case of necessity, at the actual cost price. After all, the important thing that you have got to consider is whether the price of wheat has gone up out of all proportion to the prices of other commodities and in this connection I make bold to say that it has not. (*Hear, hear*). The zamindar naturally does expect to make some profit and if he sells his wheat at Rs. 10 or Rs. 10-8-0 a maund I am sure he does not make any undue profit. (*Hear, hear from the Ministerial benches*). The Honourable Premier was making a reference to the price of wheat in the United Provinces and I quite agree with what he said but at the same time I would mention that the Sind zamindar was made to sell wheat at Rs. 7 or Rs. 7-8-0 a maund. The profit there did not go to the agriculturists but went to the coffers of the Government. It was a serious matter open to grave objections. I had to appear before the Food Policy Committee at Delhi to give my evidence and I brought this home to the Committee. Likewise the Government of India too made a profit by selling wheat at a rupee per maund higher than the cost price, which they had no business to make. They purchased wheat from the Punjab at Rs. 10 a maund and sold it to other provinces at Rs. 11 to Rs. 11-8-0 per maund as a result of the pool price. About Bengal, Sir, the less said the better. In my public utterances I have already referred to the state of affairs in that province. The middleman in that province was allowed to make a profit of Rs. 3 to Rs. 4 per maund at the cost of the starving millions. Those at the helm of affairs in that province were making appeals in the name of humanity and in the name of the poor destitutes of the province but they allowed their own middlemen to make huge profits. I do feel like anybody else that they had no right to make or allow others to make, a profit of even a pie out of the supplies they got from other provinces. Sir C. C. Garbett, the Regional Food Commissioner for the Punjab, whom most of us know for a long time went over to Bengal on some business. He is reported to have said that through some miscalculation Bengal made a profit of Rs. 42 lacs. Through miscalculation indeed! How can they then blame Punjab for its imaginary sins of omission and commission? (*Hear, hear*). Sir, I have been severely criticising the Punjab Government on many occasions and hope to continue to do so in future, but in this matter I make bold to say that they have done nothing wrong. (*Hear, hear from the Ministerial Benches*). They have tried their level best to export wheat to the deficit provinces on quite a generous scale, compatible with the interests of their own province. I may also add that with the prices of other commodities remaining so high, if the price of wheat had not

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risen correspondingly, there would have been no flow of free arrivals. Wheat would have been held back in the villages in still greater quantities and the people would not have brought the same to the markets. Hoarding under the present circumstances is nothing less than criminal and nobody should be allowed to hoard but allowance for this fact should be made that the financial position of the zamindars having improved, we cannot accuse them if some of them do not sell their wheat just at the start at distress rates. Formerly the zamindars had to sell at the very start because of their financial position which, as I have said, has now considerably improved.

I am sorry I have to refer to the speeches made by Sir Chhotu Ram where he is reported to have advised the zamindars to hoard wheat and not to sell it at less than Rs. 18 a maund. I would be very glad if he contradicts and says that he was misreported. What I have read is that he has been telling people not to sell wheat at less than Rs. 18 per maund, but to hoard it till that price was offered.

**Premier :** I can assure my honourable friend that no such speech was made.

**Sardar Santokh Singh :** It did appear in almost all the papers. Let Sir Chhotu Ram contradict that. Nobody would be more happy than I if he did so. (*Minister for Education.* He has done it). Let the Honourable Minister himself do it. His other colleagues are doing it. Sir, I do not ignore the appeals made by the Honourable Premier and Sardar Baldev Singh to the effect that zamindars should come forward with their produce nor do I ignore the propaganda in the Radio to the same effect. After all there has been free flow of arrivals in this province.

Sir, I take this opportunity of making a protest against that order of the Government of India for freezing one lac and fifty thousand tons of wheat pledged with the Banks. It is an undue interference with the flow of trade. Dealers all over have become nervous and this will be a great handicap to further storing of commodities. After all what was this storage for? It was for sale either to the Government for civil requirements of the deficit provinces or for defence purposes. It was not in the interests of the Government of India themselves to pass such an order nor was there any necessity for it. After all where could the wheat go to? Not a grain of wheat can move out, without the permit of the Government. I for one have not been able to understand the reason for such an order. And even the Punjab Government was not consulted in the matter. Such things do require our serious notice. My Honourable colleague, Sardar Ujjal Singh, was complaining, very rightly, that while the Punjab grows a good deal of long staple cotton, restrictions have been imposed on its export and the Punjab has been left at the mercy of the millowners of Bombay who are already making huge profits over their manufactures. I happened to see the Commerce Member at Amritsar and brought this grievance of the Punjab to his notice. He told me that he had a casual talk some time back with Sir William Roberts who did not then object to it. I know that Sir William Roberts is at one with me in raising his voice against this restriction which is bound to work to the detriment of both the agriculturists and factory owners of the Punjab. The Punjab Government, was, I understand, not consulted; the agriculturists and the commercial community had had no say in the matter. Now that this matter has come to the notice of the Punjab Government I am sure our Ministry will take courage in both hands and lodge a strong protest against that order which

is neither in the interest of the agriculturists nor in that of the trade. Sardar Ujjal Singh has told us that on account of this order the price of this cotton has already fallen besides the fixation by Government of a low maximum price. After all there is no dearth of cotton in India or for the matter of that in the Punjab. What sense is there in stopping the export of a variety of cotton which we are producing in abundance after good many efforts on the part of our Agricultural Department and for which we have for some years been getting good price?

Another reason why I do not favour control of prices at the moment is that five ships laden with wheat have arrived already at Indian ports. More, we are told, are on their way. These arrivals of wheat will have their natural influence on the prices. If prices can be brought down by natural course of events there is no necessity at all to impose control and thus make the commodities disappear. After all things are moving pretty smoothly throughout the Punjab. I hope that the Government of India in such matters will consult the provincial authorities before issuing such orders.

I will not weary the House with figures which have just been given by the Honourable Minister for Development. For the reasons which I have already explained and which I need not repeat now, I am definitely of the opinion that control of prices at the present moment is far from desirable. (*Cheers*).

**Sir William Roberts** (European): In supporting this resolution I regret that it is necessary to refer to a number of controversial matters. The first is that in the Punjab we have a very bad press. Secondly, there is distinct discouragement from the centre. We, shall, therefore, not be able to solve the food problem in India until we can get facts correctly. I think this province is under an obligation to Sardar Baldev Singh for the statements that he has lately published in the press. (*Hear, hear.*) They are dispassionate and there is no rancour about them and I guarantee now that neither the Press nor the Government of India can answer a single point in them. (*Interruption.*) One thing that the Punjab needs more than any other province in the matter of 'Grow-more-food campaign' as a solution of shortage of food in this country, is a more sympathetic treatment than it has been receiving in the past. Honourable members will remember that although the prices rose sharply for a week or so, they fell when new supplies were forthcoming in very abundant quantities, so that the forecast which the Punjab had promised was more than fulfilled. Now what is the position to-day? I understand that we have already secured 650,000 tons and there remain only 350,000 tons and there are six months of wheat year yet to go; and this in spite of the difficulties placed in our way; for example, buying is stopped say for a week or two at a time. Then on the 5th of last month the stocks of the banks were suddenly frozen, and anything which interferes with the normal course of trade when no one is doing anything that is anti-social, is definitely making the task of the Punjab Government harder in securing raw materials. We are also accused of profiteering. What are the facts? We know that we were supplying wheat at about Rs. 10 a maund in May and June. When Sir Chhotu Ram pointed out that this same wheat was sold at a profit of between Rs. 4 and Rs. 5 in Calcutta he had a very poor reception. I do not think that a single paper supported him at the time. Yet, in the *communiqué* issued from New Delhi on the 11th October it is now admitted that the Bengal Government have reduced the price of wheat by Rs. 2-12-0 and that the cost of milling has also been reduced from Rs. 3-8-0 to Rs. 1-4-0 making on the whole a reduction of Rs. 5 in the price of *atta*.

3 p.m.



[Sir William Roberts]

Therefore the people of Calcutta have to thank Sir Chhotu Ram and Sardar Baldev Singh for having had to pay Rs. 5 per maund less for *atta* since the beginning of September up to this time.

I fear that there is some feeling in the province that the actions of the Government of India generally have been against the producer. I will give an instance. The matter referred to by Sardar Santokh Singh was regarding the prohibition of the export of staple cotton. Cotton of  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an inch such as we grow in the Punjab cannot now be exported out of India. You all know that owing to the war we have lost our Far Eastern market, we have lost our Continental market and owing to shipping difficulties it is difficult to export cotton. It will be seen, therefore, that the only customer is the Indian Mills, and when you have to sell cotton to one customer, you have to give it up at any price that is offered. Therefore an ordinance of this kind is definitely against our interest and we should protest against it. I have quoted this as an instance of the general attitude of the Government of India towards the producer.

There is another matter in which we have been misrepresented. It has been said that part of the reason why Bengal did not get more wheat was that there was profiteering and hoarding in this province. At the end of June, the Government of India were informed by the Punjab Government that the trouble was not lack of supplies. We had 100,000 tons of wheat ready for shipment and 50,000 tons of other grains, but what the North-Western Railway could handle could not be taken over by other railways. In spite of that the Government of India had to come to the Punjab on the 11th of July to discover by holding a conference that the facts were correct. They then admitted virtually at the conference that the difficulty was taking over what the North-Western Railway could carry. It was therefore very wrong on the part of the Food Member when the debate took place in the Central Assembly to imply that one of his difficulties was hoarding in the Punjab. I make this statement now that owing to lack of transport not one maund of more grain would have gone to Bengal than it actually did. It was not the question of wheat not being there, it was the question of transport. It is necessary that we should face these facts correctly, plainly and with truth.

Then again even the North-Western Railway have in the last week or two been inserting an advertisement in the papers saying that they have enough wagons but cannot get enough wheat and grain loaded. There may be a certain amount of truth and I do not object to the Railway defending themselves, but after all the North-Western Railway serve other provinces. It serves Sind, it serves Bahawalpur and it serves the North-West Frontier. Why have they not during all this period mentioned that not a single maund has gone to Bengal from the Bahawalpur State since the 14th of August up to the beginning of October? I assure you even now that not a single maund of wheat or other grain left this important State after the 14th of August till the early days of October.

I regret that the Press did not generally give a fair deal to the Punjab on the question of food supplies to deficit areas. As I have said before, it is the transport and not profiteering by the Punjab which is the main difficulty in the way of food getting to Bengal. At any rate the people of the Punjab are not responsible for that and there is no use bringing up these matters. As I said unless we face the facts as they are, I cannot see how we are going to settle this problem and to make the task of this Government easier. I plead very humbly for a more sympathetic spirit and at least justice from the Press and from the Central Government.

**Khan Bahadur Mian Mushtaq Ahmad Gurmani** (Muzaffargarh, North, Muhammadan, Rural): I must confess that I cannot speak with the same authority and first hand knowledge with which my two honourable colleagues preceding me spoke. They probably had first-hand knowledge of the facts and the inner working of the food administration in this province. But I must say that I was most pleasantly surprised to find the Leader of the Opposition for the first time in the life of this Assembly agreeing with the views of the Government and members sitting on those benches. It was a pleasant surprise.

The question of food prices is closely connected with the problem of food. We have heard many serious statements made not only by individuals but by representatives of Government accusing one administration or the other and these statements contain such serious allegations that it is not for me here to say which of the allegations are true and which of them are untrue. But the statement recently made by the Honourable Minister for Development contains some very serious accusations against the other administrations or governments which do not agree with the facts given by the Secretary of State in the recent White Paper presented before the House of Commons. (*A Voice*: It was a jaundiced paper). It is a very serious matter. If the facts stated by a responsible Minister of this Government are taken as true, then one has to admit that the statement made before the Houses of Parliament is not based on facts. All these different facts with which the people of this country are faced require an independent enquiry into this matter, so that the people of this country should know where the blame lies. Because, after all, if we have a shocking incident or if we have an incident of much smaller importance, there is a cry for independent enquiries. But to-day when as a result of the administration of the food situation, people in thousands and in lakhs are dying, I think it is a right of the people of this country as also of other democratic countries and of Parliament to know where the fault lies and whose responsibility it is. (*An honourable member*: Including the Central Government and this Government). Yes, including everybody. I do not exclude any administration or individual. We have a right to know the truth and nothing but the truth.

**Minister of Development**: We have no objection to face an enquiry.

**Khan Bahadur Mian Mushtaq Ahmad Gurmani**: But at present it is no time to argue as to whose fault the present outcome is due. We are faced with a very serious situation. People are dying of starvation. Not only the civil population but the very dear ideal of all of us of winning this war will be in jeopardy if immediate and sensible action is not taken. So, for the present I will not deal with the question of faults and the apportionment of blame. I would only say that we should all co-operate getting together and try to tide over this difficulty and this catastrophe.

On the question of food control, I think it is too late in the day to suggest now that there should or should not be a food control. As a matter of fact there is already a food control. It may not be a statutory food control because in this war we have learnt many new lessons and we have adopted many new methods. In countries like India where people were zealous of private and individual rights, they have now to see that in a war like the present we have to give the state certain powers of controlling the production, transport and distribution of commodities and in a country like England this is being done. We might be told that the conditions that prevail in England are quite different from those that prevail in this country, as the Secretary of State has mentioned

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that the form of democracy which prevails in England does not suit the conditions in India. In the same way we might be told that the system of distribution or this new idea of having a control over the production and distribution of food is not suitable to India. It may be said so, but I do not believe in that. I personally think it is the responsibility of the State. The responsibility of the State has now been extended to control the production, to control the prices and to control the distribution. The only objection which the members of this House are taking is that the prices of commodities are not being universally controlled, that the prices of wheat are proposed to be controlled while the Government of India have not been able to control the prices of other commodities. As my honourable friends, the Premier and the Minister of Food, have stated, the disparity between the level of wheat prices and the prices of other necessities of life even to-day is very great. If I remember correctly, my honourable friend stated that the price of wheat has gone up by 280 per cent while the price level of other necessities of life has gone up by 550 per cent. It will be a mean satisfaction to the zamindars of this province if the Government of India leave things as they are at present. The zamindars to-day no doubt are getting a little more price for their wheat. The zamindars are getting 250 per cent more. But for their necessities of life they have to pay 550 per cent more. Therefore I think that what we should demand of the Government of India is that the prices of the produce of the agriculturist and the prices of the necessities of life which he purchases, should be kept on the same level and the zamindar should not have to pay more for his requirements and should not have to sell his produce at a price below that level.

We have been accused of hoarding foodgrains. Many figures have been quoted and I do not want to baffle the House with many more figures, but I will just give the House very few figures to prove that this charge of hoarding is not correct. Now, what is the percentage of people who can afford to hoard in the Punjab? We have not got a talukdary system of the United Provinces. We have not got the permanent settlement of Bengal which enables people to hoard and keep the production for exploitation and for getting the prices raised according to their own wishes. In the Punjab only 4.3 per cent of the owners' holdings are between 15 and 20 acres, only 2.7 per cent between 20 and 25 acres, only 4.8 between 25 and 50 acres and only 3.3 per cent over 50 acres. That means that only 17 per cent of the holdings are held by men who own 15 acres or more. What was the position of the peasant of the Punjab before the war broke out? He is accused of making profits. He is accused of making money. What was his position before the present war started? In 1936-37, 13.1 per cent of the total cultivated area was under mortgage, the total area under mortgage being 5,367,185 acres. During the same year 1,669 writs under section 69 of the Land Revenue Act and 11,216 arrests under section 68, 109 imprisonments under section 69 and 9,217 under section 70 for attachment of moveable property, 108 for sale of immoveable property and 20, 658 processes excluding writs, were issued against defaulters of land revenue. This was the condition of the prosperity of the zamindars of this province. Thousands of writs and warrants of arrests and of attachment and sale of property, both moveable and immoveable, were issued, to realise land revenue which the Government claims is less than 25 per cent of the total net assets. The people of this province or a large majority of them were not able even to pay their land revenue without coercion. They were coerced to pay the land revenue.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** What are the present figures ?

**Khan Bahadur Mian Mushtaq Ahmad Gurmani :** I am afraid I cannot give you the figures at a moment's notice. You must realise that the collection of figures takes time. During the same year, 327,573 acres of land were mortgaged by owners, while 2,982 acres were mortgaged by occupancy tenants. This was the condition of the province when the war broke out. Now the cultivator is accused of hoarding grain in order to make more money.

One could expect these irresponsible statements from irresponsible people but I was really shocked and most disappointed to read the speech of Lord Hailey of Shahpur. The facts to-day told by the Premier belonging to Shahpur are quite different from the facts given by Lord Hailey of Shahpur. I do not know what the source of his information is because the Government of India probably gets information from the provincial Governments and the Government of India, in its turn, gives information to the Secretary of State for India. Well, these are the domestic quarrels between the Governments and I should not interfere in their domestic matters at all. They should settle their disputes between themselves. Unfortunately, the zamindar of the Punjab or the grower of the Punjab has been most unjustly accused of hoarding and one could only say that the remarks made by certain responsible persons in the House of Lords were, to say the least, most unkind, most uncharitable and as far as those in authority are concerned, I would say most unchivalrous and most unfair. People should be quite prepared to accept the responsibility for their misdeeds. In all fairness—and I think it is only chivalry and fairness—people should accept their mistakes. After all they are human beings and they can err. This is not the first time that we have made mistakes. We should be quite prepared to own our mistakes and to try to be wiser in the future by the experience of the past but it is unfair to transfer the blame to places where it is not due and as far as the Punjab is concerned, I am proud to say that the Punjab has made a worthy contribution in the war effort, not only in supporting the front line but also in holding their own on the home front. (*Hear, hear*). In the matter of 'grow more food' campaign the figures given by the Honourable Minister revealed that Punjab has brought about 50 per cent of the total new area under cultivation. (*Hear, hear*). If the Punjab cultivator—the man who is looking after the home front—had not played the game, if he had not done his duty, it would not have been possible for the Punjab to increase its quota for the defence services or for the other deficit areas. As I said, Sir, in my last speech on this very question of food, every Punjabi deems it his duty to make sure that those brave and gallant men who are fighting the battles of democracy and who are trying to keep the war away from India, must get their due requirements from the produce of the Punjab and we are prepared—and I declare it now and I hope I have the support of the whole House (*hear, hear*)—that we will consider no sacrifice too great, we will be prepared even to cut down our rations but we will see that our gallant men get their needs and get their requirements. (*Interruption*). I think I will be able to make a better and greater contribution. As I have said, the Punjab is, doing a lot in this War because we feel that we are fighting for a cause, we are fighting for democracy, we are fighting to enrich our own freedoms—political and economic—and we are fighting for the cause of humanity. (*Hear, hear*). If we have those humanitarian ideals, there is no reason why the Punjabi should not be affected with the conditions prevailing in this country and both from humanitarian point of view and from the point of view of winning the War we consider it absolutely necessary to contribute

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as much as we can and to give our largest quota in solving the food problem in India because the problem of food has very close bearing on the question of war. India is now becoming more important as a base for offensive against Japan and India will have to make greater sacrifices, India will have to take greater part in these operations and the Punjab is fully prepared to ease the present food situation and to enable the authorities to take the offensive as early as possible against the enemies of humanity and to bring victory much nearer and to save the humanity from these difficulties and from distress.

My friends have said and I am one with them that the Government of India now suggests that they want to reinstitute the statutory control of prices. As I have said the control is already there because no other man is in the field except the Government or their agents or their accredited monopolists. Well, it is for the Government of India to arrange for the system of distribution or purchase. We are not concerned with that for the present but we are certainly concerned with one thing and that is, that the Government has a hand in the fixation of ceiling prices even to-day because the transport is controlled by the Government. The purchasing agency is the Government. No wheat can be moved out of the province without the Government's permission or authority. In spite of all these functions, why should the Government want to institute a statutory price control, because this experiment was once tried and it failed? Well, the Government should have given us some reasons or some assurances that it has now set up an organisation or machinery which will try to overcome the difficulties which made the system fail previously. The Government has given no such reason. If the Government can assure us that this time it will not institute control merely to keep the agriculturist population at a disadvantage and does not suddenly come to a conclusion that the control should be lifted at a time when the wheat has already passed into the hands of the middlemen, then the agriculturists will consider this proposition most sympathetically. They want to be sure of two things. One, that the prices fixed will be on parity with the prices of other necessities of life and two, if the Government wants to take this big responsibility, this new responsibility of controlling the sources of production, transport and distribution, it should be prepared to take this responsibility even after the war for some period. The agriculturist has the right to demand the assurance that the Government will not assume the responsibility for the time being and then absolve itself from this responsibility after the war. This assurance must be forthcoming.

With regard to rationing, I was reading the position of other countries and I was surprised to find that in the United States wheat is not rationed, in Australia there is no rationing of wheat and even in a country like the United Kingdom which is an importing country, there is no rationing of bread and potatoes. These two things are unrationed. As you, Mr. Speaker, want me to finish my speech early, I will only make an appeal to the Government that instead of trying to apportion blame and instead of using our energies in accusing one or the other or trying to make political capital out of this situation, let us all get together and try to solve this big problem now. We should dispassionately consider this question and try to improve things permanently because this problem is not facing this country only to-day, this problem is, as a matter of fact, a permanent problem that stares in the face of India in view of rise in population, in view of its low productivity. You will allow me to say one word before

I resume my seat and that is with regard to accusations like this about which an important British paper has said :—

In these objects we may trace muddle and confusion and divided counsels which led to the starvation of thousands of humble people. It is in part a record of selfishness and greed and lack of foresight not only on the part of the individuals but on that of provincial governments.

Such statements and accusations against those who are already helping and who are most willing to help will not improve the position. I think an individual or a Government, who is already willing and who is already doing his or its best should get his or its due quota of praise instead of rebukes and one fails to understand why in the matter of accusation only two provinces, Punjab and Sind, were singled out in the speech of the Secretary of State. This is most disheartening. I only want to say that the Punjabee is not made of the stuff which will yield to rebukes. A Punjabee, if he is given due praise and if his service and his contribution is acknowledged, will have greater incentive to co-operate and will have greater incentive to make a still bigger quota and a still bigger contribution.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh** (Amritsar North, Sikh, Rural) (*Punjabi*): Sir, I wish to make a few submissions in regard to the resolution now before the House. It seems to me that it is the day of the stockists and hoarders who want to get their pound of flesh, whatever may befall the nation. The Government supports them through thick and thin at the cost of the poor people whether they belong to the cities or countryside. Whenever any grievances are voiced in this House by any honourable member, my honourable friends sitting opposite begin making noise. It would have been much better if my honourable friends sitting opposite were to see for themselves as to what a serious problem confronts us and how it could be solved. The point at issue is this. The Punjab Government is asked by the Central Government to effect rationing and procurement schemes and enforce price control on all food stocks. But the Government of our province do not agree with this line. I make bold to say that the Central Government bungled by not buying and storing food stocks for the deficit provinces, but allowing things to drift. On the other hand it is really selfish on the part of the Punjab Government not to part with the surplus grain for the benefit of the famine-stricken areas of India, specially Bengal.

The Government of our province is looking upon this problem of food supply from narrow provincial point of view and does not like to help others, while the Central Government looks upon this problem from an all-India point of view. Let us see now as to what is the political situation confronting us. Japan is fighting at our doors and preparations are being made by the Allied powers to launch a big offensive against her. Forestalling this big offensive, Fascist Japan is searching for soft spots to attack India with a view to upset the allied plans. This is the reason why Madras and other towns are being subjected to occasional bombardments. The Central Government has utterly failed to prevent famine in Bengal. It has not looked properly to the interests of the war and has weakened the rear by not making a sufficient provision of food for Bengal. It is only by looking to the interests of the rear and the front that we shall be able to ward off attacks of Japan and would ultimately succeed in putting an end to Fascism. I wish to bring this point home to my honourable friends sitting opposite that they should take these things seriously.

Further I wish to submit that some days ago I met a certain friend of mine who had very recently come from Bengal. He holds a very prominent position in Bengal. He told me something about Chittagong. He said that

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Subash Babu had lost all his support in Chittagong and people had become indifferent to politics, and nobody was discussing politics there, everybody was talking about food, deaths and famine stalking the land. Hundreds of people were dying there daily of starvation. Thereupon I asked whether they would fight against Japan or not. He said that if the enemy were to throw rice from above the air to the hungry people, a civil war was sure to break out. He said that there were many men who wished to fight their fascist enemy. But hunger and death were sapping their morale and they were cursing the Government for not supplying them food. The situation was still more hopeless in the Midnapur district. I wish to point out that if adequate supplies of foodstuffs are not made to them, we would have to pay very heavily for it. Instead of fighting Fascism they might turn against the Allies and thus make Bengal another Burma. We should try to win their sympathy and keep up their morale at any cost, otherwise the front of the Allies might be weakened and might eventually collapse. Japan will knock at our doors and throw all foodstuffs to hungry people and the result will be that a civil war will break. Like Burma we would have to part with many other places. My honourable friends know it fully well as to how Burma was taken possession of. I wish to submit that it is high time that Government should make an all-out effort to help the famine-stricken people of Bengal. If the same famine-stricken conditions continue to remain and if necessary steps are not taken in time to solve the food problem, I am afraid, other provinces would have to share the same fate as Bengal. I urge upon the Government to make an all-out effort to help the famine-stricken people of Bengal. Preparations are being made by the Allies for a large scale invasion with a view to giving a death blow to Fascism, and we should be ready to make all possible sacrifices. But the Government of our province does not see this at all but continues encouraging hoarders and big landlords to multiply their wealth. Government members have quoted a lot of figures and tried to confuse the members of this House. My honourable friend Sardar Baldev Singh during his speech said that in 1942 the Punjab Government sent  $9\frac{1}{2}$  lac tons of foodstuffs to the Government of India. He further said that a quota of 10 lac tons of foodstuffs was to be sent to the Central Government in 1943. The Government was willing to send more but at reasonable price, but the Government will not control the price at all. The Punjab Government contends that it has brought some  $8\frac{1}{2}$  lac acres of more land under cultivation under the Grow More Food scheme. Besides, this year we had bumper crops. The surplus of food-grains is double this year in comparison with the last year's crop. The Punjab Government gave about  $9\frac{1}{2}$  lac tons of food-grains to the Central Government last year; they should supply double that quantity this year. There is no doubt about it that our province is a province surplus as compared with other deficit provinces and fortunately our wheat crop has been a bumper crop this year. In the circumstances, the Punjab Government should supply much more than 10 lac tons of wheat.

Whatever has been given to Bengal and other Provinces so far is not enough. Looking at the last year's crop of the Punjab, I dare say that to-day Punjab is in a position to give about 10 lakhs more to famine-stricken Bengal. I know, hearing this you will challenge me as to the veracity of my assertions. But I am right. Hundreds of maunds of wheat is lying with the big zamindars in the villages. They are your kith and kin. They are protected by you in their hoarding and profiteering business. Pay them the current prices and bring their stocks out. The stocks of all the zamindars paying more than Rs. 200

land revenue should be procured and sent to Bengal. You know well that to-day whatever wheat the kisans of the Province had with them was sold away in the beginning of the season with a view to meeting their outstanding requirements. Being hard pressed by the daily necessities the kisans sold away all their produce at the rate of Rs. 9 or 10 a maund. Whatever money they got was spent in celebrating their marriages or clearing their debts or in meeting out their unavoidable necessities. To-day, it is a fact that the poor kisans have no food-grains with them except for meeting their own family requirements. It would be a fallacy to suppose that the kisans have stored and hidden any food-grains. On the other hand it is a fact that our big zamindars have stored wheat to their maximum capacity and yet the Government says that on the previous occasion they gave away 9½ lakhs of maunds and this time they boast of giving away 10 lakhs of maunds. I submit that this is no reply to the arguments that there is hoarding in the Punjab.

Now I turn to the vehement harangues of Sir Chhittu Ram. He has been telling the kisans and zamindars not to take their produce to the markets. This has been his cry. He has bade the zamindars not to take wheat to the markets until the bania sahuksar begs of them to sell their wheat, and remonstrates with them to bring their wheat into the market. He has been exciting them not to pay heed to the banias. Now the Honorable Minister is shaking his head. But the shaking of the head will not help him. I have been getting full reports of his speeches. I understand that he was pulled up by the Central Government for making these speeches and he had to deliver a written speech in Lyallpur for the first time since he was given reins of administration in the Province. He exhorted the zamindars not to sell their wheat.

**Mr. Speaker :** Order please. Do not be personal.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Sir, I am saying that the big zamindars have stored hundreds of maunds of wheat and that this wheat should be requisitioned and sent to Bengal and other suffering provinces. The Government has utterly failed in carrying out its duties. It must provide as much food-grains to Bengal as it can after keeping sufficient quantities for the consumption of the Punjab people.

Sir, we must realise that to-day it is the misfortune of Bengal that it is in the grip of famine, tomorrow such a misfortune can overtake us in the Punjab. To-day our youthful soldiers are fighting the battle of democracy. They are shedding their blood so that we may be saved from the clutches of the Japanese Fascism. Cannot we send food-grains to Bengal to make our rear safe? Refusal to send food to Bengal is to betray the Punjab, nay the whole country. But the Government is complacent and is being supported by the Punjab bureaucracy wholeheartedly. Our Government does not feel the danger ahead, does not feel the impending misfortune. Our young soldiers at the front could never think we could be so selfish. They are giving us an opportunity and time to unite by keeping the enemy away from the Frontiers of India. We have failed them. Let them not spill their blood in vain. It is a shame that our Government and the Central Government are haggling with each other like petty women. What is the effect of this dual warfare? Our country is ransacked. Bengalese are dying in hundreds and thousands. The disaster and havoc caused by the fascist bombers is enormous. The very idea of cruelties of the Fascist Japanese makes my blood boil, but you are taking the whole thing very lightly. I abhor your callousness towards such a catastrophe. You are so selfish and greedy and you have no other motive but that of selfishness and profiteering. The people have collected



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crores of rupees for the famine-stricken Bengal. They are sending scores of wagons of wheat there but the Government has not raised even its little finger for its help. It is quarrelling over the control of price. The Government ought to have said that it is prepared to give more food-grains to Bengal. I feel such is the demand of the time.

Sir, it would have been much better if the Government had counted every person who gives, say, Rs. 200 as land revenue and after reckoning all their produce, purchased their wheat at the current price and thus in this way to-day Punjab can export crores of maunds of wheat. It is selfishness on the part of Sir Chhotu Ram that he is not in favour of effecting control of wheat in this way. If there be no control, what will be the effect? Our poor people in the cities and countryside would die of hunger and starvation. (*Interruptions.*) I tell you with all the emphasis at my command that there must be control, and there is no escape from it. It is a slur upon the Government that it has not checked and discouraged the hoarders of wheat. (*An honourable member* : What is the use? Control will fail.) Somewhere from those benches one of the hoarders protests against control. He said that there must be no control and there must be no rationing. Some one said, that the organisation of rationing in Bombay had cost the Government a lot. But the estimated cost of living *per capita* per year is only one rupee. I tell you that I have been to Bombay myself and I tell you upon my personal experience, that before control was effected in Bombay people had to face a lot of misery and trouble, the women who had never uncovered their faces in public had to wait for hours on end in the midst of a mob for getting their necessities. Life was intolerable but since the time the system of control and rationing has been introduced, life in Bombay is very much smooth now. People get their necessities without much worry and trouble. The control of commodities is very effective. The Government gets hold of all the produce at the ports and railway stations and then distributes it to the people. The morale of the residents of Bombay has gone up. Nobody gets more ration than what is his due. In short life in Bombay is as easy as in the Punjab.

I tell you that you will also have to introduce rationing. You know that the hard months of January, February and March are ahead and if now the Government does not foresee the difficulties, I am afraid a very serious catastrophe may befall the poor Punjabees. The Government boasts of having collected 19 lakh maunds of wheat to keep the prices down. I hope they will not profiteer from these stocks. The Government purchasing agencies are also hoarding. The Government should see that they do not profiteer at the cost of poor consumers. If effective steps are taken, not less than 10 lakh tons of wheat can be secured. I can tell you where the stocks of food-grains are lying. They are lying with the big zamindars. Go and get them. Give them a reasonable price and buy all the wheat they have. But I am afraid the Punjab Government and the Government of India are inefficient and they will not .....  
(*At this stage the honourable member had to resume his seat having exceeded the time-limit allotted to him.*)

**Minister of Revenue** (Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram) (*Urdu*) : Sir I had no mind to make any speech to-day in connection with this resolution, but some remarks made by the honourable members from the Opposition benches compel me to say a few words in reply to them. The first and foremost point which needs my reply was raised by the honourable leader of the opposition

when he said that I had repeatedly advised the people not to sell their wheat at any price which may be less than Rs. 13 per maund and that I had not repudiated this statement though often published in the press and attributed to me by news agencies. My answer to this charge is that no paper in which such statements were published had come to my notice. I seem to have missed that chance. The truth is that in all of my public speeches after the 30th of April of this year I have been advising the zamindars to consider any price between Rs. 10 and Rs. 12 per maund as a reasonable rate. I have told them repeatedly that this rate was not unreasonable, and that they suffered no harm in selling at that rate. (*Khan Sahib Chaudhri Sahib Dad Khan*: But what did you say at Bhiwani?) The honourable member might, if he likes, give the House the benefit of his memory or his precious notes, if he made any. Unless he is suffering from a perverse faculty of hearing and understanding from my words what suited him best he will not be able to say anything to the contrary on the level of prices I suggested for the province as a whole. But sometimes it so happens that hearers read more meanings into a speech than the speaker puts into it. If my honourable friend has also done a similar thing, he deserves credit for brilliance of imagination not for accuracy.

But may I remind my friends that I hold no large property, possess no wealth and wield no powers except this that I enjoy the confidence of my zamindar brothers? That is my wealth and that is my mainstay now as it has been in the past. How could I, then, afford to advise them not to sell wheat below Rs. 13 and contradict that advice by claiming here to have advised them not to hesitate to accept a price of Rs. 10 to Rs. 12 per maund? Such conduct would at once undermine their confidence in me, a confidence which has enabled me successfully to defy the combined opposition of the Hindu Sabha, the Congress and the all-pervading propaganda of their mighty press. The fact that I am in the Government or in this House at all in spite of the wealth of opponents having been spent lavishly against me in the elections is traceable, exclusively to that confidence, and that confidence is built upon my strict regard for truth. I never give them misleading advice or advice which I will not own up. That is why I enjoy the confidence of zamindars. (*Cheers*). (*Sardar Sohan Singh Josh*: You enjoy the confidence of zamindars all right but not of kisans.) If there is any real difference between zamindars and kisans, I enjoy the confidence of kisans more than anybody else. But I wonder at the strange things that are happening before my eyes. My honourable friend and his party have taken an amazing somersault. Till yesterday they were exhorting the public to push the British into the sea and, better still, drive them even beyond the seas. But now they are accusing the Unionist Party for not having rendered enough help to the British. They used to cry themselves hoarse in telling the people that they should not give any help in recruitment or other war effort. They used to claim that they were the standard-bearers of freedom and liberty in India. (*Sardar Sohan Singh Josh*: Even now we are lovers of freedom to the same extent as before, not a bit less.) But I have before me facts which tell a different story. My honourable friend Sardar Teja Singh Swatantra has by his conduct earned the title of Paratantra because, instead of supporting us in our protest against the interference of the Central Government in our provincial autonomy, he is now opposing us. Communists are in fact undermining provincial autonomy by their present attitude. This is puzzling in the extreme. What a tremendous change has taken place in their mentality! They are at great pains to win the good-will of the Central Government in a strange contrast to their erstwhile antipathy to the irresponsible bureaucracy.

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The mysterious power which has worked this change is best known to themselves. I have always been on the side of kisans and have unabating sympathy for them. But why my Communists friends have begun to sing in a different tune is more than I can understand. Instead of espousing the cause of the cultivator they have mortgaged their services to the Central Government.

Mr. Josh asks me as to where the produce of those additional 33 lakhs of acres placed under food crops in pursuance of the "grow more food" campaign has gone. Let me explain. This additional area was not all under wheat. It was distributed over at least three harvests, and was used to grow not only wheat, but also gram, barley, rice, maize, jowar and bajra. This explains how the Punjab was enabled to supply 997,000 instead of 9,00,000 tons of wheat last year and to promise a full million tons this year. The million ton mark may possibly be exceeded. We have already exceeded our quota of gram and rice by an exceptionally heavy margin and that of barley, maize, jowar and bajra by a substantial margin.

It is wrong to suggest that kisans and small landholders have been guilty of hoarding in the ordinary sense of the word although I believe that an appreciable proportion of them have still some surplus stocks of wheat with them. But that is only as a measure of prudence, and always happens until the character of kharif becomes fully known.

My friend Sardar Sohan Singh Josh, who may be expected to remain in touch with rural areas, should bear in mind that this year the yield from kharif crop cannot be more than 60 or 70 per cent of the normal. Probably it will be less than that. According to my own estimate if the yield from the present kharif comes down to 50 per cent it will not be a surprise to me. But in no case will it be more than 60 or 70 per cent. That explains the lingering surplus of wheat, however, my friend over there has urged upon us the necessity of giving more food-grains to Bengal. Let me tell him that we have already supplied large quantities of wheat and other food-grains to Bengal and if we find ourselves in a position to supply more than our quota of wheat we will not hesitate to do so. We have every sympathy for the starving and famished people of Bengal. And it was in pursuance of that sympathy that we have already gone beyond the quota that was assigned to us under the basic plan in respect of all other grains, and are ahead of schedule in respect of wheat. My honourable friend Mian Mushtaq Ahmad Gurmani has suggested that we should not hesitate to supply more food-grains to Bengal even if we have to stint ourselves. I fully share his anxiety to help the starving people of Bengal and assure him that we are determined to supply the maximum quantity of wheat and will continue to be as liberal in the future as we have been in the past in the supply of food-stuffs to that province. Not only that. If, God forbid, conditions of scarcity arise at any time in any other province we will be only too glad to come to its assistance and help as liberally as we have done in the case of Bengal. But that does not mean that we should, by exporting unduly large quantities of wheat, reproduce in our own province the conditions of scarcity which have arisen in Bengal. After all there is a limit up to which we can export food-grains from the Punjab. But all the same I assure my friends that after working out estimates of our own requirements, whatever quantity of food-grains will be found in excess of our bare needs, we are prepared to supply to Bengal in the shortest possible time and at reasonable prices.

My communist friends have also remarked that all surplus having already left their hands high prices of wheat now will not benefit the smaller zamindars. They have overlooked the fact that if to-day statutory price control is imposed on wheat it will immediately react on the prices of other food-grains also. In fact the prices of all kharif crops the produce of which has begun to move into mandis, will be affected at once. The prices of maize, jowar, bajra and even pulses will be lowered. Under these circumstances Mr. Josh should not entertain even for a moment the notion that if the prices of wheat are controlled no harm will be done to smaller zamindars because they have already sold out their stocks of wheat. This is an erroneous impression. But after all my friend is a Jat, and suffers from the proverbial stubbornness of a Jat. His thoughts run in one and one direction alone. Now-a-days only one question looms large before him, and that is how best he can please the Government of India. That also explains why he, regardless of facts and figures, would have us believe that we can supply indefinite additional quantities of wheat and other food-grains to the Government of India. Besides that he has nothing else before him. He also remarked that in order to fight Fascism successfully it was essential that further large quantities of food-grains should be exported from the Punjab to Bengal. But may I know since when it has dawned upon him that this fight is being waged against Fascism? We have been fighting against Fascism from the very day the present war broke out. In fact Great Britain, China, India, the United States of America, in short every one of the allied nations, repeatedly declared that this war was being waged against Fascism. It will be interesting to know what opinion my honourable friends, Sardar Sohan Singh Josh and Sardar Teja Singh or their precious organisation then held about this war because they never uttered a single word in support of the Britishers for the successful prosecution of war against Fascism. But later there came a stage when Russia became embroiled in this war. Thence forward Britain's "imperialistic" war assumed the complexion of a war against Fascism, and before that it was not so. I do not think I need lay any further stress on this point. Honourable members understand no less than our Communist colleagues the reasons for this violent change.

Our Communist friends have vehemently advocated price control and rationing on the analogy of England and charged us with preverse and incorrigible opposition to price control and rationing for all time and under all circumstances. Let me assure them that they are mistaken. We are definitely opposed to control and rationing under present conditions, but do not believe that anything is or can be really absolute in this relative world. If we had been in the position of England we would certainly have done what England has done. And if, God forbid, circumstances arise which render control and rationing really essential the Punjab Government will unhesitatingly resort to them without waiting for any hint from elsewhere. But how can we do so when we are convinced that such a step is neither essential, nor justifiable for our own purposes, nor, again, best calculated to help deficit areas? The analogy of England has no application here. The Punjab is a heavy surplus area while in England, barring a proportion of 10 to 20 per cent, all her requirements of food-grains are imported from abroad. Thus on the arrival of ships carrying food-grains in ports of entry physical possession of supplies and the subsequent regulations of their movements and distribution becomes easy. No such conditions exist in the Punjab. On the other hand, requisitioning, discovery and compulsory seizure present grave difficulties, both administrative and political. The case of Bombay is very similar to that of England. The Presidency of Bombay is a deficit area while the city of Bombay produces no food-grains and is situated in an island. Practically the whole

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quantity of food-grains required for its inhabitants is imported from outside. As soon as food-grains arrive Bombay Government take them over. That is the reason why price control and rationing are working successfully there.

There is another thing which we should not ignore while speaking of control in England. The newly found masters of my communist friends i.e. the British Government, are spending something like 138 crores of rupees on subsidising price control in England. But the Government of India is not prepared to spend even a broken cowrie in the way of such a subsidy. Why should the burden of supplying food-grains to deficit areas at uneconomic prices be placed on the shoulders of the poor zamindars of the Punjab who are being maligned by uninformed and misguided critics as being "by instinct and persuasion inclined to hold back stocks in anticipation of higher prices"? We have not failed to contribute our quota ; in fact, we have exceeded it, and have parted with our surplus at lower prices than some other provinces. Let me tell you, Sir, that the Punjab wheat is neither less sweet in taste nor less rich in nutrition. Despite this fact the zamindars and the Government of United Provinces have been permitted by the Government of India to sell their wheat in their own province at a rate of up to Rs. 14-6-0 a maund. But just across the Jumna the Punjab cultivator has been made to sell his wheat at substantially lower rates. The Lyallpur price of wheat has ranged from Rs. 10-4-0 to 10-12-0 in the current wheat season as against Rs. 13-4-0 to Rs. 14-6-0 at Hapur. One may well ask why this difference of nearly Rs. 3-8-0 per maund. (*Sardar Sohan Singh Josh* ? In Bengal wheat is selling at Rs. 40 a maund. If you want profit sell it at Rs. 40 a maund). My friend should remember that Bengal is a deficit province, and I am referring to a province which is not deficit province. The United Provinces is a surplus province for wheat. The average surplus was originally estimated at 120,000 tons. Later on it was reduced to 40,000 tons. If the report published in the press is correct, the United Provinces offered to sell 40,000 tons of wheat at Rs. 16 per maund, f. o. r. Howrah. What reason can there be that the Punjab wheat should sell in Bengal at Rs. 12 or Rs. 12-8-0 while the United Provinces wheat fetches Rs. 16-8-0 a maund ?

It is sometimes suggested by our opponents that the Punjab is doing nothing ? Is it true ? Can it be true ? Who does not know that it is due to the Punjabis and the Punjab Government that the requisite amount of food-grains and even more than that was supplied to Bengal so easily, at reasonable prices and in the shortest possible time ? In the name of fairness and propriety the people from the Punjab as well as from beyond its frontiers—people who champion the cause of liberty—people who want to see the autonomy of Provincial Governments fully established—ought to have given due measure of praise to the representatives of the Punjab Government who took such pains in fully acquainting the Food Conference with the case and claims of this province. Having an intimate knowledge of the real state of affairs they were able to assure the Conference that there was absolutely no danger of food scarcity in the Punjab. On the contrary the Punjab will not only supply its full quota for the requirements of deficit provinces but will also be able to give something more. Nevertheless they made it clear to those present at the Conference that in the present circumstances the inauguration of any control or rationing system was uncalled for.

I do not think there is any real need of adding to the arguments that have already been advanced against the imposition of control but I wish to be permitted to say a few words in this respect. Whenever I have been questioned about

the price of wheat, either here or at Delhi, I have always said that if—as has been done in the case of cloth where a 25 per cent profit was allowed at first by the Government but was later on reduced to 20 per cent—the Punjab peasant is allowed a 15 per cent profit over his cost of production, calculated in fair manner, he will be willing to part with his wheat. (*Hear, hear*). Failing this the Government should allow the grower to increase the pre-war price of wheat as many times as the prices of cultivators' requirements have risen since the war began. If there has been a four-fold increase in the prices of his requirements the price of wheat should be four times that at which it was obtainable before the war. If the increase is three-fold it should be three times the pre-war price; and if it is only double then there should be only a two-fold increase in the price of wheat. I do not think that a more fair offer than this could be made. If this is done we will certainly revise our attitude to the imposition of statutory control on the price of wheat. Instead of praising this attitude of the Punjab Government the Punjabis and especially those Punjabis who claim to be the champions of the cause of freedom, have thought fit to oppose this resolution.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** It was thanks to your efforts that we were in jails till recently.

**Minister of Revenue :** Anyway my honourable friend is at present having a good time. (*Laughter*.)

In fairness, this attitude of the Punjab Government deserves praise from those liberty-loving gentlemen who till recently did not brook any external interference in the internal affairs of their country and who are now for some reason siding with the Government of India.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** You are responsible for putting the Congress behind the bars and stifling the opposition.

**Minister of Revenue :** When they come out probably there will not be the same revolutionary change in their attitude as there has been in yours. (*Laughter*.) In the present circumstances any control on food-grains, besides being unnecessary will also be most unfair. As a matter of fact control is already in existence. Movements of food-grains are already restricted; and so are the prices to be offered.

It has also been contended that control has been imposed on other commodities like iron, cloth and sugar, etc., but every one knows that that is only a paper control, not an effective control. When one wants to buy any of these controlled articles the price demanded is very much more than the control price. If, however, these things are controlled effectively and the prices come down to a reasonable level there would be no need of controlling the price of food-grain at all. Wheat prices will automatically come down to a corresponding level. If any one proves then that the price of wheat has not come down proportionately we shall feel convinced and will gladly reconsider our present attitude. (*Cheers*.)

**Mian Muhammad Nurullah (Lyallpur, Muhammudan, Rural) :** I commend the stand taken up by the Punjab Government regarding this control, and I feel that not only should there be no control on wheat but there should be no control of any other agricultural produce unless and until a proper and effective control has been achieved on those things which a zamindar has to purchase. I have given notice of an amendment to the effect that there should be no control

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on any agricultural produce and if they must have it, all those articles which a zamindar has to buy must first be properly and effectively controlled and a successful control must be achieved first.

**Mr. Speaker :** This point has been discussed.

**Mian Muhammad Nurullah :** Sir, the main blame lies somewhere else and I will state the real point as it has occurred to me. I may be wrong, but I think that the Government of India has absolutely failed to carry out its duty to check the inflation that has been taking place in India. The real point is this that the constitution of the Reserve Bank of India is such that sterling securities in England are accumulating and as against those note circulation has been increasing. Notes have been printed in large numbers. Note circulation, you will be surprised to know, has increased from about two *arabs* to about eight *arabs*, i.e., 7.91 crores. That means the circulation of currency in the province has risen by 3.5 to 4 times. Consequently the price of every produce should also proportionately increase. That is a theory of Economics. If you have more money to spend, the price of the commodity that you want to buy is naturally bound to go up and that is exactly what has happened. The real remedy that the Government of India should have applied was that as soon as balances had accumulated in London they should have correspondingly issued gold in India. The balances of the Reserve Bank should not have been allowed to grow. I feel that at the end of the war exchanges would be shifted and we will suffer in the long run. When I was a student of Banking and Finance in the London School of Economics Dr. Gregory had taught us that you can either have a control on prices or control the exchanges. You can't have both. The Government of India should have pressed that the exchanges should be let loose and the prices stabilised. You cannot have stabilisation of prices as well as exchanges. Exchange is fixed at 1 s. 6 d. It should be allowed to move about. There should be no rise in prices and there should be no question of control of wheat or of any other produce.

If we were to follow our friend Mr. Josh then there will be more fifth columnists here. We want to avoid that. That would be the natural consequence of what he has suggested. I think that the Government of India have failed in many other respects. They could have adopted many other policies which would have prevented this situation. One fact I want to make clear. I draw your attention to the acreage and the yield of wheat in the whole of India. You will at once come to know that they have made practically no effort to increase the acreage as the Punjab Government have done, although even our Government can do a little more. The figures are like this :

Year					Acreage
1937-38	..	..	..	..	356,040
1938-39	..	..	..	..	354,041
1939-40	..	..	..	..	340,900
1940-41	..	..	..	..	348,000

**Mir Maqbool Mahmood :** As the House is likely to disperse at 4-30 p.m. I beg to move that the question be put.

**Mian Muhammad Nurullah :** In 1941-42, the area was 340 lakhs. That means that from 1937 to 1941 the Government slept over this question. They never cared to increase the area under cultivation of wheat and the area has gone down from 356 lakhs to 340 lakhs acres. That is a matter where if the Government of India had applied their mind, they could have done much more and increased the production of wheat instead of controlling its prices. Similarly I may draw your attention to the figures of yield of wheat. You will find that in 1932-33 the yield was 176 lakhs and in 1941-42 it was 137 lakhs. That again has gone down. If the Government of India had paid any attention to this question they could have done much to help the zamindar to grow more wheat in India. But they never cared. In these circumstances, I feel that the fault lies with the policy adopted by the Government of India and not with the policy adopted by the Punjab Government. The Punjab Government has taken the right attitude so far and it has done its best, in spite of the difficulties, to help Bengal. In spite of our sympathies for the sufferings of the starving people there, we may not be able to do much more as we may not be able to afford it. We cannot leave this province in the lurch.

**Mian Abdul Rab :** Sir, as this is an important question which has attracted the attention of even the House of Lords and as many of us on this side want to take part in the discussion, I would suggest that the Government may be pleased to allot one more day for its discussion.

**Premier :** If that is the sense of the House I have no objection to allotting two hours tomorrow for the purpose.

**Mian Muhammad Nurullah :** Sir, in that case I might continue for a while. The honourable leader of the opposition has suggested that a ceiling price might be fixed. It is a very difficult matter to fix ceiling price. In the same breath the honourable the Leader of the Opposition stated that there has been no rain in the Punjab and that many of the crops have failed and this point was also supported by the Honourable Minister who spoke from that side and said that they expected a great shortage of grain this year and that he was sure that the crop would not be more than 60 or 70 per cent. Supposing the crop fails as has been suggested and there is less supply; naturally, there will be more demand and the prices must go up. So why should we interfere with this natural law by fixing ceiling prices? There is no necessity whatsoever for fixing any ceiling price. In scarcity conditions prices are bound to go up.

Another point that was raised was the question of inflation. If, prices have risen because of inflation, where is the guarantee that in future there will be no inflation? If you go on printing currency notes, how can you stop the prices of wheat or of anything else rising up? Therefore it would be unfair to the zamindar to fix a ceiling price. The fact is that in 1939 when the war broke out, the index number which was at 100 has now risen 3.3 times. I draw your attention in this connection to the figures jointly issued by the Cotton Committee and the Agricultural Research a few years ago on the cost of production of commodities like wheat, sugarcane and cotton. They found that it cost the grower in the Punjab Rs. 42 an acre to grow wheat. The yield was estimated to be about 16 maunds, making the cost of production at about Rs. 2-10-0 a maund. Now as I have stated if the index figure has risen 3.5 times, may be in some cases 4 times, then multiplying Rs. 2-10-0 by 4, you get nearly Rs. 11. That means that the price of wheat should not be less than Rs. 11 in the present conditions, allowing



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for failures and a little margin of profit. It may well be Rs. 12 to Rs. 18 per maund.

I, therefore, wind up by saying that there should be no control whatever and if at all there is going to be any control, the price of every article must be controlled and that control should be effective. If I had the time I would have drawn the attention of the House to a chart which I hold in my hand of the level of prices of commodities and the level of the rise in the currency. It is a pity that I cannot explain it in such a short time which I have at my disposal. It will be realised from this chart that the rise in prices has failed to overtake the rise in the note circulation in the country. It has always been behind and not in advance of it. The rise in prices has not been as much as the inflation that has been going on in the currency of this country. Therefore no step should be taken for the present to control the price of wheat. Also if you see the statistics of the Board of Economic Enquiry, you will find that 46 per cent of the consumption of the zamindars comes from his own farm and 54 per cent. is purchased from outside. Therefore if he has to buy 54 per cent. from outside, that means he will be out of pocket to that extent and there is no justification to control the articles that he produces. With these words I support the resolution.

*The Assembly then adjourned till 3-30 p.m. on Friday, 5th November 1948.*

# PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

## TENTH SESSION OF THE FIRST PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Friday, 5th November 1943.

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

### STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

#### INTERNMENT OF CERTAIN COMMUNISTS.

**\*8746. Sardar Teja Singh Swatantar :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that Jawala Singh Bilga, Ramji Das Talwan, Vishnu Dutt Kharkor Kalan, Jiwan Singh Shankar, Sohan Singh Dhaliwal, Bachan Singh Mehatpur, Ajit Singh Kuthar, Giani Hari Singh Barapindare, Dhanna Singh Sujjon, Communists, are interned in their villages in district Jullundur;

(b) whether the Government are aware that they have no means of livelihood and are almost in a condition of starvation;

(c) whether the Government are aware that they have to travel long distances every week to report themselves to the police stations;

(d) whether the Government intend to remove the restrictions on them?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Mir Maqbool Mahmood) :** (a) Yes, except that Vishnu Datt is restricted to Ludhiana City;

(b) No.

(c) Government have no reason to believe that excessive distances have to be travelled in any case.

(d) This depends on future circumstances.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Is Vishnu Datt, who is restricted to Ludhiana City, being given any allowance by the Government?

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

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Are there any other men besides Vishnu Datt who are being kept not in their own district but in some other district?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** If my honourable friend gives notice of that question, I will see whether information can be made available. The question that he originally asked has been replied to.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** What is the meaning of 'excessive distances'? How many miles will be considered as excessive distance?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** It means the same thing as the words 'long distances' in the question of the honourable member.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** May I know whether it will mean twenty miles?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** It means the same thing as 'long distances' in the question.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** May I know whether the Parliamentary Secretary is aware that certain internees have to travel twenty miles to go and report in a thana ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** Government have had no complaint of any internee that he has to travel such long distances.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** With regard to part (b) of the question may I know whether the Government received any applications from internees for the grant of allowances at their own places because they could not get on without some help ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** So far as these particular internees are concerned, I am not aware of any such application.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Is the Parliamentary Secretary sure that not one of the internees applied for allowances ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** So far as my present information goes there was no such application.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Did not Ram Nath of Amritsar, who was formerly detained at Batala, apply four or five times for getting some allowance ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** If my honourable friend will refer to the main question he will find that Ram Nath is not referred to therein.

#### SECURITY PRISONERS

**\*8868. Sardar Teja Singh Swatantar :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state the classes in which security prisoners arrested under the Defence of India Rules have been detained in the different jails of the province ? If they have been placed in different classes, the reasons for this discrimination ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Mir Maqbool Mahmood) :** They have been classified into two classes, known as classes I and II. This classification has been made according to their social status.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** May I know whether any people who were at first placed in class I were later on transferred to class II ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I would like notice of that question.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Can the Parliamentary Secretary tell us how many persons were taken out of the Gujrat jail from class I and placed in class II and transferred to other jails ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** These questions do not arise out of my reply, Mr. Speaker.

#### SECURITY PRISONERS

**\*8869. Sardar Teja Singh Swatantar :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state the results of the enquiry, if any, held by the Commission that was set up by the Government to review the Pre-August 1942 Security Prisoners' cases ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Mir Maqbool Mahmood) :** Of the persons whose cases came under the review of the Committee, 54 were released.

## SARDAR SARDUL SINGH CAVEESHAH

**\*8878. Lala Bhagat Ram Choda :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that Sardar Sardul Singh Caveeshar, who is being detained as a security prisoner in the Sub-Jail Dharamsala (Kangra) is not allowed to receive his copy of the "Bombay Chronicle", by the jail authorities ;

(b) whether it is a fact that the copies of the "Bombay Chronicle" sent to him in the jail were returned to the senders ;

(c) if the reply to the above parts be in the affirmative, the reasons therefor ?

**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.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Is Sardar Sardul Singh Caveeshar detained in a Punjab Jail ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** Yes.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** So far as the supply of papers is concerned, may I know if it is determined by the Punjab Government officials or by the officials of the Central Government ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I have already stated in my reply that all questions relating to this particular prisoner should be addressed to the Central Government. I regret I cannot add anything to that reply.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** The question is specifically with reference to the "Bombay Chronicle." I want to ask whether it is the Punjab Government officer who controls its supply or it is the officer of the Central Government who does it.

**Premier :** The prisoner is detained under the orders of the Central Government and if my honourable friend wants to ask any question about him, he should do so through some friend of his in Delhi who may put such questions in the Central Assembly.

**Sardar Santokh Singh :** Is it not a fact that for certain things he is in the jurisdiction of the Punjab Government ?

**Premier :** I have nothing more to add.

## CONGRESS DETENUS

**\*8879. Lala Bhagat Ram Choda :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) the facilities given to the Congress detenus of 1942 in the Punjab recently regarding correspondence ; interviews ; books ; games ; supplementing requirements and diet, etc. ;

(b) whether it is a fact that the books sent to the Congress detenus of 1942, by their relatives and friends after March 1943, have not been passed on to them so far under the orders of the C. I. D., Punjab ; if so, the reasons therefor ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Mir Maqbool Mahmood) :** (a) The honourable member's attention is invited to the statement made by the Honourable Premier on the floor of the House<sup>1</sup>.

[Mir Maqbool Mahmood.]

(b) No; only such books as were found to be objectionable were withheld.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** With reference to part (b) of this question I want to ask whether in spite of the orders of the Punjab Government any books were detained by the C. I. D.?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I have stated that some of the books were supplied to them. Only such books as were found to be objectionable were withheld.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** How many days do the C. I. D. take to censor a book handed over to them for being sent to the jail?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** If the honourable member will put a definite question, I will make enquiries. Obviously the days required to examine a book must depend on the nature of the book, the number of pages, etc.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** May I know from the Parliamentary Secretary as to why this particular thing is under the C. I. D. and why the district jail authorities are not taken into confidence as far as this particular item is concerned?

**Mr. Speaker :** The next question.

#### CONGRESS DETENUS

\*8880. **Lala Bhagat Ram Choda :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) the total number of Congress detenues of 1942 released from March 1948 to 31st October 1948;

(b) the total number of paroles allowed to Congress detenues of 1942 up to 31st October 1948;

(c) the total number of detenues released on the ground of ill-health and other reasons since 8th August 1942 to 31st October 1948;

(d) the total number of Congress detenues in the Punjab jails on the 31st October 1948?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Mir Maqbool Mahmood) :** (a) 115;

(b) 15;

(c) 251;

(d) 304;

#### SARDAR SARDUL SINGH CAVEESHAR

\*8933. **Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether he is aware of the statement that Sardar Sardul Singh Caveeshar, security prisoner in Sub-Jail, Dharamsala, District Kangra, made in his representation to the Lahore High Court in May last;

(b) whether his release was recommended by the Punjab Government to the Central Government; if so, with what results, and if not, the reasons therefor?

**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.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** May I know from the Parliamentary Secretary whether certain exposures were made by this gentleman?

**Premier :** When the question itself has not been answered, how can the honourable member ask this supplementary question?

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** I am only asking a question to show the responsibility is that of the Punjab Government. Allegations were made against the Punjab C. I. D. and I want to ask whether that fact has come to the knowledge of the Honourable Premier and his Secretary.

**Mr. Speaker :** Supplementary questions can be asked only to elucidate anything contained in the answer to a particular question.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** But when the Government is evading the answer?

**Premier :** Government is not evading. We refer the honourable member to Delhi. The honourable member will not go to Delhi, that is the difficulty.

#### SECURITY PRISONERS

**\*8934. Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the following gentlemen were declared as security prisoners and only recently were thus deprived of the facilities given to the Congress detenus of 1942; if so, why—

(1) Mr. Ganeshi Lal, B.A., Secretary, All-India Spinning Association Punjab Branch;

(2) Sardar Jaswant Singh, B.A. (National);

(3) Sardar Ram Singh of Hoshiarpur; and

(4) Sardar Jagjit Singh, B.A., of Gujrat;

(b) whether they have protested to the Government against this action, and if so, with what result?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Mir Maqbool Mahmood) :** (a) Mr. Ganesh Lal, Sardar Jaswant Singh and Sardar Ram Singh have been re-classified as security prisoners. It is not in the public interest to disclose reasons for their re-classification. No person of Gujrat named Jagjit Singh is under detention either as a civil disobedience prisoner or security prisoner.

(b) A representation from Sardar Jaswant Singh only for re-classification was received and rejected.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Is the Parliamentary Secretary aware that one Sardar Jagjit Singh, B. A., who was detained in Gujrat Jail and was transferred to the Montgomery jail, is still in jail and is being given the treatment of a second class prisoner?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I invite my honourable friend's attention to the question. It relates to Sardar Jagjit Singh, B. A. of Gujrat. Now he says that Sardar Jagjit Singh was imprisoned in Gujrat Jail. My answer is that there is no one of Gujrat named Jagjit Singh who is under detention.

PANDIT JAI GOPAL SHARMA, B. A. (HONS.)

**\*8935. Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether he is aware of the fact that Pandit Jai Gopal Sharma, B.A. (Hons.) of Rawalpindi after his arrest in August 1942, was made a security

[Pt. Bhagat Ram Sharma]

prisoner, and sent to the Rawalpindi Jail, but after some time he was deprived of the facilities given to the security prisoners of 1942, and was sent to the New Central Jail, Multan, as a security prisoner; if so, why;

(b) whether he is aware of the fact that along with his other few comrades he resorted to hunger strike for five days as a protest in July last; and then gave it up on an assurance from the Superintendent of the Jail that their protests would be conveyed to the Government; if so, with what result;

(c) whether Pandit Jai Gopal Sharma has since lost his weight; if so how much?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Mir Maqbool Mahmood): (a) Jai Gopal was detained under rule 26 of the Defence of India Rules as a security prisoner on 22nd October, 1942, in Central Jail, Rawalpindi. He was classified as class II security prisoner in February, 1943, when the Punjab Government issued orders about the reclassification of security prisoners and was transferred to the New Central Jail, Multan, in the same month.

(b) Jai Gopal along with four other class II security prisoners resorted to hunger strike in July, 1943, as a protest against their reclassification, but all of them gave up the hunger-strike of their own accord.

(c) The information is not readily available.

#### LAND REVENUE

\*8895. **Mian Muhammad Nurullah**: Will the Honourable Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) the total land revenue realised each year from the District of Lyallpur since the last settlement;

(b) the total remission or addition to the land revenue year by year since the sliding scale system of land revenue was introduced;

(c) the average land revenue of the ten years just before the last settlement;

(d) the figures of land revenue as they work out on the prices of the current year;

(e) the difference between the realized land revenue of the leanest year during the last 20 years and the land revenue to be realized according to part (d) above?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan): (a) The new settlement was introduced in various tahsils and areas on various dates, and therefore the information cannot be supplied in the form required by the honourable member. A statement showing the total realizations from 1937-38 to 1942-43 is placed on the table.

(b) A statement is laid on the table.

(c), (d) and (e). The collection of this information will involve an expenditure of time and labour not commensurate with the results, and therefore it is not in the public interest to supply this information.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh**: Has any land revenue been increased per bigha in the Lyallpur District?

**Parliamentary Secretary**: I do not think there has been any increase.

(a) Statement showing figures of land revenue (fixed and fluctuating) including *malikana* realized from Lyallpur district since the last settlement.

District	Year	REALIZATIONS		
		Fixed Land Revenue	Fluctuating Land Revenue	Total
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Lyallpur	1937-38	90,239	56,48,977	57,39,216
	1938-39	90,979	43,85,103	44,76,082
	1939-40	90,888	54,13,993	55,04,881
	1940-41	98,029	56,62,301	57,60,330
	1941-42	1,00,070	64,67,590	65,67,660
	1942-43	1,02,063	92,12,782	93,14,845

(b) Statement showing figures of reduction under the sliding scale of assessment in Lyallpur district (excluding the unassessed portion of Extensions Circle where the sliding scale has not yet been introduced).

Harvest						Amount of reduction
						Rs.
Kharif 1936	..	..	..	..	..	13,27,290
Rabi 1937	..	..	..	..	..	25,63,725
Kharif 1937	..	..	..	..	..	15,11,144
Rabi 1938	..	..	..	..	..	22,81,849
Kharif 1938	..	..	..	..	..	21,99,903
Rabi 1939	..	..	..	..	..	28,14,221
Kharif 1939	..	..	..	..	..	19,54,556
Rabi 1940	..	..	..	..	..	20,97,189
Kharif 1940	..	..	..	..	..	11,67,289
Rabi 1941	..	..	..	..	..	24,31,331
Kharif 1941	..	..	..	..	..	13,49,473
Rabi 1942	..	..	..	..	..	17,35,862
Kharif 1942	..	..	..	..	..	4,19,339
Rabi 1943	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Kharif 1943	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Total						2,38,43,211



**SUPPLY OF "PEOPLES WAR" AND "JANG-I-AZADI" TO SECURITY PRISONERS**

**\*8872. Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) the number of security prisoners confined in the Gujrat Special Jail on 25th October 1942 ;

(b) whether the "Peoples War" and the "Jang-i-Azadi" two Communist Weeklies, were ever allowed to them; if so, the period for which they were allowed ;

(c) whether the above-mentioned papers are allowed to them now ; if not, why not ?

**The Honourable Malik Khizar Hayat :** (a) 92.

(b) No. Only to one prisoner. The period for which they were allowed has not been ascertained.

(c) Owing to a change in the tone of the papers they were disallowed.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** With regard to part (b) of the question may I know whether 'Peoples War' was ever allowed to the prisoners in Gujrat Jail ?

**Premier :** You will have to give notice for that.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** May I know whether 'Jang-i-Azadi' was allowed to them or not ?

**Premier :** I want notice.

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**SECURITY PRISONERS**

**\*8873. Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) how many security prisoners from the Gujrat Special Jail have been transferred to other jails since the last session of the Assembly and the reasons therefor ;

(b) how many of those security prisoners transferred to other jails have been placed in lower classes than class A prisoners ;

(c) whether any privileges enjoyed by the security prisoners before have been withdrawn since their transfer to other jails ; if not, the reasons therefor ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Mir Maqbool Mahmood) :** It is regretted that the information asked for by the honourable member is not readily available in Headquarter offices in Lahore ; and in the present conditions created by the War, it is very difficult to undertake to secure it by enquiries from out-stations, as this would impose a burden on the already over-worked officers as also involve consumption of paper that would be incommensurate with the results to be achieved.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** May I know how many days' notice will be required to get this information ?

**Premier :** There is no question of notice. The information is not worth collecting.

MEMBERS OF SCHEDULED CASTES AS HEADMASTERS OR DISTRICT INSPECTOR OF SCHOOLS

\*8914. **Chaudhri Jugal Kishore** : Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state whether any member of a scheduled caste is posted at present as Headmaster of a Government School or as District Inspector of Schools in the Province ; if so, his name and the place where he is posted; if not, why not ?

**The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye** : No. The posts of Head Master and District Inspector are administrative posts filled by selection from among suitable men in the higher grades in which no member of the scheduled caste is at present serving. If and when such officials are available in higher grades and are found suitable their claims for the posts in question will be duly considered.

NUMBER OF CATTLE, ETC., IN KANGRA VALLEY

\*8339. **Rai Bahadur Lala Gopal Das** : Will the Honourable Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(a) whether he is aware of the fact that the number of cattle, sheep and goats in the Punjab, especially in the Kangra Valley and the surrounding districts is progressively diminishing ;

(b) whether in view of the fact that an extraordinarily large number of cattle are being slaughtered to provide meat for the Italian prisoners of war and the allied military forces housed in the abovementioned area, the Punjab Government has made any representation to the Central Government to import meat from outside to these areas for these prisoners and the forces ; if not, the reasons therefor ;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to ensure that the cattle wealth of the Punjab is not depleted in any way owing to the exigencies of war ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Chaudhri Tikka Ram) : (a) The next census of cattle, which is held every fifth year, is due to be held in 1945 when the correct position can only be known, but from a comparison of the census figures of 1935 as compared with those of 1940 the reply is in the negative, specially as far as the Kangra and the Hoshiarpur districts are concerned.

(b) No beef is issued for consumption by Italian prisoners of War in the Kangra Valley or allied troops there. The local supply is that of mutton only. The price which the military department pays for beef is so low that no good cattle can be sold at that price for this purpose. Still the military authorities have already issued strict orders to ensure that useful cattle, whether milch or plough, are not purchased for slaughter and this Government has been asked to bring to the notice of the military authorities any instance of breach of these orders. In these circumstances no representation has been made to the Central Government.

(c) A certain number of draught bullocks for use as such has been purchased by the army at reasonable prices but by no means in such numbers as materially to cause any depletion. The purchase of such bullocks by the army does not affect the cattle wealth of the Province, as these animals continue to work and at the end of the war are likely to be re-sold to the public. However the question of placing restrictions on the export of milch and draught cattle is already engaging the attention of this Government.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** May I know whether the Parliamentary Secretary has compared the figures of cattle which were available in the Kangra and Hoshiarpur districts before the Italian camp was settled ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** Yes. The figures of 1935 and 1940 are available and we have compared the figures of these two censuses.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** On the strength of those figures is he prepared to say that there is no decrease in the cattle wealth ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** The war began in 1939 and census was taken in 1940. After that there has been no census.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** It comes to this that the Parliamentary Secretary is not in a position to say whether really a decrease in cattle wealth has taken place ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** We have compared the figures of 1935 with the figures of 1940.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** May I know why the prices of cattle have gone up so extraordinarily in that part ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** It is due to the rise in price of other materials.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** May I know how he draws this conclusion from the census figures of 1935 and 1940 ? How does it help him as far as the answer to this question is concerned ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** The next census will be held in 1945 and it is only then that the exact position can be known.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Does he deny the fact that a large number of cattle are not being slaughtered daily in that camp ?

**Minister :** We have already given the reply that we do not have any facts at present. We are trying to ascertain the facts and we are doing everything possible to preserve the cattle.

#### FIREWOOD

\*3889. **Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Will the Honourable Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(a) whether he is aware of the fact that the total supplies of firewood available for the Punjab this year are below the normal requirements of the population ; if so, what percentage of the total requirements will be available ;

(b) whether it is a fact that this shortage is due partly to deforestation by the Punjab Government ;

(c) whether it is a fact that imports of firewood into the Punjab from other provinces have ceased or have been considerably reduced ; if so, the extent to which this will affect our supplies ;

(d) whether he is aware of the fact that considerable quantities of firewood are being used by factories in the Punjab in place of coal ; if so, what quantities of firewood are used by these factories and the action Government intend to take in the matter ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Chaudhri Tikka Ram) :** I regret that the answer to this question is not yet ready.

## TELA

**\*8893. Mian Muhammad Nurullah :** Will the Honourable Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) how far tela affected the cotton crop this year in the district of Lyallpur ;

(b) whether the present cotton crop is a normal crop in yield ;

(c) if not, what relief he proposes to give to the sufferers in this respect in the district of Lyallpur ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan) :** (a) owing to the dry weather tela affected the cotton crop in some parts of the district towards the beginning of September but now it has disappeared.

(b) Yes, except in the case of late sown crop where the damage done varies from annas 8 to annas 4 in a rupee.

(c) The extent of damage does not call for any relief under the rules. On account of prevailing high price relief cannot be given under the sliding scale.

**Mian Muhammad Nurullah :** The Parliamentary Secretary has said that on account of high prices no remission could be given, but what about the yield, because it is the yield mainly that determines assessment in any district ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** Sliding scale is not on the basis of the yield. About yield there are separate rules. As I have stated already in part (c) of the answer, under the rules no relief can be given because the damage varies from three annas to four annas in a rupee.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** May I know whether any decrease in output tonnage was caused by this tela in cotton ? Did the government forecast tonnage of cotton ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** It is too early to say. I have already stated that only in some parts of the Lyallpur district some damage was done by tela which appeared in September and disappeared later on. There are some places in Lyallpur where some damage was caused but the extent of the damage is between 8 to 4 annas in the rupee. Therefore under the rules no relief can be given.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** May I know whether the Parliamentary Secretary could tell us the extent of the damage caused by this tela in the whole crop ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I am sorry I cannot give you that information because the damage was caused in a small part of a district.

## CONTROL OF PRICES OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE

**\*8894. Mian Muhammad Nurullah :** Will the Honourable Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(a) whether there are any chances of control of prices of agricultural produce in the Punjab by the Government of India ;

(b) whether prices of wheat and cotton will be controlled in the near future in the Punjab ;

(c) the basis on which and the prices at which they are likely to be controlled ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Chaudhri Tikka Ram): (a), (b) and (c): At the conclusion of the recent Food Conference the Government of India announced that it accepted the policy of statutory control of the prices of food-grains. The question of the practical application of this policy is still to be decided. No proposal has yet been put forward on the same lines for the control of the prices of cotton.

#### MUNICIPAL LIBRARY WITHIN LIMITS OF LAHORE CORPORATION

**\*8844. Rai Bahadur Lala Gopal Das:** Will the Honourable Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether he is aware of the fact that there is only one municipal library within the vast limits of the Corporation of the City of Lahore;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Corporation spends several thousand rupees annually on books for this library, but no sum out of this amount is earmarked for books in Hindi and Sanskrit;

(c) the total number of books and regular periodicals or newspaper\* in Urdu, Arabic, Persian, Hindi and Punjabi, respectively, available in the library; and whether it is a fact that the number of books, periodicals and newspapers obtained in Hindi for the library is very small and no efforts have been made to provide an adequate number of books in Hindi for the readers; if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether it is a fact that in the reading-rooms maintained by the Corporation in the City of Lahore at different places there are hardly any newspapers or periodicals in Hindi; if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) why the municipal library situated near Shah Mohd. Ghaus outside Delhi Gate, has not been shifted to a more central place, so that members of all communities may derive benefit therefrom?

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

(b) Very few books were purchased for the Library for many years before 1940-41. About 6,000 books have, however, been added during the past three years. No sum is earmarked for the purchase of books in any particular language.

(c) The total number of books, periodicals and newspapers according to languages is as under:—

Language	Books	Periodicals	Newspapers
English .. .. .	4,453	2	4
Urdu .. .. .	3,160	5	1
Arabic .. .. .	5	..	..
Persian .. .. .	65	..	..
Hindi .. .. .	404	2	..
Punjabi .. .. .	76	1	..
Total .. .. .	8,163	10	5

The recently purchased books also include books in Hindi. As the demand for books in Hindi by the public is not great, more have not been purchased;

(d) Periodicals in all languages received in the Library are circulated to all the reading Rooms in rotation.

(e) The present situation of the Library in the City Garden, Delhi Gate, is quite central and members of all communities frequent it.

#### PRIMARY SCHOOLS RUN BY LAHORE CORPORATION

**\*8845. Rai Bahadur Lala Gopal Das :** Will the Honourable Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) the total number of primary schools run by the Lahore Corporation ;  
(b) the number of such schools as for one reason or another, are not actively functioning ;

(c) the number of such schools among those named above where facilities are provided for the teaching of Hindi and the number of teachers employed by the Corporation in those schools for teaching Urdu and Hindi respectively ;

(d) whether he is aware of the fact that the facilities for teaching and learning Hindi in the institutions maintained by the Lahore Corporation are utterly inadequate ; if so, the steps which Government propose to take in the matter ;

(e) whether he is aware of the fact that the salary and grade of teachers in the primary schools in the city of Lahore is extremely low being almost the same as those of peons in other departments and institutions and that the teachers employed therein are finding it extremely difficult to pull on with their meagre salaries in these days of soaring prices ; if so, the steps which Government propose to take in the matter ?

**The Honourable Sardar Shaukat Hyat-Khan :** (a) the total number of primary schools run by the Lahore Corporation is :—

Boys Primary Schools..	..	..	79
Girls Primary Schools	..	..	39

(b) Nil.

(c) There are three boys primary schools where facilities for teaching Hindi have been provided. The number of teachers for teaching Hindi in them is 7 and for teaching Urdu 5.

There are 14 girls primary schools where facilities for teaching Hindi have been provided. The number of mistresses teaching Hindi in them is 62 and teaching Urdu nil.

(d) The Corporation is prepared to extend its facilities for teaching Hindi but generally speaking the public show little inclination to send their boys to Hindi schools. In the Sathan Municipal Committee Primary School, for example, there are only 10 boys on the roll who have taken up Hindi.

(e) The grades of J. V. and S. V. teachers in the Lahore Corporation schools are as under :—

			Rs.
J. V.	..	..	25—1—35—1½—50.
S. V.	..	..	25—1—35—1½—50—2—60.

## [Minister of Public Works.]

These grades as compared with the grades of teachers of other parts of the province seem sufficiently liberal. The Corporation is paying Dearness Allowance at the rates sanctioned by the Punjab Government, and regular increments have also been allowed. It does not appear that any interference by Government is called for.

## SHORT NOTICE QUESTION AND ANSWER

## DISFRANCHISEMENT OF WOMEN FOR LAHORE CORPORATION ELECTIONS

**\*9016. Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Will the Honourable Minister for Public Works be pleased to state whether women have been debarred from voting at the Lahore Municipal Corporation Elections and if so, the reasons therefor ?

**The Honourable Sardar Shaukat Hyat-Khan :** Final rules for elections to the City of Lahore Corporation have not been framed so far. Government have, however, framed rules as to the qualifications of electors to be registered in a preliminary electoral roll which is intended to disclose the total number of voters belonging to each community. The figures so ascertained will help to decide how the elected seats of the Corporation should be distributed among the communities. It is a fact that women are not being registered in these electoral rolls ; the position in that matter will be the same as it was at the time the late municipal committee was superseded. The rules provide that women will become eligible to be recorded as electors if the Corporation passes a resolution at a special meeting to the effect that the franchise should be extended to women. These matters apart, I would draw the attention of the honourable member to the provisions of clause (a) (vi) of subsection (1) of section 7 of the Corporation Act which requires that the elected councillors must include two women. Government intend to enrol female voters for the election of these two councillors.

**Mian Abdul Aziz :** May I ask how long the Honourable Minister considers it will take to bring the Corporation into actual existence ?

**Minister :** That question does not arise from the main question.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** May I ask if the Honourable Minister is aware that there was a rule under the Municipal Act that if a municipal committee passed a resolution allowing women to vote, woman will have the right of franchise : is he aware of this rule ?

**Minister :** Yes, Sir, I am and I have answered that.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** Does the Honourable Minister intend to continue this rule or abolish it ?

**Minister :** It will be continued.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** May I know why the Honourable Minister is leaving the women's franchise to the mercy of the Corporation and not himself giving them their right just now ?

**Minister :** Surely when the Corporation comes into existence and men get together you can expect from the members there to consider whether they want women to sit with them. (Laughter).

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** May I know why only two women are being allowed to get themselves elected and not more ?

**Minister :** We have provided for some, you can provide for others.  
(Laughter.)

### LEAVE OF ABSENCE OF M. L. A.s'.

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

1. Lala Bhim Sen Sachar writes :—

I have the honour to request that the House may be pleased to exempt my presence from the meetings of the Assembly for the duration of my detention in jail, under rule 26 of the Defence of India Rules. I cannot say how long the detention will last. It commenced on the 29th August 1942.

2. Sardar Hari Singh writes :

As I have not yet been permitted by the Punjab Government to attend the Assembly session, I beg to request the House to grant me leave of absence from the sittings of the Assembly during the present session.

Question is—

That the permission asked for be granted.

*The motion was carried.*

### RESOLUTION

#### CONTROL OF WHEAT PRICE

**Mr. Speaker :** The House will now resume discussion on the resolution moved by Sardar Lal Singh *re* control of wheat price.

**Khan Bahadur Sardar Muhammad Hassan Khan Gurchani** (Dera Ghazi Khan, South, Muslim, Rural) (*Urdu*) : Sir, it goes without saying that we are confronted with a terrible war on the one hand and with famine in Bengal on the other. We are thus surrounded with difficulties on all sides. But what I want to impress on you is that we are a loyal people and are offering every possible help in the prosecution of this war. We, therefore, request that we should not be placed under a handicap by enforcing control on the price of wheat. We are strongly opposed to this control. Even in the absence of control, we are helping Bengal as well as the Government in its war effort. We pray that our agricultural produce may not be taken away from us by introducing control on the price of wheat. It may be remembered that we the residents of Dera Ghazi Khan and Baluchistan are the most loyal people and we hope that our benign Government will not like to add to our difficulties.

I, therefore, respectfully point out that the control of prices of foodgrains is not at all justified. Under the present circumstances there is no need for taking such a step. By the grace of God the present conditions will undergo a change. The war situation is improving and as a result of it the present circumstances will change and better days will come. Then there would be no need for imposition of price control at all. I do not think I should take any more time of the House as there are many honourable members who are anxious to participate in the debate. In conclusion I whole-heartedly support this resolution and appeal to the honourable members to pass it unanimously and thus prove to the world outside that the Punjab is unitedly opposed to the imposition of control on the prices of foodgrains.



**Mian Abdul Rab** (Jullundur South, Muhammadan, Rural) (*Urdu*): Sir, So far as the resolution now before the House is concerned it is not only the duty of the honourable members of this House but also of all those, who have any common sense in them, who have at heart the welfare of the Punjab and who want to intensify war effort in this province, to lend their support to it. But as far as hard facts are concerned the Punjab Government is saying something else while the White Paper issued by the British Government, which reflects the opinion of the Government of India, is striking quite a different note. After all what is the reason for this disparity of views? The reason is this that the Government of India have not apprised the British Government of true facts. Further the press has been making adverse propaganda and under the influence of that propaganda undesirable speeches have been made in the House of Lords and a White Paper has been issued from Whitehall in which uncalled for remarks have been made against the Punjab. I would respectfully submit that in future if any such situation arises in regard to which the Government of India and the provincial Government differ, the latter should be afforded an opportunity to explain its position so that a wrong opinion may not be formed on the basis of one sided version. What is needed more in such matters is that it is not only the duty of the Government of India but also of the British Government to see that the provincial Governments are afforded an opportunity to present their case in full. I respectfully submit that such a convention should be established.

Now, Sir, so far as my friends, who opposed this resolution vehemently and accused the Punjab of selfishness, are concerned, it has become a habit with them to oppose the party in power whenever they find any opportunity to do so. Believe me, Sir, had the representatives of the Punjab, who went to Delhi to participate in the Food Conference, supported the question of controlling the prices of food-stuffs, my friends opposite who yesterday cried hoarse in opposing this resolution would have been the first to condemn the Punjab Government for having supported the proposition to impose price control. They would certainly have said: "Look, how the Punjab Government is ever ready to dance to the tune of the Central Government; no sooner had the latter referred to the question of price control of foodgrains, than the representatives of the Punjab Government sacrificed the interests of the Punjab and agreed to the imposition of price control and thus are trying to create that very state of affairs in the province which is obtaining in Bengal". But now when our representatives, taking stock of the present situation have not supported the imposition of price control they have jumped up to state that the Government of India was proposing a right thing and that the Punjab Government has shown selfishness in not agreeing to the imposition of price control in the province. I would like to tell the Government of India that these honourable members, who have opposed this resolution and have made irresponsible speeches, cannot be relied upon. Though they are the representatives of the Punjab, they have shown disloyalty to their own province inasmuch as they have expressed their desire that the Government of India should requisition additional ten lakhs of tons of foodgrains from the Punjab. If they have not shown any loyalty to their own province and their own voters, how can the Government of India expect any loyalty from them?

If the Government of India want to impose control on the price of wheat in order to supply foodgrains at cheap rates to the poor, they are labouring under a misconception. The control was already tried in this province last year, but failed. Last time when control was imposed on the price of wheat, do my friends know what happened? As a result of control wheat became very scarce and in fact it disappeared from the market altogether. People had to

consume at in which jawar, bajra, maize and even sand was mixed. If control had not been imposed such state of affairs would not have arisen at all. The instance of Lahore is also before my honourable friends where during the last month the prices of milk and ghee were fixed. But not many days ago, the same hands which imposed that price control had to decontrol the prices of these articles. Again, we have the instance of sugar before us. Even though the price of sugar has been controlled and there are depôts through which it is sold to the public, still, so far as my experience goes, in spite of all these arrangements sugar is available only to the rich or influential people. The poor cannot get sugar even for medicinal purposes. This is the result of control. There is another danger which we will have to face if control is imposed on the price of wheat. If the control is imposed, the zamindars, thinking that they have nothing to gain from growing more foodgrains, would become lax and as a result thereof the "grow more food" campaign will go to dogs. The zamindars will have no inducement to grow more and more foodgrains. They will certainly lose heart and give up the effort which they are making now to increase the production of food-stuffs. If, on the other hand, the Government of India want to control the price of wheat merely to satisfy their own needs, I will respectfully point out to them that we the representatives of the Punjab are not prepared to tolerate that by large exports from the Punjab, the same tragedy may be enacted here which has overtaken Bengal. The Punjab Government have already supplied their quota and that too in the shortest possible period. In fact whatever the Government of India had demanded had been supplied to them. Yet my honourable friend whose attitude reminds me of an old adage مدتی سست اور گوارہ چست had the audacity to blurt out that additional ten lakhs of tons of wheat could be requisitioned from the Punjab.

Besides, I do not see eye to eye with those of my friends who are labouring under a misconception that the limit of 10 or 11 rupees a maund as the price of wheat is in any way profitable for the zamindars. It does not even cover the cost of production. If we look at the question from its true perspective we would find that even by selling wheat at 10 or 11 rupees a maund the zamindars are not making any profit at all. It is possible that the zamindars living in the canal irrigated areas may be making some profit from the sale of wheat at this price. But the ilaqa which I have the honour to represent and where lands are only irrigated by wells, there this limit does not even cover the cost of production of wheat. Those very bullocks which we used to purchase at Rs. 40 or Rs. 50 each have become very costly so much so that one has to pay Rs. 800 to Rs. 1,000 for one bullock. I remember perfectly well that the sheets of iron which we used to purchase at the rate of 8 or 9 rupees a maund now cost us as much as 90 rupees a maund. My friends can very well imagine as to what would be the state of affairs of a zamindar who after purchasing agricultural implements at such a high cost produced food-grains and then suddenly finds that the prices of his produce have been controlled. Will this step, if taken, induce him to grow more and more food-grains? Certainly not. If the Government of India cannot do without controlling the prices of food-stuffs they should, in the first instance control the prices of those articles which zamindars require for agricultural purposes. It is after controlling the prices of these articles that Government will be justified in imposing control on the prices of food-stuffs. So long as the prices of iron, timber, bullocks and other requirements of the cultivator are not controlled, we cannot agree to the imposition of control on the prices of food-grains. I beg to submit that it is the duty of the Government of India to declare in unequivocal terms, especially at this juncture when the crops are being sown

[M. Abdul Rab]

that they will not impose any control in the Punjab without consulting the Punjab Government. It will not only allay the uneasiness caused in the minds of the Punjab growers but will also help to further the "Grow More Food" campaign. Besides increasing the output of food cereals it will make it easier for the Punjab to spare greater quantity of food-grains for the deficit provinces. If the Central Government agrees to consult the Punjab Government before taking any steps towards the inauguration of control or rationing, plenty of grain will be available and would be released for the markets.

Control is of two types, direct and indirect. Indirect control is better just like indirect tax. This type of control is already in existence in the Punjab. It is on account of this indirect control that grain has not gone out of the province and the price level has remained stationary between Rs. 10 and Rs. 11. Had there been no indirect control the prices would have soared up to something like Rs. 20 or Rs. 25. Indirect control has had a healthy effect on the price level. That is why we do not find the imposition of direct control necessary.

I should like to make a reference to the speech made by my honourable friend, Mian Mushtaq Ahmad Gurmani, yesterday. Unfortunately he is not here. His speech was a strange mixture as if the honourable member was torn between two loyalties. I do not know why he selected a *via media* for expressing his views on the subject. Let me remind the House of his fighting speech at the time of the last Budget session. He had then called the Central Government as Fifth Columnists and had advised their being sent to some mental hospital for treatment. But yesterday he was treading as on eggs. Probably it is because, being a member of the ministerial party in the Punjab he had to voice their sentiments and considering his newly formed connections with the Central Government he could not work himself up to the same pitch of vehemence in blaming the Government of India.

Before I close my remarks I would submit that the Government of India should make it a point to act upon this sound principle that the Centre should not interfere in the internal administration of a province. If the Centre interferes in the affairs of a unit, it will only end in disaster. This is a principle which is being advocated by the Muslim League and its leader, Mr. Muhammad Ali Jinnah. I am glad that this principle has now been accepted not only by the Honourable Premier, the honourable leader of the Opposition (Sardar Santokh Singh) but also by independent members including Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh a well known round tabler.

With these words I lend my whole-hearted support to the resolution now before the House.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** Sir, with your permission, may I ask one question of the Honourable Minister in charge? Has he any idea of the amount of surplus of wheat in this province? By surplus I mean the quantity of wheat which would be left after keeping a sufficient amount for the needs of the people of this province.

**Minister of Development :** We declared a surplus of one million tons and according to our estimate that is the surplus.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** It means that the Punjab can spare one million tons—is that so?

**Minister :** Yes.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** On what date was this estimate made ?

**Minister of Development :** It was made on the basis of the production of last year.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** Supposing the Central Government were prepared to buy the whole of this one million tons paying the money out of their own pocket and then selling it to Bengal and other deficit provinces, what price would you consider reasonable ?

**Minister :** The Government of India have made no such proposal ; but if they do make one, we will certainly consider. (*Laughter.*)

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** It is very kind of you.

**Mian Muhammad Nurullah :** Is this in addition to the quota that we have still to supply ?

**Minister :** No ; it includes everything.

**Sardar Jagjit Singh Man :** As this resolution mainly concerns the agriculturists, I would request the Chair to give preference to agriculturist members who want to speak on it.

**Rai Bahadur Lala Sita Ram (Trade Union Labour) (Urdu) :** Sir, I rise to oppose the resolution now before the House. In my opinion none of the speakers who took part in the discussion, including the Honourable Premier, and other Honourable Ministers, has made out any case in support of this resolution. The whole debate has revolved round four points—firstly, that the cost of production has increased and because the cost of other necessities has risen by four or five hundred per cent, the price of wheat should also be increased ; secondly, that before the war when wheat was selling at Re. 1-4-0 or Rs. 1-6-0 per maund the Government of India or other Governments did not take any steps to protect the grower from suffering a loss ; thirdly, that so long as the prices of other commodities are not controlled it is not proper to impose control on wheat ; and lastly, that control is not practicable and is beset with many difficulties.

Now, the first two arguments are out of place, because the mover of the resolution does not intend to fix any rate but is dead against the imposition of control itself. If you were to say that as the cost of production has gone up, the control should be imposed at a certain price level, I am prepared to support you, but if you say that you are not at all in favour of control—at least that is what I understand from the speeches made in the House—I cannot agree with you. The argument that the cost of production has increased and consequently the price of wheat should also be increased correspondingly will find an echo in our hearts. The Punjab Government should, in consultation with the Central Government, fix some wheat price. It may be Rs. 10 per maund or Rs. 20 per maund. As no limit is proposed to be fixed, it is not possible for me to support this resolution.

Now, we come to the remaining two points. So far as the argument is concerned that no control should be imposed on wheat unless each and every other article is brought under control, I must submit that Rome was not built in a day. Controlling all the articles is not such an easy job as could be accomplished with a single stroke of the pen. Let us begin by controlling the price of wheat which is of fundamental importance and without which nobody, rich or poor, can live. Afterwards the Central Government can be asked to extend this control to all the articles. But the sole aim which guides your policy is profiteering and benefiting the big landlords and capitalists of the province.

[R. B. L. Sita Ram]

Now I come to the last point, viz., that control is not practicable. In fact the responsibility for the failure of the control system in the recent past devolves upon the shoulders of the Provincial Government. The Government itself was not willing to make it a success. Even the present resolution which has been given notice of by a non-official member and which has been taken up on a non-official day is in reality a Government resolution. By bringing in this resolution the Government has made it clear to all its officers that it is not in favour of control. So, in case the control is imposed in the province tomorrow, the executive officers of the Government will carry it out half-heartedly and will not take severe action against the defaulters. Otherwise you know, Sir, the powers of Government are very vast and if it sets its heart upon a certain thing it can easily achieve it. I must appeal to the Government not to keep in view the benefit of the numbered few only but to consider this problem on an all-India basis. We should not forget the starving millions of Bengal. Although there is enough of lip service yet practical help is not forthcoming. A few minutes ago in reply to a question asked by Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang the Honourable Minister for Development was pleased to state that the Punjab could spare wheat up to the extent of one million tons. If you cannot help others at your own cost, selfishness should not debar you from disposing of the surplus for the needy. If you cannot bring down the price of food-stuffs even for the starving poor, I must ask the Central Government to buy your grain at your own price and then to supply it to the poor at reasonable rates, thus bearing the loss itself. The food situation in India has been discussed in the House of Commons and sympathy has been shown to the starving people. But the real help can come from the Punjab only. As I have already said the Government should fix some price and should not insist on there being absolutely no control. If the Government is incapable of feeling for Bengal let it not forget its own province. Let us not forget the labourer here. Let us not forget the men who get fixed pay and the increase in whose income is meagre as compared with the rise in prices. Before allowing the price of wheat to rise upto Rs. 20 or Rs. 25 per maund, please do not forget to imagine the miserable plight of thousands with poor income. The absence of control will create the same situation as in Bengal nowadays. How can you expect from people who have been given 10 or 20 per cent dearness allowance to buy things the prices of which have risen 300 per cent? I admit that the contractors and the landlords can afford to buy things at any price but the poor should not be ignored. You tell us that the control is not practicable. But look at sugar. Its control is working and working satisfactorily too. No doubt difficulties do crop up in the untrodden paths. Similarly there is a possibility of corruption even here. The Honourable Sir Chhotu Ram said that the matter will receive due consideration at the proper stage. The proper stage has been reached. Let him come forward. If you start educating the masses now, they will understand the control and its effects in 3 or 4 years time. On the occasion of Money-lending Bill the attitude of Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram was quite different from what it is to-day. At that time he championed the cause of the poor, but to-day when money is coming in his own house he has forgotten all his high-sounding principles. Even the sad plight of the starving poor of Bengal has not been able to move him.

Sir, one word more and I have done. I quite agree with the Central Government in the matter of control of the price of wheat. But I would suggest that before controlling the price of wheat a committee of officials and non-officials should be formed to consider the increase in prices and then decide after

mutual discussions some maximum price of wheat. This committee must be constituted of some representatives of the Punjab and some of the Central Government. It must also include some experts. I think in this way the poor would also be benefited by this committee. My second suggestion to which I would like to draw the attention of the Government is this. They may fix two prices of wheat. One for the people and the other for the Central Government. As the people of the Punjab earning daily wages or getting fixed monthly salaries require consideration, the price fixed for them should be low as compared with that fixed for the Government of India. In this way no complication is likely to take place. The poor on the one hand would be relieved of the high price of wheat and the Punjab Government on the other will have nothing to fight about with the Central Government. In this connection I would like to refer to the House of Commons where the price fixed for the labour classes is low as compared with the price fixed for other classes. What else can we do for labourers earning daily wages and for those getting a meagre sum of Rs. 50 a month.

With these few remarks, Sir, I strongly oppose the resolution.

**Sardar Jagjit Singh Man** (Central Punjab, Landholders): Sir, I support this resolution which I consider as one of the most important resolutions ever discussed on the floor of this House. I will not dwell on the system of control that has not succeeded nor will I dwell on the point that the Government of India did not come to the aid of the zamindars after the last Great War when the prices had a certain fall and therefore it is not a moral duty of the Government of India to impose the control now. My speech to-day will be confined only to the point that in case there is price control, the production of food-grain will be depressed and decreased considerably. The Government started a campaign of "Grow More Food" by propaganda through officials and non-officials, by giving more canal water, by giving waste land on easy terms and by giving remissions and reductions in the land revenue and *abiana*. All those measures were not successful in promoting the "Grow More Food" campaign until the price control, which was imposed on wheat last year, was taken away. I may say, that since then the farmer in general and the educated and intelligent landholder in particular is suffering from "Grow More Food" fever. They are doing their level best to increase food production in the province. Now, I shall explain how the production of food has been increased by the farmer. He has removed all the *tibbas* from his land and made his land a level one, removed bushes and has brought all waste land under plough. The farmer has not got work for the whole year and he used to spend his extra time in idle talks and gossips. Now he goes to fields everytime, levels the land, ploughs it and clears the watercourse in order to utilise all the canal water. The farmer is now giving preference to food crops over non-food crops. In the month of October, the water is badly needed for American cotton, for toria and for doing *rauni* of wheat crop. You know that early sowing of wheat gets you 4 or 5 maunds more per acre than the ordinary sowing. The zamindar will take the water from the share of cotton and sow wheat early and in that way he will reap 4 or 5 maunds more, although he would lose a maund or so of *kapas*. These things are only done if the price of wheat is quite good. There is also encouragement to double cropping. After the kharif crop the farmer would sow wheat, barley or gram and in that case he will get about 5 maunds per acre and after deducting the expenses he would have a sufficient margin for his saving. The position of food is undoubtedly not easy. In the districts, which are *barani* there has been very little rain this year and we are expecting kharif crop below

[S. Jagjit Singh Man]

the average and also during the winter, we will have the crop below normal. All those who advocate that there should be control do not realise that the zamindar has to work hard and it is only by hard work that he will be able to produce more.

In the end, I would sound a note of warning to the Government of India that their attitude towards the zamindars of this province is far from satisfactory. We have been noticing for the last one year or so that our interests are not being fully guarded and watched at the Centre. We have already got an indirect control and recently the Government of India by a notification has prohibited the export of staple cotton. If the control on wheat is put, I am afraid it will work as the last straw on camel's back. I would unhesitatingly say that the Government would lose the sympathy of zamindars of this province, a class whose kith and kin are shedding blood in the various war theatres, a class which is fully co-operating in the war effort. Let not the Government throw stones at them in return. Before I resume my seat, I would appeal passionately to the Government of India that they should consider calmly over the matter in the light of to-day's debate and yesterday's debate and remove the sword of control which is hanging over our heads day and night.

**Chaudhri Ram Sarup** (Rohtak Central, General, Rural) (*Urdu*): Sir, I really felt sorry to hear the speech of my honourable friend, Lala Sita Ram. I was under the impression that there was no scope for opposition in the resolution now before the House. In my opinion the argument advanced by my honourable friend that price control should be instituted because the Government servants are under-paid and the brunt of the high prices is falling on them is not plausible. He said that relief should be given to Government servants. But may I ask him whether these servants are in the service of the Government or in the service of zamindars? So far as I am concerned I do realise that the Government servants are hard hit by the abnormal rise in the prices of commodities. But my honourable friend is of the opinion that their hard lot can be improved by decreasing the price of wheat. Perhaps he has forgotten that there are other commodities as well whose prices have risen abnormally. I agree that the Government servants should be given more salaries in the present abnormal times but it will be far from doing any justice if this is done at the cost of the poor zamindars. Further, my honourable friend said that the price of wheat should be so fixed that Government servants may not find any difficulty in making their both ends meet. I fail to understand how this is possible without controlling the prices of other articles that an agriculturist has to purchase. I wish to bring this point home to my honourable friend that if he feels that the Government servant is hard hit by the abnormal rise in wheat only, then he should also bear in mind the high prices of other articles which a poor zamindar has to purchase.

It is really absurd to say that the price of wheat should be fixed. My honourable friend, Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang, asked the Development Minister at what price he would sell wheat. In this connection I wish to submit that unless the prices of all the commodities which a zamindar has to purchase, become normal, the price of wheat cannot be fixed.

Then selfishness was attributed to the Punjab Government. It was said that the Punjab Government indulged in profiteering. But I may assure the House that the Punjab Government made no profits. In this connection I may bring one fact to the notice of the House. The Bengal Government made an

offer to the Punjab Government to purchase 150,000 maunds of rice at the rate of Rs. 28 per maund. But the Director of Civil Supplies refused the quotation on the ground that they were selling the same quality of rice at the rate of Rs. 17 per maund and that they were not prepared to charge more than this price. Do my honourable friends think that this is selfishness of the Punjab Government? Had the Punjab Government indulged in this profiteering bargain, they would have been able to earn about 16½ lakhs of rupees. But the Punjab Government did not resort to any such unfair transaction.

It has been said that the Punjab Government do not intend instituting any price control in the interests of the zamindars. This reminds me of a short story. A young baniya once asked his father as to why the colour of the wheat was red. His father replied that it was red because of the sucking of the blood of the poor zamindars. It is crystal clear from this that my honourable friends want to fix the price of the poor zamindars' blood. I fail to understand why they should persist in fixing the price of wheat only. My honourable friend, Sir Chhotu Ram, in the course of his speech remarked that unless an efficient control is instituted on other articles that an agriculturist has to purchase, the control on the price of wheat should not be enforced. Whenever any reasonable step is taken with a view to ameliorating the hard lot of poor zamindars my honourable friends at once rise to oppose it. However I may assure them that if an efficient control is instituted on all articles that an agriculturist has to purchase, control on wheat price will also follow automatically. Otherwise it is no use controlling the price of wheat only.

My two honourable Sikh friends sitting in the Opposition benches have vehemently opposed the resolution now before the House. They want to kill two birds with one stone. They are of the opinion of that the Government of India are justified in instituting price control order. So far they never got a chance to say a good word about them and now they have got a chance to justify the intentions of the Central Government in connection with the introduction of price control order. They say that if price control order is not enforced in India, there will be agitation and chaos. I do assert that this is absurd.

In the end I wish to reassure my honourable friends on behalf of the zamindars, that we are prepared to agree to the control of wheat prices, provided the prices of all commodities especially those which the zamindars have to buy, are also fixed. If reasonable prices are fixed, the zamindar would be prepared to sell all his wheat at a reduced price. With these words, Sir, I strongly support the resolution now before the House.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma** (Kangra West, General, Rural): Sir, I have heard with interest the debate which has taken place on this subject and the several arguments that have been advanced in support of the resolution, but I regret to say that no case has been made out by the supporters of the resolution, not even by the Premier who was pleased to make a very good speech on the subject.

The simple question for the consideration of the House is whether or not there should be price control of wheat under the present circumstances. Two arguments have been advanced by those who oppose control. One is that on the last occasion when control was introduced most of the wheat went underground and no wheat was available in the market. My friend, Sardar Teja Singh Swatantar, has very ably met that argument by pointing out that that control order was merely a paper order and



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no effective machinery was set up by the Central or by the Provincial Government to see that that order was effectively carried out. Government thought that by merely issuing an order wheat would be forthcoming at that price for the consumption of the people as well as for export purposes, but that did not turn out to be true. The other argument was, at the time of promulgation of wheat control order no effort whatsoever was made to control the prices of other commodities which were necessary for every day life. That was really a very important factor for the failure of the wheat control order. As far as I have been able to understand from the press Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram is also of the opinion that unless effective control is put on all commodities which are necessary for the consumer, the people of the Punjab will not tolerate any control on wheat alone. As far as this proposition is concerned there can be no two opinions on this point and that, Sir, is the sum and substance of the amendment that I have placed on the order paper. Now if the Government enforce control order and set up an effective machinery to control the prices of all the necessities of life, then surely they can succeed. Let me deal with this point from the point of view of the zamindars or the kisans.

In the Punjab most of the zamindars, at least 50 per cent of them, are the proprietors of uneconomic holdings. By uneconomic holdings I mean holdings where the zamindars after putting in full labour have to face a deficit budget and not a surplus one. The average holdings range from 4 to 6 acres. The figure in Bengal as given in the White Paper is 3.5 acres and there is not much difference between the average holdings in Bengal and in the Punjab. Here another fact to be taken note of is that the cultivator grows for himself, that is, for his own personal use and if he sells any of his produce he does so in order to meet certain fixed liabilities and not with a view to make any profit out of it. He also sells to meet his domestic needs. In some cases, perhaps if he is in a position to meet his domestic needs as well as fixed liabilities, he will eat more. There are certain people who cannot get two square meals a day. There are some who after meeting their liabilities and their domestic needs are left with some produce which they sell to buy other things in the market and a Punjabi zamindar will try to invest his money by buying gold which is not available in the market now. So there is no tendency for him to sell. There is also another point. It is human instinct to hoard stocks and especially is that the case where a person knows that the price would rise the next day and he would be able to make more profit out of it. All this is happening in our province. But we have to take note of the catastrophe which is at present prevailing in a sister province, that is, Bengal; the condition there is most terrible and horrifying. (Minister for Development: Not our fault). Every one admits that we should try our utmost to help them. All the same the tendency is there and the people who have surplus wheat do not want to sell in the hope of getting better prices. We have to take into consideration all these facts while trying to find out a solution of the difficulties with which we are faced to-day. In my opinion the only solution is that the price should be reasonably fixed. Some members have objected because the cost of production is very high, but nobody is going to fix the price at a figure which will not return to the cultivator the cost of production.

Then, the Honourable Premier while dealing with the subject protested that he would not like to be ruled by section 98 of the Government of India Act. It is really surprising that he and his colleagues who are carrying out section

98 of the Government of India Act ruthlessly with the greatest possible repression, throwing so many people behind prison bars under the powers given to them under section 98, should now get up on the floor of the House and protest so vehemently against section 98 Govt. The Central Government is really controlling the Punjab Government under section 98 of the Act and it is therefore a matter of surprise that he should not raise a protest. Again, he said that he was leading in the "Grow More Food" campaign, that he was leading in the matter of recruitment for the military and he enumerated so many other directions in which he was leading; but he very conveniently left out that he was leading in the matter of carrying out the policy of repression and in carrying on section 98 Govt. in the Punjab.

I have already tried to make out a case that in the circumstances prevailing in this province and the catastrophe that has overtaken Bengal we should find out a *via media* by which we can safeguard the interests of the cultivators of this province and also at the same time help the poor sufferers in Bengal. The only *via media* possible is that control should be effected at a reasonable price and there should be control simultaneously on all the consumer goods and there should also be an effective machinery set up to control all the commodities. In order to set up such a machinery the co-operation of people should be obtained, and representative bodies in the province should be called upon to help in this noble cause. I am sure there will be no lack of response from the public on this point and at a time when so many people are starving and dying of hunger.

**Minister for Development :** Does the honourable member know that out of ten lakh tons we have already sold about seven lakh tons in three months?

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** I do not doubt the statement of the Honourable Minister made yesterday. All I say is that it is our duty on humanitarian grounds to help the sufferers. That is all.

**Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan** (Parliamentary Secretary): It is a great pity that this question of control of wheat and other agricultural produce should have come up for debate at a time when the people are so much influenced by the distressing conditions prevailing in Bengal. As might be observed there is nobody in this House who seriously advocates that the price of wheat should be controlled. Some honourable members who have expressed their views contrary to the policy adopted by the Government have advanced very halting arguments. They do not seem to be quite certain in their minds whether they are doing service or disservice to their own province when they talk about control of wheat prices. As far as the question of Government controlling all the necessities which the agriculturist has to buy from the market is concerned, I personally think we are working under a great misapprehension. When we seriously think that the Government of India have got powers to control all the necessities and requirements of life, I am one of those who think that the Government of India can very easily pass any kind of ordinance or orders; but the question is whether those ordinances or orders can be acted upon in the country or not. I am sure if the Government of India pass dozens of orders under the Defence of India Act controlling the prices of various articles which a zamindar requires and also controlling the price of wheat, I think the order that would be enforced would be the one controlling the price of wheat and not the orders controlling the prices of other commodities. The reason is very obvious. I for one believe that unless the public is willing to give hearty co-operation to the Government it is not within the power of any Government however mighty or strong they

[Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan]

may be, to enforce those orders. I hope I will be excused if I say on the floor of the House that in the present state of affairs the Government of India do not enjoy the confidence and trust of the people in the country. After all we must know that Government require human agents to enforce their orders. The Government have to depend upon the co-operation and good will of the subjects to carry out those orders. Unless Government enjoy the respect of the people I personally think it is impossible for them to see their orders carried out; and I have no hesitation in saying that the Government of India constituted as they are to-day do not enjoy the confidence of any body in this country. The largest political body in India, the Congress is locked up in jails. The second largest political organisation, the sole representative body of Muslims, the Muslim League, is thoroughly dissatisfied with the policy of the British Government and the Government of India. The only Government which perhaps was not quite so disgusted with the present British Government's policy was the Punjab Government. I am constrained to say that the policy adopted by the Government of India and the Secretary of State will make the people of this province also utterly disgusted with it. In these circumstances, can it be hoped that orders passed by the Government of India will prove effective? If the Government of India seriously want to put an end to the distressing conditions in Bengal—and I am afraid if the war continues for another two or three years there will not be a single province in India which will not be affected to the same degree by the same conditions as are prevailing in Bengal—if the Government of India want to put an end to the miseries of this country, the course left open to them is to try to bring about a national government with the Congress if possible, otherwise without it. Government knows that we are passing through most trying times. It is only a national government, it is only a people's government which can shoulder the responsibilities at this particular juncture. There are 9 crores of Muslims, there are the scheduled classes, there are other minorities and there is the Hindu Mahasabha who are always so wise and intelligent as to take in a friendly hand of co-operation and are always willing to shoulder the responsibilities to run the government. If the British Government, if the Secretary of State, instead of issuing White Papers based on most erroneous information, were to-day to make up their mind and call upon us to take up responsibility and to run the Government of India, I am sure that all the troubles such as those that exist in Bengal will be gone.

The second thing is that the Government of India to-day is the most inefficient government in the world. Their officers, and their ministers are responsible to nobody, they represent nobody. They have been disowned by the various communities, they have been disowned by political organisations. How do they expect that their statements will create any enthusiasm among the people? How do they expect that when someone reads the speech of the Food Member he will say, "I have great confidence in the Food Member, therefore, I shall willingly co-operate with him"? As far as the administrative part is concerned, here you will find that the Government of India are thoroughly inefficient and they are not at all up to the task. Look at the co-ordination in the department itself. I come from a district which perhaps is foremost in giving recruits. The result is that the number of people left at home to do agriculture has very much decreased with the consequence that the area which will be brought under cultivation will also be proportionately decreased. But what happens? Even now half a dozen recruiting officers will rush to Jhelum district to collect as many men as

they can. In all civilised governments there is some sense of proportion. They decide how many people are required to co-ordinate the work of agriculture. They know how many people should be asked to work in the factories to make munitions. They will know how many people should be enlisted to fight. But here everything is haphazard. There is no definite policy. Therefore the Government of India, instead of picking up quarrels with the provincial governments, should seriously try to prove equal to the task that they are entrusted to carry out. I for one do not believe in just finding faults with others, but facts are facts and they must be stated very clearly. After all we in our own province know what amount of trouble the poor villager is experiencing in his own little village. The necessities of life, such as kerosine oil is not to be found. Anything which is controlled suddenly disappears from the market. The thing is that people take pride in evading the orders. The people instead of co-operating with the authorities co-operate with the culprits in hiding those things. That is because they have no respect for those who are administering the law. If the Punjab Government's hands were forced, if some orders were inflicted upon the Punjab Government against the unanimous decision of this House, what would be the result? Will the Government carry out the policy which is against their own conventions? And if the Government is unwilling, is there any force to carry out those orders? You will know what response it will have. It will be sending the wheat into the black market and it is only the rich man who will buy. I would appeal to the honourable members not to confuse the two things. The happenings in Bengal have nothing to do with the Punjab. As the Honourable Minister for Development has proved by facts and figures, the Punjab has given its full quota. What more do they want? They are not asking for a decrease in prices. They are asking for more food. And has the Punjab Government lagged behind? On the other hand, what has the Government of India done? Has it asked America under the Lease Lend Act to supply sufficient machinery to the Punjab Government, so that the Government may be able to carry out its projects, such as the Thal Project, so that more food may be grown? Then there will be no need of control. Government instead of doing constructive things which are really useful are simply trying to coerce the zamindars. The Government of India can remove this food difficulty only if it follows a proper policy. In other countries they have been subsidising agriculture. So far as India is concerned there is nothing which the Government of India have so far even thought of doing. Therefore what is the use of finding fault with others? The Punjab is not greedy. The United Provinces has made much profit, and the Punjab does not want to make any profit at the expense of poor Bengal.

The last point that I want to make out is that the last few months' experience has shown that it is impossible for any province to carry on if it is to be dictated by the Centre. If anything, the last experience has shown that the Centre should not be allowed to have anything to do with the provinces. The provinces should be entirely independent. India is too large a country to be governed by a place like Delhi. Another artificial thing is the division of central and provincial subjects. The Punjab Government have no control over the railways if they want to send wheat to Bengal the station master sitting at the railway station will turn down the orders issued by the Development Minister for supply of wagons. Therefore it is absolutely correct that the provinces should be independent and they should have control over all the departments. With these words I resume my seat.

**Khan Sahib Chaudhri Ahmad Yar Khan** (North West Gujrat, Muhammadan, Rural) (*Urdu*): Now that so many speeches have already been made

[K. S. Chaudhri Ahmad Yar Khan]

on this resolution I do not feel any necessity for further expression of opinion on it. Nonetheless I would like to make a few observations in this behalf. Let me straight away tell you that the control which the Government of India want to impose on the price of wheat is not in the interests of zamindars. If the control is imposed it will certainly create discontent among them. The poor zamindar is already suffering from too many controlling agencies. For instance, when he takes his produce to a mandi he has no say absolutely in fixing the prices of produce. Rather it is the bania who fixes it for him. It is absolutely unnecessary to impose control on the prices of food grains, because prices of other articles which zamindars require have not been controlled. When they have to pay so very high prices for the articles of their use why should they be compelled to supply food grains at controlled prices?

My second point is this that if the prices of food grains are controlled it will adversely affect the "Grow More Food" campaign. For, the zamindars will have no inducement to grow more food grains. After all, why should the price of wheat only be controlled? Why not control the prices of all other articles? If the Government of India want to control the price of wheat with a view to make it available to the poor, I may tell them that they would not succeed in attaining their object at all. The poor will not get any wheat at all. As my friend has pointed out just now last time when the price of wheat was controlled it became very scarce and most of it, went to the black market. Not only that, the imposition of control brought in its wake troubles and sufferings for the zamindars. The agriculturists were put to great trouble, for, their scanty stocks which they had kept for marriage ceremonies or other occasions were requisitioned. If the Government had controlled the prices of other articles then they would have been justified in controlling the prices of food grains. But when they have not done so they should not control the prices of agricultural produce as well. As the Honourable Premier has pointed out the Punjabi peasant is not so very greedy that he would not agree to the controlling of prices of food-stuffs if the prices of other articles are also controlled.

In view of these considerations any control on the prices of food grains will militate against the interests of the Punjab growers. It is, therefore, submitted that agricultural produce in this province should in no case be subjected to any control, unless of course, as the Honourable Premier remarked in the course of his speech, all other commodities required by the cultivators are controlled. I do not wish to take much time of the House as all the relevant points have been discussed at length and it has been conclusively proved that a control of this nature is not only unnecessary but is at the same time unfair to the Punjab growers. I want only to convey this submission through the Punjab Government on to the Government of India that they should not do this injustice to the poor Punjab peasant who toils hard in the scorching heat of summer as well as in the biting cold of winter in order to provide food for millions. As my honourable friend, Chaudhri Ram Sarup, has remarked the wheat is red because it has been nurtured on the blood of the cultivators. Moreover when iron and other commodities required by the peasants are not controlled why should control be imposed on the agricultural produce? I wish those responsible for the recent ordinance do take a hand at the plough in the sweltering heat of summer so that they may realize what it is to be a cultivator. I am confident that after such an experience they will never think of imposing control on food grains. Once again I beg to submit that in view of the abnormal rise in the price of other

requirements of the agriculturist wheat should not be controlled until and unless all the other commodities have been controlled.

In the end I will be failing in my duty if I do not express our heart felt gratitude for the efforts made by the Honourable Minister of Revenue and other Honourable Ministers in doing all in their power to protest against this order of the Central Government. With these words I strongly support this resolution.

**Captain Sodhi Harnam Singh** (Ferozepore North, Sikh, Rural) (*Urdu*) : The resolution at present before the House presents a three-fold problem, firstly, whether a control of this nature is at all necessary, secondly, if all the other commodities are controlled it will still be necessary to impose price control on the food grains ; and lastly, in case of the imposition of control it will prove a success. Much has been said on the first point and I need not take much time of the House in discussing it at length. Nevertheless I would like to make a few submissions in this connection. First of all, it will not be wrong to say that control on wheat is already in existence. It is on account of that that wheat is not fetching a price which could be got for it. Again, the Government of India has put a ban on the export of wheat from this province and they make purchases only through the Government agencies for whom the price of wheat has already been fixed. Now with the exception of local consumption wheat cannot find any market if its export is banned. Naturally the result will be that prices will not rise and that is what has happened. In view of this the present policy of the Government of India is based on sheer injustice. Although the War is still on yet they already seem to have forgotten the sacrifices that the Punjab peasant has made in their cause.

The second point is that if all the other commodities are controlled, will it still be necessary to impose control on wheat? I beg to submit that if wheat prices have gone up to-day, why should the Government of India step in and impose a control on them? Did they ever think of protecting the peasant when he was not even getting one-fourth of his cost of production? Now if his fortune has turned and he is for the first time going to get a return on his cost of production the proper thing for the Government of India should have been to control all other commodities required by him and to exempt agricultural produce altogether. It would not even then be doing any favour but merely doing justice to him. His services towards the war effort in men and money deserve that he should be treated well at the hands of those for whom he has been giving his blood on the various fields of battle.

The third point that this resolution brings to one's mind is, if a control is imposed will it succeed? Experience teaches us that any attempt at instituting control is bound to fail. Last time when wheat was controlled it went underground and people could not get even a grain at any price. Again, the District Magistrate of Lahore has time and again tried to control one article after another but it has made the article scarce and dearer than before. Take the case of fuel, for instance. The moment it was controlled it was impossible to get it from anywhere. Similar has been the fate of control on milk, washing soda, and several other articles and even the control on sugar and the complicated machinery for its distribution have not proved successful.

I want to sound a note of warning that if the Government of India decide to impose a control, the zamindars will give up tilling poor lands which they had started under the Grow More Food campaign and thus a considerable amount of

[Captain Sodhi Harnam Singh]

food cereals would be lost to the country. Again considering wheat to be unprofitable they will turn their attention to growing cotton, gram or sugarcane instead. I remember that when control was imposed last year I gave instructions to my tenants to stop sowing wheat and turn to other crops. The result was that I had to buy wheat for my personal use. If this happens, will the Government compel them to raise only wheat and no other crop? I cannot understand why the Councillors of the Government of India recommend such disturbing ordinances and try to deprive the British Government of the sympathies of the zamindars who are the only well wishers left to them. I am confident that they will get copies of the debate that has taken place in this House and will try to understand the cultivator's point of view. With these words I whole heartedly support this resolution and request the House to pass it unanimously.

**Subedar Major Raja Farman Ali Khan** (Gujar Khan, Muhammadan, Rural) (Urdu): Sir, Bengal is a land of many rivers, abundant rain and rich soil. This year the production, too, has been as usual. But in spite of all that the people of that province are not left with six months food even. Two things are at the bottom. One is the capitalist 'bania', who has no sympathy with anybody except his own interests and his interests demand that he should export food grains at the expense of the starving population of his province. The other is the inefficient Government of that province. Why did the Ministers of the Government allow the export of food grains? The countries like Assam, Nepal and Kashmir, which do not possess such a rich soil as Bengal does, are pulling on, while Bengal is confronted with a very serious situation. All that is due to the foolishness of the Bengal Government and the selfishness of the bania who grows dishonest as his wealth increases.

**Mr. Speaker:** The honourable member should withdraw his remarks regarding the alleged dishonesty of bania.

**Subedar Major Raja Farman Ali Khan:** I withdraw it. It has been said in other provinces as well as in England that the zamindars of the Punjab are withholding food grains. It is news to me. Here in the Punjab 80 per cent of zamindars are keeping away starvation with difficulty. There are hardly 100 or 150 zamindars in the whole of the Punjab who grow more food grains than their own requirements. Nor is it correct to say that the zamindars here are hoarding food-stuff, because in their small houses there is no place for godowns. Godowns are possessed by banias only.

Let us try to calculate the household expenses of an average zamindar family, say with one husband and wife and two children. Calculated at 6 chhatacks per head, they require *ata* of one rupee per day, ghee of at least 8 annas, fuel of 4 annas and vegetables of 4 annas. This comes to Rs. 2 per day or Rs. 720 per year. Clothes, too, are required for each member of the family according to the requirements of the season. The minimum expense of clothes is estimated at Rs. 720 per year. Apart from it, kerosine oil of Rs. 14, soap of Rs. 20 and something for medicine, which owing to the kindness of our Honourable Minister we get from the dispensaries even at the rate of 3 annas per dose, are also required. We have to spend about Rs. 150 per year on the agricultural implements as well. Then some time we have to buy new oxen. Now-a-days an ordinary ox costs about Rs. 300. So, the yearly expense of an ordinary zamindar family comes to about Rs. 1,500. I have not yet included in it many small necessities like tobacco, etc.

In my ilaga an average zamindar cultivates 5 acres of land with one plough, and average production there is about 6 maunds per acre. Thus the total production of an average zamindar in a year is 30 maunds and at the rate of Rs. 11 per maund its value is Rs. 330. When the price of wheat was Rs. 5 per maund the prices of muslin *latha* and *khaddar* were annas 8.5 and 4 per yard, respectively. Now the prices of these articles have increased ten times. If the price of wheat is increased eight times only, it becomes Rs. 40 per maund.

You can imagine for yourself that it is awfully difficult for a family of eight or ten members to keep their body and soul together when the prices are so abnormal. I ask, how long would they be able to live in these most expensive days? I am, therefore, in favour of control provided old prices are restored, that is, if the prices of *khaddar* and muslin come down to three annas and four annas a yard respectively. And if the Government deem it necessary that control over wheat should be instituted then keeping in view the present exorbitant prices, the price of wheat should be fixed at the rate of Rs. 40 per maund. Otherwise the control of price of wheat would do no good to the people of the country because the beoparis have run amuck and they do not obey the orders of the Government.

Then, Sir, the province of Bengal has gained enough at the cost of our province. People of that province have profited. They have been taking articles from this province and selling them there at comparatively high prices. As the time left at my disposal is very short, I, with these few remarks close my speech and sit down.

**Pir Akbar Ali** (Fazilka, Muhammadan, Rural) (*Urdu*): At the outset it did not occur to me that the resolution now under discussion would be opposed by any member of the House. If the honourable members sitting opposite had carefully gone through the statement given by the Honourable Minister, Sardar Baldev Singh, they would not have felt the necessity of opposing the resolution, rather they would have welcomed it. I am at a loss to understand why this resolution is being opposed by some of the honourable members. I am of the opinion that the honourable mover of the resolution deserves congratulation on putting such a useful proposal before the House. In fact the resolution will be beneficial not for the Punjab alone but for the whole of India. I may also point out that control scheme cannot be carried out efficiently unless and until it is enforced at the very source of a commodity. Otherwise it will prove impracticable and impossible. I think honourable members would agree with me in saying that public ignorance and corruption means the same thing. For instance, when an order was passed by the Punjab Government to the effect that any person found in possession of more than 20 maunds of wheat would be challaned, the patwaris extracted a lot of money from ignorant zamindars by threatening them that their houses would be searched at a slight hint to the police, although this was not the intention of the Government. My point, therefore, is that control cannot be workable in any province of India so long as the public of that province remains ignorant, and the police and other departments are dishonest. Apart from that if control on the price of wheat is instituted, may I ask, who is going to provide us additional staff for carrying it out successfully in the province? Will it be provided by the Government of India or the Punjab Government? Then, Sir, there is one class of people which think that the war should be prolonged and that class is constituted of people who neither earn their livelihood by the sweat of their brow nor by serving their country on the battlefield. These are



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the people who have been engaged by the Government authorities to sell everyday commodities like match-boxes, caustic soda and sugar at controlled prices. I can unhesitatingly say that in these abnormal times either these people or the military contractors have earned with both hands. Zamindars are accused of profiteering for nothing. In fact, they have not profiteered so much as the classes I have just now mentioned. If, however, a zamindar has profiteered a little by abnormal prices of wheat, we should also keep in view the fact that the prices of other necessities of life have also risen four or five times high. For instance, the prices of fuel, iron and cattle have abnormally risen and you will be surprised to know that hiring one plough costs ten rupees a day at present and maximum land ploughed with it can never exceed two kanals. Besides, we have to pay Rs. 1½ for daily labour in Ferozepore district. By quoting these facts what I wish to emphasise is that whereas essentials of life for zamindars have become so expensive it will be unjustifiable to say that abnormal prices have stood them in good stead. I would say the brunt of war has equally fallen on them. Now under these conditions if the price of wheat is controlled, the zamindars would give up wheat cultivation and would start cultivating vegetables and fodder instead, which can fetch comparatively good prices to them.

So far as the Bengal famine is concerned I may submit that our heart-felt sympathy is with that province. But we are not responsible for the calamity, it is God-sent. We have also been facing similar failure of crops and other calamities in our province, though on a small scale as compared with that of Bengal. I may refer to my own district of Ferozepore where the present has been a drought season and added to that most of the wheat crop has been spoilt by locust swarm and the cotton crop has been wasted by *tela*. Such calamities are generally God-sent, so one should not sacrifice the interests of one province for that of another. Control of price of wheat can never come to the aid of the poor as they have already been undergoing a lot of trouble by the enforcement of control on other commodities, such as kerosine oil and sugar. Labourers have to suffer much on that account as they have to spend one day for getting issue ticket and the other day is spent for getting the thing they require. Now, keeping this condition in view, we can say that the labour class would be doomed in case control is instituted on every necessity of life, because no time will be left at their disposal to attend to their work.

With these few remarks, Sir, I strongly urge that this sword of control hanging over our head can neither be useful to the poor nor to the middle class people. It should, therefore, be taken away by the Government of India.

**Maulvi Mazhar Ali Azhar** (North-Eastern Towns, Muhammadan, Urban), (Urdu): Sir, I do not want to join issue on the point whether the Punjab Government is on the right or the action taken by the Central Government is unexceptionable. I am not opposed to, or in favour of,

6 p. m.  
any steps that the Central Government might take in connection with the introduction of price control in the Punjab. The question is not of principle but of administrative detail. Instead of entering into lengthy discussions on the subject of control or de-control, the main problem before us is to see that the calamity which has befallen Bengal does not befall us also. We must devise ways and means to overcome it. In spite of the enforcement or non-enforcement of price control order, conditions like those in Bengal might appear in the Punjab. If to-day the price control order were removed in Bengal, the conditions over there would not improve and thus it would be no use doing so, and if there

had been no price control the situation would not have been any the better. In this country there are many places which are densely populated with zamindars and farmers who cannot afford two square meals a day for years together. I wish to quote an instance in this connection. At present in Bengal zamindars and farmers who own small pieces of land and small houses are dying of starvation. Even these poor people are not saved from the clutches of death. So rural people die as well as urban people and agriculturists as well as non-agriculturists.

It is the duty of the Government of India, the Provincial Governments and His Majesty's Government in Great Britain to make an adequate provision of foodstuffs in India. The policy of the British Government so far has been to look to the food requirements of Britain only. Even after the fall of Burma they made no efforts to secure sufficient supplies of food grains for Bengal. The former Premier of Bengal protested against the export of rice from his province but the Central Government exported rice arbitrarily from his province and thus created difficulties for Bengal. In this connection I wish to point out that in spite of the fact that at present large stocks of wheat exist in the Punjab, the Punjab Government on repeated requests to export foodgrains to Bengal express their inability on the ground of non-availability of transport facilities. But if it is really so, the question arises, if there is famine in any district of the Punjab itself what transport facilities will be available for the Punjab Government? If Bengal can die with surplus stocks in the Punjab, people in certain parts of the Punjab may die with surplus stocks elsewhere. It is but meet and proper for the Government to keep in view the condition of big towns. It is for them to see that adequate foodstuffs are kept in reserve which will last at least for one year, especially for big towns with a population of six or seven lakhs. It has been further pointed out by my honourable friends sitting opposite that they would introduce price control order in the event of failure of crops, etc. But, may I ask the Punjab Government, what is the good of their agreeing to the institution of control in the event of failure of crops or on account of the occurrence of any unhealthy situation due to scarcity of foodstuffs, etc.? It is during bumper harvests that we should make provision for lean years. Perhaps my honourable friends opposite have forgotten that in spite of the introduction of price control order in Bengal fixing the price of rice at Rs. 20 per maund, the people could get rice only on payment of Rs. 60 or Rs. 70 and even Rs. 100 per maund and they suffer untold hardships and are dying in thousands every day.

The people in the Punjab are face to face with poverty of an acute form, but Government is doing nothing to ameliorate the hard lot of the poor people in general and the poor employees in particular. In this connection I wish to quote an instance. The Punjab Government effected economy of paper in the Punjab Government Press. The matter which previously used to be printed on at least three pages is now being printed on one page only and as a consequence economy has been effected in labour also by paying the old rates for one page. Poor compositors' earnings have been reduced from Rs. 70 and more in 1939 to Rs. 35 or less in 1943, and it is very difficult for them to make their both ends meet under the present distressing conditions, but no one heeds the complaints of the poor compositors. People are disposing of their properties, lands, ornaments, in fact whatsoever they can lay their hands upon, but the Government seems to be an unconcerned spectator of all this. I wish to sound a note of warning to the Punjab Government that things are already hard and they might become worse, not merely gradually but even all of a sudden. The time is now for chalking out a detailed programme and then acting upon it. This worldy war that is now

(Maulvi Mazhar Ali Azhar)

going on between the Central and Provincial Governments will lead us nowhere.

**Shrimati Raghbir Kaur** (Amritsar, Sikh, Women) (*Punjab*): Sir, I rise to oppose the resolution now before the House. Honourable members sitting opposite remarked that in the interests of the zamindars and kisans there should be no control over the price of wheat. But I wish to point out that so far as poor kisans are concerned, they have already sold their wheat-stocks in the months of Har and Sawan. The very contention that the poor kisans will suffer by controlling the price of wheat, is wrong and groundless. Honourable members sitting opposite are holding out false hopes to these poor kisans. Wherefrom will the poor kisans get wheat? What do the honourable members sitting opposite know about the difficulties of the poor kisans? Themselves they are rich and live in big bungalows and earn lakhs of rupees. How can they form a correct idea about the loss that these poor kisans have to suffer? Wheat stocks are to be found in the *kothies* of these rich people sitting opposite. It is they who derive not slight but huge profits. It is the stockists and hoarders who oppose the introduction of control over the prices of wheat. Do the honourable members not know that the poor kisans who bear the scorching heat of Har and Sawan and the biting cold of Poh and Maghar, have already parted with the meagre stocks of wheat that they possessed? They do not derive any profit nowadays. If a kisan owning about five or six acres of land were asked whether or not the price of wheat should be controlled, he will certainly be indifferent to it. He will also tell you that if anybody derives any profit from it, it is these big zamindars possessing 100 or 200 squares of land, who stand to profit by it. They suck the blood of poor people by fixing the prices of wheat to their best advantage. Recently price control was introduced in Lahore, but the commodities that needed control were left untouched with a view to allowing the stockists and hoarders to make huge profits. If an efficient and effective price control is enforced throughout the province, I am sure all the commodities will be made available to the public in general and the poor sections of the public in particular.

Further, I wish to submit that the price of sugar was subjected to control in Lahore. What was the result? I myself witnessed my sister Begum Rashida Latif Baji, who unfortunately is not to be found in her seat at present, pushing the rich women back and poor women to the front at the sugar depot. In fact she herself told me that the depot was meant for the poor and not for the rich and that was why she was clearing the way for the poor women.

I do not wish to enter into any further details. I shall only emphasise that considering the situation in Bengal all commodities and not merely wheat should be controlled. During these hard days it is not possible for the wives of clerks and labourers to purchase cloth costing Rs. 14 or Rs. 15 a yard. No doubt rich women can purchase things worth lakhs of rupees in Anarkali. To-day the position is such that a poor man cannot afford to buy cloth. If you please bear these facts in mind, you will come to know the gravity of the situation in the cities. There is famine also in the Punjab. To-day famine has overtaken Bengal. Do not please be self-complacent that the Punjab is free from famine. To-morrow famine might break out in the Punjab as well. If the house of your neighbour is engulfed in flames, do not think your house is safe. Be sure that your house will also be destroyed soon. Take a lesson from the predicament of Bengal.

Mr. Speaker, as the time at my disposal is short I finish my speech with these words.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Abdul Rahman Khan** (Jullundur North, Muhammadan, Rural) (*Punjab*): The resolution now under consideration has been discussed by both the sides of the House. Some honourable members are in favour of the system of control, while others have opposed it. We have seen the conditions, both when the control was in force and when there was no control. When the Government enforced control over wheat and other foodstuffs and fixed their rates these very commodities which are essential for our existence were seen no more. They could be had only with great difficulty by paying a much higher price than that fixed by the control order. The system of control brought in its wake the vice of corruption. It exceeded the control price. Just to illustrate my point I give you an instance. A certain shopkeeper purchased twenty maunds of wheat. When he had traversed a little distance, he was met by a police constable on the way. He was told by the constable that he was not allowed to carry wheat, and so he was taken to the nearest police station. He was imprisoned. The matter reached such a pitch, that he was not set at liberty until he bribed the officials with some wheat. Likewise there are innumerable instances. In short the system of control is awfully intolerable and equally is its absence intolerable.

It is well known that there is control over sugar. But it is a fact that the needy people cannot get sugar. The poor destitute widows and sick people cannot get sugar. It is well nigh impossible for the poor to get sugar. If at all any one gets sugar, he must first of all bribe the people concerned. One has to adopt many unfair means to get even a little quantity of sugar. For instance, the control price of a bag of sugar is Rs.45 but the controller who is entitled to give sugar must get Rs. 50 as war fund before he gives a bag of sugar. Thus one has to cross a rubicon before he may hope to get sugar.

Our Government has increased the prices of all commodities much more than those of foreign countries. In other countries eatables are not produced in greater quantities than in our country. Our province is very fertile. For instance, in England potatoes only are sown and that too only for two and a half months. As compared with it our province, which is called proverbially 'the sparrow of gold' is rich in fertility, in resources and in everything, yet the people are dying of starvation, while on the other hand in England everything is very dear, the standard of living of those people is very high, yet they do not die of hunger and starvation. From this fact one infers that since the time the English people came to this country, it has lost all its fertility, all its resources and thus it has become a poverty-stricken, famine-stricken and a destitute country. Especially to-day one cannot say that it is owing to war, that the country has reached such a disastrous state. Even before the War, its people were hungry and destitute. Many districts of the Punjab, especially the district of Hissar, have ever been in the grip of famine. The only remedy for all these ills is to improve the administration of Britishers. When it is done or when they have been turned out of this country, then and only then can our country be prosperous. The English people know the knack of ruling us. They know that when the Indians are hungry, they are more obedient, and they can be recruited at cheap rates of pay. They know also this much that out of a population of four crores if a few are fed and provided for, the rest need not be cared for. They are only content with paying heed to the big bellied people. Such is the state of administration of our Government.

The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram and other Honourable Ministers always boast of having sympathy for us, wherever they go, they must preach

(Chaudhri Muhammad Abdul Rahman Khan)

war-effort to the masses. But they have never cared for one fact. How do they account for differential treatment between the pay of European and Indian soldiers ? Why are the brave Indian soldiers paid less ? They are shedding their blood only for the cause of the Englishmen, they have no other cause for themselves, yet they are paid only Rs. 14 a month and as compared with it the English soldiers get a monthly pay of Rs. 100 or Rs. 150. When such callous treatment is meted out to the Indian soldiers, it is certain that their dependants will starve. After all, how can one meet his expenses within the petty sum of Rs. 14 ? It is clear that from this disparity that the fact of starving the masses is not new. Since the day this Government usurped our country, our country has become destitute and miserable. Famine has become the order of the day.

We have never heard independent countries such as England, America, Russia, Germany and Japan having ever faced the pangs of hunger and starvation. Even the free countries like those of England and America have been embroiled in war with a view to solve the problem of hunger. The people of these belligerent countries may die of bomb-shells, of machine guns but they are not heard of dying of hunger. To-day the solution of all predicaments is to drive out the English from this country. Then there will be no more famine. The English have devised all means to keep their own existence intact. They show only lip sympathy to the Indians by delivering long speeches in the House of Commons. These are cunning devices employed for cheating the Indians. Have ever the Unionist Ministry and the other honourable members ever felt any concern for their country ? True fact is, that they are concerned with only their own selves. They are selfish, and whatever they do, they do for the maintenance and the existence of the British Raj. They do not care a two pence for the poverty and for the famine of their own people. Our Honourable Ministers are rolling in lakhs, they are owners of huge factories, and yet they are given pay of Rs. 5,000 a month. What do they care for the needs of the poverty-stricken and famine-stricken population ? They can never understand the pangs of hunger. They sleep with their bellies full with all the best they can get hold of. They can be compared to utensils. For instance, when a utensil is empty, there is air in it. If you put water in it, the air gets out. Similarly, if a man gets wealth, the fear of God gets out of him. If you provide a God-fearing man with a big salary, the fear of God will be no more in him. So the Honourable Ministers are only concerned with their estates, salaries, fashions, cinema-shows, clubs and what not. They have no time for thinking about the state of the poor.

Whatever I have said about the system of control and the vices which are concomitant of the system of control is true. And if anybody challenges the correctness of my statement, I am prepared to accept the challenge. If the sugar depots are given eight bags of sugar for sale, they sell only one or two bags and the rest of them are sold at very high prices or they are given to the Police Inspector or other big officials as bribery. These are few vices of the system of corruption. The best remedy for all ills is to drive out the English men from this country.

**Sardar Lal Singh** (Ludhiana Central, Sikh, Rural) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, the resolution which is now before us has been discussed at full length. With the exception of four honourable members no one else has opposed it. I think my friend, Lala Sita Ram, did not oppose the resolution. He only said that he was prepared to co-operate with the Government only if some reasonable prices were

fixed. But I wonder at the opposition of those three honourable members who have betrayed the zamindars, and who were elected on the tickets of zamindars. They have openly shown lack of their duty towards the zamindars by opposing this resolution. The wording of the resolution is quite clear and intelligible. I wonder what has misled them.

The simple question before us is whether under the existing circumstances the control of wheat is advisable and further whether it can be as effective as it ought to be. It goes without saying that the present circumstances do not justify the control of the price of wheat inasmuch as the prices of the various articles which the agriculturists have to purchase are soaring very high. The cost of production has risen enormously. If, however, the prices of all these consumable goods are also brought within a reasonable limit, we shall have absolutely no hesitation in considering the question of controlling the price of wheat. Then and only then will it become a practicable proposition. My honourable sister Bihi Ragbir Kaur, has said that we the zamindar members did not plough and till the land with our own hands. She too cannot be said to have been carrying the food on her head to the tillers of the soil. We must therefore avoid such side issues, and tackle the real problem which is before us. Let us discard all flimsy arguments and clinch the issues. Let us not lose sight of the fact that if the price of wheat is controlled, it will also adversely affect the prices of maize, barley, jawar and gram. Thus the control of wheat will automatically touch the pockets of the poor kisans and petty land holders with whom my honourable friends, Sardar Sohan Singh Josh and Sardar Teja Singh Swatantar profess so much sympathy. After all, makki, barley and gram are the real wealth of the kisans and if their prices are reduced, the poor kisans will be ruined in this age of dearness and scarcity. I would, therefore, appeal to the House to adopt this salutary resolution unanimously. I am already glad to see that almost all the honourable members who have participated in this debate have supported my resolution with the exception of five members only. But when we consider the personnel of those dissenting members, it becomes clear that they are opposing it for the sake of opposing the Government and not on the basis of merit or demerit of the resolution. Again, sentiments have been brought in while only cold logic had to be employed for considering this highly important subject. They have tried to make capital out of the sufferings of Bengal. We have every sympathy with the famine stricken people of that unfortunate province and the Honourable Minister incharge of food in the Punjab has already given facts and figures to prove that we have done a lot to help Bengal in her difficulty. In spite of all that my honourable friends have condemned our Government as much as the Government of Bengal. What should I say about that cruel government which has been charging a profit of one rupee per maund of wheat which the Punjab has been supplying to Bengal. The Government of India has been doing this. Again the Government of the United Provinces too has been charging a profit of Rs. 3 per maund and the Sind Government has also been profiteering in the same manner. Let us not forget that Bengal has the monopoly of iron, coal, jute and tea. But in the Punjab our wealth only consists of our agricultural produce and even that is being snatched away from us. That shall not be. (Sardar Sohan Singh Josh : We have equally condemned the Government of Bengal). But you should have condemned it more than you have condemned the Punjab Government, because that Government has been profiteering at the cost of the famine stricken people of its own province. It has been charging a "jazia" so to say by charging a profit on the cost price of wheat which we have been supplying to Bengal. That

(Sardar Lal Singh)

was highly objectionable. Let us come to the real issue and see the wording of the resolution. It runs—

“ This Assembly recommends to the Government to convey to the Government of India the emphatic opinion of this House that any attempt to control the price of wheat will result in very keen resentment and discontent among the agricultural masses.”

Now the resolution is clear that in the present circumstances the control of the price of wheat alone is not justified. But if the prices of all other consumable goods are controlled that will be a different matter altogether. At present the control of the price of wheat is unjustifiable. I, therefore, appeal to the House to pass this resolution unanimously.

**Minister of Development** (The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh) : Before I reply to the criticism of my honourable friend opposite, Sardar Sohan Singh Josh and of others who have spoken against the resolution, I wish to make the position of the Punjab Government clear. So far as control is concerned, we have a measure of it already and have never opposed it in its present form. There are restrictions on transport so far as the railway is concerned. Ceiling prices have been fixed by the Punjab Government in consultation with the Government and there is a check on stocks. We have accepted this control and have never said a word against it. But as far as the statutory control of prices is concerned, we make no secret of it that we are opposed to any unilateral statutory control of prices. We have made our position clear that unless the Government of India can effectively control the prices of other goods and those goods are made available, the Punjab Government is not prepared to accept any control of prices of foodgrains. (Hear, hear.) The Government of India, owing to our protest, have now come up with an ordinance against hoarding of consumers' goods, but I am afraid this ordinance will only remain on paper and will not be effective. However, we are prepared to see how it works and we will see how far the Government of India is able to reduce the prices of consumers' goods needed by growers. If they effectively reduce the prices of consumers' goods for the growers and make these available to them, the prices of wheat will automatically come in parity with the prices of other articles. Only if then we do not succeed will the Government of India be able to say that the price of wheat is unreasonable and that they want to control it.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh** : So you have shifted from the argument given in the Conference ?

**Minister of Development** : No. This has been our consistent position. Coming next to the question of rationing, Sardar Sohan Singh Josh said we are opposed to it. I am neither opposed to nor afraid of it. If the time comes when rationing is needed in the Punjab, we shall not hesitate to introduce it. As a matter of fact what is the position now ? The fact is that we are already working on a rationed basis. I will presently place before the House facts and figures to prove that the available balance after providing for the exportable surplus is just about equal to the needs of the population.

I have one word to say about the statements that have been published by us from time to time. Some people have the impression that we have been issuing statements in order to throw mud on others. I wish to make it clear that that was not my intention. We have not tried to shift the blame on any other Government. We have been issuing these statements purely in self-defence. We have demanded explanations from the Government of India and from other Governments but up till to-day nobody has been able to give us satisfactory

replies in their defence. I am sure that none of the Governments who we say have been profiteering, can put up anything in self-defence.

Some honourable members have said that the credit for the "Grow More Food" campaign does not go to the Punjab Government. I was really surprised to hear these remarks coming from Sardar Sohan Singh Josh. Whom does the credit then go to? As a matter of fact I am not surprised at this opposition to the resolution, because from what Sir Chhotu Ram has said the opposition could be clearly understood. The Punjab put in 88 lakhs of additional acres under food grains last year. As a result thereof we got about a million tons of additional food grains over and above that of 1941-42. My friends said that the credit of growing more food grains must go to the Punjab growers and not to the Punjab Government. Very well. But this year we exported 15 lakhs tons. Evidently he did not look at the figures properly. He was speaking at random and forgot that during the years before the war Punjab used to export  $7\frac{1}{2}$  lakhs tons of food grains only. I say that as a result of the "Grow More Food" campaign and as a result of the production of more food-grains, we have been able to export last year over 15 lakhs tons of food-grains. I ask my honourable friend, where has this increase in export come from? It is the Punjab Government that can justly claim credit for it as the result of "Grow More Food" campaign and the increased production that we got.

I have already said that the increase in the area under food-grains in relation to the total figures for the whole of India amounted to 40 per cent. All other Provincial Governments have been subsidised by the Central Government. Some have been paid 5 lakhs, 10 lakhs and others may have received even 20 lakhs or more. But the Punjab has not received a single pie for its campaign. We have done it all voluntarily. We have been asking the Government of India to compensate us for reducing the area under short staple cotton. They promised to do so, but have not paid a single pie till now. This much for the subject of "Grow More Food" campaign.

I want now to deal with the question of rationing. Sardar Sohan Singh Josh and Sardar Teja Singh asked why we should not have rationing in the province. The people in Bengal are dying. I have myself expressed our willingness to make sacrifices by cutting down our own food in order to help Bengal. I will now give figures of the position in the Punjab to-day. The total population of the Punjab according to 1941 census is 2,84 lakhs. The urban population is 43 lakhs and the rural population is 2,40 lakhs. Taking the same quantity of food that has been allowed in Bombay, that is, one pound for adult and half a pound for a child and one and a half pound each for the members of the labouring class, what do we find? We need for our rural population which requires the same as the labouring class rations, at the rate of  $1\frac{1}{2}$  lbs. a day for every adult and half a pound for every child, 47 lakhs tons per year. In the urban population the adults are 82,15,000 and children number 10,71,000. For them the rations at the rate of one pound for every adult and half a pound for every child per day come to 6,11,000 tons per year. That is to say, the total needs of our urban and rural populations on the same basis at which ration has been allowed in Bombay, are 53,14,000 tons of food grains. This figure does not taken into consideration the increase of population in the last two years.

Now I come to the food grains position in the Punjab. Last year we had a bumper crop and we produced 74 lakhs tons of all kinds of food grains. Out of this 74 lakhs tons, about 10 lakhs tons were gram. Everybody is aware that all the gram that we produce is not for human consumption. Most of it is used



**(Minister of Development)**

for feeding livestock. According to the census and according to the expert information available in this province, about 7 lakh tons of gram are consumed by our cattle. Thus 58 lakh tons is required to feed for our population and 7 lakh tons to feed our cattle. That gives us a total of 60 lakhs tons. Now our production as I have stated was 74 lakhs tons. If we deduct our 60 lakhs tons of consumption from 74 lakhs tons of food grains, we are left with a balance of 14 lakhs tons. Against this 14 lakhs tons of surplus we have agreed to give to the Government of India or deficit provinces 15 lakhs tons of food grains. Honourable members will thus see that we are already living on a rationed basis. That being so, I see no necessity whatever why we should be burdened with the expensive machinery of rationing. In view of the fact that we have met our obligations to Bengal and to the Government of India in full and in view of the fact that our exportable surplus is based on the rationed basis that is allowed in Bombay, I say that there is no case at present for introducing rationing in this province. (*Hear, hear*).

Then we on this side of the House were accused of hoarding. I was also a member of the opposition and I used to sit over there and we put the same blame on this side of the House that the Government consisted of big landlords. But I saw a report the other day in some vernacular papers—and I do not bother about them because there are so many incorrect reports every day that it is hardly possible correcting them all—to the effect that Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram and myself were hoarding big stocks. I can say that as far as I am concerned I have practically no stocks at all and much less could Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram have any. Anyway, let us look at the charge of hoarding. It is also stated that Sir Chhotu Ram was preaching hoarding. That I must say is a misrepresentation of what he has said.

**An Honourable Member :** Poor fellow, he is always misunderstood (*Laughter*).

**Minister of Development :** Look at the arrivals in the mandis. You must have seen from my statement that arrivals in mandis this year were more than in previous years. If it is a fact that the Punjab kisan has been hoarding, I ask you, how is it that more grain came to the Punjab mandis this year than in previous years? The total arrivals in mandis during the current wheat year to August 1943, were 425,700 tons as compared with 371,000 tons during the corresponding period of last year.

It has been said that Bengal was starving and the Punjab had not parted with its stock. The latter allegation is not only wrong but mischievous. In May when the Basic Plan came into force, we purchased for export on behalf of the Government of India, 195,512 tons of food grains. Out of this only 16,187 tons were despatched during the month and at the end of May 179,325 tons remained undespached lying in different godowns and on railway platforms. I ask my friend, was that too our responsibility? In June, 42,226 tons were bought, 67,582 tons were despatched and there remained an undespached balance of 158,669 tons. In July, 56,000 tons were bought, 73,459 tons were despatched and there remained an undespached balance of 141,637 tons. In the month of September, 27,000 tons were bought, 42,000 tons were despatched and there still remains an undespached balance of 63,000 tons.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** What about the North-Western Railway *communiqué*?

**Minister of Development :** I do not know. The facts are there. Nobody admits his fault. And then the Government of India have not admitted that they have made a profit. But I challenge anybody to say that our facts are wrong. If anybody proves that our facts and figures are wrong, we are quite prepared to take the blame. I can tell you one thing. We will never keep anything secret. I also repeat that it is our duty in view of the seriousness of the situation, to come forward with any help that we can give. (*Hear, hear*).

With regard to the statutory price control, as I have said, our position is that the present form of control is quite effective and that there is no necessity for a statutory control of food grain prices, until and unless the prices of other articles are also controlled at reasonable levels. I may also tell you straight-away that there is no use fixing a statutory price control unless we are prepared to requisition the stocks of growers. Without requisitioning the stocks of the growers, statutory price control will be ineffective and, as you know, the conditions in this province are such that it will be impossible to resort to requisitioning in rural areas. It will create chaos. No Government can in present conditions resort to requisitioning in the villages. I do not know if my honourable friend, Sardar Sohan Singh Josh is in favour of requisitioning.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Yes. Stocks of those who pay a land revenue of more than Rs. 200 should be requisitioned.

**Minister of Development :** We have been hearing different speakers for the last two days who all agree with us. It is only my friend who has interrupted me and one or two of his communist colleagues who are the only exceptions and are in favour of statutory price control and requisitioning. Otherwise, the whole of the Punjab, the kisans, the district magistrates, landlords and even the dealers are not in favour of statutory price control and requisitioning. (*Hear, hear and cheers*).

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Do not cite district magistrates. They are your henchmen.

**Minister of Development :** They have given us their reasoned views. I would like to say one more word about statutory price control. The whole idea of statutory price control is to keep the prices at a reasonable level. Since the beginning of January we have had control in some form. What has been the result? The highest price that the Government of India has paid is Rs. 12-4-0 per maund and the lowest Rs. 8-8-0. When the price in the market was Rs. 8-8-0 the Government of India had no arrangements for buying and storage of all stocks that were offered in the mandis. Whose fault was this? It was certainly not the fault of the Punjab grower nor of the Punjab Government. The fault lay on somebody else who did not make adequate arrangements to purchase and store the stock that was available for sale at the time of the harvest. If the Government of India were in fact anxious to make suitable arrangements to meet the difficulties of deficit areas and of the starving people of Bengal, what prevented them from buying at the time? They should have made immediate storage arrangements and stored all available wheat. There was absolutely no other method of meeting the situation. The Government of India had to pay Rs. 12-4-0 as the highest price for wheat. The average works out at Rs. 10 or Rs. 10-4-0 per maund and I challenge anybody to say, taking into consideration the prices of other articles that Rs. 10-4-0 is an unreasonable price to pay for wheat. Taking into consideration the rise of prices of other articles. I can confidently say that Rs. 10-4-0 per maund for wheat in the Punjab is quite low and that the

(Minister of Development)

purpose of the statutory price control has been fulfilled. As a fact the Government of India should be grateful to the Punjab for its having kept the prices of wheat so low, (*Hear, hear*). Instead of unnecessarily blaming us for the sins of others. The real facts are that the Government of India had no storage or satisfactory transport arrangements when plenty of stocks were available in the province at about Rs. 9 per maund in the month of June. They also did not make any purchases when plenty of wheat was offered at Rs. 11 and Rs. 11-4-0 per maund. I may mention here that the prices in the Punjab at this time and all along were about Rs. 3 per maund lower than in Hapur, which is the principal grain market in the United Provinces. Even now when the price is about Rs. 10-10-0, they are not making any purchases. May I know how in such circumstances, the Punjab can be blamed for hoarding? And does this policy of theirs show any anxiety to meet the needs of starving Bengal?

Before I sit down I want to refer to another matter and that is about the remarks made by the Secretary of State for India. We were very much surprised to read these remarks. I can say without any fear of contradiction that the Punjab had rendered wonderful services in this war. We have rendered wonderful services as far as war funds and war loans are concerned. We have done better than any other province in supplying man power for armed forces. Our share is more than 50 per cent. in the fighting forces. And the Punjab grower at home has done better than the rest of India but together by supplying food grains to the deficit areas and to the Government of India. (*Hear, hear and cheers*). In the face of these achievements it has pained me very much to read the remarks of the Secretary of State for India. We had expected a good word but were shocked to read his adverse remarks. Mr. Kirby, the Rationing Adviser to the Government of India, was here the other day. He saw the conditions in the Punjab and I give him credit for what he said at the press conference, that there was no doubt that the Punjab which was the granary of India was doing a magnificent job. In fact every impartial man will perforce express this opinion. It is sending its quotas of wheat, rice, millets, etc., as agreed upon. Mr. Amery when making his remarks took into consideration only millets and rice and gram and ignored wheat altogether. What is the position of wheat to-day? As I have already said we were required to supply one million tons during the year, that is, up to 31st March 1944. Out of that we have already supplied 7 lakhs tons and we have still four or five months of the wheat year till March next. I am sure by that time we will not only have supplied our quota but perhaps something in addition to our quota.

I just want to say a few words about the Freezing Order of the Government of India. My friend, Sardar Sohan Singh Josh, also referred to it and asked how it mattered to the Punjab Government as the stocks belonged to the big zamindars or to the big banias. Let me tell him that the Punjab Government is as much responsible to safeguard the rights of the dealers, as it is responsible to safeguard the rights of the growers. (*Hear, hear*). In this particular instance, I can assure the House that whatever stocks have been frozen, we will see that the Punjab dealer does not suffer unnecessarily. I am one of those who firmly believe that trade and agriculture must go on side by side. If we ignore trade and only help agriculture, I am sure that we cannot have any prosperity in the province. I want to see the traders and the growers of the province work side by side and that the interests of both are adequately safeguarded.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Did you consult Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram about this?

**Minister of Development :** I would not like to detain the House any longer. With these remarks I commend the resolution moved by my honourable friend, Sardar Lal Singh, to the House. (*Cheers*).

**Mr. Speaker :** The question is—

This Assembly recommends to the Government to convey to the Government of India the emphatic opinion of this House that any attempt to control the price of wheat will result in very keen resentment and discontent among the agricultural classes.

*The motion was carried.*

### SIKH GURDWARAS (AMENDMENT) BILL.

**Sardar Kartar Singh :** With your permission I move—

That the Sikh Gurdwaras (Amendment) Bill be circulated for eliciting opinion thereon by the 15th of January 1944.

I make this motion without a speech.

**Mr. Speaker :** Motion moved is—

That the Sikh Gurdwaras (Amendment) Bill be circulated for eliciting opinion thereon by the 15th of January 1944.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** First of all we can put the circulation motion to the House and then we can take up the question of date.

**Mr. Speaker :** Very well. The question is—

That the Sikh Gurdwaras (Amendment) Bill be circulated for eliciting opinion thereon.

*The motion was carried.*

**Tikka Jagjit Singh Bedi :** I move—

That for the words "15th of January 1944" the words "1st of March 1944" be substituted.

*The motion was carried.*

**Mr. Speaker :** The question is—

That the main motion as amended be adopted.

*The motion was carried.*

*The Assembly then adjourned till 12 noon on Monday, 8th November, 1943.*

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# **PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

## **TENTH SESSION OF THE FIRST PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

*Monday, 8th November 1948*

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

### **STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

**BABA BHAGWAN SINGH DOSANJ**

**\*8747. Sardar Teja Singh Swatantar :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that Baba Bhagwan Singh Dosanj, aged 80 years, is interned in his village in Jullundur district ;

(b) whether the Government are aware that he has to walk 25 miles to report himself at Phillaur police station ;

(c) whether the Government are also aware that he is suffering from gout ;

(d) whether the Government intend to remove the restrictions on him ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Mir Maqbool Mahmood) :** (a) He is restricted within the limits of the revenue estates of Dosanjh Kalan, Indne Klaske and Kotali Khakhian, Jullundur district.

(b) He is not required to report at the Police Station.

(c) No.

(d) This depends on future circumstances.

**GANDHARB SAIN**

**\*8748<sup>1</sup>. Sardar Teja Singh Swatantar :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that Gandharb Sain, a communist internee of Nurmahal, district Jullundur, is suffering from chronic Tonsilitis ;

(b) whether the Government are aware that doctors have advised him to be operated upon immediately, as otherwise it may develop into Tuberculosis ;

(c) whether the Government are also aware that there are no arrangements for such an operation at Nurmahal ;

(d) whether the Government have recently received an application from him for permission being granted to him to go to Lahore or Delhi for the operation ; if so, the action taken or intended to be taken thereon ;

(e) whether Government intend to remove the restrictions on him ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Mir Maqbool Mahmood) :** Government have no information as Gandharb Sain is no longer subject to restrictions.

<sup>1</sup>The answer was read out by the Parliamentary Secretary even though the member concerned did not want to put the question.

## DETENUS IN JULLUNDUR POLICE LOCK-UPS

**\*8749. Sardar Teja Singh Swatantar :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) the number and the names of the persons at present detained in police lock-ups of the Jullundur district as security prisoners ;

(b) whether it is a fact that some of the security prisoners have been kept for over six months in these thana lock-ups ;

(c) whether it is also a fact that each one of them is allowed only four annas a day for food and the tonga expenses of the man who brings their food from a city kitchen are deducted from this food allowance of four annas ;

(d) the present state of their health and also their weight when they were put in the lock-up and their weight at present ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Mir Maqbool Mahmood) :** The information collected at the time when the question was originally asked, in which presumably the honourable member is interested, is given below—

(a) 18 ; it is not in the public interest to give names.

(b) No.

(c) *First part.* Yes.

*Second part.* No.

(d) *First part.* Good.

*Second part.* Information is not readily available.

In view of the time and trouble involved in collecting further information, I regret that it is not possible to collect fresh figures on the renewal of the question.

## MEHTA RANBIR

**\*8831. Lala Bhagat Ram Choda :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government has recently received a representation from the brother of Mehta Ranbir, B.A., LL.B., owner of the Mehta Ginning Factory, Khanna, in the Ludhiana district, who is detained in the District Jail, Sialkot, to release him on parole on account of the serious illness of his wife and son ; if so, with what results ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Mir Maqbool Mahmood) :** Representations were received and enquiries were made, but it was considered that the illnesses of his relatives were not sufficiently serious to justify a release on parole.

## MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE FOR CONGRESS DETENUS

**\*8832. Lala Bhagat Ram Choda :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state whether any representations have been received since first January 1948, from Congress detenues detained since 1942, for the grant of maintenance allowance to their families during their detention ; if so, the number of such representations and action taken on them ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Mir Maqbool Mahmood) :** Figures are not readily available and their collection would involve time and trouble incommensurate with the results to be obtained. It is not the policy of Government to give such allowances.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** The question asks about the representations received. May I know the number of representations received in the office of the D. I. G., C. I. D. or in that of the Premier ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** The answer given by me is clear. Figures are not readily available and their collection would involve time and trouble incommensurate with the results to be obtained. I would therefore submit that the supplementary question does not arise out of the answer given.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** The general formula given by the Parliamentary Secretary was that any information available in Lahore would be given. May I ask how it is that this information which is based on the representations sent by the persons concerned is not available ?

**Mr. Speaker :** Disallowed.

#### DAWARKA DASS PUBLIC LIBRARY

**\*8883. Lala Bhagat Ram Choda :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that a request was made recently by the management of Dwarka Das Public Library, situated in Lajpatrai Hall Buildings for permission to open the library for a few days in order to make arrangements for the safety and preservation of books from harm done by book-worms ;

(b) if so, with what results ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Mir Maqbool Mahmood) :** (a) No application has been received by Government.

(b) Does not arise.

#### CASES OF CORRUPTION

**\*8930. Khan Mohd. Yusuf Khan :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) the number of corruption cases in which Government officials have been challaned and convicted during the current year, in the Province ;

(b) the number of gazetted officers, if any, challaned or convicted during the current year for accepting bribes in the Province ;

(c) the number of non-gazetted and petty officials, if any, convicted or challaned for accepting bribes during the current year in the Province ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Mir Maqbool Mahmood) :** If the honourable member is interested in a particular case, or even a particular department, the information could be collected, but in the circumstances created by the war, I fear it is not in the public interest to undertake to collect all the information asked for in the question as it stands. Information is asked for about an incomplete year and will involve references to every department and office in the province. For the most part, the information asked for will be contained in the statement of action taken against corrupt officials which is published annually at the close of the year to which it refers.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** May I know whether this information is not given because the number of corruption cases is too large ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** This presumption is unjustified as we have not yet received the figures.



**Khan Muhammad Yusuf Khan :** May I know whether the statement is circulated amongst the members of the Assembly?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** It is laid on the table of the House and is available to the honourable members.

#### DEARNESS ALLOWANCE

**\*8932. Khan Mohd. Yusuf Khan :** Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state—

(a) the scale of dearness allowance granted to Government employees in the Punjab;

(b) the limit of salaries up to which the dearness allowance has been given;

(c) whether he is aware of the fact that the menial staff and other low-paid subordinate officials, especially in the district establishment offices have received very little by way of dearness allowance; if so, whether the Government has any other proposal under consideration to remove their legitimate grievance;

(d) whether it is a fact that the Government is considering the question of dearness allowance as a whole; if so, what is the matter of the new proposals under consideration?

**The Honourable Sir Manohar Lal :** (a) and (b) Attention of the honourable member is invited to Punjab Government letter No. 3074-1133-S.-F.-43/61390, dated the 30th September 1943, a copy of which is laid on the table.

(c) and (d) Sixty per cent of pay is granted in the shape of dearness allowance to the lowest paid Government servants and only 10 per cent in the higher stages. Government have only recently revised the rates of dearness allowance and the question of the revision of these rates is not under consideration at present but they are considering the opening of cheap grain shops for Government servants.

*Punjab Government letter No. 3074-1133-S.-F.-43/61390, dated the 30th September 1943*  
**Subject:—SCHEME FOR THE GRANT OF DEARNESS ALLOWANCE TO GOVERNMENT SERVANTS.**

Sir,

I am directed to invite a reference to Punjab Government letter No. 1468-F-43/27624 (Fin.—Genl.), dated the 20th April 1943, on the subject noted above and to state that, with a view to alleviate distress among low paid Government servants caused by abnormally high prices, the Governor of the Punjab is pleased to sanction the further revision of the rates of dearness allowance as indicated below:—

		Rate of dearness allowance per mensem
		Rs. A. P.
Government servants on pay up to Rs. 20 .. .. .	.. .. .	8 8 0
Government servants on pay exceeding Rs. 20 but not exceeding Rs. 30 .. .. .	.. .. .	9 8 0
Government servants on pay exceeding Rs. 30 but not exceeding Rs. 40 .. .. .	.. .. .	11 0 0
Government servants on pay exceeding Rs. 40 but not exceeding Rs. 60 .. .. .	.. .. .	12 0 0
Government servants on pay exceeding Rs. 60 but not exceeding Rs. 100 .. .. .	.. .. .	14 0 0
Government servants on pay exceeding Rs. 100 but not exceeding Rs. 150 .. .. .	.. .. .	10 per cent of pay or Rs. 14 per mensem whichever is greater.
Government servants on pay exceeding Rs. 150 but not exceeding Rs. 250 .. .. .	.. .. .	10 per cent of pay.

Government servants in receipt of pay exceeding Rs. 250 but not exceeding Rs. 275 per mensem will draw dearness allowance at such rates as will raise their total emoluments to Rs. 275 per mensem.

2. In calculating the allowance at 10 per cent of pay where admissible the fraction of a rupee will be ignored.

3. Gazetted officers whose pay falls within the limits prescribed in paragraph 1 above will also be entitled to the grant of dearness allowance.

4. The revised rates of dearness allowance will have effect from the 1st of June 1943, that is, in respect of salaries that were due for payment on the 1st of July 1943.

5. Every effort should be made to meet the extra expenditure involved from within the sanctioned grant at your disposal.

**Khan Muhammad Yusuf Khan :** May I request the Honourable Minister to explain what he means by —

Government servants in receipt of pay exceeding Rs. 250 but not exceeding Rs. 275 per mensem will draw dearness allowance at such rates as will raise their total emoluments to Rs. 275 per mensem.

**Minister of Finance :** That is, a person who is getting Rs. 250 or Rs. 260 will not get less than a person getting Rs. 240 or Rs. 250. Marginal adjustments are made. On Rs. 250 the normal 10 per cent would come to Rs. 25 and the person getting Rs. 250 will get Rs. 275. A person who is getting Rs. 260 will also get Rs. 275 and a person getting Rs. 270 will also get Rs. 275 but a person getting Rs. 275 will get no more.

**Khan Muhammad Yusuf Khan :** How much will a person getting less than Rs. 200 get ?

**Minister :** He will get his 10 per cent. But a person who is getting Rs. 200 will not get less than a person getting Rs. 190.

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MR. RATTAN DEV BHANDARI

**\*8936. Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether he is aware of the fact that Mr. Rattan Dev Bhandari of Lahore was arrested on the 9th August 1942 ;

(b) whether he is aware of the fact that Mr. Bhandari is suffering from acute blood pressure and often runs a temperature ;

(c) whether any representation has been made to the Government to release him ; if so, with what result ;

(d) if the replies to parts (a) and (b) be in the affirmative, the steps that the Government has taken to improve his condition ?

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

(b) Not acute blood pressure, but high blood pressure.

(c) Yes. This is under consideration.

(d) He has recently been transferred to the Central Jail, Lahore, where he is receiving proper medical treatment. His condition is stated to cause no anxiety to the Medical Officer.

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SARDAR MANGAL SINGH, M.L.A., MASTER HARI SINGH, M.L.A., AND

PANDIT MUNI LAL KALIA

**\*8937. Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether he is aware of the fact that Sardar Mangal Singh, M.L.A. (Central), Master Hari Singh, M.L.A., and Pandit Muni Lal Kalia were released from jail some time ago and interned in their districts ;

[Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma.]

(b) whether he is aware of the fact that the internment order also prevents them from attending the sittings of their Legislatures, respectively ; if so, the reasons therefor ?

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

(b) Yes ; except in the case of Mangal Singh the internment orders do not admit of their attendance.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma** : Can the Parliamentary Secretary tell us as to why these interned M. L. As. are not allowed to attend the Assembly ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** : Sardar Mangal Singh is prevented from making speeches in public places, and the other members are restricted to particular areas and the Assembly is not within those restricted areas.

**Mian Abdul Aziz** : May I ask whether making of speeches or criticising or supporting any action in this Assembly will amount to speeches made in a public place ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** : I am afraid my honourable friend opposite did not follow my answer. I would repeat again for his information that Sardar Mangal Singh is the only gentleman in this list who is prevented from making speeches in public.

**Mian Abdul Aziz** : What about others ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** : About others I said that they are restricted to particular areas and this Assembly is not situated within those restricted areas. Therefore, they cannot attend the Assembly without breaking the terms of their restrictions.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma** : Is it not infringing the fundamental right of M. L. As. by not allowing them to come to this Assembly ?

**Premier** : We are not aware of any such right.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma** : No such right ?

**Premier** : None to my knowledge.

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MR. RAGHUNANDAN SAIN

\*8938. **Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma** : Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether he is aware that Mr. Raghunandan Sain, a prominent Congress leader from Delhi, is lying seriously ill in the District Jail, Sialkot ; if so, since when ;

(b) whether it is a fact that his entire body has become so sensitive that he feels great difficulty in using his spectacles, taking a bath and taking his diet ;

(c) if the reply to the above parts be in the affirmative the steps that the Government has taken for his treatment ; whether there has been any improvement and whether the Government intends to release him so that he may be able to get himself treated according to his own wishes ; if not, the reasons therefor ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Mir Maqbool Mahmood) : This prisoner is detained under the orders of the Central Government and questions about him cannot be answered on the floor of this House and should be addressed to the Government of India.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** May I know whether the jail in which he is detained is under the Punjab Government?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I have nothing to add to the answer that I have already given.

**Sardar Santokh Singh :** Is it the position of Government that the Government of India know more about the illness of this gentleman than the Punjab Government?

**Premier :** He is the prisoner of the Government of India and we are simply agents for keeping him.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** May I know whether the Premier as the agent of the Central Government has made any representation to the Central Government that the prisoner is lying seriously ill and the Central Government should take adequate steps to see that he is medically treated properly?

**Premier :** I have already referred the honourable member to Delhi; he should ask some of his friends to put a question at the Centre, or proceed to make a representation there. I have repeatedly said this. What is the use of asking such questions in this House? It is mere waste of time.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Is the Honourable Premier prepared to answer my question as the agent of the Government of India?

**Premier :** I was explaining how and why we are keeping the prisoner. He is a Government of India prisoner. You will get the reply from there. Why worry?

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** My question was that as the Punjab Government were acting as agent of the Government of India, I wanted to ask whether the Punjab Government would answer this question as the agent of the Government of India.

**Premier :** You should go to Delhi.

#### POLITICAL PRISONERS

\*8944. **Sardar Ajit Singh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to make a statement about the health of the following political prisoners detained in various Jails of the Punjab:—

- (1) Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava.
- (2) Pandit Neki Ram Sharma (Hissar).
- (3) Maulana Daoud Ghaznavi (Lahore).
- (4) Lala Chandi Varma (Ferozepore).
- (5) Sardar Darshan Singh Pheroman (Amritsar).
- (6) Lala Pindi Dass of Lahore.
- (7) Lala Kidar Nath Sehgal of Lahore.
- (8) Lala Jagat Narain Chopra (Lahore).
- (9) Lala Jagan Nath of Lahore.
- (10) Mr. Girdhari Lal Puri (Lahore).
- (11) Lala Achint Ram (Lahore).
- (12) Giani Gurmukh Singh Musafir (Lahore).
- (13) Jethedar Udham Singh Nagoke (Amritsar).
- (14) Mr. Yashpal (Lahore).

[Sardar Ajit Singh.]

(15) Mr. Rajindra Nath, M.A. (Lahore).

(16) Mr. Indra Prakash Anand, M.A., of Lahore.

(17) Lala Hem Raj (Lahore).

(b) whether the above-named political prisoners are allowed to interview their relatives and friends and whether they are allowed to receive books?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Mir Maqbool Mahmood): (a) Dr. Gopi Chand has been released on parole. So far as Government is aware, there is nothing seriously wrong with any of these Civil Disobedience detenus.

(b) Ordinarily, no interviews are allowed with such prisoners, except in cases of serious illness. They are permitted to receive books from outside.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh**: May I know whether the Parliamentary Secretary is aware that Maulana Daoud Ghaznavi is lying seriously ill in jail?

**Parliamentary Secretary**: My information is that he is not seriously ill.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh**: May I know when he got this information from the jail?

**Parliamentary Secretary**: This information was communicated to me to-day.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma**: May I know whether all these gentlemen who are mentioned in this question were medically examined? If so, when were they last examined?

**Parliamentary Secretary**: All prisoners are periodically examined and report is made about their health. My information is that none of them is seriously ill.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh**: May I know when Pandit Neki Ram was last examined medically?

**Parliamentary Secretary**: I want notice for this question.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh**: May I know how much weight he has lost during his detention in jail?

**Premier**: That is a new question.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh**: Please look at the question—'statement about the health of the following': may I know how much weight Pandit Neki Ram has lost?

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh**: May I know whether Pandit Neki Ram has lost 20 pounds in jail?

**Premier (Urdu)**: This may be your information.

**Mian Muhammad Nurullah**: It is said that they are not seriously ill; may I know whether any of them is ill?

**Parliamentary Secretary**: I said there is nothing seriously wrong with them.

**Mian Muhammad Nurullah**: What is meant by 'seriously ill'?

**Parliamentary Secretary**: Ordinary slight temperature, tooth ache, stomach ache, etc., are not considered as serious illnesses.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** May I know whether serious illness means, in the dictionary of the honourable member, lying on death bed ?

**Mr. Speaker :** Order, order.

PRINCIPAL CHABIL DASS

**\*8945. Sardar Ajit Singh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state whether he is aware of the fact that various representations have been made during the month of October 1948, by the relatives of Principal Chabil Dass, a Member of the Servants of the People Society, to release him on account of the continued illness of his two daughters ; if so, with what result ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Mir Maqbool Mahmood) :** Not during October. He was however released on three weeks parole during July.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** May I know whether the Parliamentary Secretary is aware that his two daughters are still suffering from illness ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I am not aware of that.

CONGRESS DETENUS

**\*8946. Sardar Ajit Singh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Punjab Government have recently asked the District Magistrates in the Province to recommend cases of Congress Detenus of 1942 for release or express opinion in the matter ; if so, with what result ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Mir Maqbool Mahmood) :** Yes. Eighty-eight detenus have so far been released.

CONGRESS DETENUS

**\*8961. Sardar Kapoor Singh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state whether the release of the following Congress Detenus of 1942, has been recommended recently by the Jail authorities on the ground of ill-health :—

1. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava.
2. Lala Deshbandhu Gupta.
3. Seth Sudarshan, M. L. A.
4. Diwan Chaman Lall, M. L. A.
5. Shri Raghu Nandan Saran of Delhi ;

if so, the action taken in the matter ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Mir Maqbool Mahmood) :** No. Dr. Gopi Chand has, however, now been released on parole.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** May I know whether Seth Sudarshan, M. L. A., has also been released ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** Yes, on parole, but not on ground of his own illness.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Is he aware of Lala Deshbandhu Gupta's illness ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** He is a prisoner of the Delhi Government.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Is he aware that Diwan Chaman Lall is also seriously ill lying in the Mayo Hospital ?

## MR. MULKH RAJ AGGARWAL

**\*8962. Sardar Kapoor Singh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether several representations have been received by the Government during the last two or three months for the release of Mr. Mulkh Raj Aggarwal, Private Secretary to Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava, on the grounds of the illness of his two children ; if so, the action taken in the matter ;

(b) whether he is aware of the fact that there is no earning member of the family to support his people except his 65 year old father ;

(c) whether the Government intends to grant an adequate maintenance allowance to the family of Mr. Mulkh Raj Aggarwal during his detention ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Mir Maqbool Mahmood) :** (a) Yes. They were considered by Government and rejected.

(b) He has three brothers and several relatives. His father owns two houses in Lahore valued at about Rs. 35,000.

(c) No. It is not the policy of the Government to give such allowances.

## COMRADE BALDEV MITTAR BIJLI.

**\*8963. Sardar Kapoor Singh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether he is aware of the fact that Comrade Baldev Mittar Bijli, a prominent Congress Socialist of the Doaba, is suffering from heart trouble in the jail ;

(b) (i) whether the Government has received any representations for his release on the ground of ill-health ;

(ii) if so, the action taken in the matter ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Mir Maqbool Mahmood) :** (a) yes, he is being treated for it in the jail hospital, and has also been examined by specialists in the Mayo Hospital, Lahore.

(b) (i) No.

## SIRHIND CANAL

**\*8956. Sardar Tara Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether he is aware of the fact that the Bhatinda Branch of the Sirhind Canal flows with a forty per cent water supply while the other canals in the Punjab flow with a seventy per cent water supply, and in some cases, even with cent per cent water supply ;

(b) If the answer to (a) be in the affirmative, the reasons therefor, and if in the negative, whether the Government intends to increase the water supply of the Sirhind Canal ?

**The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram :** (a) It is a fact that the permissible intensity on the Bhatinda Branch is 40 per cent. The permissible intensity on other canals, is naturally different. It is higher on the more modern Canals.

(b) The permissible intensity depends on the area to be irrigated and the supply available. There is no more water available for the Sirhind Canal and consequently it is not possible to increase permissible intensity.

## DENIAL OF CANAL IRRIGATION TO BHAINI

**\*8957. Sardar Tara Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether he is aware of the fact that village Bhaini is the only village of sub-tahsil Nathana which has not received so far the benefit of canal irrigation ;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the residents of Bhaini have made numerous representations in the matter to the Honourable Minister for Revenue and to the Chief Engineer during the last eight years or so, but with no result ;

(c) the reasons, if any, for denying the above-named villagers the benefit of canal irrigation ?

**The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram :** (a) Yes.

(b) A representation was made by the residents of Bhaini in 1922.

(c) On detailed examination of the case it was found to be technically unsound.

## AHMADIA PRIMARY SCHOOL, SHADIWAL

**\*8943. Pir Akbar Ali :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education be pleased to state —

(a) whether he is aware of the fact that Ahmadia Primary School, Shadiwal, district Gujrat, and the Kath Garh School in the Hoshiarpur district have been in existence since 1914 ;

(b) whether it is a fact that grant-in-aid allowed to these schools have been withheld during the last three years ;

(c) whether Government have taken any steps to restore the grants-in-aid in question ; if not, the reasons therefor ?

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

## PRICE CONTROL

**\*8890. Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Will the Honourable Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(a) the methods adopted by district authorities regarding price control in the Punjab ;

(b) whether there is any uniformity regarding the price control methods practised by various districts in the province ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Chaudhri Tikka Ram) :**— The question is couched in somewhat general terms and it is, therefore, not understood exactly what information is sought.

With regard to part (a) District Magistrates are in charge of Civil Supplies work for their districts and work through Civil Supplies staff, the Police and other district staff. General instructions are issued about various commodities from the Punjab Government.

With regard to (b), the control of Civil Supplies is a new field of Government activity and as inevitably happens there is both uniformity as well as quite considerable diversity. The tendency has been during the last two years for an increased uniformity.



**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** May I know the price of each kind of food grain according to which the District Magistrate buy those grains ?

**Minister for Development :** It is difficult for me to supply this information off hand. If the honourable member gives me notice I will try to give him the required information.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Do the Government supply any price list to the District Magistrates at all ?

**Minister :** Yes.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Are the District Magistrates asked to buy according to that list or can they buy at varying rates ?

**Minister :** The District Magistrates do not buy.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Your agents ?

**Minister :** Our agents buy under the instructions of the Director of Food Supplies.

#### PEOPLE'S FOOD COMMITTEES

\*8891. **Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Will the Honourable Minister for Development be pleased to state :—

(a) whether it is a fact that People's Food Committees are being formed in various districts in the province, for instance, in Lahore, Amritsar, Gujranwala, Jullundur and Rawalpindi, with the object of helping to ease the food situation, through the active participation of the people in the matter of rationing, control of foodgrains, depôt management and anti-hoarding measures ;

(b) whether it is a fact that the District Magistrate of Lahore has issued Food grains licences to a number of Mahalla Food Committees which have stocked wheat worth a lakh and a half of rupees for non-profit distribution to the poor at the time of high prices ;

(c) whether Government have taken any steps to seek greater co-operation from the People's Food Committees and their advice in matters relating to foodgrains, their control and distribution; if so, with what result ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Chaudhri Tikka Ram) :** (a) It is not very clear from the question whether specific organisations called People's Food Committees are referred to or whether it is a general enquiry as to non-official bodies organising to solve the food problem. The information available from districts is as follows :—

(i) *Lahore*—Certain Mohalla Committees, but very few in number, have been formed by respectable residents.

(ii) *Amritsar*—No information about People's Food Committees, but a Civil Supplies Committee has recently been created the function of which is to advise district authorities.

(iii) *Gujranwala*—No.

(iv) *Jullundur*—Information has been received that People's Food Committees are said to have been formed in some towns of the district, but detailed or accurate information is not available.

(v) *Rawalpindi*—There is no official knowledge of any special Food Committee. There is, however, some organisation in the city which has put forward a somewhat vague programme of objects but it is doubtful whether its

main purpose is to be helpful to the authorities. Fortunately the district authorities have had considerable co-operation and a number of most helpful suggestions from non-official sources.

(b) In Lahore licences have been allowed to eight Mohalla Committees who applied. One Committee has 1,260 maunds of wheat but others have only recently obtained licences and have very little or none as yet according to the latest information available.

(c) Government's policy in this matter is to seek co-operation from all sources from which it comes, but it is naturally not able to limit itself to one specific organisation representing a single interest or party. District Price Control Committees exist in each district and are composed of consumers producers, the trade and other important interests concerned in the matter of food.

#### PRICE OF MILK IN LAHORE.

**\*8892. Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Will the Honourable Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(a) whether he is aware of the fact that some time ago price of milk in the city of Lahore was controlled but subsequently the orders regarding the control were withdrawn ;

(b) whether he is aware of the fact that the price of milk in Lahore has gone up to eight annas and over per seer causing considerable discomfort to the poor, and especially to the children ;

(c) the reasons for the failure of control over milk in Lahore ;

(d) what steps the Government intends to take to ensure a cheap supply of milk for the people of Lahore ;

(e) whether the Government have taken any steps to seek the co-operation and assistance of the Punjab Kisan Sabha and the People's Food Committee in ensuring a cheap supply of milk; if not, the reasons therefor ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Chaudhri Tikka Ram) :** (a) Yes.

(b) The price ranges between Re. 0-5-0 to Re. 0-8-0 per seer. The poor section of the public is experiencing considerable difficulty.

(c) The combination of gujjars and the retail dealers to defeat the purpose of the order and the fact that increase in prices in the surrounding districts made it difficult to secure alternative sources of supply.

(d) No course has yet been found to be feasible.

(e) Government have not yet heard of the activities of these bodies in this sphere ; they have no doubt that the local authorities would welcome any effective help which they can render.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Is the Government aware of the fact that the citizens of Lahore have suffered a great deal in the matter of supply of milk ?

**Minister for Development :** May be.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Do the Government know only to issue ordinances and not to maintain supply of the required commodity to the people ?

**Premier :** You want ordinance for the control of price of one commodity and do not want it for another. Only the other day you were complaining about the most important commodity—

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** The Government do not care whether the supply is continued or not. That shows their inefficiency.

**Premier :** You are in favour of price control of one commodity and against it in respect of another. That shows the inconsistency of the position you have taken up.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** What has the Government done in order to supply milk to the needy people of Lahore ?

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** They are not *gawalas*. (Laughter).

**Minister for Development :** Plenty of milk is now available.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Have you made any arrangements to supply milk to expectant mothers ?

**Minister :** If you suggest any way we shall try to help you.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** You are not taking any help from the food committees, what to talk of us.

**Premier :** So-called food committee !

#### WHEAT PURCHASING AGENTS

**\*3899. Mian Muhammad Nurullah :** Will the Honourable Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(a) the total quantity of wheat recently purchased through each of the wheat purchasing agents in the Punjab ;

(b) the terms under which the purchasing agents work ;

(c) what other commodities can be purchased only through them ;

(d) the names of the commodities that can be exported only through the above purchasing agents ;

(e) the names of the purchasing agents ;

(f) whether any particular mandis, zones or areas are fixed for each purchasing agent or they can buy the commodities anywhere ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Chaudhri Tikka Ram) :**

(a) *Name of the Purchasing Agent*

*Quantity purchased  
during September  
and October 1943*

	(Tons)
(i) Messrs Owen Roberts and Co., Ltd., Lahore	50,169
(ii) Messrs Gopal Singh-Hira Singh, Amritsar ..	10,954
(iii) Messrs Dhanpatmal-Jawaladas & Co., Amritsar .. .. .	12,440
(iv) The Central Purchasing Agency, Ambala Cantonment .. .. .	4,610
(v) The Northern India Zamindars Syndicate, Limited, Lahore .. .. .	10,680
(vi) Messrs Sheikh Mohd Ismail Moula Bux & Co., Lahore .. .. .	19,060
Total .. .. .	107,918

(b) The Purchasing Agents work under the terms of their agreements with Punjab Government. The principal term is that for their services they are entitled to charge commission of 9·9 pies per maund.

(c) and (d) Under the terms of the agreements with the Purchasing Agents the Punjab Government is not bound to make purchases and despatches of foodgrains only through the Purchasing Agents. The responsibility for making arrangements for purchases in the Province is that of the Punjab Government who work through the Director of Food Supplies. The Agents have, however, been asked from time to time to make purchases and despatches of wheat, gram, barley, jowar, rice, maize and bajra. Punjab Government can ask them to purchase other foodgrains including dhalls, which the Punjab Government may desire to export. Dhalls, however, are not part of the procurement plan at present.

- |     |   |                           |
|-----|---|---------------------------|
| (e) | (i) Messrs Owen Roberts & Co., Limited,<br>Lahore .. .. .               | } For Defence Services.   |
|     | (ii) Messrs Gopal Singh-Hira Singh, Amritsar ..                         |                           |
|     | (iii) Messrs Dhanpatmal-Jawaladas & Co., Amritsar .. .. .               |                           |
|     | (iv) The Central Purchasing Agency, Ambala<br>Cantonment .. .. .        | } For Civil Consumption.. |
|     | (v) The Northern India Zamindara Syndicate,<br>Limited, Lahore .. .. .  |                           |
|     | (vi) Messrs Sheikh Muhammad Ismail Moula<br>Bux and Co., Lahore .. .. . |                           |

(f) No zones have been fixed for operation by particular Purchasing Agents.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** May I know who are the share-holders of the syndicate mentioned in your reply ?

**Minister for Development :** I want notice for that.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Have any members of the Cabinet any interest in that syndicate ?

**Premier :** Entirely incorrect.

#### SUGAR

\*3900. **Mian Muhammad Nurtullah :** Will the Honourable Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(a) whether he is aware of the fact that sugar allotted for a particular zone and intended to be sold through the zaildars was in most cases either not sold to deserving persons or was made an instrument of profiteering ;

(b) whether the Government has laid down any rules for the distribution of sugar ; if so, whether he would be pleased to lay a copy of these rules on the table of the House ;

(c) whether the matter of distribution of sugar was left entirely in the hands of the local authorities in each district ; if so, which district has shown the best results and what methods were adopted or are being adopted there to achieve equitable distribution and sale of sugar to all the needy persons ;

(d) what steps the Government is taking in the matter of control of prices of sugar and its proper distribution in the towns and villages in the province ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Chaudhri Tikka Ram): (a) The local distribution of sugar has been in the hands of District Magistrates, Government have no detailed information about distribution through zaildars.

(b) No.

(c) Yes. Different methods have been successful in different districts.

(d) The price of sugar is subject to All-India control and local officers are taking all possible steps to improve distribution.

**Lala Harnam Das** : What is the ration per head relating to sugar in the rural areas?

**Minister for Development** : No ration per head has been fixed for the rural areas.

**Lala Harnam Das** : Is the Government aware that not a *masha* or a *tola* of sugar per head is available in the rural areas?

**Minister** : We are aware of the difficulties of the rural population in this respect but no quota per head has been fixed.

**Lala Harnam Das** : Is the Government aware that people are not getting any sugar even during illness?

**Minister** : We are taking steps to remove the difficulties of the rural population in the matter.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh** : Is Government contemplating the framing of rules for the distribution of sugar?

**Minister** : This question was recently discussed by district magistrates in a conference, and we are trying to come to a certain agreed formula.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh** : Which is the agency that is going to be proposed by Government for the distribution of sugar?

**Minister** : Different agencies.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh** : Is Government going to get the help of food committees?

**Minister** : Yes, food committees which consist of respectable persons.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh** : What is the definition of "respectable persons"?

**Minister** : It is difficult to give any definition, but I would refer the honourable member to the reply given to the previous question.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh** : Is the Honourable Minister aware that the District Magistrate, Amritsar, has issued a notice to the effect that only the *lamabdars* and *patwaris* will be given sugar for distribution and no one else?

**Minister** : I am not aware of it.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh** : Is it the policy of Government not to take any help from the public bodies?

**Minister** : It is the desire of Government to take help from all public bodies.

**Mian Abdul Rab** : May I know whether the system of rationing sugar has been tried in any town in the province?

**Minister** : It is under consideration in Lahore.

**Mian Abdul Rab** : Is it true that it has been tried in Ferozepore?

**Minister for Development :** I am not aware of it.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** Is Government taking any steps to increase the production of sugar in this province ?

**Minister :** The matter is under consideration.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** When is a decision likely to be reached ?

**Minister :** I think we will take a decision in the next few days.

**Mian Muhammad Nurullah :** Is a tax on sugarcane one of the remedies ?

**Minister :** It is difficult for me to say definitely, but you will know it in the next few days.

**Mian Muhammad Nurullah :** As regards the distribution of sugar in the rural areas, has any scheme been devised by Government ?

**Minister :** The whole question is under consideration and we have not come to any decision.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Is it a fact that a great deal of nepotism prevails so far as sugar distribution is concerned ?

**Minister :** We are not aware.

**Mian Muhammad Nurullah :** Is it a fact that Government is going to decontrol sugar ?

**Minister :** Not at present.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Is Government aware of the reality prevailing outside ?

**Minister :** Reality of what ?

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Reality about the sugar distribution, as to how sugar is being sent to people who eat it all themselves and do not distribute it to others.

**Minister :** All I can say is that Government is aware of keen resentment amongst the different classes of the province, but we have not yet come to any definite decision about the distribution. As I have already stated, the scheme is under consideration and we will try to come to some decision in a few days.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** Is the Government aware that if sugar is decontrolled, the cultivator in the province will benefit immensely ?

**Minister :** It is very difficult for me to say off-hand. There are advantages and disadvantages of de-control.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** Is it not a fact that the cultivator will get more than a rupee per maund for sugarcane instead of ten annas that he gets now ?

**Minister :** It may be so. I am sure the honourable member has more experience about it. As I have said there are advantages and disadvantages of decontrol.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** What are the disadvantages ?

**Minister :** The main objection to it is from the Government of India.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** If there is a disadvantage in decontrol, it is not only for sugar but in the case of other commodities also, like foodgrains. Is not Government liable to be accused of inconsistency in this matter ?

**Minister of Development:** The main difficulty is about short supplies of sugar. Our consumption has gone up double the normal requirements, and it is very difficult to get our proper requirements. If we get our proper requirements, decontrol may be useful.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang:** The country produces more sugar than it consumes. At least it produces a little more sugar than would be sufficient for meeting the total consumption in India. That is a fact recognised by everyone.

**Minister:** I am aware that the country produces a lot of sugar, but so far as the Punjab quota is concerned, we are definitely getting less than our requirements.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang:** Is that because the Punjab is not co-operating with the Central Government in this matter and is not taking any active steps to increase the production of sugar in this province?

**Minister:** No, Sir. If I may explain the position, last year's quota of sugar for the Punjab was 125,000 tons, but out of it we received only 110,000 tons of sugar.

**Sardar Santokh Singh:** Has the Government ever seriously considered the question of increasing the production of sugar in this province?

**Minister:** We have given it a very careful consideration, and the steps to be taken are under consideration.

**Sardar Santokh Singh:** Have they so far taken any steps to increase the production of sugar?

**Minister:** It was not necessary up till now.

**Mian Muhammad Nurullah:** Will de-control result in the consumption of more *shakar*?

**Minister:** That would be one of the advantages of de-control.

#### CONTROL OF PRICES OF COMMODITIES

\*8901. **Mian Muhammad Nurullah:** Will the Honourable Minister of Development be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government has made any effort to elicit the co-operation of non-official opinion in the matter of :—

(1) Control of civil supplies ;

(2) Control of prices of commodities ;

(a) agricultural and (b) others ;

(3) fair and proper distribution of articles controlled and methods adopted by the officers concerned ;

(b) if not, whether the Government intends to do so now ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Chaudhri Tikka Ram):** (a) Government has ordered each District Magistrate to appoint a small advisory committee of non-officials to assist him in the work of civil supplies and price control. These committees keep the District Magistrate and through him the Government in touch with the difficulties experienced with regard to matters connected with this work. There is also a Provincial Price Control Board which meets from time to time under the direct supervision of Government.

(b) Does not arise.

**Mian Muhammad Nurullah :** Are there any members of the Provincial Assembly on that board ?

**Minister :** I want notice of that question.

#### CONTROL OF PRICES OF COMMODITIES

**22931. Khan Mohd. Yusuf Khan :** Will the Honourable Minister for Development be pleased to state—

- (a) the commodities whose prices have been controlled in the province ;
- (b) the commodities in the province for which export permits are necessary ;

(c) whether the controlled prices of the commodities referred to in (a) and (b) have resulted in any respect in limiting the use of those commodities to their essential requirement and prevented waste ; if not, the action Government intend to take in the matter ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Chaudhri Tikka Ram) :** (a) The prices of the following commodities are controlled by Government in this province :—

1. Sugar,
2. Salt,
3. Paper,
4. Matches,
5. Kerosene oil,
6. Caustic soda,
7. Soda ash.

District Magistrates have powers to issue orders controlling prices under the Defence of India Rules. They have been asked to exercise these in consultation with Government. As far as is known at present, besides, the above commodities, prices have not been controlled in other cases.

- |     |  |    |    |    |                       |
|-----|--|----|----|----|-----------------------|
| (b) | 1. Wheat   | .. | .. | .. | } including products. |
|     | 2. Rice ..   | .. | .. | .. |                       |
|     | 3. Jowar   | .. | .. | .. |                       |
|     | 4. Bajra   | .. | .. | .. |                       |
|     | 5. Barley  | .. | .. | .. |                       |
|     | 6. Gram  | .. | .. | .. |                       |
|     | 7. Maize   | .. | .. | .. |                       |
|     | 8. Pulses of all kinds, and  |    |    |    |                       |
|     | 9. Gur (Export permits are granted by the Gur Controller, Government of India).  |    |    |    |                       |
|     | 10. Sugar. (There is an embargo on the export of sugar from the Punjab as this is a commodity in which the province is deficit). |    |    |    |                       |

(c) Controlling prices and movements does not by itself mean that commodities are only used for essential requirements and wastage prevented. Government has, however, taken steps in several directions to achieve these objects, e. g., sugar is distributed under the supervision of District Magistrates, salt is distributed through the nominees of District Magistrates, in the case of commodities such as kerosene oil, caustic soda and soda ash, the District authorities exercise in varying degrees some measure of supervision over distribution.



**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Why are not iron and steel controlled ?

**Minister of Development :** They are controlled.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** They are not shown in the list.

**Minister :** They come under all-India control. Here we have the provincial list.

**Khan Muhammad Yusuf Khan :** May I know why *gur* is not controlled ?

**Minister :** It has not been found necessary to control it so far.

**Khan Muhammad Yusuf Khan :** Is it because of the non-control of *gur* that there is so much demand for sugar ?

**Minister :** It is very difficult to say.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** What arrangements have been made to supply iron and steel to the peasantry ?

**Minister :** The question was taken up recently with the Government of India and after long correspondence they have now agreed to supply some iron and steel to the peasants.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** I want to know whether the Punjab Government have made any arrangements to make iron and steel available to the peasantry ?

**Minister :** The honourable member knows that it does not rest with us to make iron and steel available to the peasants. We can only request the Government of India and on the representation of the Punjab Government they have agreed to release some stocks.

#### RISE IN PRICES OF FOOD GRAINS

**\*8960. Pandit Muni Lal Kalia :** Will the Honourable Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(a) the causes of the constant rise in the prices of the chief foodgrains—namely, wheat, maize and gram, in the Punjab, during the past three years ;

(b) whether there has been any special decrease in the produce of the above-named foodgrains in the province during the past three years as compared with the three years preceding that period ;

(c) the total produce of the above-named foodgrains during each of the past six years in the province ;

(d) the total quantity exported of the above named foodgrains from the province to other provinces in India, or out of India, during each of the past six years ;

(e) whether he is aware of the fact that at present it has become very difficult for the public to obtain the necessities of life in general and the food-stuffs in particular ;

(f) whether he is aware of the fact that the majority of the poor people in the province are now almost starving ;

(g) whether he has taken any steps to relieve the present food situation and save the poor public of the province from starvation ; if so, the nature of these steps ; if not, the reasons therefor ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Chaudhri Tikka Ram) :** (a) The main causes of the rise in the price of food grains are, (i) general rise in the level of prices, and (ii) a greater demand on the Punjab food grains since the imports

from Burma have ceased, and due to the general food situation and high prices in deficit areas which bear no relation to Punjab prices.

(b) No. There has been an increase.

(c) Production in the British Punjab.

				Wheat	Gram	Maize
				Tons	Tons	Tons
1937-38	..	..	..	3,723,900	640,300	406,400
1938-39	..	..	..	3,235,400	375,000	383,900
1939-40	..	..	..	3,760,700	498,500	405,300
1940-41	..	..	..	3,338,900	699,700	447,800
1941-42	..	..	..	3,873,000	648,700	463,400
1942-43	..	..	..	4,056,200	1,074,000	443,000

(d)	Wheat	Gram	Maize	REMARKS
	Tons	Tons	Tons	
1937-38 .. ..	662,317	180,790	Not available	From the British Punjab and the Punjab States.
1938-39 .. ..	707,876	94,081	Ditto	
1939-40 .. ..	608,627	50,145	Ditto	
1940-41 .. ..	693,553	53,427	Ditto	
1941-42 .. ..		Not available		From British Punjab.
1942-43 .. ..	950,000 (approximately)	100,000	21,766	

(e) There is at present no shortage of foodgrains. Supplies of some other necessities are generally short, e.g., Kerosine, fuel etc.

(f) No. There are no indications that people are starving.

(g) Yes, steps have been taken—some are :—

(a) The building of a provincial reserve of foodgrains to meet shortage, real or artificial.

(b) The grant of dearness allowances.

(c) The careful regulation of all exports of foodgrains, etc.

#### AHMADIA PRIMARY SCHOOL, KIRYAM

\*8942. **Pir Akbar Ali** : Will the Honourable Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) whether he is aware of the fact that the average attendance of the students in the Ahmadia Primary School situated at village Kiryam, tehsil Nawan Shahr, district Jullundur, is over 70 ;

[Pir Akbar Ali.]

1916; (b) whether it is a fact that the said school has been working since

(c) whether it is a fact that the said school was getting grant-in-aid from the District Board, Jullundur, and that the said grant-in-aid has been stopped since 1942; if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government has taken any steps to restore the grant-in-aid permissible to the said school according to the rules?

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

## NORTH-WESTERN RAILWAY LOCAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

### ELECTIONS

**Secretary:** Regarding the election of two representatives of the Assembly to serve on the North-Western Railway Local Advisory Committee which is to be held to-day, honourable members are informed that voting papers will be available in the lobby between 1-30 and 3-30 p. m. to-day. Members may obtain these papers within these hours and after marking their preferences deposit them in the box kept for the purpose in the lobby.

No voting papers will be issued after 3-30 p. m. and no marked papers will be allowed to be deposited in the ballot box after 3-45 p. m. The result of the election will be announced in due course.

### LEAVE OF ABSENCE OF M. L. As.

**Mr. Speaker:** The following is the application of Shrimati Shanno Devi for permission to be absent from the sittings of the Assembly.

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, as best known to you.

The question is—

That the leave applied for be granted.

*The motion was carried.*

### ADJOURNMENT MOTIONS

**Mr. Speaker:** The House will now discuss the estimates of expenditure charged on the revenues of the province.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma:** Sir, I have given notice of adjournment motions.

**Mr. Speaker:** Adjournment motions cannot be moved or considered to-day. The honourable member is referred to articles 172 and 179 of the Constitutional Manual, Volume II.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma:** If under the rules no other business can be taken up to-day, how is it that the Land Alienation Bill is appearing on the agenda to-day? My submission is that the question of the admissibility of the adjournment motions may be taken up to-day though they may be actually discussed on some other day.

**Mr. Speaker:** Appearance of notice in the agenda does not mean that the Bill will be taken up and considered by the Assembly.

## SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS

## LAND REVENUE

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

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 33,500 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.

*The motion was carried.*

## FORESTS

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

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 25,91,100 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 Forests.

**Mr. Speaker:** Motion moved—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 25,91,100 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 Forests.

*Jallo Rosin and Turpentine Factory*

**Mian Muhammad Nurullah (Lyallpur, Muhammadan, Rural):** I move—

That the total demand be reduced by Re. 1.

I want to discuss various items covered by this head, especially items Nos. 9 to 11. I draw your attention to pages 4 and 5. You will find that under item 9 there is a very big expenditure of Rs. 14,40,250 on conservancy and works and a total of Rs. 15,52,590 on these items altogether. There seems to be a little departure from the usual custom of bringing this very important change of policy in the supplementary estimates. We are now faced with a sort of control by the Government. This is practically a national industry and the main principle of nationalising an industry is involved in this matter. Further, it is very important because, as is given in the Note on page 7, this is compulsory that this matter must be laid before the Legislative Assembly. The explanation under items 9 and 11 is as follows:—

The Jallo Rosin and Turpentine Factory has recently been taken under the control of the Government as a commercial concern and as such its estimated receipts and expenditure are matters which the Governor is bound under Section 78 of the Government of India Act to lay before the Legislative Assembly.

This, I feel, must be such an important matter that it is required to be laid before the Legislative Assembly and if it has been so laid, then my submission is that this small note is not enough. We must be given more information about this big expenditure of Rs. 15,52,500. When general discussion on the budget takes place we are usually given more comprehensive explanatory notes but in this case there seems to be none except the mention that it must be laid before us. There is big expenditure on the purchase of serum which amounts to Rs. 11,46,250. There is also substantial expenditure on depreciation and Managing Agents Commission which items go up to Rs. 11,000 and Rs. 42,000 respectively. The item 'Purchase of stores, tools and plant' goes up to Rs. 2,40,000, and the item 'Contingencies' amounts to Rs. 70,380. We are entitled to know what is this expenditure of Rs. 70,380. It would have been better for the Honourable

[Mian Muhammad Nurullah.]

Finance Minister if he had given exhaustive explanation instead of the sketchy note which is given on page 7. All these matters are important and must be laid before the Legislature. With these remarks I would request the Honourable Finance Minister to enlighten us on this point of great importance.

**Mr. Speaker :** Motion under consideration, amendment moved is—

That the total demand be reduced by Re. 1.

**Finance Minister** (The Honourable Dr. Sir Manohar Lal) : The explanation is perfectly simple. Section 78 of the Government of India Act, 1935, requires, 'The Governor shall in respect of every financial year cause to be laid before the Chamber or Chambers of the Legislature a statement of the estimated receipts and expenditure of the Province for that year, in this part of this Act referred to as the "annual financial statement"'. After some discussion with the Accountant-General it became clear that this enterprise at Jallo constitutes a provincial commercial matter and, therefore, it had to be regularly brought into the statement to be presented before the Assembly. As regards the largeness of the amount, the honourable member forgot to read the last line in the explanation which is, "The expenditure during the current financial year is estimated at Rs. 15,52,590. There will be a corresponding increase in the revenue". It is just changing the form of the accounts that were kept hitherto. That is all, and the provincial Assembly would have all control over this. The Government is laid under an obligation to place this item of expenditure before the Assembly. It is merely a formality, but extends the Assembly's control.

**Mr. Speaker :** Question is—

That the total demand be reduced by Re. 1.

*The motion was lost.*

**Mr. Speaker :** The question is—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 25,91,100 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 Forests.

*The motion was carried.*

#### REGISTRATION

**Finance Minister :** I beg to move—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 60,000 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 Registration.

**Mr. Speaker :** Motion moved—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 60,000 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 Registration.

#### *Extortion for war fund when registering land deeds*

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh** (Amritsar North, Sikh, Rural) (Punjabi) :  
Sir, I beg to move—

That the total demand be reduced by Re. 1.

Sir, I rise to oppose the demand for a supplementary sum of money required in respect of Registration. In order to submit my reasons for opposing this demand I would like to make a few remarks. Some time back the Police started taking a hand in the collection of war fund. Their undue harshness in compelling people to contribute towards the fund and the dishonest handling of such contributions led the Punjab Government to issue a notification stopping the collection of war fund by the police officers. But now the sub-registrars have started extracting money for the war fund in more than one way. One of the methods adopted for forcing the people to make contributions towards the war fund is that when people go to them for getting their documents registered, the registrars ask them to pay one per cent—or sometimes even more—of the total value of the deed concerned as their contribution towards the war fund. Thus a person whose transaction concerns an amount of, say, Rs. 4,000 is made to pay Rs. 40 and if the amount involved is Rs. 8,000, a sum of Rs. 80 and so on.

The country does feel its responsibility at the present critical moment and the people are prepared to share the burden of war expenditure voluntarily. But the coercion and pressure exercised by the Government officers in collecting war fund creates a spirit of disgust and makes them unsympathetic towards the war efforts. Before this the Police used to extort money for war fund by foul means and appropriated a good deal of it for themselves. As a result of the protest by the public and the Kisan committees the Government, by a notification, admitted that fact and took measures against this practice. Now we ask the Government to put a stop to the forced contributions to the war fund by the Sub-Registrars, so that the public may feel easy and the resentment against the war efforts is stopped.

Now, Sir, I shall explain the methods adopted by the Sub-Registrars in order to get forced contribution to the war fund by stating a few examples. On one occasion in Ajnala tahsil, the Tahsildar closed all the doors and the windows of the Sub-Registrar's room and called all those who had gone there for the registration of their deeds and told them plainly that their respective deeds could be registered only if they would pay such and such sum to the war fund. As the Sub-Registrars just sign the deeds and the Tahsildars affect the mutations, the latter resort to such methods in order to be in the good books of their officers. Every right thinking person must condemn this practice and I appeal to all the honourable members to raise their voice against it.

Now I come to the second example.

**Khan Bahadur Captain Malik Muzaffar Khan :** May I know if the honourable member is talking of a particular tahsil and about a particular person or whether his remarks are general? If his remarks are not about a particular person or tahsil, then he is absolutely wrong.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** I know all that. Coming again to the second example. In Mahal Geela, tahsil Nawan Shahr, District Jullundur, lives a political worker Vatan Singh by name. He used to preach that Government could collect war fund with the consent of the public only and not against their will. The Tahsildar, too, was aware of that. He went on tour and sent for the inhabitants of that village. The above worker was not present in his village on that day. Some other people of that ilaqa, including that worker, did not go to the Tahsildar on the fixed day. On that the Tahsildar ordered that they should appear before him in another village which was very far off.

**Sardar Bahadur Sardar Gurbachan Singh :** On a point of order, Sir. The discussion is not about mutations or about tahsildars. The subject under

[S. B. S. Gurbachan Singh.]

discussion is about sub-registrars only. My honourable friend is talking about tahsildars affecting mutations in villages and is therefore irrelevant.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** I know there are many sub-registrars here. But let me make it clear that I am not attacking any particular gentleman sitting in this House. I am not condemning the sub-registrars as a class. Among them you can come across a few who do not resort to such methods, but the majority do all this.

To resume my narration, Sir, the people went to the fixed place some other day. The very first thing that the tahsildar did was to impose a fine of five rupees per head on all the inhabitants of that village and to order that the fine should go to the war fund.

**Mr. Speaker :** Is mutation a part and parcel of registration ?

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** I am talking about registration in villages. Sardar Bahadur Sardar Shiv Narain Singh Maron, tahsildar, has gone to the extent of giving express orders that no petition-writer should write any registration deed unless a rupee or two are contributed to the war fund by the parties concerned.

**Chaudhri Tikka Ram :** Sir, the honourable member is attacking persons who are not present here and who cannot, therefore defend themselves.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** If such persons were present here I am afraid I shall not be able to resist the temptation of flaying them alive.

To continue my speech, Sir, I was just trying to drive home that the sub-registrars and tahsildars acting in unison do not sign and effect mutations respectively unless the people pay something to the war fund.

**Mr. Speaker :** Who had issued that order, the tahsildar or the sub-registrar ?

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** The tahsildar.

**Mr. Speaker :** Is not, then, the honourable member now discussing the tahsildar ?

**Rai Sahib Chaudhri Tikka Ram :** On a point of order. The honourable member is talking of a certain individual who is not present here to defend himself.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** There are so many.

**Mr. Speaker :** He is not here.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Unfortunately he is not there.

**Mr. Speaker :** Please speak to the motion before the House.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** I am talking about the sub-registrars.

**Finance Minister :** We are not here concerned with any general policy which may be adopted. We are merely concerned with this humble supplementary demand for 60 thousand rupees, that has become necessary because of particular circumstances. If the honourable member wishes to attack registration or registrars generally, the time is at the annual budget. But nothing of this kind arises out of this motion that I have made to-day. None of these questions arise as a matter of policy or otherwise out of Rs. 60,000 that are being placed before the Assembly for sanction at the present moment.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** This is the only occasion when I can attack sub-registrars.

**Mr. Speaker :** No. The honourable member can move a cut motion and attack the sub-registrars when the annual budget is discussed. He cannot discuss the whole department when a Supplementary Demand is discussed.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** I am not discussing the whole department. I am simply pointing out the misdeeds of these sub-registrars.

What I wish to point out is this that Government should make an all-out effort to stop the sub-registrars from getting illegal contributions from the people. The sub-registrars put the people to unnecessary trouble and inconvenience in connection with the registration of their deeds, etc. In view of these circumstances, I urge upon the Government to stop these uncalled-for practices. If the sub-registrars continue resorting to these unfair measures for collecting war contributions, Government will themselves experience the resentment of the people, which will have far reaching effects upon them. In the end, I urge upon the Government to put an end to the practices set up by the sub-registrars of extorting War Fund at the time of registering land deeds. With these words, Sir, I commend the cut motion to the House.

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

That the total demand be reduced by Re. 1.

**Sardar Bahadur Sardar Gurbachan Singh** (Jullundur West, Sikh, Rural) : Sir, I have carefully heard the speech of the honourable member and I can assure him that no force is being used to collect the war fund. I think it is an essential duty of every non-official member to ask the people to help in the successful prosecution of war and if some people when thus requested willingly pay whatever they like, there certainly is no harm in collecting the fund in this way. Again Government has issued new orders that no war fund at all is to be collected by anybody except the Deputy Commissioner or anyone else whom he may empower. The honourable member has been mostly talking of tahsildars and mutations, which was irrelevant as I have already pointed out to the Chair. Similarly the Finance Minister has very ably pointed out to you that this demand does not create any new policy and that if the honourable member wants to discuss it policy he can surely discuss it in the Budget Session. With these words I oppose the cut motion.

**Khan Bahadur Captain Malik Muzaffar Khan** (Mianwali South, Muhammadan, Rural) (Urdu) : Sir, I am very sorry to say that my honourable friend Sardar Sohan Singh Josh had the audacity to make an incorrect and baseless statement in the course of his speech. He said that the sub-registrars and tahsildars made forcible contributions for war purposes while registering land deeds etc. In this connection I wish to submit that I have been working as sub-registrar for the last twenty years. I assure you that the remarks made by my honourable friend in connection with the forcible contributions, are quite incorrect and baseless. He further said that tahsildars and the naib-tahsildars resorted to unfair measures while making the registration of land deeds, etc. So far as I am concerned, I wish to point out that I was working as honorary recruiting officer, and the tahsildar used to officiate in my absence and so far no complaint has been received by me to the effect that the Tahsildar made forcible contributions for war purposes from people who went to him for registering their land deeds, etc.

I shall be sorry if I am convinced that such a thing had happened in his own district. I assure him that even in his own district this has not happened. I fail to understand why he made a statement to the effect that this was a



[K. B. Capt. Malik Muzaffar Khan.]

general practice among sub-registrars and tahsildars. It really ill-behaves my honourable friend to attack the sub-registrars and tahsildars as a whole without having convinced himself about the facts. In the end, I make bold to say that the allegations made by my honourable friend are quite incorrect and baseless. With these words, Sir, I resume my seat.

**Mr. Speaker :** Question is—

That the total demand be reduced by Re. 1.

*The motion was lost.*

**Mr. Speaker :** The question is—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 60,000 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 Registration.

*The motion was carried.*

#### CHARGES ON ACCOUNT OF MOTOR VEHICLES ACTS

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

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 40,000 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 charges on account of Motor Vehicles Acts.

*The motion was carried.*

#### GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

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

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 72,800 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 General Administration.

*The motion was carried.*

#### JAILS AND CONVICT SETTLEMENTS

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

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 31,290 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.

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

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 31,290 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.

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

That the item of Rs. 29,290 on account of District Jails (1) Entertainment of Police staff for duty both inside and around the boundary wall of Gujrat Special Jail, be reduced by Re. 1.

Sir, before entering into details I wish to quote the exact wording of the statement of reasons which the Government have given on page 12 of the Supplementary Estimates (1943-44) for the demand now before the House. It reads as follow :—

Owing to the detention of security prisoners in the Gujrat Special Jail it is necessary to have a special police duty staff as detailed in the schedule for the safe custody of prisoners and safety of the jail from outside as also suppression of mutiny. The expenditure on the staff is estimated at Rs. 29,290.

It is clear from the above fact that the Government feel the dire necessity of stationing a special police duty staff as a precautionary measure outside the Gujrat Special Jail, with a view to removing any probable doubt and danger of the prisoners coming out from the jail or any armed men breaking into the jail and thus helping them in their forcible exit. Government have moved this demand of Rs. 29,290 to meet the expenses in this connection. So far as the Gujrat Special Jail is concerned, I wish to submit that the persons detained in the jail are important public men and the Government are afraid lest they should break the walls and run away. In this connection I wish to point out that these detenus have already spent a greater portion of their life in serving their mother-country, and they have not been the cause of trouble for any Government. Their creed is non-violence and they are always against giving offence to anybody. These people of great public importance have been detained in this jail without any trial. Government could not dare trying their cases in any open court of law.

Further, it is said that the condition of certain persons detained in this jail is very serious, so much so that they cannot even move from their beds, while there are others who are lying on their death-beds. They have been maltreated by the Government. The Government has fixed six annas per diem for their food. So far as the indecent treatment at the hands of the Government is concerned, I can assure you that they are being treated very badly as if they are animals.

The Government is proposing to spend all this money out of the so-called fear from those persons who are looked upon with reverence throughout the Province. It is said about them that they will break open the walls of the jail and that they will run away and cause havoc in the province. It is said that if the walls of the jail are not strengthened and the Police is not stationed on duty, they can run away and thus the peace and tranquillity of the Province is likely to be disturbed. I submit that the Government is proposing to spend all this money for nothing. It will be nothing less than a waste. It is an experience gained during the last one and a half years that the Congress detenus have never run away or tried to run away from the jails. They are very peace-abiding people and if they have been imprisoned for a principle they will never try to escape from the jail.

Sir, in the second portion of the Supplementary Estimates, it is stated that with a view to effecting safety of jail from attacks from outside as also suppression of mutiny, they propose to spend the sum of Rs. 29,290. Perhaps it is all being proposed because the Government is afraid of people who are at large, lest they should attack the jail and set all the prisoners at liberty. I think the type of such people must be owing allegiance to the Unionist Government or they must have been disgusted with the present administration. In either case it would be better if the prisoners are set at liberty.

Sir, our Honourable Premier has always been evading questions regarding those honourable members of our Assembly, whose cases have never been conducted in law court or who have never been given hearing in courts. Whenever a question is put, an invariable answer is that it is against the public interest to answer such questions. I ask the Government to tell us what public safety is in danger if such questions are replied to. Obviously the Government intend to hide the magnificent activities of those patriots who are now in jails. For full nine months they have been starved. They have been given meals at the rate of six annas per day. When now they have been given concessions, the Honourable Premier

[Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma.]

has given a statement in the Assembly. How pitiable it is, sir, that to 12 or 15 honourable members of our Assembly such a shameless treatment has been meted out. They have been starved, most of them are seriously ill and yet it is said about them that they will climb over the walls.

The Government might be aware that Sardar Sardul Singh Kaveeshar gave a statement that he had differences with Subhash Bose and yet the Honourable Minister of Finance—

**Minister of Finance :** Sardar Sardul Singh was never in Gujrat jail.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** I know it. He is in the Dharmasala Jail. But I am discussing whether this is the general policy of the Government or whether this is the policy with respect to one particular jail. Do you expect mutiny in this jail only or in other jails as well?

**Minister of Finance :** This is the only demand I have made.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** I was saying that in spite of the differences Sardar Sardul Singh Kaveeshar was put in jail.

Sir, I have not been able to understand the meaning of the word 'mutiny' used in the Supplementary Estimates. I ask the Honourable Minister of Finance to tell us whether he is afraid of mutiny from inside or outside the jail. One fails to understand why there should be all this apprehension.

With these words, I move my cut motion.

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

That the item of Rs. 29,290 on account of District Jails (1) Entertainment of Police staff for duty both inside and around the boundary wall of Gujrat Special Jail, be reduced by Rs. 1.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh** (Amritsar North, Sikh; Rural) (*Punjabi*) :

Mr. Speaker, I crave your indulgence for a few minutes to explain that the money spent on the Gujrat Special Jail is absolutely being wasted. In fact the Government does not know where money should be spent or where it is being actually spent or whether it is being wholly wasted by the different subordinate officers. I am firmly of the opinion that this Government is extremely inefficient.

It will not be out of place to mention here as to how the special jail of Gujrat was brought into existence. When a very large number of communists were arrested and detained in the Deoli Camp, the public started great agitation and the Press loudly protested. Most of the prisoners went on hunger strike as a protest against the bad treatment that was accorded to those detenus. The said hunger strike continued for about 20 days. After all this the Government had to yield and promised to send the various detenus to their own respective provinces. I was also one of them. For us the Special Jail of Gujrat was arranged and we were ultimately brought into it. At that time the whole of the staff which the C. I. D. had posted at Deoli was also transferred to Gujrat. Here a clash took place between the jail authorities and the C. I. D. staff as to who should be responsible for looking after the security prisoners inside the jail and censoring their dak. The staff of the C. I. D., wanted to interfere in all matters. But the Jail authorities objected. After a good deal of controversy, the jail authorities were given full powers within the jail but the C. I. D. people were empowered to check all other matters outside the jail. In spite of all this the original staff of the C. I. D., which was posted at Deoli Camp, still continued to work at Gujrat, although most of the duties were transferred to the jail authorities. It was not a new thing. It invariably happens that whatever staff is once engaged by the Government it is allowed to draw heavy salaries from the

Government even when it is no longer required. Now this unnecessary staff is still being maintained in spite of the fact that it is no longer wanted. There is absolutely no fear or danger of mutiny breaking out in the special jail of Gujrat. Even when the wave of agitation had overtaken the other provinces, the Punjab was not affected and now there is still less likelihood of any thing of the sort. Yet the Government is beating the dead horse and goes on wasting the hard earned money of the poor tax-payers of the Punjab. This money could be more usefully spent in connection with the "grow-more-food" campaign. The poor cultivators should have been provided with seeds and other facilities out of the money which is being wasted on the unwanted police in Gujrat jail.

After all what kind of people were detained in the special jail of Gujrat from whom the Government feared mutiny? Let us consider the facts about these men. They were the persons who had taken the vow to fight fascism to death. They were prepared to lay down their very lives in their fight against Fascism. But here is our Government which, instead of winning the sympathies of these enemies of the forces of aggression, has tried to give them a bad name and hang them for nothing. Such are the follies of the Government which put every thinking man to shame. The other glaring fact which goes to prove that this money is being wasted is that out of the original 200 or so of such detenus about 70 security prisoners only remain in jail. But yet the staff of the police goes on as before in its full strength. This is a positive proof of my statement which I made in the beginning of my speech that Government did not know where money should be spent, or where it is being actually spent or where it should not be spent. It is on this ground that I oppose this demand and strongly support the cut motion.

**Mr. Speaker :** The question is—

That the item of Rs. 29,290 on account of District Jails (1) Entertainment of Police staff for duty both inside and around the boundary wall of Gujrat Special Jail, be reduced by Rs. 1.

*The Assembly divided : Ayes 8, Noes 53.*

AYES.

Amar Nath Shah, Lala.  
Bhagat Ram Sharma, Pandit.  
Mazhar Ali Azhar, Maulvi.  
Raghubir Kaur, Shrimati.

Santokh Singh, Sardar.  
Sohan Singh Josh, Sardar.  
Teja Singh, Sardar.  
Uttam Singh Dugal, Sardar.

NOES.

Abdul Rahim, Chaudhri (Gurdaspur).  
Ahmad Yar Khan, Chaudhri.  
Allah Yar Khan Daultana, Mian.  
Amir-ud-Din, Khan Bahadur Mian.  
Amjad Ali Shah, Sayed.  
Anant Ram, Chaudhri.  
Baldev Singh, The Honourable Sardar.  
Balwant Singh, Sardar.  
Chhotu Ram, The Honourable Chaudhri Sir.  
Faiz Muhammad, K. B. Shaikh.  
Farman Ali Khan, Subedar-Major Raja.  
Fateh Muhammad, Captain Mian.

Fateh Sher Khan, Malik.  
Fazal Din, Khan Sahib Chaudhri.  
Few, Mr. E.  
Ghazanfar Ali Khan, Raja.  
Gopal Singh (American), Sardar.  
Gurbachan Singh, Sardar Bahadur Sardar.  
Gurbakhsh Singh, Sardar.  
Habib Ullah Khan, Malik.  
Hans Raj, Bhagat.  
Harnam Das, Lala.  
Jugal Kishore, Chaudhri.  
Khizar Hyat, The Honourable Malik.

[Mr. Speaker.]

Manohar Lal, The Honourable Dr. Sir.  
 Maqbool Mahmood, Mir.  
 Mohar Singh, Rao.  
 Muhammad Akram Khan, Khan  
 Bahadur Raja.  
 Muhammad Saadat Ali Khan, Khan  
 Bahadur Khan.  
 Muhammad Sarfraz Khan, Chaudhri.  
 Mumtaz Muhammad Khan Daulatana.  
 Muzaffar Ali Khan, Qizilbash, Sardar.  
 Muzaffar Khan, Khan Bahadur  
 Captain Malik.  
 Nasir-ud-Din, Khan Bahadur Chaudhri.  
 Nasrullah Khan, Rana.  
 Nawazish Ali Shah, Sayed.  
 Prem Singh, Chaudhri.  
 Prem Singh, Mahant.

Ram Sarup, Chaudhri.  
 Ranpat Singh, Chaudhri.  
 Rashida Latif Baji, Begum.  
 Ripudaman Singh, Rai Sahib Thakur.  
 Sahib Dad Khan, Khan Sahib Chau-  
 dhri.  
 Sardar Khan Noon, Major Malik.  
 Shahadat Khan, Khan Sahib Rai.  
 Shah Nawaz, Mrs. J. A.  
 Shaukat Hyat-Khan, The Honour-  
 able Captain.  
 Sultan Mahmood Hotiana, Mian.  
 Sumer Singh, Chaudhri.  
 Suraj Mal, Rai Sahib Chaudhri.  
 Tara Singh, Sardar.  
 Tikka Ram, Chaudhri.  
 Wali Muhammad Sayyad Hiraj, Sardar.

**Mr. Speaker :** The question is—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 31,290 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.

*The motion was carried.*

#### MEDICAL

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

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 10,000 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 Medical.

*The motion was carried.*

#### BUILDINGS AND ROADS ESTABLISHMENT CHARGES

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

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 25,320 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.

*The motion was carried.*

#### REVENUE EXPENDITURE—ELECTRICITY SCHEMES

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

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 43,100 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 Other Revenue Expenditure connected with Electricity Schemes.

*The motion was carried.*

#### STATIONERY AND PRINTING

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

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 5,25,000 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.

*The motion was carried.*

## ADVANCES REPAYABLE

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

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 70,00,000 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 Advances Repayable.

**Mr. Speaker:** Demand moved—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 70,00,000 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 Advances Repayable.

*Purchase of wheat*

**Mian Muhammad Nurullah** (Lyallpur, Muhammadan, Rural): Sir, I beg to move:—

That the total demand be reduced by Re. 1.

Sir, I just want to say a few words in regard to the purchase of wheat in the various mandis in the province by the various agents of the Government of India and specially the purchases made by the Punjab Government through the co-operative societies and the Co-operative Department. I happened to visit Toba Tek Singh last year. A few zamindars set up as arhties belonging to the neighbouring area came to me in deputation. They said that they had opened nine shops in the mandi but they were not getting any encouragement. I do not know why. Even from the financial point of view there must be some loss to the Government because if purchases are made in the open market, you are likely to get the article cheaper. Therefore I suggest that in future directions should be given to the department that instead of giving a monopoly to a certain individual or a certain firm, wheat must be purchased through various arhtis. I learn that in many cases one firm has got a monopoly in more than one mandi. That firm purchases from one mandi in the morning and goes to the other mandi in the evening, probably Sheikhpura and Chuharkana. That should not be allowed because Government loses on that account. If purchases are made simultaneously and competitively, prices are bound to come down. I do not want to press this motion to a division and I think some direction must be given so that we may get a fair deal and cheaper wheat.

**Mr. Speaker:** Question is—

That the total demand be reduced by Re. 1.

*The motion was lost.*

**Mr. Speaker:** The question is—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 70,00,000 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 Advances Repayable.

*The motion was carried.*

## ALIENATION OF LAND (AMENDMENT) BILL.

**Minister of Revenue** (The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram): Sir, I beg to introduce the Punjab Alienation of Land (Amendment) Bill. Sir, I also beg to move:—

That the Punjab Alienation of Land (Amendment) Bill be referred to a select committee.

As explained in the statement of objects and reasons, this amending Bill is being brought forward in order to set right certain defects which came to light in the working of the existing Punjab Alienation of Land Act or as a result of judicial interpretation of certain provisions of the Act. I need not go into any

[Minister of Revenue.]

details at present, but I will just invite the attention of the House to a few important points to which this amending Bill relates. One of the important points is that according to a decision of the High Court, the Financial Commissioners have been deprived of their revisional jurisdiction in respect of certain orders passed by Deputy Commissioners. The amendment which has been incorporated in the present amending Bill removes that defect. Another defect which it is sought to remove by the amending Bill relates to the position of an agriculturist moneylender. Honourable members will remember that when the amending Act of 1938 was passed certain restrictions were placed on alienations to agriculturist moneylenders. It has now been found that the agriculturist moneylender has been placed at a definite disadvantage as compared with a non-agriculturist moneylender. The amending Bill now places the two types of moneylenders exactly on the same footing. A third important point relates to appeals. As the law stands at present, provisions relating to appeals lie scattered about in 4 or 5 different places. The present amending Bill consolidates all the provisions relating to appeals and brings them together at a single point. Lastly I will draw the attention of the members of the House to the decision which was first given by the Punjab High Court and later on confirmed by the Federal Court. In 1938 we passed an amending Act which declared void all the *benami* alienations of statutory agriculturists' land where the beneficiary was a non-agriculturist. The question was taken to courts and it was found that the law, as it stood then, offended against section 298 of the Government of India Act. When that decision was announced, and even before that decision was announced, the late Premier and I, on behalf of the Unionist Party, gave an undertaking to the zamindar community that if ultimately the law, as it then stood, was found to be invalid, then we would do our level best to bring in another amending Bill and will make it as cast-iron and fool-proof as we could possibly make it. The present Bill now declares such *benami* transactions as void and also steers clear the defect which made the last Act, that is Act X of 1938, invalid.

2 p. m.

Sardar Sohan Singh Josh : Will the Act be fool-proof? Are you quite sure ?

Minister of Revenue : We, the administrative department, and the Law Department of the Punjab co-operated with each other in order to hammer out a provision which, so far as we have been able to judge, will be found to be cast-iron. I have no doubt that the amending Bill will be referred to a select committee to-day and any matters of detail will be thrashed out during the select-committee stage. I will now read out the names of the members who will serve on the select committee. They are :—

Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan,  
Chaudhri Sumer Singh,  
Sheikh Faiz Muhammad Khan,  
Sardar Lal Singh,  
Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Muhammad Hussain,  
Rai Bahadur Rai Hari Chand,  
Mian Abdul Rab,  
Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh,  
Mian Mumtaz Daulatana,  
Sardar Teja Singh Swatanter,  
Rai Bahadur Mukand Lal, Puri,  
Rai Bahadur Lala Gopal Das, and  
Sardar Santokh Singh.

I propose that the quorum be nine.

**Mr. Speaker :** Motion moved is—

That the Punjab Alienation of Land (Amendment) Bill be referred to a select committee consisting of—

Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan,  
Chaudhri Sumar Singh,  
Sheikh Faiz Muhammad Khan,  
Sardar Lal Singh,  
Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Muhammad Hussain,  
Raj Bahadur Raj Hari Chand,  
Mian Abdul Rab,  
Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh,  
Mian Mumtaz Daulatana,  
Sardar Teja Singh Swatanter,  
Raj Bahadur Mukand Lal Puri,  
Raj Bahadur Lala Gopal Das, and  
Sardar Santokh Singh.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang** (West Lahore Division, General Rural):  
Sir, I beg to move:—

That the Bill be circulated for eliciting public opinion thereon by the end of March 1944.

I know what the fate of this amendment would be. I am moving it not in the hope that there is any chance of its being accepted but simply to do my duty, because I feel that the Bill introduced by the Honourable Minister is of very far-reaching importance and affects the rights of a large number of people in this province. Therefore, I consider it necessary that before the Bill is referred to the Select Committee, the public or that section of it which is likely to be affected by its provisions, should have an opportunity to express its opinion with respect to the merits and demerits of the measure. The history of this measure is a long one and is very well known in the Province. The trouble in the Province over this Bill started more than forty years ago—in fact about forty-five years ago—because the measure became law in 1901 and the agitation with respect to it had started earlier than that. A number of amendments were made even before this Unionist Government came into power and the late Sir Fazl-i-Husain, who was Revenue Member for some time, had made a declaration on the floor of the Council that so far as the Land Alienation Act of the Punjab was concerned, the Government would go neither one step further nor one step backward. This assurance was repeated by him more than once on the floor of the House and so far as I can recollect, and I believe honourable members of this House will be able to recollect, the late Premier Sir Sikander Hyat Khan also gave a similar assurance on the floor of the Assembly before the Bill of 1938 had been introduced. But unfortunately none of those assurances was implemented. Then again last year when the Punjab was discussing the question of a pact, which has come to be known in the history of the Punjab as Sikander-Baldev Singh pact, we were led to believe that no controversial measure would be brought forward in this Assembly at least during the pendency of the war. It cannot be denied that the Bill which has been introduced by the Honourable Minister is a controversial measure and as such I have no hesitation in saying that even that pact or assurance which was given to the people of the Punjab at the time of that pact has also been ignored. The plague has left the Punjab and for many years we have not had any trouble so far as the bubonic or pneumonic plague is concerned, but this Bill has not ceased plaguing the Province with amendments and amendments after amendments. I may make it clear here that for various reasons the



[Dr. Sir Gokal Chand Narang.]

representatives of the non-agriculturists of the Punjab had made a declaration—a public declaration—that, in order not to disturb the peace of the Province or the relations of the non-agriculturists with the agriculturists of the Province, they would cease agitating with respect to the provisions of the Land Alienation Act of the Punjab. The Honourable Minister must be aware of this public declaration.

**Minister of Revenue :** Who made that declaration ?

**Dr. Sir Gokal Chand Narang :** The non-agriculturist members of the Punjab Legislative Assembly at a gathering of which the Honourable Minister must be aware. As some of the members of the Unionist Party were also present there, some representatives of the agriculturist party had taken part in that function, it cannot be unknown to the Honourable Minister. That showed our *bona fides*, our readiness to put up with the troubles and the losses that the Punjab Land Alienation Act has caused to the non-agriculturist population of this Province. We wanted to forget the wounds inflicted by this measure but it seems although we were prepared to leave the measure alone, the measure will not leave us alone. In 1938, as you remember, Sir, a second and a third amending Bill were brought forward in the Assembly and we had a good deal to say about them.

At that time also I felt that the measure which was being enacted by the House at that time was defective and was invalid and it went against the provisions of the Government of India Act. You may remember, at least the Honourable Minister would remember, that in order to make my position clear, not only by speeches in the House, I contributed a number of articles on the subject to the *Civil and Military Gazette* as well as the *Tribune*. Some of the advocates of the Government tried to reply to those articles. But I felt at the time that the replies given by the advocates of the Government had no force at all in them. It gave me a little satisfaction to find that the highest courts in the country accepted the view which I had been putting forward both on the floor of this House as well as in my articles contributed to the press. It has been pointed out in the statement of objects and reasons why this Bill is being brought forward. An express reference has been made to the judgments of the High Court of the Punjab and to the Federal Court of the country. It seems as if the Punjab Ministry has taken a vow to carry on a fight against the civil courts of this country. That has been obvious from all the measures which the Unionist Government have piloted through this House. No opportunity has been lost to clip the wings of the civil courts in this province. Encroachment after encroachment has been made upon the jurisdiction and powers of the civil courts in this province. The same is obvious from the present Bill which is now being brought forward by the Honourable Minister. This Bill goes much further than any measure which had so far been passed either by the predecessors of the present Government or by the present Government itself. It will have far-reaching effects upon the proprietary rights of the people who in one form or another, acquire some title or some interest in land. It will upset old transactions. It will surely cause heavy loss to people who have most innocently entered into transactions relating to land. The children and grand children of persons, who had the folly to involve themselves in land transactions will suffer. In this Bill the deputy commissioner has been given very great powers. A person might have acquired land long long ago on mortgage or on lease or on farm. The lessor or the mortgagor may come forward at any time during the pendency of the mortgage or of the lease or of the farm and may ask the deputy commissioner to

set aside that lease or farm or mortgage on certain conditions. The mortgage was for 30 years, but the mortgagor may come forward and ask the deputy commissioner, after the mortgage has been in existence only for 5 or 10 years, to have the mortgage set aside. He might find that great improvements have been made on the land, that the value of the land has greatly increased, that the locality in which the land was situated has been populated and a town has grown up round that land and therefore the value of the land has been greatly enhanced and that it would be worthwhile to go and pay the proportionate amount to the mortgagee or the lessee and get back the land. There is a provision that a notice may be given to the lessee or to the mortgagee that the lessor or the mortgagor wants to have his land back, and the deputy commissioner would serve the notice on the mortgagee or the lessee. But there is another thing. The lessor or the mortgagor may want immediate possession of that land and if he is prepared to deposit the full consideration for which the land was mortgaged, the deputy commissioner need not observe the ceremony or formality of serving the notice on the mortgagee, but the possession of the land would immediately be awarded to the lessor or the mortgagor. Unless I entirely misunderstand this part of the Bill, that is what the effect of that clause of this Bill would be. Even after having ejected the lessee or the mortgagee or the farmer, as the case may be, the deputy commissioner would sit down to allot the fund deposited with him between the mortgagor and the mortgagee.

There is another provision in this Bill that is likely to work a great hardship on the people who may acquire land in one form or other. It is necessary to obtain deputy commissioner's sanction for purchasing land from an agriculturist, if the purchaser happens to be a non-agriculturist. The sanction is given, sale-deed is executed and registered and the vendee is put in possession of the land and he starts operating on the land, may be, by erecting a building on it—just as my honourable friend was telling that he has purchased some land and he wants to erect a factory. There was a time when the sanction given by the deputy commissioner was considered sufficient and final and no question arose of any disturbance being created in the title of the purchaser thus acquired by him with the sanction of the deputy commissioner. But a provision is sought to be included in the new Bill that the sanction of the deputy commissioner will not be sufficient. Supposing the sanction is given and the possession has been taken by the purchaser, the seller of the land comes to know that the land that he has sold is likely to become of a very great value owing to certain reasons which may have come into existence after the completion of the transaction, he can go on appeal. He can apply to the Commissioner giving one reason or other and urging that the sanction given by the deputy commissioner should be set aside, or if the Commissioner does not accept his contention, he can go on review to the Financial Commissioner and try to have the order of the deputy commissioner set aside. So he can file a review. There are three courses open to the person, if he is aggrieved by the order passed by the original court. There is an appeal, there is a revision, and it may be review in both cases—review of the appellate order and review of the order passed on revision. Sir, if I am not mistaken—I am not a practising lawyer any more and for many years I have not practised—to the best of my recollection there is no limitation prescribed for petition or revision. So, a person can wait and see how the value of his land increases and if he finds that the value of the land is still increasing, he can then go on revision and if the revision is decided against him he can go on review.

The result would be, and it is obvious, that the purchaser cannot carry on any operation on the land duly purchased by him in accordance with the

[Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang.]

provisions of the law. He may have spent a lakh of rupees on the land, even more. He may have purchased it for building a factory just as I said my friend told me. He has to wait for an indefinitely long time before he can make use of the land. Then what happens. After he has spent lakh of rupees on the purchase of a particular plot of land with the sanction of the Deputy Commissioner, the sanction of the Deputy Commissioner duly given may be set aside by the Commissioner or the Financial Commissioner. Then does the Bill make the provision that the possession of the land shall not be restored to the vendor unless he pays the money back to the purchaser with a reasonable amount of interest to make amends for the loss that the investment of a large capital would certainly cause him if the land passes out of his hands? There is no such provision. What is the provision instead? The provision instead is that the Deputy Commissioner may convert that sale into mortgage for a number of years for which he may consider reasonable and which may not exceed 20 years. It means this that if land could be had on lease by a tenant, let us say, on payment of hundred rupees a year, that land is sold for 50,000 as it may be well happen the purchaser will get Rs. 2,000 in the form of retention of the possession of the land by him for 20 years at the most. This is the provision. I do not understand, Sir, why the Government should be so entirely lost to all sense of proportion and to all reasonableness and that it should have lost even all sense of decency when dealing with a particular section of the people who have been placed by Providence under their charge for the time being: this really passes one's belief. We are aware what happened in Russia and we are aware of the things that happened in other countries; but we expected that whereas the example of Russia is followed in one instance it should be followed in other instances also, but that is never done, it is not done.

**Mr. Speaker:** Will this provision have retrospective effect?

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang:** It will have retrospective effect. You may know from my honourable friend that it is irrespective of how much time may elapse. I will just give an illustration. There is a section in the Act which was passed in 1938, which provides that if land has been alienated by an agriculturist to an agriculturist, may be, the beneficial interest will go to somebody else, it does not matter how many times it has changed hands. The possession will be awarded to the original owner of the land irrespective of the fact that he was himself a colluding or agreeing party to this 'fraud'—I am using the word 'fraud' as Government would like to have it put even if he was himself deliberately a party to this transaction knowing full well that the beneficial interest of the land was going not to his immediate alienee, but to a third person who is not an agriculturist: even then and in spite of the fact that the land changed so many hands, the possession shall be awarded to the original owner. Is it justice? In olden times when kings wanted things from persons, they sent an order, not even in writing but through a man with a gun on his shoulders or a sword, the king wants this, give it or you go to the gallows. Here a Bill is substituted in place of a gun or a sword and the Government takes, I mean the Unionist Government takes, whatever it wants and does whatever it likes to do without any regard to the elementary principles of justice and equity. I do not want to make my remarks exhaustive: it is not necessary to say much on this occasion. All I would say would be that it is only proper and fair that the people who are likely to be affected by the provisions of this measure should be given an opportunity to express an opinion regarding it, and not only those people who are to be affected by it, but it is prudent, and it is always done by governments who do not

want to rush a controversial measure simply by force of their majority, that this measure should also be referred to people who are in a position by virtue of their knowledge and experience to give an opinion on the merits or demerits of this measure. Let it go to the Judges, to the bar associations, to their own officers, even to the Deputy Commissioners and Commissioners, and then see what volume of opinion is in favour of the Bill and what is the volume of opinion against this measure. I know of one gentleman—I hope he has got his seat in Heaven if there is a Heaven—I am referring to the late Mr. Mitchell, who was Commissioner of Lahore for some time. When a case arising under this Act went to him he set his face against giving retrospective effect to this obnoxious provision, and other officers, who had conscience and who had independent judgment, also revolted, their conscience revolted against retrospective effect to such a measure of loot intended to deprive helpless people of their right. But the Government is what it was in 1938, if not worse, worse because it considers itself to be more powerful and better established to-day than in 1938. Therefore it is more bold and is more ready to do things which it might not have been ready to do in 1937 or 1938. I know there is no chance of my amendment being accepted by the Government judging from the past experience that we have had, but I considered it my duty to the best of my ability, and I have done my duty.

**Mr. Speaker :** Motion under consideration, amendment moved is—]

That the Punjab Alienation of Land (Amendment) Bill be circulated for eliciting public opinion thereon by the end of March 1944.

**Mian Muhammad Nurullah** (Lyallpur, Muhammadan Rural) : Sir, while supporting the motion moved by the Honourable Minister I want to suggest two things for the consideration of the select committee. One is whether in the face of section 17 in this Act is it or is it not desirable to delete part 2-D (also) under section 12-A—

**Mr. Speaker :** This suggestion can be placed before the select committee.

**Mian Muhammad Nurullah :** They might consider it. There is one more suggestion and it is this. Section 12 (3) runs as follows :—

Every lease, farm or mortgage of land belonging to a member of a notified agricultural tribe made in execution of a decree or order of any civil or revenue court after the commencement of the Punjab Alienation of Land (Amendment) Act, 1931, shall be determinable at any time during the currency of such lease, farm, or mortgage by the owner of such land making an application to the Deputy Commissioner and depositing with him for payment to the alienee such proportion of the amount in consideration for which the lease, farm or mortgage had been allowed as the Deputy Commissioner may consider equitable.

I want to suggest that they should also add cases disposed of by the official receivers and an explanation might be added here. Under the Insolvency Act the official receiver is not able to give an effective order in favour of the zamindar. Therefore along with these words 'civil or revenue Court' the words 'official receiver' be added. I think this will improve things and help many zamindars in getting their land in proper time.

**Minister of Revenue** (The Honourable Chaudhri, Sir Chhotu Ram) : Sir, at the very outset I will deal with the suggestions made by Mian Nurullah by simply requesting him to send his suggestions in writing to me if he is not a member of the select committee. I will place them before the select committee and if it is decided by the committee to accept them, they will surely be incorporated in the Bill.

With regard to the objections raised by the Honourable Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang, I need only say that this subject is not new ; the arguments which

[Minister for Revenue]

he has advanced are by no means new either. The subject of *benami* transactions as a whole has been before the public for the last 5 years. Those who were competent to express any views did express their views on the last occasion and those opinions are there lying in the offices. All those opinions were duly considered on the last occasion when the amending Bill of 1938 came up for discussion in this House.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** Did you circulate that even then ?

**Minister of Revenue :** The opinions were all there and the subject was ventilated not only on the floor of this House, it was ventilated very extensively in the Press ; it was ventilated very profusely from the platform and I do not think there is even a single argument which has been put forward by Sir Gokul Chand Narang or can be put forward by anybody else which is new. All those old arguments that old transactions will be reopened ; that improvements that were made by the alienee during the period of his possession might or might not be compensated adequately or in the meantime the value of the land might have increased very substantially, were put forward previously, were duly considered and after a careful consideration of all these arguments the Government came to the conclusion that the amending Bill of 1938 should be proceeded with and this honourable House with a very large majority came to a decision that the amending Bill should be passed.

Now, Sir, Dr. Gokul Chand has made very kindly references to some of our officers. I appreciate his references to those officers ; I have the highest possible regard for one of them whom he has specifically mentioned. It is not a question of conscience. If it were a question of conscience I could quote the opinions of many other officers who were strongly in favour of that Bill and there are many officers who are in favour of the present Bill. Conscience, unfortunately, differs very widely. The conscience of Sir Gokul Chand Narang is entirely different from that of Pir Akbar Ali and the consciences of Sardar Santokh Singh may be entirely different from that of, say, Sardar Lal Singh. Conscience is not a factor on which it is always safe to rely. Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang has made a reference to an undertaking which he says was given by the late Sir Fazl-i-Hussain. I do not deny so far as that undertaking is concerned. He did give it.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** It has died with him.

**Minister :** So many other things have died with him. He gave that undertaking and he repeated it but that undertaking was only for the period during which the province was governed by a Government not responsible to the electorate. It could not possibly be extended beyond that period as Sir Fazl-i-Hussain never intended—a man of his democratic views could not possibly have intended—that undertaking to hold good for all time.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** We are not aware of this mental reservation.

**Minister :** Does my friend suggest that even an undertaking given by the present Government as a whole should bind all future Governments ? Much less could an undertaking given by a single individual, however eminent, bind his successors. His undertaking, whatever it was, should be taken to have been meant for the period during which an irresponsible, unpopular Government was in office. I believe some sort of an assurance was given by the late Sir Sikander also, but that assurance, I am sure, was given while he was a Revenue Member.

and not at any time while he was at the helm of a popular democratic Government responsible to the people.

Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang has also made a reference to Sikander-Baldev Singh Pact, and he said that in that pact also a ban was placed on all controversial measures. He is entirely wrong. His information, if he has that information, is completely erroneous. No undertaking was ever given by anybody to anybody in any pact that no controversial measure whatever would be introduced in this Assembly.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** You are aware that such a thing was published in the papers—may be without authority.

**Minister of Revenue :** I am not responsible for what is published in the papers. I know it for a fact that no such undertaking was given. The undertaking given by the late Sir Sikander was that no taxation measure which would affect only a single class would be introduced in this House for the period of war. In the presence of an undertaking of the type referred to by Dr. Gokul Chand Narang you may as well disband the Assembly to-day. You cannot discuss any matter without raising some controversy. Even a small item of 6 or 7 thousand rupees which was presented to the House to-day by the Honourable Minister for Finance became a subject of controversy. The very fact of the way we eat ; the way we drink, the way we clothe ourselves may be given a controversial turn. If a restriction of that kind were allowed to be placed on the activities of this Assembly the Assembly would be absolutely useless and might as well disperse to-day. I repeat that no such undertaking was given. The real undertaking given was that no taxation measure which imposes the burden of taxation on a single class will be introduced in this House for the period of war. That was the undertaking given by the late Sir Sikander Hyat-Khan on the floor of the House.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** That will be adhered to I suppose.

**Minister :** That will be adhered to and has been adhered to. Otherwise there might have been several Bills introduced in this Assembly to augment the existing two taxation measures so as to bring in six crores of rupees to the provincial revenues.

I may make reference to one more argument, if argument it can be called, which was put forward by Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang to the effect that the Unionist Party seems to have made up its mind to avoid civil courts and that encroachment after encroachment had been made by successive Bills passed in this House upon the jurisdiction of civil courts. So far as the present Bill is concerned—I will not enter into the wider controversy—so far as the present Bill is concerned, it does not go one step further than the original Bill which we only desire to restore. We are trying to restore what this House had passed and what was ultimately found to be *ultra vires* of this Assembly under section 298 of the Government of India Act. We are not doing anything further than that in the present amending Bill. So, if there is any encroachment upon the jurisdiction of civil courts in this Bill that encroachment had already been made five years ago. It is nothing new. This very argument had been used when the original *benami* Bill was under discussion. Therefore although it may serve some purpose which is dear to Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang's heart, it is not an argument with much force in it.

**Mr. Speaker :** The question is—

That the Punjab Alienation of Land (Amendment) Bill be circulated for eliciting public opinion thereon by the end of March 1944.

*The motion was lost.*

**Mr. Speaker :** The question is—

That the Punjab Alienation of Land (Amendment) Bill be referred to a select committee.

*The motion was carried.*

**Mr. Speaker :** The question is—

That the select committee do consist of the following :—

Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan,

Chaudhri Sumer Singh,

Sheikh Faiz Muhammad Khan,

Sardar Lal Singh,

Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Muhammad Hussain,

Rai Bahadur Rai Hari Chand,

Mian Abdul Rab,

Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh,

Mian Mumtaz Daudatana,

Sardar Teja Singh Swatantar,

Rai Bahadur Mukand Lal Puri,

Rai Bahadur Lala Gopal Das, and

Sardar Santokh Singh.

*The motion was carried.*

**Mr. Speaker :** The question is—

That the quorum of the committee be nine.

*The motion was carried.*

*The Assembly then adjourned till 12 noon on Tuesday, 9th November 1948.*

# PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

## TENTH SESSION OF THE FIRST PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 9th November 1948

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

### STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

#### RAID ON THE OFFICE OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY

**\*8750. Sardar Teja Singh Swatantar :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that on the 14th November 1942 the office of the District Committee of the Communist Party at Gujranwala was raided by the police and the records and furniture, including the sign-board were removed; if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether anything incriminating was found from the search of that office;

(c) whether Government intends to return the articles seized?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Mir Maqbool Mahmood):** (a) Yes, there were reasons to believe that an offence prejudicial to the efficient prosecution of war, to the defence of British India or to the public safety was about to be committed in that place;

(b) No;

(c) All the articles have since been returned.

### INTERNEES

**\*8751. Sardar Teja Singh Swatantar :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) the number of persons interned at present in their respective villages or towns throughout the province under rule 26 of the Defence of India Rules;

(b) whether any maintenance allowance is paid to them; if so, to how many of them, and if it is not paid to any of them, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether and when the Government intends to cancel the internment orders upon those who have declared themselves to be anti-fascists and are for the vigorous prosecution of the war against fascism?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Mir Maqbool Mahmood):** (a) 197 on 26th October 1948; the orders in 16 cases are those of the Central Government.

(b) No, they are invariably restricted to places where they are in a position to earn their living;

(c) Internment orders can only be cancelled after considering all the factors relevant to each particular case.



### PERSONS DETAINED UNDER DEFENCE OF INDIA RULES

**\*8886. Lala Bhagat Ram Choda :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) the total number of persons interned in the various localities of the Province under Defence of India Rules from 8th August 1943 to 31st October 1943 ;

(b) the names and number of M.L.As., both Central and Provincial thus detained ; whether they are allowed to attend sessions of their respective legislatures ; if not, why not ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Mir Maqbool Mahmood) : (a) Presumably the honourable member wants figures from the 8th of August 1942. If so, the total number is 86.

(b) *Part I.*—This part is also not very clear but presumably the honourable member desires to know the number of members of the Legislative Assembly who are subject to restrictions. If so, they are—

Lala Duni Chand of Ambala,

Lala Duni Chand of Lahore, and

Pandit Muni Lal Kalia.

*Part II.*—No. Their release from jail was solely on account of their health and conferred no further privileges.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** May I know the reason why these interned M.L.As. are not allowed to attend the Punjab Legislative Assembly ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** As I have said before, they were released from the jail on account of health for their own convenience, and their restriction to their village on grounds of health does not carry the right to be free to attend the Assembly.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Does Government consider the activities of the members, so far as their attendance in the Assembly is concerned, to be prejudicial to the efficient prosecution of war ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** My honourable friend has not caught the spirit of my reply. A person detained is a person detained, and if any facilities are given on grounds of his health, it does not entitle him to further facilities.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Has Government considered the question of allowing all these M.L.As. who are imprisoned or interned to attend the Assembly to represent their constituencies ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** This is a matter of policy which I do not think is convenient to deal with on this question.

**Sardar Ajit Singh :** May I know from the Parliamentary Secretary whether Master Hari Singh who has been interned in his village was released on account of ill-health or for being a Communist ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I have read out the names of three persons, namely, Mr. Duni Chand of Lahore, Lala Duni Chand of Ambala and Pandit Muni Lal Kalia.

**Sardar Ajit Singh :** What I want to know is whether Master Hari Singh, who is also an M.L.A. and who has been released and interned in his village, was released on account of his indifferent health or because he was a Communist.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Does Government consider it constitutionally fair to continue in office as Ministers by putting so many members on this side of the House behind the prison bars ?

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Government is grinding its own axe.

**Premier :** So are you. So is everybody.

**Parliamentary Secretary :** If all the members who are either in prison or interned are added to the members of the Opposition, even then they would not affect the complexion of Government.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Are you prepared to give that a trial ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** That question is also coming up later and it will be replied to when we come to it.

#### MEMBERS OF LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DETAINED OR IMPRISONED

\*8905. **Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) the names of the M.L.As., Punjab, detained or imprisoned in the Punjab jails since 9th of August 1942, including those arrested before this date ;

(b) the names of the M.L.As. in question whose movements have been restricted to certain limited areas ;

(c) the names of the said M.L.As. to whom family allowances have been allowed ;

(d) the number of applications made by these M.L.As. for the grant of family allowances and the number of those rejected by the Government ;

(e) the last date on which the Government reviewed their cases for release and the result of the same ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Mir Maqbool Mahmood) :** (a) Mr. Dev Raj Sethi, Mian Iftikhar-ud-Din, Pandit Sri Ram Sharma, Chaudhri Sahib Ram, Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt, Sardar Partap Singh, Shrimati Shanno Devi, Munshi Hari Lal, Diwan Chaman Lal, Mr. Bhim Sen Sachar, Seth Sudarshan, Sardar Chanan Singh, Dr. Sant Ram Seth, Baba Rur Singh, Sardar Harjap Singh, Master Kabul Singh, Chaudhri Kartar Singh and Lala Deshbandhu Gupta. The last named has been detained under orders of the Chief Commissioner, Delhi. Four are at present on parole.

(b) Lala Duni Chand of Ambala, Lala Duni Chand of Lahore, Pandit Muni Lal Kalia and Sardar Hari Singh. The last named has been restricted under orders of the Kapurthala Government.

(c) Master Kabul Singh, Sardar Harjap Singh and Chaudhri Kartar Singh.

(d) Four. Only one was rejected.

(e) The cases of Security prisoners were last reviewed in 1942 while those of Civil Disobedience detenus have been under examination since August, 1943, but it has not been considered advisable to release them at present.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Is Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt still on parole or has he been released ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** He is still on parole.

PERMISSION TO INTERNED M.L.As. TO ATTEND THE ASSEMBLY SESSION

**\*8906. Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state whether Government has considered the question of allowing those of the M.L.As., Punjab, who are restricted within their village boundaries to attend the Assembly Session to be held in November 1943; if the answer be in the negative the reasons for the same?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Mir Maqbool Mahmood):** Yes, in the case of orders issued by the Punjab Government their release from jail was due solely to reasons of ill-health and therefore does not confer any further privileges.

PERMISSION TO MASTER HARI SINGH, M.L.A., TO ATTEND THE NOVEMBER SESSION OF THE ASSEMBLY

**\*8907. Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state whether he has considered the question of allowing Master Hari Singh, M.L.A., to attend the session of the Punjab Assembly which is to commence from the 1st November 1943?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Mir Maqbool Mahmood):** The order of restriction issued by the Kapurthala Government does not admit of his attending the Assembly and nothing fresh has occurred to justify a modification of the orders.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** May I ask whether Government had any hand in prevailing upon the Kapurthala Government to restrict him to his village?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I have nothing to add to the reply already given.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Was any influence brought to bear upon the State Agent for the purpose?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I have already stated that I have nothing to add to the answer already given.

**Sardar Ajit Singh :** Is Government prepared to urge upon the Kapurthala Durbar the removal of restrictions imposed upon Master Hari Singh?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I have nothing more to add.

RELEASE OF SECURITY PRISONERS ON PAROLE

**\*8915. Sardar Teja Singh Swatantar :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) the number of applications put in by the security prisoners arrested after August 9th, 1942, and detained in the Punjab, for release on parole for one reason or another;

(b) the number of applications among the above which have been accepted by the Government;

(c) whether any persons whose applications were accepted violated the conditions imposed upon them by the Government while on parole, if so, their names and the conditions violated by them?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Mir Maqbool Mahmood):** (a) The information is not readily available. The time and labour involved in its collection would be incommensurate with the result to be obtained.

(b) 15

(c) No.

## MUFTI MOHD. NAEEM

**\*8939. Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether he is aware of the fact that Mufti Mohd. Naeem of Ludhiana, a member of the Working Committee of the Jamiat-ul-Ulama-i-Hind has been lying seriously ill with typhoid fever for the last few months in the District Jail, Ambala ;

(b) whether any representation has been received recently by the Government to release him or at least allow him to get proper medical aid from outside ; if so, the action taken thereon ;

(c) whether the Government intends to release him ; if so, when, if not, why not ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Mir Maqbool Mahmood) :** (a) It is not a fact that he is seriously ill. He has been having a slight rise of temperature in the evenings for some weeks.

(b) Yes. The matter is under the consideration of Government who are awaiting the result of the detenu's blood examination from the provincial Bacteriologist. His general condition is satisfactory.

(c) Does not arise.

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**MR. RAM CHANDRA, B.A. (NATIONAL)**

**\*8940. Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether ne is aware of the fact that comrade Ram Chandra, B.A. (National), a prominent Congressman of Lahore has been released and interned recently in his home village Rehan, District Kangra ; if so, the reasons therefor ;

(b) whether it is a fact that he recently wrote to the Government that as he had no means of livelihood and was not keeping good health he may be interned within the Municipal limits of Lahore, so that he might be able to earn his livelihood and get proper medical treatment ;

(c) whether it is a fact that he has also written to the Government that owing to his ill-health he may be exempted from going to the nearest police station for report once a week ;

(d) whether it is a fact that he has applied to the Government for a family allowance in the event of their refusal to allow him to reside within the Municipal limits of Lahore ;

(e) if the replies to the above be in the affirmative the action taken on his representations ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Mir Maqbool Mahmood) :** (a) Yes, with a view to preventing him from acting in any manner prejudicial to the public safety, the maintenance of public order or the efficient prosecution of the war.

(b) Yes.

(c) Yes.

(d) Yes.

(e) The rules under which he is restricted do not enjoin the grant of a maintenance allowance. He has been allowed facilities to visit Lahore for medical treatment. The condition regarding his attendance at Police Station

[ **Mir Maqbool Mahmood** ]

Nurpur, has been relaxed, and he has now to report to a zaildar at a place much nearer to his village than the police station.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma** : With reference to the reply to part (d), may I ask whether the Government is prepared to consider the granting of a maintenance allowance?

**Parliamentary Secretary** : I understand that his father owns land which is sufficient to maintain him.

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**MR. DILAWAR SINGH**

**\*8941. Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma** : Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether any representation from the relatives and friends of Mr. Dilawar Singh, B.A., a Congress detenu in the Ambala jail was received by the Punjab Government in August last to release him on parole after his mother's death ; if so, with what result ;

(b) whether it was also brought to the notice of the Government in the representation referred to above that there was no male member of the family except Mr. Dilawar Singh to perform religious ceremonies connected with his mother's death ; if so, the action taken in the matter ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Mir Maqbool Mahmood) : (a) Yes, it was rejected but Dilawar Singh had already been released on parole from 23rd June 1948 to 21st July 1948 in connection with this mother's illness.

(b) Yes. The statement was found to be incorrect. Dilawar Singh has several relatives who could perform the religious ceremonies in connection with his mother's death.

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**SARDAR BAKHSHISH SINGH**

**\*8947. Sardar Ajit Singh** : Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state whether he is aware of the fact that the wife of Sardar Bakhshish Singh, Accountant in the Office of the Punjab Provincial Congress Committee, and at present detained under section 26 of the Defence of India Rules in the Old Central Jail, Multan, since 10th August 1948, has made several representations to the Government during the last six months that either her husband, who is the only earning member of the family, may be released or she may be granted an adequate family allowance ; if so, the action taken in the matter ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Mir Maqbool Mahmood) : Yes, they were rejected.

**Sardar Ajit Singh** : Why ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** : On merits.

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**CONGRESS DETENUS**

**\*8948. Sardar Ajit Singh** : Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) the present condition of health of the following Congress detenues of 1942, now detained in various jails in the Punjab :—

1. Mr. Ram Krishan, Secretary, Punjab Provincial Congress Committee.

2. Mr. Mulkh Raj Aggarwal, Private Secretary to Dr. Gopi Chand.
3. Baba Sohan Lal, Assistant Secretary, Punjab Provincial Congress Committee.
4. Mr. Amar Chand, Record-keeper, Punjab Provincial Congress Committee.

(b) the family allowance, diet, right of correspondence, and books allowed to the above-named detenus ;

(c) whether the Government intend to release the above-named detenus, if not, whether it is intended to try them in an open court of law ;

(d) if not, the period for which the Government intends to keep them in detention ;

(e) the reasons for the detention of the above-named detenus ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Mir Maqbool Mahmood): (a) So far as Government is aware there is nothing seriously wrong with any of the four Civil Disobedience detenus.

(b) The attention of the honourable member is invited to the statement made by the Honourable Premier on the floor of the House on 2nd November 1948.<sup>1</sup>

(c) and (d) The law under which they are detained does not enjoin trial in a court of law; their release depends on future circumstances.

(e) The maintenance of public order and public safety.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh**: May I know how much weight Baba Sohan Lal has lost in the jail since his arrest ?

**Parliamentary Secretary**: I am not aware whether he has lost any weight. If any further information is required I ask for notice.

#### MR. PRITHVI CHAND NAYAR

**\*8949. Sardar Ajit Singh**: Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether Government intends to release Mr. Prithvi Chand Nayar, B.A., LL.B., of All-India Spinning Association, on account of his wife's death in August last ;

(b) whether he is aware of the fact that there is no other male member in the family to look after his children ; if so, the action Government intend to take in the matter ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Mir Maqbool Mahmood): (a) Not on account of his wife's death. He was released on parole for three weeks in this connection.

(b) The statement is not correct as he has a younger brother.

#### HEADQUARTERS OF THE CONGRESS PARLIAMENTARY PARTY, LAHORE

**\*8964. Sardar Kapoor Singh**: Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state whether he is aware of the fact that the Headquarters of the Congress Parliamentary Party, situated in the Lajpatrai Bhawan, Lahore, were sealed in September 1948 under the orders of the Punjab Government ; if so, the

[ S. Kapur Singh ]

reasons therefor, and the object of the Punjab Government in doing so, and the period for which the Government intends to keep the above named place sealed ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Mir Maqbool Mahmood): *Part I.*—Yes, in September 1942.

*Part II.*—With a view to preventing its use for purposes of unlawful associations.

*Part III.*—This depends on future circumstances.

#### SARDAR KULTAR SINGH

\*8965. **Sardar Kapoor Singh** : Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state whether he is aware of the fact that several representations have recently been made by Sardar Kishan Singh, M.L.A., for the release of his son, Sardar Kultar Singh, a Security Prisoner, on the ground of the serious illness of Mrs. Kishan Singh ; if so, the action taken in the matter ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Mir Maqbool Mahmood): Yes. It was decided not to release Kultar Singh on parole. His brother was released several months ago, and the illness of the mother was not dangerous.

#### DISTRICT JAIL, JHANG

\*8966. **Sardar Kapoor Singh** : Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state whether he is aware of the fact that there is no electric light in the District Jail, Jhang ; and that a small kerosene oil lamp is provided with a very small quantity of kerosene oil to the political prisoners confined there who are consequently put to great inconvenience ; if so, the action the Government intend to take in the matter ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Mir Maqbool Mahmood): Electric light is provided in the District Jail, Jhang, but there is no connection in the ward in which security prisoners are confined. The Superintendent of the Jail has, however, been advised to call for plans and estimates for a temporary installation. There are six security prisoners in this Jail and they have been provided with one table lamp and three hurricane lanterns with adequate quantity of kerosene oil to meet their requirements.

#### FOODGRAINS

\*8884. **Lala Bhagat Ram Choda** : Will the Honourable Minister for Development be pleased to state the total quantity of foodgrains sent by the Punjab Government to the deficit provinces during the last six months ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Chaudhri Tikka Ram): The total quantities of foodgrains excluding *dals* (except gram-dal) exported from the Punjab from 1st May to 21st October 1938 is 292,411 tons. This does not take into account :—

(a) Foodgrains purchased for the Defence Services ;

(b) Foodgrains for which permits were issued by the Punjab Government and the Government of India during April 1948.

(c) Wheat products exported to deficit areas.

MILK AND GHEE CONTROL ORDER

**\*8885. Lala Bhagat Ram Choda :** Will the Honourable Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that a control order was issued under Defence of India Rules to regulate the supply of milk and ghee in the city of Lahore by the District Magistrate, Lahore, in the last week of August, 1948 ;

(b) whether it is a fact that under this control order Government dairies were totally exempted ;

(c) the total consumption of milk according to Government estimates, if any, before and after the promulgation of the control order in the city of Lahore ;

(d) the results of the said control order as reported to the Government by the authorities concerned and the public at large ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Chaudhri Tikka Ram) :** (a) Yes.

(b) Only the Military Dairy Farm was exempted.

(c) No estimate is possible.

(d) The control failed to be effective, because of the combination of those classes which were interested in keeping up the price.

SUGAR

**\*8904. Mian Muhammad Nurullah :** Will the Honourable Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(a) the quantity produced and imported each year before the war during the years 1935, 1936, 1937 and 1938 and in the years 1939, 1940, 1941, 1942 and 1943 (if available for the first nine months of the year) of sugar in the Punjab ;

(b) the date of control on sugar and the price fixed ;

(c) the percentage allotted to the towns and villages ;

(d) the basis and method of allotment, if any ;

(e) whether uniform procedure was adopted in each district ;

(f) if not, the various methods adopted in the districts and whether they were successful in achieving the end in view ;

(g) the next method so far discovered of a fair and equitable distribution of sugar among people in the villages ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Chaudhri Tikka Ram) :** (a) The information is not readily available.

(b) 14th April 1942.

(c) Not fixed.

(d) Allotment is based on the urban population of various districts in the Punjab.

(e) Yes.

(f) Does not arise.

(g) The question for fixing a percentage for the rural population is under the consideration of Government. Instructions have been issued to District Magistrates from time to time to keep the needs of rural areas in view.



**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** May I know when the Government is going to fix the percentage of allotment of sugar to villages and towns separately ?

**Minister of Development :** During the next few days, I hope.

**Mian Muhammad Nurullah :** With reference to answer to (a), may I know why, even when the Sugarcane Taxation Bill is coming before us, the Government has not cared to find out what is the production in the province ?

#### PRESIDENTS OF MUNICIPAL COMMITTEES

**\*8902. Mian Muhammad Nurullah :** Will the Honourable Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether there is any convention that if the President of a Municipal Committee belongs to one community the Executive Officer, if appointed, will not belong to that community ;

(b) whether there are any instances in the province contrary to this convention ;

(c) whether there are any instances where the appointment of both the president and the executive officer was made by the Committee concerned and both of them belonged to the same community ; if so, the names of those local bodies ?

**The Honourable Sardar Shaukat Hyat Khan :** (a) Yes, when the appointment of an Executive Officer is made by Government, but not when it is made by the municipal committee.

(b) There have been one or two instances in which Government have departed from the convention for special reasons.

(c) This may be so, Government have however no complete record of the names of chairman of municipal committees. The information cannot be collected without a considerable expense in time and labour which will not be commensurate with the result.

**Mian Muhammad Nurullah :** May I know in which instances the Government has departed from the convention set up ?

**Minister of Public Works :** I am sorry I cannot readily give that information to the honourable member. I will communicate it to him if he comes to me and asks for it.

**Mian Muhammad Nurullah :** I would like the information along with the year in which it was done.

**Premier :** I can answer from memory. I know of only two instances, one of them happened before our time. Both the precedents are old ones ; one was at Bhiwani where both the gentlemen belonged to the same community and the other was at Gujrat. These are the only precedents.

**\*8903.—Cancelled.**

#### ADJOURNMENT MOTIONS

JAI PRAKASH NARAIN

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** I beg 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 inhuman treatment meted out to Mr. Jai Prakash Narayan, General Secretary, All-India Congress Socialist Party, who

was recently arrested 'somewhere' in the Punjab and is at present reported to be in the Lahore Fort under the direct supervision of the Punjab C. I. D.

**Mr. Speaker :** The motion is not in order. Motions Nos. 12 to 15 relate to individual cases and are therefore also out of order.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** The last relates to Diwan Chaman Lall and a similar adjournment motion has been allowed previously.

**Mr. Speaker :** There is difference between person and person.

*The following adjournment motions of Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma were ruled out of order.*

#### SARDAR ATMA SINGH

I beg 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 failure of the Punjab Government to release Sardar Atma Singh, a prominent Congress leader at present detained as Congress Detenué under the Defence of India Rule 26, in Mayo Hospital, Lahore, who is lying seriously ill for the last four months.

#### MAULANA DAUD GHAZNAVI

I beg 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 failure of the Punjab Government to release Maulana Daud Ghaznavi, a Member of the Working Committee of the Punjab Provincial Congress Committee, who is lying seriously ill in the Lahore Central Jail for the last six months.

#### DIWAN CHAMMAN LALL

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** I beg 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 failure of the Punjab Government to release Diwan Chaman Lall, M.L.A., who has been seriously ill for the last eight months and is at present detained in the Mayo Hospital, Lahore, under the Defence of India Rule 26.

**Sardar Santokh Singh :** You were pleased to remark that there is difference between a person and a person. Diwan Chaman Lall is a person whose case must be discussed on the floor of the House.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** The case of Diwan Chaman Lall is very important because he is seriously ill.

**Sardar Santokh Singh :** Because you were pleased to say that there is difference between a person and a person, therefore, with all respect I say that the case of Diwan Chaman Lall, if any discrimination can at all be made, is the one that, must be discussed, on the floor of this house.

**Mr. Speaker :** It was stated yesterday that he was not seriously ill.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Is that the reason why he is put in the Mayo Hospital?

**Premier :** *Muj se na poochho.*

**Mr. Speaker :** In view of the statement made on behalf of Government that Diwan Chaman Lall is not seriously ill, I rule the motion out of order.

## PILGRIMAGE TO NANKANA SAHIB

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** I beg 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 recent Punjab Government notification stopping issuing railway tickets for and prohibiting people getting down at Nankana Sahib though holding tickets for stations beyond Nankana Sahib, thus depriving Sikh pilgrims of their right of worship.

The same motion stands in the name of Sardar Teja Singh Swatantar also.

**Mr. Speaker :** Leave is asked to make a motion for the adjournment of the business of the House to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely, the recent Punjab Government notification stopping issuing railway tickets for and prohibiting people getting down at Nankana Sahib though holding tickets for stations beyond Nankana Sahib, thus depriving Sikh pilgrims of their right of worship.

**Premier :** I would like to make a statement on this subject. As soon as the Railway Administration requested the Provincial Government to issue a notification banning the issue of tickets for Nankana Sahib and adjoining stations during the Mela period, I felt that this would be a source of great trouble to the Sikh community and I at once directed that a reference should be made to the Government of India to ascertain whether it was their intention that all pilgrim traffic should be restricted in the case of all important fairs and melas throughout India as a war measure. The Punjab Government has been informed that a ban on the travel by rail of pilgrims should be imposed in the case of all important fairs and melas throughout India, the free attendance at which would otherwise necessitate the provision of transport facilities greatly in excess of the normal required to cope with the day to day traffic and so interfere with the more essential movements of goods and passengers. Government, therefore, felt themselves bound to carry out the all-India policy, especially as the Central Government have concurrent powers under the rule in virtue of which this notification has been issued. It was, as a matter of fact, only as a matter of administrative convenience that the railway authorities addressed the Provincial Government direct with a request for a notification by the Provincial Government. This was intended to save time and correspondence, but the Central Government could perfectly well issue the notification themselves. The Punjab Government are fully aware of the inconvenience caused to the Sikhs and are doing their best to represent their case to the Government of India and in the circumstances I would request that the adjournment motion should not be pressed. I would emphasise that there is no question of religious discrimination in the order issued by the Provincial Government. Similar orders have already been issued several times in other provinces dealing with the religious festivals of other communities.

I would like to emphasise that it is under the orders of the Central Government that this notification is issued. Railways are a central subject. We only answer question here on behalf of the North-Western Railway and give you the information. I promise that I will convey as strongly as I can the feelings of the Panth to the Government of India. With this assurance I hope my honourable friend will not press the motion. All the same I am very glad that Sardar Sohan Singh Josh moved this adjournment motion about the Nankana Sahib fair and has given as an opportunity to express our point of view. We are at one with him so far as this question is concerned.

**Sardar Santokh Singh :** Will the pressure be exercised after the Mela is over?

**Premier :** What the result will be I cannot say but immediate steps are being taken.

**Sardar Santokh Singh :** Was the telegram sent yesterday, as I was told by the Honourable the Premier.

**Premier :** May have been. I will just find out. I took steps immediately.

**Sardar Santokh Singh :** Did the Honourable Premier issue orders to his subordinates to send a telegram to the Central Government?

**Premier :** How can I say at what hour the telegram left and so on? As I told you, I have done it already and nothing will be left undone as far as the Provincial Government is concerned. The Panthic point of view will be put before the Central Government.

**Sardar Santokh Singh :** I do not ask for the time. I wish to know whether the Honourable Premier passed the orders.

**Premier :** Yes.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** On a point of personal explanation. The Honourable Premier was pleased to remark that of all persons, Sardar Sohan Singh Josh put forward this adjournment motion. I have not been able to understand his remark. We Communists stand and fight for civil liberties of all persons. We stand and fight for the right of religious worship for all persons. We shall fight tooth and nail for the right of Sikh pilgrims to go and worship at their shrines.

**Premier :** My words were quite innocent. I am sorry that the words of a Jat and a semi-educated one like myself, were taken amiss by Sardar Sohan Singh Josh. I never said 'of all persons', all I said was that I was glad that Sardar Sohan Singh Josh—there was an emphasis on the word 'Josh' because that brings *josh* in him—all I said was that Sardar Sohan Singh Josh has kindly brought this motion forward giving an opportunity to the Government to clear their position. I did not say 'of all persons'.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** But the mischievous insinuation is there. However, I do not press for leave to move the adjournment.

**Premier :** One sees ones own reflection.

#### LEAVE OF ABSENCE OF S. PARTAP SINGH, M.L.A.

**Mr. Speaker :** Sardar Partap Singh has sent the following application for leave of absence from the Assembly meetings—

I have the honour to request you to ask the House to excuse my absence from the sessions of the Punjab Legislative Assembly. I am being detained under section 26 of the Defence of India Rules, hence cannot attend the Assembly.

Thanking you in anticipation.

The question is—

That the permission asked for be granted.

*The motion was carried.*

## ADJOURNMENT

**Premier :** Sir, I beg to move—

That this Assembly at its rising to-day shall stand adjourned *sine die*.

*The motion was carried.*

## TOBACCO VEND FEES (AMENDMENT) BILL

**Minister of Finance** (The Honourable Dr. Sir Manohar Lal): Sir, I beg to introduce the Punjab Tobacco Vend Fees (Amendment) Bill.

I beg to move—

That the Punjab Tobacco Vend Fees (Amendment) Bill be taken into consideration at once.

*The motion was carried.*

**Mr. Speaker :** The question is—

That clauses 1 to 5 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 :** Sir, I beg to move—

That the Punjab Tobacco Vend Fees (Amendment) 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 beg to move—

That the Punjab Urban Immovable Property Tax (Amendment) Bill be taken into consideration at once.

*The motion was carried.*

## Clause 1

**Rai Sahib Thakur Ripudaman Singh :** Sir, I beg to move—

That in clause 1, sub-clause (1), line 2, for the word "amendment", the words "second amendment" be substituted.

*The motion was carried.*

**Mr. Speaker :** The question is—

That clause 1 as amended stand part of the Bill.

*The motion was carried.*

**Mr. Speaker :** The question is—

That clause 2 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 :** Sir, I beg to move—

That the Punjab Urban Immovable Property Tax (Amendment) Bill be passed.

*The motion was carried.*

## SUGARCANE (PUNJAB AMENDMENT) BILL

**Minister of Development** (The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh):  
Sir, I beg to move—

That the Sugarcane (Punjab Amendment) Bill as reported by the select committee be taken into consideration.

*The motion was carried.*

**Mr. Speaker:** The House will now proceed to consider the Bill clause by clause.

*Clause 2*

The question is—

That clause 2 stand part of the Bill.

*The motion was carried.*

*Clause 3*

**Mian Muhammad Nurullah** (Lyallpur, Muhammadan, Rural): Sir,  
I beg to move—

That the proposed section 2-A be deleted.

The proposed section 2-A reads—

No person shall commence the construction of any building intended to be used as a factory or any extension of the plant of an existing factory which is likely to increase its capacity for crushing cane unless he has been granted a licence by the Provincial Government on such terms and conditions as may be prescribed.

I want this clause to be deleted because I feel that so far we are very backward in this province in the production of sugar from sugarcane. Therefore, there should be no restriction whatever from the Government side. If Government were really contemplating a policy in future of nationalising industries in this province one could say that the time is ripe to take some steps and gradually go on that line. I do not think that Government has any scheme of that kind in its mind. By these restrictions placed on the building of factories for crushing sugarcane, the Government would be imposing certain restrictions which in the end would not suit the grower. The grower, the industrialist and the capitalist in this province are already scared by the new taxation that the Government brings along in spite of the fact that there is a huge surplus in the budget. This is a tax on the sugarcane grower. Why not encourage him? Why discourage him and why stop the development of this industry in the province? If I may draw your attention to certain facts you will be astonished to know what our position is as compared with the neighbouring province regarding sugarcane production and the production of sugar from sugarcane. In the United Provinces, which is our neighbouring province, the position is that the total area sown in thousand acres was 1909 and the output in thousand maunds was 2176. The number of factories there was 70 and sugarcane crushed in thousand tons was 7034 and sugar obtained in thousand tons was 660 and the percentage of sugar was 9.8. Now compare our own position with that position; I will give you some figures. The area in thousand acres in the United Provinces is 1909 and ours is only 417, practically 1/5. Their output in thousand maunds is 2176 while ours is 818 only, practically 1/7. They have 70 factories while we have only 5 and those too not working, that means 1/20. The sugarcane crushed there was 7,034 in thousand tons and ours is only 87. It is simply astonishing and we want to control it. There should be no restrictions at all. On the other hand

[Mian Muhammad Nurullah]

they should be given facilities to set up new factories and the grower should be encouraged to sell his sugarcane at a reasonable price. The development of this important industry should be encouraged as much as possible. On one side of a river you will see huge number of factories working day in and day out in double shifts working and making their province rich and on the other side of the same river you feel everything dull, no production and no encouragement and no industry. The people of our province depend on them for sugar. If we had our own industries and encouraged the people to grow more sugarcane we shall not be forced to this position as it is to-day that we have no sugar. Yesterday a rich man, a property dealer came to me and said there was a poor 'Gowala' (milkman) next door to him. He wanted some sugar for his ailing wife but could not get it. I happened to have a few seers and on his request I gave him some. That man came to get sugar and said that they wanted to utilise sugar in medicines but could not get it. We are reduced to this position due to the policy of the Government and not due to the Minister of Development who is new to his work, but all the same he should pay proper attention and see whether the policy which is being followed is suitable, or it is only that other Ministers wanted it and he could not help it. The Finance Minister is partly responsible and I do not know who else should share the blame. The blame is there. We cannot get sugar because there is no supply of sugar in this province. It is very unfortunate that the zamindars have taken to sugar. I would welcome if there was a regular move on the part of the Government to encourage and ask the zamindars to utilise as much of their own sugar as possible. As I have pointed out not only in villages but in towns people who want to utilise sugar in medicine cannot get it. Last month when I returned from Mussoorie, I was down with influenza and some trouble in the throat. I went to a *hakim* who had given some special *nuskha* to some other gentleman who was cured. The same *hakim* wrote a *nuskha* for me and asked that I should have my own sugar as he had none to mix in the prescription. The *gowala's* wife had gone to her neighbour to get some sugar which she wanted to mix in her medicine. This is the position to which we have been reduced due to the policy of the Government. This would not have been the case if the Government had done something to produce more sugar in the last 8 years or so since it has been in power. Instead of getting more sugar we are getting tax on sugarcane. How can it help in developing new factories? I am sorry to say that our output is so low as compared with our neighbouring province while the conditions are practically the same on this side as well as on that side of the river. Instead of doing anything you are discouraging the people and you want to place restrictions in the way of starting new factories and expanding old factories. This is the state of affairs. We cannot take you to task but the people will ask you as to why you carried out such a policy. The sugar obtained (in thousand tons) in the United Provinces is 6.60 while it is 8 in the Punjab. There is no comparison and still you want to restrict the production of sugar in this province. The next thing is whether our Government paid any attention to the percentage of sugar in sugarcane. It is 9.3 in the United Provinces while in the Punjab it is 8.6. The Punjab people are supposed to be more robust and arduous and better in health, still the yield here is much lower than in the United Provinces. They should have made more efforts in making experiments so that the sugarcane grower got more sugar out of his sugarcane in the Punjab. Probably they have done nothing of the sort and they want to tax us. This is not a good policy. I do not want to detain the House by drawing comparisons with other provinces,

but I must submit that the production of sugar and the number of sugarcane factories in this province is so low that we should make every effort to encourage the production of sugar by encouraging people to set up new factories instead of having this taxation and placing restrictions on sugarcane factories. The people should be encouraged to set up any number of factories, even small factories, as some people did in Lyallpur. I remember the case of my town where three factories were set up; one belonging to Mr. Ahuja of Amritsar, a second to Sheikh Sahibs, commercial magnates of that town and a third belonging to Sardar Harchand Singh. Our Government for some years have been saying to the zamindars to set up subsidiary industries and some of us started some factories for the production of sugar with the result that after a few years everybody had to close his concern. Ahuja Sahib has sold his and the others had also stopped after some time. Instead of helping subsidiary industries, instead of developing cottage industries definite restrictions are being placed for the production of sugar in our province. The Government want that people who want to start this industry must knock at their door. They must go from one office to another; they must go to the deputy commissioners for their recommendation; they must go to the commissioners and the financial commissioners for the same purpose. The Government will keep the papers pending for some time: their inertia, their red tapism will ruin the poor man who wants to start a factory because he will get fed up with all this running about and might say, 'I will eat *shakkar* and not sugar' and give up the idea of setting up a factory altogether. I will, therefore, urge upon the Government not to place any restrictions in this matter and delete this clause.

**Mr. Speaker:** Clause under consideration amendment, moved is—

That the proposed section 2-A be deleted.

**Sardar Santokh Singh** (Eastern Towns, Sikh, Urban): Sir, I rise to support the amendment of my honourable friend, Mian Nurullah. I for one have not been able to understand the object with which this clause has been inserted by the Government. It appears to me that this Bill is in conformity with the policy of this Government of killing trade and industry in its infancy. This sugar industry is, if I may be allowed to say, a still-born industry. As far as I understand there are only two factories in the whole of British Punjab which are producing sugar. Instead of helping this industry and instead of thinking ways and means to increase the production of sugar this wise Government are going out of their way to kill this industry—even this still-born industry. All I can say is that the motive behind this clause is that the Government want to favour certain people and want to have the power of patronage in their own hands. No wise man will ever think of bringing in such a restrictive clause in the case of an industry which is not at all flourishing. Is it because of any overcrowding that the Government wants to take this power? Not at all. It should have been the bounden duty of the Government to have thought of ways and means to increase the production of sugar in the province. They are proceeding just as they did in the case of Cotton Ginning and Pressing Factories Act. They little realise to what indignity, discomfort and inconvenience a person is put to in the process of obtaining a licence. In the case of cotton factory one has not only to run after the Director of Agriculture and the Director of Industries and the Deputy Commissioner but also to the notified area committee to obtain a licence. I know of cases where permission was not granted for months and months. An application which was submitted for the establishment of a factory in May or June has not been sanctioned up till now with the result that the poor owner has have to wait for the next cotton crop. Have the Government ever realised



[S. Santokh Singh] -

the loss and inconvenience that these factory owners people who have to invest lakhs of rupees in industry, are put to from day to day and from week to week merely to obtain a licence. What has the Government to say to all this? In the case of cotton, there might be some excuse as the number of factories is fairly large, but is there any justification or even an excuse so far as sugar factories are concerned? I shall be glad to know from the Honourable Minister for Development what his object is for the insertion of this clause in the Bill. There must be some reason which prompted him to do so. As I have said there are only two factories in the British Punjab besides two in Indian States where this industry is carried on. What therefore is the necessity of this clause? It is for the industrialist to see where to set up a factory. Government is not a business concern and is not in a position to give advice. It is the industrialists' own look out to see where the scope for this industry is and where it is not. To me it is clear that the only object the Government has in view for the insertion of this clause is that it wants to retain the power of patronage in its own hands. I will, therefore, appeal to the Government in all seriousness that in the interest of the sugar industry of the Punjab and in the interest of the province itself it should give up this idea of keeping every power in its own hands just to put the people to difficulties and inconvenience. There is absolutely no sense in the clause and I still hope that the Honourable Minister for Development who always says that he has the interests of both the agriculturists and the non-agriculturists at heart will see his way to accept this most reasonable amendment and agree to the deletion of this sub-clause.

**Captain Sodhi Harnam Singh** (Ferozepore North, Sikh, Rural) (*Urdu*)— Sir, the Bill which is now before the House is intended to help the sugar factories to supply a large quantity of sugar. As their number is very small, in fact they are only 2 or 3, it is proposed to provide them further facilities in procuring cane at cheap price so that they may flourish. The zamindars will also find this Bill to be very salutary. Instead of preparing gur, they will find a ready market for their cane where they will be able to sell their produce. The quantity of sugar will increase in the province and its dearth will no longer be felt. If no steps are taken to help the 2 or 3 sugar factories, I am afraid they would be closed. Now this was only the bright side of the picture. There is also the dark side of it. There are some objections which can be raised against this Bill. One objection is that whatever little sugarcane used to be imported from outside would in future be stopped, and the local production will also be stopped on account of the tax which will be imposed on sale at the sugar factories.

My submission is that on principle I am in favour of this Bill. But my objection against this is that in the matter of distribution of sugar no heed is being paid to the needs of the rural people.

1 p.m.  
In fact whatever sugar is produced here or is imported from outside the Punjab is distributed in the urban areas only. The quota fixed for the villages is very small indeed. I brought this matter to the notice of the Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram verbally as well as in writing. I am sure he must have taken some action in regard to that matter but I am not aware of it. I also discussed this matter with the Deputy Commissioner of my district and after a long controversy he told me that the present quotas for districts have been fixed on the basis of urban populations, and rural areas and rural populations have not been taken into consideration at all. That is the reason why ample supplies of sugar have not been made available to the villagers. Then so far as I am aware under the new instructions which Government have issued in respect of distribution of sugar

no change has been made in the quotas fixed for different districts. For instance, if a district had been supplied 3,000 bags of sugar in the past the same quota has been fixed for it again. What is more, Government have started rationing of sugar in the urban areas. But all the same they have not taken steps to increase the supplies of sugar for the rural areas. In fact they have neither increased the supplies of sugar for rural people nor have they shown any inclination to do so by cutting down the rations of the urban people. In the cities one seer of sugar is being supplied to every individual per month.

**Sardar Bahadur Sardar Gurbachan Singh :** May I know whether the honourable member is relevant? We are not concerned with rationing of sugar at present. The question is whether the owners of factories can make additions to their factories.

**Mr. Speaker :** The honourable member should speak to the motion.

**Captain Sodhi Harnam Singh :** My submission is that in the rural areas people are not getting any sugar at all and I am urging that arrangements may be made to ensure a proper supply of sugar to them.

**Mr. Speaker :** That has nothing to do with the motion before the House.

**Captain Sodhi Harnam Singh :** I simply want to submit that while passing this measure Government should see that proper supplies of sugar are ensured for the rural people as well.

**Sardar Teja Singh Swatanter** (Lahore West, Sikh, Rural) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, I rise to support the motion for the deletion of clause 2-A moved by my honourable friend, Mian Muhammad Nurulish. It is apparent from this clause as well as from the Bill as a whole that my friends are opposed to that very thing which they supported so very vehemently on the floor of the House only two or three days before. At that time they opposed the controlling of prices of food-grains but now they are themselves anxious to control the sugarcane industry to the minutest detail. May I know the reason for this change in the point of view of my friends? At present I will not go into the details as to what are the defects of the Bill or as to how it would impede the development of sugar industry in the province or whether it would be in the interests of the cane-growers or not. Leaving aside all these things, if we look at the Bill we would find that the myth that the Government was against the policy of imposing any control in the province has exploded. What do we find in this Bill? We find that under the provisions of this Bill factory areas will be fixed, the sale of sugar would be regulated and the agencies through which it would be sold will also be regulated by Government. All these things tell us that my friends want to control the sugar industry to the minutest detail. (*Syed Amjad Ali Shah :* Are you opposed to state control of industries?) No, I am not opposed to state control of industries provided it is done under some plan. Have my friends drawn out any plan for the production and consumption of sugar in the country? If they have not done so, how are they justified in bringing forward such Bills? In view of the scarcity of sugar, have they made any arrangements for producing more sugar in the Punjab? No, they have not and that is the reason why people are experiencing so much difficulty in procuring their supplies of sugar. Wherever you go you will find people clamouring for sugar. This shows that sugar is not being supplied to people according to any plan, with the result that great discontent is prevailing among the masses. There are only two factories in the Punjab and my friends have thought it fit to enact a measure for controlling them. If they had any intention of increasing the supplies of sugar they should

[8. Teja Singh Swatantar]

have told the public that they want to set up ten sugar factories in the Punjab in which they would contribute half the capital and the other half should be supplied by the public and after setting up these factories they would supply, say for instance, two chhatanks of sugar per head per day. Had they taken some such steps that would have been something. But now what do we find? There is absolutely no plan before my honourable friends and they have simply sponsored this Bill with a view to control the two sugar factories in the Punjab. Had there been many factories in the Punjab then there would have been some justification for bringing forward this Bill. But now there is no justification for it. Let me point out that if Government want to control industries they should first of all draw out plans for doing so. Without previous planning control cannot be done. If my friends are in favour of state control of industries let them first of all understand as to how control is done and how it should be done. I frankly tell them that this Bill is absolutely useless for it does not fulfil the needs of the province. On the contrary it will be a positive hindrance in the growth of sugar industry in the province. For under its provisions Government can stop the construction of sugar factories in the province. Besides, as other honourable members have pointed out it will lead to corruption. In addition it will create a harvest of difficulties for the factory owners as well as cane growers. It does not fit in with the speeches made by my honourable friends only two or three days ago, and it would be much better if it is dropped. With these remarks I support the motion moved by my honourable friend Mian Muhammad Nurullah.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang** (West Lahore Division, General, Rural) (Punjabi): Sir, the Bill now before the House has reminded me of a Punjabi story. Once a son of a Chaudhri purchased a horse and went out for an outing proudly riding it. As he was riding past the village urchins, one of them who happened to be the son of a poor man, also thought of enjoying a horse ride. He at once ran into his house and got hold of the big danda (staff) of his grandfather and placed it between his legs and went out riding it and shouting: "Trot on, my gallant grey"; and so on, trotting on his feet this way and that way. A passerby accosted the boy and asked him what he was doing. The boy replied, "I am riding my horse and why should I not do so? The Chaudhri's son's horse is no better than mine". That is exactly the position of the Punjab Government.

They found that the United Provinces Government had a law on the subject and not wishing to be left behind in the race for law making they also have come forward with a Sugarcane Bill. They have a mania for aping others. If some one were to take even some dope they would like to do the same without caring whether it is good or bad for their system. Chaudhri Sahib—I mean the Chaudhri—takes a school boy's delight in putting obstacles in the way of industrial progress. He is always on the look-out for measures which may extract a few thousand odd rupees from the pocket of non-zamindars or which can afford him an opportunity for exercising patronage for appointing some of his own henchmen in some sort of jobs, or where he can indulge in his hobby of creating difficulties for the industrialists. Otherwise such a Bill is absolutely uncalled for in the Punjab where there are only two sugar factories—one in Gujranwala and the other at Abdullahpur—and those even in a very precarious state of existence. Their condition is aptly portrayed by the song we used to hear in our childhood beginning with the line—

پہاڑوں اترواں دو ندیاں اک سکی تے درجی وکدی نہیں

The Honourable Minister of Development being an industrialist himself is well aware of the plight they are in. The one at Abdullahpur could keep its head out of water partly on account of its situation on the bank of the Jumna where it could have access to the Saharanpur cane partly due to the generosity of the United Provinces Government. Had it been at the mercy of the Punjab Government they would have let it languish saying that it had already made sufficient profits. The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh also knows that one of the factories situated in state territory was running at a loss of two lakhs of rupees and the profit and loss account of the other showed a net loss of more than two lakhs during the last season. In the case of the Rahwali Sugar factory, it might interest honourable members to know, that during the ten years of its existence a dividend of 4 and 6 per cent, respectively, has been declared on two occasions. If the 'benevolence' of the Unionist Government continues, as at present, it will be little wonder if this factory also goes out of the province. Now there are only these two factories in existence—and in a very precarious state of existence at that as the Honourable Minister of Development knows full well—for the regulation of which this Bill has been brought forward. They were already subject to many restrictions but under this law if a new boiler is required, the management of the factory will have to dance attendance either at the office of the Director of Agriculture or the Director of Industries, and the creation of further restrictions in even small matters would be nothing short of an attempt to stifle the sugar industry in this province.

**Mr. Speaker :** Please do not go so far from the original motion.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** I am discussing the question of licence. One might need even your good offices for putting in a word on one's behalf to some Honourable Minister (*laughter*), because after this Bill is passed into law many will be the occasions for obtaining the goodwill of some Honourable Minister or another. Sardar Santokh Singh has already given us an idea of the plight of the cotton industry by saying that they had to run from pillar to post and from post to pillar, and I think they now intend to place the sugar industry also in the same predicament.

It is one of the elementary principles of jurisprudence that no law is brought into existence unless it is needed for safeguarding against some evil. But I fail to understand what evil there is against which this measure is being enacted. Has there been an over production of sugar that such restrictions are being put upon this industry that even a centrifugal cannot be installed or a tank constructed without taking out a licence from Chaudhri Sahib or the Director of Agriculture failing which a colossal fine of Rs. 5,000 will be imposed? The real state of affairs as evidenced by the speeches made by the representatives of the public like Mian Muhammad Nurullah and Sardar Teja Singh Swatantar is that the people are pining for sugar which is not available to them. Still you say that any extensions to a factory or the installation of a plant or even the construction of latrines for the workers should be subject to a licence and a contravention of this provision will be punishable with fine which may extend to five thousand rupees. If an outsider were following the debate he might well say that this is a ministry of lunatics and not of sane legislators. (*Laughter*).

تذ نہ تانی جلاہیان نال ڈانگو ڈانگی

The heavens are not going to fall upon the heads of the Ministry that they are so anxious to get this measure through this House. I am afraid the Honourable Minister of Development, in presenting this Bill to the House, has been obliged to carry another's baby. It cannot be his own because I know that he himself owns a sugar factory in the United Provinces and is aware of the difficulties that he

[Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang]

had to face there on account of the United Provinces Act. No less than thirty extra clerks had to be employed in order to satisfy the provisions of the law in keeping accounts, preparing statements, giving returns and what not. Knowing these things as I do I cannot refrain from remarking that he must have been hard put to it before he handled this Bill. Naturally who would like to touch an old worn out and torn slipper that has long passed out of its usefulness? In the United Provinces there was some ground, some justification for the enactment of a measure of this nature. There are more or less 150 sugar factories in that province and among such a large number there are bound to be some dishonest people against whom some sort of provision should have been made. In the Punjab where there are only two gasping factories what is the need of such safeguards? Are the cane-growers being exploited by these factories? It is rather the Government themselves who are going to exploit the cane growers by levying a tax of half an anna per maund on the sale of sugarcane. Instead of bringing up this legislation they ought to have subsidized the sugar industry. They should have emulated the example set by the Indian States who not only grant concessions for the establishment of these factories but also give substantial help to them. I have a personal experience of three States where those who establish factories are allowed 10 to 20 years monopoly and are granted exemption from terminal and other municipal taxes. If they require land it is acquired for them and not only that but it has also in some cases been provided free of cost to them. Moreover they are also exempted from other taxes, supertaxes and surcharges. But what do we find here? Even if the factory-owners want to instal a centrifugal they cannot do so without taking out a licence or else they will be penalized with a fine of five thousand rupees—

ببین تفرقت را از کجا ست تابه کجا

All the submissions which I have made lead only to one conclusion that this Government must be out of their senses to undertake such legislation. Because one province has done it they must follow suit. Doctors prescribe quinine as a cure for malaria but they prescribe it even in cases of a broken leg or where an ankle has been sprained. They are concerned with prescribing a remedy whether conditions allow it or not. I do not for the life of me understand why the Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh has taken up this bundle of bother on his shoulders.

**Minister of Development :** It has somehow come to rest on my shoulders. (Laughter).

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** Why does he not try to shake it off? He should encourage rather than oust industry from this province. If the Government persist in this 'benevolent' attitude towards the industries they will have to say—

بخشوی بیلی چوما لندورا ہی بولا

Even the few factories that somehow remain in the Punjab will be shifted to the neighbouring states.

If that happens you will have to run after Mr. N. C. Mehta or any other gentleman who will be in charge of sugar in order to get sugar required for use on the occasion of some marriage or other ceremonies. In order to get a bag or two of sugar you will have to knock at the doors of hundred and one officers and you will have to take a lot of trouble getting recommendation from one gentleman, going to another for sanction, going to still another for permit and so on and so forth. That is what is happening here in the Punjab to-day and this is so in spite of the fact that sufficient sugar is being supplied to this province. You can well imagine,

sir, what will be the conditions here if the sugar factories of the province are closed. Yes, the factory owners shall have to close their factories or to shift them from the Punjab because the present Punjab Government does not want the factories to remain in the province. It is the enactment of such laws, as the present one, that make it possible neither to open any new factories here nor to extend the present ones. So far as I can judge the present measure is being brought forward in order that no person may venture to open any new sugar factories in the province. If I have judged aright, allow me to submit that no such measure is needed for the attainment of this object. The fact that the Unionist Party is in power in the Punjab is sufficient warning for the public not to open any new factory here but to shift the existing ones outside the Punjab. This will happen by and by without any effort of the Government. It need not worry about that.

Before I resume my seat, let me say a few words by way of an apology in case I might have trodden upon the corns of any gentleman on this or that side of the House. I did not intend it. As I was speaking in Punjabi and Punjabi, as is known, is a rough language, I might have been too blunt in some of my remarks. Please excuse me if I have taken a little more liberty as I was just having a brotherly chat with you rather than making a speech. Anyway, no offence should be taken where none was meant. All the same there is nothing untrue in what all I have said. In the end, I must request the Government to give up mimicking and to lay aside the oldman's stick which they have made into a make-belief horse. I know that if the Government insists upon enacting this measure it will be passed without the slightest difficulty. But let me, at the same time, tell you that it will be of no use. Anyhow if you have fallen in love with this stick of the oldman you are welcome to have it. If you think that it will be a blow to the dignity of the Unionist Government that a Bill introduced by it, however, useless, is not passed, then please get it passed but for God's sake do not enforce it.

**Minister of Development** (The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh) (*Urdu*): Sir, I had no intention of making a speech on this amendment, but now, after the speech of my honourable friend Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang, it has become necessary for me to say a few words. Let me make it clear at the very outset that the present Bill is not brought forward with any motive of closing down the Punjab sugar factories, as is imputed to the Government by some of my honourable friends opposite. What we intend to ensure is this. We want to see to it that no two factories are built very near each other, and if a certain factory is already built somewhere no new factory should be built in its neighbourhood, say within a radius of 25 miles, so that both the factories may not suffer on account of mutual competition. The policy of the Government, let me state it in unequivocal terms here, is to encourage industry in the province as much as possible. The Government is not against industrialisation. So far as I am concerned, it is my firm belief that industry is essential for the general uplift of the province. I am against such industries only which prosper at the cost of agriculture. I believe that so far as the Punjab is concerned any industry established in this province at the cost of agriculture cannot prove beneficial to it in the long run. It is our duty to see that industry and agriculture go hand in hand and that neither of the two suffers at the hands of the other. The present Bill is a mere safeguard. If at some future time more factories are established in this province, these factories should not suffer by being too near one another. That is the evil we are guarding against. Such a law already exists in the United Provinces and it has proved beneficial to the factories there and has not gone against their interests. Even Dr. Narang's factory at Phagwara has suffered because another factory has been opened in its close vicinity. We have brought forward this measure for the

[Minister of Development]

benefit of the factory-owners themselves. We have no intention of checking the development of industry in the province.

**Mian Muhammad Nurullah :** Although you have no such intention yet ultimately it will have the same effect.

**Sardar Santokh Singh :** Is the Honourable Minister prepared to include a clause to that effect in this Bill?

**Minister of Development :** There seems to be some misunderstanding. It is not possible for me to accept any such amendment at this stage as it will be of no benefit to the industry. Take for instance the case of Rahwali factory. If a radius of even 30 miles is fixed, for the area to feed this factory, the factory will not obtain sufficient quantities of cane and, therefore, it will not be possible for Dr. Narang to run it at all.

**Sardar Santokh Singh :**

ما تھی کے دانت کھانے کے اور دکھانے کے اور

**Mian Muhammad Nurullah :** Sir, the argument of the Honourable Minister is not very convincing. Dr. Sahib, or any other gentleman, never asked the Government to enact any such measure. It is not proper to check the progress of industry in the province by citing the examples of industries in the States. If the Honourable Minister is sincere let him introduce a new clause in this Bill to the effect that no new factory shall be allowed within a distance of, say 20, 25 or 30 miles of an already existing factory.

There are some clauses at the end of this Bill, which impose certain restrictions on the sugarcane grower as well. These restrictions are uncalled for and the Government is well advised to remove them, so that sugar remains available in the province and we may not have to go to other provinces and knock at various doors for that. Therefore I propose that this section be deleted.

**Mr. Speaker :** The question is—

That the proposed section 2-A be deleted.

*The motion was lost.*

**Mr. Speaker :** The question is—

That clause 3 stand part of the Bill.

*The motion was carried.*

#### Clause 4

**Mian Muhammad Nurullah** (Lyallpur, Muhammadan, Rural) : I beg to move—

That in sub-section (1) of the proposed section 3-B, line 3, between the words "factory" and "and" the words "and a few prominent cane-growers of the ilaqa" be inserted.

(Urdu) : Let me read this sub-section first :—

The Cane Commissioner may, after consulting the occupier of the factory and after considering any objections that may be raised, issue an order declaring an area to be a reserved area for the purpose of the supply of cane to a particular factory during the ensuing crushing season, and may likewise at any time cancel such order or alter the boundaries of an area so reserved.

Now, as is clear from the above sub-section, the Cane Commissioner can issue an order that such and such tahsil should be included in the area reserved for such and such factory without consulting the people of that area. This can prove very harmful to the zamindars. A certain factory may not suit certain zamindars for some reason or other. As there is no provision that the zamindars of that area

are to be consulted by the Cane Commissioner it is feared that the interests of the growers will be sacrificed for those of the factory-owners. Suppose that Lyallpur suits me better but the Cane Commissioner includes me in the Multan area, what will be my plight? The higher officers will certainly approve blindly what their Cane Commissioner will say. That is being done in this regime of the Unionist Government. Higher officers, like Deputy Commissioners even, do not consider it proper to change what an ordinary patwari does. And everybody knows that these petty officials very often fall a prey to party factions of the ilaqa.

I remember a recent instance which I would like to quote in this connection. A polling station for district board election was assigned near a railway station known as Gatti. You will be surprised to know that on the previous day that village of Gatti was asked to poll its votes at Lyallpur five or six miles away.

I would, therefore, submit that if no heed is paid to ordinary things by the Government and they do not like to interfere, I am afraid the Government may be unfit and inefficient. Now, Sir, in this state of affairs when iron is very expensive and rare how can you expect a cane-grower to manage to crush his sugarcane? I do not think there is any harm if he takes the cane for crushing to the nearest factory. This facility must be given to him, for instance, take the case of Lyallpur. Supposing the Government reserves this area for the purpose of supply of cane to a particular factory at Multan, although Sangla is the nearest and the most suitable place for this purpose. In this way the cane-growers of Lyallpur district will have to undergo a lot of trouble and inconvenience. My submission, therefore, is that the Cane Commissioner while declaring an area to be a reserved area for a factory, should consult the prominent zamindars of the ilaqa as well, and should not work according to the reports made by petty and subordinate officers of that ilaqa.

With these few remarks, Sir, I again request that between the words "factory" and "and" the words "and a few prominent cane-growers of the ilaqa" be inserted.

**Mr. Speaker :** Question is—

That in sub-section (1) of the proposed section 3-B, line 3, between the words "factory" and "and" the words "and a few prominent cane-growers of the ilaqa" be inserted.

*The motion was lost.*

**Mian Muhammad Nurullah :** I beg to move—

That sub-section (2) of the proposed section 3-D be deleted.

In the first instance I wish that the whole of subsection (3) be deleted because this is a very unreasonable restriction and the growers will be put to great hardship if they do anything against subsection (3). I, therefore, feel that subsection (3) should be deleted.

**Mr. Speaker :** Question is—

That sub-section (3) of the proposed section 3-D be deleted.

*The motion was lost.*

**Mian Muhammad Nurullah** (Lyallpur, Muhammadan, Rural) (Urdu) :  
I beg to move—

That in subsection (4) of the proposed section 3-D, lines 2-3, between the words "cane-grower" and "or" the words "his authorised agent" be inserted.

Sir, in this section, only cane-grower or cane-grower's co-operative society has been authorised to sell the cane. But an agent of a cane-grower has been given no power to that effect. My point is that agent should also be authorised to sell the cane in the absence of a cane-grower. Supposing I am a cane-grower and



[Mian Muhammad Nurullah]

as at present I am attending the Assembly Session and in my absence the price of sugar-cane is falling my agent will be unable to sell the cane because he is not authorised to do so. In this way, the cane-grower will be a loser. Supposing a cane-grower lives at Delhi and his agent is at Multan where he cultivates sugar-cane. Imagine what trouble he will be put to if the agent is not authorised to sell the cane in his absence. In case this subsection is allowed to remain in the Bill as it stands now and it is not amended as I have proposed, it will cause great inconvenience to the cane-growers.

**Minister of Development :** No he is authorised.

**Mian Muhammad Nurullah :** Well, it is not so according to the Bill. I am afraid if a person on believing the words of the Honourable Minister authorises an agent to sell the cane, he will be punished by the authorities concerned for violating the law and I do not think the Honourable Minister would ever be able to come to his rescue. If he really feels that the agent should also be authorised to sell the cane, he is requested to accept my amendment which says that between the words "cane-grower" and "or" the words "his authorised agent" be inserted.

**Minister :** You can always authorise anybody to sell.

**Mian Muhammad Nurullah :** I want the words "his authorised agent" to be inserted in the Section.

**Minister :** That is not necessary.

**Mr. Speaker :** Question is—

That in subsection (4) of the proposed section 3-D, lines 2-3, between the words "cane-grower" and "or" the words "his authorised agent" be inserted.

*The motion was lost.*

**Mian Muhammad Nurullah** (Lyallpur, Muhammadan, Rural) (Urdu)  
I beg to move—

That subsection (1) of the proposed section 3-E be deleted.

Sir, this is a consequential amendment and before I proceed with my remarks I would like to read out to you section 3-E itself which runs as follows :—

3-E. (1) If any person commences the construction of a new factory if the occupier of a factory makes any extension of the plant of the factory, in contravention of the provisions of subsection (1) of section 2-A, he shall be punishable with fine which may extend to five thousand rupees.

It has been provided in the section which I just now read that if any person commences to build a new factory or a factory-owner makes any extension in contravention of the law he will be punished with a fine of five thousand rupees. The Honourable Minister in charge may say that the motive of subsection 2-A is that no person should build up a new factory within a radius of 25 miles. what I want to point out in this connection, is, that supposing a factory-owner adds a latrine to his factory for the use of labourers. Will he be punished with a fine of five thousand rupees? And if such a case goes up to the authorities concerned the Honourable Minister would never be in a position to go there himself and say that at the time of passing the Bill his motive was not this. A factory-owner may refer to the interpretation of the Honourable Minister then, but nobody would ever care to pay heed to his interpretation. The authorities will say 'Now it is our Raj and we must follow our own interpretation.' I would, therefore, request the Minister in charge to delete this clause and thus save factory-owners from a number of troubles. Supposing I start a new factory and that fails. Is the Government going to charge five thousand rupees from me as a

fine? If the Honourable Minister really means that his motive is this that no new factory should crop up within a distance of 25 or 30 miles he must put it explicitly. Otherwise new factories would be discouraged and it will surely be detrimental for the province.

**Mr. Speaker :** Question is—

That subsection (1) of the proposed section 3-E be deleted.

*The motion was lost.*

**Mian Muhammad Nurullah** (Lyallpur, Muhammadan, Rural) (Urdu):

Sir, I beg to move—

That in subsection (5) of the proposed section 3-E (5), lines 5-6, the words "imprisonment which may extend to six months or with" be deleted.

In the subsection regarding penalties a provision is made to the effect that a person contravening the provisions of this Bill shall be punishable with fine which may extend to five thousand rupees. If the Government persist in making no change in this provision it is up to them. But as regards subsection (5) of the proposed section 3-E (5) it has been provided that a person contravening the provisions of subsection (3) or (4) of section 3-D in connection with selling or purchasing cane in a reserved area shall be punishable with imprisonment which may extend to six months or with fine which may extend to two thousand rupees or both. I wish to submit that there is no necessity to keep the clause of imprisonment. The punishment of fine is enough for persons contravening the law provided in this subsection. I urge upon the Government to delete the clause of imprisonment. With these words, sir, I put the amendment for the acceptance of the House.

**Mr. Speaker :** Clause under consideration, amendment moved is—

That in sub-section (5) of the proposed section 3-E (5), lines 5-6, the words "imprisonment which may extend to six months or with" be deleted.

**Mian Abdul Aziz** (Outer Lahore, Muhammadan, Urban) (Urdu): Sir, so far as subsection (5) of the proposed Section 3-E (5) is concerned, I wish to submit that the punishment of imprisonment seems to be quite unreasonable. I really fail to understand as to what necessitates my honourable friends sitting opposite to provide punishment of imprisonment when an adequate punishment of fine is already there. I make bold to say that my honourable friends sitting opposite have added this clause of imprisonment in a vindictive spirit. In this connection I urge upon my honourable friends sitting opposite in general and the Honourable Minister for Development in particular to delete this clause of imprisonment as it is absolutely unnecessary to put this clause in the Bill now before the House. With these words, sir, I support the amendment moved by my honourable friend Mian Muhammad Nurullah.

**Mr. Speaker :** The question is—

That in subsection (5) of the proposed section 3-E (5), lines 5-6, the words "imprisonment which may extend to six months or with" be deleted.

*The motion was lost.*

**Mian Muhammad Nurullah** (Lyallpur, Muhammadan, Rural) (Urdu):

Sir, I beg to move—

That in subsection (1) of the proposed section 3-F, lines 5-6 for the words "six pies per maund" the words "three pies per maund if the price is six annas per maund or over and not exceeding six pies per maund if the price is eight annas per maund or over" be substituted.

[Mian Muhammad Nurullah].

This amendment is important as it concerns the zamindars to a great extent. The zamindars should try to understand what the tax proposed in the Amendment Bill now before the House is about. I shall read out clause 3-F (1) which runs as follows :—

The Provincial Government may by notification in the official gazette impose a tax on the sale of sugarcane at a rate not exceeding six pies per maund or at a rate not exceeding ten per cent of the sale price, and may, by like notification, exempt from such tax sales in any area, or any class or classes of such sales to be specified therein.

And clause 3-F (2) runs as follows—

“ If any agreement for the sale of cane is entered into before the imposition of a tax under this section, the seller will be entitled to recover from the buyer in addition to, and as part of, the contract price, the amount of such tax to which the seller may be liable.

From the proposed section (1) it is clear that Government intend taxing the sale of sugarcane at the rate of six pies per maund or at a rate not exceeding ten per cent of the sale price of sugarcane. The latter portion is most obnoxious and I shall take it up later on.

It is a well-known fact that people are put to great inconvenience on account of the scarcity of sugar. Government do not afford any facilities to cane growers with a view to increasing the cane production. Previously a large quantity of sugarcane was produced in our province and we were at par with other provinces. I believe my honourable friends sitting opposite will bear me out that now a days sugarcane, gur and shakar are being purchased from other provinces. I wish to point out that now only a meagre quantity of sugarcane is sown here. On the one hand Government do not encourage the agriculturists to grow more sugarcane while on the other hand they levy this tax just to overburden them. My honourable friends, Sir Manohar Lal and Sardar Baldev Singh, often remark that they have a surplus budget. I fail to understand why the Unionist Ministry persist in levying taxes when they have already a large surplus at their disposal. Government waste money unnecessarily in creating new offices and appointing their own favourites. With the help of this surplus Government would have been able to increase the production of sugarcane and remove the grievances of the public at large in this behalf.

The province of Bihar resembles our province in many respects. It has an area of 441,000 acres under cultivation of sugarcane, and our province has an area of 417,000 acres under the cultivation of sugarcane. The output of these areas is 460,000 tons and 318,000 tons respectively. Although there is no great difference in the acreage of the two provinces yet the output of our province as compared to Bihar is far less. There are 32 sugar factories in Bihar while there are only 5 sugar factories in our province. So far as the crushing of sugarcane in factories of both the provinces is concerned, I wish to submit that in Bihar 346,000 tons of sugarcane are being crushed yearly while in the Punjab only 87,000 tons of sugarcane are crushed. Bihar produces 822,000 tons of sugar while Punjab produces only 8,000 tons. It is clear that our province as compared with Bihar is very backward. Instead of encouraging the agriculturists to grow more sugarcane, Government devise ways and means to further burden the zamindars in general and poor kisans in particular with taxes.

It is an age of war. People feel the necessity of many things. If to-day zamindars abandon sowing of sugarcane because of the tax on the sale of cane, it would mean that there will be shortage of cane and hence very little quantity of sugar will be available. If the Government have surplus money with them, it would be better for them not to open new departments, and not to

provide their own favourites. It would be better to remit taxes to the maximum extent. There is no necessity to levy a new tax on sugarcane. The zamindars will be profited immensely thereby. If there are no taxes on cane, sugar will be available in sufficient quantities in our Province. But now there is scarcity of sugar in our Province. If I state the relative figures of the last few years, stating our Province has imported so much sugar you will be simply wonder-struck. However, for your information, I tell you that our Province imported sugar in—

	In thousands
	Mds.
1937-38 to the extent of .. ..	4,550
1938-39 to the extent of .. ..	5,988
1939-40 to the extent of .. ..	3,824
1940-41 to the extent of .. ..	3,932
The average import per year comes to .. ..	4,298

Now I ask the Government in view of these facts and figures, if the zamindars give up sowing and the Province were to lose whatever sugar we produce, will it be better or worse for us? Would you like to be more dependent upon other Provinces for supplies of sugar? Will it not be better for our province to become self-sufficient, independent and an exporting Province? How can you achieve it? Not by taxing but by subsidising sugarcane.

Sir, for the information of the House, I state that our Province imports even *gur* and *rab* to the extent of thousands of maunds. For instance, our Province imported *gur* and *rab* in :—

	In thousands.
	Mds
1937-38 to the extent of .. ..	4,854
1938-39 to the extent of .. ..	2,985
1939-40 to the extent of .. ..	3,637
1940-41 to the extent of .. ..	5,853
The average per year comes to .. ..	4,202

Thus our province imports sugar, *gur* and *rab* to the extent of 84 lakh maunds.

Our Province is poor in these commodities. As compared with Bihar which in many respects resembles us we note that our Province is an importing Province and the Province of Bihar is an exporting Province. Punjab imports 144,000 tons, whereas Bihar exports 116,000 tons of sugar.

Sir, it will not be proper to tax zamindars of this province any further. The Unionists, have so far been taxing the urban people on the excuse of giving relief to the rural and are now carrying the contagion to tax the rural as well. Some of the principles involved in this Bill are obnoxious and dangerous to the zamindars. It will not be befitting to impose taxes upon the poor zamindars. I think the Government will be well-advised if they accept my amendment. In this Bill you have specified a tax to be levied on the sale of sugarcane at a rate not exceeding six pies per maund or at a rate not exceeding ten per cent of the sale price. I think, sir, it is a hardship upon the zamindars. You have nowhere made it explicit that the cost of taxes will be borne by the factory owner. My amendment is pretty trifle. The Government is bent upon imposing the tax on

[ Mian Muhammad Nurullah ]

sugarcane. I propose that instead of 6 pies per maund being charged as cess on sugarcane from the producer it should be three pies per maund if the price is six annas per maund or over and not exceeding six pies per maund if the price is eight annas per maund or over.

I pray that you are a true type of representative of the zamindars, and so I urge upon you not to ruin the zamindars any more. The cultivation of sugarcane should not be discouraged. If you accept my amendment, the zamindars will gain and the owners of the factories will not suffer.

With these words, Sir, I commend my amendment for the acceptance of the House.

**Mr. Speaker :** Clause under consideration, amendment moved—

That in sub-section (1) of the proposed section 3-F, lines 5-6, for the words "six pies per maund" the words "three pies per maund if the price is six annas per maund or over and not exceeding six pies per maund if the price is eight annas per maund or over" be substituted.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh** (Amritsar North, Sikh, Rural) (*Punjab*): Sir, I

2 p. m.

only wish to say a word or two in this connection. Our Government is in the habit of boasting that it has great sympathy with the kisans of the province. In view of its talk I am tempted to contrast its actions with its boastful claims. But I wish that Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram were here to listen to me at this time because particularly he professes to have a great sympathy with the poor peasants while Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh has had little time so far to undertake an extensive tour to parade his love of agriculturists. It is a pity indeed that instead of lightening the burden of the zamindars, the Unionist Government has proceeded to impose an additional tax on the poor kisans who would sow sugarcane in the Punjab. They are already groaning under the heavy burden of taxation. There is the water rate, the land revenue and scores of other taxes which a poor cultivator has to pay to the Government. Then he has to pay *lagan* to the land owner at a very high rate, with the result that he is left with a small margin of his produce which is insufficient for him to live on. Now at the top of all this comes the Sugarcane tax which the zamindara Government proposes to impose on the poor kisans. When the kisans sow sugarcane after taking all pains and carry the same when ripe in a cart to the factory, the Government will charge 2 pice per maund of sugarcane from these poor peasants. In this way the Government will take one-tenth of the income of the zamindars. This exposes the myth of the Government's sympathy with kisans. Instead of helping them, the Government is adding to their troubles. I would, therefore, strongly oppose this clause and urge that it should be deleted altogether. It would be sheer injustice to have this clause in the Bill.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang** (West Lahore Division, General, Rural): Sir, I do not think that the people concerned have really grasped the importance of this clause. If one pie in a rupee is raised in your revenue how would you feel? I am sure my friends would raise an outcry. They should realise that by the imposition of this tax of half an anna per maund they will be paying something like Rs. 12-8-0 per acre in addition to the land revenue which they now pay. In arriving at this figure I have taken the average of a fairly good farm yielding 400 maunds per acre. It means that you will have to pay 400 half annas or 200 annas which means Rs. 12-8-0. Now this sum would be added to the land revenue and also to the tax you pay to the district board so that this will be a third tax and I believe the heaviest one. There is another factor and that is that those who grow cane have to pay higher land revenue as compared with other crops.

We should also remember that the average of conveyance charges on cane from the field to the factory is at least one anna per maund. Those who have their own bullocks and carts may not have to pay in cash but they will have to take their bullocks and carts from other service. Therefore whether they have their own bullocks and carts or not they will have to pay about 1 anna per maund as conveyance charges. This would mean that you will have to pay another Rs. 25 before you enter the factory—taking the average of 400 maunds per acre. I know of some cane growers in the Punjab—not to speak of other provinces—who grow 10 or 20 acres or even more. Taking 20 acres into consideration with an average of 400 maunds per acre they will be required to pay four thousand annas or Rs. 250 for one season to the Government as cane tax. Is this the sympathy that you get from the people whom you support in season and out of season? Is not your allegiance, your loyalty, misplaced? Is this the reward of your allegiance and your loyalty? I am not an agriculturist nor am I a cane grower. You may say that I am merely talking and that I cannot have more sympathy for you than your own zamindar ministers. Well, you may think that way. I am only trying to place facts before you. I am surprised that Mian Nurullah's amendment is so mild—it is, as a matter of fact, a milk and water amendment. He says:—

Three pice per maund if the price is six annas per maund or over and not exceeding six pice per maund if the price is eight annas per maund or over.

The price in the United Provinces is 10 annas per maund and it may be raised to 12 annas.

**Minister of Development:** What do they charge?

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang:** I shall come to that. I know what is passing in the mind of the Honourable Minister. Now if the price is 12 annas the tax will be at least 2 pice and according to 10 per cent it will be  $1\frac{1}{2}$  annas per maund. The Honourable Minister might very well say that the Punjab zamindar is very large-hearted, he is not petty minded and he will not mind paying that much.

Sir, so far as the price of sugar cane is concerned, I am in a position to make a declaration here that we are prepared to pay a rupee per maund when the commodity is brought to the mills. Of course it is understood that the price of sugar will be raised proportionately as is the practice in the United Province and other provinces. I assure you that if the Government is prepared to help you we are prepared to pay you Rs. 1 per maund on your sugar cane. Let them issue orders to that effect. In fact Sir Sri Ram of Delhi advocated that at least Rs. 1-2-0 per maund should be paid to the zamindar, but the Government are standing in the way of the factory owners and the zamindars. Factory owners are prepared to pay Rs. 1-2-0 per maund to the sugarcane growers, not six annas or eight annas, but the Government do not allow us to pay as much because somehow it has entered into the head of those who control the price of sugar that the price of sugar should not be raised beyond what it is although the price of every other commodity has gone up. My friends know that gur is selling at a much higher rate than sugar. Shakkar is selling at Rs. 20 a maund whereas sugar is selling at Rs. 12 a maund so far as factory owners are concerned. They get Rs. 14-3-0 out of which they have to pay Rs. 2-3-0 on every maund of sugar as excise duty. Therefore they get Rs. 12 while gur is selling at Rs. 18 or Rs. 20 a maund. It reminds me of a Punjabi adage—

اندھیر نگری بیدار راجہ      تھے سیر بھاجی تھے سیر کھاجا

Here the *bhaji* is not selling at the rate of *take ser* but *khaja* is.

[ Dr. Sir Gajul Chand Narang ]

This is what is going on. Sir Sri Ram asked, while other growers were getting much better prices for their products, why should not the cane grower also get better price for his cane? Do you know that in the Punjab the area under cane is 417,000 acres distributed all over the province. I do not see why the price of cane should not be allowed to go up. Perhaps there is the fear that the price of sugar may also equally go up. But what of that? After all sugar is not an article of necessity. It is more or less an article of luxury. One can live without sugar. We know that the villagers hardly take sugar more than three or four times in a month. On other days they do not even think of sugar. They sometimes take gur and sometime shakkar. They do not die for want of sugar. So, sugar is not an article of necessity. Therefore if the consumer has to pay a few rupees per maund more, it would mean that the cultivator would get hundreds and thousands for his cane. But that is not allowed to be done. If the Punjab Government takes its stand and shows firmness just as it is showing in the matter of control of foodgrains and would allow a rise in the price of cane in the interests of the cultivators the latter will get ever so much more than they are getting now. There are four factories in the Punjab, two in the British territory and two in Kapurthala State and they crush between themselves about a crore and a half of maunds of sugar cane. If the price of cane is raised to Rs. 1-2-0 per maund, it would mean that an additional 75 lakhs of rupees would go into the pockets of the Punjab cultivators. Why do you deprive them of this wealth? Why should they be not allowed to earn this money?

Now, coming to the amendment, if the price of sugarcane is raised to Rs. 1-2-0 it means that of 10 per cent you have to pay more than one anna and six pies per maund to the Government and the amount that the owner of 20 acres will have to pay will be proportionately increased to a very high amount. That is the position. It is for the rural members of this House to say whether in the circumstances they will support the Government or support the amendment. I have placed the actual position before them from the point of view of the cultivators. The present amendment does not concern us. It concerns the cultivators. If the Government levy a tax of two annas on your sugar cane the price of sugar will rise proportionately. It is, then, the consumer that will have to pay the increased tax. The cultivators are also the consumers of sugar and so they will have to pay the tax. Thus both their pockets will be robbed—they pay so much tax on sugar cane and then so much more on the sugar they consume. In the Punjab 12 maunds of sugar cane will yield one maund of sugar although in the United Provinces ten maunds of sugar cane will yield one maund of sugar. On the 12 maunds of sugarcane the cultivators here will have to pay six pies per maund, according to the present provision, as tax. That means that on the 12 maunds of sugar cane you will have to pay six annas. Again, you will have to pay six annas more for the sugar you consume. Thus you will be losing 12 annas in this way. If the Government charge you at ten per cent of the price of sugarcane then you lose much more, so that either way, both as a producer and as a consumer you are a loser. So far as consumers are concerned other people will also lose. That is the position.

Now I come to the point which the Honourable Minister seems to have in his mind. I shall anticipate him now, because I will not have a right to speak again on this point. What he means to say is that the United Provinces and Bihar Governments also charge cess. At first it was one pice and then it was raised to two pice. In some places it has been raised to nine pice. But do you

know the services that the United Provinces and the Bihar Governments render to the cultivator? In these Provinces there are nearly 150 sugar mills and the Governments have to make special provisions for the sugarcane growers and the factories. What are the Punjab Government going to do? Are they going to build new roads to take the cane to the factories? Are they going to build new canals for the cane growers? Are they going to employ a large staff consisting of hundreds of people for these two factories in British territory? What do they propose to do with the cess they propose to levy? The United Provinces Government spend the money thus raised for the benefit of canegrowers particularly for the improvement of cane in the province. They have imported all sorts of seeds from Coimbatore and other places. They also supply chemical manure. Thus the quality of cane in the United Provinces has improved so much that, whereas before, the yield used to be 150 maunds an acre, now the yield in some places is 500 maunds, sometimes 800 maunds per acre. What are these gentlemen on the Treasury Benches going to do for the cultivators here? In some places in the United Provinces where there is no manure, and no artificial irrigation, the soil is so good that they grow 1,000 and more maunds per acre. The United Provinces Government have established cane farms from which seeds are distributed to the cultivators on easy terms. Are the Punjab Government going to do anything of this kind? They have not even given us an idea of what they are going to do. Therefore the comparison between the United Provinces and Bihar on one side and the Punjab on the other is entirely out of place. The mere fact that there is a cess in those two provinces does not justify the imposition of any tax on the cane cultivator in the Punjab. If there were 20, 30 or 40 mills in the Punjab and a good deal of new staff has to be employed, if new roads have to be made from the villages to the main roads or if new means of irrigation have to be put up or if there are co-operative societies which are entirely devoted to cane distribution and an elaborate staff has to be maintained for the purpose, then I can understand the imposition of the cess but here, as the poet has said,

اے بسا (رزو کہ خاک شد)

That is the position in the Punjab. There are only two mills in the Punjab at a distance of 250 miles from each other and two factories in an Indian state. It is for these factories that the Government are making this law. As I pointed out in my previous speech, such a law is entirely uncalled for and this provision that the zamindars will have to pay a tax on sugarcane is absolutely unnecessary, unjust and oppressive. Instead of encouraging the cultivator of cane, this law is sure to discourage the cultivation of cane in this province. With these few words I strongly support the amendment moved by Mian Nurullah. I think it is a very mild one. In fact I would oppose the clause altogether. He has been rather hesitant. He was probably afraid of moving a stronger amendment or he thought that if his amendment was mild there would be some chance of its being accepted. But now I find that he has abandoned all hopes. Now, it is for the zamindars to consider whether they would support the zamindara Government and accept this provision and reject the amendment or in their own interests they would accept the amendment and reject the clause in the Bill.

**Sardar Santokh Singh** (Eastern Towns, Sikh, Urban): Sir, I had hoped, though it might have been hoping against hope, that some one of our zamindar friends on the ministerial benches would get up and oppose this clause, but unfortunately no one has done so. It appears that they are so much hypnotised by their Ministers or they are so much under their thumb that they dare not



[ S. Santokh Singh ]

oppose Government, even when their own interests are being sacrificed. Anyway it is their own business, and whether they look to their own business or not is their exclusive concern. So far as we of the opposition are concerned, we have done our duty in pointedly bringing to their notice the tax that they would be subjected to and the penalties that they would have to pay under this Bill, if enacted into law.

Dr. Narang has told us that the production of sugarcane per acre is 400 maunds, and the imposition of this tax of half an anna per maund will amount to something like Rs. 12-8-0 per acre. I was told by a zamindar friend that it is much more than that, and if so, they would have to pay considerably more, at the rate of half an anna per maund. If the Government took into its head to impose this tax at the rate of 10 per cent of the value of sugarcane, which they can do under this Bill, the figures will be staggering. Dr. Narang has tried to bring home to the zamindar friends that if anybody thinks that this tax will not fall upon the cultivator he is absolutely mistaken. This is entirely correct, as this tax does fall upon the cultivator and on him alone. If a factory owner is in a position to sell his sugar at a higher price, he pays a higher price for cane. If he cannot do that he has to pay a lower price. The amount of tax is to go to the coffers of Government. And from whose pocket does it come? It comes out of the pocket of the cultivator whether he pays it directly, or indirectly through the factory owners. So, I am telling my friends that they must think about that before it is too late. It is to their own interest that in this particular matter they should join hands with us and show to Government that they cannot have their interests sacrificed in this manner. Having done that, I support the amendment that has been moved by my honourable friend and do hope that most of the members from the ministerial benches will go to the lobby with us in a matter where their own interests are at stake.

**The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh** (Minister of Development): When making a few observations on this amendment moved by my friend Mian Nurullah, I forget for the moment that I belong to the industrial class. I realise the difficulties explained by Dr. Narang, but I would request him to examine the point from a different angle. The cess which we propose in this Bill is not going to fall on the agriculturist. We will see to it that the agriculturists of this province get 6 annas or 8 annas per maund for cane. The cess will be collected from the factory owners at the rate of 2 pice per maund of cane, and the agriculturist will not pay it.

It was also stated that this was an indirect tax on the agriculturists. I differ from that view though Dr. Narang has put his case very ably from his point of view.

The consumption of sugar in this province last year was 125,000 tons; that was the quota that we were given. Out of this 125,000 tons—I am talking purely from the growers' point of view—about 30 per cent only went to the villages. Most of the sugar is therefore consumed by the urban people. So I fail to understand how this cess is going to be a burden on the agricultural classes.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh**: Do you not know that there is already an agitation for equal distribution?

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** Do you mean to say that only the urban classes should be allowed to eat sugar ?

**The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh :** I am putting this case from the agriculturist's point of view.

Then Dr. Narang said that in the United Provinces, Government was providing lots of facilities. He said that this tax was being used there for providing facilities to the growers. What do we intend to do in this province ? Our intention here is identically the same. We do not want to use this tax for any purpose other than to provide better facilities to the grower for transport of his cane to the factory. That is our intention.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** Is it an undertaking on behalf of Government ?

**The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh :** Yes, certainly.

Then Dr. Narang made out another point. He said that Sir Shri Ram had proposed the rate of Rs. 1-2-0 per maund for cane. Nobody will be more glad than myself if the factory owners could pay that rate. But Sir Narang has ignored or forgotten to mention one other point in the statement of Sir Shri Ram. What he said was that in the present circumstances Rs. 1-2-0 per maund should be the fair price of cane, and that if Government did not agree to the rate of Rs. 1-2-0, the factory owners could themselves afford to pay 13 annas per maund to the growers without increasing the price of sugar. Dr. Narang, on the other hand, demands that if the price of cane is increased from 10 annas to Rs. 1-2-0, there should be a corresponding increase in the price of sugar also. Sir Shri Ram does not contemplate any increase in the price of sugar at all, because he holds that on the present sugar price the factory owners can well afford to pay a higher price to the growers. But none of the factory owners up to now have accepted this proposal of Sir Shri Ram which I consider very fair.

Mian Nurullah suggested that we should accept this amendment in a modified form and make the cess 6 pies or 10 per cent, whichever is less. If this modified amendment were found workable I would have accepted it. But it will create enormous difficulties and in some cases it will be impossible to work on that basis. I therefore oppose the amendment.

**Mian Muhammad Nurullah :** I feel that the tax is ultimately to be paid by the grower and nobody else. There is not a single provision by which the Government can collect the tax from the factory owner. If that is their intention they would have embodied it in the Bill. Subsection (2) of section 8-F concerns those growers and dealers who have already made contracts. I think this tax is too much, especially in the latter portion on which I have a separate amendment which will be discussed later. This tax will not only crush the sugar industry, it will not only compel the zamindars to grow less cane but will also be a burden, directly or indirectly, on the zamindars of this province. It is absolutely unwholesome and unnecessary at this stage when the provincial budget already shows a surplus. I therefore press this motion to a division.

**Mr. Speaker :** The question is—

That in subsection (1) of the proposed section 3-F, lines 5-6, for the words "six pies per maund" the words "three pies per maund if the price is six annas per maund or over and not exceeding six pies per maund if the price is eight annas per maund or over" be substituted.

*The Assembly divided : Ayes 12 Noes 55.*

### AYES

Bhagat Ram Sharma, Pandit.  
Girdhari Das, Mahant.  
Gokul Chand Narang, Dr. Sir.  
Mazhar Ali Azhar, Maulvi.  
Muhammad Abdul Rahman Khan,  
Chaudhri.  
Muhammad Nurullah, Mian.

Muhammad Raza Shah Jeelani, Makh-  
dumzada Haji Sayed.  
Raghubir Kaur, Shrimati.  
Santokh Singh, Sardar.  
Sita Ram, Lala.  
Sohan Singh Josh, Sardar.  
Teja Singh, Sardar.

### NOES

Abdul Hamid Khan, Sufi.  
Abdul Haye, The Honourable Mian.  
Abdul Rab, Mian.  
Abdul Rahim, Chaudhri (Gurdaspur).  
Abdul Rahim, Chaudhri (Gurgaon).  
Ahmad Yar Khan, Chaudhri.  
Allah Yar Khan Daulatana, Mian.  
Amjad Ali Shah, Sayed.  
Ashiq Hussain, Nawab Major.  
Baldev Singh, The Honourable Sardar.  
Brijraj Saran, Kanwar.  
Chhotu Ram, The Honourable Chaudhri Sir.  
Faiz Muhammad, Khan Bahadur Shaikh.  
Farman Ali Khan, Subedar-Major Raja.  
Fateh Khan, Khan Sahib Raja.  
Fazal Din, Khan Sahib, Chaudhri.  
Fazal Karim Bakhsh, Khan Sahib Mian.  
Few, Mr. E.  
Ghazanfar Ali Khan, Raja.  
Gopal Singh (American), Sardar.  
Guest, Mr. P. H.  
Gurbachan Singh, Sardar Bahadur Sardar.  
Gurbakhsh Singh, Sardar.  
Harnam Das, Lala.  
Indar Singh, Sardar.  
Jagjit Singh Man, Sardar.  
Jogindar Singh Man, Sardar.  
Khizar Hayat, The Honourable Malik.  
Kishan Das, Seth.  
Maqbool Mahmood, Mir.

Mubarak Ali Shah, Captain Sayed.  
Muhammad Hasan, Chaudhri.  
Muhammad Hassan Khan Gurchani,  
Khan Bahadur Sardar.  
Muhammad Hussain, Khan Bahadur Chaudhri.  
Muhammad Hussain, Sardar.  
Muhammad Qasim, Chaudhri.  
Muhammad Saadat Ali Khan, Khan Bahadur, Khan.  
Muhammad Shafi Ali Khan, Khan Bahadur Chaudhri.  
Muhammad Yasin Khan, Khan Sahib Chaudhri.  
Muhammad Yusuf Khan, Khan.  
Mula Singh, Sardar.  
Mushtaq Ahmad Gurmani, Khan Bahadur Mian.  
Nur Ahmad Khan, Khan Bahadur Mian.  
Prem Singh, Mahant.  
Pritam Singh Siddhu, Sardar.  
Riasat Ali, Khan Bahadur Chaudhri.  
Sadiq Hassan, Shaikh.  
Sahib Dad Khan, Khan Sahib Chaudhri.  
Sardar Khan Noon, Major Malik.  
Shahadat Khan, Khan Sahib Rai.  
Shaukat Hyat-Khan, The Honourable Captain.  
Sumer Singh, Chaudhri.  
Tara Singh, Sardar.  
Tikka Ram, Chaudhri.  
Wali Muhammad Sayyal Hiraj, Sardar.

**Mian Muhammad Nurullah (Lyallpur, Muhammadan, Rural) :** I beg to move—

That in subsection (1) of the proposed section 3-F, line 6, for the word "ten" the word "five" be substituted.

This tax of 10 per cent on the sale price would be an unparalleled tax on any agricultural produce in the history of any province or any country. This would mean that when the prices are low, when the cost of cultivation of the commodity to be produced by a zamindar is not even covered by the sale price, the Government would even then be entitled to the 10 per cent of the sale price of the produce of sugarcane which will be sold to a factory. This state of affairs would be unbearable, unreasonable and prejudicial and it would be a departure from any taxation imposed anywhere and I challenge the Honourable Ministers sitting on that side to point out to me if there is any tax to that extent on any agricultural produce in any country. As a businessman I feel that this provision would be a dead letter, an Act passed but never worked, an Act which would be useless and it would be setting a precedent of taxing the sale price of a commodity. It would be repugnant to everyone in the province and everywhere in the world. It would be setting up a very obnoxious and dangerous principle. You might have read books which go to show that when prices go down, the cost of cultivation proportionately rises. Sometimes the price of the produce is less than the cost of cultivation. There is deficit and in spite of loss you would like to charge Rs. 20 or so per acre of sugarcane. We have seen this state of affairs prevailing in this province for about ten years before the year 1939. If the cost of cultivation of an acre of sugar-cane is Rs. 200 and the sale price is also Rs. 200 which was generally the case during the years of depression when prices were low then a zamindar would be making no profit. He will not be rewarded for his labour even. But he must pay Rs. 20 to our benign Government and that too in addition to land revenue. How can you charge both? Probably you have satisfied yourself regarding the legal aspect. I only want to draw your attention to the economic aspect. I have just now brought to the notice and the Minister in charge and Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram two amendments which if accepted would mean some reason. The first one is that instead of the words "sale price" substitute the words "the difference between the cost and sale price". That would mean a tax of ten per cent on the net profit that a zamindar will make and not the gross amount that he will realise. The second amendment suggested was after the word "sale price" add the words "whichever is less." Acceptance of a tax of even one per cent, on sale price would be setting up a principle which would mean death-knel if extended further for all zamindars in future and the blame would entirely go to the Unionists.

As this most unreasonable clause stands, it would mean that if a zamindar sold an acre of sugarcane, he spends two hundred rupees on it, but he does not realise two hundred rupees after its sale, that is when the sale does not cover the cost of the production, even then, he will be asked to pay twenty rupees, that is, ten per cent of the sale price. This position would be ridiculous. Cost of cultivation must be borne in mind before you actually come to the figures on which you levy a tax. If this is incorporated it would mean that he will pay tax only on the profit, on what he makes out of that acre of sugarcane and not on the total sale price which might be much more and in spite of deficit on that one acre he may be compelled to pay additional tax. Then the position will arise that this Act is unworkable. I, therefore, request him to consider this matter—either to incorporate the clause relating to 'whichever is less' or to insert provision with regard to difference between the sale and cost price and make it a reasonable measure. The safest for us is to delete ten per cent on sale price as this is a thoroughly bad and dangerous principle to accept for any zamindar.

[ Mian Muhammad Nurullah ]

and if the Ministry is bent on keeping this then reduce ten to five per cent. but I warn you against acceptance of this type of taxation.

**Minister of Development :** Sir, I accept the amendment.

**Mr. Speaker :** The question is—

That in sub-section (1) of the proposed section 3-F, line 6, for the word "ten" the word "five" be substituted.

*The motion was carried.*

**Mr. Speaker :** The question is—

That clause 4 as amended stand part of the Bill.

*The motion was carried.*

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*Clause 5.*

**Mr. Speaker :** The question is—

That clause 5 stand part of the Bill.

*The motion was carried.*

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*Clause 1.*

**Mr. Speaker :** The question is—

That clause 1 stand part of the Bill.

*The motion was carried.*

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*Title.*

**Mr. Speaker :** The question is—

That the title be the title of the Bill.

*The motion was carried.*

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

That the Sugarcane (Punjab Amendment) Bill be passed.

**Mr. Speaker :** The motion is—

That the Sugarcane (Punjab Amendment) Bill be passed.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh** (Amritsar North, Sikh, Rural) (*Punjabi*): Sir, I rise to oppose the Bill now before the House. I wish to make a few submissions in support of my contention.

Instead of affording facilities to poor kisans, the Government every now and then devise ways and means to overburden them with unnecessary taxes. By passing this Bill now before the House, Government wish to tax the cane growers, i.e., the poor kisans. My honourable friends sitting opposite always claim that they live and die for safeguarding the interests of poor small holders. If my memory does not fail me, I remember that my honourable friend Sir Chhotu Ram promised to exempt the small landholders owning about five or ten acres of land from the payment of land revenue. But to our great disappointment no step has so far been taken in this connection and as a consequence the poor kisans continue experiencing hardships and inconveniences. Now the Government have brought forward another taxation measure in the form of this Bill now before the House, on the plea, that this Bill is meant for ameliorating the condition of poor kisans. Sir Chhotu Ram has been boasting that he got a

sum of Rs. 1½ crores set apart for the benefit of small landholders owning about five or ten acres of land. In this connection I wish to point out that instead of distributing this amount amongst the poor agriculturists, the Government, as usual, has allotted a greater portion of this amount for the benefit of the rich zamindars and their favourites. I am constrained to say that my honourable friends Sir Chhotu Ram and Sardar Baldev Singh have done nothing for improving the hard lot of poor kisans.

This proposed tax would be a burden on those poor kisans who grow cane in their land. They will have to pay this tax in addition to Land Revenue and irrigation tax. In addition to these taxes the poor cultivators will have to pay this sugarcane tax after putting in a great labour in cleansing the sugarcane and conveying it in carts to the factories. Perhaps my honourable friends sitting opposite have not thought over the difficulties of cane growers. Instead of exempting the small land-holders owning about 40, 50 or 100 acres of land, from paying any tax whatsoever, Government is always in search of new taxation measures with a view to extracting money from poor and down-trodden kisans. It is high time that Government should afford all possible facilities to the poor kisans who are already over-burdened with taxes, etc., I really wonder at the strange attitude of my honourable friend Sir Chhotu Ram towards the poor kisans. Whenever he proceeds on extensive touring in the countryside, he gives assurances to the poor kisans to the effect that the money collected by levying taxes, would be spent for ameliorating their condition. But what is actually done is this that the Unionist Ministry benefit the rich zamindars by granting them various concessions to the exclusion of petty land-holders. I wish to point out that so far as taxes are concerned, distinction should be made between a rich zamindar and a poor kisan.

My honourable friend Sardar Baldev Singh has laid down a principle that agriculture and industry should go hand in hand and one should not be developed at the cost of the other. I do realise that the development of agriculture and industry is mainly dependent on each other. So far as the sugar industry of our province is concerned, I wish to submit that our province has suffered heavily on account of the meagre production of sugarcane. Instead of affording facilities to cane growers Government levy upon them such taxes as are detrimental to their interests. I do not agree with my honourable friend Sardar Baldev Singh who has said that sugar is made available to everybody in the province. I wish to submit that there is a great scarcity of sugar in the province, and I am afraid, the scarcity of sugar will be all the greater if the proposed tax is levied upon the poor cane growers. I really fail to understand the idea underlying the policy of this taxation measure. In these War days a great scarcity of essential commodities is being felt by public to a great extent. Despite repeated requests to make all commodities available to the people of the province in general and the poor sections of the public in particular, Government do not take any steps in this direction. Government when asked to develop industries, express its inability on account of increase in the wants of the people. I wish to point out that the increased demands of the essential articles by the people, calls for the corresponding development of industries. It is but meet and proper for the Government to develop the industries especially the sugar industry.

Government do not pay any heed to the appalling conditions prevailing in the province in connection with the scarcity of commodities. Instead of devising suitable methods to increase the production of sugarcane, Government

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is busy issuing ordinances. In this connection I wish to quote an instance. Government have also stopped the cane growers to manufacture gur and have also issued ordinances to the effect that the cane growers should send all their sugarcane to factories.

The poor kisan is handicapped in many respects. Government have reserved their areas in connection with the cultivation of cane. Instead of affording facilities to the poor cane growers, they are being debarred from the preparation of gur itself.

Sir, the Government are to determine the price at which the sugarcane is to be sold. They will always favour the factory owner. Further, it evidently means that they will be enriching their own coffers. It seems that the Government has no sympathy for those petty landholders who own ten or twelve bighas. They are always thinking of big landlords and big zamindars. It is true that one is influenced by the company he keeps. They are surrounded by big zamindars and so naturally they think of only big zamindars. In the Bill, they have made no provision for the petty landholders. They have no sympathy for the poor agriculturists.

Sir, till yesterday the Government was against price-control. To-day they are for it. They are restricting the growth of cane, its selling and purchasing. It means that when there will be no supply of cane, the industry will suffer.

Sir, I submit it is another tax over the poor down-trodden zamindars. They are already paying chaukidara tax, district board tax and so many other taxes. It is probably sixth or seventh tax on the poor kisan. It is the Government who are responsible for the imposition of this tax. The Government always boast of favouring the kisan, helping the kisan, showing sympathy to the kisan. They belie their own claims. People now understand the reality about the Government's claims. I speak with all the emphasis at my command, that this Bill will be very detrimental for the poor helpless zamindars. They will be crushed. The Bill should not therefore be passed.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Abdul Rahman Khan** (Jullundur North, Muhammadan, Rural) (*Punjabi*): Mr. Speaker, today sugarcane is proposed to be taxed. It is a matter of very great surprise to us. I ask the Government, are there only a very few taxes imposed upon us now? Where is the need of imposing another tax upon us? Sir, since the time the English have begun to rule us, we are subjected to taxes one after the other. The zamindars are being trodden over. All the worries of the world have fallen to the lot of the zamindars. The burden of the whole of the population has been thrown over the head of the zamindars. They meet the needs of the whole of the population. In spite of all the sacrifices on the part of the zamindars, they are subjected to tax and that is the tax on sugarcane. Their standard of living is already too low. They cannot meet their own needs. How can they cope with the present-day situation? To-day the price of everything has risen up. They can hardly get the bare necessities of life and yet the Government is levying taxes after taxes upon them.

Sir, every one knows that Sir Chhotu Ram always claims to have sympathy for the zamindars. He has boasted on more than one occasion, that if he were asked to shed his blood for the cause of the zamindars, he will be might pleased to do so. To-day he belies his claims. I give an illustration in support of my assertion.

Once a certain jat was ploughing his field. A few officers happened to pass by. They had a cock with them. They bade the jat to get hold of it and accompany them. After going for a short distance they thought of the bearheadedness of the jat. Consequently they took off the sieve from the back of the camel and put it on the head of the jat. Thus they forbade the jat to plough the field, they asked him to get hold of the cock and lastly they put the sieve on his head. Sir, we have been under the yoke of Sir Chhotu Ram and now to supplement it our new Honourable Sardar Sahib is doing his worst to oppress us. They cannot see us happy in any way.

Sir, with a view to illustrate my point further, I give you another story. Once a wolf caught hold of a goat. He was just going to devour it, when a very pious Maulvi chanced to pass by. He saved the life of the goat, and took it away to his own home. There he fed it, showed him kindness and fastened it with a rope. The goat was naturally very thankful to the Maulvi. When dusk fell he began to sharpen his *chhuri*. The goat was perturbed, and it asked the Maulvi as to what he was doing and with what object. It entreated him that he was so kind and saved its life. But the Maulvi heard it no more but slaughtered it and ate it up. The sympathy of the Government with us is also of the same kind. In fact it is intended to eat our flesh. The only industry left in the hands of the agriculturists was the manufacture of 'gur' and 'shakkar'. But now the Government is going to torpedo it also. The zamindars are already too poor to educate their children and afford medical relief. But here comes the Government to impose a fresh tax on the produce of sugarcane. It is a strange demonstration of sympathy. The cultivators have already to pay land revenue at the rate of Rs. 4½ per acre. In addition to that a further tax to the extent of 10 per cent is going to be imposed now. I am afraid all this tax including the water rate and land revenue etc., will become too much for the capacity of the zamindars to pay. I cannot imagine that any cultivator will be able to pay taxes amounting to 90 or 50 per cent. of his gross income. Perhaps it is not known to the Government that there is already a tendency among zamindars to cultivate as little sugarcane as possible. The cultivation of sugarcane requires a great labour, large quantity of water and seed which is very dear these days. Ordinary zamindars cannot afford to purchase its seed. About one hundred rupees are required for purchasing its seed for one acre only. Now if this tax is imposed, it would become impossible to supply cane to the sugarcane factories because the zamindars already cultivate but a little quantity of sugarcane and will sow still less when tax has been imposed on its cultivation. I would, therefore, propose that the Government should, in order to encourage the cultivation of cane, grant an appropriate sum of money out of which grants-in-aid may be given to the growers of cane. But here the Government is doing exactly the reverse of what it should do. The poor zamindars are always to be subjected to taxation and hardships. It was to be hoped that during the course of war at least zamindars would not be further taxed. Their sons have already gone to the battle front. Now instead of helping those who are left in their homes the Government is trying to strangle them. What the Government ought to have done was to supply milk and butter to the children of zamindars so that they may grow up to be sturdy youngmen and be able to give a good account of themselves against the enemy in the battle ground. But the Government is on the contrary trying to starve them out. It would be impossible to justify on any account the additional burden of taxation which is proposed to be imposed on the zamindars. If it must be imposed at all, it may be imposed on those big zamindars who cultivate sugarcane in, say, fifty acres of land. It would not be proper to



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tax those cultivators who only grow one or two acres of sugarcane. The poor peasants have already to pay heavy amount as lease money to the owners of land. They would not be able to pay this additional tax at all. I would, therefore, appeal to the Government that no further burden of taxation be placed on the shoulders of the agriculturists since they are already groaning under a heavy load of taxes.

**Lala Sita Ram** (Trade Union Labour) (*Urdu*): Sir, I have risen to oppose this Bill. But I would not detail those objections which can be raised against this Bill from the point of view of the zamindars because they have been told to look upon the Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram as their greatest benefactor and whatever comes from his lips, is readily accepted by them as the gospel truth. In fact the zamindars have made it their principle to blindly follow him and the Unionist Government and they do not pause even for a moment to realise, whether a certain move will do them good or otherwise. Give them poison, if you like, with Sir Chhotu Ram's label and they will take it as sugar pills. Now if I begin to tell them the disadvantages of the present Bill, they would turn round and say "You are not right you are not a zamindar". I, therefore, do not propose to enumerate the manifold wrongs which are going to be done to the zamindars themselves by the enforcement of this new measure. They should be left to help themselves, and thank their own intelligence and judgment and curse or bless their own Unionist leaders. The time will come when they will be rudely shocked by the plain realisation that what we said by us was for their good and what the Unionist Government did was decidedly harmful for them. For the present therefore, I do not want to go into that side of the Bill. Let time prove what it has to prove.

My observations are actuated, Sir, from another point of view. We all know that the Cabinet as well as the honourable members of this House are at least outwardly in favour of development of industries in this province and they have given expression to such feelings both directly and indirectly that without development of industries the province cannot make progress worth the name. But when it comes to practice something goes wrong with them. One fails to understand why? Now, Sir, my submission is that the sugar industry in our Province is in the stage of infancy. It needs every encouragement at our hands. Whenever any industry is started in any country the Government of that country always encourages it and helps it by providing all kinds of facilities to it during its early stage of experimenting and competition. But here the case is quite the reverse. The Government, instead of encouraging the sugar industry, which as I have submitted is in the stage of infancy, is discouraging it by imposing taxes on it. I may tell my friends that the tax which is going to be imposed under this Bill will either fall on the producers or the consumers. The middlemen seldom pay any taxes. (*Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram* : Should we increase the income tax?) Do what you will; you have already done your worst. But it is interesting to see a champion of the zamindars imposing taxes on the zamindars—a bigger fish now devouring the smaller fish. My contention is this, Sir, that this axe will not fall on the middleman, but on the very roots of this industry. If the burden of the tax falls on the producers it will mean that the zamindars will be the losers and they will stop cultivating sugarcane. On the contrary if the tax falls on the consumers the result would be that the price of sugar will increase and the consumers will be put to lot of inconvenience. That is a stark

reality and I wish you could see it through uncoloured glasses. I have the courage to deny what has been observed by my honourable friend Sardar Baldev Singh, that the rural people consume less sugar, and therefore they will not be affected to any great extent. Need I tell him that even these honourable members, who come here, consume more sugar. My experience is that they are always to be found in the Tea Room and I am not going to believe that they use salt instead of sugar for their tea cups. Nor am I going to admit that rural people consume less sugar. Those old days are gone now. Every zamindar is now better situated and has a sweet tooth. Even if we take it for granted that they do not consume sugar still I can say without any fear of contradiction that they consume those articles, wherein sugar is more used. The prices of such articles will rise. In this way they will have to pay more for sugar though in an indirect manner. Anyway what I want to point out is that the burden of taxes ultimately and in the long run will either borne by the producers or the consumers. We should dispel this idea from our minds once and for all that taxes are borne by the industrialists or the middlemen. It is the producer of sugarcane or the consumer that has to suffer and ultimately the industrialists may give up the production of sugar on the ground that the consumers would not be able to pay the enhanced price of sugar, which would certainly be enhanced as a result of the imposition of this tax, and that they would not be able to compete with imported sugar which would sell at a lower rate than that produced by them. My submission is that there are only two sugarcane factories in the Punjab and in order to promote sugar industries in the province it is essential that Government should provide all possible facilities to the—

*(At this stage Sardar Sohan Singh Josh drew the attention of Mr. Speaker to the fact that there was no quorum in the House. After ringing the bell count was taken and it was found that there was quorum).*

Sir, I was pointing out that if we want to promote industries in the province it is essential that Government should give all possible facilities to the industrialists. The amendment of my honourable friend Mian Muhammad Nurullah did not go far enough. But still Government have not thought it fit to accept it. They should have accepted that much at least. It is known to every one that the development of industries in the province is in the interests of all classes of people. It is useful for the agriculturists for their raw material will find a ready market. It is in the interests of the capitalists for they can set up more sugar factories. It is useful for the labouring classes because work would be provided to labourers and thus they would be in a position to earn their livelihood. In fact every class stands to gain from the promotion of industries. There was a time when the capital was shy and no entrepreneur was willing to come forward and start any industry in the province. But now when entrepreneurs are ready to invest capital and start industries in this province why should the Government not encourage them? On the contrary by levying such taxes and by passing such Bills, as the one now before the House, they are positively discouraging them. I personally fail to understand the wisdom behind such Acts. If they do not want to benefit any other class they should encourage such industries in view of the immense benefit that they would do to the zamindars. We sitting on this side of the House deem it our duty to apprise the Government of the real state of affairs and it is up to them to accept or reject our suggestions. In view of the welfare of the producers and in view of the professions of the Honourable Ministers that so long as industries are not promoted the province will not make any progress, it is necessary that capitalists who have started sugar factories in

[L. Sita Ram]

the Punjab should be encouraged so that other capitalists may follow suit and people should come forward to more new industries. With these words I oppose the Bill now before the House.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Abdul Rahman Khan :** Sir, I have not risen to make another speech but with your permission I want to make a request to Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram. And that is, that if the maximum price of sugarcane is fixed it will benefit the zamindars a lot. If the price of sugarcane is not fixed there is every possibility of zamindars being hoodwinked by the factory owners. I have heard that if the price of sugar is 10 rupees per maund the factory owners pay ten annas a maund as the price of sugarcane to the zamindars. If the price of sugar rises to Rs. 12 the price of sugarcane also goes up to 12 annas a maund. But sometimes it so happens that zamindars produce sugarcane in abundant quantities with the result that factory owners pay only three or three and a half annas to the zamindars as the price of a maund of sugarcane. In this way the zamindars lose a great deal. I would therefore request the Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram to get the maximum price of sugarcane fixed in consultation with the sugar experts. If he does so he will be doing a great favour to the zamindars community. I hope he will certainly take steps in this direction.

**Minister of Revenue (The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram) (Urdu) :** Sir, under the modern constitutions, the functions of the Opposition party is to oppose each and every proposal and Bill sponsored by the party in power. Usually there are two types of people in such opposition parties. There are some who have some consideration for facts, truth and justice. There are others who have absolutely no regard for truth, justice and fairplay at all. Now Sir, three honourable members have opposed the motion under consideration. The first of these gentlemen is Chaudhri Muhammad Abdul Rahman Khan who is an old colleague of mine. My regard for our old association does not permit me to say anything by way of reply to him. However in respect of one thing to which he referred I would like to assure him that every thing possible will be done by us to get the zamindars the maximum price for their sugarcane. My honourable friend should remember that the Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh and myself have an identity of views on this subject and I am sure, he would try his uttermost to assure the maximum price of sugarcane for the cultivators.

The second gentleman who struck a discordant note with regard to this Bill is Lala Sita Ram. Admittedly he is a representative of the poor and the labouring classes but I have never seen him supporting a measure which purports to benefit the poor or the labourers. This is the sum and substance of the mentality with which he seems to have been endowed by nature or afflicted by his environments.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** On a point of order Sir. The Honourable Minister is indulging in personal invectives.

**Mr. Speaker :** The Honourable Minister should not be personal.

**Minister of Revenue :** Sir, you were not here when my honourable friend, Sardar Sohan Singh Josh, was on his legs. The only purpose of his speech seemed to be making personal attacks on others. Any way, Sir, my honourable friend Lala Sita Ram started his speech by agreeing with the principle of the Bill but was wary enough to stick to the one thing dearest to his heart, namely, the interests of the industrialists. He is opposed to any tax or cess which may impose

a burden on factory owners. He argues that the burden of taxation which is imposed upon factory owners will ultimately fall on the grower or the consumer. If that is so why is he so loud in his complaints and why does he oppose this tax? Let the factory owner shift his tax on to the grower or the consumer after it is imposed on him.

Third comes my honourable friend Sardar Sohan Singh Josh, who in his vehemence said things of which no head or tail could be made. God alone knows where he was brought up and wherefrom he received his inspirations. He seems to think that I who was born of poor zamindar parents and learnt to live and think like poor zamindars cannot understand what he thinks he says in their interest. If and when he is not understood except by himself, it is the result of his perverse mentality and his defective education. My honourable friend says "Chhotu Ram professes to be a friend of the zamindars and says that he would even lay down his life for them, but his actions belie his professions." As an instance of this inconsistency on my part he referred to the recommendation made by the Land Revenue Committee that all land-owners paying land revenue up to Rs. 5 be exempted from such payment and observed that I was responsible for the rejection of this recommendation. It is perfectly true. I have no hesitation in accepting full responsibility for the rejection of this recommendation. The Land Revenue Committee did recommend the exemption of all those who were paying five or less than five rupees as land revenue. Even the late Premier had a mind to give practical shape to it, but I was opposed to any such thing being done. I gave him my reasons which convinced him and brought him round to my view point. I do not want to run away from my responsibility. I have publicly accepted this responsibility at large gatherings of zamindars. I told them that if it was a fault, it was entirely mine. After this public declaration I set before them the schemes on which it was intended to spend the entire proceeds of the land revenue which was receivable from those who paid up to Rs. 5. I have toured 22 districts of the Province and in some of them I spoke at more than one meeting but nowhere has even a single person objected to my proposal. The proposal has met universal welcome.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** That arrangement is made beforehand.

**Mr. Speaker :** Order, order. No commentary please.

**Minister of Revenue :** Anyway my honourable friend is welcome to think as he pleases but I do not require a better proof than the one I had when addressing a gathering of about thirty thousand peasants at Kalasswala, district Sialkot. A number of my honourable friend's followers also must have been present at the meeting. The whole audience agreed that my proposals were much more beneficial than any remission of land revenue could be. Although I had told them that the proposals were only tentative and that they still required to be ratified by the Government and could be dropped or modified yet no one raised any objection against them. Let it not be forgotten that this question of remission was a very convenient handle which a poor person like me could turn to great advantage in my electioneering campaign. I could easily win the votes of all those who were paying Rs. 5 or less as land revenue, but I did not take advantage of it. Let me repeat that I accept entire responsibility for opposing the Land Revenue Committee's recommendation for the remission of land revenue. If even now any honourable friends have any doubt in the manner I am afraid I can never convince them.

Now I come to my honourable friend's contention that he and people of his way of thinking are the only real well wishers of the kisans. In a few words

[Minister for Revenue]

I will give a resume of his practical service to them. When the Benami Bill was presented before the House my honourable friend was among those who opposed this measure.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** On a point of order. The Honourable Minister is making a wrong statement.

**Mr. Speaker :** Let the Honourable Minister continue his speech. The honourable member cannot say such things as a commentary.

**Minister of Revenue :** Again when the Markets Bill came up my honourable friend joined the ranks of those who opposed it tooth and nail. Similarly he opposed the Relief of Indebtedness (Amendment) Bill, the Restitution of Mortgaged Lands Bill, the General Sales Tax Bill, the Urban Immovable Property Tax Bill and the Rent Restriction Bill. If this is the kind of love and sympathy which my honourable friend has for the poor and the zamindars God save them from such sympathy. All that I can do in this respect is to pray that if such is the nature of the love, sympathy and help which my honourable friend has to offer, God save any province or country from such well-wishers.

I forgot to refer to one thing. These gentlemen, these champions of the cause of kisans and zamindars are in favour of control being imposed and that, too, as early as possible. I have toured most of the districts of the province, but I have not come across a single zamindar or cultivator, big or small, who was in favour of control. I attended the meetings of zamindars in almost all the districts. Sometimes two or three meetings were convened at different places in the same district. But at all these meetings, in every district, people asked me to save them from this demon of control. According to my communist friend opposite I have now become the enemy of the zamindars and he—who is against the Unionist Party, who criticises the Government for protesting against control—claims to be their friend and sympathiser. My honourable friend says people know very well. Yes, they do. They can now distinguish between friend and foe. But I must say that if all the representatives of our people were to follow the lead of my communist friends here the fate of our peasantry would be sealed. I do not know wherefrom he has picked up his new rule and his present techniques but I am sure that he has learnt them within the recent part.

Not only the Punjab, but the Government of United Provinces, Bihar and even the representatives of Frontier expressed their opinion against control. If others have changed their opinion or have now seen fit to shift their ground for reasons best known to them, that is no concern of mine. As a rule the provinces with surplus foodgrains are against control and the deficit provinces are in its favour. Very natural too.

**Mr. Speaker :** The Honourable Minister is not speaking to the motion.

**Minister :** I am just replying to the points raised by my honourable friend opposite. The deficit provinces are the purchasers of foodgrains and the biggest purchasers of them all is the Government of India. The Government of India needs it for the Railway Staff, for other provinces, and for the Army. Control serves the interests of the purchasers at the cost of the grower, and any Punjabi who puts forward a plea for control is in reality the enemy of his province. Our communist friends have recently become the faithful servants of the Government of India. Perhaps they should not be blamed for that, because they are badly in need of its favours and human nature has its weaknesses.

Their fondness for control is obvious from the fact that they have dragged in this question to-day while discussing a Bill to which control is not even remotely related. What are their reasons for doing this new kindness to the zamindars and what fruit will it bear—who knows?

Now I come to the Bill proper. I have recently toured the four districts—Jullundur, Ambala, Hoshiarpur and Gurdaspur. I went to Amritsar as well but I did not mention this question there because sugarcane is not grown to any large extent in that district. In all the four districts the people complained against the malpractices of factory staff, such as, false weightment, arbitrary objection to quality of cane, etc., and that they are made to wait long hours and sometimes for part of a day and the following night before delivery is taken and payment made.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Are you going to realize the price of the Act by imposing this tax?

**Minister of Revenue :** I have not come to the tax yet. I am presently coming to that. Do not be impatient. I was referring Sir, to the hardships that the zamindars have to face at the factories, when my friend interrupted me. Sir, we have brought forward this measure to eradicate such evils. Each and every zamindar of the four above mentioned districts expressed his opinion most emphatically in favour of this Bill. In the beginning even my honourable colleague, Sardar Baldev Singh, had no faith in the usefulness of this measure. He pleaded that there were only two factories in our province one of which was a factory in name only. According to him no Bill was needed for a single factory. I requested him to consult the people of the Ambala District on this point during his visits there. When he had done so he was firmly convinced that he was eager to bring forward this Bill in the House during the last budget session and was afraid lest the session ended without passing the measure into law. As the poor grower is the victim of deception and fraud at the factories, it was our duty to bring forward a measure like this on the lines of the United Provinces Bill.

Now I come to the Tax proposed in this Bill and the justification for that tax. Is it really a burden on the poor zamindar, as my honourable friend puts it? In the first place I do not agree with those who call it a burden on the zamindar. The Bill does not say that the tax shall be realized from the zamindar. But let me concede that for the sake of argument. Even if it is to be realized from the zamindar it must not be forgotten that the fixation of the price of sugarcane shall be in the hands of the Government and it can easily enhance the price so as to include in it a pie or two per maund of the tax. So the tax shall be ultimately realised from the factory owners and not from the zamindars, just as the shopkeepers and the merchants are passing on the sales tax to the customer consumer. (*Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :* Peasant is also a consumer.) If the peasant is a consumer does it follow that no tax should ever be imposed? The money that is to be realised from this tax will be spent on making better roads and to construct shelters where carts and a cart owners could take shelter at the time of rain, hail storm or wind storm. If the roads are not in good condition or no culverts are constructed on them, it involves hardship and risk to move carts along them, there is every danger of oxen getting their legs broken, and let it be realized that an ordinary ox costs more than Rs. 300 now-a-days. So it is essential that the roads leading to factories should be in good condition. If we spend the money realised from taxing a people on their own requirements, where is the harm? It is robbing Peter to pay Paul that is objectionable.

**Mian Muhammad Nurullah :** Is there any provision in this Bill to the effect that the proceeds of this tax will be used for affording facilities to those people who 'bring their gaddas' of sugar cane ?

**Minister of Revenue :** The Honourable Minister for Development has given ample assurance to that effect in his speech. I need not repeat that assurance. We may be expected to stand by what we say.

I was submitting that if a certain portion of population is taxed for their own benefit they will not resent the imposition of taxes. My Honourable friends sitting opposite will agree that village Dharam Shallas and Chaupals are instances in point. They are built with the amount realised from the zamindars themselves. I do not think any zamindar has become insolvent by contributing his share or has ever objected to such contribution. In villages there have to be some buildings for common use where marriage parties or stray travellers or common guests may be accommodated. Nobody has ever denied the usefulness of such places or refused to make his contribution to their construction. If the proceeds are spent for their comforts zamindars will never grudge the imposition of such taxes.

Before I resume my seat I would like to say one word with regard to the misgivings of my honourable friends opposite that I may forget the obligation of this assurance. I am sure they know me too well to feel that there is any possibility of my spending the money collected from the zamindars except for the benefit of the zamindars.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram (Sharma)** (Kangra West General, Rural Urdu) Sir, after having heard with rapt attention, the speech of the Honourable Minister Sir Chhotu Ram I would say he has never made such an uninteresting and colourless speech on the floor of the House even though he tried his best to acquit himself well. But the great part of his speech was irrelevant and unnecessary.

**Mr. Speaker :** The honourable member should not be personal.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** As you are aware, Sir, he has admitted this fact in the course of his speech, that the tax is going to be imposed on the zamindars and while enunciating the reasons for these taxes he has also remarked that the amount realised by the taxes would be spent on the construction of roads, dharamshalas and chaupals in villages. But I would say that in the present Bill no reference to that effect has been made. I submit if this was the intention of the Government at least a mention should have been made in the Bill. Then further he has said that a statement has already been given by the Honourable Minister in charge regarding this matter. Who does not know that the Government have been facing topheavy expenditure during the last few years and for this main reason the Government have again come out with a new taxation measure ? I would, therefore, say that this justification for a new taxation measure seems to me nothing but making a false plea. The fact is that tables have turned and now instead of urbanites the agriculturists are going to be burdened with taxes by the Government.

**Mr. Speaker :** The honourable member is not speaking to the motion.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** I am speaking to the motion and I say that now the turn of the agriculturists has come. I apprehend that it has become a habit with the Government to impose taxes on the people and now the cycle of taxes has changed its direction and is moving in the reverse direction. Now Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram says that the proceeds of this tax will be spent

on constructing roads and dharamshalas for the villagers who are quite willing to pay the tax and get these facilities in return from the Government. May I ask him, is there any provision in this Bill to the effect that the proceeds of this tax will be used for affording facilities to those people? Have they ever told them that the intention of the Government in imposing taxes on them is to construct places like dharamshalas and chaupals? No, they have never told them about these things. And at the third reading, now when the Bill is about to pass, the Honourable Minister for Revenue has taken the trouble of revealing the intention and motive of the Government to the zamindars. My submission, therefore, is that had it been revealed in the beginning the zamindars would have got an opportunity to tell the Government whether actually they were prepared to pay the tax and get roads and dharamshalas built through Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram.

My next submission is that as a plethora of taxation measures have already been passed by the Government, I do not see any reason in further burdening the zamindars with taxes while the Government claim themselves to be their friends. Instead of putting a last straw on the proverbial camel's back they should have made efforts to increase the purchasing power of the zamindars. But it is very depressing to say that the Government in one way or other let no session pass without passing a taxation measure. Now I would tell you why this is so. The Government strictly speaking, have done nothing substantial so far to safeguard their own assets. But in order to cope with the topheavy expenditure they have sold a great portion of land of the province. In certain cases their irregularities have gone so far as to create new appointments for their kith and kin and when they foresee that they are going to become insolvent they resort to taxation measures. With these few remarks I strongly oppose this Bill.

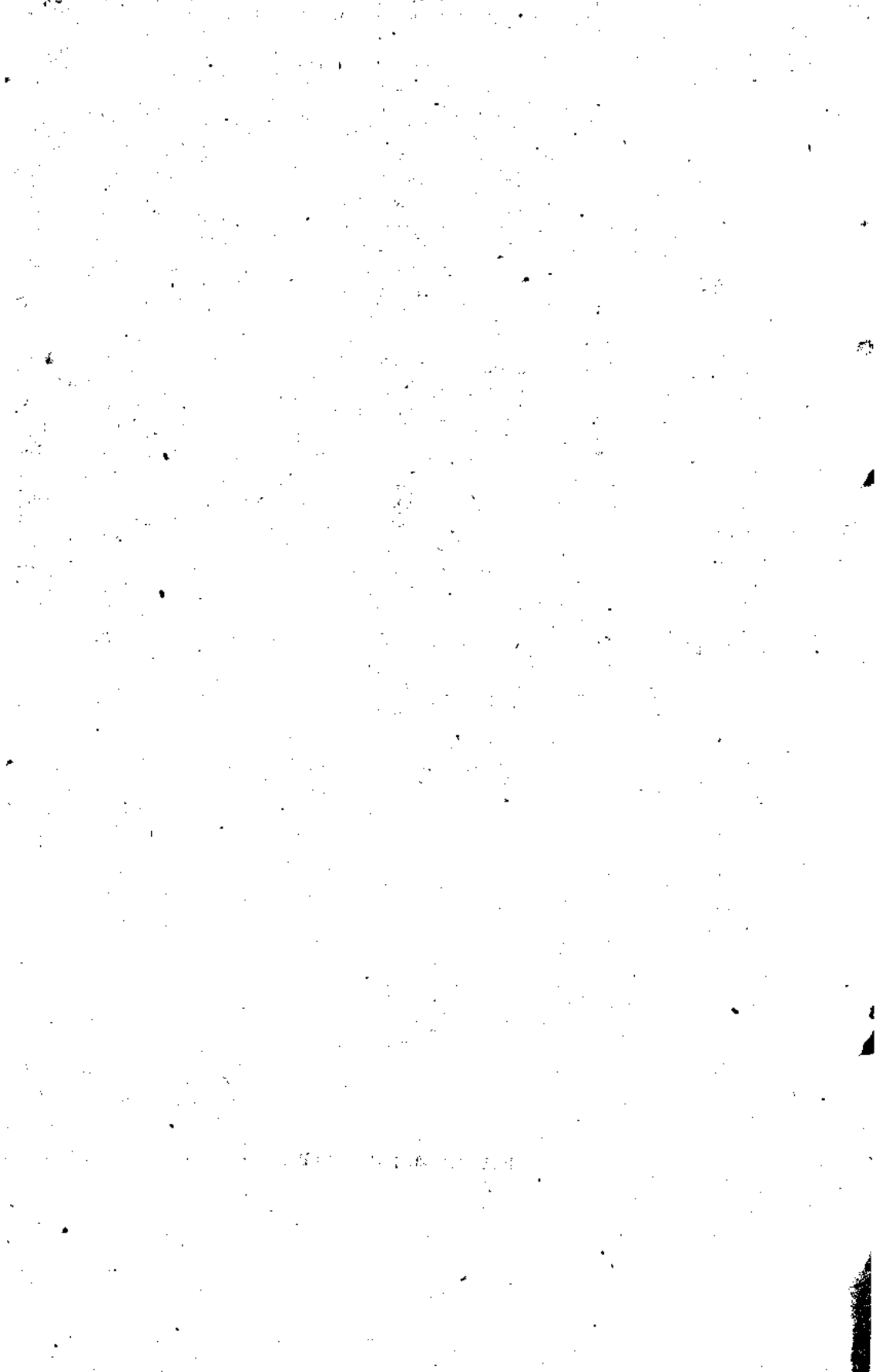
**Mr. Speaker :** The question is—

That the Sugarcane (Punjab Amendment) Bill be passed.

*The motion was carried.*

*The Assembly then adjourned sine die.*





# **PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

## **ELEVENTH SESSION OF THE FIRST PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

*Friday, 3rd March 1944*

*The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber at 11 a.m. of the clock. Mr. Speaker in the Chair.*

### **OATH OF OFFICE**

*The following members were sworn in:—*

Mr. K. L. Rallia Ram (West Central Punjab, Indian Christian).  
Sardar Sher Singh (Montgomery East, Sikh, Rural).

### **STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

#### **MEMBERS OF LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DETAINED IN JAILS.**

\*8888. **Lala Bhagat Ram Choda**: Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) the present state of health of the following detenus in the Punjab Jails:—

1. Mr. Bhim Sen Sachar, M.L.A.
2. Diwan Chaman Lall, M.L.A.
3. Mian Mohd. Iftikhar-ud-Din, M.L.A., President, Punjab Provincial Congress Committee.
4. Seth Sudarshan, M.L.A.
5. Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt, M.L.A.
6. Munshi Hari Lal, M.L.A.
7. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma, M.L.A.
8. Sardar Partap Singh, M.L.A.
9. Lala Deshbandhu Gupta, M.L.A.
10. Sardar Chanan Singh, M.L.A.
11. Chaudhri Sahib Ram, M.L.A.
12. Shrimati Shanno Devi, M.L.A.
13. Dr. Sant Ram Seth, M.L.A.
14. Chaudhri Kartar Singh, M.L.A.
15. Master Kabul Singh, M.L.A.
16. Sardar Harjab Singh, M.L.A.
17. Baba Rur Singh, M.L.A.
18. Mr. Dev Raj Sethi, M.L.A.

(b) facilities given to them regarding correspondence, interviews, books, games, supplementing diet and other requirements as also maintenance allowance granted to their families;

[ Lala Bhagat Ram, Choda ].

(c) the period and place of their detention ;

(d) whether Government intend to try them in an open court of law if not, the reasons therefor ;

(e) date of arrest in each case ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah): For the honourable member's information—

(a) The following Civil Disobedience (M.L.A.) detenues have since been released on medical grounds and subject to the usual restrictions :—

- (1) Lala Bhim Sen Sachar.
- (2) Diwan Chaman Lall.
- (3) Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt.
- (4) Munshi Hari Lal.
- (5) Chaudhri Sahib Ram.
- (6) Shrimati Shanno Devi.

The following are receiving special medical treatment for ailments which are not serious in any way :—

(i) M. Ittikhar-ud-Din, (ii) Seth Sudarshan, (iii) Lala Deshbandhu Gupta and Sardar Chanan Singh.

Government have received no reports about the others whose health is presumed to be satisfactory.

(b) (i) As a result of further concessions Civil Disobedience detenues are now allowed :—

- (1) To write 8 letters and to receive 16 letters a month,
- (2) Interviews twice a month.
- (3) Five books a month.
- (4) Both indoor and outdoor games.

(5) Rs. 10 from outside for supplementation of diet. They are also permitted to get extra articles of food, fruits, special medicines, etc., in cases of illness.

(ii) Security prisoners are allowed :—

- (1) To write 16 letters and to receive as many as they like in a month.
- (2) Interviews twice a month.
- (3) Ten books a month.
- (4) Both indoor and outdoor games.

(5) Rs. 10 from outside for supplementation of diet, etc. They are also granted clothing and sundries allowance at the rate of Rs. 20 per mensem each for the purchase of clothing and bedding, as also for other amenities of life.

(6) Maintenance allowances are granted in deserving and special cases.

(c) and (e) I regret that the information is not available and the collection of it will involve labour and paper out of all proportion to the result.

(d) Government's intentions cannot be disclosed.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan** : Does the Government feel its responsibility in giving reports about the health of persons who are detained ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** The information which Government has disclosed, Government is obviously responsible for.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** My question refers also to the health of detenus within municipal areas.

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** How can Government be responsible when they are let off on parole?

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** For the simple reason that they have imposed restrictions.

**Premier :** No restriction is placed upon them regarding their treatment.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** Can they leave the municipal area without your permission or the permission of the District Magistrate?

**Premier :** They have ample facilities for treatment in those municipal areas. The facilities for their treatment are on par with other citizens living there.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** Supposing a detenu is living—

**Mr. Speaker :** Hypothetical question cannot be asked.

**Premier :** These suppositions do not arise out of this question.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt is interned in Sialkot. He wants to get medically treated in Lahore. Can he be permitted to come to Lahore?

**Premier :** If and when that question is raised, the matter will be considered. He can apply to the District Magistrate of Sialkot and if a certain treatment does not exist there, the question of his coming to Lahore for treatment will be examined. It is for him to say that he wants to come to Lahore because proper treatment is not available in Sialkot. In that case the matter will be considered on its merits.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** If he is let off for treatment, why is he not allowed to attend the Assembly?

**Premier :** He has been let out for treatment. Government's policy is well-known. If he does not require the treatment, he will have to go back.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** What are the ailments that Mian Iftikhar-ud-Din is suffering from?

**Premier :** There is something wrong with his teeth.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Is it only teeth trouble, or something else also?

**Premier :** That is all I know.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** What is the treatment given to him?

**Premier :** The necessary treatment.

**Mian Abdul Aziz :** What is the objection if a person is allowed to remain in Lahore and get his treatment apart from the restriction which is placed by the Government?

**Premier :** It has been amply answered. The necessary facilities are provided for the treatment.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** What are those facilities?

**Premier :** I am not a dental expert, but all necessary treatment for dental cases is being given to him.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** What is the condition of Sardar Chanan Singh, M.L.A. ? What about his health ?

**Premier :** He is back again in jail. We let him out. He came out and started his political activities and as we found he was sufficiently well he had to go back.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Is there any proof of that or is it just the police report ?

**Premier :** The information that I possess is from official sources.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** In most cases that information is false.

**Premier :** We have to check the information and see for ourselves.

**Mian Nurullah :** May I know if these honourable members are allowed to put Assembly questions ?

**Premier :** That does not arise out of this question.

**Mian Nurullah :** I am asking this with reference to part (b) of the question regarding the facilities given to them ?

**Premier :** That refers only to facilities regarding correspondence. It has nothing to do with the putting of Assembly questions.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Is any discrimination made between the security prisoners and the detenus in the matter of games ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** No.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** When was this discrimination which was in existence previously, removed ?

**Premier :** The honourable member should have followed the original answer. A lot of facilities have been recently given to these people. You know what the conditions were previously. They have now been much improved.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Is there discrimination with regard to family allowance ?

**Premier :** The honourable member has just heard a very lengthy answer. Everything is there.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** What is the answer to part (d) ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** I have already answered that Government's intentions cannot be disclosed.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** May I know when all these M.L.As., about whom it is stated that they are not seriously ill, were last examined medically ?

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

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** On what basis then does the Parliamentary Private Secretary say that these people are not seriously ill when he does not know when they were last medically examined ?

**Premier :** The official information is that they are not seriously ill. But for the further question when and at what time and on what date they were examined, notice is required for collecting the information.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Is the information based on medical opinion or on political opinion?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** Medical opinion.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** From what source did the Parliamentary Private Secretary get the medical opinion?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** From the usual source.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** When? Sometime last year?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** I have already stated that if the honourable member wants to know the exact time and date, he should give notice.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Is the Parliamentary Private Secretary in a position to state whether it was within a month or a year or two years?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** That was not the original question.

**Sardar Santokh Singh :** Were they medically examined at all?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** Yes.

#### RELEASE OF BABA RUP SINGH, M.L.A.

\*8908. **Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state whether he has considered the question of the release of Baba Rup Singh, M.L.A., now detained in New Sub-Jail, Gujrat?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) :** Yes with negative result.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** What were the factors considered about this gentleman?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** All the factors which are generally considered.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** What are they?

**Premier :** We cannot enlighten the honourable member further.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** What are the reasons that stood in the way of releasing this honourable member?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** I have nothing to add to my answer.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** What were the causes that produced those negative results?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** The honourable member is putting the same question in a different form and my answer is the same.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Did the honourable member get any reports from the district officers with regard to his release or non-release and if so, what is the nature of those reports?

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Is it a fact that the C. I. D. of that district reported against his release?

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Is it a fact that simply because the police reported against him, he has not been released?

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** Are you also powerless, Mr. Speaker to compel the Parliamentary Private Secretary to answer? We are of course powerless.

**Mr. Speaker :** Will the honourable member point out the rule or law under which I have that power?

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Is he detained simply because he is anti-Fascist?

BIBI BAGHBIR KAUR, M.L.A.

**\*8909. Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state whether he has considered the question of removing restrictions imposed upon Bibi Raghbir Kaur, M.L.A., regarding attending and addressing public meetings, etc., if not, why not?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) :** She has twice been convicted for prejudicial speeches in defiance of the order and it is not considered advisable to remove the restrictions imposed on her.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** Is it a fact that she made speeches in favour of war effort?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** No., I am not aware of it.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** How many speeches of Shrimati Raghbir Kaur were reported to you by the local authorities?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** I want notice.

STATE OF HEALTH OF DIWAN CHAMAN LALL, DR. GOPI CHAND BHARGAVA  
AND MIAN IFTIKHAR-UD-DIN.

**\*8910. Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) the weight of Seth Sudarshan, Diwan Chaman Lall, Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava and Mian Iftikhar-ud-Din at the time of their arrest;

(b) their present weights and the state of their health, respectively;

(c) the reasons if any for the deterioration in the condition of their health;

(d) whether any of them is suffering from any disease; if so, whether any diagnosis has been made thereof by some medical authority;

(e) the nature of the medical treatment each one of them is receiving?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) :** For the honourable members' information, Diwan Chaman Lall has since been released, while Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava is on parole. As regards Seth Sudarshan and M. Iftikhar-ud-Din, they both are suffering from dental trouble and other minor ailments for which they are getting proper treatment. I regret that the information asked for about their weights is not available.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** May I know the reason why the information about the weights is not available? Are there no scales in the jail?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** Because the information is not available. It has not been received as yet.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Is the honourable member aware that on the entry in jail all prisoners are weighed?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** Yes.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** May I know when M. Iftikhar-ud-Din was weighed last?

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** When were the reports regarding weights last called for from the jail authorities ?

**Premier :** We do not ask for these weights. But when there is any particular case in which it is necessary to find out the weight then it is called for ; otherwise it will be unnecessary correspondence.

**Sardar Santokh Singh :** In this particular case the question was raised through this Assembly question. Am I to understand that no report was called for in spite of this question ?

**Premier :** I would remind the honourable member that such questions were not even answered previously. Now we have gone very far in answering them.

**Rai Bahadur Lala Gopal Das :** Why answer them now ?

**Premier :** We are now giving more facilities in all respects.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** May I know whether the honourable member is aware of the fact that all the people who are detained in jail are, according to jail rules, periodically weighed ? And is it impossible for the Honourable Premier to get that information which is available with the jail authorities ?

**Premier :** There is no question of impossibility. If there is any particular reduction in weight reported, then we can tell the honourable members accordingly. But if you merely ask what is the weight of a particular man on a particular date, the information is not available.

**Chaurdhri Muhammad Hasan :** Is the Honourable Premier aware of the fact that the weights of all these gentlemen are reduced ?

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Does the Honourable Premier deny the fact that the weights of all these people are reduced ?

**Premier :** Where there is reduction of weight, as in the case of Diwan Chaman Lall, we have given facilities and release orders are issued and where there is no reduction in weight it is presumed that the prisoner is well.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** What has been the reduction in the weight of Diwan Chaman Lall so that we may form an opinion about his health ?

**Premier :** There was some reduction before he was released but I had the pleasure of meeting him the other day and he was found to be in good health.

**Mian Abdul Aziz :** Is that medical opinion ?

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** What does the Honourable Premier mean by 'some reduction' ?

**Premier :** I have not got the figures but there was a report of some reduction. I saw him the other day ; the honourable member also can go and meet him.

**Mian Muhammad Nurullah :** Will the Honourable Premier allow Diwan Chaman Lall to attend the Assembly so that we can weigh him here ?

**Premier :** I met him at the Race Course. The honourable member can go and meet him there and find out what he wants.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** The position of the Honourable Premier is that the figures with regard to weight are not available. When he has not got the figures, how does he make the statement that in some cases reduction in weight has taken place ?



**Premier :** To save the time of the House may I say that to-morrow is Saturday and since Diwan Chaman Lall is generally at the Race Course, he can have the pleasure of meeting him there ?

**RELEASE ON PAROLE OF SODHI PINDI DAS.**

**\*8916. Sardar Teja Singh Swatantar :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government received any application for release on parole from Sodhi Pindi Das, a detenu in the New Sub-Jail, Gujrat, between July and September 1943 ;

(b) if so, what were the reasons given by him for being released on parole ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) :** (a) No ;

(b) Does not arise.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** May I know the reason why he applied for release on parole ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** I have stated that no application was received between July and September 1943.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Did the Government receive any application, if not in that period, in some other period ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** I would require notice for that question.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** Did the District Magistrate receive any application ? The Parliamentary Private Secretary has replied only so far as the Government is concerned.

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** I have replied to the question asked which is—

“ Whether the Government received any application for release on parole from Sodhi Pindi Das a detenu in the New Sub-Jail, Gujrat, between July and September 1943 ”.

and my answer is ‘ No ’.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** The District Magistrate is part of the Government I believe.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** May I know whether the Government received any representation in May ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** I require notice for that question.

**BABA KESAR SINGH**

**\*8917. Sardar Teja Singh Swatantar :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that one Baba Kesar Singh of village Thath Garh, district Amritsar, was arrested and convicted in connection with the Kisan Morcha, in the month of March or April, 1939, long before the war started ;

(b) whether it is a fact that he was made a security prisoner after the expiry of his previous sentence ; if so, when ;

(c) whether the question of his release was ever considered by the Government ; if so, when and with what result ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) :** (a) He was sentenced to one year's rigorous imprisonment on 28th August 1939.

(b) He was detained under rule 26 of the Defence of India Rules under an order issued by the Punjab Government on 27th July 1940.

(c) Yes, in July 1942; in view of the recommendation of the Committee appointed by the Punjab Government to review the cases of security prisoners, his continued detention was considered necessary.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** What were the reasons which compelled the Government to detain him under rule 26 of the Defence of India Rules?

**Premier :** The same reasons which led us to leave you out. One man is considered dangerous and the other is not.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Is it a fact or not that this man was undergoing imprisonment even at the time when the War was not yet declared?

**Premier :** That does not affect the issue in any way.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** How did the Government come to know about the views that this man possessed?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** He was sentenced to one year's rigorous imprisonment on 28th August 1939 when the War had not started.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Why was he interned at all after the expiry of his sentence?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** Because he was considered dangerous.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** Considered by the Government or by the District Magistrate?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** By the Government.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** Which part of the Government? Here or there?

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** May I know what were the considerations before the Government that made him dangerous when he was already in jail before the War was declared by the British Government or even the Punjab Government had any inkling that the War would start?

**Mian Abdul Aziz :** May I ask how many questions have been replied to to-day? Is it not a fact that about fifty questions have not been replied to and the party on that side keeps mum?

**Premier :** It is very difficult to answer supplementary questions that do not deserve an answer.

**Mian Abdul Aziz :** Then why does not the Honourable Premier say that no supplementary question will be answered?

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** They are feeling confused.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Is it not a case of clear injustice that should put any Government to shame?

MASTER GAJJAN SINGH

\*8918. **Sardar Teja Singh Swatanter :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that one Master Gajjan Singh of village Gobind Garh, district Ludhiana, was arrested and convicted in connection with the Kisan Morcha of 1939, long before the war started;

[S. Teja Singh.]

(b) whether it is a fact that he was made a security prisoner after the expiry of his previous sentence; if so, when;

(c) whether the question of his release was ever considered by the Government; if so, when and with what result?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah): (a) Yes; on 28th August 1939.

(b) Yes; in July 1940.

(c) Yes; in June 1942. His continued detention was considered necessary.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan**: What is the serious illness from which he suffers? Is the Government aware of that?

**Premier**: There is no question of serious illness.

**Sardar Soahn Singh Josh**: May I know the reasons that stood in the way of release of Master Gajjan Singh? Was his case considered by the Tribunal?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary**: I have already answered that it was considered in June 1942.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh**: What were the reasons for not releasing him? Was this fact not brought before the Tribunal that he was undergoing imprisonment even before the War had started?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary**: They examined all the facts.

#### S. ATMA SINGH OF SHEIKHUPURA

**\*8969. Shrimati Raghbir Kaur**: Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether he is aware of the fact that one S. Atma Singh of Sheikhupura now detained in the Central Jail, Lahore, is seriously ill;

(b) the nature of the said S. Atma Singh's illness and whether he has shown any improvement since his transfer from the Sialkot Jail to the Central Jail, Lahore;

(c) whether the Government has considered the question of his release; if so, with what result?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah): For the honourable member's information, Civil Disobedience detenu Atma Singh has since been released.

#### SH. SHANNO DEVI, M.L.A.

**\*8970. Shrimati Raghbir Kaur**: Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether he is aware of the fact that Shrimati Shanno Devi, M.L.A., detained at present in the Women's Jail, Lahore, is lying seriously ill;

(b) whether she has shown any improvement recently;

(c) whether the Government has considered the question of her release, if so, with what result?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah): For the honourable member's information C. D. detenu Shanno Devi (M.L.A.) was released on the 5th February 1944.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** Is she lying seriously ill ?

**Premier :** We cannot have information about a person who is released. The honourable member should have gone and seen her. It is incumbent on him to see her.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** But she is detained within municipal limits.

**Premier :** She has been released and it was incumbent on the honourable member to have gone and enquired about her health.

LALA DUNI CHAND, M.L.A.

**\*8971. Shrimati Raghbir Kaur :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether he is aware of the fact that Lala Duni Chand, M.L.A., is at present interned within the limits of the Ambala City ;

(b) the date on which he was interned ;

(c) whether the Government has considered the question of withdrawing the internment orders passed against him ; if so, with what result ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) :** (a) Yes.

(b) Since September, 1942.

(c) Yes. It was not considered advisable to remove the restrictions.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** What are the reasons for interning him within the municipal area of Ambala City ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** Because he lives there.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** What are the reasons for interning him in Ambala simply because he lives there ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** Would the honourable member like him to be interned in Lahore ?

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** I do not want that any restriction should be put on him. It may be that the Government is afraid of him.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** May I know whether the restriction imposed on him means restriction to come to this House and to represent his constituents ?

**Premier :** It has been stated before that these M.L.As., are those people who have been let off on account of illness. In the case of Lala Duni Chand, he applied for permission to go to Bombay for special treatment and he was allowed to do so. The only restriction imposed is that he is not allowed to take part in politics or any movement that might affect his health. There is another way out which has been laid down by the Government of India. How can I mend matters ? It is the policy of the Government of India. Either he should get himself treated or go back. He is not allowed to take part in politics.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Is Master Hari Singh suffering from(—)

**Mr. Speaker :** Irrelevant. Disallowed.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** But why are the Government afraid of his taking part in politics ?

**Premier :** We are not afraid of anybody.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** The Government are afraid and that is why they do not allow the Opposition to come and sit on the Opposition benches. They want them to go back and in this way gag their mouth.

**Premier :** We are not afraid of anybody. There is a particular sort of activity from which they are restricted under the law.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** They have been forced for a long time not to attend the Assembly. Why are they not allowed to attend?

**Premier :** We are following a common policy. It is an all-India policy and an all-India question.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** May I know whether the Honourable Premier has got any policy?

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** Does the Honourable Premier follow the policy of the Government of India?

#### CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE DETENUS.

**\*8984. Sardar Kapoor Singh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether he is aware of the fact that all books allowed to the Civil Disobedience Movement detenus in the Punjab jails have to be approved by the Criminal Investigation Department ;

(b) whether he is aware of the fact that the C. I. D. takes a long time in censoring the above-mentioned books ;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Lahore Criminal Investigation Department took over six weeks to censor the first batch of only twenty books submitted to them for censoring by four detenus of the Lahore Central Jail in the 2nd week of August 1943 ;

(d) whether it is a fact that none of the books submitted by Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava has been approved by the Criminal Investigation Department ;

(e) what are the names of the books held objectionable by the Lahore censor which were submitted by Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava and the reasons for holding them as such ;

(f) the steps Government intend to take to avoid long and unnecessary delay in the censoring of books submitted by the detenus referred to above ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) :** (a) The rules require that the books to be delivered to Civil Disobedience prisoners should be scrutinised by the senior police officer of the district concerned, who may consult the Deputy Inspector-General of Police, Criminal Investigation Department, Punjab, in cases of doubt.

(b) No undue delay occurs in the examination of these books in the Criminal Investigation Department.

(c) No. The Criminal Investigation Department took a month only and this was unavoidable. This is not considered an unreasonable delay in view of the more important duties which the Criminal Investigation Department have to perform.

(d) Yes.

(e) Satyagraha in South Africa, Women and Social Injustice, Power of non-violence, Ends and Means, and Cent per Cent Swadeshi. They were considered unsuitable.

(f) Does not arise.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** What is meant by the 'senior police officers'—Members of the Indian Police or the Punjab Police ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** Members of the Indian Police.

#### CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE DETENUS.

**\*8985. Sardar Kapoor Singh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that non-official visitors are not allowed to meet the Civil Disobedience Movement detenus and convicts unless they are accompanied by the official members of the Jail Visitors Board ; if so, the reasons therefor ;

(b) whether he would be pleased to place on the table of the House copies of the circulars issued in the above-named connection to the jails where Civil Disobedience Movement detenus and convicts are confined ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) :** (a) Yes ; because Civil Disobedience detenus and convicts are political prisoners and persons connected with political movements are not allowed to meet non-officials independently.

(b) No such circulars have been issued by Government.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** On what considerations are non-official visitors of jails appointed ?

**Premier :** That does not arise out of this question.

#### CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE DETENUS.

**\*8986. Sardar Kapoor Singh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state whether the Civil Disobedience Movement detenus and convicts are allowed to see the rules governing their treatment in jails ; if not, why not ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) :** These prisoners are governed by special instructions issued from time to time, which it is not practicable to show to the prisoners. There is no reason to suppose, however, that they are in any doubt about these conditions.

#### CONGRESS DETENUS.

**\*9007. Lala Bhagat Ram Choda :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state whether he is aware of the fact that several Congress detenus in the Lyallpur Jail were deprived of a better class treatment about five months ago and are being treated as 'C' class prisoners since then ; if so, the reasons therefor ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) :** There is only one Civil Disobedience detenu, confined in the District Jail, Lyallpur, and he is being treated as such. The other prisoners to whom the honourable member is presumably referring are Civil Disobedience convicts, who are given the same treatment, except in the matter of diet, as is accorded to ordinary (C class) prisoners.

#### LALA PINDI DAS.

**\*9039. Sardar Ajit Singh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether an application with a doctor's certificate was submitted by the youngest daughter of Lala Pindi Das of the Industrial Insurance Company,

[S. Ajit Singh.]

now a detenu, to the Home Secretary, Punjab Government, on the 8th November last to the effect that her father may be released on parole so as to enable him to attend upon his elder daughter who was reported by the doctor to be seriously ill;

(b) whether an express telegram regarding this matter was also sent to the Home Secretary by the said detenu's daughter;

(c) if so, whether Lala Pindi Das has since been released on parole; if not, the reasons therefor?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah): (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) He has since been released.

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LALA PINDI DAS.

**\*9040. Sardar Ajit Singh:** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether Lala Pindi Das, proprietor of the Industrial and Prudential Insurance Company, Lahore, now a detenu has been given any facilities to look after his business;

(b) whether he is allowed to correspond in this matter with his family;

(c) whether he is allowed to consult his lawyers relating to his business;

(d) if the answers to (a), (b) and (c) be in the affirmative the nature of such facilities and if in the negative the reasons therefor?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah): For the honourable members' information, Lala Pindi Das was released on the 5th February 1944.

(a) He did not apply to Government for any such facilities.

(b) Yes.

(c) No; he could only write to them for giving necessary instructions in the matter.

(d) Does not arise.

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LALA PINDI DAS.

**\*9041. Sardar Ajit Singh:** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) how many applications were made to the Government by the family members of Lala Pindi Das, a detenu, for his release on parole;

(b) what were the grounds stated in the applications for his release on parole;

(c) what were the final orders of the Punjab Government on these applications?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah): (a) Two.

(b) Illness of the members of Pindi Das' family.

(c) The applications were rejected.

## CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE DETENUS.

**\*9067. Lala Bhagat Ram Choda :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that persons detained under rule 26 of the Defence of India Rules and treated as Security Prisoners, 1940, Class I, are allowed the following privileges :—

- (i) fortnightly interviews with relatives and friends ;
- (ii) to write four letters per week and to receive all incoming letters ;
- (iii) maintenance and clothing allowance of Rs. 20 per mensem ;
- (iv) family allowance according to the status and requirement of the dependents ;
- (v) unlimited number of books, magazines, periodicals with right to return at will ;
- (vi) writing material *ad-libitum* ;
- (vii) out-door games at Government expense ;
- (viii) furniture, including chair, stool, table and cupboard ;
- (ix) use of their own electric table fans and electric or oil table lamps ;

(x) supplementation of diet up to Rs. 10 per mensem as well as the right to obtain supplementary meals from relatives and friends ;

(b) whether it is a fact that Civil Disobedience Movement detenus detained under rule 26 of the Defence of India Rules are totally denied the privileges mentioned in part (a), sub-parts (ii), (iii), (iv), (vi), (vii), (viii) and in respect of (a) part (v) the number of books is limited to five per month with no right to return at will and in respect of (a) part (x) the right of supplementation of diet is limited to Rs. 5 per month with no right to obtain supplementary diet from relatives and friends ; if so, the reasons for the same ;

(c) whether Government now propose to place the Civil Disobedience Movement detenus on a par with the Security Prisoners, Class I, and in all respects mentioned above ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) ; (a) (a) Yes.

(ii) Yes.

(iii) Yes.

(iv) No. Only in deserving cases.

(v) No. They are allowed 10 books a month each. They can only get extra magazines and periodicals with the previous permission of Government.

(vi) No.

(vii) Yes.

(viii) They are given the same furniture as is given to 'A' class convicted prisoners.

(ix) Only electric table fans.

(x) Yes.

(b) (ii) No. They are allowed to write 2 letters and receive 4 letters a week each. (iii) Yes, (iv) Yes ; (v) Yes. (vi) No. They are supplied with such material according to requirements. (vii) No. (viii) No. They are supplied with same furniture as for 'B' class convicted prisoners.



[S. Amjad Ali Shah.]

(x) No.

(c) No.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** What is meant by 'deserving cases'? What is the criterion for judging that one is a case of family allowance and the other is not?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** Equity and commonsense.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** Is it your commonsense or the commonsense of the local authorities?

**Mr. Speaker :** Order, order.

CASES REGISTERED UNDER DEFENCE OF INDIA RULES IN PALWAL  
POLICE STATION.

**\*9089. Caudhri Sumer Singh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) how many cases were registered under the Defence of India Rules in the Palwal Police Station, district Gurgaon, during the last year with names and places of residence of the alleged offenders in each case;

(b) how many witnesses were examined in each case;

(c) how many of the cases mentioned in (a) were not challaned;

(d) how many of the cases mentioned in (a) were classified as untraced;

(e) how many of the above cases were withdrawn and the reasons therefor?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) :** Part (b) of the question is somewhat vague and the collection of the detailed information required by the honourable member would require time and trouble out of all proportion to the results to be obtained. If, however, the honourable member desires information about any particular case relating to this police station, I will see if the information can be collected for him.

DIET GIVEN TO SECURITY PRISONERS IN MAYO HOSPITAL.

**\*9101. Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) the scale of diet given to Security Prisoners and Civil Disobedience Movement detenus of 1942 when they are admitted into Mayo Hospital, Lahore, for treatment;

(b) the cost of the diet mentioned in (a);

(c) if the cost of the diet mentioned above is not Re. 1-4-0 per diem, whether the Government intend to supply such prisoners a diet worth approximately Re. 1-4-0 per diem, to which they are entitled while in jail; if not, why not?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) :** (a) They are given the diet prescribed by the Medical Officer in charge irrespective of its value.

(b) and (c) do not arise.

## SECURITY PRISONERS AND CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE MOVEMENT DETENUS.

**\*9102. Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state whether Security Prisoners and Civil Disobedience Movement detenus of 1942, undergoing treatment in Mayo Hospital, have been granted the right of association with prisoners of the same class undergoing treatment in the Mayo Hospital, Lahore; if not, why not; and what action does he propose to take in the matter?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah):** As prisoners are kept in different wards according to the disease they are suffering from, the question of association does not arise.

## SUPPLY OF NEWSPAPERS TO SECURITY AND CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE MOVEMENT PRISONERS IN MAYO HOSPITAL.

**\*9103. Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state whether Security Prisoners and Civil Disobedience Movement prisoners of 1942 are supplied any newspaper at Government expense when they are admitted into the Mayo Hospital, Lahore; if not, why not; and what action does he propose to take in the matter?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah):** Yes, provided the Medical Officer in charge does not advise against their reading the newspapers.

## SECTIONAL HOLIDAYS.

**\*9130. Khan Muhammad Yusuf Khan :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that when sectional holidays are observed the magistrates who do not belong to the community which celebrates its festival, hold their courts;

(b) whether it is a fact that litigants in such cases have to appear in courts as also their counsel irrespective of the fact that they belong to the community whose particular festival is being celebrated;

(c) if the reply to above be in the affirmative whether Government considered any alternative proposals to suit the litigants and their counsel in view of the above mentioned exigency?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah):** Some difficulties have probably arisen and the matter is under consideration. The present arrangements are however essentially war time arrangements and any inconvenience caused will cease when the previous arrangements are reintroduced.

## SLAUGHTER-HOUSE AT NURPUR.

**\*9135. R. B. Lala Gopal Das :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the late Sir Sikander Hyat-Khan gave assurances on the floor of the Assembly and outside the House that the Punjab Government would maintain *status quo* in communal matters and in questions relating to opening of slaughter-houses;

[R. B. Lala Gopal Das]

(b) whether it is a fact that the Deputy Commissioner of Kangra granted a licence for the slaughter of kine at Nurpur in September, 1943 ; if so, why ;

(c) whether he is aware of the fact that the grant of this licence has created great unrest in the Kangra Valley and among the Hindus all over the Punjab, whose feelings have been greatly hurt by the Deputy Commissioner's action in question ;

(d) whether it is a fact that the district is a predominantly Hindu area and the home of Hindu martial classes and whether the Honourable Minister is aware that in view of these considerations the district authorities have always refrained from granting licences for the slaughter of kine at Nurpur and other places in the said localities in the past ;

(e) whether it is a fact that the then District Magistrate strongly disapproved of the proposal to establish a kine slaughter-house at Dharamsala in 1934 and 1941 with the result that no such slaughter-house was established there ;

(f) the reasons if any for deviating from the declared policy of the Government in the matter ; and

(g) the action Government propose to take in this respect ?

**The Honourable Malik Khizar Hayat :** As this question is essentially a communal one, I propose, in accordance with the usual convention, to treat it as unstarred and a written reply is being sent to the honourable member.<sup>1</sup>

**Rai Bahadur Lala Gopal Das :** Sir, I have been told by the Honourable Premier that this question cannot be answered on the floor of the House on account of communal consideration. I would like to know from you whether I can ask supplementary questions arising out of the answer which the Honourable Premier has just sent to me in writing ?

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** On a point of order. I want to ask how this question is communal. It is only an economic question. How is it communal ? The Government wants to evade answering the question on the plea that it is a communal one. By no stretch of imagination is it a communal question.

**Premier :** There is a convention of this House which has been established for a long time, and under that convention full replies to such questions are being sent to the member concerned. In this case my honourable friend will also have it.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** This question does not come within the purview of that convention. It is not a communal question. What is the ruling of the Chair ?

**Mr. Speaker :** Is there any rule under which I can decide that point ?

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Certainly, there is. Give your judgment.

**Mr. Speaker :** If the Premier, instead of saying, that on communal considerations he does not want to answer this question says that in his opinion it is not in the public interest that the question should be answered, the matter shall end there, and that is what the Premier says, though not in these words.

<sup>1</sup>For the written reply vide Appendix at page 300 *infra*.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** I challenge that it is not a communal question ; it is purely an economic question.

**Premier :** If the honourable member will read the language he will find that the question is clearly a communal one.

**Rai Bahadur Lala Gopal Das :** What is the answer to my question ?

**Mr. Speaker :** What is the honourable member's question ?

**Rai Bahadur Lala Gopal Das :** I wanted to ask question No. 9135 and I received a reply from the Premier saying that this question is to be treated as an unstarred one. As such I want to know whether I can ask any supplementary questions on that reply, or should I give notice of the supplementary questions to the Government later on ?

**Mr. Speaker :** The Honourable Premier cannot change a starred question into an unstarred one. So, it is open to the interrogating member to follow either of the two courses mentioned by him.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** May I know whether it is for the Premier to decide whether a question is communal or for the Chair ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** Please read the opening paragraph of the question, that is "maintain *status quo* in communal matters".

**Dr. Shaikh Muhammad Alam :** Can the honourable member compel us to read the question ? Why should we read it ? (*Laughter*).

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** I want to ask whether it is for the Government or the Chair to decide whether a question is a communal one.

**Premier :** The answer is "for Government."

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** I want the ruling of the Chair.

**Mr. Speaker :** I cannot express any opinion as to whether it is a communal question or not.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Then who is to decide ?

**Dr. Shaikh Muhammad Alam :** May I know whether a question asked about *status quo* in communal matters is a communal question or not ? (*Laughter*).

#### CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES.

**\*9140. Chaudhri Sumer Singh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state the reasons for not supplying to members of the Assembly copies of usual consolidated statement of Government employees as on the 1st January of every year before the 1st of March ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) :** I regret the delay in supplying this statement and hope to make it available in the near future.

Heads of Departments are now required to submit their returns by the 15th January. This year the issue of consolidated statement has been delayed, by the failure of some departments to submit their reports in time. The attention of all departments has again been drawn to the importance attached to the submission of their reports by due date.

MR. PROBODH CHANDER

**\*9141. Maulvi Mazhar Ali Azhar :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) the present state of health of Mr. Probodh Chander, M.A., a security prisoner, now-a-days confined in the Lahore Central Jail ;

(b) whether the medical officer of the aforesaid jail has made any report about the health of the above named security prisoner during the last six months, if so, the nature of the report ;

(c) the treatment suggested by the medical officer of the abovementioned jail for improving the health of the said Mr. Probodh Chander ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) : (a) He is running a low temperature in the evening and complains of general aesthenia (muscular weakness) and nervous debility.

(b) Yes. He was reported to be suffering from pyorrohea and dysentery.

(c) He is getting the necessary treatment at the Punjab Dental Hospital for his teeth, and meanwhile has been cured of dysentery.

DR. SATYA NARAYAN

**\*9142. Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) how long Dr. Satya Narayan, a detenu from Rewari, district Gurgaon, suffered from amoebic dysentery and fever in the Old Central Jail, Multan ;

(b) the total reduction in his weight ;

(c) when the medical authorities of the aforesaid jail discovered that he had developed T. B. ;

(d) what treatment the abovenamed detenu was given for T. B. in jail ;

(e) when was the case reported by the jail medical authorities to Government for the first time ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) : For the honourable member's information, Civil Disobedience detenu Dr. Satya Narayan has since been released.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** I wanted information about the total reduction in his weight while confined in jail. May I know whether that information is available ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** I have no information. I thought that the honourable member would address this question to the detenu who is available to him.

#### POLITICAL PRISONERS

**\*9143. Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state whether the political prisoners arrested during the years 1943 and 1944 and convicted for offences of a political nature are entitled to similar treatment in the jails of the Province, as the Civil Disobedience Political Prisoners of 1942, if not, the reasons therefor and whether the Government intends to treat them alike in the future ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah): Convicts and detenus are in entirely different categories.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan**: What are those categories and how to discriminate between the detenus and the political prisoners?

**L. SANT RAM, PLEADER, OF NABHA.**

**\*9144. Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan**: Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state:—

(a) the present state of health of Lala Sant Ram, a Pleader of Nabha, a detenu in the Sialkot Jail;

(b) the nature of the disease and the treatment that the abovenamed detenu is receiving for his ailment;

(c) how much weight the abovementioned detenu has lost so far on account of his disease;

(d) whether the Government intends to release the aforesaid detenu on parole to enable him to have himself treated according to his own liking, if not, the reasons therefor?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah): (a) Satisfactory. For the honourable member's information, Civil Disobedience detenu Sant Ram is at present admitted into the Mayo Hospital, Lahore.

(b) He is suffering from dental trouble and one or two other minor ailments for which he is being given proper treatment at the Mayo Hospital and the Punjab Dental Hospital, Lahore.

(c) He has on the contrary gained 4 lbs. in weight since December 1942.

(d) No. His state of health is not such as to justify his release on parole for private medical treatment.

**CLERKS OF THE OFFICE OF DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, GURGAON**

**\*9094. Chaudhri Sumer Singh**: Will the Honourable Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) the names of all the clerks of the office of Deputy Commissioner, Gurgaon, who have been recommended for appointment in the Civil Supply Department;

(b) how many of the above are statutory agriculturists and how many of the Hindu statutory agriculturists have been recommended for the above purpose; if no Hindu statutory agriculturist has been recommended, the reasons therefor;

(c) the name, parentage and sub-caste of the candidates recommended from the abovenamed office for employment in the Civil Supply Department and the number of years each one of them has served in the said Deputy Commissioner's Office?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan): It is not customary to mention names in answer to questions. I may, however, state that out of the five clerks recommended two are statutory agriculturists one being a Hindu and the other a Muslim with one and three years service, respectively. The other clerks recommended have all four years service to their credit.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma**: May I know whether this is not a communal question?

## PENSIONERS' ASSOCIATION, AMRITSAR

**\*9052. Sardar Santokh Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Amritsar Pensioners' Association, Amritsar, made a representation to the Finance Department on the 7th May, 1943, praying for some increase in their meagre pensions in view of the very high prices of foodgrains and other necessities of life prevailing these days ;

(b) what action, if any, has been taken by the Government on the aforesaid representation ; if no action has been taken so far, the reasons therefor ?

**The Honourable Sir Manohar Lal :** (a) Yes.

(b) The Punjab Government have since issued orders sanctioning temporary increases in pensions of the Punjab Government pensioners. A copy of the order of the Governor of the Punjab, dated the 21st December 1943, is placed on the table.

## ORDER OF THE GOVERNOR OF THE PUNJAB.

The Punjab Government have had under consideration the question of affording some measure of relief to pensioners in receipt of small pensions on account of the increased cost of living due to war. After carefully considering the question the Governor of the Punjab is pleased to decide that all pensioners whose pensions are debitable to the Revenues of the Punjab Government shall be granted a temporary increase in their pensions on the following scale :—

	Ra.
Pensions not exceeding Rs. 20 per mensem .. ..	3 per mensem.
Pensions exceeding Rs. 20 per mensem but not exceeding Rs. 40 per mensem.	4 per mensem.
Pensioners in receipt of pensions exceeding Rs. 40 per mensem but not exceeding Rs. 44 per mensem shall receive such an amount as would bring their pension to Rs. 44 per mensem.	

Pensions for this purpose shall include the commuted portion also if any.

2. This increase is sanctioned for a period of one year with effect from the 1st November 1943, and will be drawn on pensions due in December 1943.

## PENSIONERS' ASSOCIATION, SHEIKHUPURA

**\*9056. Sardar Santokh Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state—

(a) whether a representation has been received by the Government from the Government Pensioners' Association, Sheikhpura, praying, that in view of the high prices of foodstuffs and other necessities of life, the pensions of those drawing more than Rs. 40 per month may be increased ;

(b) what action, if any, has been taken thereon ; if no action has so far been taken, the reason therefor ?

**The Honourable Sir Manohar Lal :** (a) Yes.

(b) After very careful consideration the Punjab Government have recently sanctioned temporary increases in the case of pensioners drawing pensions up to Rs. 43 per mensem. In this connection the attention of the honourable member is drawn to the reply given to part (b) of his starred question No. 9052 (*above*).

Government do not consider it advisable at present to extend this concession to pensioners drawing more than Rs. 43 per mensem.

## TRAVELLING ALLOWANCE DRAWN BY MINISTERS, ETC.

**\*9132. Malik Barkat Ali :** Will the Honourable Minister of Finance kindly place on the table of the House a statement showing the total travelling allowance drawn by—

(a) each Honourable Minister ;

(b) each Parliamentary Secretary ; and

(c) each Private Parliamentary Secretary for the journeys performed during the years (1) 1940-41, (2) 1941-42 and (3) 1942-43, on account of journeys performed (a) within the Province and (b) outside the Province giving in the case of the journeys performed outside the Province the reasons for and the occasion on account of which each such journey was performed ?

**The Honourable Sir Manohar Lal :** Such travelling allowance as was due under the rules and within the vote of the Assembly has been paid. I am afraid I cannot undertake the collection of the elaborate information required, as the labour involved would be incommensurate with the result to be obtained.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** May I know the mileage and the amount drawn by each Minister ?

**Minister :** I have already answered that question. I am afraid I cannot collect any mileage figure.

**Sardar Santokh Singh :** Does the Honourable Minister know that similar information was supplied to this House on a previous occasion ?

**Minister :** That is a further reason why we cannot go into this question over again.

**Sardar Santokh Singh :** Is there something mysterious about the figures ?

**Minister :** Nothing whatsoever ; they are well within the vote of this Assembly.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Are there any accounts kept by the Government in this respect ?

**Minister :** Certainly.

**Sardar Santokh Singh :** Are they really so long that they cannot be totalled up ? It is surprising that this House should be deprived of any information in this matter and yet the Honourable Premier takes pride that he is giving more information.

## REALISATION OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY TAX IN LAHORE

**\*9133. R. B. Lala Gopal Das :** With reference to part (b) of my question No. 8692<sup>1</sup> answered on March 28, 1948, will the Honourable Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) whether any decision has been reached by Government regarding the issue of instructions to assessing authorities in Lahore not to levy both land revenue and the urban immovable property tax on the same area ;

(b) whether it is a fact that owners of land in Lahore are still being required to pay both land revenue and the immovable property tax on the same areas ; if so, the reasons therefor ;

(c) whether it is the intention of Government to order refunds of either of these two levies to owners of lands who have been paying both the taxes



[L. Gopal Das]

since the enforcement of the Urban Immovable Property Tax Act ; if not, why not ?

**The Honourable Sir Manohar Lal :** I regret that the answer to this question is not yet ready.

**JUBILEE BRAYNE AHIR HIGH SCHOOL, REWARI**

**\*9045. Rao Mohar Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education be pleased to state —

(a) the basis on which special grants are made to unaided schools in the province ;

(b) the reasons for giving Rs. 500 only to the Jubilee Brayne Ahir High School, Rewari, in the Ambala Division ;

(c) the reasons for giving more monetary aid in the form of special grants to other schools of the aforesaid Division ?

**The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye :** (a) and (c) Special grants are given to unaided schools belonging to backward communities or situated in backward areas. The needs and special requirements of these areas and communities and particularly of the schools are taken into consideration when making these awards.

(b) The honourable member is referred to my reply above. He will, however, be interested to know that a special grant of Rs. 1,087 has been sanctioned for this school during the current financial year as against Rs. 500 paid last year.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** Is Bait ilaqa considered as backward area ?

**Premier :** How does Bait ilaqa arise out of the answer to this question ?

**BRAYNE AHIR & JUBILEE BRAYNE AHIR HIGH SCHOOLS OF REWARI**

**\*9046. Rao Mohar Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education be pleased to state —

(a) whether he is aware of the fact that the Brayne Ahir & Jubilee Brayne Ahir High Schools of Rewari in the Gurgaon district are not on the ordinary grant-in-aid list of schools and are bearing a heavy loss in income on account of a circular issued by the Education Department to the abovementioned schools instructing them to give free tuition fee concessions to the sons and brothers of the soldiers studying in the aforesaid schools ;

(b) whether the Government has paid any compensation to the abovenamed schools for which relevant statements were submitted to the Government, by the authorities of the abovenamed schools long ago ; if no action has been taken in this connection so far, the reasons therefor ?

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

(b) Yes.

**AHMADYA PRIMARY SCHOOL, SHADIWAL**

**\*9048. Pir Akbar Ali :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education be pleased to state whether the answer to my starred question No. 8948<sup>1</sup>, asked in

the Punjab Legislative Assembly on 8th November 1948, is now ready, if it is ready, it may be read out ?

**The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye :** A reply to the starred question No. 8943 has already been communicated to the honourable member through the Secretary, Punjab Legislative Assembly. A copy of the reply is, however, laid on the table.

*Answer to starred question No. 8943.*

**THE HONOURABLE MIAN ABDUL HAYE :** (a) Yes.

(b) and (c) The grant earned by the Ahmadya Primary School, Shadiwal, for the years 1940-41 and 1941-42 could not be paid to it in full by the Small Town Committee, Shadiwal, on account of its unsatisfactory financial position. The grant for 1942-43 remained unpaid owing to the Committee's failure to draw the Government grant for the purpose within the financial year. The Committee is now taking necessary steps for the payment of this grant. The grant for 1943-44 has been paid in full up to November 1943, and it has been further intimated by the Committee that the grant due to the school would be paid regularly in future. The grant for the primary School, Kathgarh, District Hoshiarpur, was never withheld and so the question of its restoration does not arise.

#### NEW TIME-SCALE FOR TEACHERS IN ANGLO-VERNACULAR AND VERNACULAR SCHOOLS.

**\*9051. Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that a new time-scale has been fixed for teachers in anglo-vernacular and vernacular Schools ;

(b) the starting pay of the teachers in both the abovenamed categories ;

(c) whether any distinction has been made in respect of pay between those teachers who have passed only the normal school examination and those who have passed higher oriental examinations like M.A. or M.O.L. in Persian, or Adib-i-Alam or Munshi Fazil examinations, if not, why not ?

**The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye :** (a) Yes, so far as Government institutions are concerned.

(b) Rs. 40 and Rs. 80, respectively.

(c) No. No distinction has been made in the matter of pay between teachers who have passed the Senior Vernacular Teachers' examination or Honours in Sanskrit Arabic or Persian. All these posts are considered of equal responsibility and as such they have been treated alike in the matter of pay. A distinction, however, is made between such teachers and those who possess M.A., M.O.L., qualifications. They will be recruited on a higher initial salary in the scale, and the initial salary will be determined on the merits of each case.

#### SALE OF FOOLSCAP PAPERS BY PUNJAB UNIVERSITY

**\*9053. Sardar Santokh Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) whether he is aware of the fact that the Registrar of the University of the Punjab made available 84,000 reams double foolscap paper of 19 lbs. quality for distribution to schools and colleges,—vide his letter No. 8942-C of the 14th October 1948—and the price demanded was at the rate of Rs. 11-12-0 per ream plus 10 per cent extra to cover the increase in price due to fluctuations later on ;

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(b) whether it is a fact that the Government of India had fixed the Mill price of Rs. 9-8-0 per ream as per Government notification No. 308-I. C. (A) (1)/48 of the 21st August 1943, and whether the wholesale merchants were actually selling the same quality of paper at Rs. 10-6-3 per ream ;

(c) why the Punjab University did not sell the abovementioned paper at control price and the reasons for demanding a higher price than the control rate ?

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

#### DEARNESS ALLOWANCE TO PRIVATE AIDED SCHOOLS

**\*9134. R. B. Lala Gopal Das :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has sanctioned Rs. 9 lakhs for additional grants to local bodies on account of additional expenditure incurred by them in respect of dearness allowance paid to the teachers of their schools ;

(b) whether it is also a fact that a sum of Rs. 2 lakhs has not so far been sanctioned on account of estimated expenditure for additional grants to private aided schools for a similar purpose ; if so, the reasons therefor, and the action Government propose to take in the matter ;

(c) whether he is aware of the fact that the failure on the part of the Government to sanction grants-in-aid to private aided schools for dearness allowance has caused considerable resentment and discontent among the public, particularly among those who are directly affected by this failure on the part of the Government ?

**The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye :** (a) A sum of Rs. 19,43,400 has been sanctioned this year for grants to district boards on their expenditure on dearness allowance to the teachers employed in their vernacular schools and the same amount has been provided for the purpose in the budget for the next year. Government have also approved with effect from 1944-45, an expenditure of Rs. 94,400 on grants to urban committees for their expenditure on dearness allowance to the teachers working in their vernacular schools and a further expenditure of Rs. 63,480 on grants to local bodies (district boards and urban committees) for their expenditure on dearness allowance to the teachers employed in their anglo-vernacular secondary schools.

(b) and (c) The question of giving additional grants to privately managed aided schools on their expenditure on dearness allowance to the teachers employed in those schools is under consideration.

#### DISTRIBUTION OF KEROSENE OIL IN RURAL AREAS

**\*9127. Khan Muhammad Yusuf Khan :** Will the Honourable Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(a) the arrangements which have been made for the distribution of kerosene oil in the rural areas of the Punjab ;

(b) whether the present arrangements have been made in the light of any figures of consumption obtained on population basis and the need of the consumers ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Chaudhri Tikka Ram): (a) and (b) : Arrangements for the distribution of kerosine oil are in the hands of the oil companies and rural areas get their supplies in the same way as before the war. The available supplies, of course, are very short and the shortage is felt all over. District Magistrates give instructions to the local agents of the oil companies for distribution according to specified scales and District Magistrates have been instructed to meet demands from rural areas to such extent as is possible within the available supplies and the needs of all the consumers.

**Khan Muhammad Yusuf Khan** : Is the Government satisfied with these arrangements ?

**Minister for Development** : The best is being done.

**Mian Muhammad Nurullah** : Does the Government know that people in the rural areas are experiencing great difficulties in the matter of getting oil ?

**Minister** : Everything possible is being done but the difficulty is that there is no supply.

**Khan Muhammad Yusuf Khan** : What arrangements is the Government making to satisfy the public at large so far as the supply of oil is concerned ?

**Minister** : I have already said that we are doing our best.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma** : Is the Government taking the help of local bodies and the public-spirited people in this matter ?

**Minister** : We are doing everything.

**Mian Muhammad Nurullah** : Has the Government tried to find out any substitute ? Is any research being made in this direction ?

**Minister** : Some research has been done but no satisfactory results have so far been obtained.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma** : By inefficient people.

#### PRICE CONTROL OF FOODGRAINS

\*9128. **Khan Muhammad Yusuf Khan** : Will the Honourable Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(a) the foodgrains for which control prices have been fixed ;

(b) the number and names of other necessities of life of which the prices have been controlled ;

(c) whether adequate staff has been engaged for checking the sale of above commodities and for effectively carrying on its duties ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Chaudhri Tikka Ram) : (a) Bajra and Jowar.

- (b) 1. Different brands of cigarettes.
2. Certain bicycles and bicycle parts (Lucas bell, Lucas lamp, free wheel, chain, pair of hubs, spokes).
3. Certain makes of fountain pens.
4. Certain sports goods.
5. Different brands of razor blades.
6. Different brands of boot polishes.
7. Different brands of wines and liquors.
8. Cartridges.

[Ch. Tikka Ram]

9. Photographic goods.
10. Leather and hides.
11. Various qualities of cloth and yarn.

(c) Yes.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** Is it with the approval of the Punjab Government and the Honourable Minister of Revenue that the prices of food-grains are being controlled?

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Is the price of gur being controlled?

**Minister of Development :** No.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** Why are we being expressly kept ignorant about the matter of price control of foodgrains?

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** What has the Government done to see that fair prices are fixed and given to or got by the producers?

#### AHMADYA\*PRIMARY SCHOOL, KIRYAM

**\*8942/9047. Pir Akbar Ali :** Will the Honourable Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether he is aware of the fact that the average attendance of the students in the Ahmadya Primary School situated at village Kiryam, Tahsil Nawan Shahr, District Jullundur, is over 70;

(b) whether it is a fact that the said school has been working since 1916;

(c) whether it is a fact that the said school was getting grant-in-aid from the District Board, Jullundur, and that the said grant-in-aid has been stopped since 1942; if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government has taken any steps to restore the grant-in-aid permissible to the said school according to the rules?

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

(b) Yes.

(c) (i) Yes. The Primary School, Kiryam, was on grant-in-aid list.

(ii) The District Board, Jullundur, stopped payment of grant-in-aid to all the aided schools in the district from 1st March 1943 as a measure of retrenchment in its educational budget.

(d) The restoration of grant-in-aid to aided schools in the Jullundur district is under consideration of the District Board, Jullundur.

#### MUSLIM GRAVEYARD NEAR MIANI SAHIB

**\*9055. Sayed Amjad Ali Shah :** Will the Honourable Minister of Public Works be pleased to state:—

(a) whether he is aware of the fact that lands in the Muslim graveyard near Miani Sahib on Bahawalpur Road, Lahore, are being sold by some people who have no right to do so, and the graves situated therein are being demolished and houses built on the said land with the result that the area of the burial ground has decreased to half of its original dimensions;

(v) if the answer to part (a) be in the affirmative, what steps the Government is taking or intends to take to prevent encroachment on the lands mentioned above ?

**The Honourable Sardar Shaukat Hayat Khan :** (a) and (b) Government are aware that the area of the Miani Sahib graveyard has diminished from 1,593 kanals shown in the settlement records of 1891-92 to 956 kanals in 1924-25. There have been sales of land from the graveyard area but Government have no knowledge whether the sales were by authorised or unauthorised persons. Government approved of a Town Planning Scheme for this graveyard in July 1948, which definitely prohibits the erection of any new houses on this land except such as may be connected with the purpose of the graveyard.

## UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

### SHORTAGE OF FIREWOOD

**1708. Sardar Kapoor Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister for Development be pleased to state :—

(a) whether it is a fact that an acute shortage of firewood is being experienced at present in the province ;

(b) the steps which have been taken so far to improve the situation as also the action Government intends taking in the matter ?

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

(b) The following measures have been taken to increase supplies and to decrease consumption :—

(i) Export of firewood from the Punjab has been prohibited except under a permit. Supplies to Delhi have been stopped.

(ii) Military authorities in the Punjab have been asked to purchase in the Punjab only 10 lac maunds of firewood during 1944-45 from specified districts. Their requirements are very much more than 10 lac maunds a year. It has been suggested to them that they should obtain the balance of their requirements from Punjab States and Sind.

(iii) Use of firewood in factories and kilns has been prohibited except with the permission of the D. M. concerned.

(iv) Use of firewood in Government offices has been prohibited except in certain specified places and localities.

(v) Control over the firewood prices has been removed to stimulate increased supplies from private sources.

(vi) Irrigation Department, Buildings and Roads Branch, Public Works Department Local Bodies and the Deputy Commissioners have been instructed to make heavier fellings from areas and trees under their charges.

(vii) Steps are being taken to raise the firewood potential of the province by undertaking fresh schemes for planting trees.

### CIVIC GUARDS IN GURGAON DISTRICT

**1709. Chaudhri Sumer Singh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state :—

(a) the number, tehsil-wise, of civic guards including officers of this establishment in the Gurgaon district ;

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(b) how many of these civic guards and officers are Hindu statutory agriculturists ;

(c) if the number of Hindu statutory agriculturists among them is very small, the action Government intend to take in the matter ?

**The Honourable Malik Khizar Hayat :** I am afraid the exact information asked for is not readily available, but the total figures of recruitment for the district as a whole do indicate that there is some shortage of Hindu statutory agriculturists. Recruitment to the Civic Guard, however, is purely voluntary for service which is essentially honorary. If any classes are under-represented in the Civic Guard it is for them to come forward and make up the deficiency and any assistance the honourable member can himself give in this matter will be greatly welcomed.

#### COMMUNAL REPRESENTATION AMONGST PERSONAL ASSISTANTS

**1710. Chaudhri Sumer Singh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state :—

(a) the names, community-wise, of the Personal Assistants to various officers under the Punjab Government and the number of Hindu statutory agriculturists among them ;

(b) If the number of Hindu statutory agriculturists among them is very small the action Government intend to take in the matter ?

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

(b) Such posts are not distributed on the basis of communal sub-divisions.

#### STATEMENT

	Personal Assistants	Agriculturists	Non-agriculturists
Muslims .. ..	12	9	3
Sikhs .. ..	5	3	2
Hindus .. ..	5	..	5
Others .. ..	3	1	2
Total .. ..	25	13	12

#### DIRECTORS OF LAND RECORDS

**1711. Chaudhri Sumer Singh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state the names and communities of the Directors of Land Records appointed during the last ten years, and if none of them was a Sikh or a Hindu statutory agriculturist, the reasons therefor ?

**The Honourable Malik Khizar Hayat :** The post of the Director of Land Records, Punjab, has during the last 10 years been held by members of all

the three communities, viz., Muslim, Hindu and Sikh. It is not customary to give names; and as the post has been held by a Sikh agriculturist the latter part of the question does not arise.

**HINDU STATUTORY AGRICULTURISTS IN THE OFFICE OF THE CHIEF SECRETARY,  
SELECTED FOR THE POST OF EXTRA ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER.**

**1712. Chaudhri Sumer Singh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state the names of all the Hindu statutory agriculturists employed in the office of the Chief Secretary to the Punjab Government, who have been either recommended or selected for the post of Extra Assistant Commissioner during the last ten years and also the number of members of the other community who were appointed Extra Assistant Commissioners, from among the employees of the same office during the same period?

**The Honourable Malik Khizar Hayat :** Out of the twenty candidates accepted as Extra Assistant Commissioners from the Punjab Civil Secretariat during the last 10 years seven were Hindus including one statutory agriculturist, seven were Muslims, four were Sikhs and two were Anglo-Indians or Indian Christians. The one Hindu statutory agriculturist selected was the only one recommended during this period. It is not customary to disclose names.

**HINDU STATUTORY AGRICULTURISTS IN THE FINANCIAL COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE  
SELECTED FOR THE POST OF EXTRA ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER**

**1713. Chaudhri Sumer Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state the number and names of all the Hindu statutory agriculturists employed in the Financial Commissioners' office who have been recommended or selected for the post of Extra Assistant Commissioner yearly during the last ten years; if the answer is nil, what action does he intend to take to safeguard the interests of the Hindu statutory agriculturist employees of this office in this respect; if no action is intended, the reasons for the same?

**The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram :** No Hindu statutory agriculturists employed in the Financial Commissioners' office were recommended during the period 1934 to 1943 for selection as candidates for the post of E. A. C. on register A.-II. The Financial Commissioners always keep in mind the interests of all persons in their office when making their recommendation.

**ASSISTANT EXAMINERS FOR VERNACULAR FINAL EXAMINATION**

**1714. Chaudhri Sumer Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state the names of all the assistant examiners appointed in the district Gurgaon for the vernacular final examination of boys and girls in the current educational year, the number of agriculturists among them and also the number of Hindu statutory agriculturists among them and if the number of Hindu statutory agriculturists is nil, the reasons therefor?

**The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye :** 1. It is regretted that names cannot be supplied as the list of examiners is a confidential document.

2. The appointment of examiners is not made district-wise. The particulars supplied by examiners do not give any indication whether they are agriculturists or non-agriculturists, and it is regretted that the information asked for cannot be supplied.



## REFERENCE TO LATE MRS. KASTURI BAI GANDHI

**Sardar Santokh Singh** (Eastern Towns, Sikh Urban): Sir, with your permission I should like to make a reference to the very sad and un-ortunate death of Mata Kasturi Bai Gandhi. This lady was deservedly popular amongst the masses. She did the greatest service to the cause of India's freedom in her own unostentatious and simple manner. She shared the trials and tribulations of her universally respected husband and always stood by him. Her death at this time when the country needed her services most is extremely regrettable. I move that the condolence of this House be conveyed to Mahatma Gandhi and the other members of the bereaved family.

**Premier** (The Honourable Malik Khizar Hayat): I rise to associate myself with the reference made by the Hon'ble Leader of the Opposition to the death of Mrs. Gandhi. Loss of a wife to a husband is great at all times and it is all the more greater when it comes in old age after a long period of service and devotion as a wife. I am sure Mahatmaji's suffering must be great. We are very sorry to hear the news. We offer our sympathies to him and to the other members of the bereaved family.

## PRIVILEGE MOTION

## PREVENTION OF CERTAIN M. L. AS. FROM ATTENDING THE MEETINGS OF THE ASSEMBLY

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma:** I want to move a privilege motion.

**Mr. Speaker:** Will the honourable member please state the question of privilege?

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma:** I shall just state it. While answering question 8971<sup>1</sup> the Hon'ble Premier stated that some of the M. L. As. who had been detained and were set free because they were suffering from some disease and the restrictions put upon their coming to this House was simply due to the fact that they were medically unfit to do so; and if they were otherwise they would have had to go back to jail. I submit that this statement is palpably wrong. I know that there are some M. L. As. who are medically fit to attend this House but are not allowed to do so.

**Mr. Speaker:** Is this the question of privilege?

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma:** If the honourable members of the House who have a constitutional right to come to this House are detained by the action of the Government, is that not a question of privilege to be considered by you and by the House?

**Mr. Speaker:** Will the honourable member please quote his authority for showing that it is a question of privilege?

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma:** I want your ruling on the question whether it is the fundamental right of a member to attend this House.

**Mr. Speaker:** Certainly.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma:** Is it not the privilege of a member to come to this House?

**Mr. Speaker:** Of course it is the inherent right of every member to attend the meetings of this House.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma:** I should like to have a definite ruling of yours as to whether it is not a question of privilege.

**Mr. Speaker :** The matter is of an exceptional importance. I wish the honourable member had informed me in time.

### BUDGET—PRESENTATION.

**The Honourable Sir Manohar Lal** (Finance Minister) : I rise today in the consciousness of further strength to the markedly successful financial record of the Punjab under Provincial Autonomy. We have been able to withstand without any detriment to our programme of advance the pressure of severe famine; and the exigencies of the war, always difficult to estimate, have been hitherto boldly faced and successfully met. The war, however, raises fresh problems—the ensuring of food supplies particularly in deficit areas in the country as a whole, and in our own province relieving against the distress caused by inordinate rise in the price of the necessities of life. The Punjab has played a strikingly successful part in regard to these problems. In both these vital matters real prudence guided our steps, and we can today justly hold our heads high. War brings in its train many social and economic problems. Your Government is watching these with the utmost of vigilance, keeping before it the guiding principle of the welfare of the masses. During the past year methods to place the well-being of the masses on a firm foundation have been further studied, and it is hoped that Government's vigorous policy in this regard will begin to bear tangible and substantial fruit at an early date. The schemes of post-war reconstruction are as yet only at an initial stage and wholly uncertain in shape, but it is gratifying to feel that your finances today hold a fair promise to enable us to face them when they emerge in definite form from their present state of preliminary consideration.

I propose here to invite attention only to the more salient facts of our provincial finance. For a detailed account set forth with elaborate care reference must be made to the very lucid explanatory Memorandum by the Finance Secretary. In the earlier paragraphs of his Memorandum he has considered certain recent outstanding features of our economic life, such as the food situation, export of food-grains from the province, the 'Grow More Food' campaign and measures of control against profiteering and hoarding. To these I have not been able to advert, as they lie largely beyond my strict purview. I must attempt a survey unencumbered by detail to help honourable members to form a definite and sure picture of our finances.

As in previous years and according to well-established practice my task today is to refer particularly to the accounts and estimates of three years—the year 1942-43 for which final accounts are now available, the current year 1943-44 for which revised estimates are now ready and the next financial year 1944-45 for which I am to present the budget today. These three years represent a period of unprecedented prosperity in the history of the Punjab finance and reveal surely as never before all the leading features of our financial position—building up determined and comprehensive plans to add to permanent sources of wealth by fresh Irrigation works, Government's anxiety to provide better conditions for the masses by the steady development of beneficent activity, unstinted relief readily given to its poorly-paid employees against rise in prices and prudent action in laying up stocks of wheat and other food grains for times of hardship. For the two earlier years exceptional strains due to war had to be met, though the effect of famine by then had disappeared. The war still bears its impress on our finance as all the elaborate and expensive machinery set up in connection with price control and rationing has had to be devised and means of ensuring peace and order strengthened, but we are burdened no longer with

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direct expenditure as previously on Air Raid Precautions. That it has been possible to carry out all this multifold activity is an incontestable proof of your financial strength as it is an unquestionable index of the Government's foresight in successfully planning ahead.

1942-43

In the budget estimate for the year a deficit of Rs. 10 lakhs was anticipated. As the year advanced, larger claims for expenditure for ensuring security, providing against the threat of air raid and the urgent need for the grant of dearness allowance bore heavily on our revenues, and at one time a large deficit was apprehended. On the revised estimates, however, a surplus of Rs. 6 lakhs showed itself in the revenue account. The receipts showed an improvement by the considerable figure of Rs. 2,24 lakhs. I analysed this improvement at the time of presenting the budget last year. The large increase in receipts made it possible to provide Rs. 80 lakhs for our two Funds—Rs. 20 lakhs for the Special Development Fund and Rs. 60 lakhs for the Peasants' Welfare fund and meet additional urgent expenditure during the course of the year. The position has further improved and final accounts of the year show actually a surplus of Rs. 1,34 lakhs instead of that of Rs. 6 lakhs—the result of an improvement of Rs. 68 lakhs in revenue receipts and a fall of Rs. 60 lakhs in revenue expenditure. The details are set forth in paragraph 17 of the Finance Secretary's Memorandum. Nearly all the principal heads of revenue showed an improvement while fall in expenditure was mainly on account of Air Raid Precautions (Rs. 27 lakhs) a happy feature resulting from the threat to the Punjab having receded, and Civil Works (Rs. 20 lakhs) due to the difficulty of executing these works under conditions as regards material and labour created by the war.

The budget estimate under Extraordinary Receipts stood at Rs. 95½ lakhs. The revised estimate showed an improvement of Rs. 66½ lakhs making an aggregate of Rs. 1,62 lakhs. The accounts show a further improvement of nearly Rs. 38 lakhs recording finally receipts under this head of a little over Rs. 2 crores. These receipts steadily on the increase furnish a sure protection against any possible dislocation of our finances that may follow from unforeseen catastrophe.

At the time of the budget the revenue was estimated at Rs. 13,53 lakhs and expenditure at Rs. 13,63 lakhs. The revised estimates showed :—

	<i>In lakhs</i>			
	Rs.			
Revenue .. .. .	..	..	..	15,77
Expenditure .. .. .	..	..	..	15,71
The position now in accounts is—				
Revenue .. .. .	..	..	..	16,45
Expenditure .. .. .	..	..	..	15,11

It will be observed that our revenue receipts have entered this year on a magnitude that was never thought of before. The striking features of the year's finance are—

- (i) provision of Rs. 80 lakhs in our two well-known Funds ;
- (ii) a large additional provision for Police further to establish on a satisfactory basis the machinery for securing peace and order ;

(iii) large expenditure on Air Raid Precautions ; and

(iv) expenditure of over Rs. 50 lakhs in providing dearness allowance to Government employees drawing pay up to Rs. 100.

No comment is necessary on these broad facts. They signify that beneficent activity in this province is placed on a firm foundation not easily liable to stoppage or curtailment. They indicate that peace and security shall not be allowed to suffer so far it lies in your Government's power. They guarantee that those for whom Government has immediate responsibility shall be protected against distress.

1943-44

The budget estimate for the year was—

					In lakhs
					Rs.
Revenue	..	..	..	..	15,19
Expenditure	..	..	..	..	14,69

indicating what appeared a heavy surplus of Rs. 50 lakhs. In presenting the budget last year I said—"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 I entered a caution—"we cannot forget that pressing demands are being urged upon Government for the grant of a further and extended dearness allowance," and I pressed upon the attention of the House that abnormal economic conditions that had arisen forcing up the level of food prices might impose a considerable liability on Government as a large employer. This became only too true during the course of the year. Fortunately the revised estimates for the year show a revenue of Rs. 20,04 lakhs—an improvement of Rs. 4,85 lakhs—and expenditure of Rs. 17,25 lakhs showing an increase of Rs. 2,56 lakhs resulting now in a surplus of Rs. 2,79 lakhs. It must be noticed at once that this surplus would have stood at a crore higher but for the provision of Rs. 60 lakhs in the Peasants' Welfare Fund and Rs. 40 lakhs in the Special Development Fund. Our estimates have been steadily improving during the last two months. In finance, as on a race-course, it is the last lap that has the determining effect and we have been fortunate that this period or interval has shown marked progress almost all along the line. Doubt may arise in some minds as to why this surplus was allowed to gather, but it was not possible last year in framing the budget estimates to think that revenues would go up by nearly Rs. 5 crores. We then framed our budget of revenue as prudent men with the guidance of our revenue authorities on the basis of revised estimates for the previous year as then available, with some caution because of further liabilities likely to arise for dearness allowance and other heads during the course of the year. In fact, on revised figures our expenditure has gone up by Rs. 2,56 lakhs. The main heads of this increase in expenditure are analysed by the Finance Secretary in paragraph 21 of his Memorandum. Of the increase in revenue receipts for which all the principal heads of revenue are responsible, two of the most significant are one, an increase of Rs. 59 lakhs under Taxes on Income received from the Government of India under the Niemeyer Award. This could not be anticipated at the time of the budget because definite intimation about this source of income for any year is received from the Government of India only about the time when revised estimates are well in progress. The other is a significant increase of Rs. 68 lakhs in our Excise revenue. In addition we have to note an apparent increase of Rs. 66

[Finance Minister.]

lakhs under Forests, but there is also an increase under Forest expenditure of Rs. 50 lakhs yielding a net increase of only Rs. 16 lakhs. This is the result mainly of larger operations owing to the demand of the Government of India in the Defence Department but it has also to some extent arisen from higher prices that have been obtained. Stamps have improved by Rs. 87 lakhs, Registration by Rs. 10 lakhs, Other Taxes and Duties by Rs. 15 lakhs, Irrigation (taking into account Indirect Credits for Land Revenue due to Irrigation and Working Expenses) Rs. 87 lakhs. Land Revenue (gross) indicates a rise of Rs. 68 lakhs, but crediting Irrigation for the amount due to it the net increase is Rs. 15 lakhs. These with the other items to which it is not necessary specifically to refer constitute the large increase of Rs. 4,85 lakhs. None of these could have been foreseen and none of it could, therefore, form the basis of increase in expenditure. The land revenue (gross) has increased to a figure never reached before in the revenue history of the province. Nearly all arrears of land revenue have been recovered. Rise in the prices of agricultural produce has had a distinct effect on our receipts. The Haveli Project is now an established factor in revenue production. The 'Grow More Food' campaign also has had some beneficial effect on our revenue. Increase in temporary cultivation of leased lands on several of the canals has also added to revenue under this head. Other Taxes record a rise of Rs. 15 lakhs. Receipts under Entertainment Tax are responsible for a part of this rise, while the balance is accounted for by our two infant taxes—the Punjab Urban Immovable Property Tax and the Punjab General Sales Tax. As time passes and these taxes are fully developed income from them may be expected to increase considerably.

The revised receipts for the year stand at a figure that, as I view Punjab finances, are influenced by distinctly abnormal factors. It cannot be said that Rs. 20 crores of revenue constitutes any norm for future estimates. The income from Stamps and Registration represents a very abnormal feature and it might decline when normal conditions once more are established. Similarly income from Forests is subject to a reduction of at least Rs. 50 lakhs. These three items by themselves represent today an abnormal income of nearly a crore. Land Revenue (gross) is liable to suffer at any time from unfavourable economic conditions and would suffer heavily in case of a famine. That would also affect the income from Irrigation. The need for caution, therefore, in estimating is as imperative as ever, because in the course of the past few years the scale of expenditure has been considerably enlarged and once that happens it is not easy to effect reductions.

A welcome feature of increase in expenditure is a rise of Rs. 45 lakhs under Beneficent expenditure. It has to be remembered that a part of this is due to increase in dearness allowance. The increase is nearly in all departments; and even making necessary corrections for dearness allowance and for the figure under Agriculture because of provision for seeds, the increase under Beneficent Departments is significant.

The improvement in the revenue position is striking enough—that under Extraordinary Receipts is even more remarkable. The budget estimate stood at Rs. 1,21 lakhs. A little over two months ago it was estimated that receipts under this head would be in the neighbourhood of Rs. 9½ crores. The revised estimate today stands at Rs. 4,88 lakhs. Larger amounts of undeveloped agricultural lands have been sold at most favourable prices. Sales of town sites in colonies are also responsible for a substantial increase. The sale of proprietary rights to tenants shows a big excess. These receipts would import very special

strength to our finances. They will enable us to carry forward our pending Irrigation projects. They will enable us to consider favourably post-war schemes. But here again it is necessary to remember that the forces that have helped this year in securing such large receipts cannot be depended on to continue—the prices have the trick of falling unexpectedly.

## 1944-45

The estimate of revenue receipts is Rs. 19,64 lakhs, Rs. 40 lakhs below the revised estimate of the current year. The budget estimate of expenditure charged to revenue is Rs. 15,78 lakhs. This results in the very heavy surplus of Rs. 3,86 lakhs. Compared with revised estimates for the current year, there is a fall of Rs. 1,47 lakhs in expenditure; but it has to be remembered that the budget estimate does not at present include any provision for the two funds—the Peasants' Welfare Fund and the Special Development Fund, as this is usually made towards the end of the year when a surplus is firmly in sight, nor does it include any provision for the Forest reconstruction Fund as compared with the provision in the current year. If such provision is made, the expenditure would rise by Rs. 1,15 lakhs reducing the surplus to Rs. 2,71 lakhs. This is a huge surplus, but it is a welcome event as it would enable us to carry forward vigorously and with financial assurance the work along various direction of post-war reconstruction. In the meanwhile it is important to remember that this year all the proposals for new expenditure on behalf of Administrative Departments were accepted by Government without the slightest reduction. The surplus is, therefore, due not to any curtailment of activity in general administration or beneficent departments but to the fact that our revenue now is fortunately placed on a definitely enlarged basis.

On the receipt side the following are particularly worth noticing:—

			<i>In lakhs</i>	
		<i>Revised</i>	<i>Budget</i>	<i>Difference</i>
		<i>Rs.</i>	<i>Rs.</i>	<i>Rs.</i>
Taxes on Income .. ..	..	1,56	1,90	+34
Net Land Revenue .. ..	..	3,57	3,22	—35
Excise .. ..	..	1,98	2,50	+52
Forests .. ..	..	1,19	76	—43
Irrigation .. ..	..	6,83	6,11	—22
Civil Works .. ..	..	35	18	—17
				—31

These are the main variations. Taxes on Income and Provincial Excise constitute most welcome additions to our revenues, accounting for an addition of Rs. 86 lakhs between them. The development of our Excise income during recent years is a significant fact. The budget figure of Rs. 2½ crores is of a magnitude that could not have been anticipated even two years ago and as it is, is the result of large increases in still-head duty on plain and spiced spirits and in the issue and retail price of opium. There has been a substantial increase also in the duty on Indian made foreign liquor.

[Finance Minister.]

The fall in estimates under Land Revenue follows from the fact that the current year witnessed a record position, never in the history of our Land Revenue (gross) has the figure stood at the magnitude of Rs. 6,59 lakhs. The circumstances this year have been exceptional. Natural conditions helped in raising the highest and the best crops. Prices ranged throughout at a most favourable level. Almost the whole of arrears have been realized leaving very little in this respect for the next year. Remissions and suspensions have been comparatively insignificant. Some of these facts such as realization of arrears cannot exist for the next year as there would be very small arrears to realize and it would hardly be prudent, at any rate today, to think that the general climatic and other circumstances that are responsible for large agricultural production would necessarily be so favourable next year as they have been during this. The same considerations would apply in the main to income from Irrigation. As I said previously the large income during the current year from Forests is exceptional and fortuitous due to the special requirements of the Defence Department. This income has also a corresponding increase in expenditure during the current year. The next year the budget is framed on a more normal basis, an income of Rs. 76 lakhs as against an expenditure of Rs. 70 lakhs. There is a fall also of Rs. 17 lakhs under Receipts from Civil Works due in the main to diminished expenditure on strategic roads financed from the Central Road Fund. These four items—Civil Works, Land Revenue, Irrigation and Forests—Forests, of course, nominally—represent a drop in receipts—

	<i>In lakhs</i>			
	Rs.			
Civil Works	..	..	..	17
Land Revenue	..	..	..	85
Irrigation	..	..	..	22
Forests	..	..	..	48

of Rs. 1,17 lakhs. That would account for a disparity of Rs. 31 lakhs out of a total variation of Rs. 40 lakhs. It is not necessary to refer to the other items, all of comparatively small size in explanation of the full variation.

The budget estimate of expenditure as compared with the revised estimates for the current year shows a fall of Rs. 1,47 lakhs and this, as I have already said, is made up by the absence at the present stage from the budget estimate of any provision for the well-known two Funds and for the new Forest Reconstruction Fund. Such provision when made towards the end of the year will bring the estimate of expenditure in 1944-45 to almost exactly the revised figures for the current year. The most significant facts to notice are :—

(i) an increase of Rs. 42 lakhs under Beneficent Departments—the original estimates for the current year under this head was Rs. 3,77 lakhs. The revised figures rose by Rs. 45 lakhs to Rs. 4,22 lakhs. In the budget provision is being made for Rs. 4,64 lakhs;

(ii) a fall of Rs. 95 lakhs under Interest because recently we have paid back to the Government of India the large sum of Rs. 10 crores towards the amount due from us under Unconsolidated Debt. This constitutes a decrease of expenditure under Debt Services resulting in a permanent gain to our financial position;

(iii) miscellaneous including Famine and Air Raid Precautions, a reduction of Rs. 54 lakhs as compared with revised estimates for the current

year. The Famine Fund has been restored to its full size of Rs. 20 lakhs and Air Raid Precautions which during the current year are responsible for an expenditure of nearly Rs. 48 lakhs will actually yield a credit of Rs. 9 lakhs next year.

It will be noticed that all these significant facts are indicative of a most happy position, a very substantial expansion of our beneficent activity, a large and permanent fall in our obligation to pay interest, full provision under Famine, and complete disappearance of expenditure under Air Raid Precautions.

In previous years it was always a problem how to adjust demands made for new expenditure by various departments, because there never was money enough to go all round and among the competing claims of departments it was not easy to decide. Provision had to be made at the time of framing the budget for essential services, minor works and urgent fresh demands by recourse to the device of dipping into a deficit. For the first time in my experience in charge of your finances no such difficult problem arose and it was possible, as I have said before, to satisfy all demands without any curtailment.

The new expenditure provided for the year 1944-45 is on a larger scale than ever since the beginning of Provincial Autonomy, it stands at the considerable figure of Rs. 1.69 lakhs in the book of New Expenditure, and a large number of items marked as non-recurring are so only in a technical sense. As a matter of fact, a very large number of these non-recurring items are likely soon to become recurring and of a permanent nature. I venture to express the hope that our finances will be able to carry this additional burden in the years to come, for as you may have already noticed the size of our finances in some measure has secured a permanent expansion.

#### BENEFICENT DEPARTMENTS

The Beneficent Departments represent the largest increase in new expenditure chargeable to revenue—

					<i>In lakhs</i>
					<i>Rs.</i>
Non-recurring	..	..	..	..	43.98
Recurring	..	..	..	..	10.64
					<hr/>
			Total	..	54.62
					<hr/>

nearly 40 per cent of the whole new expenditure charged to revenue; but this increased attention to beneficent activity is not merely a phase of our prosperous years. Increase in expenditure on these departments has been continuous since the inauguration of Provincial Autonomy. In the year 1936-37 this expenditure stood at Rs. 2.87 lakhs. Since then it has steadily increased and never has it suffered a check in any year, not even in the years when we were hard stricken by famine. As against the budget estimate of the current year of Rs. 3.77 lakhs the budget for 1944-45 stands at Rs. 4.64 lakhs. There is an increase under nearly every head but more specially under 'Education', 'Medical', 'Public Health', 'Co-operation' and 'Industries'.

*Education*—For higher education a grant is made to the Punjab University for the establishment of a Department of Geography and the institution of classes in Pharmacy and a substantial building grant is proposed for the Kinaird College for Women. A Government High School for Girls is to be established at Khanewal and six more Government Vernacular Middle Schools for



## [Finance Minister]

Girls are to be opened in various parts of the Punjab. The equipment for High and Normal Schools for Women is to be enlarged; a Normal School for Men is to be founded at Kamalia and liberal grants are made to Local Bodies for—

- (i) vernacular education,
- (ii) the teaching of Punjabee in the Gurmukhi script in the Primary Department of Vernacular Schools, and
- (iii) expansion of compulsory primary education.

Provision has also been made for the grant of dearness allowance to teachers in schools conducted by Local Bodies. Further provision has also been made for maintenance grants to schools of backward communities and additional scholarships and stipends to agriculturist boys of all communities. Efforts in the direction of the removal of illiteracy are also to be strengthened.

*Medical*—A welcome departure is the institution of medical relief for women by lady doctors. A woman Assistant Surgeon and six women Sub-Assistant Surgeons for Rural Dispensaries are to be added. Hospitals and dispensaries are to receive suitable grants and ten new subsidized dispensaries are to be opened.

It must be remembered that recently the Medical School at Amritsar has been converted into a full Medical Degree College. This involves considerable financial obligation which will have to be met in the years to come.

*Public Health*—Under this head there is a large additional provision of Rs. 17½ lakhs. The Lahore Improvement Trust and Local Bodies mainly for sanitary schemes, are the principal beneficiaries. The Third Lahore Public Health Division is to be continued with its two sub-divisions in connection with the Lahore Sewerage and Drainage Scheme and a Public Health Corps has been formed to combat epidemics of serious nature and to ensure proper sanitation in rural areas throughout the province. Provision has been made under this head for the investigation of tuberculosis problems in the provinces on a systematic basis, the experiments to be so arranged as to cover the requirements of both rural and urban areas. The Lady Health Visitors are to form a provincialised service. The inspection of food is to be placed on a more satisfactory basis by the appointment of Inspectors. Adequate arrangements are also to be made to ensure healthy conditions at Thanesar on the occasion of the Solar Eclipse in the month of July 1944.

*Agriculture*—Local problems such as Bee Keeping schemes in Kulu and Nagrota are to be pursued, as also research into the preservation of fruit and vegetables. The activities of the Department generally are to be sustained with increasing energy and the Agricultural staff to help the cultivator in adjusting his crops so as to give him better yield and ensure the production of more food grains is to be continued.

*Veterinary*—Nine new Veterinary hospitals are to be opened and the status of Veterinary Assistants has been placed on a more satisfactory basis.

*Co-operation*—There is an addition of Rs. 14 lakhs of expenditure under this head. The staff of Rural Reconstruction is to become permanent. The work of Cho Reclamation and Consolidation of Holdings is to be further carried forward. Arrangements for the promotion of Women Welfare and the education of women in villages in the principles of domestic science are to continue. Government is always solicitous to watch the expansion of the activities of this Department and elaborate provision in various directions has been made.

**Industries**—In the Schedule of New Expenditure there is an increased provision of Rs. 5 lakhs. The existing Demonstration Parties that have done useful work are to continue and addition is to be made to their number. Educated young men are to be further encouraged in developing handicrafts and cottage industry by individual enterprise, and some progress has been made in placing on a permanent footing the manufacture of bicycle parts. The usual provision under the Punjab State Aid to Industries Act for loans for industrial purposes is being made.

It will be noted that provision has also been made for certain activities analogous to the work in the Beneficent Departments such as War Publicity, Communal Harmony, Panchayat Libraries and Rural Broadcasting.

#### INDUSTRIES

Questions of securing industrial advance in the province have been carefully studied during the year by a Committee on which members of this House and several leading businessmen are represented. The deliberations of the Committee promise to be of great and real advantage. Two large cotton textile mills are likely to be established soon, and plans for other industries are under active examination. The idea is that while the industrial resources of the province are to be utilized to the fullest extent, no hasty action should be taken, and Government has undertaken to render all such aid as may legitimately be looked for from it.

#### DEARNESS ALLOWANCE

The expenditure on this account is estimated at Rs. 1.32 lakhs during the current year and provision has been made in the budget for Rs. 1.47 lakhs. There is no separate entry for this purpose in the abstract of accounts, as the amount is distributed under all the heads for services. Reference may also be made to the fact that some improvement has been introduced at a cost of Rs. 3 lakhs during the current year and over Rs. 10 lakhs during the next year under touring charges as it was feared that otherwise essential touring may become materially reduced and efficiency of administration might seriously suffer.

#### STAMPS AND JUDICIAL

The income from Stamps that stood at Rs. 1.14 lakhs in 1932-33 had been steadily falling since then and in the accounts of 1941-42 it was no higher than Rs. 66 lakhs. Since then there has been a steady rise owing entirely to conditions created by the War till it stands once again at Rs. 1.15 lakhs. The income from the Administration of Justice has also recently shown a rise. In these circumstances it has been strongly borne in upon me that our courts are not properly housed and their general equipment and libraries are exceptionally poor. As I have remarked elsewhere, for the year 1944-45 we have accepted without the slightest excision all proposals for new expenditure. It has also to be remembered that building under present conditions is an unnecessarily expensive process, but questions of equipment and library can be immediately taken in hand, and I feel sure that if proper proposals are made there would be no difficulty in making up all deficiency in these respects.

#### HYDRO-ELECTRIC SCHEMES

In previous years the financial working of the scheme was analysed by me in some detail and examined in the light of varying standards. It would serve no useful purpose today to carry this study further. The revised figures for the current year show a marked improvement of over Rs. 4 lakhs in net revenue, reducing substantially the gap between interest and revenue, the difference now is only Rs. 5 lakhs. The budget estimate for the next year reproduces

[Finance Minister.]

almost exactly the revised figures. It would appear thus that a more stable and less unhappy position has been now reached, and any further improvement will fill the present gap altogether. The receipts in the past two years have shown a marked increase while the working expenses, depreciation and establishment charges are all on a reduced scale.

The present is perhaps the moment when attention may be specifically drawn to the fact that the interest on account of the capital invested in this enterprise is not paid to any outside capitalist, the whole of the capital was invested by us and the interest is paid by the enterprise to the provincial funds. Such is the formality of commercial accounting. A private enterprise, similarly situated would have no such interest account, it would consider against its capital outlay only the net revenue earned. Thus viewed the electric scheme is at present yielding a net return of three per cent. This is not a big return but we have to remember that the scheme has been in operation for only a few years, and the war has interfered with the completion even of projects that had been well-advanced. For proper expansion and securing the production of more energy, we must wait for more normal times after the war. In the meantime great care is being exercised in enforcing strict economy. We might possibly have made a more productive use of the Rs. 7½ crores sunk in the enterprise, but the scheme is not a losing concern in the business sense—it brings us a distinct though modest profit.

#### EXTRAORDINARY RECEIPTS

These receipts constitute a very special feature of our estimates and they are exhibited outside our ordinary revenue receipts. These receipts have shown in recent years a most welcome upward trend, and during the period of three years which occupy our attention today they have assumed proportions wholly beyond our most optimistic expectations. The total from 1937-38 up to the end of 1941-42 came to Rs. 292-45 lakhs. The latest figures are :—

	<i>In thousands</i>	
	Rs.	
1942-43 .. .. .	..	2,00,18
1943-44 (Revised) .. .. .	..	4,82,81
1944-45 (Budget) .. .. .	..	3,08,92
Total .. .. .	..	9,91,91

or Rs. 10 crores in round figures. The revised figures for 1943-44 have swelled beyond all measure beyond the budget estimate of the year, but while it is possible that the budget estimate for the next year may actually be exceeded, it is not likely that the high pitch of 1943-44 can be again attained. These Extraordinary Receipts constitute a most valuable means of meeting extraordinary expenditure such for example as on the construction of irrigation works and capital outlay on civil works and electricity schemes and industrial development. They furnish an effective support to our balance when they are threatened with depletion on account of exceptional circumstances such as famine and they constitute a valuable support when we have to have recourse to the loan market. Recent large accretions to these receipts have placed us beyond all fear of financial difficulty or embarrassment for at any rate the next few years. These receipts have also the great merit of not being any burden on the subject like the rest of our revenue structure.

## WAYS AND MEANS POSITION

The ways and means position continues to be sound. With our abundant financial resources it was not necessary to take any advances for the purpose during the year—there were large balances throughout—and amounts above our requirements have been as usual regularly invested in the Treasury Bills of the Government of India. During the current year the interest earned on this investment has risen to nearly Rs. 7 lakhs—a figure far above that of any previous year. Last year it stood at Rs. 4 lakhs and the aggregate of previous four years was only Rs. 5 lakhs. It will be observed that the Finance Department, not a revenue producing department, is making a substantial contribution to the revenues of the province, this more than covers the whole cost of the Department both direct and indirect.

## IRRIGATION

Important decisions have recently been taken as regards the Thal Project. The Khushab Branch of this Project is to be immediately taken in hand. Necessary priorities for the material required for the Project have already been received and it is hoped that the progress of this part of the Project will proceed without any undue delay. Appropriate provisions have already been made both for the completion of Headworks and other connected necessary work for the execution of the Project.

## WESTERN JUMNA CANAL EXTENSIONS

The work in connection with the Western Jumna Canal Extensions is in active progress. The Bhalaut Branch of these Extensions was opened in August 1942 and it is hoped that the Dulehra distributary will be soon in working order. Work in connection with certain other distributaries is also in an advanced stage. These and other works in connection with these Extensions must afford considerable protection to an area otherwise seriously exposed to adverse rain conditions. The necessary financial provision has been made to complete these schemes.

Tube-well Schemes have been planned to extend irrigation to *Baqayn* lands on the Lower Chenab Canal and a provision of Rs. 12½ lakhs has been made for them. Among the new schemes are the Gurgaon Branch Canal and the Thermal tube-well schemes.

The most important fact, however, is that the question of storage dams is under further expert examination. A Project Circle was opened in this connection some months ago and we have now the advantage of having with us a most eminent expert from the United States of America whose opinion on various aspects of the problem of storage by dams should be of the highest value. Your Government is fortunate in securing the assistance of a world-renowned authority from America to advise it on questions of vital importance to the Punjab.

When these Irrigation schemes come to completion and they have been actively exercising the mind of the present Government ever since 1937, a fresh chapter shall have been successfully added to the brilliant record of achievement by our Irrigation Engineers. The most exposed parts of the province will be protected from conditions of drought. The Indus dispute between the Punjab and the Sind Governments is still not resolved, the matter is formally before His Majesty in Council, though endeavour to reach amicable settlement out of court has not ceased.

[Finance Minister.]

### OUR SPECIAL FUNDS

I have spoken in previous years in some detail about our two Special Funds and you are familiar with their broad outlines. The Special Development Fund was created in 1937-38 with a sum of Rs. 55 lakhs. To this a sum of Rs. 19 lakhs was added in 1940-41 and in 1941-42 an addition was made of Rs. 30 lakhs, in 1942-43 of Rs. 20 lakhs and during the current year a further sum of Rs. 40 lakhs was placed in this Fund, making a total of Rs. 1,58 lakhs. The essential idea of this Fund was to further beneficent activity and to ensure that in years of stringency Beneficent Departments do not suffer any curtailment. These objects have been amply achieved because of the existence of this Fund. It is being regularly utilized by these Departments in making fresh experiments and generally enlarging the sphere of their work. A sum of nearly Rs. 80 lakhs has already been spent out of this.

*Peasants' Welfare Fund*—It was created only recently in 1941-42 with Rs. 80 lakhs. In 1942-43, a sum of Rs. 60 lakhs was placed to its credit and during the current year a further sum of Rs. 60 lakhs is being provided in it, making now an aggregate total of Rs. 1,50 lakhs. The main object of this Fund has been the subject of wide discussion in the Province during the past twelve months. It is to be directed wholly to the amelioration of conditions in the country-side and in securing reasonable and just terms to the grower in the marketing of his products. Schemes have not been fully worked out to this end yet, but ideas are taking definite shape and it is hoped that it would be possible to devise plans to give them effect before long. When in full operation, this Fund should prove of the highest benefit, particularly to our small peasants and workers. They would then have at their hand a properly organised machinery, and it is now recognised that this would be of much greater value to them than any small relief that could be directly given.

We are passing through abnormal times, when both our revenues and expenditure are affected by exceptional circumstances mainly created by the war. On the receipts side, the usual experience of countries engaged in war is that revenue figures toil painfully in the rear of the expenditure. Such has happily not been our fate. The broad principles of healthy finance, strictly observed, have protected us from financial embarrassment in laying plans of fresh and additional expenditure, the course of our revenues is never lost from view. Recently our valleys have stood thick with corn, and our fields have been adorned with bright robes of gold, the bounteous hand of nature has accorded its gifts to the land. This has brought strength both to the people and the Government. We have enjoyed a full measure of prosperity, but we have most vigilantly husbanded our resources. A characteristic of provincial finance in India is that the revenue is comparatively inelastic, no fresh and productive sources of income can be easily added to the tax structure; expenditure alone can be controlled but even that by no quick effort. We have borne these limiting circumstances unfailingly in view, and we have emerged in consequence unscathed from long periods of trial and strain; now that the face of heaven shines upon us more favourably, this very caution should save us from error and mishap. The main direction of our policy is now fully recognised. It consists in the steady increase of beneficent activity, in the expansion of what is called nation building effort. To this have to be added programmes of road building and more direct relief to the peasant. Their wide reaching effect in ameliorating the conditions of the masses cannot be exaggerated. Further by attention to law and order conditions of peaceful life are ensured. The policy of building up permanent

wealth by expansion of irrigation works is always being energetically pursued. I trust that at no distant period, all plans for the completion of our canal systems shall have been fully worked out and many if not most of them will be well advanced in the process of execution. However, in the present fast changing world, all the forces which govern our action do not lie within our control, but liberal things and of vast moment have been boldly and firmly devised and in confidence shall be our strength. India today is in a ferment of economic discussion. I have sometimes myself ventured into the raging controversies of the day. But this is no occasion to attempt canvassing them, particularly as we have remained sheltered from the onslaught of adverse forces. Our budget today as last year furnishes an unquestionable record of commendable policy based on stern facts. Our feet are firmly set on the path of progress, our achievements already are of no mean worth. The task for the future is to use our heritage, growing in its abundance and of great value, to the increasing glory and strength of our province. The Punjab can hold its head high, very high, because of striking contributions to the present world war, the bravery of the Punjabee soldier commands today the admiration of the world. In the India of tomorrow the achievements of the Punjab should exercise a very considerable, if not an all determining influence.

In previous years, I have expressed in full my appreciation of the work of the Finance Department. I wish today to say that the work in the Department continues to increase, but is faced cheerfully and loyally by every one from the most junior Assistant upwards. The Department has succeeded in establishing standards of efficiency and accuracy of a most notable character. I have much pleasure in once again bearing my testimony to the remarkable success with which Mr. C. N. Chandra presides over the Department, and the willing co-operation given to him by other officers in the Department. I must not forget to record my indebtedness to our Superintendents and the staff generally in the discharge of their onerous work. They have continued by their high sense of duty to contribute to the success of the Department.

On behalf of the Government I wish 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. In the deliberations of the Public Accounts Committee he has given us particularly active help.

We are grateful also to Sir Cameron Badenoch, the Auditor-General for India. Our relations with him have been most cordial and his authoritative advice on questions of procedure has been of very high value.

Sir, I beg to present the Budget for the year 1944-45.

*The Assembly then adjourned till 2 p. m., on Monday, 6th March 1944.*

## APPENDIX

*Answer to Starred Question No. 9135, pages 271-72 ante.*

**The Honourable Malik Khizar Hayat :** (a) The honourable member has not given a precise reference to any statement of the late Premier, but generally speaking the policy of Government is to maintain the *status quo* in the absence of an agreement.

(b) Yes, in order to preserve the *status quo* and to prevent a breach of it, which was likely to arise from the export of beef from Nurpur to Yol Camp, in contravention of the existing practice by which Muslims have always been allowed to slaughter for their own use in Nurpur. The only way of maintaining the *status quo* was by regulations issued under a licence.

(c) Representations to this effect have been made.

(d) (i) Yes.

(ii) No licence was previously necessary in Nurpur in view of the amicable agreement, and in other places the policy mentioned in part (a) applies.

(e) Government have no knowledge of this.

(f) There has been no deviation from the policy ; on the contrary it has been adhered to.

(g) None.

# PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

## ELEVENTH SESSION OF THE FIRST PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

*Monday, 6th March 1944*

*The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber at 2 p.m. of the clock. Mr. Speaker in the Chair.*

### STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

RELEASE OF MIAN IFTIKHAR-UD-DIN, DR. GOPI CHAND BHARGAVA, LALA BHIM SEN SACHAR, SETH SUDERSHAN AND DIWAN CHAMAN LALL

**\*8911. Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state whether he has considered the question of the release of Mian Iftikhar-ud-Din, President, Punjab Provincial Congress Committee, Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava, former leader of the Congress Opposition, Mr. Bhim Sen Sachar, leader of the Congress Opposition, Seth Sudershan, whip of the Congress Opposition, and Diwan Chaman Lall ; if so, when and with what results ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Mir Maqbool Mahmood) :** Yes ; Diwan Chaman Lall, Dr. Gopi Chand and Mr. Bhim Sen Sachar have been released for medical reasons under the usual restriction order. There are no such grounds for the release of the other two prisoners.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** What are the grounds examined by Government on the last occasion ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I have nothing to add to the answer I have already given.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** My honourable friend has not understood my question. Has the Government considered the question of release of the gentlemen ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** My answer makes it clear that Government is not bound to consider any such case. They consider them on particular occasions when the merits justify such a course.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** Government may be bound or may not be bound, but the question is whether Government considered the question of release or not. Has Government considered at all ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I have already stated, 'yes.' The question of release has been considered.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** What are the grounds which are considered proper for releasing them ?

**Premier :** The humanitarian grounds of illness. If a man was very ill he would ordinarily be let out on humanitarian grounds.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** My question still remains unanswered ? What are the grounds ?

**Premier :** *Bimari.*

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** *Siraf ?*



**Premier :** Yes, primarily.

**Mian Muhammad Nurullah :** Is it also on medical advice that they are not allowed to attend the Assembly meetings ?

**Premier :** Yes, it is in the interest of their health. They must abide by the terms of their release.

**Mian Abdul Aziz :** I think the Premier had better remain away ; it may be good for his health.

**Premier :** My days might come, but not yet.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Why are those members who are within the municipal limits of Lahore not allowed to attend the Assembly meetings ?

**Premier :** The answer has already been given.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** May I know whether those members who are detained within the municipal limits of Lahore are at liberty to come to this House and represent their constituencies ?

**Premier :** They are under the usual restrictions.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** What are those usual restrictions ? Why are they prevented from coming and attending the meeting ?

**Premier :** They can avail themselves of the best medical treatment available in Lahore.

**Lala Bhagat Ram Choda :** Do you think that Heavens will fall down if you permit them to attend the meetings of the Punjab Legislative Assembly ?

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** If a member is medically fit, then will he be allowed to come here ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** The usual conditions in the case of detainees apply in this case also and if the honourable member is anxious to know the details of those conditions ; I would request him to get into touch with the honourable members concerned.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** What I wanted to know was whether those honourable members who are released not on grounds of health have the liberty to come to this House.

**Premier :** They are under restrictions.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** Do you take responsibility for preventing them from discharging their public duty ?

**Premier :** We are also discharging a public duty.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Is it fair for the Government to detain those members of the Assembly who have a legal right to come to this House ?

**Mr. Speaker :** That is for the Government to decide.

#### STATE OF HEALTH OF M.L.As. IN JAILS

\*8912. **Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) the weights of all the M.L.As., Punjab, at the time of their entering the jails ;

(b) their present weights and the state of their general health ;

(c) whether any of the M.L.As. in question have added to their weight during their incarceration ;

(d) the nature of the facilities given to them in jails ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Mir Maqbool Mahmood) :** It is regretted that the information asked for by the honourable member is not readily available in headquarter offices in Lahore, and in the present conditions created by the war, it is very difficult to undertake to secure it by enquiries from out-stations, as this would impose a burden on the already over-worked officers as also involve consumption of paper that would be incommensurate with the results to be achieved.

The attention of the honourable member is invited to the answer to question 8888<sup>1</sup>.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** Has any convention been established that only such questions for which information is available at the headquarters will be answered and that other questions will not be answered ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I have mentioned various reasons and this is one of them.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** Is it not a fact that several questions are answered after getting information from various districts in the Punjab ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** Each case is considered on merits.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** What is the difficulty in answering this question after getting the necessary information from the different jails ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I have given the reasons.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** What is the date on which notice of this question was given ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I have not got the date here with me. But I believe it is an old question.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Government could have called for the information.

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I have given the reasons for not doing so. I have also stated that if the honourable member is interested he can look up the answer given to question 8888<sup>1</sup>.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Have all the departments of Government gone to sleep because of the war or have they ceased functioning ?

#### DETAINED OR IMPRISONED M.L.As.

**\*8913. Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) for how long the M.L.As., Punjab, detained or imprisoned at present in the province were not allowed any interviews with their relatives and friends ;

(b) the reasons for not allowing the said interviews ;

(c) whether permission for correspondence was also withheld in their case for any period of time ; if so, the reasons therefor ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Mir Maqbool Mahmood) :** (a) and (b) : The honourable member is presumably referring to civil disobedience (M. L. A.) detenus confined in the Punjab Jails. They have since been permitted to have interviews.

(c) The honourable member is presumably referring to correspondence addressed to civil disobedience (M. L. A.) detenus from the Assembly office. This has since been allowed to be delivered to them in jail.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** The question asked is whether the Government disallowed any interviews with the relatives and friends of the M. L. As.—never mind whether they were detained as civil disobedience prisoners or were detained under the Defence of India Rules.

**Parliamentary Secretary :** The honourable member perhaps knows that the security prisoners have always been allowed interviews under prescribed conditions but in the beginning there was total prohibition with regard to interviews with civil disobedience prisoners. This also has been relaxed since and they are now allowed a certain number of interviews.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** The answer to part (b) of the question has not been given. What were the reasons for not allowing the interviews ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** They are allowed interviews now, but when they were not allowed, it was then in public interest. We pursued the policy laid down by the Government of India.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** With respect to part (c) I want to ask the Parliamentary Secretary whether these detained M. L. As. are allowed to correspond with the Assembly office inasmuch as they are required to do their duty by sending questions and other notices. Are they allowed that ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** They can receive four letters and they can write two letters.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** I am asking with respect to the Assembly correspondence.

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

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Is the notice not there ? The word ' correspondence ' includes Assembly correspondence.

**Parliamentary Secretary :** The honourable member cannot put a general question and get a reply relating to a specific point. If he gives notice of a specific question we will look into it.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** The Parliamentary Secretary has said—that in the matter of release or non-release of political prisoners they are governed by the All-India policy. May I know what are the other subjects in which they are governed by the All-India policy ?

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Mr. Speaker, I want to draw your attention to the fact that my question is with respect to correspondence. I want to ask whether these detenus are allowed correspondence with respect to the Assembly business. Can the Government evade this question by saying that a new notice is required while the notice is there ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I have already said that I want notice.

**Mr. Speaker :** But the honourable member says that the notice is already there.

**Parliamentary Secretary :** He now asks whether they are allowed to send questions to the Assembly. That is a specific question about which I want notice.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** Correspondence includes Assembly correspondence. I do not know why my honourable friend makes a distinction.

**Premier :** He makes this distinction so that the honourable member may give fresh notice.

#### SECURITY PRISONERS IN AMBALA JAIL

**\*8919. Sardar Teja Singh Swatantar :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) the number of security prisoners detained at present under the Defence of India Rules in the District Jail, Ambala ;

(b) the number of security prisoners among the above admitted to the jail hospital in the month of September 1943 ;

(c) whether any of them are still confined to their sick beds ; if so, the state of their health ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Mir Maqbool Mahmood) :** It is regretted that the information asked for by the honourable member is not readily available in headquarter offices in Lahore ; and in the present conditions created by the War, it is very difficult to undertake to secure it by enquiries from out-stations, as this would impose a burden on the already over-worked officers as also involve consumption of paper that would be incommensurate with the results to be achieved.

#### MUFTI MUHAMMAD NAEEM

**\*8920. Sardar Teja Singh Swatantar :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) the date on which one Maulvi Mufti Muhammad Naeem of Ludhiana fell ill in the Ambala District Jail ;

(b) the date or dates on which he was medically examined stating the results of the diagnosis ;

(c) the date on which his blood was tested ;

(d) the date on which the analysis of the blood test was sent back to the Ambala District Jail ;

(e) the present state of his health ;

(f) his weight on entering the jail and his weight on the 15th October 1943 ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Mir Maqbool Mahmood) :** (a) 21st August 1943.

(b) On different dates since 21st August 1943. He was admitted into the jail hospital on 28th August 1943. His main trouble was fever, his temperature ranging between 98° F to 100° F.

(c) and (d) The exact dates are not available but his blood was sent to the Provincial Bacteriologist sometime in September and the result was received sometime in November/December 1943.

(e) Satisfactory.

[Mir Maqbool Mahmood]

(f) 189 lbs. on entry. 129 lbs. on 31st October 1943 which has since increased to 140 lbs. on 24th January 1944.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** Is he still in the jail hospital ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** He is still in the jail.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** Has not his release been considered from the humanitarian point of view ?

**Premier :** But his weight has increased.

**Parliamentary Secretary :** As the Honourable Premier has invited the honourable member's attention, that person has gained several pounds in weight since the date of his detention.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** In spite of the torture ?

**Premier :** Torture never adds to one's weight.

#### M. MUFTI MUHAMMAD NAEEM

\*8924. **Sardar Teja Singh Swatantar :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether Maulvi Zia-ul-Hassan, son of M. Mufti Muhammad Naeem, detained in the District Jail, Ambala, sent a reply-paid telegram in September 1943, to the Superintendent, District Jail, Ambala, inquiring about his father's health ;

(b) whether any reply was given by the Superintendent of the above-named jail to Maulvi Zia-ul-Hassan ; if so ; what ; if no reply was given, the reasons therefor ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Mir Maqbool Mahmood) :** (a) No. One such telegram was, however, received from " Rafiq Boot House, Ludhiana." This was not replied to as according to the rules such communications are only entertained in cases of serious illness.

(b) Does not arise.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Does the Parliamentary Secretary mean to say that no telegram was sent by Maulvi Zia-ul-Hassan ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** My information is that it was not received.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** Where did the Parliamentary Secretary get the information from ? From Ambala or from the headquarters ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** From Ambala.

#### DELHI PROVINCE DETENUS

\*8987. **Sardar Kapoor Singh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether he is aware of the fact that the detenus belonging to the Delhi Province, now detained in the Punjab Jails are not allowed to read the *Hindustan Times*, the *Daily Tej*, and the *Vir Arjuna* which are on the approved list of the Delhi administration and are allowed to the detenus in the Delhi District Jail ;

(b) whether it is a fact that Mr. Desh Bandhu Gupta applied for sanction to subscribe at his own cost some of the dailies mentioned in part (a) as well as certain other weeklies and monthlies but was permitted to get only the *Statesman*; if so, why out of the papers on the approved list of the Delhi Administration, only the *Statesman* was allowed?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Mir Maqbool Mahmood):** (a) Yes; these are not borne on the list of newspapers approved by Government for the use of prisoners confined in the Punjab Jails.

(b) (i) So far as Government is aware, no such application was received.

(ii) Does not arise.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan:** What are the circumstances which prevail with the Government for disallowing papers like *Hindustan Times*, *Daily Tej*, etc., in the jail?

**Parliamentary Secretary:** I do not think that this is a question which can be answered in reply to a supplementary question. It is a matter of policy which I submit cannot be dealt with in answer to a supplementary question.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma:** Is the Parliamentary Secretary aware whether any representation was made by Mr. Desh Bandhu with respect to the supply of papers?

**Parliamentary Secretary:** I have already answered that question.

#### STATEMENT BY DR. SAIF-UD-DIN KITCHELW

\*8988. **Sardar Kapoor Singh:** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state whether he is aware of the fact that a certain statement issued by Dr. Saif-ud-Din Kitchlew, a prominent Congress Leader of the Punjab, in the first week of August 1948, regarding the Congress policy with special reference to the 9th August, "Congress Leaders' Arrest Day" was not allowed by the Punjab Government to appear in the newspapers of the province, if so, the reasons therefor and whether he would be pleased to lay a copy of the orders passed in this connection on the table of the House?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Mir Maqbool Mahmood):** No orders were passed, but advice against publication was given by the Special Press Adviser when the statement was submitted to him, incidentally by a representative of an extra-provincial newspaper. It is not in the public interest to give reasons.

#### MR. DHARAMPAL

\*8989. **Sardar Kapoor Singh:** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether he is aware of the fact that Mr. Dharampal, a News Agent of Jullundur, has been in detention for the last 15 months;

(b) whether it is a fact that several representations have been made to the Government during the aforesaid period by his old father that his son may either be released or an adequate family allowance may be given to the family during the detention of his son; if so, with what result;

(c) whether the Government intends to release Mr. Dharampal; if so, when and if not, the reasons therefor?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Mir Maqbool Mahmood):** (a) Yes, he has been detained since October 1942.

[Mir Maqbool Mahmood]

(b) One representation for release for a period of fifteen days only was received and rejected. No representation was received about a request for family allowance.

(c) This depends on future events.

#### LALA PINDI DASS

\*9042. **Sardar Ajit Singh** : Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state the present state of health of Lala Pindi Dass a detenu, his present weight and his weight at the time of his admission to the jail as a detenu ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Mir Maqbool Mahmood)** : For the honourable member's information, civil disobedience detenu Pindi Dass was released on the 5th February 1944.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan** : The question is, what was his weight at the time he was released and what was his weight when he was admitted in jail ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** : I have not got figures of his weight at the time of his entry in jail and release, but the honourable member can see for himself how the detenu has fared.

#### LALA PANDI DASS

\*9057. **Sardar Ajit Singh** : Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether any representation from the family of Lala Pindi Dass, a Congress detenu in the Rawalpindi Central Jail, was received by the Punjab Government in September last to release him on parole on account of his wife's serious illness, if so, with what result ;

(b) whether it was also brought to the notice of the Government in the representation referred to above that there was no male member of the family of Lala Pindi Dass except himself to look after his ailing wife ; if so, the action taken in the matter ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Mir Maqbool Mahmood)** : (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

#### RELEASE ON PAROLE OF MR. PARBODH CHANDER

\*9058. **Sardar Ajit Singh** : Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether any representation from S. Ajit Singh, M.L.A., was received by him in November last, requesting that Mr. Parbodh Chander, M.A., a security prisoner in the Central Jail, Lahore, may be released on parole due to the serious illness of his wife, his own bad health and his children's sickness, if so, with what result ;

(b) whether it was also brought to his notice in the representation referred to above that there was no male member of the family of Mr. Parbodh Chander except himself to look after his family's health ; if so, the action taken in the matter ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Mir Maqbool Mahmood)** : (a) and (b) Yes ; the representation was duly considered and rejected.

**Sardar Ajit Singh :** Is it a fact that the Superintendent of Jail has recommended that the prisoner is medically unfit to be detained ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I am not aware of it.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** What was the reason for rejecting this request ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** On merits of the case and in public interest.

**Sardar Ajit Singh :** Is the Government now prepared to release Mr. Parbodh Chander ? Is it a fact that the Government has decided that he should be kept in the Mayo Hospital ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I am not aware of this fact. The honourable member might tell me what is his source of information.

**Sardar Santokh Singh :** Has the Parliamentary Secretary seen the representation sent to the Government ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I have not personally seen the representation but I understand that the representation was duly considered and rejected..

#### DEFENCE OF INDIA RULES DETENUS, BELONGING TO DELHI PROVINCE

**\*9068. Lala Bhagat Ram Choda :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) the number of persons belonging to Delhi Province, detained under Rule 26 of the Defence of India Rules in Punjab Jails on the 1st March 1944 ;

(b) whether it is a fact that the expenses incurred on these detenues are borne by the Delhi Administration ;

(c) whether it is a fact that almost all of them are kept in Camp Jail, Ferozepore, which was designed for the use of 'C' class prisoners ;

(d) whether it is a fact that there are no covered bathrooms there and all detenues kept there have to bathe in the open even in winter ;

(e) whether it is a fact that there are no purda walls in the latrines ;

(f) if the answer to (b), (c), (d) and (e) above be in the affirmative what action do the Government propose to take in the matter ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Mir Maqbool Mahmood) :** (a) 38.

(b) Yes.

(c) No. They are confined in the Annexe which is a part of the District Jail, Ferozepore, and was not constructed exclusively for the use of 'C' class prisoners.

(d) Yes ; but there is a regular bathing platform with four taps fixed thereon. A scheme for constructing 4 separate bath rooms is, however, under consideration at present.

(e) No.

(f) Does not arise.

#### CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE DETENUS AND CONVICTS

**\*9069. Lala Bhagat Ram Choda :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that civil disobedience movement detenues and convicts are handcuffed when transferred from one jail to another and even when sent to the Mayo or Dental Hospitals for treatment ;



[L. Bhagat Ram Choda]

(b) whether it is a fact that they are made to travel third class and are not allowed to travel in a higher class even at their own expense except when one is sick ;

(c) whether it is a fact that orders have recently been issued to make all transfers in prison vans and a big compartment capable of accommodating thirty prisoners is requisitioned even if one detenu or civil disobedience movement convict has to be transferred ;

(d) whether it is a fact that there are no proper sanitary arrangements in the prison vans and detenues and civil disobedience movement convicts have to put up with considerable inconvenience on that account ;

(e) whether Government intends to remove these grievances ; if not, why not ?

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

(b) The orders now are that except when prison vans are provided such prisoners are permitted to travel in a higher class provided they pay for it.

(c) Yes, when such vans are available.

(d) No.

(e) Does not arise.

#### CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE DETENUS AND CONVICTS

**\*9070. Lala Bhagat Ram Choda :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state whether it is a fact that civil disobedience movement convicts and civil disobedience movement detenues are given the same clothing as provided to the ordinary 'C' class convicts ; if so, whether Government intends to provide better class clothing to them ; if not, why not ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Mir Maqbool Mahmood) :** Civil disobedience detenues are permitted to wear their own clothes. Should, however, they be unwilling or unable to do so, they, like civil disobedience convicts, are provided with jail clothing on the scale prescribed for ordinary convicted prisoners. It is impossible to provide such prisoners with better clothing in view of the present difficulties in obtaining the necessary material.

#### PROFESSOR TILAK RAJ CHADDHA.

**\*9104. Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state whether Professor Tilak Raj Chaddha M.A. (of Rawalpindi), now a security prisoner, has been ailing for some time past, if so—

(a) the duration of his illness ;

(b) the disease he is suffering from ;

(c) the medical treatment allowed to him ;

(d) his weight (i) at the time of his arrest ; (ii) at present ;

(e) whether the Government propose to allow him to place himself under the treatment of private physicians of his own choice ; if not, why not ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Mir Maqbool Mahmood) :** (a) He has been ailing since June 1942.

(b) He is suffering from chronic cholecystitis.

(c) He was treated in the Jail Hospital both as an in-patient and out-patient with occasional relief and relapses. He is at present being treated in the Mayo Hospital.

(d) This information is not available.

(e) No. He is getting the necessary treatment in the Mayo Hospital.

**Sardar Ajit Singh :** Is the Government prepared to release him on parole?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I submit that it is a request for action and it does not arise out of my answer.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** May I know from the Parliamentary Secretary what are the difficulties in collecting the information with respect to part (d) of this question? I think the Government has so many weighing scales and hospitals have also got such scales.

**Parliamentary Secretary :** If the honourable member refers to the answer given to a previous question, he will know the difficulties.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** May I know whether he is aware of the jail rules with regard to regular weighing of all prisoners? Is he aware that they are regularly weighed under the jail rules?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** Presumably it is so. But the honourable member should know that these enquiries are not necessary because we get regular reports and in cases of serious illness the Government takes necessary action.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** I have given notice in part (d) whether this gentleman at the time of his arrest was weighed. Now, I want to ask whether the Parliamentary Secretary is aware of the fact that as soon as a person is put in prison he is weighed. What is the difficulty in the way of getting that information which is already there?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** This information has to be sought for specially from the place where he was weighed. We did not think it necessary, in public interest, to do so in this particular case.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** May I know whether it is not a fit case for release on medical ground? Has the Government considered that question?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** Yes.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** What was the result?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** It was not considered a fit case for release on merits.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** May I know whether the Parliamentary Secretary is evading this answer simply because the gentleman concerned is sufficiently reduced in weight?

**Mr. Speaker :** I disallow the question.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Does the Government deny that he is not reduced in weight?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I can assure the honourable member opposite that we did not make any enquiry in this regard, because it was not considered necessary to do so.

**SECURITY PRISONERS AND CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE MOVEMENT DETENUS  
IN MAYO HOSPITAL.**

**\*9105. Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) the ward where security prisoners and civil disobedience movement detenues of 1942 are kept when sent to Mayo Hospital, Lahore, for treatment ; and if they are kept in the private ward, who bears the expenses ;

(b) the ward where security prisoners were kept before August 1942 when sent to Mayo Hospital, Lahore, for treatment, and if they were kept in the private ward who bore the expenses ;

(c) whether any attendants are allowed to security prisoners and civil disobedience movement detenues of 1942 if they are kept in the general ward of the Mayo Hospital, Lahore, if not, why not ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Mir Maqbool Mahmood) :** (a) Security prisoners are kept in private wards (single quarter) at Government expense. Civil disobedience detenues are kept in the ordinary general ward. On request they are allowed private and family wards at their own expense.

(b) They were kept in private wards (single quarter) at Government expense.

(c) Attendants are allowed to such prisoners at Government expense if the medical authorities so advise.

**SERVANTS OF THE PEOPLE SOCIETY OFFICES.**

**\*9106. Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state :—

(a) the dates on which the Offices of the Servants of the People Society, situated at 2, Court Street, Lahore, were notified under the Indian Criminal Law Amendment Act ;

(b) the date on which that notification was cancelled ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Mir Maqbool Mahmood) :** (a) 28th of August 1942.

(b) 15th of December 1943.

**APPEALS OR APPLICATIONS FOR REVISION**

**\*9147. Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh :** With reference to Rule 14 of the Punjab Civil Services (Punishment and Appeal) Rules, will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) the normal period within which an appeal or application for revision should be forwarded by the head of an office to the appellate authority or orders withholding it passed thereon if no period has been fixed, the reasons therefor ;

(b) whether it is a fact that several cases have occurred wherein appeals or applications have neither been forwarded to the appellate authorities nor have the orders withholding them been passed by heads of offices for several months ;

(c) whether, in cases where such appeals are neither forwarded nor are the orders withholding them passed within a reasonable period it is permissible for the appellants or the applicants to submit their petitions direct to the appellate authorities ; if not, what action Government propose to take to prevent heads

of offices from taking no action on such applications and keeping them pending indefinitely ;

(d) the agency through which the appellate authorities should be informed that a certain appeal has been withheld by the head of an office ;

(e) whether it is permissible for an applicant to forward a copy of his petition direct to the appellate authority to enable the latter to call for the records of a particular appeal or an application ; if not, why not ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Mir Maqbool Mahmood):** (a) There can be no normal period as cases vary greatly in complexity.

(b) Government have no information, but if the honourable member will quote any such cases, they will be examined.

(c) and (e) There is no bar to such action.

(d) There is no obligation to inform the appellate authorities.

#### CONGRESS DETENUES AND POLITICAL PRISONERS

**\*9150. Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang:** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) the number of such Congressmen and other political prisoners as are confined in the various jails in the Punjab or elsewhere ;

(b) the number of those political prisoners who have been released but whose movements have been restricted to certain localities or area in the Punjab ;

(c) the number of those political prisoners who have been released but are required to report themselves daily or periodically to the local police stations in the province ;

(d) the number of those political prisoners in the province who have been released on parole for reasons of ill-health or on other grounds ;

(e) the number of those political prisoners and congressmen in the province who either applied themselves or whose relatives or friends applied in their behalf to release them on parole on the grounds of their own illness or the illness of their relatives but whose applications were rejected by the Government ;

(f) the names of those political prisoners and congressmen in the province who have been released and who have applied for permission to stay in Lahore for medical treatment and the action taken on their applications ;

(g) the names of those among the political prisoners or detenues referred to in (a) who were tried in a court of law and were convicted of any offence under the Indian Penal Code or any other law of the land ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Mir Maqbool Mahmood):** (a) On the 1st of March 1944 the figures were 157 security prisoners and 204 civil disobedience detenues plus 163 civil disobedience convicts.

(b) 155 under the same provisions of the law.

(c) 141.

(d) and (e) Exact figures are not available without an amount of research which would not be justified by the results to be obtained. The number of paroles granted, as will have been apparent from answers given in this House, was however considerable.

(f) Five have applied and permission has been given in all cases.

[Mir Maqbool Mahmood.]

(g) The number of those at present in jail who have been tried in a court of law is 168 as mentioned in part (a) of the question.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** With respect to part (b) of this question, may I know whether in this category there are any M. L. As. ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** Yes.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Is the Parliamentary Secretary aware that Sardar Hari Singh is one of them ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I am not sure of the details. If my honourable friend wants this information, he should give notice to that effect.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Are any restrictions put on the attendance of M. L. As. at this Assembly ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I submit that this question has already been answered more than once and further it does not arise out of my present answer.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** There is special notice asking whether any restrictions are put on M. L. As. I want to ask whether M. L. As. are restricted from coming to this Assembly.

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I have already stated that the releases are under usual restrictions. It is for the honourable member opposite, if he is very keen to know the details, to get in touch with the members concerned.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** The words 'usual restrictions' are a vague term. I want to ask whether they are allowed to attend the Assembly or not ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** There is no particular ban on their attending the Assembly in specific terms. But their release on medical grounds debars them from taking part in political activities and from attending meetings consisting of more than five persons ; except religious meetings. I have not got the exact form of restrictions with me at the moment.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Does my honourable friend take the responsibility for the truth of the fact that all the M. L. As., who are restricted in their villages, were released on grounds of health ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** It is not so. Some people have been released on grounds of health ; others, instead of being sent to jails, have been kept in their villages or restricted in particular areas.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** Was Lala Bhim Sen Sachar, the Leader of the Opposition, released for reasons of health ?

**Premier :** That information was given in reply to the first question in today's agenda.<sup>1</sup>

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** May I know whether Sardar Hari Singh was released on grounds of health ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I should like to have notice for that question.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Is Sardar Hari Singh allowed to come to this House ?

LATHI CHARGE ON THE PRESIDENTIAL PROCESSION OF HINDU MAHA SABHA

\*9151. **Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether he has seen the report made by the Enquiry Committee consisting of Bakhshi Sir Tek Chand, Retired Judge of the High Court of Judicature at Lahore, Rai Bahadur Ganga Ram Soni, Retired District and Sessions Judge and Rai Bahadur Badri Das, Advocate of Lahore, regarding the lathi charge made by the police on the Presidential procession of the Hindu Mahasabha on the 25th of December 1948 at Amritsar ;

(b) whether any explanations have been called from the District Magistrate, Superintendent of Police or any other Officer of the Amritsar district in connection with the findings of the said Enquiry Committee ;

(c) if so, whether he would be pleased to lay them on the table of the House ;

(d) what action the Government intend to take in the matter in view of the findings of the said Enquiry Committee ?

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

(b) No.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The attention of the honourable member is invited to the *communiqué* issued by the Punjab Government. No question of further action arises.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** May I know whether this *communiqué* was issued after securing information from the local authorities in Amritsar or without it ? Who supplied the information for that *communiqué* ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** The information was supplied by the local authorities.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** An explanation was then asked for. Why did you deny that ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I will not call it explanation. Information was called for and received on the basis of which the *communiqué* was issued. Government did not think it necessary to ask for any explanation.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** May I know whether the *communiqué* was exactly in accordance with the information received, or were any changes made while drafting the *communiqué* ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** The *communiqué* gave the purport of the information received.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** Is Government now aware that it was a tissue of lies ?

**Premier :** It does not add to the merits of a case to use strong language against people who are not here to defend themselves.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** I am sorry if it has offended my friend.

**Premier :** It does not offend me.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** If the words "tissue of lies" are too strong may I know what other words to use ? May I call it "bundle of untruths" ?

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Did the Parliamentary Secretary notice that on the day on which the *communiqué* issued by the Punjab Government

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appeared in the papers, there was altogether a different version appearing on behalf of the Central Government?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** There was no earlier *communiqué* by the Punjab Government : there was a *communiqué* by the local authorities.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** According to the Central Government lathi charge did take place.

**Premier :** I have not seen that *communiqué*.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** Did the Premier consult the Finance Minister before issuing this *communiqué*?

**Premier :** How does it arise?

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** It does ; because the Finance Minister made a statement long ago which would contradict the *communiqué*.

**Premier :** I have not been able to find this contradiction.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** Then God help the Honourable Premier.

**Premier :** Then God help both of us.

#### ENQUIRIES AGAINST GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

**\*9174. Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh :** With reference to Rule 14 (18) of the Punjab Civil Services (Appeal and Punishment) Rules, will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether an inquiry officer is empowered to disallow certain questions put to witnesses, if so, the nature of such questions ;

(b) whether the inquiry officer is empowered to refuse to record any answer given by witnesses ;

(c) whether the enquiry officer is empowered to limit the time for the cross-examination of a witness ;

(d) if the answer parts (a) to (c) be in the affirmative, what action the Government intends to take in the matter ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Mir Maqbool Mahmood) :** This question refers to the procedure to be adopted in the court of an Inquiry Officer. Such matters have to be decided by the presiding officer himself in accordance with the law and the rules, and his decision often involves consideration of certain points on their merits. The presiding officer's decision is subject to appeal. I do not, therefore, think it proper to give an answer which might be quoted as binding on such matters.

#### DEPARTMENTAL ENQUIRIES.

**\*9175. Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether the provisions of the Evidence Act and Criminal Procedure Code are applicable to departmental inquiries ;

(b) whether in departmental inquiries the documents produced in prosecution evidence can be claimed as privileged and their inspection refused to an accused person ;

(c) whether the production of any documents not labelled as secret or confidential which are required by the accused person can be withheld or privilege claimed in respect thereof ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Mir Maqbool Mahmood):** This question refers to the procedure to be adopted in the court of an Inquiry Officer. Such matters have to be decided by the presiding officer himself in accordance with the law and the rules, and his decision often involves consideration of certain points on their merits. The presiding officer's decision is subject to appeal. I do not, therefore, think it proper to give an answer which might be quoted as binding on such officers.

#### PATWARIS IN GURGAON DISTRICT.

**\*9095. Chaudhri Sumer Singh:** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) the names of all the patwaris confirmed or appointed in the Gurgaon district during the Settlement Operations ending on 30th November, 1948 and to state how many among them are statutory agriculturists and residents of the Gurgaon District together with the reasons for all such appointments ;

(b) how many of these patwaris are those who had been previously dismissed and the reasons for re-appointing them ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan):** (a) It is not customary to mention names in answer to questions. Out of 87 patwaris who were confirmed or appointed in the Gurgaon district, 77 were statutory agriculturists while 80 were residents of the district. Only seven patwaris were recruited from outside the district under paragraph 3-8 of the Punjab Land Records Manual.

(b) No dismissed patwari was re-employed.

#### BOUNDARY PILLARS IN GURGAON DISTRICT

**\*9117. Chaudhri Sumer Singh:** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) the quotations of each tender invited by the Settlement Officer, Gurgaon, to supply boundary pillars in the Gurgaon district and the reasons for not accepting the lowest tender in each case ;

(b) whether all the pillars mentioned in (a) have been fixed ; if not, the number and names of the villages where the work of fixing the pillars has not yet been finished and the reasons therefor ;

(c) whether the cost of these boundary pillars has been realized from the villagers concerned ; if so, the reasons therefor ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan):** (a) Two statements showing the required information are laid on the table. In all cases the lowest tender was accepted.

(b) Boundary pillars have not so far been fixed in the Gurgaon, Nuh and Palwal tahsils. Reports of the Tahsildars concerned are still awaited. Pillars have been fixed in the Rewari, Firozpur-Jhirka and Ballabgarh Tahsils.

(c) Yes, under section 108 of the Punjab Land Revenue Act, 1887.



*Details of tenders invited for supply of boundary pillars*

Serial No.	Name of Contractor	Quotation for supplying (rate per pillar) the boundary pillars	REMARKS
	<i>Ressari tahsil</i>	Rs. A. P.	
1	Lala Sham Lal Jain, Steel and Metal Stores, Delhi.	34 0 0	Lowest tender was accepted.
2	Chaudhri Budh Singh and Bashir-ud-Din ..	25 8 0	
3	Lala Chhuttan Lal, Gurgaon .. ..	24 4 0	
4	M. Siraj-ud-Din, Gurgaon .. ..	24 2 0	
5	M. Noor Muhammad, Gurgaon .. ..	24 0 0	
	<i>Nah tahsil</i>		
1	Lala Sham Lal Jain, Steel and Metal Stores, Delhi.	34 0 0	Lowest tender was accepted.
2	Lala Chhuttan Lal, Gurgaon .. ..	24 0 0	
3	M. Siraj-ud-Din, Gurgaon .. ..	24 0 0	
4	Chaudhri Budh Singh and Bashir-ud-Din ..	23 12 0	
	<i>Ferozpur-Jhirka tahsil</i>		
1	Lala Sham Lal Jain, Steel and Metal Stores, Delhi.	34 0 0	Lowest tender was accepted.
2	Chaudhri Budh Singh and Bashir-ud-Din ..	28 0 0	
3	Lala Chhuttan Lal, Gurgaon .. ..	26 8 0	
4	M. Yusuf Khan, Gurgaon .. ..	26 0 0	
5	M. Siraj-ud-Din, Gurgaon .. ..	25 12 0	
	<i>Palwal tahsil</i>		
1	Chaudhri Budh Singh and Bashir-ud-Din ..	26 0 0	Lowest tender was accepted.
2	Lala Chhuttan Lal, Gurgaon .. ..	23 4 0	
3	M. Siraj-ud-Din, Gurgaon .. ..	23 4 0	
4	M. Muhammad Said and Islam-ud Din, Gurgaon.	23 0 0	
	<i>Ballabgarh tahsil</i>		
1	Lala Sham Lal Jain, Steel and Metal Stores, Delhi.	34 0 0	

*Details of tenders invited for supply of boundary pillars—(conold.)*

Serial No.	Name of contractor	Quotation for supplying the boundary pillars	REMARKS
<i>Ballabgarh Tahsil—conold.</i>		Rs. A. P.	
2	Chaudhri Budh Singh and Bashir-ud-Din ..	24 0 0	Lowest tender was accepted.
3	M. Noor Muhammad, Gurgaon ..	23 8 0	
4	Lala Chhuttan Lal, Gurgaon ..	23 4 0	
5	M. Siraj-ud-Din, Gurgaon ..	23 4 0	
6	M. Yusuf Khan, Gurgaon ..	23 0 0	
<i>Gurgaon tahsil</i>			
1	M. Muhammad Said ..	24 4 0	Per pillar.

## DEARNESS ALLOWANCE FOR DISTRICT BOARD TEACHERS

**\*9054. Sardar Santokh Singh:** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state—

(a) the amount sanctioned by the Government as grant-in-aid to the District Boards in the Punjab for giving dearness allowance to their school staffs;

(b) whether any representation has been received by the Government, from non-government schools (private aided schools) asking for similar grant-in-aid towards their expenditure to enable them to give allowance to their teachers; if so, what action has been taken by the Government thereon; if no grant-in-aid has been sanctioned in this respect so far the reasons therefor?

**The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye:** (a) A sum of Rs. 19,43,400 has been sanctioned for payment to District Boards as grants for their expenditure on dearness allowance to the vernacular teachers in their employ incurred this year and the same amount has been provided for the purpose in the next year's budget. With regard to Anglo-Vernacular teachers, separate figures for District Board employees, it is regretted are not available, but a sum of Rs. 68,480 has been provided in the next year's budget for grants to local bodies (including District Boards) for dearness allowance to such teachers in their employ.

(b) (i) Yes. (ii) The matter is under consideration and the final decision has not so far been arrived at by Government.

## GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL AT PALWAL.

**\*9098. Chaudhri Sumer Singh:** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state whether his attention has been invited to the need for a girls' school at Palwal, district Gurgaon, if so, what action does he intend to take in the matter?

**The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye:** A Government Girls Anglo-Vernacular Middle School already exists at Palwal. The need to raise it to the high standard has not so far been established.

## MARKETING COMMITTEE, LAHORE.

**\*9049. Rai Bahadur Lala Gopal Das :** Will the Honourable Minister of Development be pleased to state—

(a) the total amount of fees collected under the Punjab Agricultural Markets Act by the Marketing Committee of Lahore so far ;

(b) the main items of expenditure so far incurred by the aforesaid Marketing Committee ;

(c) whether any facilities by way of shelter, sheds, etc., for those who bring their produce for sale in the markets of Lahore have been provided as required under the provisions of the Act ; if not, why not ;

(d) whether Government are aware that the growers who bring their produce for sale in Lahore are put to great inconvenience, due to lack of suitable accommodation for themselves and for their bullocks, especially in the winter months ; if so, the action Government intend to take in the matter ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Chaudhri Tikka Ram) :** (a) Rs. 35,384.

Rs.

(b) (1) Pay of Establishment .. .. .	14,004
(2) Cost of weights and measures .. .. .	976
(3) Cost of sanitation and providing comforts and facilities to the agriculturists .. .. .	1,385

(c) and (d) The Committee has allotted Rs. 1,000 annually for providing comforts and facilities such as shelter, shade, parking accommodation and water for persons, draught cattle and pack animals coming to the market and similar other purposes. The question of constructing permanent shelter and shade, etc., for the agriculturists and their animals coming to the market is also under the consideration of the Committee.

**Rai Bahadur Lala Gopal Das :** For what purpose is this amount of Rs. 1,385 going to be spent ? Is it for the building of houses or for providing living accommodation to those people ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** It is meant for sanitation and providing comforts and facilities to the agriculturists.

**Rai Bahadur Lala Gopal Das :** What are the comforts that are going to be provided ? As far as I know nothing has so far been done because those agriculturists who brought their produce to Lahore recently had to face good many difficulties on account of rains. They had to stand and wait while it was raining and there was no shelter.

## SLAUGHTER OF CATTLE

**\*9050. Rai Bahadur Lala Gopal Das :** Will the Honourable Minister of Development be pleased to state—

(a) the number of calves slaughtered in the Punjab during the year 1939-40 and 1942-43, respectively, and the number of cows, bullocks and buffaloes, slaughtered during the year 1942-43 ;

(b) whether Government have so far made any efforts to check the increasing slaughter of these animals in recent years ; if so, with what results ;

(c) whether Government are aware that the cattle wealth of the province is rapidly decreasing ; if so, what steps have Government taken to remedy the situation ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Chaudhri Tikka Ram):** (a) Information cannot be given as it is likely to be used by the enemy.

(b) and (c) Restrictions have recently been imposed against the slaughter of working bullocks in good health below the age of 10 years, pregnant cows and cows in milk. Instructions have also been issued that in all contracts for the supply of beef to the Army, a clause should be inserted to the effect that working cattle used for transportation will not be accepted and should not be tendered for inspection. A Live-Stock Officer is being appointed to advise Government on this subject and to initiate such measures as would increase the cattle wealth of the province.

**PERSONS CHALLANED FOR SELLING COMMODITIES AT PRICES HIGHER THAN  
THE CONTROL RATES**

**\*9129. Khan Mohammad Yusuf Khan:** Will the Honourable Minister of Development be pleased to state—

(a) the number of persons challaned in the province up to date for selling articles or commodities at prices higher than the control rates ever since their introduction;

(b) the number of persons who were convicted when challaned in this respect?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Chaudhri Tikka Ram):** (a) 2,048.

(b) 1,505.

**RATIONING OF FOOD STUFFS.**

**\*9152. Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang:** Will the Honourable Minister of Development be pleased to state—

(a) whether any scheme for the rationing of food-stuffs in the Punjab has been prepared by the Punjab Government, if so whether he would be pleased to place it on the table of the House;

(b) whether any scheme for the opening of Government or Co-operative shops has been prepared by the Punjab Government, if so whether he would be pleased to place it on the table of the House;

(c) whether he received any complaints regarding harassment or other difficulties experienced by retail cloth merchants of the province; if so, what action, if any, has been taken by the Government for their relief and the redress of their grievances?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Chaudhri Tikka Ram):** (a) The Punjab Government has decided to ration wheat and atta in the three towns of Lahore, Rawalpindi and Amritsar as soon as the necessary plans and organisation can be set up. Sugar is already rationed in those towns but will come under the main organisation when it is established.

Instructions are being drawn up and the local organisations set up. Certain preliminary orders in this connection were published in the Gazette of February 26th. To assist in the administration of rationing Government intends to appoint a Food Advisory Council for the province and Food Advisory Committees for rationed areas.

(b) Following consultations with the Government of India, it has been decided to open in Lahore and later in other places in the province, for the benefit of civilian Government servants, official shops on the lines of the Canteen Stores

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and Officers' shops run by the Army. Such shops are designed as a measure of relief to civilian Government servants, particularly to those who do not draw dearness allowance and also as a measure towards bringing down prices in the general market. They will supply tinned goods, toilet requisites, some medicinal preparations and other articles of household and personal use. These will be obtained on indent from the Canteen Stores Department and it is possible that the range of these supplies will later be extended to include other articles to be obtained from other sources. The scheme has not yet been completed in all its details but it is clear that some kind of identity card would be issued to all Government servants entitled to join this shop and the available supplies will be rationed.

(c) The introduction of various Cotton Cloth Control and Licensing Orders and also of the Anti-Hoarding and Profiteering Ordinance has entailed inevitably a certain amount of initial difficulty to cloth dealers in complying with their provisions. In a limited number of cases penal action has also had to be taken. Government has already taken certain steps to minimise all genuine difficulties and grievances and will continue to do so, but at the same time it is the intention to see that these orders are adequately enforced.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** With respect to part (a) of the question, may I know whether the membership of these committees will be restricted to officials only or will they include officials and non-officials?

**Minister of Development :** Officials and non-officials both.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** With respect to part (b) of the question, may I know whether similar facilities will be provided to ordinary civil population or only Government servants will be benefited.

**Minister :** For the present only for Government servants.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** So that practically there will be no rationing so far as the ordinary civil population is concerned?

**Minister :** We are now giving this scheme a trial only for the Government servants.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** When will the turn of ordinary population come?

**Minister :** It is very difficult to say.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** With respect to part (c) of the question, is the Honourable Minister aware that his colleague, the Finance Minister said in one of his speeches that if he were to open a shop under the present circumstances it would be impossible for him to carry it on; the difficulties placed in the way of merchants and shoopkeepers are so great?

**Minister :** That is a matter of opinion.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** Is the Honourable Minister aware of such a statement having been made by one of his colleagues?

**Minister :** I read it in the papers.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** And it is a matter of opinion to which the Honourable Minister attaches no importance. *(Laughter)*.

**Sardar Santokh Singh :** What action do the Government contemplate so that it becomes easier for the business community to carry on their trade?

**Minister :** Things have become much easier now; there was some difficulty in the beginning.

**Sardar Santokh Singh :** What steps, if any, have the Government taken to make things easier?

**Minister :** The number of complaints is much less.

**Sardar Santokh Singh :** Does the Honourable Minister draw his conclusion from that?

**Minister :** Yes.

**Mian Abdul Aziz :** Let the Honourable Minister come along with me and I will show him the difficulties existing even now.

**Minister :** I will really be glad to do so.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** Is the Government aware that these restrictions have led to great deal of bribery and corruption?

**Minister :** It is just possible; I do not deny that.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** But the Honourable Minister does not care.

**Minister :** We do care.

**Sardar Santokh Singh :** Have any complaints regarding bribery and corruption reached the Honourable Minister?

**Minister :** None so far.

#### DESI COTTON PRICES.

**\*9154. Sardar Santokh Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister of Development be pleased to state—

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that the price for desi cotton has fallen below the pre-war level;

(b) whether Government is also aware of the fact that the zamindars are not able to sell their crop for want of buyers;

(c) whether Government is aware of the fact that there are at present big stocks of desi cotton lying in the mandies awaiting sale;

(d) whether Government is aware of the fact that Japan was the principal buyer of the desi cotton in pre-war days;

(e) whether Government is aware of the fact that the Central Government stopped trading in "futures" of desi cotton, if so, what were its reactions upon the desi cotton market in the Punjab;

(f) whether Government is aware of the fact that after stopping "futures" trade in Bombay and Karachi the Central Government have again allowed trading in "futures" at these two centres under certain safeguards;

(g) whether the Punjab Government have made any recommendations to the Central Government for allowing trading in "futures" of desi cotton in the Punjab; if so, when and with what result; if not, why not;

(h) whether Government has made any effort so far to stabilize the price of desi cotton, if not, why not?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Chaudhri Tikka Ram) :** (a) The price of desi cotton has not fallen below the pre-war level. In fact it is selling at about double the price compared with the years 1936-37 to 1938-39.

(b) No. There are some difficulties on account of abnormal war conditions.

[Ch. Tikka Ram.]

(c) Yes.

(d) Yes.

(e) Yes. It had a depressing effect on the market.

(f) Yes. Trading in "futures" at Karachi was re-opened on Punjab Government representation.

(g) No. The matter is under the consideration of the Punjab Government. The Indian Exchange Limited, Amritsar, represented the matter to the Government of India and the Government of India have expressed their inability to re-open trading in "Futures" in markets other than those in which after careful consideration they have already done so as an experimental measure.

(h) Punjab Government have advised zamindars that food crops be grown as far as possible and American cotton should be given preference. No other special steps have been taken to stabilize prices.

**Sardar Santokh Singh :** With regard to answer to part (a) is the Parliamentary Secretary aware of the rate prevailing in Amritsar and the surrounding places?

**Minister of Development :** Our information is that the present rate is double the pre-war rate.

**Sardar Santokh Singh :** Is he aware that cotton is selling at Rs. 18 a maund, and even at that rate there are no buyers?

**Minister :** That is not my information.

**Sardar Santokh Singh :** Is the Honourable Minister aware that in Jullundur and Ludhiana cotton is selling at Rs. 18 a maund, and that there are no buyers?

**Minister :** That is not my information.

**Sardar Santokh Singh :** May I know wherefrom Government has got its information that cotton is selling at double the pre-war price?

**Minister :** Through market reports.

**Sardar Santokh Singh :** Is the Government prepared to disclose the names of the officers from whom it has got the information?

**Minister :** I have not said "officers", I have said "through market reports".

**Sardar Santokh Singh :** Am I to understand that the Government have not made any enquiry departmentally and that they are depending on the reports from outside?

**Minister :** We have made careful enquiries and that is the result of our enquiry.

**Sardar Santokh Singh :** Through officials or otherwise?

**Minister :** Official and otherwise.

**Sardar Santokh Singh :** And do they both agree that cotton is selling at double the pre-war rates?

**Minister :** That is our information.

**Sardar Santokh Singh :** With regard to part (e), may I ask whether in view of the refusal of the Government of India to permit "futures" trading in the Punjab, the Punjab Government will pursue this matter further with the

Central Government in view of the fact that in Bombay and Karachi this " futures " trading has been permitted ?

**Minister :** As far as other markets are concerned we are doing our best.

**Sardar Santokh Singh :** Do I understand that what the Punjab Government is doing for other provinces, it is not prepared to do for its own province ?

**Minister :** No, it depends upon the markets.

#### LICENCE FOR RUNNING OF BUSES IN CITY OF LAHORE CORPORATION AREA.

\*9153. **Sardar Santokh Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister of Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Punjab Government has under contemplation a proposal to grant a licence for the running of buses for the City of Lahore Corporation area ;

(b) if so, what procedure Government wish to follow in selecting the party or parties to whom this licence will be granted ;

(c) whether the Government intend to advertise their proposal in the Press and invite the public to submit their tenders, if not, the reasons therefor ?

**The Honourable Sardar Shaukat Hyat-Khan :** The authority to issue permits for the running of buses within the City of Lahore Corporation area is vested in the Regional Transport Authority, Lahore ; if that Authority contemplates the issue of fresh permits it will doubtless take such steps as it considers appropriate to make its intention known to the public.

**Sardar Santokh Singh :** Is any reference made by Government to that Authority ?

**Minister :** There is no need for Government to make any references.

**Rai Bahadur Lala Sohan Lal :** Is the Honourable Minister not consulted in this matter ?

**Minister :** Not officially.

#### ADJOURNMENT MOTIONS

**Mr. Speaker :** I have received notices for about 80 adjournment motions. Following the past practice I do not consider them to be in order because the General Discussion of the Budget begins to-day and the discussion and voting of various demands for grants will take place on six days. All matters which are sought to be raised by these adjournment motions can be discussed in the budget session. Therefore I cannot allow discussion of any adjournment motion.

#### PRIVILEGE MOTION

RESTRICTION ON CERTAIN M. L. AS ATTENDING THE ASSEMBLY

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma (Kangra West, General, Rural) :** Sir, I raised a privilege motion<sup>1</sup> the other day and you said you would give a ruling.

<sup>1</sup> Vide Appendix at page 362 *infra*.



[Pt. Bhagat Ram Sharma.]

With respect to that privilege motion, I want that you will be pleased to give the ruling to-day because it is very important inasmuch as it affects the fundamental rights of the members of this House.

**Mr. Speaker :** Will the honourable member quote any law or rule or refer to any convention or practice of this House showing that by restricting or preventing members of the Congress Party of the Punjab Legislative Assembly, who are on parole, from attending the meetings, any privilege has been breached ?

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** On Friday you were pleased to say that if it is proved that any one is obstructing any member from discharging his duties, then you will be pleased to give a ruling. Honourable members have duties to their constituencies. They are frustrated by Government or by police and therefore the motion should be allowed. No facts have been disclosed so far, and we want to enquire from Government what are those facts which justify the obstruction of members by Government from coming to the House.

**Mr. Speaker :** That is a question for the honourable members and the Government.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** You being the custodian of the rights of members, I appeal to you to allow us to discuss this matter.

**Mr. Speaker :** Will the honourable member please refer to any authority to show that anything done by Government in the province amounts to a breach of the privilege of the honourable members of the House ?

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** You will agree that every member has a right to be here and discharge his public duties without any hindrance being placed in his way.

**Mr. Speaker :** Unless the honourable member is prepared to point out any law or rule under which he considers that it is a breach of privilege on the part of the Government, I cannot allow the motion to be discussed.

**Mian Abdul Aziz :** You were pleased to make the same remark on Friday that each and every member has a right and now you have been pleased to repeat the same remark to-day. Then you will also remember that on Friday last the Honourable Premier and some of the members of the Unionist Party said that the Congress M. L. As. could not attend the Assembly meetings without the previous permission of the District Magistrate. We want to discuss that that is a privilege that has been infringed by the District Magistrate or by someone else.

**Mr. Speaker :** I have considered the question but have found no authority to support the contention that the action of the Government is a breach of privilege of honourable members.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** It does not require any authority. It is plain enough that every member has a right to discharge his duty in this Assembly.

3 p. m.

**Mr. Speaker :** Certainly ; but subject to the law in force.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** What are the laws under which honourable members of this House are prevented from attending the meetings ? The House is not aware of any.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** Suppose I am coming to the Assembly Chamber to attend the meeting and some one, may be a private individual or a police constable, catches hold of me outside the building and prevents me from

coming here. One of my colleagues in the Assembly sees this incident and comes here and complains that so and so while on the way to the Assembly to attend the meeting was taken hold of by a constable or some other person and therefore he is unable to be present here, will you be pleased to take action in that case or not? Or will you call upon the member who makes the complaint to quote some law on the point?

**Mr. Speaker :** I will certainly not interfere, unless I am satisfied that the law in force authorises me to do so.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** This complaint is nothing else but a request to you to make enquiries.

**Mr. Speaker :** That is the reason why I am asking the honourable member who has just spoken to quote the authority.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** That is what I am going to submit. We know that certain members of this House have been placed under restraint. The Leader of the Opposition made an application to the Chief Secretary or the Home Secretary, probably to the latter, to ascertain whether he could attend the meetings of the Assembly and he was told that he could not unless he obtained permission of the District Magistrate. My submission is that, so far as I am aware there is no law which requires a member of this Assembly to take the permission of the District Magistrate or any other authority in the province to attend the Assembly meetings. It therefore rests upon those who have promulgated such restrictions to point out that the restrictions imposed by them are legal or in conformity with the Government of India Act or some other law in force in this province. Let them quote some rule or authority which makes it obligatory for a member of this Assembly to obtain the permission of the District Magistrate before coming to this Chamber to take part in its proceedings. You have not been pleased so far to make enquiries of the Honourable Premier why such of the members as have been released, but not on grounds of health, are not allowed to attend the Assembly meetings and why they are being told that they should go to the District Magistrate and obtain his permission. To make the matter absolutely clear I would place the case of Lala Bhim Sen Sachar before the House. So far as I am aware he has been released not for reasons of health, whatever other reasons there may be. If that gentleman can be in Lahore and move about freely in Lahore, why in the name of goodness should he not come here and take part in the proceedings, he being a member of this House legally elected by his constituents? The Honourable Premier advanced a very curious argument the other day, I speak with all respect and appreciation of the tenderness of his feelings. He was pleased to say, well these gentlemen have been released on grounds of health, how can they come here? His argument was that if they were healthy enough to attend the meetings of the Assembly, they must be healthy enough to go back to jail. This was in fact his argument. My submission is that there are some people whose health is so broken that they cannot be kept in jail any longer, but whose health is not so broken as to prevent their attending the meetings of the Assembly. Take the case of Lala Duni Chand of Ambala. He has been allowed to come to Lahore for treatment. That means he is healthy enough to sit in a tonga or taxi to go to a hospital or to a physician. If that is the case, why can he not come and take his seat here also? What about Diwan Chaman Lall? The other day the Honourable Premier said in answer to a question—I see him every day, he is hale and hearty. If that is the case, why has he not been sent back to jail? or why has he not been allowed to come here and take part in the proceedings? If you cannot tolerate his taking part in the proceedings, what is there to prevent him from at least taking his seat

[Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang.]

here and watching the display of wisdom and statesmanship of the members of the Government of this province without himself speaking, if a word uttered by him is an anathema to Government? That is a point which has not been answered by Government. You ask me to quote the law. It is a patent fact that Sardar Hari Singh, Lala Bhim Sen Sachar and Lala Duni Chand are absent from this House and it is also a patent fact and not denied by anybody that there is a special reason for their absence from this House and that is, that they cannot come here without the permission of the District Magistrate and if they do come without that permission they are likely to be sent back to jail. The question is, under what law is this permission of the District Magistrate required? The normal presumption is that every member of the House should be present in the House, that he has the privilege of representing his constituency and therefore attending this Assembly and taking part in its proceedings. These are apparent presumptions and there must be some law to rebut those presumptions. In the absence of any such rebuttal of these patent presumptions, I think it is nothing but sheer injustice, an act of oppression and tyranny not to allow the members to attend this House. It is the Government that is called upon, and if you will not consider it impertinent on my part, it is your duty to call upon the Honourable Premier to explain the conduct of the Government, of which he is the head at present, in not permitting the members to be present here. The onus is not on the honourable member who has made this complaint but on the Honourable Premier. You will therefore do well to ask the Honourable Premier to place his case before the House.

**Parliamentary Secretary (Mir Maqbool Mahmood):** The position and duty of the Government is clear and they have to take necessary action—howsoever unpleasant—in public interest. The issue raised involves some of my best friends in this House but I cannot import my personal sentiments in considering the merits of the case. The position has already been stated that these gentlemen were released from the jail and have been restricted under definite conditions. This was a concession from their being detained in the jail and it did not carry with it the right to be free to attend to other work. Law is no respecter of persons.

**Sardar Santokh Singh:** Under what law? Your statement carries no authority.

**Mir Maqbool Mahmood:** The action taken by the Government is in the interests of law and order or under the Defence of India Rules. That being the position, the honourable member cannot claim any special privileges merely because a certain individual is a member of the Assembly. I am sure my honourable friend opposite does not plead that merely because a certain individual is a member of this Assembly, no action should be taken against him to prevent him from committing an offence or doing any act which may be prejudicial to public safety or the prosecution of war.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang:** Do you honestly believe that Lala Bhim Sen Sachar is doing something which is detrimental to the peace and law and order of this province, or even Diwan Chaman Lal?

**Mir Maqbool Mahmood:** I cannot give my personal views, but if I were free to do so I would have no hesitation in saying, it is a matter of great pain to me that my honourable friend, Lala Bhim Sen Sachar, should be in detention or should be involved in these circumstances. In fact if I had the requisite control over his politics and those of the Government he would be sitting

on the front treasury bench. I feel sorry also that my friend, Diwan Chaman Lall is involved. But when gentlemen, howsoever well-intentioned, lead a movement which has been declared unlawful they force the hands of those who are charged to maintain order.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** It is not a question of sentiment. May I request you, Sir, to call upon the Parliamentary Secretary to quote the law under which the permission of the District Magistrate is required?

**Mr. Speaker :** The honourable member has not quoted any.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** The privilege is already there. It is for the Government to quote the law under which this privilege has been withdrawn.

**Mir Maqbool Mahmood :** The position is clear. If an honourable member is detained, he is entitled as of right to attend the House. If the conditions of his restriction are relaxed in certain directions under definite conditions it is not for the member concerned or others to plead that because he has been given some facilities by the Government he should as of right be given further facilities against the conditions on which he is released from or kept out of Jail.

**Mian Muhammad Nurullah :** The Parliamentary Secretary has said that there were two considerations, one of them being the health of the detainees. I can assure him that if Lala Duni Chand were to come and sit here, he will get well.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** We expect assistance from you in this matter, because after all it is an infringement of the liberty of the subject, not of ordinary people but of members of this legislature, and you are the guardian of the liberties, rights and privileges of the members of this House. We look upto you to protect them and not to give any indulgence to those people who are transgressing the law and abusing their powers.

**Mr. Speaker :** Section 71 of the Government of India Act is quite clear It says—

(1) Subject to the provisions of this Act and to rules and standing orders regulating the procedure of the Legislature, there shall be freedom of speech in every Provincial Legislature, and no member of the Legislature shall be liable to any proceedings in any court in respect of anything said or any vote given by him in the Legislature or any committee thereof, and no person shall be so liable in respect of the publication by or under the authority of a Chamber of such a Legislature of any report, paper, votes or proceedings.

(2) In other respects the privileges of members of a Chamber of a Provincial Legislature shall be such as may from time to time be defined by Act of the Provincial Legislature, and, until so defined, shall be such as were immediately before the commencement of this Part of this Act enjoyed by members of the Legislative Council of the Province.

**Mian Abdul Aziz :** That goes in our favour.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** It means that they enjoy those privileges. After having read this you should call upon the Honourable Premier to say what he has to say against this section because this section is in favour of the members who are not allowed to come here.

**Mr. Speaker :** Part (1) of the section deals with freedom in the Chamber. Part (2) of the section deals with (a) privileges which can be defined and established by legislation. Part (ii) deals with privileges already existing.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** This is governed by part one of your ruling. This is a privilege which ought not to be created by this Chamber.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** You are now reading it backward. That is not the point. The point is that they will enjoy all the privileges unless they are restricted by some Act or other law.

**Mr. Speaker :** They will enjoy all the privileges which were in force before the Government of India Act, 1935, was passed.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** The question is, is that privilege to be created especially or does that privilege exist? When I become a member of this House I am at once clothed with the privilege of coming here and attending the Assembly session.

**Mr. Speaker :** Certainly, but subject to other laws of the land.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** Perfectly right, subject to those very laws which exist. According to those laws I have the privilege to come here. Have I not?

**Mr. Speaker :** Suppose a member of this House were to commit a murder—

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** Then I am prevented by a law which exists, but under the law I have the privilege, the privilege of coming here. Let us analyse the whole situation and take the whole matter step by step. Is it not a fact that ordinarily speaking unless there is something special, a member has the privilege of coming here and attending the Assembly? That cannot be contradicted. That is obvious. All right. Then what has happened to deprive these members of the privilege which exists? The Government is silent on the point. The Government does not tell us under what Act of this province, whether an Act which was in existence before the Government of India Act of 1935 came into force.—(Interruption.) That privilege was understood and implied in the very election of a member to this Assembly. You cannot say that it required an Act of the Government. When a member is elected, he has the right to attend. That goes with it.

**Mr. Speaker :** The position of the honourable member is that that privilege is presumed and assumed.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** Absolutely, because it is only the members who can come and attend here. That is obvious, presumed and assumed. That is fundamentally established, there will be no Assembly unless the members have the privilege of coming here. Tomorrow the Premier may put a constable with a rifle outside who may say that the Premier does not allow the members to come. Thus there will be an end of the Assembly, an end to our attendance and your attendance as well (laughter). Let them quote some law.

**Mr. Speaker :** The honourable member has not quoted any.

**Premier :** Sir, I have not been able to follow the whole discussion. The honourable members opposite have been trying to make out that there has been some breach of privilege. You have rightly said that no such privilege has been established. Ordinarily it is the privilege of a member to come here subject to the laws of the land, and if he has offended against the laws of the land, then he has got to be detained. The arguments of Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang were not relevant to the point. He compared it to "holding" someone from coming to this Chamber. If there is any unlawful detention of a person, then there are suitable remedies provided, but you cannot question it if a man is legally detained so that he may not endanger the security of the state. There are the laws of the land under which the executive Government has to see that law and order, peace and tranquillity is maintained in the province. The only privilege quoted is the privilege in connection with the speeches made here. There is

no other privilege which has been mentioned. The honourable members can make any sort of speeches here and they are immune from certain consequences. That is all.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Speech without attending the Assembly ?

**Premier :** The only privilege mentioned in the Government of India Act is that a member can make a speech here, and no other privilege has been cited. It is for you to rule whether there is any other privilege or not. I maintain that there is no such privilege, and that privilege too is subject to the laws of the land.

I made it plain that these members were allowed to come out of the jails because they were ill ; and they were put in jails because they had decided to follow the Congress Resolution of 8th August. It was as a result of that that they were put in jails. We found that they were ill and they were let out under certain conditions. These conditions are that they shall not take part in political or subversive meetings or movements. These are the conditions and it is for them to abide by them. If they want to come to this House, then they may take the course which has been stated in the Central Assembly by Lord Wavell. While they are out for medical treatment, they cannot take part in political and subversive movements or any political meetings. So, where is the privilege ? Privilege is subject to the laws of the land. Why is Doctor Sahib not detained ? Because he is not offending against the laws of the land. If I offend against laws of the land I shall also be treated alike.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** The Premier was kind enough to let me put some questions after he had finished. The reason he gave was that people whose freedom is a menace to public security are not allowed. Will he kindly answer whether a particular member of this Assembly, who is not a menace to public security if he is outside, becomes a menace to security of the province when he is here. This is one question. I hope the Honourable Premier has followed my question. Take the case of X, Y or Z. He is outside. Is he not a menace to security of the province when he is outside and does he become a menace to security of the province if he is inside this House ?

**Mir Maqbool Mahmood :** I beg to invite your attention to page 266 of May's Parliamentary Practice where it is stated as follows :—

A question of order in the House, or in a Committee thereof, cannot be treated as a matter of privilege ; and, as the privilege of freedom from arrest is limited to civil causes, and cannot be applied to arrest made on a criminal charge, or to enforce the administration of justice, the circumstances attending arrest or imprisonment for these causes cannot be brought before the House as a matter of privilege.

**Mian Abdul Aziz :** That is a different thing.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** I want the Honourable Premier to answer my question. We are not dealing with persons who are actually in jails. We are now dealing with persons who are outside the jails and even more with persons who were not released on grounds of health. If they are not a menace to the security of the province outside this House, how do they become a menace to the security if they sit here or there in this House ?

**Premier :** I presume that my honourable friend opposite is referring again to the question of breach of privilege. As a matter of fact this is not the only House where this question has arisen. This very question has also arisen in other provinces and even in the House of Commons. There is nothing new in it. The security of the State must be maintained and there must be some law for this purpose. We have got the Defence of India Rules under which

[Premier]

persons are being detained. My honourable friend's question was, 'how is it that persons who come out for treatment—'

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** Not for treatment. A gentleman is free outside to go from one end of the town to the other in a tonga or a taxi or any way he likes and *prima facie* and *ex hypothesi* he is not a menace to the security of the province. If he is not a menace outside, how does he become a menace to the security, on which so much emphasis was laid, as soon as he enters this Chamber?

**Premier :** You are only referring to the people who are out for treatment.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** Not for treatment.

**Premier :** Then what are they out for?

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** I am only trying to point out the hollowness of the position taken up by the Government. Will you kindly answer my question?

**Premier :** I was saying that it is not their physical movements that are a menace, but their taking part in politics and subversive activities. As long as a man gets himself treated and keeps quiet, it is all right, but as soon as he starts taking part in politics, then he offends against his restriction, and the choice is his.

**Mian Muhammad Nurullah :** Let him come here and meet his friends. He may not speak.

**Premier :** He is permitted to come out on certain conditions and he has to abide by those conditions. One of the conditions is that he should not take part in any political meeting or subversive movement. He has to observe that condition and if he does not observe it, he must take the consequences.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** Is this meeting here held for subversive purposes?

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Pandit Muni Lal Kalia sought the permission of the Deputy Commissioner, Ludhiana, for attending this Assembly on the 3rd March and he was permitted and was here outside this House. But as soon as he returned to Ludhiana, under the instructions of the present Ministry he was detained there. My submission is that the Honourable Premier and his Government are responsible for detaining people in their villages. Why was it done and under what law?

**Mr. Speaker :** This is not the question now before the House.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** Sir, you have not followed what my honourable friend has said. He has stated that Pandit Muni Lal Kalia was given the permission but the Government had it cancelled.

**Mr. Speaker :** Is it not altogether a different matter?

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** It makes no difference. Under what law was he detained?

**Mr. Speaker :** Why should we discuss a matter which is not relevant?

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** It is relevant in this way. It points out that the Government goes even against its own instructions. Pandit Muni Lal Kalia, if my honourable friend's information is correct, took permission of the District Magistrate for 15 days to attend this Assembly and his allegation is that it was cancelled at the instance of the Government here. It is a serious charge.

**Mr. Speaker :** The conduct of a Minister can certainly be discussed but only by a substantive motion.

**Mian Abdul Aziz :** Leave that point alone for the time being. The question which has been raised to-day is a very important question of breach of privilege. Up to this time it is admitted that they have not been released on parole on account of medical or health conditions. They have been given permission to come out of jails and they are allowed to remain within the Lahore Corporation limits. This House is within the Corporation limits. They are elected members and have a right to come and sit here. They have a right and privilege of speaking and discussing matters. Now the whole burden shifts on to the Government to show under what circumstances they are asking them to get the permission from deputy commissioners. Here in this House there are no political meetings or subversive motions. I have a right to attend, I am entitled to attend and I shall attend this Assembly. We want that Government should not place any restriction on them. Here it is a question which rests with you, Mr. Speaker, as the custodian of the House, to have this privilege exercised by the members. Up to this time not a single question has been replied and not a single quotation has been answered by Mir Maqbool Mahmood, although he made a vague effort to do so. As far as the Honourable Premier is concerned, I am sorry to say that up to this time he has not understood the question which is under discussion. Therefore, I submit now that it is for you, Mr. Speaker, to give a fair and just ruling on this point.

**Mr. Speaker :** The point under discussion is undoubtedly a difficult one, and there is no authority one way or the other. My humble opinion is, that there is no breach of privilege in regard to what has happened in the province.

**Dr. Shaikh Muhammad Alam :** What is your ruling?

**Mr. Speaker :** My ruling is that there is no breach of privilege : therefore we must proceed with the next business.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** Sir, may I ask one thing? Supposing a member, for example, Lala Bhim Sen Sachar, who is not here to-day, comes to-morrow—

**Dr. Shaikh Muhammad Alam :** Sir, do you allow a discussion after you have given your ruling?

**Mr. Speaker :** I cannot allow any further discussion. I have given my ruling.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** I am not questioning your ruling. I do not know why Dr. Alam is intervening. All I want to know from the Premier is if Lala Bhim Sen Sachar comes here to-morrow, who will prevent him from entering the House? That is what I want to know. Will it be your Sergeant-at-Arms, or a police constable or the Premier himself, because he should know whom he has to deal with.

**Dr. Shaikh Muhammad Alam :** Ask the Chair.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** I am asking the Chair as well as the Premier whether an Assembly officer, or the Premier or a police officer will arrest him, because he may take up the matter in a court of law.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** I want to ask the position of the Chair when we have no right to come to this House.

**Mr. Speaker :** No questions can be put to the Chair ; my ruling is final.



**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** I want to know whether I have a right to be here.

**Mr. Speaker :** I have given my ruling. I will not allow any further discussion.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** If you cannot allow any questions on such a fundamental issue I do not like to be here, if this is the attitude of the custodian of the rights and privileges of the House.

**Mr. Speaker :** I do not want to deprive anybody of his rights.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** May I ask the Government to arrest me also ?

**Sardar Santokh Singh :** Sir, with your permission I want to make a statement and it is this—

**Mr. Speaker :** What is it about ?

**Sardar Santokh Singh :** We want to withdraw.

**Mr. Speaker :** Honourable member can speak only on matters which are under the discussion of the House : he cannot make a statement.

**Sardar Santokh Singh :** Since all of us are withdrawing I think it will be in the fitness of things if I, as their leader, am allowed an opportunity to explain the position.

**Mr. Speaker :** I cannot allow any statement.

**Sardar Santokh Singh :** (*Interruptions*). As unnecessary restrictions are—

**Mr. Speaker :** Order, order, order.

**Sardar Santokh Singh :**—being imposed on the attendance of opposition members of the Assembly—

**Mr. Speaker :** Order, order, order.

**Sardar Santokh Singh :**—we as a protest are withdrawing from this House—

**Mr. Speaker :** Order, order, order.

**Sardar Santokh Singh :**—for the rest of the day.

**Mr. Speaker :** Order, order.

(*Accordingly the Opposition members walked out en bloc.*)

## STATEMENT LAID ON THE TABLE

### ACTION AGAINST CORRUPT OFFICIALS

**Secretary :** Annual statement showing action taken against corrupt officials in the Punjab during the period from the 1st April 1942 to 31st March 1948, is laid on the table.<sup>1</sup>

### LEAVE OF ABSENCE OF M. L. AS.

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

#### 1. Lala Deshbandhu Gupta writes—

Due to my detention under Rule 26 of the Defence of India Rules it is not possible for me to attend the Assembly sessions. I therefore request you to grant me leave of absence from the sessions of the Assembly for the duration of my detention.

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

**2. Sardar Chanan Singh writes—**

Due to my continued detention under Rule 26 of the Defence of India Rules I have now to request you to grant me leave of absence from the sessions of the Assembly for the duration of my detention.

**3. Chaudhri Kartar Singh writes—**

I am detained in jail under the Restriction and Detention Ordinance of 1944 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.

**4. Khan Bahadur Makhdum Syed Muhammad Hassan writes—**

To my extreme sorrow I am unable to attend the Assembly sessions this time. The cause is not far to seek. It is acute physical trouble that stands in my way from undertaking this long and tedious journey to Lahore. The fact can be verified from the medical certificate appended herewith. I shall feel highly obliged if this fact as regards my illness and consequent inability to attend the session is brought to the notice of the Honourable the Premier and the Honourable Speaker of the Assembly.

**5. Mr. Duni Chand writes—**

As my health does not allow me to attend the meetings of the Assembly, I beg to apply for permission of the Assembly for leave of absence for the current session as required under Clause II, sub-clause (1) of Chapter IV of the Punjab Constitutional Manual, 1938, Volume II containing the constitution and Rules of Procedure of the Legislative Assembly.

**6. Munshi Hari Lal writes—**

I am interned in Multan. I applied to the District Magistrate, Multan, for permission to attend the Assembly. I have received a reply in the following words:—

'I write to inform you that the permission applied for has been refused.'

I am thus unable to attend the Assembly and would request you and the Chamber to excuse and to permit my absence.

**7. Sardar Hari Singh writes—**

I beg leave of the House to absent myself from sittings in the current session of the Assembly, as the Government has not yet given me the permission to attend it.

Question is—

That permissions asked for be granted.

*The motion was carried.*

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### HOURS OF SITTING

**Premier :** Sir, I beg to move—

That on and from Tuesday, the 7th March 1944 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.

*The motion was carried.*

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### AMENDMENTS TO THE PUNJAB MOTOR VEHICLES RULES, 1940

**Minister for Public Works** (The Honourable Sirdar Shaukat Hyat-Khan): I beg to lay on the table<sup>1</sup> of the House a copy of the amendments to the Punjab Motor Vehicles Rules, 1940.

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### SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES (SECOND INSTALMENT), 1943-44

**Minister of Finance** (The Honourable Sir Manohar Lal): I beg to present the Supplementary Estimates (Second Instalment) for the year 1943-44. I have to intimate to the House that the demands made therein are made on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor.

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

**Begum Rashida Latif Baji :** Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that the opposition members have walked out, I suggest that the House be adjourned.

**Mr. Speaker :** Order, order. The House will now proceed to discuss the Budget generally. Do the honourable members wish that a time limit for speeches be fixed?

**Honourable Members :** Not to-day, Sir.

### BUDGET—GENERAL DISCUSSION

**Shaikh Sadiq Hassan** (Amritsar city, Muhammadan, Urban) (*Urdu*) : Sir, I would like to make a few observations regarding budget for year 1944-45. The budget estimates for the year 1936-37 amounted to 11 crores and now are Rs. 20 crores. The credit for it goes to all the departments of the Government in general and the Honourable Minister for Finance in particular whom I described two years ago as Raja Todar Mall since he is playing the same role which was played by Raja Todar Mall in the time of Akbar the Great. How true is the well-known Persian verse which sums up as follows :—

If a king takes one half of an egg unjustly, his soldiers will roast a thousand chickens.

The increase in the receipts has been mainly due to the honest dealings of the Ministers. Had it not been so, there would have been a heavy deficit and huge wastage of the public money and in all probability our receipts would have been much less. This year we hope to have a surplus of 2 crores and 71 lakhs. In my humble opinion this surplus may be utilised in improving the lot of the government employees. Their condition is miserable indeed. The Punjab Government is paying small dearness allowances to its employees up to the pay of Rs. 250 per mensem, but the cost of living has abnormally increased. It has become impossible for low-paid government servants to keep their body and soul together. The plight of the government servants even of those who draw Rs. 500 or so is also very bad.

I would like to make a few submissions with regard to the Police department. Complaints daily pour in against the Police department and the main cause of these complaints, in my opinion, is the low scale of grade. I ask, how can a subinspector of police pull on now-a-days with forty rupees a month? (*Finance Member* : Their pay has been increased). He gets Rs. 17½ per month as horse allowance. Whatever the revised grade of pay he gets, I still deem it very low and recommend its further enhancement. Government appoints men at low pay and vast powers are entrusted to them. Acceptance of bribes is the natural outcome of the poor conditions under which police officials are forced to live.

I recommend that increased dearness allowances should be given to the government employees, and in spending this amount of two crores and 71 lakhs the poor masses should not be ignored. There is no doubt that thousands of people have earned lakhs of rupees during this war but millions are worse off. An article worth one rupee now costs three rupees. How can a peon getting fifteen rupees per month make his both ends meet in these hard days? (*The Honourable Sir Manohar Lal* : They are getting eight and a half rupees per month as dearness allowance).

Anyhow something should be done to ameliorate the condition of the poor. Let charitable institutions like hospitals and poor houses be opened.

A few years back the Honourable Finance Minister admitted that it was the duty of the Government to encourage heavy industries, I mean machine making and metallurgical industries. The difference of opinion that existed between Stalin and Trotsky is well known. Stalin stood for total industrialisation and Trotsky's idea was to make the whole of Europe communist and for Russia to remain an agricultural state. Time has proved that Stalin was right. It is Stalin's Russia that has checked the German onslaught and but for this God knows what would have been the fate of the world. I do not want that all industries should be state owned but heavy industries must be nationalised and they must remain under state control.

I feel that there are certain industries which under all circumstances must be run by the State. If no control over these industries is exercised by the State, the result would be that industrialisation of our province would not benefit the public at large but only rich capitalists. I want to draw your attention to the fact that by effecting industrialisation in the province, Government should not allow the capitalists to make huge profits. It does not mean that capitalists should not be allowed to share the profits at all but what I mean to submit is this that other classes should not be ignored. It will not be out of place to mention here that I am in favour of the zamindars. During these days of warfare, zamindars are happy with their prosperity. But after the successful termination of war there will be a remarkable decrease in the prices of commodities. Under the circumstances if they do not at present find themselves interested in industrialisation, the result would be that at the end of the war the financial position of theirs would become insecure. In my opinion it is the bounden duty of the Government to award technical scholarships and afford training facilities to the children of zamindars with a view to enable them to work as managers and officers in big factories and mills. Now-a-days big factories and mills are being set up in Amritsar. In this connection I want to draw your attention to the fact that Government should not restrict the establishment of factories and mills in big cities only. I wish to point out that industries could be easily set up in small villages too which have got railway stations. For instance, textile industries in cotton areas could be easily set up in villages. If this is done, I am sure Government would be doing a great deal to benefit the rural population. Further, Government should utilise the industrial resources of the province efficiently and promptly. In this connection I wish my honourable friends sitting on the treasury benches to see for themselves the remarkable development which the Government of India have made in this direction. They would be surprised to see the promptitude and efficiency with which the Supply Department work in fulfilling the needs of the Central Government. The Government of our province could also adopt the same prompt and efficient measures with a view to accelerate the industrial progress in the province. But this could be done provided they put an end to red-tapism.

I wish to make some observations in regard to education. I offer my hearty congratulations to the Honourable Minister-in-charge on his having opened a new medical college at Amritsar. In my opinion in a largely populated province like the Punjab, one medical college is quite inadequate. So far as the need of doctors in this province is concerned, I wish to point out that Government by opening a new medical college, have done a great deal for the public welfare. But so far as the Tibbi-unani or in other words Tibi-Hindustani and Vedic systems are concerned, scant attention is paid to them. Inadequate facilities in the forms of grants, etc., are being afforded to such colleges as are imparting medical

[Sh. Sadiq Hassan.]

education on Unani and Vedic systems. Under such conditions it is not possible for the Vedic and Tibi-Hindustani colleges to produce efficient and expert doctors. Those who secure a first division in F. Sc. or B. Sc. are being admitted in the Medical College of the province, while third class matriculates get themselves admitted in these Vedic and Tibi-Hindustani colleges. It is time that Government should consider this matter and give suitable grants for improving their laboratories with a view to furthering the progress of this art which was at the height of its glory during the Mughal Emperors Jahangir and Shahjahan.

I am glad to hear about the establishment of new dispensaries and the appointment of lady doctors. There is no doubt about it that in our province there are ladies who do not wish to be examined except by a lady doctor.

Now I wish to make a few submissions about the Hydro-Electric Scheme, which is fortunately improving and the deficit of which is not so much as it used to be previously. It should not be forgotten that the future of industrialisation of our province depends entirely on the Hydro-Electric Scheme. If we wish to industrialise our province, we must not depend on the energy produced by coal imported into our province. We have already spent crores of rupees on this scheme and we must see it work successfully. It is in no way justifiable to depend on coal from other provinces with a view to furthering our industrial progress. It is a matter for gratification that we possess many capable and expert personalities, who I am sure, would not be discouraged by the failures they have met so far in this direction. Instances in this connection are not wanting. The example of the British is before us, who after facing various difficulties have succeeded in industrialising their country.

There is one point to which I wish to draw the attention of the honourable members in general and the Honourable Premier in particular, that is the safeguarding of the Holy Quran from sacrilege. This is a matter which concerns the Muslims alone, but I wish to add that the sacred books of other religions also be saved from desecration. It is really a pity that the sacred pages of the Holy Quran be used as wrappers for sugar and tobacco. In this connection I would request the Honourable Premier to make it a point to re-organise the committee which was set up previously. This committee should draft a bill with a view to saving the Holy Quran from desecration.

Also, I wish to make a few submissions in regard to political prisoners. In this connection I had a talk with the Home Secretary too and suggested the release of political prisoners who are not medically fit, I think that Government would loose nothing if they were released.

Now, Sir, a good deal of talk is going on all the world over about the post-war reconstruction. It would be quite in the fitness of things if I too say a word about it here. It goes without saying that millions of soldiers will be demobilised and disbanded after the war is over. A large number of persons who could not make their both ends meet have gone to the Army where they are drawing fat salaries. For instance, a Jamadar of sweepers of Amritsar has joined the Army and is now perhaps a Lieutenant or a Captain. Several such persons will return home after the cessation of hostilities. Our Government should take the time by the forelock and start the planning of post war reconstruction from just now. Otherwise it will be too late.

Whereas our Government is generally doing all it can to hold the scales of justice even between the different communities, I am afraid the Department of Supply is not upholding that general standard. I hope the Honourable Minister

of Development will try to redress the grievances of the Muslims by granting them their due share in the Department of Supply. Muslims are under-represented especially in the trade of Government controlled foods. Muslims expect justice to be done in their case as well as in the case of other communities, such as Hindu and Sikh zamindars.

Now that my time is up, I resume my seat although I had to say a lot of other important things. It was I who had suggested the time limit for each member and I do not want to violate that condition. Let other honourable members have their say.

**Begum Rashida Latif Baji** (Inner Lahore, Muslim Women) (*Urdu*): Mr. Speaker, since I have to make a few very important submissions, I will hasten to formally congratulate the Honourable Minister of Finance on presenting a surplus budget. [He is indeed lucky to have been gifted by God with such ability as helps him to deliver a brilliant budget speech which is enjoyed and appreciated by the House.

Sir, ration system is shortly to be introduced in Lahore and we would be well advised to make the necessary plans beforehand. To me three factors appear to be very important in this connection. First comes the co-operation of the public. Secondly, the quota of ration *per capita* is to be considered. Thirdly, we have to make sure that the administration is run efficiently. I will now discuss these items one by one in detail.

When ration system was introduced in Calcutta, the Government had committed the blunder of not caring for the co-operation of the public. The result was that the District Magistrate of Calcutta who was in charge of rationing in that city did not seek the co-operation of the public at all and rationing proved a failure there. Over against this, the ration system of Bombay has been very successful because the authorities had obtained the co-operation of the public and committees representing the people had been set up in different *muhallas*.

Similarly in Lahore a Central Food Committee is already functioning. Government should obtain its co-operation. This Food Committee is representing several lakhs of people who are taking interest in it. Government's co-operation with this Committee would mean the co-operation of several lakhs of persons. Besides, other committees representing each *muhalla* must be set up in connection with rationing, and Government should also seek the co-operation of the said Central Food Committee.

Now I come to efficient administration of rationing. It is commonly observed that depots are generally given to big and rich persons like the Khan Bahadurs, Rai Bahadurs, Sardar Bahadurs, honorary magistrates, *saildars*, *lam-bardars*, *sufedposhes*, *inamdars* and *jagirdars*. These big persons do not work themselves but pass on their duties to their servants and agents, and the latter do not feel the full responsibility in the matter. They usually say to illiterate and poor people who come to their depots for obtaining necessary supply: "Go away; your turn has gone with expiry of the due date". (*An Honourable member*: This does not happen in our villages). But I am talking of Lahore where such things happen every day. The agents of depots weigh less. (*An Honourable member*: Make a complaint against them). Who should complain? He, who complains, is himself subjected to further atrocities. The depots are generally in the hands of big influential people. How can the poor people complain against them? Even if they do make a complaint, no body listens to the cry of a poor person. The agents in charge of depots say to them "Go away; we are not the servants of your father, so that we should always keep waiting on you or weigh things again and again". In short in the depots under the control system several

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irregularities take place. On the one hand, the public has to face difficulties in obtaining supplies and, on the other hand, the rights of the shop-keepers are disregarded. Whenever kerosine oil, sugar or wheat is controlled, depots are not given to small shop-keepers and the trade of petty shop-keepers comes to a stand-still under the control system. They have to feed themselves and their children with the small income of their petty shops. They should be given depots, so that they may not be faced with starvation. They wholly depend on their sale-proceeds. The Central Food Committee is also of the opinion that depots of controlled articles should be given to petty shop-keepers, so that their only means of livelihood may not be stopped and the control system may also work well.

Moreover, no depot should be given more than 500 cards, otherwise the people will find it difficult to obtain supplies due to huge crowds. Besides, the depots for labourers should be near their places of labour, like the factories. It will facilitate their getting supplies. But such depots should not be under the control of the owners of factories, because in that case the factory owners will oppress the labourers whose food will be in their hands. This possibility of unauthorised tyranny should be removed. I would submit, Sir, that these methods must be adopted, so that the poor people may be able to obtain their supplies conveniently.

I will now come to the third important factor concerning the introduction of ration system. It is the quota of food that we have to consider in this connection. In Lahore the quota of food per head per week has been fixed at  $3\frac{1}{2}$  seers. But over against this, the quota of ration fixed in Bombay and Calcutta is more than this. It should be borne in mind that Punjab is the sword arm of India where warriors live. The inhabitants of this province are more industrious, more strong and possess bigger and better physique than the people of other provinces. They naturally require more food to maintain their bodies in good health. In Bombay a manual worker is given  $5\frac{1}{2}$  seers of food per week. A soldier gets in addition to other things  $22\frac{1}{2}$  seers of food per month. A labourer needs something more than that, because he has to undergo more hardship than anybody else. It goes without saying that a labourer who cannot get food to fill his stomach will not be able to work well as the Persian saying goes:—

کہ مزدور خوشدل اند کار بیش

(A contented labourer works well). Our labourers will not be able to work well in the absence of enough food. They will rather lose health and be rendered unfit to work hard. (Interruption). Sir, I have collected the necessary facts and figures and can quote them if the veracity of my statement is questioned. (Minister of Development: You are right). Then why does not the Honourable Minister come forward with the proper remedy and proper solution of the problem?

The rich can get so many other nice things that they do not feel the need of bread. As they can easily get cakes, pastry and butter in ample quantities, they take only a morsel or two of bread. Perhaps that is why they have not been able to judge precisely the quantity of bread needed for the poor.

Now we come to the point how children are treated in this rationing system. The children of the ages from 2 to 12 have been included, so far as rationing is concerned, in the definition of 'children' and the quantity of food prescribed for them is half that prescribed for grown up persons. It means that they will get half of three and a half seers, which comes to one seer and 12

*chhataks*. It should be remembered that that is for the children of the poor who eat at least four times a day on account of hard work and play. Moreover as they cannot afford nice things like sweets and fruits, they have to be satisfied with bread every time. Their breakfast, their lunch, their afternoon tea and their supper, all consist of bread only. Some times they take that bread with soup, sometimes with pickles and when they get nothing they eat it without anything. You can well imagine, Sir, that this quantity of one seer and 12 *chhataks* cannot be sufficient for them, especially when the children up to 12 are included in the definition of 'children', because these children generally eat more than a grown-up person. I do not know whether the Honourable Ministers do not keep any servants or they do not allow them to come near them. Otherwise they should have been informed of the reality. It was their duty to find out the conditions of the poor from here and there. In my opinion the quantity of food grains for a grown-up person should be four and a half seers, children from 2 to 8 years should get half of that, children from 8 to 12 should get full quantity of food and the labourers should get five and a half seers as they are getting in Bombay, etc.

**Finance Minister :** What did the honourable member say, in Bombay ?

**Begum Rashida Latif Baji :** Yes, in Bombay. I have collected every information. Sir, I was saying something about the quantity of food grains. Now I come to the question of wheat and flour. Some people like to purchase flour, but there are others who like to buy wheat, so that they may be able to get it cleaned under their own supervision and then may reduce it to flour. Therefore, it should be left to the public to choose whether one is to buy wheat or flour.

There is another point. Rationing is being introduced only to save the public from trouble. But if under this system they could get only so much food as could keep them on the verge of life and death, its effect will be only the reverse. There will be a general bad feeling among the public that Government does not allow them to take a square meal even.

Sir, do not look towards the clock again and again. I am the only woman in the House at this time, therefore I should be allowed more time for speech.

Now I come to the rights of women. It is long since we have been hearing about the Lahore Corporation inside and outside this House. But we were surprised to see that there was not a single seat for women in it. That caused great indignation among the women that half the population of Lahore has been rendered mute. Meetings were held and resolutions were passed to this effect. Now in the Government Gazette of the 18th February, it has been published that there will be two women members, one Muslim and the other non-Muslim, in the Corporation. But what I have not been able to understand is, why is there so much difference in the qualifications of a woman voter and a man voter ? For example, where a man who collects Rs. 2 per month as rent can be a voter, the condition for a woman voter is to collect Rs. 6 per month as rent. Similarly, where a man voter is required to possess immovable property worth Rs. 300, the condition imposed on a woman-voter is that she should possess immovable property worth Rs. 1,500. Similarly, any primary passed man can be a voter, but the condition for a woman voter is that she should have passed the middle examination. Similarly a man should be getting Rs. 20 as pay, but a woman should be getting Rs. 40 per month, a man should be paying Rs. 5 as land revenue, but a woman should be paying Rs. 10. Similarly, if any tenant pays Rs. 5 as land revenue he can become a voter, but his wife can become a voter only if she pays Rs. 10 as land revenue. Sir, the fact is that most of the women have been



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deprived of their right of voting. Men should think for themselves as to how much property they have given to their women. The Honourable Premier is not here, otherwise I would have said to him, "Sir, you who own property worth lakhs, tell me how much out of that have you given over to your wife in the strict legal sense?". How many zamindars are there in the Punjab who have given from their properties due shares to their wives and sisters? I introduced in this House a Shariat Bill with this purpose, but it was thrown out. You men are robbing the women of their rights. In a constitution drawn up by another nation our rights were upheld, but in the present case, when the law was enacted by our own countrymen, our rights were trodden upon. As regards the qualifications of a voter for the Punjab Legislative Assembly, if a man pays the fixed rent his wife too can be a voter; if a man is a voter on account of possessing fixed property, his wife too can be a voter on that account alone. But for the purposes of Corporation, which is called Local Self-Government the case is quite the reverse, although the duties entrusted to the Corporation are quite ordinary and of primary kind, for example, public health, primary education, fire extinguishing and supply of water, and in such affairs the opinion of women is more dependable because they know more about household affairs. They understand small household duties better. Sir, so far as the Assembly is concerned, women are given the right of voting in the election of men and women, but in the Corporation they have been deprived of their ordinary rights even. The Honourable Minister for Public Works is not here, otherwise I would have asked him, because he is young and seems to be so enthusiastic about women's reform, whether taking women out with him in fine dresses is the only reform of women that he can think of. Should they not be given their rights? The Honourable Ministers should see to it that our rights are taken care of, and the qualifications of a woman voter in the Corporation are the same as those for the Assembly. Women can become true representatives only if they are given all such rights. In the Assembly, besides contesting the seats reserved for women, a woman can contest any other seat. For example, our sister Shanno Devi succeeded against a man. We request that we should be given such rights in the Corporation as well.

Now, Sir, through you I draw the attention of the Honourable Ministers to the rights of a Muslim woman which have been given to her by God and His Holy Prophet. We request that we should be given all those rights which are bestowed upon us by the Muslim Law. It is the birth right of a Muslim woman to get half of what a man gets. But this God-made law has been replaced by the man-made customs in the Punjab. Here in the Punjab the laws of God and His Prophet are thrown in the background and the man-made customs are worshipped. I brought forward a Shariat Bill but it fell on deaf ears. I protest at the time of every Budget but no body cares.

The Honourable Premier is a Musalman and I am also a Musalman and as such I have a claim on him to say that he should see that the Bill referred to above is enacted into a law as soon as possible. Besides mostly the members of this House are Muslims and they have been elected to this House by Muslim voters. It is therefore imperative on them to see that this Bill is placed on the statute book as quickly as possible. All the Muslim members of this House are Muslim Leaguers as well. I ask, is it not their duty that before demanding their rights from others they should mete out just and fair treatment to their womenfolk and give their rights which Islamic law has given them? Let them inquire from Mr. Jinnah whether or not a measure to this effect should be enacted in the Punjab? I am sure he will certainly enjoin upon them to get the Shariat Bill

passed and enforced in this province I may point out that this Bill has nothing to do either with the Sikhs, Hindus, Christians or the Britishers. After all what objection can they have against it? It does not affect them at all. Our wealth, if divided according to Islamic law, will remain in our possession. So far the Muslims have been following the customary law. The result has been that brothers inherit the property of their father while their sisters do not get any share at all. It has come to mean that, on the one hand, a brother leads a princely life while, on the other hand, his sister works hard for getting even a bare living. How unfair it is? Before the commencement of the session I sent a letter to the Honorable Premier to the effect that he should get this Bill enacted into a law during this session. I sent a copy of it to the Honourable Speaker and I hope it reached him. But so far I have not received any reply. I appeal to Muslim members that they should not put any obstacles in the enactment of this measure. The late Sir Sikander Hyat-Khan used to say that he was prepared to get that Bill passed into law but that he was unable to do so because of the attitude of the Muslim members of his party who did not want the bill to be passed into law. I frankly tell them that after all one day they will have to appear before God and answer for their deeds in this world.

### کل نفس ذائقۃ الموت

Death is inevitable. Sooner or later everybody must die. What will they say to God that they did not allow the Shariat Bill to be passed and enforced in the Punjab? God certainly will not forgive this sin of theirs. It is therefore their duty to see that sooner the bill is passed the better.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, during the last session some honourable members assured me and they gave their names to me in writing that they were in favour of the enactment of this Bill. If now I meet them again I will get their signatures and submit them to the Honourable Premier.

Now I would like to say a few words in regard to industry. I admit that to some extent industries have been promoted in this province. But the speed at which the work is being done is not at all satisfactory. I think if the speed remains what it is at present, our province will remain in need of importing goods from foreign countries and other provinces. It will neither improve our economic condition nor will unemployment be removed from our province. After all, why is the surplus, which has been shown in the Budget, not expended for the promotion of industries in the province? Besides attention should be given to the manufacture of more and more of cloth in the province. In the rural areas people should be encouraged to manufacture cloth by means of *khadis* and in the urban areas textile mills should be opened, so that our province may at least be in a position to meet the needs of its own people.

Now I come to the manufacture of dyes in our province. There are a good many difficulties in the way of getting dyes. Their prices have risen very high. If anybody takes any cloth for printing purposes to any printer's shop, the latter charges 6 or 8 annas per yard for printing it. Because of the high prices of dyes, coloured cloth is selling at high prices. Then the coloured cloth available is not of fast colour. It is a general complaint against the cloth manufactured at Amritsar that its colour is not fast. If Government pay some attention to this matter and start an industry for the manufacture of dyes in the province, they cannot only supply dyes to the people of their own province but can export them as well. The opening of this industry will not require any large

[Begum Rashida Latif Baji.]

expense, as against that the income from it will be much greater. Besides it is very easy to manufacture *desi* colours. They can be prepared from different things which are available in the Punjab in large quantities. For instance, green colour can be prepared from *palak*. Yellow colour can be prepared from the flowers of *kesar*. Dark brown colour can be prepared from the skin of the *bikar* trees. Similarly other colours can be manufactured from other things. Before the outbreak of the war all these dyes were imported from Germany. Now as these colours are not available, consequently the dyers and other people are experiencing great difficulties in carrying on their business. It is therefore, the duty of the Government to pay attention to this matter.

There is only one industrial school for women in Lahore but no boarding house is attached to it. Some time ago I drew the attention of the Government to this matter and I tell them even now that a boarding house is needed for those girls who get admission into it from mofussil areas. It is not very difficult to provide a boarding house. Some rooms of the building in which the industrial school is situated can be converted into a boarding house. If Government pay some attention to this matter and open a boarding house, in that case those girls who come from mofussil areas can reside there and get the necessary industrial training. Besides, my submission is that girls after getting the necessary industrial training in schools opened for that purpose cannot get employment. I may inform the honourable members that only those girls come to these schools for industrial training who after their training want to earn something in order to be able to help their parents financially. But as they do not get employment, therefore they are in trouble. If they start any work on their own account, say, for example, that of a tailor, and go from house to house in search of work, people will contemptuously call them *darzans*, because this profession is considered to be low in the eyes of the people. They cannot tolerate that. Nor have they enough money to make articles and then sell them in the bazar. If they do that, in the first place, they will not get good prices and, secondly, if their articles remain unsold they will not be able to make others. The result is that in spite of the fact that they have the necessary industrial training, they are passing their lives with great difficulty. In these circumstances, if Government were to open branches in the Womens' Industrial School at Lahore as well as in industrial schools situated in other cities, where women trained in these schools and other women who know that work make things which should be sold to the public, that will not only benefit them, but Government would also stand to gain from this step. Besides new types of industrial training should be imparted to girls in these schools. They should not be taught knitting work only, but they should be taught new industries, such as printing and dyeing of cloth as is done at Shahdara. Women can be trained in these industries. Then they can be taught to make reels and *ghots*. Some women can be taught to manufacture *niwar*. If this industry is promoted in right earnest in this province, then the *niwar* manufactured here can be exported to other provinces as well. Again we import lace and *gota* from Delhi and Lucknow. Why should we not train our girls for making *gota* and lace? For the manufacture of all these articles, industries can be set up in this province. At present there is a lot of surplus money with Government. Why do they not spend it for promoting industries in our province?

Then there is another matter to which I want to draw the attention of the House. The honourable members are aware of the fact that in these days prices of articles have risen very high. As compared with incomes, expenses have increased ten-fold. It has become very difficult for people to make their both

ends meet. In particular teachers, whether they are male or female, find it very difficult to keep themselves alive. They have to keep their clothes clean. They have to keep a good house and they have to undergo a lot of expenditure for getting their children educated. It is in view of this that Government have granted dearness allowances to teachers working in government schools. But private institutions whose incomes are not sufficient, cannot show this magnanimity to their employees. Recently the Anjuman Hamayat-i-Islam sanctioned dearness allowance for teachers working in its schools. This sum amounted to Rs. 60,000. But the Anjuman did not have sufficient money for the purpose. Consequently it decided to stop the allowance. In this connection I may point out that I am the President of institutions for females while Nawab Muzaffar Khan is in charge of boys' institutions. Any way the teachers in all these institutions went on strike. For three or four days these institutions remained closed. I have asked the Anjuman to restore their dearness allowance. We received a letter from Honourable the Minister for Education to the effect that dearness allowance should be given to teachers. We thought that along with that Government would give us some financial assistance for that purpose. But I regret to point out that no such assistance has been given to us. I may point out to Mian Sahib that at present the Anjuman has not sufficient money to give to its teachers by way of dearness allowance. If he had instructed that body to give dearness allowance to its teachers, he should have rendered some financial assistance to it as well. If he is not in a position to grant Rs. 60,000 let him give at least Rs. 30,000. The financial position of the Anjuman is not very sound. It is the duty of Government to help the Anjuman to give dearness allowance to its teachers. I go further and say that if there are any other institutions which have not big trusts or large properties, Government should come forward and render assistance to them for giving dearness allowance to their teachers. After all these private institutions are rendering great help to Government. It is the duty of the Government to educate the people. They are helping the Government in this behalf. Government in gratitude should render financial assistance to them.

I hope that Government will duly consider those matters to which I have drawn their attention. If the honourable members read the debates of the Assembly, they will find that the suggestions which I made two years ago and which at that time Government did not accept, have been accepted now. For instance, two years ago I suggested that an industry for the manufacture of bicycles be started in the province. Let them read the Budget speech of the Honourable Sir Manohar Lal in which he has made a pointed reference to it. Similarly the honourable members opposed the introduction of rationing here so much so that they went to the length of passing a resolution to the effect which was sent to the Government of India. At the time I said that rationing should be introduced and I say even now that rationing is essential. But it should be managed properly. If Government and public co-operate with each other, then and then alone will it be successful. The Central Food Advisory Committee consists of influential people. It has representatives of Hindu Mahasabha as well as of the Muslim League. The Hindu Mahasabha is represented by Raja Narendra Nath and the Muslim League is represented by Nawabzada Rashid Ali. Many other influential people are co-operating with them. I am the President of that Committee and Mr. Romesh Chandra, its secretary. We are all prepared to co-operate with Government, to make rationing a success here. With these words I close my speech.

**Captain Sodhi Harnam Singh** (Ferozpur North, Sikh, Rural) (*Urdu*): Sir, the Punjab ministry in general and the Honourable Minister for Finance in particular deserve our congratulations for presenting such a thoroughly successful estimate of the Provincial receipts and expenditure. The Budget is a clear indication of the soundness of Punjab's finances. The mere fact that the provincial receipts have jumped from 11 crores to 20 crores of rupees goes to show the undivided attention paid by the Hon'ble Ministers to the welfare of the province. I hope the interest evinced by them in zealously furthering the interests of the people of this province, and especially the zamindars, will go on increasing, and they will try to do even more for the zamindars than they have so far been able to do. In this respect I have a few submissions to make and I hope that the Ministers will sympathetically consider them and take necessary action for safeguarding the interests of the zamindars.

At present the greatest need is hospitals. Although the Government has done and is doing a great deal in this respect, yet I am sorry to say that much remains to be done so far as the rural areas are concerned. Since the present Government came into office they launched a scheme of subsidised dispensaries with the intention of making medical aid available to the rural areas. It has no doubt done some good, but for certain reasons it has not proved to be quite as great a success as it deserved to be. One reason is that the amount of subsidy allowed to the doctor in charge, i.e., Rs. 50, is too inadequate to be an incentive for the young medical graduates to go and practise in rural areas. In these days when the army pays from Rs. 65 to Rs. 100 to ordinary matriculates, and even then is unable to get as many recruits as it requires and when the medical graduates get substantial salaries in the Indian Army, how can we expect that doctors would be forthcoming on a paltry sum of Rs. 50, especially when they incurred so much expenditure on equipping themselves with their medical degrees? This is why so many dispensaries remain ineffective for want of medical men. Again the amount allotted for purchasing medicines is also far from adequate. A sum of Rs. 300 is in no wise sufficient for equipping a dispensary cupboard. No wonder that with such a small sum at their disposal the men in charge of these dispensaries only dole out mixtures with sixty per cent. water. I, therefore, beg to submit that the Government should increase the subsidy making it more attractive for the medical graduates to come and start practice in villages. Moreover the grant for the purchase of medicines should be increased as well in order to make these dispensaries really beneficial for the rural people. The same is the case with veterinary hospitals. Although nine such hospitals are being opened this year, yet they are still far short of the number urgently needed to bring medical relief to the livestock of the rural population. It is a crying need of the zamindars, and quite a considerable number of these hospitals should be opened in the countryside. That such hospitals should be opened immediately is all the more imperative because the price of livestock has increased enormously. A draught bullock costs between Rs. 200 to 250 these days. However good the prices of agricultural produce may be the zamindar is not able to save enough, after defraying his numerous expenses, with which he could easily replace his draught animals in case of their death. In order to improve the condition of the livestock and to prevent the spread of epidemics, a chain of veterinary hospitals established throughout the rural areas is very essential. The scheme of outlying dispensaries started by the Government has had some success, but unless they are staffed with competent veterinary doctors and not merely with compounders they cannot make any headway in arresting the spread of disease among the livestock.

Then I have to make a few submissions in regard to the Hydro-electric scheme which was brought into being largely with the money paid by the zamindars into the provincial exchequer. So far the rural areas have not received any benefit from this scheme whereas the towns are getting all the energy produced by it. I, therefore, request the Government to decide that henceforward electrical energy will only be supplied to the rural areas and not to the urban areas.

Next, I want to say a few words in respect of the Education Department. The urban people are far more advanced in the matter of education than those residing in villages. So long as English is not taught in villages and the method of teaching is not revised the object of education will not be served. Ordinarily zamindars cannot afford to send their children to schools in towns. Those in villages are mostly vernacular middle schools and in a very few of them English is taught as an optional subject. I would submit that English should be made an optional subject in all the middle schools, and that high schools should be opened in villages, so that the zamindars may be able to educate their children easily and at less cost. The method of education should be such as to give necessary schooling in agriculture and handicraft along with general education and not merely make *babus* of the village boys.

At this juncture when prices of agricultural produce, such as wheat, gram, etc., are about to be fixed, it will not be out of place to remind the Government that before a price is fixed, other articles should be controlled. Although a department has been set up lately with this object in view, yet it has only had the effect of making those articles disappear altogether. Such articles can only be obtained through the black market at double the prices. A solution of this problem must be found before control is instituted on the agricultural produce. It should be the foremost duty of our Government to ensure supply of articles needed by the zamindars at reasonable prices. To impose control on agricultural produce and not to fix the rates of articles needed by the agriculturists would be doing injustice to them. Iron, an essential commodity for agricultural implements, is scarce and its price has risen from Rs. 7 or Rs. 8 a maund to over Rs. 100 a maund. The Government should make an effort to ensure its supply. Recently I learnt that the Government had made arrangements for procuring it, but when I wrote to the Hon'ble Premier, Hon'ble Ch. Sir Chhotu Ram and Sardar Baldev Singh I was told to correspond with the Director of Agriculture. He informed me that a reply had not been received from the Government of India, and that no arrangements could be made for supplying iron to the agriculturists. Now, iron is a commodity without which neither irrigation nor cultivation can be done. It is an essential agricultural necessity. The Government should, therefore, do everything in their power to make it available to the zamindars, so that they may continue to produce foodgrains for the rural as well as the urban population.

Supply of kerosene oil is totally inadequate. In cities people can make use of electricity and linseed oil, but in the country when people are watching or watering their fields, the use of kerosene is indispensable. It is strange that urbanites are getting kerosene oil more than the ruralites. There the people are prepared to pay one rupee per bottle but even then they cannot get it. As a matter of right the rural people should get more share than the urban people. I must make it clear that the rural people do not want kerosene for their domestic consumption, but they need it for their professional work.

The distribution of sugar is also unsatisfactory. Zamindars are advised by the authorities to use *shakar* and *gur*. Are the zamindars not human beings? Are they not entitled to all those amenities of life which urbanites are regularly

[Capt. Sodhi Harnam Singh.]

getting. Look at the injustice; urbanites are getting sugar at the rate of one to two seers per head every month, and rural people are being given only two to four chattaks per head every month. I want to bring this thing to the notice of Sir Chhotu Ram. My chaukidar, who is living in Ferozepore, is getting sugar at the rate of one seer per capita, and I am being allowed sugar at the rate of two chhataks per head per month. My chaukidar gets sugar eight times more than myself, because he lives in an urban area, and I live in a rural area. I am at a loss to understand this discrimination. The rural people, whose contribution to Government revenues amounts to 90 per cent, are not only helping the Government in this way, but are also enlisting their kith and kin in the army, and are thus doing a lot for the defence of their country. In spite of this, they are being treated so badly. If the supply of sugar is not adequate it can be supplemented by *shakar* and *gur*. As far as the distribution is concerned equality must be maintained.

The condition of village roads is very bad.\* It needs our immediate attention. On account of their bad condition much inconvenience is caused. It is very difficult for bullocks to pull heavy weights over these roads. Besides, the agriculturists are forced to incur heavy expenditure in bringing their products to the market. For want of adequate communications they remain more or less cut off from the cities. In order to secure good prices it is extremely essential that the condition of roads must be good. For administrative purposes good roads are almost a necessity. A network of good roads is really helpful for police to maintain law and order. I think this surplus should be spent on improving the condition of roads. Sir, with these words I resume my seat.

**Mian Abdul Rab** (Jullundur South, Muhammadan, Rural) (*Urdu*):

5 P.M. Sir, since the inauguration of Provincial Autonomy our Hon'ble Minister of Finance has been managing the Punjab finances with such prudence, foresight and success that he richly deserves our congratulations. Even his opponents have to admit his ability and that is why that they find themselves obliged to pay him tributes.

I had no mind to participate in the general discussion of the Budget, but I am obliged to draw the attention of the hon'ble members in general and the Hon'ble Minister of Education in particular to a serious case of carelessness and negligence. The Hon'ble Minister of Education would feel for himself that there has been a lapse on the part of the doctor. My hon'ble friend Sodhi Harnam Singh in the course of his speech urged the Government to increase the number of hospitals in the province on the ground that the number already existing is quite inadequate to provide medical facilities to the public. I wish to make an amendment and it is this that before increasing the number of hospitals, the doctors working in those already existing should be taught the elementary principles of humanity. The accident, I want to refer to, took place on the 20th of last month. The Inspector of Schools, Jullundur division, met with an accident while he was touring on a horse in the Hoshiarpur district. At a distance of about a furlong from Mukerian, the said Inspector of Schools had a fall from his horse and received serious injuries and as a consequence he remained unconscious for four days. While he was in a state of unconsciousness some one approached the doctor-in-charge of the hospital at Mukerian, who, I am given to understand, refused to see the patient on the ground that that day was a holiday. But when he was told that the patient was the Inspector of Schools, Jullundur division, and that he was a first grade gazetted officer, he as matter of favour agreed to send his compounder to attend him. Is this not a serious dereliction of duty on the

part of the doctor-in-charge of the said hospital? I wish to point out that the Hon'ble Minister should institute an enquiry on the unsympathetic and unjustified attitude of the doctor concerned, and if what I have stated is correct the doctor concerned should be severely punished, so that in future other doctors-in-charge of hospitals may take a lesson not to resort to such mal-practices. This is a matter which concerns all the hon'ble members in this House. If he is found negligent he should be prosecuted in a criminal court of law besides being subjected to departmental action.

The next thing which has been agitating the mind of the public is the case regarding the Lahore Electric Supply Company. I had verbally requested my hon'ble friends sitting on the treasury benches to institute enquiries to find out the actual person who intentionally delayed till the last moment the notice to be served by the Government on the company. The responsibility of delaying the matters entirely rests on him. The case is still pending in the High Court. I urge upon the Government to institute enquiries into the matter and thus bring the real culprit to book, or at least let the public know who was responsible for all this.

I wish to make a few observations in connection with the Land Alienation Act. Amendments to this Act are being made from time to time with a view to prevent the non-agriculturists from purchasing any agricultural land. But on the other hand Government is nullifying the provisions of this Act by offering to sell crown lands in the colonies by open auction. I wish to point out that it is the non-agriculturists alone who can offer the highest price at the open auctions. Poor agriculturists cannot compete with them. In my opinion it is the bounden duty of the Government to safeguard the interests of the agriculturists by saving the agricultural land from going into the hands of the non-agriculturists. I make bold to submit that non-agriculturists should not be given any opportunity to make offers at the time of the sale of Crown lands in colonies.

I understand that now-a-days labour is being imported into our province and no attention is paid to the labour available here. It is really no use importing labour from other provinces when it is readily available in the Province at cheap rates. The first and foremost thing which the Government should do in this direction is to see that so long as men in our own Province are available, no labour is imported from outside.

In the end I beg to submit that in spite of the fact that Government have opened an irrigation circle in the Julundur district, the difficulties regarding water level continue to be the same. Nothing substantial has so far been done by the department. Very recently one Superintending Engineer visited the district. He, I understand, has suggested the construction of a *bund* in a "Bein" which passes through some parts of the district. Let me tell him that it is absolutely no use constructing *bunds* wherefrom the water comes to be stored in the "Bein" I suggest that unless Government spend some money and do something substantial in this direction, the difficulties of the people regarding water level would continue to be the same. It is no use wasting public money on the construction of *bunds* but the Government should do something substantial to remove these difficulties once for all. Before resuming my seat I wish to congratulate the Hon'ble Finance Minister once again on his great achievement in connection with the Budget now before the House.

**Khan Sahib Raja Fateh Khan (Rawalpindi East, Muhammadan Rural)**  
(Urdu): Sir, I have risen to make a few observations in regard to the Budget under discussion by the House. To start with, I should like to submit that this



[K. S. Raja Fateh Khan.]

year's budget has broken the previous record, for which the Honourable Finance Minister deserves credit. Now-a-days when the whole world is affected by exceptional circumstances created by war, among all the provinces in India, the province of the Punjab has played a strikingly successful part in producing a surplus Budget which is an indication of prosperity.

So far as the Budget of our province is concerned, I wish to point out that I do not intend entering into any minute details. In my opinion the first and foremost thing which Government should do is that with a view to ameliorating the condition of the people of our province, it should be the guiding principle of the Government to show preferential treatment while allotting funds in different directions. Government should keep in view those martial classes of our province, who are fighting abroad for the safety and freedom of the country. They are fighting against Germany and Japan, the two great enemies of the Allies, or, in other words, the staunch enemies of democracy and world freedom.

His Excellency Lord Wavell has recently declared in his speech before the joint meeting of the Central Assembly and the Council of State that if the Indians had done their duty in the defence of the country and the Empire, they would have attained their independence long ago. The second thing said by His Excellency was that in future blessings of the Government would be given to each province in proportion to its war effort. The measure of war effort of the provinces will be the measure of their due share in the concessions and grants from the Government. Taking this second principle, I would submit that Rawalpindi division has given one lakh recruits in the present war (*hear, hear*). From this point of view the record of the Rawalpindi division is really unique. Just as the Punjab is the sword arm of India, Rawalpindi is the sword arm of the Punjab (*cheers*). Now it equally behoves the Government to remember at the time of granting lands and other grants that those who have rendered outstanding services in the war do get their proportionate share as His Excellency the Viceroy of India has promised to do. The right of the Rawalpindi division has been established by its outstanding services to the Government. It has given, as I have said before, one lakh of soldiers and officers to the Army. My division has acted on the maxim, "First deserve and then desire." I think my division has deserved and it has the right to desire now what the viceroy has promised.

My second point is with regard to the forests. The Government says that if forests are not maintained, the hill torrents will come down in wild fury and spoil the fertile lands below. Moreover, if the forests are not there, the rivers would not get regular supply of water. We quite concede the principle. But let us also consider that the people who make sacrifices in order to grow forests in their lands, ought to be compensated. The Government should not rob Peter to pay Paul. We suffer and the people of Lyallpur and Montgomery thrive. Our lands are denied crops, and the lands of Lyallpur and Montgomery get canal water to be turned into smiling gardens. That is not fair. Let the Government compensate us for the sacrifices that we make in connection with the forests.

Before resuming my seat, I want to remind the House once again of the declaration of His Excellency the Viceroy. The Punjab Government should recognise the outstanding right of the Rawalpindi division while distributing the various grants of lands and other concessions to the zamindars of the province.

**Chaudhri Ali Akbar** (Gurdaspur East, Muhammadan, Rural) (*Urdu*): Sir, I am surprised to learn that while in some quarters sweetmeats are being

distributed to encourage recruitment, in other parts of this very province those people are being subjected to atrocities who have offered their kith and kin in the war effort. This contradictory treatment is beyond my comprehension. I am pained to see that no one comes to the rescue of those who are helping in the recruitment campaign. Even Government is subjecting them to atrocities. Take, for example, the case of Sardar Labh Singh who is a *zaildar* of my district. His sad story is that he has given four out of his five sons (the fifth was a minor) to the army. The Deputy Commissioner of the district has rewarded him for his meritorious services by dismissing him from *zaildarship*. The details of this short statement are these. A theft was committed in a village of his Police Station area which was termed as a dacoity by the police. As the village of this *zaildar* was seven miles distant from the spot of theft and was situated between the river Beas and the Chakki, he could not reach the scene of occurrence at once. In addition to this, two of his sons were on the battle front. On the 6th of that month news had reached him that the war had become intense. The mother of these soldiers heard this unfortunate news and became senseless on account of sorrow. In short her illness grew from bad to worse and she died on the 12th of that month. Due to this calamity the *zaildar* could not join the investigation proceedings of the police concerning the theft case mentioned above. One backbiter who used to help the Sub-Inspector of Police in taking bribe complained against the *zaildar* to the Sub-Inspector who made out a case against the *zaildar*. The Deputy Commissioner dismissed him from *zaildarship* ignoring his war services altogether. He had offered four sons to the army besides 40 recruits. He had served the Government as *zaildar* for the last 25 years. But mark, Sir, the reward of these outstanding services! He has been dismissed from *zaildarship* on the complaint of the police. His village was 6 or 7 miles away from the place where theft had been committed and his way was further barred by a river. In addition to this his two sons were on the battle front. This news caused the mother of those sons a deep grief and illness to which she ultimately succumbed on the 12th of that month. In these circumstances if the *zaildar* who had been serving the Government for the last 25 years could not reach the spot where police wanted him, his fault was not so great. But the Deputy Commissioner did not listen to his pleadings. I am, however, glad to note that the Commissioner has reinstated him on appeal and ordered him to give a *sarbrah* *zaildar* in his place. But the Deputy Commissioner has not appointed his nephew as *sarbrah*. His sons being in the war, only his nephews could be appointed as *sarbrah*. But the Deputy Commissioner has appointed a Muslim as *sarbrah* instead of a suitable Sikh in place of this Sikh *zaildar*. The person appointed *sarbrah* *zaildar* was the same man who had complained against the *zaildar* to the police and who is a helper of the police in bribery. The intention of this corrupt man from the very start was to get the real *zaildar* dismissed and succeed to *zaildari*. This is, Sir, the reward of long and brilliant service! The *zaildar* had given four sons in the war. How will any one now think of giving his one or two sons to the army when the fate of this *zaildar* who had given four sons has been so gloomy?

Now people say "what is the use of sending one's son as a soldier in the war, when the man who sent four of his sons in the war is being treated like this." It is such a wrong which should be rectified as early as possible. Even those culprits who are condemned to death are allowed to appeal for mercy. This *zaildar* should be re-instated as an act of mercy, if through no other consideration, or his nephew should be appointed "*sarbrah*" for him. I know him fully well. He lives at a distance of only 8 miles from me. This will encourage the public and the wrong impression on their minds will be removed. Now people say "what

[Ch. Ali Akbar.]

is the use of sending our sons in the war for Rs. 20 per month? Even coolies earn one rupee per day nowadays."

Now I come to another point. The present tahsildar of Shakargarh is bent upon opposing all the respectable persons of that place, who have given recruits in the war or who are helping the Government in connection with war. The fact is that this gentleman was a tahsildar in that place in 1937 as well. He took bribes in those days and was transferred from there on a complaint made against him by some respectable people of that place. Now he is again appointed there and is against those people. Perhaps the reason for his behaviour is that in case he again takes bribes and again a complaint is made against him, he may be able to say that they are his enemies.

I have already stated the story of Labh Singh, Zaildar. It appears from it that perhaps these Congressmen have also been put into jails without any fault.

**Mr. Speaker :** The hon'ble member should not repeat his argument.

**Chaudhri Ali Akbar :** There is a village Bhatoya in Gurdaspur district. The residents of that place intend to shift their graveyard to the other side of the Upper Bari Doab Canal. There is no bridge within three miles of that village. About two or three years ago it was decided to make a bridge on the canal for them, so that they may easily take their dead to the new graveyard, but action on that decision has been postponed on account of war. We do not know for how many years this war will continue. But the people of that village are in great difficulty with regard to their dead. They have no other graveyard. The estimate for that bridge is only 10 to 12 thousand rupees. The Government is spending millions and millions of rupees on this war, let this sum of 10 or 12 thousand more be also spent. That will not make much difference. I request the Government to write to the officer in charge of the Upper Bari Doab to get that bridge built and not postpone it till the end of war, because the people of that place are experiencing great difficulty in burying their dead.

Now I come to the Education Department. Zamindars and, as a matter of fact, Government servants also, spend all they possess on the education of their children. They are so fond of educating their children. But on the other side the policy of Government and that of the Education Department is becoming hard day by day. They are making the education more expensive every day. Does the Government want the people to starve in order to provide education to their children? We have so often requested the Government to open a college in Gurdaspur, because we have to send our children to Lahore for education. If the Government opens a college there it can pay for itself. I saw the Hon'ble Minister for Education in that connection and he told me that the mission is thinking of opening a college in Batala. But that cannot be of any use to the other side of Gurdaspur district, and this side of Gurdaspur is already educated. Amritsar is also quite near to Batala. Therefore my request is that a college should be opened in Gurdaspur proper for the benefit of Pathankot, Shakargarh and Gurdaspur. Moreover, Gurdaspur being a district, the children of Government servants appointed there can also get their education there. With these words I resume my seat.

**Chaudhri Ram Sarup** (Rohtak Central, General, Rural) (*Urdu*): Sir, I have gone through the Budget. Our thanks for this Budget are due only to the Hon'ble Minister for Finance and to no other member of the cabinet. I shall presently prove the truth of what I say. The duty of a Finance Minister is to keep his accounts correct and so far as that is concerned our Finance Minister has discharged his duty creditably. He has kept his accounts well. Not only that, he has shown a surplus budget. I do not mean that surplus budget is always creditable. Government is not to save money only. It must also spend that money for the benefit of the public. Where on one side it is the duty of a Government to save and collect as much money as it can, on the other side it should think out ways and means to spend that money as well. The Hon'ble Minister for Finance has said in his Budget speech that he had accepted all the new expenditures of his colleagues. That shows that he has done his duty, but the other Hon'ble Ministers have failed to find out new schemes for spending the money. Anyway he deserves our congratulations. But so far as the augmentation of the resources of the province, by further taxing the people or by other means, is concerned, the party in power has fully discharged its duty. In fact the members of the Unionist Party have fully co-operated with the Hon'ble Ministers for increasing the sources of the province to the extent that was possible for them to do under the present circumstances. Their efforts have been crowned with success and the budget has come out to be a surplus budget. Now when it had come to their knowledge that the budget would be a surplus budget it was their duty to have submitted new proposals in regard to their respective departments for ameliorating the hard lot of the poor. They should have remained in touch with the Honourable Finance Minister and should have submitted new proposals calculated to do good to the public. But they have not cared to think out any such plan. They have not given a moment's reflection to the fact that there is so much surplus money and that they should find out ways and means as to how best to spend it in order to do the greatest good to the largest number of people. If they have made vigorous efforts to increase the sources of the province, they should also have put forward new proposals for making the best use of the surplus money. It can be argued on behalf of Government that they have set apart so much money for the beneficent departments and that they have earmarked so much money for the Development and Peasants Welfare funds. We do not deny that. But my point is that we expected much more from the Government. We on our part have fully co-operated with the Government in order to provide more and more money to them. Now we do expect that the Government will come forward and do something for the poor people. The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram used to say while pointing out to the opposition with the motion of his hand that he wanted Rs. 5 crores and that when Rs. 5 crores would be realized he would be in a position to lighten the burden of the hard pressed zamindars. Now when Rs. 5 crores are within his grasp he has not taken any step to make good his promise. There is a surplus in the Budget of something like four crores of rupees including the Special Development and Peasants' Welfare funds. As the Honourable Finance Minister pointed out in his last year's Budget speech at the end of the year some surplus does come in as is apparent from the revised figures of receipts of last year now available. In view of this tradition we hope that another crore of rupees would be saved this year as well. Thus this sum would amount to 5 crores of rupees, exactly the sum asked for by the Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram. The money is now available and it is up to him to make good his promise and lighten the burden of the zamindars. If the promised relief is not given now, the peasant

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will say that the Honourable Minister simply held out promises but had no intention of honouring them. I do not say that the Honourable Minister is doing nothing to help the poor, but whatever he is doing he is doing in an indirect manner. He should do something which even an ordinary man should know that something has been done. In fact people do not attach any importance to any work the significance of which requires to be brought home to them by long explanations. Something should be done which people should understand without the help of any explanation. But so far no such step has been taken. It is therefore my suggestion that now when so much money has come into the coffers of Government they should take steps to remit the land revenue of smaller zamindars. This item is included in the programme of the Unionist Party and it is the duty of the Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram to take steps to lighten the burden of the poorer zamindars. He, however, does not see eye to eye with us on this point. He thinks that the way in which he is spending this money will give more benefit to the poorer zamindars than if it is expended by giving outright remissions in land revenue to smaller zamindars. As against that there are people who think that if the land revenue of those who pay Rs. 5 or less to Government is remitted that will be much better. Any way this is a matter of opinion. May be that the Honourable Minister is in the right. But my submission is that if we remit the land revenue of zamindars who pay Rs. 5 or less to Government, then we will not have to tell them that Government have done this or have done that for them. They will know it for themselves that Government have granted remission to them in land revenue. That thing will carry more weight with people than other proposals or schemes even though they may be more beneficial for them than this. The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram has been pleased to observe that there was no use of remitting the land revenue of smaller zamindars as the amount of relief granted would come to five or six annas per head. Granted. But after all the income *per capita* in India is very low. I do not know what it is exactly but it is very small. When the standard of income is such if relief is given according to that standard that will be regarded by zamindars as sufficient.

Besides another proposal had been put forward that land revenue should be realized according to sliding scale, but so far this proposal has not been given effect to. Just as income-tax is not levied below certain income, say for instance, Rs. 1,000, and above that limit income-tax varies according to incomes, similarly land revenue should be realized from the zamindars. It is very much regretted, however, that Government have not thought it fit to introduce this system in the matter of realization of land revenue. The sooner the sliding scale system is introduced the better it would be for the zamindars. No land revenue should be charged from zamindars whose income is less than Rs. 1,000, and above that land revenue should be realized according to sliding scale, i.e., it should increase with increase in income. If this system had been introduced that would have been much more reasonable than the method which is followed at present. One principle which the Unionist Party has laid down is that taxes should be levied on those people who have the capacity to pay. It is only fair that we should make the rich pay more than the poor. There are big landlords in the province who have never been to their estates which they own. They simply get the money which they put in their pockets. As against them there are zamindars who till their lands in the burning heat of the summer and in the biting cold of the winter. Yet the biggest landlords and the poorest of zamindars have to pay land revenue according to a uniform rate. In some cases the poor zamindars have to pay more. For instance, when the patwari or the Sub-Inspector of Police comes they have to spend money for

entertaining them. The rich zamindars have not to undergo any such expenditure. They simply put all the money that comes in their own pockets. They do not care as to how it is earned. It is therefore my suggestion that land revenue should be realized according to sliding scale system. Now Government cannot put forward this excuse that they have no money to introduce this system. They have ample money at their disposal and it is therefore their duty to introduce this system so that the bigger landlords should pay more and the smaller zamindars less to Government.

The next thing which I want to bring to the notice of the Government with regard to the uplift of the petty landholders is that they have to remain idle for about nine months in a year. So far nothing practical has been done to enable them to occupy themselves profitably during this period of idleness. In this respect also I have to thank the Honourable Minister of Finance for appointing a committee, on the lines suggested by me in the meeting of the Joint Development Board, to devise ways and means and to recommend suitable cottage industries with this object in view. I don't agree with my honourable friend Sheikh Sadiq Hasan, who has advocated the setting up of heavy industries by the Government, that they can help to bring prosperity to our people. Personally I believe that machines cannot benefit slave nations, although in free countries they have helped the people a lot. Heavy industries run by machinery require smaller number of men to work them, whereas in cottage industries almost all the people without any employment can earn their own living. I am therefore not in favour of industrializing the country to the detriment of the majority of its inhabitants. We can have these machines set up when our country is free from foreign domination. Only such schemes as are undertaken in accordance with the conditions prevailing in the country can fulfil their object. For this reason cottage industries should be encouraged and helped with money to the largest extent possible. Before I suggested the appointment of such a committee I was myself very doubtful whether the zamindar could turn cottage industries to any account, but ever since I paid a visit to Haiderabad in the Mianwali district and saw handlooms working side by side with the Persian wheel, I was convinced of the usefulness of cottage industries. It amazed me to know that from an ordinary village Haiderabad had become a trading centre. Before cottage industry was taken up, its residents used to go to Kohat and Peshawar for earning their livelihood, and now after the Government demonstration parties had taught the people to work on the handlooms traders from all over the province come to buy cloth and other products made by them. There is always cloth in stock with them and they are very well off now. I would request the Honourable Minister of Finance not to give any grants for industry to people in towns but to give the largest measure of help to encourage cottage industries in villages. I had made a similar request last year but to no purpose. The bigger the industrialist the larger will be the amount needed by him. If, however, the Government were to grant sums only to the extent of Rs. 500 or at the most a thousand rupees greater number of people will be benefited.

Now, Sir, I wish to say a word about the recommendation made by my honourable friend Sheikh Sadiq Hasan requesting the Government to enhance the salaries given to the low-paid staff of the Police Department. He also said that it will help in eradicating the evil of corruption. I beg to differ from this view. However much the pay of the police officials is increased, it cannot prevent them from accepting illegal gratification. Nor can I be convinced with the argument that all low-paid persons are as a rule corrupt. Even a *chaprasi* can be honest. It was at first believed that highly placed officers getting fat salaries were above

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board and no one ever imagined that they could be corrupt. But since the control on foodgrains was instituted it has been revealed that these highly paid officers are the worst offenders where corrupt practices are concerned. The only difference is that while those getting small salaries are satisfied with smaller sums, these highly paid officers demand lakhs by way of bribes. It cannot therefore be laid down as a general principle that all low-paid Government servants are apt to be corrupt. Nevertheless now that we have a surplus budget there seems to be no reason why a peon should get Rs. 14 only. I am of the opinion that even the lowest-paid staff should not get less than Rs. 80 per mensem. If such a course is adopted it will mainly benefit the poor classes. Let it not give the impression that I offer this suggestion as a preventive measure against corrupt practices. Honesty is a personal virtue and I make this suggestion purely on humanitarian grounds. A better placed officer, say, a magistrate, does not generally have as large a family as a poor peon has. Usually the poor have larger families to support probably because they have little else to do. (Laughter). The Government should not fight shy of putting this suggestion for fixing the minimum salary limit at Rs. 80 to practise on the ground that no such precedent exists in the country. Let them give the lead and other provinces will follow suit.

There is another matter to which I will just make a passing reference, as much has already been said about it. This complaint against the inequitable distribution of sugar involves a matter of principle. A mere look at the figures for urban and rural populations will show that the number of consumers in villages is greater than those in towns. I therefore fail to understand why villages should be discriminated against in the matter of distribution of sugar. Merely saying that urban people consume more sugar than those living in rural areas does not decide the issue. Let the villages have as much as they want and I am sure nothing will be left for the urban areas. After all sugar is an article of food and not something for mixing with petrol that it should be conserved in this manner. I would therefore request that the rural population should be given an equal share of sugar with their urban friends. While talking of sugar I am reminded of an order passed by the Government prohibiting the crushing of sugarcane in areas where sugar factories have been established. This has occasioned great hardship to the zamindars and given the factory owners the upper hand. It is a common sight now-a-days to find hundreds of carts standing by the roadside at night outside the factory area. The poor cane growers have to suffer untold hardships and privations waiting for their chance to unload their sugarcane at the mercy of the factory owners. Unless proper arrangements are made for expediting the unloading of sugarcane and allaying the discomforts of cane growers there is a great danger of their giving up cane growing altogether. The Government must make every effort to remove this cause of complaint and save the zamindars from suffering these hardships. I see the Honourable Minister for Education is in his seat, therefore, I feel inclined to say something more. In India everybody talks about liberty and independence. India's economic position is too well known to require a reiteration. I do not possess facts and figures to prove that India's standard of living is the lowest in the world. Even if the standard of living is not the lowest in the world, India certainly comes in that category of countries whose standard is very low. In spite of this our expenditure on education is ever increasing. But it is a pity that while education is becoming expensive, the standard of education is going down. I mean that all this expenditure is having no fruit. The teaching staff is becoming ease-loving. Some days ago an inspector of schools during his visit told me that professors cannot take more than 20 or 24

periods a week. It left all of us wonderstruck, that professors cannot work even for more than two or three hours a day. The same is the condition of pupils. Parents too take extraordinary care of children's health and see that they may not be overworked. I want that education must be made cheap and its standard must be raised.

**Malik Barkat Ali** (Eastern Towns, Muhammadan, Urban) : In the course of my speech last year on the occasion of the general discussion of the budget, I had drawn attention to the fact that the Honourable Finance Minister's estimates disclosed an inveterate tendency to grossly under-estimate the receipts so that at the end of the year he may be able to announce that as a result of his careful and cautious handling of the finances of the province, he has been able to reap huge surpluses. I am glad that when framing his estimates for the year 1944-45 he has given the go-bye to this pernicious practice and where he used to announce deficits of a few lakhs or surpluses of a few lakhs, he has now been able to take this House and the larger public outside into his better confidence and had announced that he anticipates a surplus of 3 crores and 86 lakhs for the year 1944-45. Let not this rosy prospect blind us to the facts of the situation. What are they ? I would begin with the year 1940-41. In regard to this year, the Honourable Finance Minister budgeted a deficit of 23 lakhs and now that the accounts of that year are complete, we find that he actually realised a surplus of 69 lakhs. How was this possible ? This became possible because he had actually under-estimated the income, as I say, or as he will say, there was an improvement in the revenue receipts to the extent of Rs. 1 crore, 57 lakhs and 14 thousands. In regard to the next year, 1941-42, he announced, according to his expectations, a surplus of 4 lakhs. The accounts of this year have also been completed and I am in a position to state the exact figures—he actually realised a sum of one crore and 24 lakhs as surplus, and this he did because he had under-estimated the income to the extent of one crore and 59 lakhs. For the next year, 1942-43, he announced according to his expectations a deficit of 10 lakhs but according to the accounts, had an actual surplus of 2 crores and 14 lakhs, including 60 lakhs that he put in the Peasants Welfare Fund and 20 lakhs that he gave to the Special Development Fund, or, in other words, a net surplus of 1 crore and 34 lakhs. This became possible as he actually under-estimated the income to the extent of Rs. 2 crores and 24 lakhs. Coming now to the next year, 1943-44, he anticipated a surplus of 50 lakhs. The accounts of this year have not yet been completed, but there are revised figures and according to the revised estimates, his anticipations are that he will be able to reap a surplus of 2 crores and 79 lakhs. On his own showing, he expects an increase in the revenue receipts to the extent of 4 crores and 85 lakhs according to the revised figures. It may actually be more when the accounts are finally made up. But at any rate, as figures stand to-day, it is obvious that he under-estimated according to his revised estimates, the receipts to the extent of 4 crores and 85 lakhs. As regards the next year, 1944-45, he is departing from his old practice and is anticipating a surplus of 3 crores and 86 lakhs. Obviously I am not in a position at the present moment to say what is the extent of the under-estimating to which he may have resorted.

This gross under-estimating of the income is not the only aspect of the matter which requires attention. There is an alarming side of this picture and that is that these so-called huge surpluses have been more than offset by the capital of the province that he has been consuming every year. I will place the facts before the House. In 1940-41, he consumed the capital of the province to the extent of 91 lakhs and 64 thousands.



**Minister of Finance :** Are you referring to extraordinary receipts ?

**Malik Barkat Ali :** Of course, that is capital.

**Minister of Finance :** These surpluses are pure revenue surpluses. They have nothing to do with extraordinary receipts.

**Malik Barkat Ali :** I know that, but you are obviously not comprehending the point of my criticism. You can explain afterwards. I am confident of my figures as I have taken them from reliable sources. If my figures are wrong, I will welcome their correction. I was drawing the attention of the House to the fact that in the year 1940-41 the capital of the province was consumed to the extent of 91 lakhs and 64 thousands and, undoubtedly, what I call the capital of the province is what he calls extraordinary receipts, namely, the proceeds of the sale of properties which constitute the capital of the province. I will ask the House to compare this figure of 91 lakhs with his surplus of 69 lakhs for the year in question. As for the year 1941-42 the capital of the province—

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his extraordinary receipts to use his own expression, and I shall be delighted to know and to learn that the extraordinary receipts are not the capital of the province—consumed in this year was one crore and ten thousand. Compare this with the huge surplus that he realised in respect of this year, namely, one crore and 57 thousands. In the year 1942-43, the capital of the province into which he put his figures was two crores. Compare this with the net surplus of two crores and fourteen lakhs, that he actually reaped. As regards the year 1943-44, the capital of the province actually consumed was four crores and eighty-three lakhs : compare this with the surplus according to his revised figures of two crores and seventy-nine lakhs. So far as the next year, 1944-45, is concerned I find that he proposes to avail himself of the capital of the province to the extent of three crores and nine lakhs.

**Finance Minister :** Sir, may I even at the risk of interrupting the honourable member say that these extraordinary receipts or the receipts from the sale of colony lands do not enter at all into the surplus : the surplus is purely a revenue surplus. If the extraordinary receipts were to be included there will be so much addition to the surplus.

**Malik Barkat Ali :** With all respect to the statement made by the Finance Minister, the point of my criticism remains and I have quoted chapter and verse for it. I was submitting that honourable members should bear in mind the extent of the capital consumed. Well, I am reminded here of those directors of companies who announce fat dividends but take care to conceal from their shareholders the extent to which they have played with the capital in their charge. Undoubtedly in his usual rhetoric vein he pictured to us the valleys of the province studded and thickly covered with corn and our fields standing in tints of gold but for this we have to thank not him but some one else. I respectfully submit that this alarming side of the picture has got to be put before this House for the Honourable Finance Minister to explain it how he will.

I now come to another but more cheerful aspect of the matter. This House would recall that last year when I was speaking on the 12th March 1943, I have said with reference to the Honourable Premier that the "Honourable Malik Khizar Hayat as Premier is a different person from the Honourable Malik Khizar Hayat as a member of the old Government". I proceeded to say : "I have faith in him and trust that he will never allow any injustice to be done"; and relying on my faith and trust in him, I had actually appealed to him to release Mr. Bhim Sen Sachar, Mian Iftikharuddin and other members of this House who

were in jail. I am glad to be able to say that my appeal did not fall on deaf ears, and that he has released Mr. Bhim Sen Sachar and Diwan Chaman Lal, and for this I should like to take this opportunity of congratulating him. I hope that this bold step that he has taken will not be the last of the series and that he will continue to act in this very spirit of magnanimity. Let me remind him that in the words of a distinguished statesman, magnanimity in politics is not seldom the truest wisdom; and I appeal to him, even though he is not present in the House, to lose no time in releasing another honourable member of this House, Mian Iftikharuddin. This House will agree with me that on principle there is no difference between the case of Mian Iftikharuddin and the case of those leaders of the Congress who have been released. In fact there is more reason that similar consideration should be extended to Mian Iftikharuddin. He is a frail figure and it is obvious that the rigours of jail life must tell on him much more than on those whom nature has gifted with better physique and health. My submission would be that as there is no difference in principle between the case of those who have been released and the case of Mian Iftikharuddin, the Honourable Premier should allow no grass to grow under his feet before releasing Mian Iftikharuddin. Undoubtedly born in the lap of wealth and with a silver spoon in his mouth, his health has been shattered. So far as my information is concerned he is not in good health and I fail to see why Mian Iftikharuddin should not have been released. In this connection, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I have also to draw attention to the case of another public worker of the province, i.e., Maulana Mohammad Daud Ghaznavi. He was originally sent to the Shahpur jail but soon after he had been lodged in that jail, he developed lumbago followed by pain in joints and swelling in the knee joints. In the wake of this disease came pain in his back, aches in the body, headache, constipation, numbness of certain parts of the body, abdominal distension, want of sleep, hypersalivation during sleep and so on with the result that he was transferred to the Mayo Hospital, Lahore, some time in July 1949. He was examined by the physician of the Mayo Hospital who, after examination, came to the conclusion that his condition was serious and that the chances of his cure would be nil so long as he was detained in jail. This is not all. He is now lodged, I believe in the Central Jail, Lahore, and his condition is growing very serious so much so that according to the report of the Superintendent of the Jail he has developed that dreadful disease, high blood pressure and was put on serious sick list and apprehending that he may pass away any minute, the Superintendent actually called his relatives to interview him. Now, Sir, if that is the position, if this is the report of the Superintendent of the Jail, supported as it is by the physician of the Mayo Hospital, there is every reason, every humanitarian ground, that this public worker, this religious leader of a large section of the people of the town of Lahore, who is held in great reverence for his saintly life, should be set at liberty before it is too late. Mr. Deputy Speaker, I do not propose to engage the House any more but before I resume my seat, I should like to offer my congratulations to the Honourable Minister for Education for having converted the Medical School at Amritsar into a first grade Medical College, and for having put a first rate man at the helm of that institution as its Principal. I have not the least doubt that posterity will gratefully remember him for this his great achievement, his *magnum opus*, and I should like to tender him my due weed of praise. With these words, Sir, I resume my seat.

**Khan Muhammad Yusuf Khan (Rawalpindi Sadar, Muhammadan, Rural)**

It is generally remarked, Sir, that whenever there is a surplus budget it is a sign of prosperity of the province. There is not the least doubt that the vigilance

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and custodianship that has been evinced by the Honourable Minister for Finance deserves our appreciation but with due deference, I submit that this is not a *bania* concern; this is a Government and if there is a surplus and especially when there is large surplus as in this year, we should be on our guard to see that every pie that has been saved is well utilised and well spent. Now it will be for the Government to look forward to find out ways and means as to how this money is to be spent.

Before I proceed to review what we have achieved and what we ought to have achieved I would like to say that the fundamental and the primary duties of a Government are—(i) maintenance of security and peace, (ii) administration of justice, and (iii) equal and just distribution of their resources. We find in the budget that as regards the first, i.e., the maintenance of peace and order our Government has spent quite a lot and has been able to achieve its end. During the pre-autonomy days there were series of riots all over India and our province was no exception to that disorder. After the inauguration of the provincial autonomy there were riots no doubt but their number went on decreasing with the lapse of time and now we are in a position to say that in spite of the adverse circumstances prevailing in the country there is perfect order and peace in our province—a fact which we are genuinely proud of. Similarly, as regards distribution we find that Government are trying their utmost to see that there is no person left in the province without food and without a house to live in. I would like to say a few words on the administration of justice. By justice I do not mean the justice that is being administered through our courts. In its true sense it means that the rights of every individual are safeguarded. Now what do we find? It is with a heavy heart that I am constrained to remark that the condition of our society has undergone a complete metamorphosis—the outlook on life has changed and an absolutely different structure is before us. In this complete change we have lost all sense of integrity, honesty and fairplay. The result is that from the lowest employee of the Government, i.e., *Chaukidar* to its topmost officer—honourable exceptions always exist—we find that everyone is after getting his palm greased and corruption is rampant. *Goondism* is having its sway and it is these *goondas* who are in fact ruling and having their own way. This state of affairs exists in almost every department and every court—again I say that there are honourable exceptions. But, Sir, we should not be frightened, nor should we feel annoyed over this. We should, on the other hand, be more careful and more vigilant and try our best to stamp out this evil from the province as far as it lies in our power. Now, Sir, our Budget reveals that the provision to root out this evil has been made for one Superintendent of Police, one Deputy Superintendent, four inspectors, two sub-inspectors, two head constables, 10 foot constables and three clerks—in all 23 persons have been deputed to stamp out this evil from the province as a whole. Is it possible? The Government are going to get enough money, why cannot they allot a decent sum for the purpose? I am laying stress on this point because we find that corruption generates discontentment and discontentment leads to the disruption of the state ultimately. In spite of the fact that everybody complains that there is corruption going on, the Government has provided for such a meagre staff for the purpose and yet they say that they are doing their best to root out this evil from the province. I, therefore, suggest that now that we have enough money we should increase the staff so that it is able to combat this evil effectively; it will be in the interest of the public at large; it will be in the interest of the State and it will be in the interest of morality as such.

The Honourable the Education Minister was kind enough a few years back to formulate a policy to root out illiteracy from the province. For next year we find from the budget that a sum of Rs. 40,000 is going to be spent for the removal of illiteracy. But it will be interesting to know what is really happening in this direction. With due respect to all concerned I must say that this removal of illiteracy is only paper transaction. Whenever the Education Minister or any other official of the Education Department pays a visit to a school for the removal of illiteracy there a list is placed before him of the number of people who have since become literate. Some literate persons also are brought before him and the Educational Officer is quite satisfied with the progress made in the matter of removal of illiteracy. This farce has been going on for the past few years. The whole thing is a bogus transaction. I, therefore, consider that the money spent on removal of illiteracy is a mere waste. No purpose is served except as a propaganda that the Government has done much to remove illiteracy in the province. There is another item of Rs. 24,000 provided for doctors in rural areas to visit certain villages within a few miles radius of the dispensaries to which they are attached. This expenditure is in my opinion a mere waste. Either the doctors are too busy in the dispensaries to be able to visit the villages or if they are visiting the villages they are unable to attend to the patients waiting in the dispensaries. So the allowance paid to the doctors for paying visits to the villages is absolutely wasted money. Even if the doctors do pay visits to the villages they serve no useful purpose. Therefore this provision of Rs. 40,000 for removal of illiteracy and Rs. 24,000 for rural doctors is an absolute and needless waste by Government. On the other hand, we find that in maternity cases there are several cases of infantile mortality and several mothers also die as the result of child birth entirely due to lack of medical assistance at the time of delivery. This question should, therefore, engage our serious attention. What is the provision in the budget for this purpose? It is only Rs. 31,000? I think that it would be in the interest of our province if the Rs. 64,000 now provided for removal of illiteracy and for payment of allowances to rural doctors were diverted to improvement of maternity and child welfare.

I shall now revert to the subject which was referred to by Shaikh Sadiq Hassan. He said that there is much need for the publication of Quran by Muslims only. I was the first to sponsor a measure in this House on the subject in 1939. I do not want to refer to what happened to the measure subsequently except to say that it did not become law. But it was left to the Congress Ministry in the North-West Frontier Province when it was in power to steal a march over us and get the measure enacted into law without a single alteration. I do maintain that the Muslims do wish that it should be enacted into law in this province also and if the non-Muslims want to have a similar measure of their own we do not grudge them that right.

I now turn to the provision of about a lakh of rupees set apart for communal harmony in the province. No doubt this is a praiseworthy object and everyone in the province will appreciate it. Everybody will agree that there should be absolute concord among the various communities in the province. But there is one outstanding grievance among the Muslims and I gave expression to it even in my last budget speech. I do not want to be understood that I want to raise communal questions in the debate, but if I refer to the question it is only in the belief that it will help promoting communal harmony. The greatest consideration of every human mind is the economic consideration and this was the doctrine preached by Karl Marx which led to the revolution in Russia. We know where Russia stands to-day. We may or we may not agree with Karl Marx, but it

[Khan Mohd. Yusuf Khan.]

cannot be gainsaid by any one that the greatest factor that influences human mind is the economic consideration. Therefore if I raise this question now it should not be looked at from the communal point of view; rather it should be looked at from an economic point of view. Although 50—50 share has been allowed to the Mussalmans in Government service some unscrupulous people in the various departments so undermine the departments that the interests of the Mussalmans are jeopardised, especially when it is a question of promotion. Government say that in the case of promotions they will not be guided by communal considerations. But we wish that there should be at least fair play. Government should be more careful at the time of promotion to see that the interest of no community suffers. This is generally what is felt by the Mussalmans.

*At this stage the Assembly adjourned till 12 noon on Tuesday, 7th March 1944.*

## APPENDIX

### PRIVILEGE MOTION

*Vide page 325 ante.*

We beg to give notice to ask for leave to make a privilege motion to discuss the action of the Government restricting

Mr. Bhim Sen Sachar,

Diwan Chaman Lall,

Lala Duni Chand of Ambala,

Lala Duni Chand of Lahore,

Shrimati Shanno Devi,

Pandit Muni Lal Kalia,

Chaudhri Sahib Ram,

Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt,

Munshi Hari Lal,

Sardar Hari Singh,

members of the Congress Party of the Punjab Legislative Assembly, from attending the Budget session of the Assembly.

# PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

## ELEVENTH SESSION OF THE FIRST PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

*Tuesday, 7th March 1944*

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

### STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

MR. KRISHAN LAL BHATIA.

**\*8921. Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that Mr. Krishan Lal Bhatia of Sargodha, a student of the Victoria Diamond Jubilee Hindu Technical Institute, Lahore, was arrested at his native place in the middle of September 1942 ;

(b) whether it is a fact that the aforesaid Mr. Krishan Lal Bhatia, is still under detention and that no charge has been brought against him so far ;

(c) whether the Government intends to try him in an open court of law, if not, whether it is intended to release him ;

(d) whether Mr. Krishan Lal Bhatia is a member of the Communist Party ;

(e) the reasons for Mr. Bhatia's continued detention ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) : (a) No, Krishan Lal was arrested in August 1942.

(b) Yes.

(c) (i) The law under which he is detained does not enjoin trial in a court of law.

(ii) This depends on future events.

(d) No.

(e) He has been detained for reasons connected with the maintenance of public order.

MR. DEV RAJ CHANANA.

**\*8922. Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that Mr. Dev Raj Chanana, B. A., of Lyallpur, was arrested and detained on 5th October 1943 ;

(b) whether the Government is prepared to try him in an open court of law, if not, whether it is intended to release him ;

(c) whether Mr. Dev Raj Chanana is a member of the Communist Party of India ;

(d) the reasons for Mr. Chanana's arrest and continued detention ?

- Parliamentary Private Secretary** (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah): (a) Yes.  
 (b) Was released on 8-12-43 and restricted to the limits of Lyallpur City.  
 (c) He makes no such claim himself.  
 (d) Subversive activities.

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MR. CHINT RAM THAPPAR.

**\*8923. Sardar Sohan Singh Josh:** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether he is aware of the fact that Mr. Chint Ram Thappar of Lyallpur has been in detention since August 1942;

(b) whether it is a fact that Mr. Thappar is steadily losing weight and his sense of hearing;

(c) whether he is aware of the fact that Mr. Thappar is the only earning member of his family and his people depend upon him for their maintenance;

(d) whether it is a fact that the members of Mr. Thappar's family have repeatedly implored the Government to release him;

(e) the reasons for his continued detention?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah): (a) Yes, but he was released on the 23rd of February 1944.

(b) He lost only two lbs. in weight and was in a satisfactory state of health at the time of his release.

(c) No. His eldest son and a daughter are in service and are earning members of his family.

(d) No such representation was received by Government.

(e) He was detained for reasons connected with the maintenance of public order.

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M. MUFTI MOHD. NAEEM.

**\*8925. Sardar Teja Singh Swatantar:** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether Maulvi Zia-ul-Hassan, son of M. Mufti Mohd. Naeem, detained in the District Jail, Ambala, applied for an interview with his father in the month of September 1943;

(b) whether his application was granted; if not, the reasons therefor?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) He, however, applied for an interview with the detenu on 17th February 1944, which was granted.

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MAULVI MUFTI MOHD. NAEEM.

**\*8926. Sardar Teja Singh Swatantar:** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether he is aware of the fact that Maulvi Mufti Mohammad Naeem of Ludhiana, now detained in the district Jail, Ambala, made an application to

the higher authorities to the effect that he may be allowed to consult Homeopathic or Unani physicians for the treatment of his disease ;

(b) whether his application was accepted ; if not, the reasons therefor ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah): (a) Yes.

(b) No. The matter was considered by Government who called for a report of his blood examination from the Provincial Bacteriologist. The report showed that there was nothing seriously wrong with him. He is receiving adequate treatment in jail and there has been an appreciable improvement in his health. His weight has increased from 129 lbs. on the 31st October 1943 to 140 lbs. on the 24th January 1944. His general condition is satisfactory.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan** Did he give in his application the name of the doctor whom he wanted to consult ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** : I want notice.

**Premier** : Did he want to consult the doctor about the increase in his weight ?

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh** : May I know who reported that there was nothing seriously wrong with him ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** : I have already stated that it was the Provincial Bacteriologist who examined his blood.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan** : How many days did it take to examine the blood of this gentleman ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** : If the honourable gentleman gives a separate notice, I will answer the question.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan** : Has not the Parliamentary Private Secretary collected the information as to on what date he was examined by this specialist ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** : I have collected only the information asked for.

#### PUNITIVE POLICE.

**\*8927. Sardar Teja Singh Swatantar** : Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) the names of places where punitive police posts have been set up in the district of Ferozepore, giving the dates on which they were set up respectively ;

(b) the amount of money realised by each one of the above named police posts, village-wise ;

(c) whether any of the punitive police posts named above have since been abolished ;

(d) whether the establishment of the above-named police posts has reduced the crime in the aforesaid district, if so, to what extent ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Sardar Jagjit Singh Man) : (a), (b) and (c) A statement in regard to existing posts on 1st February, 1944, is laid on the table. It is not possible to give other details asked for in these parts, as the honourable member has not specified the period for which information is required.



[S. Jagjit Singh Man]

(d) Yes, considerably.

**Pir Akbar Ali :** May I know what were the offences committed by the villagers for which the punitive police was posted ?

**Premier :** There must have been certain cases of serious misconduct to necessitate the setting up of these punitive police posts.

**Pir Akbar Ali :** In many of these villages no offences had been committed except the cutting of canals for which the Department is responsible. That is the report of the Deputy Commissioner that the Department was primarily responsible.

**Premier :** That is giving information. It is a different question if the villagers are not responsible, and if the honourable member refers to those cases, I will look into them. But I consider the cutting of canals a very serious offence.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** May I know whether the reasons for which these punitive police posts were set up exist even now or not ?

**Premier :** Where reasons do not exist, the police posts are abolished.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Is the Honourable Premier aware that all the dacoits in the districts have been killed ?

**Mian Abdul Aziz :** Will the Honourable Premier kindly tell me since when the cutting of the canal has become more serious ? Has that offence not existed since the existence of the canal ?

**Premier :** I may point out that recently there has been a series of canal cuts, because the prices of foodgrains are higher, and sowing has become more paying. I attach greater importance to this crime, first on account of the Grow-More-Food campaign, and, secondly, because it affects people at the tail. One particular individual cuts the canal and deprives the poor man at the tail of his water and the latter suffers. There should be collective responsibility in this matter.

**Mian Abdul Aziz :** Sardar Sohan Singh Josh has just stated that all the dacoits have been killed and as there are none to seek shelter in these villages there is no necessity now to keep these punitive police posts.

**Premier :** Wherever there is no necessity, the posts will be taken off.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Have these punitive police posts been set up to increase the war efforts ?

**Premier :** Yes, indirectly, to keep peace at home so that people who are serving abroad can have calm mind there.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** May I know whether the Honourable Premier is aware that these police posts are the cause of corruption and creating more trouble ?

**Premier :** I am not aware of it.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** How many complaints have been received of bribes taken by the members of the punitive police posts ?

**Premier :** That is a separate question.

**Mian Abdul Aziz :** Have any complaints been received ?

**Premier :** I require notice.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Have any of the villages where the punitive police has been posted applied to Government to abolish the posts ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I want notice.

*Statement*

1	2	3	4	5
Serial No.	Description of Additional Police Post	Date of location	Amount recovered up to 31st January 1944	REMARKS
			Rs. A. P.	
1	Chuharchak ..	1st September 1938 ..	39,838 1 9	
2	Gholla Kalan ..	15th December 1938 ..	28,767 11 0	Abolished on 15th December 1943.
3	Bareka ..	1st October 1940 ..	10,315 3 3	
4	Middu Khara ..	15th December 1940 ..	17,227 13 6	Abolished on 15th December 1943.
5	Daudhar ..	1st December 1941 ..	22,820 11 0	
6	Doda ..	1st May 1942 ..	9,956 13 4	
7	Harika ..	10th September 1942 ..	15,133 14 10	
8	Dhallahe ..	10th October 1942 ..	12,838 2 4	
9	Chibranwali ..	1st November 1942 ..	18,050 1 8	Abolished on 1st February 1944
10	Bhuttiwala, Asa Buttar, (P. S. Muktsar).	1st November 1942 ..	13,647 9 7	Ditto
11	Tharajwala ..	1st December 1942 ..	10,705 11 11	
12	Bhuttiwala (P. S. Lambi)	10th December 1942 ..	10,152 12 4	
13	Sito Gunno ..	5th February 1943 ..	22,380 5 0	
14	Alamwala ..	1st May 1943 ..	10,226 1 2	
15	Machhike ..	1st May 1943 ..	17,259 0 5	
16	Kishanpura Kalan ..	1st May 1943 ..	8,373 8 0	
17	Saidoke ..	1st May 1943 ..	17,210 13 0	
18	Mallan ..	15th September 1943 ..	12,546 12 10	

MR. JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN.

\*9037. **Sardar Kapoor Singh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that Mr. Jai Prakash Narayan, General Secretary, All-India Congress Socialist Party, who was recently arrested is being mal-treated by the Punjab Criminal Investigation Department ; if so, the reasons therefor and the action Government intend to take in the matter ;

[S. Kapoor Singh]

(b) whether Government intend to make arrangements for the above-named detenu's medical examination by a medical expert and allow his legal adviser to meet him ;

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

(d) why he has not been sent to the Judicial lock-up ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah): (a) No, does not arise.

(b) The State Prisoner is regularly examined by a Medical Expert ; the State Prisoners Rules do not provide for interviews with legal advisers.

(c) 128 lbs. ; 140 lbs.

(d) As he is a dangerous prisoner who successfully escaped from jail, special precautions are necessary and he is being kept where the special precautions can best be exercised.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan** : Is it a fact that the original question was forwarded by the Assembly Office to the D. I. G., C. I. D. ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** : All questions are forwarded to the officers concerned for answers.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan** : I want to know whether the original question was sent ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** : What does the honourable member mean by 'original question' ?

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan** : The original question and not the copy.

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** : The original is addressed to the Secretary.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan** : Was it under the direction or orders of Government that the Secretary sent on that question ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** : It is the concern of the Assembly Office to send either copies or originals. It is their look out.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan** : Was it under the direction or permission or orders of Government that the Secretary did it ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** : I have no knowledge.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma** : What I want to know is whether the original question was sent to the D. I. G., C. I. D.? If so, was it sent with the permission of the Honourable Speaker ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** : I am not aware whether the original was sent or a copy was sent.

**Sardar Santokh Singh** : Was one of the two sent to the D. I. G., C.I. D. ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** : Obviously, as otherwise no answer can be got.

#### THEFT CASES IN RUNNING TRAINS AT NIGHT.

\*9043. **Sardar Kapoor Singh** : Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state whether he is aware of the fact that the number of theft cases in running trains at night has recently increased in the Panjab, if so, the reasons therefor

the steps taken so far by the Government to stem the rising tide of crime in the Province, if no steps have been taken in this respect, the reasons for the same and the action Government is prepared to take now in the matter ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Sardar Jagjit Singh Man): There has been no increase in the number of theft cases in the Punjab in running trains at night.

The second half of the question does not arise.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan**: What was the number of such cases last year and what is it this year ?

**Parliamentary Secretary**: I require notice.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan**: Then how does the Parliamentary Secretary say that there was no increase ?

#### TRANSFER OF MR. PARBODH CHANDER TO LAHORE CENTRAL JAIL.

**\*9059. Sardar Ajit Singh**: Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether he is aware of the fact that Mr. Parbodh Chander, M.A., a security prisoner, was transferred from the Gujrat Jail to the Lahore Central Jail, recently ; if so, the reasons therefor ;

(b) the weight and general condition of Mr. Parbodh Chander's health at the time of his arrest and at present ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah): (a) He was transferred from the New Sub-Jail, Gujrat, to the Central Jail, Lahore, for treatment in the Punjab Dental and Mayo Hospitals, Lahore.

(b) This information is not available. His present weight is however 112 lbs. 1 lb. less than when he first came to a Punjab jail. He is running a low temperature in the evening and complains of general asthenia (muscular weakness) and nervous debility.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan**: Was it on medical grounds that he was transferred from the Gujrat jail to the Lahore jail ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary**: Obviously.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan**: Is he in the Dental Hospital or in the Mayo Hospital ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary**: He is being treated in both the hospitals. My honourable friend knows that Dental Hospital is not a residential hospital.

**Sardar Ajit Singh**: If it is a fact that he has been transferred to Lahore on medical grounds, is it not possible to release him on parole so that he may get adequate facilities in his home ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary**: As I have stated, his ailments are not dangerous. His original weight was 112 lbs. and he has lost only 1 lb.

#### RELEASE ON PAROLE OF MR. PARBODH CHANDER.

**\*9060. Sardar Ajit Singh**: Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state whether a representation from the wife of Mr. Parbodh Chander, M.A.

[S. Ajit Singh]

a security prisoner in the Lahore Central Jail, has been received by the Government praying that her husband may be released on parole on the ground that he has been ill for some time past and also to enable him to have himself treated by his family doctor ; if so, the action taken in the matter ; if no action has been taken so far, the reasons therefor ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) : Yes, it was duly considered (with the jail medical report) and rejected.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan** : On what grounds was it rejected ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** : On the ground that there was nothing serious ?

—————  
MR. PARBODH CHANDER.

**\*9061. Sardar Ajit Singh** : Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) (i) whether he is aware of the fact that Mr. Parbodh Chander, M. A., a prominent member of the All-India Students Union and a prominent Congressman, was arrested in August 1942, and was kept as a detenu in the Multan Central Jail, (ii) that he was released in November 1942 but was re-arrested at the jail gate and sent to Calcutta on a charge of conspiracy (iii), that he was acquitted of this charge but was re-arrested the same moment under the Defence of India Rules ; if so, the reasons therefor ;

(b) whether he is also aware of the fact that the said Mr. Parbodh Chander, M.A., now a security prisoner in the Lahore Central Jail, was suffering from blood-poisoning in the Gujrat Jail in March last and that his wife requested the Government to release her husband on parole ; if so, with what result ;

(c) whether he is also aware of the fact that he was transferred to the Lahore Central Jail, under the orders of the jail physician of the Gujrat Jail ; if so, the reasons for this transfer ;

(d) whether he is also aware of the fact that Mr. Parbodh Chander is constantly running temperature, and is suffering from indigestion and dental trouble ; if so, the nature of the medical aid arranged for him ; and if no arrangement has been made so far, the reasons therefor ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) : (a) (i) He was arrested under the Defence of India Rules on 26th September, 1942.

(ii) and (iii) Yes, with a view to preventing him from acting in any manner prejudicial to the defence of British India, the public safety, or the efficient prosecution of the War ;

(b) and (c) No representation for his release on parole was received from his wife in March, 1943. One was, however, received from her in June, which stated, among other things, that he was suffering from blood-poisoning. Enquiries showed that he was suffering from dental trouble and insomnia and his transfer from Gujrat Jail to the Central Jail at Lahore was recommended and carried out.

(d) He is suffering from pyorrhoea, which is supposed to be the cause of his indigestion, and gets a slight temperature of an intermittant type in the evenings. He is being given suitable medical and dietetic treatment.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan** : Is the cause of pyorrhoea bad food ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** I have never heard that pyorrhoea is caused by bad food. It is due to bad teeth.

#### CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE CONVICTS.

**\*9071. Lala Bhagat Ram Choda :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the civil disobedience movement convicts are not allowed interviews, books other than religious scriptures and newspapers which are allowed even to the ordinary 'C' class prisoners ; if so, why and what action, if any, is proposed to be taken in the matter ;

(b) whether it is a fact that notwithstanding Government's assurance cots have not been provided to civil disobedience movement prisoners confined in the Old Central Jail, Multan, if so, why, and what action do Government propose to take in the matter ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) :** (a) Yes, Government do not contemplate making any change in this policy at present.

(b) Convicts are not supplied with *charpoy*s. Civil Disobedience detenues are supplied with them.

#### SECURITY PRISONERS ETC.

**\*9072. Lala Bhagat Ram Choda :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) the number of security prisoners Class I and Class II, detained under Rule 26 of the Defence of India Rules, Congress detenues and convicts of 1942 and state prisoners incarcerated in different jails of the province on the 1st March 1944 ;

(b) the number of security prisoners of both classes, Congress detenues and convicts of 1942 and state prisoners released as a result of the scrutiny of their cases till March 1944 ;

(c) the total number remaining in jail class-wise on 1st March 1944 ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) :** (a) 98 security prisoners class I, 59 security prisoners class II, 204 civil disobedience detenues, 163 civil disobedience convicts and one state prisoner.

(b) 290 security prisoners, 353 civil disobedience detenues and 45 civil disobedience convicts.

(c) The attention of the honourable member is drawn to the answer to part (a).

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** On what basis have you created these classes ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** On considerations of difference in status.

#### MR. E. P. MOON.

**\*9075. Lala Bhagat Ram Choda :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that Mr. E. P. Moon, I.C.S., former Deputy Commissioner, Amritsar, resigned his post last year and if so under what circumstances ;

[L. Bhagat Ram Chada]

(b) whether it is a fact that a private letter of Mr. E. P. Moon to Col. Kanwar Shamsher Singh, I.M.S. (Retired) regarding 'C' class treatment meted out to Raj Kumari Amrit Kaur was intercepted somewhere and that this was the cause of his resignation ;

(c) whether it is a fact that he was approached or influenced by the head of the Executive to continue in office ;

(d) whether any letter or correspondence passed between Mr. E. P. Moon and the Provincial Government in connection with the circumstances leading to his resignation, if so, whether Government is prepared to lay it on the table of the House ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah): The honourable member is referred to the answer to Assembly question No. \*8875<sup>1</sup> given on the floor of the House on the 4th November 1943.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan** : Is the Parliamentary Private Secretary aware that the resignation was not accepted by the Secretary of State ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** : It was, as far as I am aware.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan** : Is he again returning to the Punjab ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** : Not as far as I am aware.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan** : Is he aware that budget provision has been made for his passage back to India ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** : I am not aware.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan** : Kindly consult the Budget.

#### SERVANTS OF THE PEOPLE SOCIETY OFFICE.

\*9107. **Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma** : Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state whether it is a fact that offices other than that of the Servants of the People Society, e.g., the Devarkadas Library and Gram Sewa Mandal Book Depot (situated at 4, Court Street), were also sealed under the order notifying offices of the servants of the People Society, 2, Court Street, Lahore, and if so why ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) : Yes. The Devarkadas Library and Gram Sewa Mandal Book Depot were sealed as they were situated within the premises of the office of the Servants of the People Society notified under section 17-A of the Criminal Law Amendment Act.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma** : The question 'why' is not answered. What was the reason for it ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** : I have already said that they were sealed as they were situated within the premises of the Servants of People Society notified under Section 17 (a) of the Criminal Law Amendment Act.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma** : What were the subversive activities of the Gram Sewa Mandal which came to the notice of this Government ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** : I have given my answer that because the Devarkadas Library and Gram Sewa Mandal were situated in the same building as the office of the Servants of People Society, therefore, they were sealed.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** My question is that the Devarkadas Library is meant for the use of the public but it was also sealed. Was there any subversive activity on behalf of the authorities in charge of Devarkadas Library or what was the cause for sealing the library?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** I have given the reasons for sealing the library. So far as my honourable friends supplementary question is concerned, if he will give me notice, I will try and find out whether they were engaged in any subversive activities or not. I am not in a position to answer that question now.

#### LAJPAT RAI HALL.

**\*9108. Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Lajpat Rai Hall situated in the Court Street, Lahore, was vacated, its furniture put in verandahs and printing paper belonging to Government was stocked in it when it was still under the notification order under India Criminal Law Act; if so the date when this paper was stocked in the above-mentioned building?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) :** Yes on the 30th November 1943. The furniture was removed from the hall and placed in the verandahs under the charge of the police and subsequently stored in the gallery on the second floor.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Is it a fact that the office of the Congress Assembly Party which was situated in this very building and in which the records of the Congress Assembly Party was stored, was searched and vacated without any notice or information being given to the Secretary of the Party?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** The question relates to the Lajpat Rai Hall and I have replied to that. If my honourable friend puts a fresh question about the Congress Assembly Party Office—its furniture and goods—I will endeavour to give him the information.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** The Assembly Party Office is part of that building. We have asked a question about the entire building. The question is whether the Congress Assembly Party Office was also searched without giving any notice to the Secretary of the Congress Assembly Party.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** May I know whether any list of the property, which was taken out of the hall, was prepared by the authorities who were responsible for searching this hall?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** I want notice for that question. I have not got the information here.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Was that property entrusted to any responsible man?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** Would my honourable friend show me where is the notice for that question?

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** Was notice given to the residents of Lajpat Rai Hall that that building would be searched and the furniture would be taken possession of?

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** I want to ask whether the furniture was entrusted to somebody or was simply put in the verandahs.



**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** I have already stated that the furniture was removed from the hall and placed in the verandah under the charge of the police and subsequently stored in the gallery of the second floor.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Was a list of that property prepared ? To whom was it entrusted ? Or, did the police take a portion of the property which suited them ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** The honourable member should give me notice.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Is the Parliamentary Secretary aware that some cash and some stamps which belonged to the Congress Assembly Party and which were there, were taken away by the police and the whole record of the Congress Assembly Party was removed by the police from that building without any notice ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** I am not aware because this is a new question.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** Is the Parliamentary Private Secretary in a position to say whether any respectable person of the locality was present there at the time of the search ?

**Premier :** I have not followed the question.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** It is about taking possession of the furniture of the Lajpat Rai Hall.

**Premier :** It was a requisitioning order and probably the furniture there was safely stocked.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** Has the Premier received a report that it was safely removed ?

**Premier :** It was safely removed because the orders were properly carried out.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** May I know the name of the officer who vacated it so that it may facilitate the Party to bring legal action against him ?

#### LAJPAT RAI HALL.

**\*9109. Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the premises known as the Lajpat Rai Hall, Lahore, were requisitioned by the District Magistrate and Collector of Lahore, if so, the date on which this order was passed ;

(b) what parts of the said premises were occupied by the Government and whether all the rooms occupied by them were lying vacant at the time of occupation, if not, who vacated them and whether any goods or furniture were also requisitioned, if so, their details ;

(c) whether the owners or occupants of the rooms or any Government officials were present at the time of vacating them ;

(d) whether any goods or furniture above mentioned were handed over to the owners or occupants of the rooms, if not, why not ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) :** (a) Yes, on the 17th December 1943.

(b), (c) and (d) One hall, five side rooms on the ground floor, two side rooms, two front rooms and a gallery on the first floor were occupied by Government.

The furniture contained in these rooms was removed in the presence of responsible Government officials and office bearers of the Servants of the People Society and stored on the second floor of the building.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** May I know whether the premises which the Parliamentary Private Secretary has said were vacated, contained a room where the Congress Assembly Party had its office and this was also vacated ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** I am not aware of this fact.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** You talk of responsible police officials—

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** I wish my honourable friend had heard me carefully when I replied to this question. I said, 'in the presence of responsible Government officials and office-bearers of the Servants of People Society.'

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** That I have heard. What I want to know is whether any non-official respectable people of the locality, apart from the occupiers of the room, were witnesses at that time ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** Would my honourable friend not consider the people who were actually owners of this furniture and other things as sufficient witnesses rather than asking some outsider to come and see whether these things were properly removed?

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** The question, is, was any body else present there ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** The honourable member was not listening when I just replied to his previous question.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Was any list of the property prepared in those cases where the occupants of the rooms were not present ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** I have stated that these things were removed in the presence of the office-bearers. Why does my friend think that the list was not prepared by the office-bearers themselves ?

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Were any of the rooms, whose occupants were not present, locked ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** If the honourable member wants to elicit any further information, he might take the trouble of putting a fresh question.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Does the Parliamentary Private Secretary deny the fact that the Congress Assembly Party's office, which was vacated that very day, was locked up at the time and the police got access to that room by just breaking it open ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** I neither admit nor deny this fact because I am not in possession of this information.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** Would you give us the names of the office bearers who were present ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** I want notice for that.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Is the Parliamentary Private Secretary aware that the wrist watch belonging to the acting secretary of the Congress Party was stolen by the raiding police party ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** I am not aware of this.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** In case you become aware of it, will you take any action ?

**Mr. Speaker :** Hypothetical question, disallowed.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Was the furniture handed over to the owners ? That is the question. I know it was stored in the verandah.

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** It was stored inside the gallery.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Was it handed over to the owners ? That is the point.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** May I know who would be held responsible if any furniture or anything else is missing from there ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** I do not know.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Will not the Government be held responsible for that ?

**Mr. Speaker :** Disallowed.

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MR. JAI PRAKASH NARAIN.

\*9118. **Sardar Kapoor Singh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that Mr. Jai Prakash Narayan, a prominent Congress Socialist Leader who was arrested sometimes back in the Punjab is still in this province ;

(b) if so, the place and period of his detention and whether the Government intend to produce him before a court of law ;

(c) his weight at the time of the arrest and at present ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah): (a) Yes.

(b) It is not in the public interest to answer this question.

(c) His weight at the time of his arrest was 128 lbs. and is now 140 lbs.

**Lala Bhagat Ram Choda :** May I know whether he is in the Punjab or outside the Punjab ? What is there in public interest not to answer this question ? Does the Government know anything about him ?

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** One portion of part (b) of this question is whether the Government intends to produce him before a court of law. I want to ask from the Government as to what public interest is involved in it.

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** Government is the judge to see whether a question should be answered or not in public interest. My honourable friend cannot force the Government to answer a question.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Is it the intention of the Government to produce him before a law court for regular trial ? That is the question.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** What part is it which the Parliamentary Private Secretary considers is not in the public interest to answer ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** I have repeated my answer ten times. I have already stated that part (b) is not in the public interest to answer.

ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INTERMEDIATE OR DEGREE COLLEGE IN  
GURGAON DISTRICT.

**\*9099. Chaudhri Sumer Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state whether he is aware of the fact that there is no intermediate or Degree College in the Gurgaon district and that the students passing the Matriculation examination from this district are unable to join colleges in Delhi for higher education on account of the heavy expenses ; if so, the action Government intend to take in the matter ?

**The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye :** Yes, but the necessity of opening a college at Gurgaon does not arise as there are already two colleges, one at Rohtak and the other at Ambala, which cater for the needs of the Ambala Division. Moreover, Delhi which is situated in close proximity to Gurgaon, also affords facilities for higher education.

**Chaudhri Sumer Singh :** Does the Honourable Minister know that there is a difference between the Punjab and Delhi syllabus ?

**Minister :** I know that.

BOARDING HOUSE ATTACHED TO THE GOVERNMENT HIGH SCHOOL,  
PALWAL.

**\*9100. Chaudhri Sumer Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state—

(a) the annual income derived from the fee of the boarding house attached to the Government High School, Palwal, and the number of the boys staying in the aforesaid boarding house ;

(b) the amount that the Government is spending yearly on the maintenance of the above-mentioned boarding house ;

(c) whether he is aware of the fact that the number of menial servants in the boarding-house is very small and the boarders are suffering much inconvenience on this account ; if so, the action Government intend to take in the matter ?

**The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye :** (a) Income from the Boarding House fee in the year 1942-43 was Rs. 553-8-0. The income from Boarding House fee for the year 1943-44 up to the 15th February, 1944, is Rs. 634-8-0. The number of boys staying in the Boarding House at present is 119.

(b) The amount spent on the maintenance of the Boarding House during the current year is Rs. 260-8-0. It is expected that some more money will be spent during the remaining part of the year and also in the next year on the upkeep of the furniture.

(c) The Head Master reports that the number of menial servants in the Boarding House is adequate, and that the boarders have never expressed a desire to add to the servants on the establishment of the Boarding House, and have never complained of any inconvenience on this account.

SENIOR VERNACULAR TEACHERS IN GURGAON DISTRICT.

**\*3131. Chaudhri Sumer Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state—

(a) the number of senior vernacular teachers working in different schools in the Gurgaon district ;

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(b) If the number of such teachers is small as compared with the requirements, the action he intends to take in the matter ; if no action : intended, the reasons for the same ?

**The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye :** (a) The number of S. V. teachers in schools in the Gurgaon district, is as follows :—

<i>Boys' Schools.</i>				
Government schools	..	..	..	10
Local body schools	..	..	..	191
Privately-managed schools	..	..	..	1
Total				202
<i>Girls' Schools.</i>				
Government schools	..	..	..	11
Local body schools	..	..	..	8
Privately-managed schools	..	..	..	1
Total				20
Grand Total				222

(b) The number of S. V. teachers in the Gurgaon district is reported to be smaller than what it should be ; but there is dearth of such teachers all over the province, and the Department is finding it difficult to fill even the existing normal schools. The number of trained teachers will increase when the war is over and people are available to take a course of training.

### PRIVILEGE MOTION

#### CANCELLATION OF PERMISSION OF PANDIT MUNI LAL KALIA TO ATTEND ASSEMBLY MEETINGS.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Sir, I seek permission to move a privilege motion in order to discuss the action of the Government in cancelling the Deputy Commissioner, Ludhiana's order permitting Pandit Muni Lal Kalia, M. L. A., to attend the budget session of the Punjab Legislative Assembly.

Sir, the only law under which the Government can claim to restrict a particular member's activity is Ordinance No. 3.

**Premier :** I do not know of any such order having been passed this year. There is no such order and my honourable friend will have to tell us as to when it was passed.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** I know this much that a very responsible officer of the police was seen yesterday within the precincts of this House enquiring about Pandit Muni Lal Kalia.

**Mr. Speaker :** Is the honourable member's information correct ?

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** My information is correct and I take responsibility for what I have said, that Pandit Muni Lal Kalia had the permission of the Deputy Commissioner to come to this House up to the 15th instant.

**Mr. Speaker :** What is the honourable member's authority ?

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** That is what I am going to state. I rely on Pandit Muni Lal Kalia's own statement. I met him on Friday and we were together here and he told me that he had got the permission of the Deputy Commissioner to come to this House up to the 15th of this month.

**Mr. Speaker :** But the Premier says that he is not aware of any such order.

**Premier :** My honourable friend has said that he met some police officer within the precincts of this House who was enquiring about Pandit Muni Lal Kalia. His point is that the Deputy Commissioner, Ludhiana, permitted Pandit Muni Lal Kalia to attend the budget session and then the Government cancelled that order. What I have said is that during this year I do not remember having passed any such order cancelling the order of the Deputy Commissioner.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** The Honourable Premier alone do not constitute the Government. There are so many officers. He can ascertain it for himself. Does he deny that the Government has not cancelled that order? Is the Honourable Member at liberty to come to this House?

**Premier :** He is not. But that is another issue. My honourable friend is raising the issue that the Government cancelled that order.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Yes.

**Premier :** The Government would be perfectly within its rights to cancel any such order, but to the best of my recollection, this year I do not remember having passed any such order. Last year there were such orders passed; but in this particular case I do not remember the cancellation of such orders.

**Mian Abdul Aziz :** May I ask the Premier whether he denies the fact that such an order was passed and he was permitted to attend the Assembly? Whether he denies or accepts it is the first question. The second question is this: he says he never passed any cancellation orders this year. When the first question, whether such an order was or was not passed, has been disposed of then we shall see how to proceed.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** I want to refer to the rules on the subject.

**Mr. Speaker :** The Honourable Premier denies having passed any such order this year. Therefore no further discussion arises.

**Premier :** I do not remember having passed any such order this year.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** He says, 'I do not remember'.

**Premier :** I do not know whether the District Magistrate, Ludhiana, passed any such order. I do not remember having passed such an order: it is for the honourable member opposite to say. I am talking to the best of my recollection.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Did the Honourable Premier tell anybody that this order should be cancelled?

**Premier :** That is not so, otherwise I would have said that.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Does the Premier know whether the member was allowed to come here on the first day of the Assembly?

**Premier :** I know nothing about it. I do not know what orders were passed by the District Magistrate, Ludhiana.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Sir, may I be allowed to state the law on which I rely?

**Mr. Speaker :** But we must be sure of facts first.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Are you not prepared to take the law into consideration ?

**Mr. Speaker :** Not till the correctness of facts is established.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** The Honourable Premier says he does not remember : that is no denial. Let him make a straightforward statement. If you, Mr. Speaker, rely on that particular statement you may give your ruling, otherwise we have a right to quote the law on the subject.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Certain papers might have been passed on to him for signature and he might have signed those papers without seeing : it all boils down to only this. Therefore the presumption is to be in our favour and not in favour of the Government.

**Premier :** I have given all the information that I had. It is up to the Opposition to say whether there was any such order passed by the Government.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** Does the Premier assert that Pandit Kalia was not allowed to attend the budget session ?

**Premier :** I have made myself quite clear. There are the usual restrictions which apply to certain M.L.A.s Last year such orders were passed. This year, to the best of my recollection, no case of District Magistrate, Ludhiana's orders being cancelled has come to my notice.

**Mr. Speaker :** The facts stated up till now in brief are that Pandit Muni Lal Kalia was permitted to attend this session ; but that permission was cancelled subsequently by the Government. As to whether he was permitted to attend the session, the Government denies the fact. As for withdrawal of the permission, the Honourable Premier says that he has no information.

**Premier :** Sir, your analysis is perfectly correct. I have said about the first allegation that I have not seen, to the best of my recollection, any such orders passed. As for the other, it is for the honourable member opposite to say whether any such order was passed. I have no information.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** I am not going to evade questions like that—

**Mr. Speaker :** From the discussion I find that there is no privilege involved. This is the same question as was discussed yesterday.

**Sardar Santokh Singh :** This is absolutely a new thing. It is not covered by yesterday's discussion. Under these circumstances since there is no denial from the Premier I feel that you should allow Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma to give facts and make a statement. Then you can give your ruling. If the Premier had made a categorical denial then we can understand the position but he says he does not remember.

**Mr. Speaker :** Even assuming the facts as stated to be correct, there is no question of privilege.

**Sardar Santokh Singh :** My friend has not yet stated the facts. He should be allowed to proceed with his speech to enlighten you at least.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** A police officer came to the precincts of the Assembly to inform Pandit Kalia that the permission to attend the budget session has been withdrawn by the District Magistrate, Ludhiana. May I know whether that involves a question of privilege or not ?

**Mr. Speaker :** When did that happen ?

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** On the 6th March. It appears that a police officer was searching for him to serve a notice on him that he could not attend the Assembly session.

**Mr. Speaker :** Where?

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** In the Assembly precincts.

**Mr. Speaker :** Where did the honourable member meet him?

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** In the gallery below.

**Mr. Speaker :** Even taking the facts as stated to be correct there is no question of a breach of privilege.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** Why not? What are the reasons?

**Mr. Speaker :** I have already stated my point of view.

**Khan Bahadur Shaikh Karamat Ali :** May I make a submission, Sir? Why not let the honourable member reveal his source of information on this point? If he is certain about a gentleman having come for the purpose of serving a notice on Pandit Muni Lal Kalia, why should he not be given an opportunity to say something on this so that we may be in a position to judge how far the position of the Honourable Minister is slighted? We have to maintain the dignity of the members of this honourable House; it is immaterial whether a member belongs to this side or that side. It is likely that the police officer might have come to see a member of the Watch and Ward Staff but as the honourable member is so positive, why not let him have his say?

**Mr. Speaker :** Assuming that the police officer had come to serve notice on Pandit Muni Lal Kalia, does that raise a question of privilege?

**Khan Bahadur Shaikh Karamat Ali :** Certainly, it does. We come here in the capacity of honourable members of this honourable House and when somebody comes to serve notice on any one of us within the precincts of the House, we have to see how far the said officer has gone to violate the sanctity of this House. It is a very important matter and we want a definite ruling on this point.

**Mian Muhammad Nurullah :** In February last the Honourable Speaker of the Central Assembly is reported to have held that if an honourable member of the Central Assembly who was in jail made an application for permission to attend the Assembly, he would order the jailer to let the member come out to attend the Assembly. It is also in the Indian Constitution Act 1935. I have tried to find the ruling on this point but have not been able to trace it out. A relative of mine told me yesterday that the Speaker of the Central Assembly gave a ruling to the effect that if a member submitted an application from within the jail for attending the Assembly he would order the jail authorities to let him do so.

**Mr. Speaker :** Under what law?

**Mian Muhammad Nurullah :** I have not been able to trace the law.

**Sayed Amjad Ali Shah :** I give the honourable member a copy of the Government of India Act. Let him please quote the reference.

**Mian Muhammad Nurullah :** I shall do so when I find out the ruling.

**Mian Abdul Aziz :** The honourable member came here the other day and got information that the permission had been cancelled and the notice about the cancellation of the permission was to be served on him. A police officer actually came here yesterday within the precincts of this House and made a search for the honourable member Mr. Kalia. We want to know whether this is



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a breach of privilege or not. As long as we are here, we are under your protection and the protection of the House. If a similar thing happens in the Mall Road or the Montgomery Road or at the railway station, that would be a different matter but if it happens here within the precincts of this Honourable House then surely we do look to you for protection. We do not mind whether your ruling is in our favour or against us but we do want your ruling on this point. We certainly want to be protected from the police people who might come here and haul us up and if we are not to be protected by you, Sir, I will be the first man not to attend this Assembly.

**Mr. Speaker :** Evidently the honourable member is objecting to a police officer coming within the precincts of the Assembly. Is that so ?

**Mian Abdul Aziz :** Yes, and obstructing our coming here.

**Mr. Speaker :** May I refer the House to a previous case which happened at Simla under my presidency ? A member of this House was required in a murder case. The police went up to Simla and wanted to arrest him there in the Chamber. I intervened and did not allow the police to do so. On more than one occasion we have done like that when the police wanted to come within the precincts of the House.

**Premier :** I said, Sir, that as far as my recollection goes no order cancelling the permission given to Pandit Muni Lal Kalia to attend the meetings of this Assembly was issued by the Government. Now I have received information from the Secretariat and I can say definitely that I was perfectly correct that no such order was issued from here nor has any reference been received by us about Pandit Muni Lal Kalia in this respect. The only thing we did in the Secretariat was to issue a circular letter regarding conditions to be imposed on all the M. L. A.s who have been released. I have no information whether any police officer came or with what object he came. That is the position.

**Mr. Speaker :** But the real point is whether Pandit Muni Lal Kalia was permitted by the Deputy Commissioner to attend the meetings of the Assembly.

**Premier :** We have done nothing about that here at the headquarters.

**Mr. Speaker :** Did the Deputy Commissioner pass such an order ?

**Premier :** I have no information. How can I give any information of what happened at Ludhiana ? If you like I can get that information.

**Mr. Speaker :** The right course would be to let the Honourable Premier collect the correct facts.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** We know it for certain that he was given such a permission.

**Mr. Speaker :** What is the authority for that statement ?

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** I am prepared to give an affidavit to that effect.

**Dr. Shaikh Muhammad Alam :** Sir, have you the power to administer oaths and take affidavits ?

**Mian Abdul Aziz :** There is one thing. There is nothing to negative Mr. Sharma's allegation nor have we got anything to doubt it. He says he is definite about it and is prepared to give an affidavit.

**Mr. Speaker :** There will be no harm if the matter is not discussed further. The House will now resume the general discussion of the Budget.

## BUDGET—GENERAL DISCUSSION

**Khan Muhammad Yusuf Khan (Rawalpindi Sadar, Muhammadan, Rural):**

1 p.m. The Unionist Party ever since it came into office has enacted several measures, fiscal measures I may say, to the annoyance of the urban people but for the welfare of the zamindars, and for this yeoman service rendered to the zamindars of the province Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram's name will ever be cherished in the minds of the zamindars. But I would like to point out to the Government that some reformatory measures are also required. It is generally known that for urban area the Government is ever ready to enact measures which will conduce to their general welfare. For this reason I think it would be most appropriate if the Government will bring in some measure which may perhaps be considered at this stage to be somewhat radical but which I consider is most indispensable for the removal of noise nuisance. If we read some books on psychology we will find that noises work havoc with human energy and human mind. In modern times we also observe loud noises in cities. This can be removed and very easily too, by inserting a clause in the Municipal Act. In cantonments we find very much less noise than in civil stations. Therefore I suggest that a measure for the removal of this nuisance should be enacted which I am sure will be welcomed also by the Opposition and which will be useful for the health of people living in cities.

Coming to Rawalpindi district, Chaudhri Sahib knows that it is a very poor district compared with the districts of Jhelum, Campbellpur, etc. The district contains petty landholders who cannot be considered to be on a par with the landlords of the districts I have just mentioned. Pindi district is the poorest district and poverty, it is said, is one of the reasons why we live on services more than on our zamindari. Most of our land is barani. I would, therefore, request the Honourable Chaudhri Sahib to specially devote his attention to find out ways and means by which the district can be easily irrigated. There is enough water in the district in certain parts and if those areas are examined by experts it will be found that they can be easily irrigated, especially the north-western side of the district. I was once told by an engineer that if a dam is erected the whole of the plains near Bharacan, perhaps thousands of acres of land, can be irrigated. I therefore hope that whenever any irrigation scheme comes up for consideration, this will be borne in mind by the Honourable Minister, and if after due examination there is any likelihood of its possibility I think he will devote his attention to it so that to a great extent the poverty of the district can be removed. When the men of the Rawalpindi district who are now serving in the war with so much credit come back to their villages after the war they will find it difficult to keep up the standard to which they are now getting accustomed. There is every likelihood of their losing their present hard-earned money in trying to keep up their present standard of life and then going back to their poor lands which will not be productive of much good to them. Therefore, something must be done to them; if they are neglected it will not bring a good name to the Government. It would rather disintegrate the whole social structure in the district. I therefore submit that this is specially worthy of note by the Honourable Minister.

Again it is in the Pindi district that you find that the poor teachers and the servants of local bodies who were paid hill allowance were denied this allowance in 1932 for reasons best known to the authorities concerned. But now in view of the special dearthness all round, I would ask the Honourable Minister of Education to look into the matter to find out why that allowance was stopped and if it is found that it was stopped because of financial stringency existing in 1932 it could very easily be restored now in view of the fact that we are now in opulence. We have enough money and we can easily part with 20,000 or 24,000 rupees for

[ Khan Mohammad Yusuf Khan ]

the district to relieve the trouble of these people. The other day some honourable member advocated the cause of the poor chaprasis and said that their salaries should be increased. If the chaprasis are deserving of this much consideration, and I do believe that they deserve enhanced salaries, I do not think that the poor teachers of the district boards who have to maintain themselves on Rs. 15 or Rs. 25 do not deserve as much consideration at least. I submit that the Honourable Minister for Education ought to look into this matter and find out some means by which their condition can be ameliorated and they can be well paid especially in view of the fact that education which is the primary responsibility of the Government is being discharged by the local bodies. A man who is not well paid cannot be expected to impart good education with ease and contentment. Therefore he deserves much more consideration. With these few words I resume my seat.

**The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye** (Minister for Education): Yesterday my Honourable friend Mr. Abdul Rab while speaking brought to my notice the case of Rana Abdul Hamid, the Inspector of Schools, Jullundur Division. He said that while he was touring in Hoshiarpur district he met with an accident, that the doctor at Mukerian on being sent for refused to come on the ground that it was a holiday and that subsequently when it was brought to his notice that the officer was the Inspector of Schools he said that he would send his compounder. I have been in communication with the Deputy Inspector of Schools and so has been the Director of Public Instruction. We have received every possible information, and I may tell my honourable friends that in none of these letters is any allegation made about this lapse on the part of the doctor. Rana Abdul Hamid was riding a horse at Mukerian and had a fall and he was treated at Mukerian for seven days and then he was taken to Jullundur and yesterday he was brought to the Mayo Hospital. He was unconscious for four days and he is not fully conscious even today. I wonder what the source of information conveyed by my honourable friend Mr. Abdul Rab is, but I made certain enquiries yesterday and am informed that Rana Abdul Hamid was admitted to the Family Ward of the Mayo Hospital yesterday, that he is unable to give any statement as he is not fully conscious and that his servant also does not know anything as he was not present at the time of Rana Sahib's fall from his horse. Dr. Sadiqi further said that some one sitting by his bedside told him that some one did attend on him, that he does not know the man but he probably was a doctor. In the circumstances if the information conveyed by Mr. Abdul Rab has got any foundation and there has been a lapse on the part of the doctor, an enquiry shall be instituted against him and he shall be dealt with.

Then my sister Baji Rashida Latif while addressing us yesterday brought to my notice the case of the dearness allowance of the privately-managed schools. In this connection I might give the information that the dearness allowance for the local bodies schools was sanctioned and an amount of 19 lakhs of rupees has been put in the budget. The case of the privately-managed schools is under consideration, and we hope that we shall be able to secure them the dearness allowance which they amply deserve. I hope that orders shall issue very soon.

Sodhi Harnam Singh while addressing yesterday brought to my notice the need of the rural areas. He said that in the rural areas there must be more doctors. Unfortunately on account of the war we are short of doctors, but the New Expenditure will show that we have provided for ten subsidised dispensaries. If we can get doctors we shall go ahead with this, but at present most of the doctors have gone to the Military. The new graduates who have

passed through college are also required for the military. We have 80 dispensaries at present working without doctors. (*An honourable member* : Are they working with compounders ?) Yes.

Khan Muhammad Yusuf while addressing us yesterday said something about illiteracy and touring doctors. He said that the expenditure which was provided under the heads "Illiteracy" and "Touring of Doctors" was useless, and that the amount could be spent on other items. As regards illiteracy the programme was started in 1937 and if he says that every teacher, every supervising officer, every deputy inspector and every district inspector is corrupt, I have no reason to subscribe to his view. There may be some black sheep. (*An honourable member* : There are many). They are not many. Whenever I have paid a visit to an institution I have very carefully looked into these cases. As regards the touring of doctors. I may point out for the information of the honourable member that the touring doctors have done very useful work during the current year. I am afraid that in 1943 out of 161 dispensaries under the Public Health Department there were 18,328 visits paid by the doctors and the total number of patients seen in the villages was 2,13,814. As regards other dispensaries which are under the Inspector-General my information is that in the year 1941 there were as many as 56,34,847 persons treated. Out of these 4,90,292 were seen at the village chaupal and 30,652 were seen at the hospital. In the face of these facts if my honourable friends are out to suggest that every officer in the Medical Department is corrupt, it is not believable and I am not in a position to subscribe to that view.

**Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh** (Western Towns, Sikh, Urban) : This year's budget has broken all previous records in more ways than one, for which the Honourable Finance Minister deserves to be congratulated. The revenue receipts have risen very high ; they are probably the highest ever reached, to the tune of 20 crores—a figure which is almost equal to that of the province of Bengal with its population double that of this province. The surplus during these three years amounts to 10 crores of rupees, if we take into consideration the two reserve funds, the Peasants' Welfare Fund and the Special Development Fund. The debt of the province has been reduced from 37 to 27 crores. All these are very good figures on the financial side, but they represent in my view the sort of mentality on the part of Government of a rich person who is very keen on amassing wealth but neglects his health and does not like to spend money on his physical, intellectual or mental development.

With all this surplus, I am surprised that the Government should not have any planning for spending any amount on the welfare of the people of this province. It may be said that they have provided 42 lakhs more on the beneficent departments in the next year's budget than they did in the current year. But if you examine carefully, you will find that a good portion of this amount represents increase in salaries and dearness allowance. In fact, the extra net amount spent on the beneficent departments is not very great. The Government might feel satisfied and might gloat over its success. They might even take credit that they are doing much for the people of this province and they might be feeling that this represents the true state of prosperity in the province. Far from it. In these days it is not the surplus that reflects the prosperity of the people. If it were so, the poorest country going to-day should be the United States of America and the poorest people on earth the Americans. But the Governments these days spend more on the amenities of the people, on increasing the purchasing power of the people, on industrial development, on providing houses, on

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providing employment and on greater comforts to the people, even if they were to take huge amounts of loan for these purposes. Now take the case of education. With this huge surplus and huge revenue receipt, let us see what extra amount has been provided for the liquidation of illiteracy. Out of 20 crores of revenue, a sum of Rs. 50,000 is proposed to be allotted to local bodies for introducing compulsion in the primary stage. So far as adult illiteracy is concerned, a sum of 98 lakhs was spent in 1940-41, and for 1944-45, when the receipts have risen to 20 crores, they propose to spend only Rs. 40,000. This is their programme of liquidation of illiteracy in this province. (*Sardar Sohan Singh Josh*: Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram is going to close all primary schools). The amount they propose to allot for primary education is very meagre and in these circumstances I do not know how many centuries it will take for the people of this province to come up to the level of advanced countries. I was amused to find one item in the budget in the Education department and that is, a provision of Rs. 20,000 for encouraging the teaching of Gurmukhi and other scriptural languages. Last year they provided Rs. 10,000 (*Rai Bahadur Lala Gopal Dass*: And spent nothing) and they spent not a single pie and I am sure that this sum of Rs. 20,000 also will remain as it is in the safe coffers of the Reserve Bank and not a pie will be spent. Now they have bracketted Gurmukhi, Hindi and Arabic together. Originally they were proposing to spend the amount only on Hindi and Gurmukhi and now my honourable friend has increased the scope of these scriptural languages and has been very generous in providing this sum of Rs. 20,000 for the three languages including Arabic.

With regard to dearness allowance in the case of private schools, why should my honourable friend take a long time to consider this important matter? It is on a par with dearness allowance granted to local bodies. Why should he not give grant in aid to these schools also? Does he not want that private schools should give dearness allowance to their teachers?

With regard to industry, I know my honourable friend, the Finance Minister is very keen on the promotion of industries. He is taking a keen interest in the new Industries Committee that was lately set up. Therefore, I cannot understand why he is not providing a bigger sum, when he has the money, on industrial research than he has provided. Only Rs. 10,000 is proposed to be spent on this. Does he think that with Rs. 10,000 on industrial research we are going to make any headway? Industrial research is the very soul and life of industry. In my opinion no less than a lakh or 2 lakhs of rupees ought to be spent every year on industrial research. It is only then that we will be able to make any progress in industrial development.

Then a meagre sum of Rs. 20,000 has been provided as grants to educated men for starting small scale industry. What industries can young men establish with a provision of Rs. 20,000 in the whole year? When you have got the money, why don't you encourage these people? You will be faced with a serious problem unless these young men are encouraged to take up these small scale industries.

Another important thing is the collection of commercial and industrial data. No provision has been made for this purpose. It is an important matter that young men who want to set up new industries should be supplied with all the necessary information pertaining to those industries. They want all sorts of information. We do not know the position of this province in regard to many industries. It is a very difficult matter and I hope my honourable friend, the Finance Minister, will pay attention to this question.

Then with regard to civil works and roads, I fully realise that this province has made great progress in regard to the construction of roads. But I draw the attention of my honourable friend, the Minister of Public Works to a fairly important mandi in this province, in the Lower Bari Doab Colony area, where no metalled road exists either between Lahore on one side and Multan or Nili Bar on the other side. Mian Channu which is a flourishing cotton market is not served by any metalled road towards Lahore, Multan or Burewala side. I hope the Honourable Minister will look into this matter.

Another important matter to which I draw the attention of my honourable friend the Revenue Minister is the construction of dams for the dual purpose of irrigation and generation of electric power. We know that the shortage of coal has affected many industries this year; many factories had to close down for want of coal. We are very badly situated so far as the supply of coal is concerned. Luckily we have rivers which, when properly dammed, can produce energy and electric power which can be used to great advantage for industrial development. I know that a project circle has been established and five lakhs of rupees were spent last year and the Government proposes to spend another eight lakhs of rupees next year. I want to stress the importance of this side of the problem. Unless you speed up your programme of dam construction, I am afraid our province will be greatly handicapped after the war. We can do nothing without cheap power. We have got no coal supply and I hope that my friend will look into that question. It is a matter of pleasure that the Khushab branch of Thal Project has been allowed to go on and will get water next year. With the construction of these dams the Government will be helping the "Grow More Food" campaign as well as advancing the industrial progress of this province.

Another question on which I would like to lay stress is the provision of fertilizers for the agriculturists. The Department of Agriculture has done useful work for the cultivators, but I am sorry to say that much work has not been done with regard to the research on fertilizers or on encouraging the use of fertilizers by the zamindars. With the use of artificial fertilizers and other things, which help to improve the crop, one can get an increase in the yield to the tune of 40 to 50 per centum. If we were to concentrate our attention on the provision of fertilizers at moderate rates to the zamindars without extending the area, I am sure they will be able to produce 40 per centum more food-grains and other crops by this method and I would request the Honourable Minister of Development to pay special attention to it and provide at least one lakh of rupees for research work on the use of fertilizers such as Nitrate of Soda, Ammonium Sulphate, and also help the establishment of an industry in this province. The Punjab Government should approach the Government of India for the supply of Ammonium Sulphate at cheap rates.

Another matter to which I would like to invite the attention of the Government is the *lathi* charge at Amritsar. It was a very unfortunate affair. I do not wish to say much on this subject but I would request them as a responsible Government, to go into the matter in a responsible manner. After the finding of a Committee presided over by such an eminent person as Sir Tek Chand, late Judge of the High Court, and two other equally distinguished men, this Government should have gone into the matter more carefully. But I am very sorry to say that their *communiqué* does not do credit to them. The Government do not seem to have taken note of the fact that the Information Member of the Government of India stated on the floor of the Central Assembly that their camera-man was badly hit and the camera was broken as a result of the *lathi* charge and still

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the Punjab Government came forward with such a *communiqué*. I hope that the Government will reconsider this matter and call for an explanation from the authorities concerned.

My time is limited and I would only say a few words with regard to the post-war planning. We are fortunately having surpluses in the budget and I am sure that the surplus which has been shown by Sir Manohar Lal for the next year will increase by another crore. But we must be ready with our plans. Unless we do so, all that money will be of no avail. Every country of the world, with their loans and deficits, is planning ahead. Fortunately our industrialists have given some lead with regard to industrial planning and the Sargent Memorandum has given a lead with regard to the planning of educational problems. But that is a general plan for the Government of India. Unless every province sets up a committee to go into the details of the plan in accordance with its special requirements, nothing will be done. I sincerely and very emphatically stress the importance of planning in every branch, in every sphere of activity of the Government. They should set up a Planning Committee for education and see how much can be done for the liquidation of illiteracy, for educating our young men, for technical education, for university education and more particularly for industrial advancement. Unless we have all these plans ready, I am afraid our problems will be too many to be tackled all at once. Our problems are greater than the problems of any other province. We have a larger number of soldiers who will be demobilised than any other part of India and that demobilisation itself will create problems for us. Unless we have all these plans ready before the war ends, I am afraid posterity will curse the Government.

**Sardar Santokh Singh** (Eastern Towns, Sikh, Urban): One significant fact that emerges from this Budget as from others that have preceded it is the fact that there is a tendency on the part of this Government to constantly under-estimate the revenue receipts. The Hon'ble Finance Minister has himself made a reference to this in his opening speech. As we find, in the year 1942-43, a deficit of ten lakhs was budgeted. The year resulted in an actual surplus of one crore and 94 lakhs, after providing 80 lakhs for the Special Development Fund and the Peasant Welfare Fund. Similarly in 1943-44 the budgeted surplus was 50 lakhs and according to the revised estimates now presented, the year will end in an anticipated surplus of 2 crores and 79 lakhs. The actual surplus may be much more according to the accounts that may be presented hereafter. It follows that in the year 1943-44 with a budget of 15 crores and 19 lakhs the revenue receipts were under-estimated by 4 crores and 85 lakhs, that is, to the extent of 82 per cent. I repeat, Sir, that the revenue receipts in the year 1943-44 were under-estimated to the extent of 82 per cent. I would not call this a cautionary or a good budgeting but a positively bad budgeting. When you are so much out of touch with the realities of the situation, you naturally go off your feet and do not provide in your budget the expenditure that you yourself might be considering necessary for the uplift of the masses because according to your estimates there is no money available. Again in the year 1944-45, for which year the budget is presented to us, the revenue receipts are estimated to be 19 crores and 64 lakhs, that is, forty lakhs below the revised estimate of 1943-44 and the surplus is expected to be 3 crores and 86 lakhs of rupees.

With such huge surplus that the Government has itself budgeted, one does not find in the budget any provision for beneficent departments to the same extent as it ought to have been. The Honourable Finance Minister said that they are

providing more money for beneficent departments. I would try to prove from facts and figures that this is not the case and that the beneficent departments have rather been starved to the benefit of other departments. For the purposes of this, I will compare the figures of 1937-38 with the figures contained in the budget for the year 1944-45 that is now presented. In 1937-38 the expenditure on the beneficent departments was 3 crores and 9 lakhs. In 1944-45 the budgeted expenditure on the beneficent departments is 4 crores and 64 lakhs, that is, an increase of 50 per cent. Now, Sir, when referring to the revenue receipts, you will find that during the corresponding period of 1937-38 and 1944-45 there is an increase of 68 per cent in the revenue receipts of the province as compared with the increase of expenditure of only 50 per cent in the beneficent departments. I put it to the Honourable Finance Minister whether he considers it fair and right. Much more money should have been provided for beneficent departments with all this increase in revenue.

Coming now to various Heads, I will first take up Education. In 1937-38, the expenditure on Education was 1 crore and 60 lakhs. Now the budgeted expenditure is 2 crores and 8 lakhs. The increase is only 30 per cent against the increase in your revenues by 68 per cent. You provide for an increase of only 30 per cent under the head 'Education'. Again, take Medical. In 1937-38 the expenditure was 48.6 lakhs, in 1944-45 you are providing 62 lakhs only; that means an increase of only 30 per cent against your increase of 68 per cent in the revenue receipts. Under the head 'Jails and Police' the increase in the expenditure is 66 per cent. In 1937-38 the expenditure budgeted under the head 'Justice, Jails and Police' was 2 crores and 9 lakhs. It has not been raised to 3 crores and 48 lakhs. The increase in this expenditure is 66 per cent; whilst in the case of education and medical the increase is not more than 30 per cent. In the matter of industries, the less said the better. There is an increase of only 2 lakhs in the budgeted expenditure over that of the last year and that is at the hands of the Honourable Finance Minister, who always says and rightly that the salvation of the province depends upon industries. I happened to be on the sub-committee for new industries, so ably presided over by the able Finance Minister and know his feelings on this point. I know that a good deal of useful discussion had been carried on in that sub-committee for new industries. But my grievance is that we have not at all passed that stage of discussion. Something more solid has got to be done and some steps have got to be taken before industries can improve in this province. With an increase of 2 lakhs in the expenditure under the head of Industries during a year, I would just put it to the Honourable Finance Minister as to how long, he thinks, it would take for industry to be properly established in this province. I may point out that 10 thousand rupees under research, as I pointed out also last year, is an insignificant sum. It is a drop in the ocean. I did expect that in the department presided over by the Honourable Finance Minister something more substantial should have been done. If you do not provide more money for industries, if you do not start new industries in these prosperous times, I do not know what you shall be doing in less prosperous times. After all industry is a thing on which there can be no two opinions. By industrialisation alone, the province can take its proper place as compared with other provinces. As we all know, post-war competition is going to be very severe and unless from now on we prepare ourselves for that, I am afraid, we shall have no place and we shall be left nowhere as compared with other countries, who during this war are taking every possible step to improve their industries and will be in a position to offer cut throat competition.

Sir, the surpluses by themselves are no indication of the prosperity of the people. They indicate two things. One, that the level of taxation is unduly



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high or that the money which should have been provided for the uplift of the people is not being so spent and the coffers of the Government have been allowed to swell by it. In this particular matter even the *Tribune*, which has—if I may take the liberty to say so—a very soft corner for the Honourable Finance Minister in its heart, was compelled to say in its editorial of the 4th March 1934, as follows. I will just quote a few relevant portions from that editorial. It says :

“.....but making due allowance for these factors and taking care at the same time not to violate the canons of orthodox finance in which the Finance Minister not unnaturally, appears to have such profound faith, it does seem to us that the finances of the province have attained a stage when the improvement can be made, the basis of large-scale schemes of provincial development.”

This is what the *Tribune* has felt compelled to say with regard to the provincial development. Further on it goes on to say :

“.....But the present Government while doing everything to improve the condition of the agriculturists must shed their anti-industrial prejudice.....”

(At this stage Mr. Speaker left the Chair and it was occupied by Mr. Deputy Speaker) Now, Sir, as to the budget, the compliment comes to the Government from unexpected quarters, from one of the shining lights of their own party, I mean, Khan Bahadur Shaikh Karamt Ali. This is what he has been reported to have said to the interviewer of the *Civil and Military Gazette* and I need no apology in quoting in full. He said :

At the other end is a typical criticism voiced by Khan Bahadur Sheikh Karamat Ali, M. L. A., a member of the Working Committee of the All-India Muslim League who, in an interview said :

‘The budget maintains the tradition of erratic calculations, which have been a feature of the Punjab’s finances for some years now’.

Another noteworthy criticism of the Khan Bahadur was that the budget reflected ‘in a striking manner a policy of favouring big landlords at the expense of everybody else’.

There is, “he said,” no taxation whatever on their unearned increase of income. One can understand a policy of not touching the inflated income of the small or middle-class zamindars, but I do not see how anybody can justify the omission of a special tax on those whose income has suddenly gone up, from, say, Rs. 40,000 to two to three lakhs of rupees, without the slightest effort on their part. This omission is a flagrant refutation of the claim that the Ministry was trying to equalise the burden of taxation on all sections of the population ...

This is a matter which, not only the Honourable Finance Minister may take note of, but the Government as a whole as well, coming as it does, not from a member of the Opposition, but from one of the shining lights of the Unionist Party. (An honourable member : Do you agree ?) Yes, I fully agree. My friend forgets that the honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram has often stated that he makes no distinction between a rich and a poor zamindar : because it suits him to say that, but the time is fast arriving when you cannot continue to exploit the name of the poor zamindar for the benefit of richer few. The Opposition has been saying so for a number of years, but it is now the turn of one of the Government’s own members to bear testimony to it.

KHAN BAHADUR SHEIKH KARAMAT ALI further says :—

The Finance Minister and his colleagues do not seem to know how to spend the money which Providence has inflicted upon them, presumably most of the surpluses will be put in the so called Peasants’ Welfare Fund. We have been hearing something about the way in which the fund is proposed to be spent. It does not require much reflection to realise that these proposals, while claiming to benefit the poor peasant, will only benefit the big landlord, and will probably also lead to a great deal of jobbery.

As the honourable Premier has come now I make a present of this cutting of the *C. & M. Gazette* to him to make note, as to where things are drifting to.

I have just been talking of industries. Here I may point out that in the last 5 years the expenditure on Industries has gone up only by 11 lakhs. This includes travelling allowances and everything else. If one is to refer to pages 302-310 of the New Expenditure, Heads 1-35 he will find that no new scheme worth the name has been sponsored by Government. The money to be spent is mostly on salaries and for the retention and continuance of previous schemes and no new scheme worth the name has been even thought of. The money is to be spent on schemes which are to continue and could not be abolished, and this is in the year 1944-45 when fortunately our surplus is going to be so heavy. I would request the Government in all seriousness and in all humility to shed this industrial prejudice and to proceed with other schemes with all possible speed.

The welcome feature of this budget is the reduction of ten crores in the unconsolidated debt of the province. This is a step in the right direction. I shall be failing in my duty if I do not point out in the same breath that land worth 10 crores has been sold by this Government during the last 3 years. Air Raid Precautions, which in the year 1943-44 were responsible for an expenditure of 48 lakhs, will now yield a credit of 9 lakhs; and notwithstanding that, the beneficent departments have not been given the same increase in expenditure as was their due. I have already pointed out that the increase in expenditure on Education and on the Medical side has been only 30 per cent as compared with the increase of 68 per cent in the revenue receipts, from the year 1937-38 to 1944-45. One finds that an increase of 10 lakhs is provided in the touring allowance rates. It is really unfortunate. This Assembly sanctions the money for touring and when they ask for details as to how it has been spent, how much amount has been spent by each Minister or by his Parliamentary Secretary, a flat refusal comes. The honourable Premier took pride the other day by telling this House that he is trying to give more and more information to us on the floor of the House, but in this particular matter, where formerly almost every year, we were supplied with the details asked for, this year we have been refused even that information. That really creates doubts and suspicions which should not be allowed to grow. After all, why does not this Government even condescend to give information as to the amount of travelling allowance drawn by each Minister or by his Parliamentary Secretary. When the money has been voted by this Assembly I really do not see the reason why we should be deprived of having the information which is our legal right to obtain, more especially in face of the fact that it was being supplied to us on previous occasions. Is it that any particular Minister has spent much more than others that the Government is shy to give us this information? Is it because certain Ministers have not collectively spent as much as has been spent by a particular Minister individually. Let me point out that the refusal to give us the information causes and creates doubts and suspicions in the minds of the public as well as in the minds of the Members of the Assembly, which it should more be the concern of the Government to clear up and not allow suspicions to be deepened.

In the matter of Hydro-Electric schemes the Finance Minister on page 16 has placed the viewpoint that private enterprises do not charge interest on such ventures. This view, I may venture to say, is absolutely wrong. I happen to be a businessman myself and I know that our first consideration is to provide interest for the capital invested before we arrive at any figures for the revenue that we get out of that venture.

I now come to the case of political detainees. So far as one can see there are no subversive activities in this province. I do not claim to have at my disposal the same information which Government might have but as far as things

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can be seen on the surface everything seems to be going on smoothly and quite all right. We have been told on many occasions that it is the general policy of the Government of India to keep those gentlemen, who belong to the congress, and who may any day replace the present ministers, behind the bars. I put it to the Government whether it is not up to them to represent the cases of these gentlemen as they do in other matters. They did not agree with the Government of India in the matter of control of prices and for a number of months they kept on making representations and giving vent to their feelings; but I do ask, is it not equally their duty and is it not equally necessary for the Premier, of all persons, to represent to the Central Government the viewpoint of the members of this assembly that there are no subversive activities going on in this province?

Everything is going on smoothly. If the Government wish there is nothing to prevent them from strongly representing their case to the Government of India and to tell them that they contemplate to set free these gentlemen, these, gems of the society gentleman who give most of their time for the welfare of the province, I fail to understand why these gentlemen should be kept behind the bars simply because the Government of India, without regard to the realities in the province, so desire. In other provinces where there have been cases of sabotage or where some such circumstances still exist there may be reasons for detaining the congress men in jail but in the Punjab there seems to be no necessity for such an action on the part of the Government. I do hope that the Government will give its serious attention to this important matter and if they feel satisfied as I do that there is no case for detaining these gentlemen in jail, they will be released forthwith.

Another thing that I do want to point out is this. There is reign of terror prevalent in the province by the Defence of India Rules. The Defence of India Rules are being used for the purpose for which they were never intended. The powers of the deputy commissioners are so wide that I will not be surprised that one day a deputy commissioner hauls up even the honourable Premier if he happened to be a merchant which fortunately for him he is not. It was pointed out by Sir Gokul Chand Narang yesterday that even Sir Manohar Lal felt compelled to say that if he had to run a shop under the present conditions it would have been impossible for him to do so. If that is the opinion of a gentleman of the position of Sir Manohar Lal, an honourable Minister of the Government, and a very learned gentleman, you can very well imagine the plight of poor old illiterate persons of 80 or 90 of age who, merely because of their ignorance, having failed to obtain a licence (not that they wanted to defy the law) were put in jail for the mere fault of keeping a few maunds of a particular commodity in excess of that allowed! This is where things have drifted to.

Reference has already been made to the lathi charge at Amritsar. An enquiry was made into these happenings by a committee presided over by no less a person than Sir Tek Chand ex-Judge of the High Court and eminent gentlemen like Rai Bahadur Badri Das and Mr. Ganga Ram a retired sessions Judge as its members. They have issued their report but no action has been taken on it by our Government. It is incumbent upon the Government after the report of these universally respected gentlemen to take action in the matter and punish the officials responsible for the lathi charge. It cannot be said that there was no lathi charge; mere denial will not do. People were present there in thousands; there were very responsible and eminent persons, seven or eight ministers and ex-Ministers were there who saw with their own eyes what

happened there and many have made their statements. it will be in the interest of the Government themselves to appoint an enquiry committee or take such steps as they deem necessary to elucidate the position in regard to the lathi charge in Amritsar on that fateful day.

I would refer to one or two other matters before I resume my seat. One is the Executive Officers' Act. I am glad that the Honourable Minister in charge of the Department is present here and he will pay his attention to what I am going to say. The Government is not apparently satisfied with the all-round powers that they have over the local bodies; the Government is not satisfied with the 25 per cent nominations that are in their hands for placing their own men in the local bodies. In addition to that they are trying at every possible step to make the executive officers, their own creations, supreme over the municipal bodies, thus reducing these bodies to a mere farce. Everything big and small is to be done by the executive officer and interpretations of law to that effect have been given not only during the time of the present Minister but also during the time of the previous Minister who is the Premier today. The Ministry has absolutely no business to give those interpretations, without consulting their law officers. Whenever any question arises the executive officer has only to approach the deputy commissioner behind the back of the committee, and the whole thing is so dramatically arranged, that the executive officer is competent for this and for that and that the committee has nothing to do with it. A provision was made in the Act and rules that in the case of Lahore and Amritsar municipality persons drawing a certain amount of pay were to be engaged by the executive officers and those drawing more were to be engaged by the committee. But a curious interpretation has been given to the law—I do not know whether the Government consulted their Law Department or not—and now the position is that the executive officer is competent to do anything; he can revise the grades of pay and can do all that without let or hindrance. A provision is of course there for an appeal to the Commissioner, but every poor man has not the means of approach to the Commissioner. Last year, Sir, a case happened in the municipality of Amritsar, of which fortunately or unfortunately I happen to be the President. A member had an occasion to go to a terminal tax barrier and had a look into the accounts. For that he was given a warning that if he ever attempted to go again to the barrier, more serious action would be taken against him. Such is the state of affairs to which we have drifted to. (*An honourable member*: shame) Would it not be better if under these circumstances you suspended the municipal committees altogether? If such things can happen in Lahore or Amritsar where there are men who can bring such things to your notice, the plight of lesser municipal committees can well be imagined. May I ask the honourable Minister for Public Works to carefully weigh all the pros and cons and see that all these things are put a stop to. These committees have become official ridden. The executive officer, if he happens to be in the good books of the Deputy Commissioner, initiates everything. He has got 25 per cent nominated members at his back, for whom his word is law.

The independence of these local self-governing bodies should not be interfered with at every stage. They should be free to lay down their policy, without being dictated to, from any quarter.

I am sorry I have not brought with me a list of those interpretations that have been given by the Government at the request of the executive officers. However, I should like the honourable Minister to tell me whether he considers those things justified, whether he considers that the executive officers should make

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the appointments without reporting to the committee whether the executive officers should dismiss people without bringing the fact to the notice of the committees, whether the executive officers should institute and cancel enquiries at their sweet will, without informing the committees at all. These things require serious consideration and so far as I am concerned I am perfectly willing to approach the honourable Minister to discuss these matters with him, not from a personal point of view but with a view to see that the local self-governing institutions are given the powers that are rightly their due.

Before closing my remarks I should just like to convey a little warning to the present Government. The Government should shed its anti-urban prejudice. Things in this respect have not improved at all. They are just as bad as they ever were. The Government exists for the benefit of a favoured few and not for the benefit of masses. May Almighty set it on the right path and give it wisdom to govern the province in fairness to all, and with full regard to equity and justice! With these words I resume my seat.

**Premier** (The Honourable Malik Khizar Hayat): It is my pleasant duty once again to congratulate the Honourable Finance Minister on the Budget that he has presented. He has been in charge of the Punjab finances for the last seven years and the Budgets that he has been presenting all these years have evoked praises from all sides of the House. (*An honourable member*: Question). Exceptions prove the rule. He has been able to keep the Punjab finances sound not only in famine years but also in war years. Beneficent activities have been expanding by leaps and bounds. No administrative activity has been stopped because of the situation created by famine. This is no mean achievement. His Budgets have been universally acclaimed as sound and I think that is why his fame has spread far and wide beyond this province. He is a person of whom the Punjab can well be proud.

The present Budget has surpassed his previous achievements. That it is unprecedented is admitted on all sides of the House. It may even be surpassable. The fact that this is such a Budget that nobody can attack it was amply borne out by the fact that the honourable members opposite withdrew yesterday because they had no convincing arguments to attack it. To-day they have come back and I am glad to see them in their seats, but they have not been able so far to make any serious attack on it. (*An honourable member*: May I ask whether the Honourable Premier heard anybody else on this side speak?) I heard a few speeches but it is the usual job of the Opposition to say something against the Budget. But their laboured criticism shows that they have no case against the Budget. The only criticism from one quarter was that the surplus was due to extraordinary receipts. I am not a financial pandit, but I can say this much that the surplus relates only to revenue budget and not capital budget. Therefore the sort of criticism made yesterday by one honourable member hardly deserves any reply from this side of the House. What my honourable friend, the Leader of the Opposition, was attacking was the general policy, the bias of this Government for the rural people, for the masses. That sort of criticism casts no reflection on the Honourable Finance Minister's Budget. His criticism was against the policy of the Government which is to help the poor and the backward. That is our declared policy. The Finance Minister has brought the financial position of the Punjab to such a glorious state of affairs that I think it is now fool proof. I hope he will continue to be here to look after the finances of the province so that we may go on from prosperity to prosperity. I know we have had good luck and I thank Providence for that, but good luck can be

fully availed of only if there is proper planning and proper care of the finances. I know that the Honourable Finance Minister has been very minutely scrutinising the various items of expenditure. We are lucky to have him and we can well be proud of him. More plans are being laid and the Punjab will have to be thankful to him when those plans reach the final stages.

This surplus that we have had is quite welcome, but the needs of the province are also great. If you look at the postwar planning, the need of the poor classes, the need of the ex-soldiers, the need of providing employment for them, development of irrigation and so on, it will be observed that while surplus is welcome our needs also are very great. We have the greatest number of soldiers serving in the army. (*Hear, hear*). I think our share in the army is more than half. When these soldiers are demobilised it will involve a great strain on the finances of our province. Even from now we have to plan for them so that they may not suffer for having fought in this war. In this connection I should like to mention, though I do not propose to go into details at this stage, that our plans for post-war reconstruction, for the welfare of ex-soldiers, for the development of the province particularly the backward areas, looking after the interests of the poor and the backward classes are advancing. A board was set up in 1942 to plan for the future. Deputy Commissioners and heads of departments have been preparing schemes and some of these have appeared in the papers. Non-official members of this House along with other leading personalities of the province have been associated with the honourable Ministers in charge of the various departments and they have been planning. These plans will be scrutinised by the committees and eventually they will come up before the Government. If I may say so the irrigation plan alone will cost us some 80 crores. There are other schemes also which will add to this cost and the total cost may come up to 70 or 80 crores. That is one aspect. Again it must be remembered that we are far removed from coal fields. No province can develop without industries. Agriculture also is dependent upon industries to some extent. For industries we want cheap power and cheap power cannot be had without electricity. To obtain cheap power we will have to spend large sums of money. Schemes in that connection are also being prepared. When we have cheap power, it is only then that we will be able to have industries, large and small. That is another place on which the surplus will be well utilised, but the surplus will be just a small portion of the amount of money required by us.

Then the other feature of the budget that I would like to mention is that now our Peasants' Welfare Fund stands at 150 lakhs. Plans in that connection are being prepared so as to give the best benefit to the deserving small zamindars. Some of the members have been criticising and asking how the poor will derive benefit from those schemes. They have not seen the schemes. How can they criticise them? I can only ask them to have patience until the schemes are put before them. The idea is that by co-operative selling and co-operative buying the poorer classes should be able to benefit. By "poorer classes" I mean those who pay land revenue to the extent of Rs. 25. It is they whom we intend to benefit and it is they who will be benefited by the schemes. The scheme will be devised in such a manner that the proportion spent in each district from the total fund will be approximately the same as the proportion of the revenue payers of less than Rs. 25 in the district to the total number of such revenue payers in the province. This year we have added another crore to the two funds—Rupees 60 lakhs to the Peasants' Welfare Fund and Rupees 40 lakhs to the Development Fund.

[Premier]

There are many other features about which my honourable friends have heard enough and so I have no intention of taking them up and will confine myself to the remarks which the honourable the Leader of the Opposition has just made.

He made a passing reference to the *lathi* charge at Amritsar. I have only to say that the Government *communiqué* is already there. If the honourable member wants details of the Government side of the case, I am waiting for the General Administration Demand to come up when the matter can be fully discussed.

Then the honourable member said that there is anti-urban bias in the Government policy. Our policy is to help the poor and the backward irrespective of the fact whether they are urban or rural. It so happens that the poor and the backward in the rural areas exceed by far the poor and the backward in the urban areas.

These were the remarks that I had to make. I congratulate the Honourable Finance Minister once again on his budget, and I am sure the province in general will know the benefits that accrue from these schemes when they mature.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh** (Amritsar North, Sikh, Rural) (*Punjabi*): Sir, in the absence of the Opposition from the House yesterday, the honourable members of the ministerialist party have had an ample opportunity to say whatever they liked. They must have praised the Honourable Finance Minister to their heart's content and said that the Budget was successful in every respect. But now let us see the other side of the picture. My speech will not contain figures as I am not interested in the jugglery of figures. I am interested in the actual working of the Government and its policy which underlies its day to day administration. I will discuss in the first place the attitude of the Unionist Ministry towards the public at large. In this connection I want to take special note of what the honourable Premier has just now remarked. He said, "Go out into the countryside and find out the actual feelings of the people about the present Government." As I happen to be one of those who go about the country as the servant of the people and take part in their sorrows and pleasures, I can speak with some authority about the actual and genuine feelings of the people concerning the present regime. The first and foremost question which at present is agitating the whole of the country and which I think every sensible and politically minded Indian is considering is the question of the political deadlock. The whole of India is anxious to end this stalemate and see the representative governments functioning in all provinces of India. In connection with this question, I would like to study the attitude of the Punjab Government and its behaviour towards the liberty of the country. You will never notice any anxiety on the part of this Government to see national Government established in the country. On the other hand it is ever busy to strengthen the hands of the British bureaucracy in India. It is acting as the tool of the British Imperialism in carrying out its policy of political deadlock.

If you go into the countryside, you will find the actual work of the present Government to be only this much that it harasses the national workers and those who want to see their country free from the foreign yoke. In fact the whole administration of the Punjab is bent on making the roots of the British imperialism strong in the soil of the Punjab. During the present regime the civil liberties have been curtailed and the freedom of the people has been reduced

to the utmost minimum. No democratic liberty exists in this province. Even the honourable members of this august House are debarred from coming and attending the Budget Session of the Assembly and expressing their free opinions. The patriots and freedom loving members of the House have been either detained or prevented from attending the meetings of the provincial legislature. Some of the honourable members who are on parole and present in the city of Lahore, even they are not allowed to come into this Chamber. That is the height of injustice and the height of crushing the civil and democratic liberties in the province. Lovers of democracy and freedom are not permitted to carry on their activities against fascism in the country side or even in the provincial legislature. No useful work can be done under these circumstances. People are not allowed even to mobilise people to fight Japanese fascism.

Sir, it must be known to you that in the days of the Premiership of the late Sir Sikander Hyat Khan, we used to say that the civil liberties were being crushed. But I am sorry to note that now the position has worsened considerably after his death. The Premiership of Malik Khizar Hayat has completely handed over the administration of the province to the I. C. S. people. Democratic liberties have been altogether crushed and no civil liberties exist today under the new Premier.

The honourable Premier is shaking his head. I say it won't do. Let us ask the opinion of the masses in the villages and see whether it goes in your favour or mine. The general impression outside is that so far as the political deadlock of the country is concerned the Punjab Government has been a failure. And so far as the political conditions in this province are concerned the British bureaucracy is supreme here and our honourable ministers have been reduced to mere signing machines. Every Punjabi hangs his head in shame over this state of affairs. We were experiencing at least some liberty in the Sikander Ministry, but the conditions have become worse with the coming into power of the present Ministry. So many persons are behind the bars without any cause and nobody cares. After the August Resolution of the Congress, there had been acts of sabotage in almost all the provinces with the solitary exception of the Punjab. Nothing of the kind was done in this province—no railway line was displaced, no telephone wire was cut, no post office was burnt. And yet this is the province where people are subject to the severest hardships. The provinces where the Constitution is suspended and all the powers are in the hands of the Governors, are much better than this so-called self-governed province of ours. People enjoy more civil liberties there. Take United Provinces for instance. As compared with this province more political prisoners are set at liberty there. Almost all the ex-ministers and political leaders of that province are outside jail now. As seen from a patriot's point of view, the worst condemnation of the Punjab Government was the praise showered on them by Lord Wavell in his recent speech. It was a sort of certificate to them that they were faithfully adhering to the policy of the British Imperialism, which was not to allow the present political deadlock to end. The Unionist Government is surpassing the British Imperialism even in certain respects. For instance, our sisters, Bibi Ghulam Fatima, Puran Devi and Sita Devi (Mrs. Chhabil Das), who were put behind the bars without any offence, and without being tried in a court of law, now, after being set free, are required to attend the police station every week. May I ask the honourable Premier if he is not aware as to what sort of manners are displayed in police stations that his Government has passed such an order. How can a lady stand all that happens there.



**Premier :** That is not correct. No such condition is imposed on them.

*(At this stage Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair.)*

**Sardar Sohan Singh Joeh :** Sir, Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram has been saying outside that he and the Congress are one and the same thing and that the programme of the Congress is in fact his programme. Look at the face of this congressman. *(Laughter)*. People are being treated unfairly in that very province where he is a minister and he has not got the courage to say a single word against that, much less, to see that they get justice. There is a political deadlock in the country and he has not moved his little finger to solve it, or to get it solved. And yet he has the cheek to say that he and the Congress are one and the same thing. Let me state another example of the 'justice' of this Government, which has Sir Chhotu Ram as one of its Ministers. Before even the present war started, Baba Kesar Singh, Master Gajjan Singh and Sardar Mohinder Singh were arrested and later on sentenced to imprisonment in connection with the 'Kisan morcha' at Lahore. They were still in jails when the war broke out. After their period of sentence was over, they were not allowed to come out of jails but were again imprisoned under sections 126 and 129 and are still rotting there. Six years have gone by but not a single attempt has been made to find out what their feelings were before war and what they are now. Our questions about them in the Assembly are not answered. It is sheer high handedness. Let Sir Chhotu Ram, if he has a conscience or if he feels for freedom as the other congress-men do, protest against this state of affairs.

Sir, after all this discussion we reach at the following conclusions. First, that in the regime of the present Government the destinies of all the prisoners are in the hands of the C. I. D. people. The Government has absolutely no powers on these prisoners. Second, that this Government follows the former bureaucratic Government in this respect and has no independent opinion of its own. Third, that the conditions have deteriorated since the coming into power of the present ministry and the hands of the bureaucracy are strengthened. And last of all, the civil liberties are more in danger now than ever. Even M. L. A.'s are being prevented from attending the Assembly meetings. Just imagine, Sir, a member can move about in the city, from its one end to the other. He can enter this building. He can come into this very gallery outside the Chamber. But he cannot enter this door. What will you call this?

Now, Sir, I come to the food question. According to the memorandum written by the secretary, great concern was felt in all the provinces over the food situation in this country and they were very anxious to solve it. Food situation became very precarious, because, first of all, Burma, having been taken by the enemy, was cut off from India.

Secondly, the import of foodgrains from abroad was stopped. Thirdly, transport facilities got dislocated. These were the three reasons, as set down in the memorandum, which led to the deterioration of food situation in India with the result that famine overwhelmed Bengal, food became scarce in Orissa and people began to die of hunger and starvation in Malabar and many other parts of India. But Government have not made mention of two other factors which, to my mind, were mainly responsible for worsening the food situation in the country. What are they? The first is the failure of the Government of India, due to its short-sightedness, to work out a uniform food policy for the whole of India. Secondly instead of importing food grains from abroad, it, with criminal folly, permitted the export of foodstuffs from India to other countries. These were the main reasons which led to the outbreak of famine

in Bengal which took a heavy toll of human lives. Now we see that the Government of India has been forced to work out a uniform food policy for the whole of India. But why? It has been forced to adopt this policy after 50 lakhs of people died in Bengal. It has been forced to adopt this policy after people have suffered a great deal in Orissa on account of scarcity of foodgrains. It has been forced to adopt this policy after people began to starve in Malabar, along the sea coast, where Japanese invasion was expected any moment. It appears that the Central Government has arisen as from a deep sleep and has decided to work out a uniform food policy for the whole of India. But that has been done after the shortsighted policy pursued by Lord Linlithgow has been thoroughly condemned not only in England but in United States of America as well.

**Premier :** What has that got to do with the Punjab Budget ?

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** I am talking about the food situation.

**Mr. Speaker :** The honourable member is not relevant.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Then Sir, it is stated in the Memorandum that the "present policy has developed through various stages of trial and error.....". It means that the Central Government came to its senses after it had committed a good deal of mistakes as a result of which lakhs of people died of hunger and starvation.

**Mr. Speaker :** The honourable member is irrelevant.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** I am discussing the food situation. I have to make these observations in order to make my point clear. Now I come to the Punjab. What has been the food policy of the Punjab Government? That policy has been laid down in the statement made by Sardar Baldev Singh at the Fourth Food Conference held at Delhi. The policy was that neither the prices of foodgrains should be controlled, nor rationing should be introduced nor resort should be had to requisitioning of foodgrains. The honourable Minister had the audacity to say all these things. Sir, our Ministers are well adept in demagogic tricks as well. When the Government of India was thinking over the question of introducing price control in India these Ministers went about in the rural areas and told the people that if the said Government imposed statutory price control they would resign and that they would do this thing and that thing. In fact it was pointed out to the people that the Assembly did not want that the statutory price control should be introduced. On the contrary communists wanted it to be enforced here and thus they wanted the jats to get lower prices for their produce. As against that the Party in power wanted the zamindars to get more prices for their produce. Such statements were made before the people. Who said all these things? It was no less a person than the Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram himself. Just look at him with what conscience he has made these remarks. Is this the political honesty of my friends of which they are very much proud? Sir, on the one hand they made such statements before the people but when they went to Delhi there they expressed quite a different opinion. There they told the Government of India that they were very loyal and that the prices of food grains shot up to Rs. 13 per maund and they have brought them down to Rs. 9-14-0. On the one hand they profess loyalty to the Government of India and on the other they go to their own people and say that if the said Government insisted on introducing statutory price control here in the Punjab they would resign. It is strange that our Ministers speak with different voices at different places.

**Mr. Speaker :** Order, order.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** But there is nothing wrong about it ?

**Mr. Speaker :** The honourable member cannot question the conduct of a Minister except by a substantive motion.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** I am just telling the House some facts which the Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh stated in his statement made at the Fourth Food Conference held from 13 to 16 October at Delhi. It is stated in it :

Earlier in February after wheat was decontrolled its price, as I have already stated, rose to over Rs. 13 per maund. From that figure the price was brought down by us to Rs. 11-4-0 early in April and then to Rs. 10-12-0 in the beginning of May. In the third week of this month when we began purchases on behalf of Government of India, we actually started buying at Rs. 10-8-0 and brought down the prices by successive stages to Rs. 10 per maund by the end of the month.

Then the price of wheat was reduced still further to Rs. 9-14-0 per maund on the 19th of July. This scaling down of wheat prices was brought about, as has been claimed by Sardar Baldev Singh, by my friends over there. It means that they made the agriculturists suffer a loss of Rs. 3-2-0 per maund of wheat sold. In the presence of this hard fact they go about and say that the communists wanted the imposition of price control because the latter did not want the Jats to get higher prices for their produce. And they were opposed to it because they wanted the Jats to get higher prices for their produce. Is this the political honesty of my friends ? My submission is that all that was done with a view to benefit a small number of big landlords. Practically the whole of the wheat crop is gathered in April. And from April till November the poor zamindars sell out their produce because they cannot afford to keep it in store any longer. Sir, you are aware of the fact that the resolution regarding the controlling of price of wheat was discussed during the last session held in November 1943. Sir Chhotu Ram, Sardar Baldev Singh and Malik Khizar Hyat Khan opposed the enforcement of statutory price control here in the Punjab because they wanted to benefit their own class of big landlords. Otherwise there was no other reason for opposing the enforcing of price control. Now if they have agreed to enforce price control here they are not doing so for the love of that. They are doing so on account of some economic factors which are more forceful than mere logic. The Central Government asked the Ministers here to enforce price control in the Punjab. They refused to do so. The result was that the Government of India began to import foodgrains from abroad. Some grain ships actually arrived in Indian ports and then they stopped purchasing wheat from the Punjab. Consequently there was lot of surplus wheat in the Punjab with no buyer at all. Therefore the price of wheat went down and those people whom Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram wanted to benefit, did not gain much. And as the old saying goes :

نہ خدا ہی ملا نہ وصال صنم

نہ ادھر کے رہے نہ ادھر کے رہے

Anyway if my friends opposed the imposition of price control at the time it was done with a view to benefit the big landlords. When they agreed to do so they put forward another condition that they would enforce price control from the new harvest so that the big landlords who have large stocks of wheat may sell them out and thus amass lot of money. Afterwards they will see what happens. The poor zamindars who have no surplus money with them will not be able to keep their produce in stock in the hope of getting higher prices later on.

Sir, this Government is utterly unfit to grasp the realities of the situation. They seem to be unaware of the fact that at the present moment our country is passing through abnormal times owing to the War and that there is a threat of the Japanese aggression on India. They do not realise that in the present period there cannot be any provincewise planned economy. India can save herself only by formulating one uniform policy. But this Government refuses to take counsel and insists on pursuing a policy of bankruptcy. I do not think any other epithet would suit their policy of starting rationing in only three cities. Have we not had a foretaste of their food policy in the matter of control on sugar? I concede the fact that the Punjab is not being supplied with the full and adequate quota by the Government of India and we are prepared to condemn it in the strongest of terms and convey our condemnation to the Central Government. But what is being done with what is being supplied to this province? The Unionist ministry started the work of distributing sugar through the public bodies such as Kissan Committees, the Muslim League and the Akali Party but when they found that the Communists were gaining in popularity by their public spirited activities they changed this policy and ignoring these representatives of the public, entrusted the work of distribution to Government officials like Tehsildars, Patwaris, Lambardars and Zaildars. (An honourable member: Patwaris have nowhere been entrusted with the distribution of sugar). My honourable friend may be right in so far as his district is concerned but I know it for certain that in most of the districts the Patwaris, Zaildars and Lambardars who distribute sugar are making a lot of money by privately selling it to people other than those for whom the sugar is meant. The village people cannot get any sugar unless the Zaildar or the Lambardar is so inclined. I was glad to see it in the papers yesterday that some public spirited and honest members of the Unionist party took the Government to task and plainly told them that there could not be so much corruption in any other department of the Government as was the case with the distributors of sugar. If the Government have any sense of remorse left in them they should hang their heads in shame. Let them take courage for prosecuting the corrupt officials and I am prepared to help them in finding them out. I will show you how every Lambardar and Zaildar is making huge profits by the sale of sugar and how much of this profit is being shared by the tehsildars. Not to speak of public bodies this Government does not even trust its own men of the Co-operative department and the Panchayat. They could very well be trusted with the work of distributing sugar to the rural masses. But our Government is afraid of those who have anything to do with the people and can only trust its own officials on the executive side. The result is that in these days of War when the people should have voluntarily given their co-operation to their Government they have grown sick of them. Even the most elementary needs of the people are not being satisfied. It was announced from the housetops that the Province will get supplies of standard cloth and the poor will be relieved of worry on that score. But where has it gone?

**Chaudhri Pir Muhammad :** Sardar Sahib may come to the Gujrat district and see for himself that it is available in such a quantity that the zamindars cannot possibly buy all of it.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** The Honourable member is very fortunate in that respect because in our district it is not to be found anywhere.

We are at a loss to know what becomes of the pious intentions and resolutions of the Unionist ministry. Not very long ago a resolution was passed by the Assembly (and we gave our full support to it) that the articles required by the agriculturists should be controlled. What has happened to it? Why has

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iron not been made available to the peasants? The fact is that this Government only knows how to hoodwink the poor people. They are not serious about doing anything for them. What have they to say in the matter of the prices of *gur*? From Rs. 21 per maund the price of *gur* has come down to Rs. 7 and is at present fluctuating between Rs. 5 and Rs. 7, thanks to the Unionist ministry. Did they raise even their little finger to get better rates for the *gur* makers? Merely saying that we have provided this in the Budget and allotted so much in the Budget does not help the people. We know that the Budget is a routine affair and moves through the same rut again and again giving so much to this department and allotting so much to the other and so on. We want to know, as Sardar Santokh Singh and other members on this side of the House have asked, as to what the Government have done in respect of the beneficent departments.

This budget is nothing but a repetition of the old tune. My friend Sardar Santokh Singh too has pointed out that there is no marked progress in any department. Every year lakhs of rupees are set aside for increasing police force. Police chowkies are being set up in most of the districts. Money for mounted police has been given for the Ferozepore District. But what is the police doing? They name somebody as the agent of Japan, or a fifth columnist or a member of anti-war groups and thus are a permanent source of harassment to the poor villagers. Without any hesitation I can call this department a gang of corrupt people. They do nothing else but to terrorise the peace loving villagers with one clause of the Defence of India Rules or the other. I have got an unlimited number of reports to support my contention. Numerous people do come to me and ask me to help them in getting rid of this gang. I can tell you hundred and one stories about the high-handedness of these gangsters. Corruption can be abolished only with a strong hand. The Government should adopt a stern policy and there is no reason why they may not be reformed. When we complain before the Government, they acknowledge it and say that they are doing their best. They argue that to err is human and these officials too are human being and that gradually they are being reformed. How can corruption disappear in a single day? I want to make this thing clear to them that it can be achieved in a short time but its key lies in a strong and thorough policy. I wanted to quote many cases but the time at my disposal is totally insufficient for the purpose, therefore, I will cut short this tale of woes and take up other important questions.

Sir, I take up now another question. Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram has got many hobbies. One of them is Peasant Welfare Fund. At first it was 80 lakhs and later on 60 lakhs more were added to it and now it is 1½ crores. It reminds me of that cartoon where a donkey is shown a carrot so that it may go on moving smoothly. Peasant Welfare Fund is simply meant to deceive the peasants and to keep them befooled. At first they promised speedy action. Then they said that it was passing through a tentative stage. In the Memorandum to the budget it is described to be in the consultative stage. They say that consultations are going on. I can easily declare that the Government will never be in a position to do anything concrete. I hope that a new Government after the fall of the present one will be able to do something. (*Interruptions*). I think that this Government can be defeated even just now if our friends in Muslim League show a little bit of courage.

The late Sir S. Kander Hyat-Khan declared that he at some time contemplated to grant remission to those who paid annual revenue up to rupees five

per annum. But it was Sir Chhotu Ram who later admitted that he (Sir Chhotu Ram) opposed it. According to him such a remission meant a net loss of one crore of rupees to the treasury. Although this measure would have helped 23 lakhs of revenue paying families out of 50 lakhs of such families, yet he showed no sympathy towards this measure. One of his arguments was that Peasant Welfare Fund would have helped that section who paid revenue up to Rs. 25 per annum. All these fraudulent arguments were meant to deceive the simple peasants. Agriculturists are going to get no advantage and if there accrues any advantage it directly goes to that set of people who happen to be in his good books. (*Interruptions*). He says that some portion of this fund will be spent over education of the poor people, and some on opening of the commission shops. Sir Chhotu Ram thinks that the *bunji* uses false weights and he always deceives the peasants. In order to cope with the situation he intends to start marketing shops. In the Land Revenue Report you will find that some time ago 6 marketing shops were started. Their fate was deplorable. On account of mismanagement the entire capital was embezzled. Suits were filed against those people who were considered responsible for it. Sir. I want to know who will be benefitted from this scheme. Those people, who pay as land revenue less than 25 rupees per annum, do not send their products to the markets. They seldom have any surplus. Now-a-days they are sending their produce to market on account of extraordinary rates but in normal days they cannot do like this. If roads are bettered it will add to the comforts of the big guns or it will facilitate the middlemen. If you remove the smoke screen you will find that our Government is the real friend of Jagirdars and her stepmotherly treatment towards the poor people clearly indicates that it has got no sympathy for the labouring classes. It is very difficult for the present policy of control to be successful. There are some basic defects which need our serious attention. There exist no measures to deal with those who are guilty of obstruction. I think that the Government itself is least serious about it. Their real desire is to wreck down this policy of control in order to prove that they were right. This Unionist Government knows nothing but suppression. They do not help the public in any sphere of life. They do not work out any scheme to end the political deadlock. In short this Government is a punitive police Government.

Government have posted a net work of punitive police posts in almost all the districts in the province. There is hardly any district in the province where such posts with some pretext or other have not been stationed with a view to crushing the political awakening of the people. In this connection I wish to point out that punitive police posts have been set up in the districts of Hoshiarpur and Ludhiana and Ferozepore. Some of my honourable friends sitting on the opposite benches belong to the Ferozepore district. New punitive police posts are being established in different parts of the province to put an end to the patriotic activities of the people. But when my honourable friends sitting on the opposite benches are asked to justify their position in regard to stationing police posts at such places, they trot out some argument or other. It is clear from the Supplementary Estimates (1943-44) that the employment of Additional Mounted Police has been continued for one year more in the Ferozepore district. It appears that Government are out to favour the district of Ferozepore with more grants of police force and chowkis. I really fail to understand as to why new police posts are being stationed in almost all districts. Government have set up punitive police posts in 12 villages in the district of Ludhiana and along with them the village Chakkar, Thana Jagraon, has been made to pay chowki taxes. It will not be out of place to mention here that the inhabitants of this village have both physically and materially helped the war effort. They have paid

[S. Sohan Singh Josh]

Rs. 1,488 to war fund and Rs. 1,700 as war loan. Moreover, 115 recruits belonging to this village are fighting abroad in connection with the present war. Besides, the inhabitants of this village have rendered meritorious services in the last war. It really ill-behoves the Government to station police posts in such area with a view to tyrannise over them. Is this the reward that the Government is giving them for helping war efforts? Is it not a glaring injustice indulged in by the Government of our province? I make bold to submit and say that the Government of our province is pursuing an anti-national policy and is out to crush patriotism.

One more point to which I wish to draw the attention of the House is regarding elections. Government have announced that no election is going to take place till the end of war. It appears to me that my honourable friends sitting on the opposite benches are in no way representing their constituencies. If they were to hold elections they would come to know their exact position.

**Mr. Speaker :** Will the honourable member please wind up his speech?

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** I am going to finish my speech.

**Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan :** It is all unimportant.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** It is unimportant to the honourable member opposite. Let him go and face his constituency and see whether it is important or unimportant. I was submitting that my honourable friends sitting on the opposite benches do not represent their constituencies in the true sense of the word. I wish to point out that they resort to autocratic measures at their sweet will in connection with the administration of the province. I wish to inform them that nemesis is not far off and the time is sure to come when they would have to face their constituencies. It is time that they should fulfil the needs of the people of this province; otherwise they would have to pay very heavily for it.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, There is a very important festival on the 9th. It is the Holi festival and it should be a holiday on that day.

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

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Last year there was a festival on a particular day during the budget session and—

**Mr. Speaker :** I cannot allow discussion on an irrelevant matter.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** I have got a precedent that a similar point was raised last year.

**Mr. Speaker :** I cannot allow that point to be raised at this stage.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** At what stage are you going to allow it?

**Minister of Revenue** (The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram) (Urdu) : Sir, I desire to say a few words in order to draw the attention of honourable members to some three or four points. The first point concerns irrigation through canals to which a reference was made by Khan Muhammad Yusuf Khan. The Rawalpindi district is only a barani district. Irrigation in this district is possible, if, at all, by the construction of bunds. The honourable member would be pleased to learn that about 8 months ago a subdivision was started in order to

explore through means of irrigation in the western portion of the province. This sub-division has now been replaced by a division with three sub-divisions, and a field of exploration, will, I believe, include even the district of Dera Ghazi Khan.

The second point relates to the question of the control of prices. I shall deal with the point only briefly. The view of the Punjab Government from the outset has been that any control of the prices of agricultural produce would be entirely unjust, if it is not accompanied by a similar control of the prices of various commodities required by the zamindars. Personally I have been very emphatic on this point. I was and still am prepared to tender my resignation in case the prices of agricultural produce were controlled or are controlled now without a corresponding control being imposed on the prices of cultivator's requirements. The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh openly expressed the same view. I have reasons to believe that other ministers were also of the same opinion. We are of the same opinion now, and will go out of office if anything contrary to this policy is done. (*Interruption*). Let us not be misled by newspaper reports. They may publish anything they like. I am not responsible for the publication of these reports. What I said was that if the prices of agricultural produce were controlled without simultaneous control of the prices of cultivator's requirements, I for one would resign my seat in the Cabinet. I still maintain this position and have no hesitation in re-iterating it in the House. The ministry insisted upon a simultaneous control of prices of cultivator's requirements, and it is a matter for satisfaction that the Government of India accepted the soundness of the Punjab's view and are giving very tangible proof of their sincerity. The prices of many items of consumer's goods have been fixed, and the reports of the detection and punishment of profiteering in the press are conclusive evidence that the Government of India are now in earnest about the suppression of profiteering on the part of the trade. This has had a steady-ing effect on the level of prices. It is also well known that it was in response to our pressure that the Government of India agreed to postpone introduction of control on the prices of agricultural produce pending a similar control on the prices of other goods. So if I have not resigned it is not due to any inconsistency on my part. There has been no occasion for a resignation. But I am sorry for those who have themselves no regard for consistency. Frequently they profess to be champions of the cause of the peasants and yet in practice they oppose any measure sponsored by Government for the improvement of the lot of the poor peasantry. These people wish to see my seat vacated by bringing flimsy charges of inconsistency. I am not prepared to oblige them.

Coming now to the Peasants Welfare Fund, I may state that the fund was started for helping the small land owners. It was decided to put Rs. 55 lakhs every year into this fund. In 1941-42, Rs. 30 lakhs were credited to this fund. In 1942-43 another 60 lakhs were added to it. In 1943-44, the current financial year, we have added another 60 lakhs to it. Thus the amount in the fund now stands at 1½ crores. The intention is to set aside Rs. 55 lakhs annually in all normal years. Sardar Sohan Singh Josh was pleased to call this fund a mere hoax. Can anybody agree that it is a hoax?

Out of the annual contribution of Rs. 55 lakhs an amount ranging between 10 and 15 lakhs will be earmarked for the grant of stipends and scholarships to the sons of land owners who pay Rs. 25 or less as land revenue every year. Can anybody with a grain of sense regard this as a mere illusion or a hoax?

A sum of Rs. 5 lakhs will be spent annually on training men and women of this very class in some handicrafts and on arranging for the marketing of their finished articles on their behalf. Is this a hoax?



[Revenue Minister]

In addition to this a sum of Rs. 5 lakhs will be provided for the relief of those unfortunate areas which may be visited by some agricultural calamity for which relief under the existing rules is not permissible or is inadequate. Is this an illusion?

An annual provision of Rs. 5 lakhs will be made for metalling the present short kucha roads and linking to main roads villages within a distance of, say, five or ten miles. Is this also a hoax?

Similar annual provision of Rs. 5 lakhs will be made for improving water supply in areas where there is dearth of good drinking water and for re-afforestation in tracts which have been denuded by the abnormal War demand for timber. Does Sardar Sohan Singh Josh regard this as an illusion?

The present accumulation of Rs. 1½ crores in the fund is proposed to be spent on opening co-operative shops and depots in market towns and important rural centres so that the zamindar community can sell their produce and purchase their requirements at rates advantageous to themselves. According to all sane persons the benefits of this scheme would be very great. Does Sardar Sohan Singh Josh consider it to be an illusion?

Again Rs. 15 lakhs will be spent out of the annual contribution on multiplying these co-operative shops and depots. The advantages are obvious. The small land owners will be able to secure suitable advances for meeting their urgent needs and to have their produce sold at reasonable rates at the proper time. They will also be able to purchase their requirements without being fleeced. There will be correct weighing and correct measuring without any cesses which they have to pay now in mandis.

Sardar Sohan Singh Josh has observed in this connection that the small land holders have nothing to sell and, therefore, could not profit by the marketing facilities which will be afforded under this scheme. I cannot accept this view. I maintain that even the small land holders have always to sell a part of what they produce. They produce wheat, gram, barley, maize, bajra, pulses, oil-seeds, cotton, gur and shakar. Can anybody seriously suggest that the smaller land owners do not sell any portion of these things? If they do not, how do they pay their land revenue, water rate and their debts? How do they purchase their humble requirements, such as cloth, kerosene oil, iron, timber, or other domestic requirements, if not by the sale of their produce? The truth is that even the pettiest peasant sells varying proportions of what he produces. He also has to buy from the market the various articles which he requires for his personal use or professional requirements. The House can, therefore, see for itself that the scheme of marketing contemplated under the Peasant Welfare Fund is calculated to benefit small land holders in very great measure. How can it then be said that the scheme is a mere illusion? However, those who are bent on giving a bad name to Government are always anxious to avoid seeing anything good in the activities of the party in power. Perhaps they do not wish that the party in power should do anything to help the zamindars and thus secure their good-will. It is with this end in view that our critics find it necessary to declare from every platform that the agrarian legislation was undertaken by the Unionist Government only to help the big zamindars. It is noteworthy that whenever the Unionist Government introduced any useful legislation my Honourable friend Sardar Sohan Singh Josh and his party always opposed us.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh:** Please do not mis-state. Please give references.

**Minister of Revenue :** Take for instance the Markets Act. It was opposed by Sardar Sohan Singh Josh along with others.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Please refer to the records.

**Minister of Revenue :** I am quoting chapter and verse. Again, when the Restitution of Mortgaged Lands Bill was being discussed, the Honourable member and his party opposed it. Similarly the Benami Bill and the General Sales Tax Bill were also opposed by my friend. In short, I cannot recall any good measure sponsored by the Government which had not been opposed by the Honourable critic and his party. There was only one occasion when the zamindar members of the Congress party, Bibi Raghbir Kaur and Seth Sudarshan, voted in our favour. We have passed so many measures beneficial to the kisans and zamindars of this province, but with the exception of this one occasion I do not remember any other on which Sardar Sohan Singh Josh voted in favour of any of these measures. Even on this occasion he was simply compelled by the force of circumstances to do so. On the motion immediately preceding, the zamindar members of the Congress party had remained neutral. When I challenged them to be men enough either to vote with us if the measure was good or vote against us if they had the courage to hold the measure harmful to the zamindar community, the challenge shook the courage of the zamindar members of the opposition and, willy-nilly, they had to vote with us.

Sir, I shall refer only to a few other important points. But before I pass on to these points I desire to impress upon the House that the Honourable member has condemned our Peasants Welfare Scheme without taking the trouble of even going casually through its items. During my extensive tours in the province I have addressed scores of meetings attended by 15 to 30 thousand men. I placed my proposals before them, item by item, making it clear to them that the scheme was only tentative and subject to their approval and that the Government were prepared to drop it if they did not approve of it. But nobody expressed dissent. Everywhere the scheme was received enthusiastically.

Another objection of Sardar Sohan Singh Josh is that the scheme of co-operative shops and depots will benefit the big zamindars only. I have already stated that the scheme will be beneficial to the small zamindars. If it is beneficial to the big zamindars also I will not grudge them its benefit. It is not our policy to harm the big zamindars. We are glad that at least some of our brethren are prosperous and affluent. Our concern is to raise the down-trodden and oppressed peasants as near to the level of their more fortunate brethren as possible. We do not believe in pulling others down. The policy of the Unionist Government is clearly and unambiguously in favour of levelling up and not in favour of levelling down. The proposals under the Peasants Welfare Scheme are primarily for the benefit of small zamindars. All the stipends and scholarships will be given exclusively to the children of those land owners who pay a land revenue of Rs. 25 or less. The benefit of co-operative shops and depots will go to the small land owners without any contribution from themselves, while the big zamindars will have to pay their share money from their own pockets if they desire to come into the scheme. The big zamindars are generally better educated to look after their own interests. In selling their produce or purchasing requirements they are not subject to the inconvenience and exploitation which are the lot of the smaller zamindars. To remove difficulties of the smaller zamindars we passed the Markets Act. Now these shops and depots are also being opened chiefly for their benefit. The details of the scheme have yet to be worked. A special officer has been appointed by Government for this purpose.

[Revenue Minister]

Sardar Sohan Singh Josh has dubbed the Unionist Party as one of the biggest pillars of British imperialism and British Bureacracy. In his opinion we are responsible for all the iniquities laid at their doors by the critics of British bureaucracy. I will not say whether we are or are not the pillars of British imperialism, but this much I know that a new pillar of British imperialism has come into existence only quite recently, that is, within the last 18 months, and that pillar is the party to which Sardar Sohan Singh Josh belongs. He knows it well enough. His party has, it is reported, been complaining to the Central Government that the Unionist ministry acts as a stumbling block in the way of their full war effort by opposing control and by not allowing wheat to be sold at 4 or 5 rupees per maund.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** If it is so, then why do the C. I. D., hounds shadow us ?

**Minister of Revenue :** Whatever they are, they shadow other persons also.

**Bibi Raghbir Kaur :** How many C. I. D. men sit at the Honourable Minister's door ?

**Minister :** No C. I. D. man sits at anybody's door. A member of a genuine C. I. D. force must work more secretly and discreetly than that. My complaint is that the party of Mr. Josh runs more after C. I. D. men than the latter after my friend. However, I was suggesting that the party of my Honourable friend is reported to have been complaining to the representatives of British imperialism and the Central Bureacracy against this Unionist Ministry. They complain that they wish to be of more service to the Government during the present War, but the Unionists are a stumbling block. The truth is that their only object is to maligne and harm the present ministry. But let it be known to them that the foundations of this ministry are sound enough to stand any amount of adverse propaganda of that kind. Mr. Josh and his party cannot get more than what they got at Montgomery only recently.

Sardar Sohan Singh Josh had also the audacity to suggest that it was the policy of the present Government to encourage bribery. He knows very well that we are doing our utmost to root this evil out. But if in spite of our best efforts corruption still exists, the fault does not lie with us, it lies somewhere else.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** What did we get at Montgomery, Pray ?

**Minister :** Oh, you profess to be ignorant. Let me then be more explicit. At Montgomery, Baba Jalwant Singh, a candidate of the communist party and Sardar Sher Singh, a candidate of the ministerial party, contested a casual vacancy. Some one thousand communists ran about in the constituency on bicycles from village to village for more than a month. Heaven alone knows where and how they purchased all those bicycles. But in spite of the frantic efforts of the host of these communist cyclists, the communist candidate suffered defeat.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** But has not your nose been worn off by being poked in everywhere ?

**Minister :** I am not aware that I poked in my nose to any great extent or that it suffered any wearing off. However to my great amusement I am aware of the existence of the men who have had their noses cut off and yet feel no discomfort about it. (Laughter.) During the course of the Montgomery election my friends raised the question of jats and non-jats, zamindars and non-

zamindars, smaller zamindars and bigger zamindars, land-lords and tenants and capitalists and workers. They purchased about 1,000 bicycles—God knows from where and how—which they used for making electioneering propaganda. We could obtain petrol only for one car against two of theirs. They went about exploiting all local grievances not only against the rival candidate, but against the whole of his class. They stationed three or four communists in every village. They also sought to make capital out of the fact that a strong jat like myself was supporting a non-jat and yet they were badly defeated. (*Interruption.*) If the communist candidate had been a jat in substance there would have been some weight in the complaint. He was a jat by the mere accident of birth. Baba Jalwant Singh had his birth entirely eclipsed by the evil influence of communism. Had he stood in the election in the capacity of a jat then my accusers would have been justified in making the complaint against me. But by accepting a communist ticket he renounced his birth and forfeited his claim to my support.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** Which part of the budget is being discussed ?

**Minister of Revenue :** I admit that this portion of my speech has no strict relevance to the budget. But my friend Sardar Sohan Singh Josh addressed an enquiry to me and I am only replying to that enquiry. The facts related by me concern a recent election in Montgomery. Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang is not concerned in it, but Mr. Josh is very much concerned in the matter.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. The Honourable Minister during the course of speech while referring to my remarks said میں اس بکواس کا جواب دینے کے لئے آوار نہیں. The word بکواس is unparliamentary and I request you to ask the Honourable Minister to withdraw his word.

**Mr. Speaker :** Yes the word بکواس is unparliamentary and I request the Honourable Minister to withdraw it.

**Minister of Revenue :** 'Sir, I withdraw the word.

**Mr. P. H. Guest (Punjab Commerce and Industry) :** Sir, I would first of all just mention that the one thing that struck me in the Honourable Finance Minister's Budget speech was his apparent embarrassment at the fact that in this world of unprecedented war we have a province which is engaged in this war, passing through a period of unprecedented peace. These two points to my mind seem almost unreconcilable and if he was not embarrassed I feel he should have been. The honourable member was somewhat apologetic that the heads of departments had not been able to satisfy him in their demands. Probably this was due to the fact that he has not brought to the notice of the heads of the departments that funds would be available. I can give you many instances where funds could be properly and satisfactorily employed, but as I have only got a few minutes, I will take the most important of those examples and that is the police. Now, Sir, I would maintain that even under better conditions the police force is comprised of the most poorly paid servants of Government. Their responsibilities are exceedingly high. I believe I am correct in stating that three years ago, the constable got a pay which even then was generally agreed upon as being insufficient for their existence. I believe I am also correct in stating that that basic pay has not been increased. I am however prepared to be corrected on that point. They are of course receiving a dearness allowance which any chaprasi or any other person received. But I would cast your mind to the fact that we have on record a statement published periodically in the *Punjab Gazette* which we call the Cost of Living Index. In the figures of the

[Mr. P. H. Quest]

Cost of Living Index we find that food represents two-thirds of the total cost. Now I believe I am true in assuming that of food wheat represents half of that. Remember the cost of wheat is approximately one-third the total cost of living for the ordinary working man of this province. Compare to-day with three years ago and we find that wheat is three times the price which it was three years ago. So one-third of the cost of living required for wheat three years ago is multiplied now by three. Therefore the whole pay of three years ago is to-day consumed in buying the necessary wheat to fill his stomach. The only contribution made by Government to that difficulty is that they have given a dearness allowance. There has been no attempt to remedy that basic pay of the police and if it was not sufficient three years ago it certainly cannot be sufficient now since all that pay is now really required for wheat with which to fill his and his family's stomachs. Therefore I fear that unless some definite action is taken, there is going to be serious disorder amongst the police force. I do not want to dwell on that, but there are one or two features which should be brought to light. The policeman differs from other employees, be he a Government servant or not, with the exception of the European employee. The European employee comes under the Conscription Act. Every other Indian employee, with the exception of the policeman can resign his post. The poor policeman cannot resign his post and when he sees his friends getting better posts, which are more remunerative, he also thinks of getting out and his only way of getting out of this net in which he has been enmeshed is to commit an offence in the hope that they will throw him away. That is the only way in which he can get out of the Police Force. That fact makes it clear that it is essential that some action should be taken by the Government to ameliorate the position of the Police and I sincerely hope that the Government will consider this matter very earnestly, otherwise we will have terrible disturbances and difficulties in this Province.

**Khan Sahib Chaudhri Ahmad Yar Khan** (North-West Gujrat, Muslim, Rural) (Urdu): Sir, even a casual glance at the Budget is enough to show that as compared with the previous years the income of the province has doubled itself. It will have to be admitted that the reason for this increase in the revenues of the province lies in the efficient administration of the country by the present ministry. Upon this wonderful achievement no amount of praise can express our gratitude for our popular Premier, the Honourable Malik Khizar Hyat Khan, and his Honourable colleagues. The way they have efficiently carried on the administration is beyond all praise. The Honourable Sir Manohar Lal, who is in charge of the finances of the province, especially deserves our thanks for presenting a surplus Budget. The steps taken by the present Government for the betterment of the zamindars and the expenditure incurred and still being incurred for furthering their interests are praiseworthy. In comparison with the previous years more money is going to be spent on these departments which directly concern themselves with the agriculturists. The peace and tranquility that prevails in the Punjab is not to be found in any other province. Only recently His Excellency the Viceroy admired the wonderful administration of the province in the course of a speech the credit for which goes to our popular leader and Premier the Honourable Malik Khizar Hyat Khan.

Sir, with these introductory remarks I would like to invite the attention of the Honourable Ministers to certain matters. One of them concerns the deplorable educational condition of my district. Last year I had requested the Honourable Minister of Education to give a special grant to the Islamia High School, Wara, Alam Shah which is situated in my ilaqa and was only a

middle school at that time. The Honourable Minister told me that if it was raised to the standard of a high school, and a special grant would be sanctioned for it. In spite of the fact that it was raised to the high school standard, the special grant has not yet been sanctioned. I would respectfully submit that Gujrat district is very backward educationally and that the Islamia High School has been established with great difficulty, and if the special grant is not forthcoming there is a great danger of its closing down. I hope the Honourable Minister will consider my request and will sanction the grant asked for.

The second thing to which I wanted to draw the attention of the Government relates to the dilapidated condition of the roads in tehsil Phalia. This tehsil is at the top in so far as the revenue receipts are concerned. I hope the Honourable Minister of Public Works will turn his attention to the Gujrat-Phalia Road which is in such a state of disrepair that not to speak of vehicular traffic it is not possible to go over it even on foot. If this road is constructed it will afford a welcome transport facility to the zamindars who will be able to get their produce to the markets in time and will thus be able to secure better prices for it.

In the third place I wish to make a few submissions in respect of green fodder. Last year I invited the attention of the Honourable Minister of Revenue to this matter and he was pleased to ask me to come to his room which I did and put the whole case before him. Yet nothing has been done in the matter. Our complaint in this connection is that we the zamindars sow wheat along with *shafial* and *barsaim* as green fodder for our livestock. Instead of being assessed at rates fixed for *kham* crops we are made to pay land revenue at the rates fixed for *pukhta* crops. The zamindars do not sow wheat and oats together for taking advantage of ripened crops but they do so in order to get better fodder for their animals. I would therefore submit that such crops should henceforth be assessed at the rates fixed for green fodder. It will reduce the burden of the zamindars to one half of that borne by them at present.

Now I have to make a request to the Honourable Minister of Development. My village is situated at the far end of the tehsil where there is neither a civil dispensary nor a veterinary hospital. For this reason the zamindars of this ilaqa are put to a very great trouble. If this grievance of the rural population of that ilaqa is removed their life would become somewhat easier.

Sir, in the end I would like to draw the attention of the Government to a very important matter. Recently some Muslim papers of Lahore including the *Zamindar* and the *Inqilab* started a baseless and pointless propaganda against our popular Deputy Commissioner. I would like to mention here that the said Deputy Commissioner is a very learned and unbiased person, (*Laughter and interruption*;) and whatever has been written against him in these papers is without any foundation whatsoever. So far as is humanly possible our Deputy Commissioner affords relief to the poor people of the district and has been efficiently carrying on the administration of the district for the last two years. He also values the services of those who are loyal to the Government and protects their rights. (*Uproar*). Before I take up the next point I wish to draw the attention of the Muslim press as well as that of the Government to the letter of my revered leader, the late Nawab Sir Fazl Ali Khan, which was published in the daily *Shahbaz* a year and a half ago. I agree with every word of that letter.

Finally I would invite the attention of the Government to the uneasiness caused among the zamindars by the recent tax on tobacco by the Central Government. It should be the duty of our popular Government to remit that tax

[K. S. Ch. Ahmad Yar Khan]

because the zamindars derive good profit from tobacco. Again something must be done in respect of vegetable ghee. It should either be coloured or its sale prohibited, as it adversely affects the price of ghee produced by the zamindars. The requirements of the zamindars should also be controlled so that they may be able to get the agricultural implements, cloth, etc., without much difficulty. With these words I resume my seat.

**Minister of Finance** (The Honourable Sir Manohar Lal): Sir, I

4 p.m.

am most grateful for the generous references that have been made to the budget. I shall now attempt to speak on some of the salient points which touch the budget directly, and have been raised in the course of this general discussion. The last point that was raised was by Mr. Guest, who is sitting behind me. I do not wish to enter into any detailed discussion, but I shall place before the House some very broad facts. In the accounts of the year 1937-38 the expenditure on account of Police stood at one crore and 23 lakhs. Provision is being made in the budget now, that is, the budget for 1944-45 for a sum of 2 crores and 35 lakhs. These figures are eloquent in themselves, that indicates the way in which the police expenditure has risen, and also, if I may say so, the police does not happen to be in my particular portfolio—all through these years and continuously the Government has tried to improve the position of the Police very substantially. A sum of 2 crores and 35 lakhs is being provided for Police during this year, out of a total budget of about 20 crores. (An Honourable member: That is on the expansion of the police and not on amelioration.) It is very nearly double the amount that existed for police in the budget in the year in which we took over.

The first reference to the budget during the course of this discussion was by Malik Barkat Ali and he said that he is able to say so with authority that we are showing surpluses on the basis of our consuming our capital, that is on the basis of sale of land. If anybody had devoted even half a second to the study of the budget, there is the volume of the budget, or had taken the trouble to go through even cursorily, the speech with which I had the privilege of introducing the budget, he would have seen that no more irresponsible statement could have been made. If you will kindly refer to page 10 of the Abstract in the volume of the budget, you will see that our surplus is a purely revenue surplus. There is no question of taking extraordinary receipts into calculations of that surplus. I referred in my budget speech not only separately to every year under consideration but taking in view the whole period. I said with regard to the extraordinary receipts.

These receipts constitute a very special feature of our estimates and they are exhibited outside our ordinary revenue receipts. These receipts have shown in recent years a most welcome upward trend, and during the period of 3 years which occupy our attention today they have assumed proportions wholly beyond our most optimistic expectations.

The total of these extraordinary receipts from 1937-38 up to the end of 1941-42 came to 2 crores and 93 lakhs. The latest figures are now in the neighbourhood of 10 crores for the three years, 1942-43, 1943-44 and 1944-45. Let it be recognised beyond any possibility of error even on a most hasty review, that the surpluses that have been displayed during this year are entirely revenue surpluses and nothing from extraordinary receipts is taken to exaggerate the amount or swell the magnitude of our surplus. It is purely a revenue surplus. If I may say so, a person who bases his criticism of the budget on that extremely mistaken assumption, might be immediately—if I may use the legal expression—ruled out of our court, knowing that he possesses no familiarity with the budget.

Some of the things which the honourable members might have referred to, but they did not, but which constitute the very back-bone and essential feature of this budget, apart from large expansion of beneficent expenditure of 40 per cent of all new expenditure, are these. Our finances have gained strength by the payment back to the Government of India of no less a sum than 10 crores. May I say this, and I do not claim any credit for it personally, but a payment back of 10 crores represents a strength to the Punjab finances of 85 lakhs a year for all time to come. (*Hear, hear*). That is not a matter of this year or that year. May I say further this that if you were to examine our debt position to-day, it stands in a favourable position never attained before. Honourable members will remember that during the past 7 years of the financial history of this province, never a crore was paid back to the Government of India. To-day we have done that which was never done before. That is a factor which honourable members might well bear in mind, that has led also to the improvement of our budgetary position for the next year. Not only that, but there is another fact which I may be permitted to bring to the attention of the honourable members and to which I called their attention in my speech, I do so more emphatically to-day. It is often said that Government should pursue and exercise a policy that should lead to the highest measure of excise revenue and at the same time attempt to discourage drinking as much as possible. During these 7 years, honourable members will bear in mind, we have done much in the history of excise, in this matter in which I have the privilege of exercising a certain amount of direct control, we have more than double the excise income of this province. That is at once a matter for congratulation, not only because we have amplified our revenues, but because in doing so we have struck as much as we could at drinking. Drinking can now be carried on in a very expensive manner for those who indulge in this luxury. Again, I claim no credit for it. It comes to us as a windfall perhaps not quite a windfall because it is a factor constituting regular addition to our revenue. Our receipts under the Niameyer Award now stand at a figure of something like 2 crores. These are three big factors that during the course of this year, in a very large measure, have added so substantially to our budgetary position.

The second criticism advanced against the budget was why there were heavy surpluses. I have got ample answers to give. As I said a few years ago, it is no use testing the provincial budgets with the same standards that you apply to the Central budgets and the reason is perfectly obvious. The provincial revenues are of a highly inelastic character, our sources of revenue are all fixed and inelastic; and sometimes they may vary, as they have fortunately developed recently, in a direction welcome to us, but it is not always as we so witnessed not many years ago when we were visited by famine. The revenues may easily suffer shrinkage. In these circumstances I would draw your attention to what I said on page 20 of my budget speech:

A characteristic of provincial finance in India is that the revenue is comparatively inelastic, no fresh and productive sources of income can be easily added to the tax structures; expenditure alone can be controlled but even that by no quick effort.

As we are all aware, all of us men of the world who understand the drift of events, expenditure is extremely difficult to control. If it is not possible to exercise control over expenditure I take it that our proper course would lie in watching our expenditure carefully even though our revenues may appear to improve very considerably during any particular year or series of years. This is the best test. Honourable members while referring to the estimates for the current year could not have failed to notice that our expenditure during this year went up to a heavy sum of 2 crores and 77 lakhs beyond the budgeted figure. How could 2 crores and 77 lakhs of additional expenditure have been found during the course



[Finance Minister]

of the year if we had not this large expansion in revenue. Also after meeting additional heavy expenditure we are still left with a fairly good surplus. At the time the budget is framed at the beginning of the year, it has to be remembered that our further obligation is about 50 lakhs for the Peasants Welfare Fund which we do make towards the end of the year. If that provision were made at the beginning of the year it may appear that we have not got enough money to go round for administrative departments. A technical objection was also taken as to why the Finance Department itself did not go about intimating to the administrative departments that a much larger surplus is likely to be available at the end of the year so that they might extend their demands. My answer has also been given in very careful words, in my speech. When we make budgetary estimates for any particular year the only course we have open to us is to take the revised figures for the current year, and on the basis of those revised figures and on the advice of our experts we see what proper estimates are possible for the year to come. I also pointed out that in this regard we cannot even say definitely what our estimates under a particular important head may be, because the Government of India's contribution under the Niemeyer Award is not intimated to any provincial Government till about the end of the year. In these circumstances it would be erroneous for the Finance Department to be dogmatic about revenues particularly when we bear in view the fact, that as on the race course, it is the last lap that is of determining significance. It is not possible 10 months or 12 months before to say definitely what the position may be. Be that as it may. When all has been said and done the position that emerges is that we have had during these three years considerable surpluses and we have not frittered away our resources and we have realised and indeed studied more ardently than ever how to make use of the surpluses without committing ourselves unduly to an expenditure of a permanent type which might embarrass us when our revenues may not stand at so high a pitch. That is the position. In that regard I do not wish to go into the question in any detail. The Premier has done that to some extent, that is, that schemes of expenditure both of permanent nature and those which are not of permanent nature are present before us in abundance. Honourable member, must be aware that the Education Adviser to the Government of India has made a plan which may amount to over two hundred crores of rupees for Education in India. I believe that our own Education Department here is also ready with a plan that may extend possibly to 30 crores. When I approached the various departments no one opened its mouth for less than 20 crores. For all these we have not got the money. What we are resolved upon is this that when the question of post-war reconstruction comes we shall not be found, unprepared within our resources and we shall know definitely how to distribute, in such a way as may secure justice and proper apportionment, the money available to us. We should be ready with our plans, and if for post-war reconstruction, it were to be necessary to raise any money by loan, the Punjab Government should be able to do so readily, easily and on good terms because of the manner in which we have built up our resources.

As the House is aware, one of the big calls upon us, which I think will be met more unstintedly than any other call, is the completion of the Irrigation programme. During the life of this Assembly the Haveli Project was initiated and completed. There are many projects which I have referred to in the course of my initial speech. The Khushab part of the Thal project is to be actually completed and efforts are being made to give as much relief as possible to the south eastern Punjab which is exposed to adverse

weather conditions. In addition there is the great problem as to how to face the question of the falling water level in the Beas Doab. All this will cost us at least 80 crores, and if I have put away 6 or 7 crores in these surpluses, and if I have extraordinary receipts amounting to 10 crores, and thereby the Punjab Government has given strength to your resources, I think the Punjab Government has done but its duty in a matter of high importance.

One or two other things were said in the course of the discussion to which I will refer in passing.

The honourable member for Amritsar said that not only should we develop various industries, we should take steps to establish machine making and tool making industries. I am in the completest agreement with him. I admit that as long as industries of machine making and tool making are not properly organised, duly executed and carried forward in India, India will, in the words of the Leader of the Opposition, 'fall hopelessly behind in the race for economic advance.' It does not require any debating at all; we are all one in this matter. But there are forces in operation not entirely in the control of the Punjab Government which might stand in the way of our making that progress which we all have at heart in regard to this very important matter. Honourable members are aware—I am not sure that any member actually referred to it in course of his discussion on the Budget—that broad schemes of industrial advance in India are now on foot and one of them has received the blessings of a large number of industrial magnates of India and also in some measure the general approval of the present Viceroy of India. It is not for me to address you on a scheme of that magnitude at this hour but I am in a position to say that I at any rate find myself in general agreement with that scheme. (*Hear, hear.*)

I would not have referred to this matter but for the emphasis which the honourable the Leader of the Opposition placed on it. He referred to a particular interview which an honourable member of this House had given to the *Civil & Military Gazette* and there that honourable gentleman was pleased to remark that this Budget gives evidence of erratic calculations. When I read that review I thought that erratic was a misprint for 'accurate.' Certain it is that our estimates in this Budget—in fact in all Budgets—are absolutely accurate and there can be no question whatsoever of anything erratic, and the way in which our Budget was framed it is a most 'regularly' framed Budget. In the short compass of a speech I tried to place all the relevant facts with regard to it before this House. Be that as it may, I must say that the honourable members will allow me completely to dissociate myself with any criticism of that character about the Budget. The Budget may be open to many criticisms but I am sorry to see that the honourable the Leader of the Opposition expressed any measure of approval of a statement of that kind in a loosely attempted review wholly lacking in seriousness. The second point in that review to which I should like to refer is this. It was stated that this Budget is meant for the rich and for the big zamindars. In my speech the other day I said that the guiding principle of this Budget—and in fact of all the Budgets that preceded it during the period of provincial autonomy—has been the welfare of the masses. (*Hear, hear.*) Not only did I say that in the beginning of my speech but also ended on a similar note. Look at the Peasant Welfare Fund. I do not wish to enter into any detailed explanation of the Peasants' Welfare Fund, but I associate myself with the general attitude of my friend, the Minister for Revenue towards it. This Fund is being directed to improve the lot of small zamindars, small peasants, small farmers and ordinary workers in the country-side. That criticism must therefore, be regarded, wholly impertinent, at any rate completely senseless.

[Finance Minister]

I shall say one word with regard to the criticism of my friend Chaudhri Ram Sarup. He said, 'Think not of the machine, think only of the cottage industries.' I am sure that he did not mean anything of the kind because in the present world 'think not of the machine' will be a ruinous doctrine. It has repeatedly been said by serious thinkers, by economists of authority, that this is an era of the machines. No less an authority than Lord Keynes said that the one way in which England can rehabilitate her economic position in less than three years is 'export.' The export, it will be fully recognised, is not based on cottage industries, slowly plying their work in small villages but is based on bigger industries, heavier industries, metallurgical industries, it is only on these industries that you can carry forward the process of export on which economic strength can be built. If India to-day—that is the voice of India unanimously loses sight of this fact and is not able to convert her accumulated resources for one reason or the other now, then India may well say good bye to any economic prosperity and there will be no possibility hereafter of her standing forward in the economic world. (*Hear, hear.*) Now is the time and if you don't wake up today, if you don't seize the opportunity here and now; this opportunity will never present itself to India again. It is, therefore, the duty of every patriotic son of India to see that her economic resources are used in the best manner possible. (*Cheers.*)

*The Assembly then adjourned till 12 noon on Thursday, 9th March 1944*

# PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

## ELEVENTH SESSION OF THE FIRST PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Thursday, 9th March 1944.

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

### STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

#### PUNITIVE POLICE

**\*8928. Sardar Teja Singh Swatantar :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) when the punitive police post at village Daudhar, District Ferozepore, was set up ;

(b) the amount of money realized from the above-named village for defraying the expenses of the aforesaid police post ;

(c) whether the villagers applied for the removal of the punitive police post at any time since its establishment ; if so, how many times did they apply for such abolition and with what result ;

(d) whether the above-named punitive police post has reduced the crime in the ilaqa in question ; if so, to what extent ;

(e) whether the Government has considered or intend to consider the question of removing the above-named police post from the aforesaid village, if not, the reasons therefor ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Jagjit Singh Mann) :** (a) 1st December 1941.

(b) Rs. 22,820-11-0 recovered up to the 31st January 1944.

(c) Yes ; once in August 1941 and again in February 1942. It was not, however, considered expedient to accept either application.

(d) Yes, considerably. In particular it has helped in eliminating a number of notorious outlaws accustomed to frequenting the locality.

(e) Government will be ready to withdraw the post on the first indication of a real desire on the part of the inhabitants to reform and to cease harbouring outlaws.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** May I know in what manner the inhabitants of that village should reform themselves, so that the punitive police may be removed from those villages ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** They should not commit any crime and they should not harbour any criminals.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Are there any outlaws in the locality near about to be harboured ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** There may be close to the vicinity, cannot say.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** May I know whether the honourable member is in possession of any facts to show that there are any outlaws who have been harboured by that village ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I require notice for that.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** May I know whether the Parliamentary Secretary is aware that all the outlaws that were in the district have, according to Government report, been crushed ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I do not now whether all have been crushed or not ?

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** What sort of evidence does Government require in order to prove that the villages have reformed themselves ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I have already stated that they should commit no crime and they should not harbour any outlaws.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** May I know whether the Parliamentary Secretary is aware that for the last two years no crime has been committed by the village ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I cannot answer definitely whether there has been no crime. Presumably there has been crime, otherwise the post would have been abolished.

#### PUNITIVE POLICE

**\*8929. Sardar Teja Singh Swatanter :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) when the punitive police post at village Chuhar Chak, district Ferozepore, was set up ;

(b) the amount of money realized from the aforesaid village for defraying the expenses of the police post named above ;

(c) whether the villagers applied for the removal of the above-named police post at any time since its establishment ; if so, how many times and with what results ;

(d) whether the above-named police post has reduced the crime in the ilaqa in question ; if so, to what extent ;

(e) whether the Government has considered the question of removing the above-named police post from the village, if so, with what result ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Jagjit Singh Mann) :** (a) 1st September 1938.

(b) Rs. 39,838-1-9, recovered up to 31st January 1944.

(c) Yes, several times. It was not however considered expedient to withdraw the post.

(d) Yes; in particular it has helped in eliminating a number of notorious outlaws, accustomed to frequent the locality.

(e) Yes, but on the contrary Government has found it necessary to sanction the continuance of the post for a further period of one year.

## STUDENT DETENUS

**\*8959. Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Will the Honourable premier be pleased to state—

(a) the number of student detenus in the province ;

(b) the names of the student detenus in the province ; the names of the institutions to which they belonged at the time of their arrest, and the names of the jails where they are kept at present ;

(c) whether any educational facilities have been provided to the above-named detenus ; if so, the nature of those facilities ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Mir Maqbool Mahmood) :** (a) and (b) Exact details are not readily available, but the number is negligible.

(c) When action against students under the Defence of India Rules has been found necessary, such students have generally been dealt with in a manner calculated not to interfere with their studies.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** How many of the students were allowed to appear in the university examinations ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I may state that they are ordinarily confined to their hostel. A curfew order is passed and they cannot leave after certain hours.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Do I understand that there are no students interned in jails ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** Their number is negligible and I understand it is not more than 5 or 10. In their case no facilities are given.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** May I know how many of them were allowed to appear in their university examinations ?

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

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** May I know whether all those who applied for permission to appear in examinations were allowed to do so ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I am not aware.

## DALIP SINGH AMERICAN OF NANGAL KALAN

**\*8967. Sardar Teja Singh Swatanter :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether he is aware of the fact that one Dalip Singh American, of Nangal Kalan, district Hoshiarpur, was arrested in 1940 just after two days of his arrival at his village ;

(b) whether the said Dalip Singh is interned in his village indefinitely and whether he is given any allowance to maintain himself and his people ; if not, the reasons therefor ;

(c) whether the said Dalip Singh has applied for the removal of restrictions imposed upon him so that he may be able to earn his livelihood and support his dependents ;

(d) whether the Government has ever considered the question of his release ; if so, with what result ; if not, the reasons therefor ?

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

(b) Yes, for the present, he has sufficient means of livelihood there.

(c) No.

(d) Yes, it was not considered advisable to remove the restrictions imposed on him.

**BABA GURMUKH SINGH OF LALTON**

**\*8968. Sardar Sohan Singh Josh:** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) the name of the prison in which Baba Gurmukh Singh of village Lalton, district Ludhiana, is at present confined;

(b) the diet and the nature of facilities given to him regarding books and newspapers;

(c) whether he is still suffering from piles and tooth trouble;

(d) the state of his general health and the number of pounds that he has lost in weight since his arrest;

(e) whether the Government has considered the question of his release; if so, with what result?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Mir Maqbool Mahmood): (a) He is confined in the District Jail, Lyallpur.

(b) He is allowed the same facilities as are given to prisoners of his class.

(c) He is only suffering from dental trouble for which he has been allowed to consult a local dentist. The trouble is, however, not at all serious.

(d) The general state of his health is believed to be quite satisfactory. Therefore the loss in his weight, if any, since his arrest has not been ascertained.

(e) Yes, he is not to be released yet.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh:** May I know why the loss in his weight has not been recorded?

**Parliamentary Secretary:** I have not stated that his weight was not recorded. I said his weight has not been ascertained because there is no report about his illness.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh:** Is the Parliamentary Secretary aware that in all the jails a record of weight is kept?

**Parliamentary Secretary:** I am aware of that. Perhaps the honourable member has not followed my answer to similar questions on previous occasions. We do not make enquiries regarding these cases unless we have reasons to believe that there has been deterioration in the health sufficient to justify such enquiries.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh:** May I know what are the criteria on which medical diet is provided to the prisoners or detenus?

**Parliamentary Secretary:** That is a separate question, for which a fresh notice is required.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh:** Is loss of weight one of the factors in supplying medical diet?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** It may be so, but the position is that we make enquiries about weight of those persons only when we receive reliable information about deterioration in their health.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** May I know when that rule was put in force in jails ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** This is not a jail rule ; it is the practice which we follow in answering Assembly questions.

**REFUSAL OF PERMISSION TO BEGUM IFTIKHAR-UD-DIN TO INTERVIEW  
HER HUSBAND**

**\*9009. Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether he is aware of the fact that Begum Iftikhar-ud-Din made an application to the Home Secretary to the Punjab Government in October last for permission to interview her husband who is a security prisoner ;

(b) the reply given to her in the aforesaid connection ;

(c) if the necessary permission for interview was not given to Begum Iftikhar-ud-Din, the reasons therefor ?

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

(b) The application was rejected.

(c) Mian Iftikhar-ud-Din is a G. D. detenu and not a security prisoner and as such, was not permitted to have interviews then. Interviews with such detenus have, however, since been allowed.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Were any reasons put down on the application as to why the application was rejected ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I have stated that at that time no interviews at all were permissible. Therefore no reasons were necessary.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Was that reason put down on paper ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** When rules did not permit interviews, there was no necessity to give any reasons for rejecting an application. Later, the rules were revised and each application within the revised rules is being considered on merits.

**LETTER WRITING FACILITIES FOR DETENUS**

**\*9062. Sardar Ajit Singh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) (i) whether detenus are allowed to write letters to their relatives and friends ; if so, (ii) whether Shrimati Shanno Devi, M.L.A., is allowed to write letters to her son, Mr. Avinash Chander Sehgal, M.A., who is interned in the District Jail, Dera Ghazi Khan ; if not, why not ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Mir Maqbool Mahmood) :** For the honourable member's information, civil disobedience detenu Shanno Devi (M.L.A.), was released on 5th February 1944.

(a) (i) Yes.



[Mr. Maqbool Mahmood]

(a) Yes, while in jail, however, she was not allowed to write letters to her son, as detenus are not permitted to correspond with each other.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Is the Parliamentary Secretary aware that if Shrimati Shanno Devi wishes to interview her son who is a security prisoner, he is required to get the permission of the District Magistrate?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** If the rules so require, she should get such permission.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** I am asking whether the Parliamentary Secretary is aware of this fact that she has to approach the District Magistrate of Lahore before she can see her son?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I understand this was in accordance with the terms of her release and the rules of the Jail.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** May I know whether any bar has been placed on Shrimati Shanno Devi not to see her son?

**Premier :** There is no question of any bar. The usual rules must be observed. Nobody can walk into a jail straightaway and say 'I am so and so, and therefore allow me to enter the prison.' Each application is considered and decided according to the rules.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Is the Honourable Premier aware that a list is kept in the jails so that any person in that list who is a relation of the person imprisoned can go and interview the prisoner?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** We are aware of such lists being kept but as the Honourable Premier has stated, if Shrimati Shanno Devi wants to interview her son, she should proceed according to rules. I hope it is not contended that rules should be abrogated in such cases.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** May I enquire whether he is aware that rules provide that after such a period a prisoner can be interviewed by his or her relatives and a list is kept there so that all relatives without any permission from the District Magistrate can go and see the prisoner?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** Is the honourable member referring to ordinary prisoners or to civil disobedience prisoners?

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** I am referring to the civil disobedience as well as security prisoners.

**Parliamentary Secretary :** The rules differ for the different classes of prisoners.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Is the Parliamentary Secretary aware that Mr. Avinash Chander Sehgal is given solitary confinement within the jail?

**Mr. Speaker :** How does that question arise?

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Is the Parliamentary Secretary aware that a black list is kept in each jail and those entered in that list cannot interview any inmate of the jail under any circumstances?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I do not see why I should be subjected to an examination on the jail rules. The honourable member can find them in the Jail Manual and if any further information is required, I shall endeavour to give it.

MR. AVINASH CHANDER SEHGAL

\*9063. **Sardar Ajit Singh**: Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Mr. Dev Raj Khanna, an Advocate of Montgomery was not allowed to see his real nephew, Mr. Avinash Chander Sehgal, M.A., an internee in the District Jail, Dera Ghazi Khan, on the 23rd December 1943, if so, the reason therefor?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Mir Maqbool Mahmood): Government is not aware of this: but he being a civil disobedience detenu could not have been allowed interviews then. Interviews have, however, since been allowed with such detenus.

MR. AVINASH CHANDER SEHGAL

\*9064. **Sardar Ajit Singh**: Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Mr. Dev Raj Khanna, an Advocate of Montgomery was not allowed to present some fruit to his real nephew Mr. Avinash Chander Sehgal, M.A., an internee in the District Jail, Dera Ghazi Khan, on 23rd December 1943; if so, the reasons therefor?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Mir Maqbool Mahmood): Government have no information concerning this particular case but detenus are not allowed to receive presents of fruits or edibles from friends. They are allowed Rs. 10 per mensem to purchase fruits, etc., from outside through the jail authorities, so the action alleged to have been taken by the Dera Ghazi Khan Jail authorities was in accordance with Government orders.

SIKANDER-BALDEV SINGH PACT

\*9076. **Lala Bhagat Ram Choda**: Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to lay on the table of the House the correspondence that passed between the late Honourable Premier and Sardar Baldev Singh, relating to the Sikander-Baldev Singh Pact along with the statement of the late Premier issued to the press in the same connection and to state whether this correspondence along with the above-mentioned statement has been circulated to the Ministers and the Heads of the Departments for their guidance with instructions to act accordingly; if the answer to above be in the negative, the reasons for not doing so; whether it is now intended to circulate this correspondence along with above-mentioned statement?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Mir Maqbool Mahmood): The honourable member is referred to the answer given to Assembly question No. \*8735<sup>1</sup> put by him on 26th March 1943.

**Lala Bhagat Ram Choda**: This question is not identical with the question asked during the last session.

**Premier**: The honourable member has asked an unnecessary question.

**Lala Bhagat Ram Choda**: Sir, whenever a question of this nature is asked, the Government evades giving any reply. The answer given to this question amounts to no answer at all.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma**: On a point of order, Sir, there is no law under which Government can say that a question was answered in the last session, when the member says that the question has not been answered.

**Mr. Speaker :** References to replies already given are made and if Government does not want to add anything it is the privilege of Government not to do so.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** They can say that it is not in the public interest to answer.

#### ARRESTS OF WHEAT MERCHANTS AT TALAGANG

**\*9077. Lala Bhagat Ram Choda :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that five wheat merchants were arrested at Talagang on 22nd and 27th January 1943, 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; if so, what action the Government has taken or intend to take against the officers responsible for this highhandedness?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Chaudhri Tikka Ram) :** (a) No. The merchants in question were arrested for contravening the Foodgrains Control Order, and as a campaign for the collection of war funds was in progress at the time, they conceived the idea of purchasing their release on bail by making liberal contributions to War Loan and War Funds. There was no question of the Magistrate bargaining with the arrested traders in regard to their securing release on bail by making investments in War Loan.

(b) Yes, in view of the reply to part (a) the second part of the question does not arise.

#### CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE DETENUS

**\*9078. Lala Bhagat Ram Choda :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has by one of its circulars issued in July, 1943, addressed to the jail authorities in which civil disobedience movement detenues are kept given the right of supplementation of diet to the detenues at their own cost;

(b) whether it is a fact that by a subsequent circular a limit of Rs. 5 per mensem has been imposed on the amount which a detenu could spend on such supplementation; if so, why;

(c) whether it is a fact that the July circular mentioned in part (a) placed the civil disobedience movement prisoners at par with security prisoners in the matter of supplementation of diet in all respects; if so, what has been the effect of the modification of the July circular;

(d) what action do Government propose to take in the matter now?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Mir Maqbool Mahmood) :** (a) No.

(b) Civil disobedience detenues were allowed to receive from outside a sum not exceeding Rs. 5 per mensem each for the supplementation of their food. This sum has since been raised to Rs. 10 per mensem, i.e., the same as for class I security prisoners.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Nothing.

**LAJPAT RAI HALL**

**\*9110. Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state whether the premises known as the Lajpat Rai Hall, Lahore, requisitioned by the Government have been insured against fire or not ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Mir Maqbool Mahmood) :** No.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Why not ?

**SERVANTS OF THE PEOPLE SOCIETY OFFICES**

**\*9111. Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state whether the charge of the rooms known as the offices of the Servants of the People Society which were sealed as being notified and not as requisitioned has been given to the proprietors thereof, if not, why not, and what action, if any, does he propose to take in the matter ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Mir Maqbool Mahmood) :** No. The matter is under consideration.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** What matter is under consideration.

**Parliamentary Secretary :** The matter is under consideration.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** My point is that previous to the passing of the requisition order by the District Magistrate, Lahore, there was an order of the Government with respect to these buildings. What I want to know is whether, at the time the previous order was withdrawn, these buildings and the furniture thereof were handed over to the owners or not. I do not see what can be under consideration.

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I understand that the question of giving them rent is under consideration.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** The Parliamentary Secretary stated yesterday that the property was handed over to some people who belonged to that locality or to some Congressmen who were present there. Does he deny the fact that there was nobody present ? Does he deny that all the inmates were in jail and the Government did not hand over the property to any person and the officers are responsible for stealing away valuable property of this Society ?

**Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan :** Record an F. I. R.

**Parliamentary Secretary :** The honourable member is giving information. The supplementary question does not arise out of my answer.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Is it not the position of the Government that the property was handed over to the people of the Society ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I have never stated that the property was given to the proprietors. If the honourable member desires further information, he can give notice of the question, but he cannot import his own information and expect us to state our views without considering the matter.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** The notice is already there.

## SECURITY PRISONERS IN DISTRICT JAIL, JHANG

**\*9112. Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) the number and names of security prisoners confined in the District Jail, Jhang, with the dates of their admission in the jail ;

(b) the arrangements made for these prisoners regarding their accommodation, bathing, kitchen, lighting requirements and provision of electric fans ;

(c) the arrangements made for the prisoners convicted of offences involving moral turpitude regarding lighting and provision of electric fans to them in hospital ;

(d) the number of official and non-official visitors who visited the jail from October 1942 to October 1943 and saw the above-mentioned security prisoners, the dates of their visits and the details of the complaints, if any, brought to their notice by the said security prisoners ;

(e) the expenses incurred from October 1943 on the provision of medicines to the sick security prisoners, if any, the date of sickness of the security prisoners, if any during this period and the details of the medical treatment allowed to them, if any ;

(f) the total number of prisoners in the said jail ;

(g) the total number, names and length of service of the doctors, compounders and ward boys serving in the said jail ;

(h) whether there is a library in the said jail, if so, whether he is prepared to place the catalogue of the library on the table of the House with rules governing the issue of the books ;

(i) the number of those among the above-mentioned security prisoners who applied for the grant of family allowance, the number of those to whom allowances were granted with the amount sanctioned in each case ;

(j) whether it is a fact that the physician in charge of the jail hospital of the above-mentioned jail is himself suffering from a dangerous and a highly contagious disease, if so, the action, if any, Government has so far taken in the interest of the health of the prisoners in the said jail in this connection, if no, whether Government intends making an inquiry into the matter, if not, why not ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Mir Maqbool Mahmood) :** I regret that the information asked for by the honourable member is not readily available in headquarter offices in Lahore ; and in the present condition created by the War, it is very difficult to undertake to secure it by enquiries from outstations, as this would impose a burden on already overworked officers and also involve consumption of paper that would be incommensurate with the results to be achieved.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Is the District Jail cut off from the headquarters of the province due to condition of war ?

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** May I know whether the prisoners are transferred from one jail to another with the permission or with the order of the headquarters or with the orders of somebody else outside the headquarters. May I further know whether any record of the transfer is kept in the headquarters or not ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** Record of transfer from the Central Jail is obviously kept here but how does the honourable member assume that certain persons were at the headquarters and have since been removed ?

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Is there any record of the transfers kept here ? I am referring to transfers from one jail to another.

**Parliamentary Secretary :** Obviously.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Could not the Parliamentary Secretary get this information from the headquarters here ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** If prisoners are transferred from headquarters to district jails, information about them goes to the places where they are kept.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** I pity the Parliamentary Secretary.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** What difficulty is there in getting the information sought in part (d) with respect to the official visitors who visited this jail ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I have stated that we do not wish to embarrass the officers with such enquiries which are not in public interest.

**Rai Bahadur Mukand Lal Puri :** May I ask the Parliamentary Secretary to state how much time and paper would be spent in answering part (a) of the question ?

**Premier :** The Parliamentary Secretary has given the reason why he cannot answer the question. I might remind honourable members that previously no answers were given about political detenus at all, but now we are endeavouring to give information that is available. That should be appreciated instead of asking for the weight of a particular individual on particular date, and so on and so forth.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Freedom in instalments.

**Premier :** But freedom should not be abused.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** It is democracy.

**Premier :** Pandit Bhagat Ram talks of democracy. If there were no democracy there would not have been the present performance.

#### SARDAR BHAGWAN SINGH

**\*9119. Sardar Kapoor Singh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that Sardar Bhagwan Singh of village Baddowal in the Ludhiana district is interned in his village ;

(b) if so, since when he has been interned, under whose orders he was interned and the offence for which he was interned ;

(c) whether any allowance is being given to him ;

(d) whether any application was made by the said Sardar Bhagwan Singh to the effect that he may be interned in Ludhiana City so that he may be able to earn his livelihood, if so, with what result ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Mir Maqbool Mahmood) :** (a) and (b) Yes. He has been restricted to his village since 8th March 1948 under the orders of the Punjab Government with a view to preventing him from acting in any manner prejudicial to the efficient prosecution of the war.

(c) No.

(d) First part, No. Second part, does not arise.

## INTERNEES

**\*9120. Sardar Kapoor Singh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) the total number of those persons who have been interned in their ilaqs so far for their political activities ;

(b) the total number of those among them who have been asked to report once a week at the nearest Police Station after their release and the object of the Government in imposing this restriction on them ;

(c) whether the Government intend to remove these restrictions and intern the persons in question at places where they could easily earn their livelihood ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Mir Maqbool Mahmood) :** (a) 284 persons were restricted on the 19th February 1944 ;

(b) 239 of those mentioned in the answer to part (a) were ordered to report periodically to the nearest Police Station to ensure adequate surveillance and discourage prejudicial activity ;

(c) The cases of restrictees are reviewed from time to time and, as far as possible, they are restricted to places where they can earn their livelihood.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Is it the general policy of the Government to intern people in places where they cannot earn their livelihood ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** It appears that the honourable member has not listened to my answer to part (c) of the question. The cases of restrictees are reviewed from time to time and, as far as possible, they are restricted to places where they can earn their livelihood.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** With reference to this very question I want to ask from the Parliamentary Secretary whether he is aware of the fact that the general policy of the Government is altogether different and their policy is to detain people in places where they cannot earn their livelihood.

**Parliamentary Secretary :** So far as I am aware the general policy of the Government is to restrict them in places where they can earn their livelihood.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Is the Parliamentary Secretary in a position to deny that Hazara Singh who was carrying on his practice in our district, is detained in a village in Jullundur district ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I want notice of that particular question, but I have stated that the general policy of the Government is to restrict them in places where they can earn their livelihood and, what is more, their cases are reviewed from time to time.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Comrade Ram Chandra is detained in a village in Kangra district while he was carrying on his business in Lahore before.

**Premier :** Which is the home district of Comrade Ram Chandra ?

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Principal Chhabil Das carries on business at Lahore and though his wife has no house in Mianwali, she is asked to go to Mianwali.

**Premier :** That particular lady is in Lahore. They are restricted to their home places.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** What about Krishna Kant, a first year student who is only 17 years of age. He is taken away from his college and is confined in a remote village in Amritsar district. What does the Government gain by that?

**Premier :** How does it arise out of the answer? The honourable member is within his right to put supplementary questions, arising out of the reply, but how does the question arise out of this particular answer given?

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** Of the same nature.

**Premier :** I cannot tell the honourable member what a particular student was doing on a particular date.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** I shall write to the Honourable Premier.

**Premier :** All right.

**Lala Bhagat Ram Choda :** Instances are not wanting in this connection. Shrimati Sita Devi of Mianwali has been brought to Lahore from Mianwali.

**Premier :** Is it the fault of the Government? Should she be separated from her husband?

#### MIAN IFTIKHAR-UD-DIN

**\*9121. Sardar Kapoor Singh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that Mian Iftikhar-ud-Din, M.L.A., President Punjab Provincial Congress Committee, who is being detained in Mianwali Jail, has not been keeping good health now for a considerable period of time;

(b) if so, the nature of the disease he is suffering from;

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

(d) his present state of health?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Mir Maqbool Mahmood) :** (a), (b), (c) & (d) No. He is only suffering from dental trouble and one or two other minor ailments for which he is being given proper treatment. He was first transferred to the Central Jail, Rawalpindi. Orders have now been passed for his transfer to Lahore, where better facilities exist for treatment. He has not lost any weight since his detention and on the whole his general condition is satisfactory.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** With reference to part (c) of the question may I know his weight at the time of arrest and his present weight?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I have stated that he has not lost any weight since his detention.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Does the Parliamentary Secretary know what was his weight when he was arrested?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** Before this answer was drafted, those figures were ascertained, but I do not remember them now.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** What is his present weight?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** Not less than what it was when he went there.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** May I know when he was last weighed?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I understand that prisoners are weighed periodically, but in order to give particular date I want notice.



**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Notice is already there.

**Parliamentary Secretary :** There is no notice with regard to the date of their last periodical weighment.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Did the Parliamentary Secretary try to know his present weight ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I have already stated that he has not lost any weight since his detention. My honourable friend did not put any starred question enquiring the times and the dates on which this gentleman was weighed.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** When was he last weighed and what is his present weight ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** His present weight is not less than what it was at the time of his arrest.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** May I know whether he was weighed on arrival in the central jail ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** He must have been.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** What was his weight at the time when he was arrested ?

**Premier :** May I know what purpose will be served by asking the details about his weight on a particular date ? The Parliamentary Secretary has positively said that his weight is not less. I think it should satisfy the honourable members opposite. Otherwise they will drive us to the same policy of not answering such questions. If the person is ill, we are prepared to give all information, but I do not think the honourable members should worry about the weights on particular dates. If they are losing in weight, then the honourable members can have this information from us. Had this particular gentleman lost any weight, the Parliamentary Secretary would have said so.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** It is wrong on the part of the Premier to say so.

**\*9162—9164.—Cancelled.**

#### RAKH NOWSHERA

**\*8990. Diwan Bahadur S. P. Singha :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether he is aware of the fact that a plot of land known as "Rakh Nowshera" measuring 488 acres, situated in the Sialkot tahsil, belonged originally to certain Gakkhar Rajputs residents of M. Nowshera belonging to the agricultural tribes ;

(b) whether he is aware of the fact that the said plot was acquired some time before 1900 by the military authorities on payment of a nominal price for the use of the military Grass Farm, Sialkot ;

(c) whether he is aware of the fact that some time before 1939 the Government of India decided to relinquish the said land and the Punjab Government declined to take it over ;

(d) whether he is aware of the fact that the land was then handed over to the Military Estates Officer, Lahore Circle, for disposal without any further enquiry as should be made under the rules, from the Punjab Government whether the Punjab Government would dispose of the land by sale to the public ;

(e) whether without consulting the Government as required by the rules even as to the manner of disposal and conditions of sale, the Military Estates Officer sold the land to certain non-agriculturists of the Sialkot Cantonment in April 1942, for Rs. 12,500 only and the sale deed was duly executed in favour of the vendees ;

(f) whether he is aware of the fact the Military Estate Officer issued tender notices in respect of the sale on the 17th June 1941 fixing the 27th June as the last date for the receipt of tenders thus allowing only ten days' time for intending purchasers ;

(g) whether he is aware of the fact that the tender notices were not communicated to the Deputy Commissioner, Sialkot, as they should have been done in order to ensure the due publicity and the notices did not reach the various tahsils in the district where the land is situated ;

(h) whether he is aware of the fact that before the sale, one Shah Bakhsh sent an application to the late Premier praying for the return of a portion of the plot on the ground that that portion had been acquired from his ancestors by the Military Authorities at a nominal price ;

(i) whether he is aware of the fact that the said petition was sent to the Military Estates Officer through the Deputy Commissioner, Sialkot, for report and whether no report on it has till now been received even though the land had long ago been disposed of by the Estates Officer ;

(j) whether he is aware of the fact that as a result of the sale in the manner set out above by the Estates Officer, the heirs of those persons from whom the land had been originally acquired have been deprived of their right to get the land back on relinquishment by the Central Government ;

(k) whether he is aware of the fact that certain heirs of the original owners have recently represented to the Punjab Government, if so, what action Government intend to take in the matter ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan) :** The rakh was property vesting in His Majesty for the purposes of the Central Government. The information required by the honourable member should be sought in the Central Assembly.

#### SUPPLY OF PAPER TO HIGH SCHOOLS IN THE PROVINCE

**\*9137. Chaudhri Sumer Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state—

(a) the quantity of paper placed at the disposal of the Registrar of the Punjab University to meet the requirements of various high schools of the Punjab ;

(b) the names and the number of high schools to which paper has so far been supplied with the quantity supplied in each case ;

(c) the names of the high schools which remain to be supplied with paper and the reasons for delay in supplying the paper to these schools ;

(d) whether Government is aware of the anxiety which the delay in supplying the paper has caused among the students who have paid the cost of their requirements in advance ?

**The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye :** (a) 21,000 reams of double foolscap size.

(b) 826 high schools. The quantity supplied is 17,895 reams. The time and trouble involved in supplying the information for each school separately will not be commensurate with any possible benefit to be obtained.

(c) 87 high schools remain to be supplied with paper. The delay is due to the fact that 83 schools have not so far intimated the quantity of paper required by them and 4 schools have not taken delivery of the paper from the University Office.

(d) Government is not aware of any such anxiety as no complaint in this connection has reached Government so far.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** May I know whether there is no difference in prices charged by the University and by Messrs. Banshi Dhar Kapur and Sons ?

**Minister :** I require notice for that.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Is the Honourable Minister aware that the University is charging more than what Messrs. Banshi Dhar Kapur and Sons and other merchants are charging ?

**Minister :** I am not aware of it.

#### DEARNESS ALLOWANCE TO EMPLOYEES OF PRIVATELY MANAGED EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

**\*9139. Chaudhri Sumer Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to supply the following information regarding the dearness allowance given to employees of privately-managed educational institutions in the Punjab which receive Government aid :—

(a) the names of the institutions where no dearness allowance is being paid to the employees ;

(b) the names of the institutions where dearness allowance is being paid but not according to the rates sanctioned by Government for their employees ;

(c) the names of the institutions where it is being paid according to the rates sanctioned by Government for their employees ;

(d) what action if any Government intend to take to remove the grievances of the employees of privately-managed institutions where the dearness allowance is not being paid according to the rates sanctioned by Government for their employees ?

**The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye :** (a)—(c) The time and trouble involved in collecting the information will not be commensurate with any possible benefit to be obtained.

(d) Government, it is regretted, cannot force the management of private schools to pay any dearness allowance to their employees either in accordance with the rates sanctioned for Government servants or at higher or lower rates.

#### PERMITS FOR EXPORT OF FIREWOOD FROM PALWAL

**\*9088. Chaudhri Sumer Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that permits are being granted to carry firewood from the Palwal sub-division to the Delhi Province, if so, the amount of firewood allowed to be exported from there ;

(b) the amount of firewood still available in the market of Palwal sub-division and the reasons for granting the above-mentioned permits during the last one year ending on the 31st of December 1943 ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Chaudhri Tikka Ram) : (a) Only 2 permits, dated the 17th November 1943 were granted for export of 30 thousand and 35 thousand maunds, respectively of firewood and timber belonging to the United Provinces Government from Palwal sub-division to Delhi. This firewood and timber was from trees growing on the banks of canals belonging to the United Provinces Government in the Gurgaon district. The period of validity was 80 days and the permits were not renewed.

(b) The amount is not accurately known. The above-mentioned permits were granted as the timber and firewood were passing through the Punjab enroute to Delhi.

### HOURS OF SITTING ON FRIDAYS

**Premier** : Sir, before I move my motion, I want to say a few words with your permission. Many of the honourable members on this side of the House have suggested to me that the time on Fridays may be changed from the afternoon to the forenoon. I had a chance also of consulting the honourable Leader of the Opposition and he concurs with me that I should put the matter before the House. All seem to agree. They will have the advantage of longer week-ends, in these days of difficult transport. They can go away for the week-end. So accordingly I move—

That on and from Friday, the 10th March, 1944, to the end of the session, on the days of meeting on Fridays the Assembly shall meet at 10 a. m. of the clock and the Speaker shall adjourn the Assembly without question put at 1-30 p. m. on these days.

*The motion was carried.*

### PRIVILEGE MOTION

#### PREVENTION OF PANDIT MUNI LAL KALIA FROM ATTENDING THE ASSEMBLY MEETINGS.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma** : On a point of order. You promised to give your ruling in respect of the privilege motion which we were discussing the other day. If your ruling is in our favour then the opposition will have some other members on this side. In view of the urgency of the matter I would request you to give your ruling.

**Premier** : What is the motion about ?

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma** : It is with respect to the restrictions placed on Pandit Kalia.

**Mr. Speaker** : We are going to discuss demand for grant for General Administration. I think all the members of the House are welcome to discuss any points in the course of their speeches, but if the honourable member has got some further information, he may place it before the House.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma** : I cannot discuss the legal points as far as your ruling is concerned.

**Mian Abdul Aziz** : Sir, may I remind you that on the last day when we discussed this motion, that is, Tuesday last, you were pleased to remark that you wanted to consider the matter and that you would be able to give your ruling on the next day. Therefore we respectfully ask whether you have been pleased to

**M. Abdul Aziz]**

consider the matter, in regard to the privileges of the members, so that such events do not take place in future.

**Mr. Speaker :** Sorry, I do not remember what I said. I think I wanted further information. No further information is forthcoming. I have already said, if I may say so, that the motion is not a privilege motion. Therefore, any further discussion is unnecessary.

**Mian Abdul Aziz :** At the same time I may remind you that it was definitely stated by the honourable member that it was within his knowledge and he was prepared to give an affidavit. No further information is required. The facts stated by him the other day are sufficient for you to give your ruling.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** Has Government denied those facts ?

**Sardar Santokh Singh :** Has Government got any further information ?

**Mr. Speaker :** I do not know whether Government has collected any further information as to whether Pandit Kalia was allowed to attend the meetings of the House ?

**Premier :** What do the honourable members want now ? I had given all the information that day.

**Mr. Speaker :** Authentic information is required as to whether the District Magistrate, Ludhiana, had permitted Pandit Kalia to attend the meetings of the Assembly.

**Premier :** My information is that the District Magistrate did permit Pandit Kalia to do so and then cancelled his order. A notice was sent to Pandit Kalia through the Senior Superintendent of Police, Lahore, but as I have said, as far as we are concerned no action was taken from headquarters barring a circular.

**Sardar Santokh Singh :** Did he cancel it of his own accord ?

**Premier :** I emphatically said on the floor of the House that no orders were issued by the Government barring the circular to all District Magistrates.

**Mr. Speaker :** Then there is no question of privilege.

**Premier :** If we had done that, I would have said so.

## DEMANDS FOR GRANTS

### GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

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

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,21,73,400 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1945 in respect of General Administration.

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

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,21,73,400 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1945, in respect of General Administration.

### General Policy

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad (Southern Towns, Muhammadan, Urban) (Urdu) :** Sir, I beg to move—

That the demand be reduced by Rs. 100.

I will be failing in my duty if I do not, at the very outset, pay a tribute to the Honourable Finance Minister, who in spite of many difficulties, has introduced a commendable budget. If the budget is good it is essential for me as well as for other honourable members to thank him for that. In fact he deserves congratulations for it. It is a veritable feat to show a surplus at a time like this. In spite of the fact that on account of war many new departments have been opened in which essential and non-essential appointments have been made, yet he has shown a saving of one crore and forty seven lakhs of rupees in the estimates. This is a matter for congratulation indeed. However, this year the increase that has been made in expenditure on beneficent departments is very small. I have no hesitation in saying that although the receipts have gone up from 11 crores to 19 crores of rupees, still the increase in expenditure provided for the beneficent departments is very small. The Honourable Finance Minister has himself admitted in his speech that unless India is industrialized unemployment cannot be removed from this country. Knowing this full well he has not made any large increase in the expenditure on the beneficent departments. It has been pointed out that the money set apart for the beneficent departments represents nearly 40 per cent of the new expenditure charged to revenue. But that is not sufficient. If surplus money, which has been shown in the budget, had been expended for the welfare of the Punjab that would have been much better. The mere showing of this surplus will not benefit the Punjab in any way. It appears from the budget speech that the Punjab Government has paid back a sum of 10 crores of rupees due to the Government of India under Unconsolidated Debt. This has resulted in a fall of Rs. 35 lakhs under Interest Charges which the Punjab Government had to pay annually to the Central Government. No doubt this is a good bargain but if this sum of ten crores of rupees had been spent on industrializing the Punjab that would have produced much better results. At present due to war machinery cannot be imported from abroad; still there are other industries which can be promoted in the Punjab. I think if this sum had been used to start industries in the towns and the countryside that would have resulted in a great benefit to the province as a whole. By that the income of the Punjab Government would have increased as well as the problem of unemployment, to which reference is made every year, would to some extent have been solved. The estimate of revenue receipts for the coming year is 19,64 lakhs and as against that the estimate of expenditure charged to Revenue is 15,78 lakhs. This results in the very huge surplus of Rs. 3,86 lakhs. If this surplus money is used for the promotion of industries and for increasing the activities of the beneficent departments it would have benefited the country a lot.

Next the provision that has been made for Education is not sufficient either. No doubt under this head a grant has been made to the University for imparting higher education and for the establishment of a Department of Geography and the starting of classes in Pharmacy, but that is not sufficient at all. As compared with other provinces our province is very backward in education. Therefore a large sum of money should have been provided for the Education Department. Although it is claimed that efforts are being made for spreading adult education in the province still I can say that so far efforts have not been made to that extent to which they should have been made. Night schools should be opened throughout the province in which paid teachers should be appointed and the education must be compulsory. The Government should have made special plans for removing illiteracy from the province. They should make a large provision for spreading adult education in the province so that illiterate persons, who daily have to suffer at the hands of the police, money-lenders and

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other corrupt officers because of ignorance, should be in a position to see to their own affairs properly.

In the new expenditure for Veterinary provision has been made for the opening of nine veterinary hospitals in the Punjab. The Honourable Minister for Development is not in his seat otherwise I would have asked him whether he has knowledge of the fact that there are many ilaqs where there are no veterinary hospitals at all or where their number is very small indeed. For instance, there are sixteen veterinary hospitals in the Karnal district. But in the adjacent district, that is, Ambala, a larger district, there are only 8 veterinary hospitals. Is the Honourable Minister for Development, who hails from this ilaqa, in a position to assure us that in the matter of opening of these nine veterinary hospitals the claims of the Ambala district will not be overlooked? (*An honourable member*: What about Hissar?) I can say also about Hissar that the number of veterinary hospitals there is also very small. Anyway I hope the Honourable Minister for Development, who hails from this ilaqa, will keep in view the best interests of the Ambala district.

I have told the House previously and I repeat it now that after the war when soldiers are demobilized they will go to swell the ranks of the unemployed. Besides, people who are at present employed in departments created in connection with the war will also go out of employment and they will certainly ask the Government to provide bread to them. The Government should start planning for them even from now. So far they have not taken any step in this direction which is highly regrettable. This problem can be solved by starting State industries.

Now I come to the Special Development and Peasant Welfare Funds. Yesterday the Honourable Minister for Revenue mentioned many schemes for utilising the Peasants Welfare Fund. Whether they will turn out to be useful or not will be seen when they come into fruition. But I am of the opinion that all the schemes to which he referred yesterday will not be of any use to the people. The Peasants Welfare Fund, as its name indicates, has been created for the welfare of the zamindars. But the way in which Government want to make use of it will in no way benefit them at all. A committee was set up to go into the question of how best this fund could be expended for the welfare of the zamindars. Lot of expenditure has been incurred in this connection. In the personnel of the committee such persons were included who had no sympathy for the zamindars. They were included in it merely for making propaganda among the peasants that Government was doing this thing or that thing for the zamindars. Now the plans which the committee has recommended and the schemes which it has put forward are not such that would, if given effect to, benefit the zamindars to any great extent.

It is regrettable that from the Special Development Fund, which was  
 created with the hard earned money of the poor zamindars  
 a sum of Rs. 80 lakhs has already been spent on preliminary  
 schemes. Instead of making better use of this money to further the interests  
 of the agriculturists it seems both foolish and wasteful to have spent it on just  
 devising ways of putting it to some use. The Unionist Government which  
 should have spent this sum of Rs. 1,98,00,000 in ameliorating the condition of  
 the poor zamindars of this province, have instead started squandering it on  
 unnecessary technicalities.

1 p.m.

Now, Sir, I have to say something in respect of depôts selling articles of food. It is within the knowledge of every honourable member of this House that the people who go to these depôts for obtaining the controlled articles are put to a lot of inconvenience either on account of the insufficient number of the depôts or due to the unsympathetic attitude of the depôt holders. Generally the men in charge of the depôts belong to the non-muslim community and for this reason the purdahnashin ladies find it very difficult to obtain their necessities. The poor labouring classes have to waste whole days waiting to obtain a rupee worth of sugar or a bottle of kerosene oil. In spite of the fact that these depôts have been opened under the orders of the Government yet whenever a complaint is made against their mismanagement to the Deputy Commissioners concerned they do not intercede nor pay heed to our complaints. No arrangements whatsoever have been made for women and Government servants. The latter cannot purchase controlled commodities and other necessities of life on Sunday (close day). I suggest that depôts should be opened for them on Sunday. Again, Sir, in Kaithal the depôts for sugar and kerosene oil have been established outside the city, and the people have to go out of the city to get a bottle of oil or a seer of sugar. The rush of people and the distance of the depôts from the city sometimes prevent the poor from getting the necessary articles. This is a wrong policy to establish depôts where people cannot reach easily and in time. These depôts should be opened in every ward or mohalla so that even the purdahnashin women and children may not have any difficulty in obtaining their necessities of life. (*Khan Sahib Chaudhri Pir Muhammad*.: In other places the municipal bodies are doing this work.) Probably my honourable friend's district of Gujrat is fortunate in this respect that people there do not find any difficulty in obtaining sugar and oil from the depôts. Moreover the municipal committee of Kaithal is deprived of the octroi income by opening depôts beyond municipal limits. I know it for certain that in Gurdaspur it is not easy for its residents to get these articles. (*An honourable member*: It is almost impossible to get anything from the depôts.) I am reminded of a shameful incident which occurred during the month of Ramzan last at Shakargarh. Some Muslims went to the Tahsildar with the request that as it was awfully hot, it would be very kind of him if he could give them a permit for some sugar, so that they may break their fast with cold *sherbat*. The reply given by this officer is so profane that I do not wish to share its profanity by giving utterance to it. Nevertheless as I have perforce to relate this incident and as نقل کفر کفر نہ باشد, I may quote his reply. "Who the Devil has asked you to keep fast?" Just imagine the brazen faced blasphemy and the provocativeness of this reply. I am at a loss to understand how those Muslims controlled their temper. I would request the Honourable Premier to conduct an inquiry into this incident as the inquiry ordered by Mr. Kaul, the Deputy Commissioner, was unfortunately made by a Muslim Revenue Assistant.

**Premier**: I do not quite follow the honourable member. How was it unfortunate if it was conducted by a Muslim officer?

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad**: Unfortunate because some selfish Muslim officers place their ambitions above their conscience and even religion. (*Cries of "No, No"*). This is a common occurrence. God alone knows how this officer was won over into giving his finding that no such incident ever took place. I make bold to say that there are scores of people who can vouch for the veracity of my statement. My honourable friend from Shakargarh is prepared to bring those witnesses before the enquiry officer. The pity of it all is that in spite of his representations to the responsible local officers



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and the Honourable Ministers nothing has been done by the Government in this matter.

**Premier :** Sir, I wish to assure my honourable friend Khawaja Ghulam Samad that so far as I am concerned I was not approached by any one in connection with this matter. I am prepared to get an inquiry made into the matter.

**Chaudhri Abdul Rahim :** Sir, with your permission I beg to submit that I made an application to the Deputy Commissioner for holding an enquiry into the matter. About sixty witnesses came to give their statements, but no one was given any chance to do so. I also challenge the Commissioner to hold an independent inquiry.

**Premier :** As I have already stated I am going to hold an inquiry into the matter.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Now I take up the question of services in the department of control. In the departments of taxation and control of prices, the fate of Muslims is miserable. I understand that the appointing authorities are under the impression that these departments being temporary, the Muslims are not entitled to 50 per cent of the posts. I want to tell them that they are totally incorrect in thinking so. That is why the percentage of Muslims in these departments is so low. It does not exceed 25 per cent. Further, the formula of reservation of fifty per cent for Muslims in the recruitment is fundamentally wrong. It must be observed not only at the time of fresh recruitment but also at the time of promotions. This is not being done at present. All the departments are dominated by non-Muslims and in the present circumstances there is no hope for Muslims for the next thirty years to come. Key posts like those of superintendents and head clerks are held by non-Muslims. Other, higher authorities treat the Muslims in such a manner that their continuance in service is impossible. I am forced to say that these evils cannot be remedied at all unless fifty per cent chance is given to the Muslims at the time of appointment.

Twenty-nine vacancies of civil supply officers are going to be filled very shortly. I personally think that there is no need of fresh recruitment. This surplus should not be wasted in such manner. Already Government has got sufficient number of gazetted executive and judicial officers at its disposal in every district. If in a district an Extra Assistant Commissioner is not able to pull on single-handed, then divide the work among the officers of P. C. S. cadre. According to many people division of labour is the best method.

Retrenchment and Resources Committee made many recommendations. The resources have increased but so far no step has been taken to reduce the expenditure. There is no need of fresh recruitment of these officers. I am sure that the Muslims will not get their legitimate share. The number of Sikhs in the Ambala division will be larger than any other community. My past experience convinces me that the appointment of Muslim officers too will prove of no avail. I am forced to utter these words, because, my constituents are suffering enormously owing to the posting of large number of non-Muslim officers in the Ambala division and I want that the grievances of the Muslims must be redressed.

I now draw your attention to the Irrigation Department. Endeavours are being made for the completion of Thal and Haveli project. About the Bhakra Dam appeal is to be made before His Majesty The King in Council. But I want to state that as far as the extension of the Western Jumna Canal is concerned Muslims have gained nothing. I made this statement last year

too, and I repeat it again. I am sure that the same result will follow by further extension for which a huge sum has been allotted in the next years budget. I can dare say from a Muslim point of view that the money which has been sanctioned by the house for this purpose will be wasted and no concrete gain will accrue to the Muslim community.

Every year some money is ear-marked for creating harmony among the various communities. Lot of fuss has been made without any definite achievement. The trouble is this that nobody pays any serious attention to it. One of our Ministers during his visit makes highly objectionable speeches in public meetings. He openly condemns Pakistan, Muslim league and such other matters. Can these speeches produce communal harmony? If the Ministers do not meddle in communal matters they raise the agriculturist *versus* non-agriculturist controversy. When the Land Alienation Act was passed in 1901 it was considered to be a great blessing. But so much unnecessary importance is attached to it by the same Minister that it has created strained relations between the different sections of the population and the Act has now become a curse. In the Tahsils of Jhajjar and Hansi, 115 and 9 villages respectively have been irrigated by the extension of the Western Jumna Canal. The latter is a tahsil of Chandhri Suraj Mal on whom all honours are being showered. During the current year he has become Rai Bahadur after about two years of his title of Rai Sahib. He has been given a jagir and recommended four squares of land. This is purely unjustified. I do not know what special services he has rendered to deserve all the laurels that have been bestowed on him. I make this reference only as a side issue. I was talking about the general harmony. It can be easily achieved. Formerly my honourable friend often raised so much hue and cry against the wrong balances and weights of the banias and their dishonesty used to be the common talk, but when he himself is in charge of very important departments of the state, he himself is guilty of the same malpractices and unfair dealings. Muslims are getting nothing at his hands and they are being ignored altogether. The weightage is already on the side of Jats in particular and the Hindus in general.

**Mr. Speaker :** The honourable member should not be personal.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** I am not personal, Sir, but I am speaking the truth. I have not mentioned the name of anybody. But incidentally every member of this august House knows about whom I am speaking (*laughter*). In those villages where my honourable friends form majority we can neither call *Azan* nor can we go into the village dressed in *tehmats*. We are punished if we do this. One mosque has been demolished in a village in Panipat.

**Premier :** That case is *sub-judice*, and I would ask the honourable member not to refer to it.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Very well, Sir, if the case as stated by the Honourable Premier, is *sub-judice*, I will not enter into any details in connection with the demolition of the Beholi Mosque in Karnal district. But what I wish to submit is this that the local authorities have treated this most important incident indifferently. No officer superior to the rank of Tahsildar or Inspector of Police has reached the spot to make inquiries. The Superintendent of Police, Karnal, wrote his report and did not take the trouble of reaching the spot. There are many villages in the district of Ambala dominated by Muslim population where religious sacrifices on 'Id U-zha were performed every year from times immemorial but now these sacrifices have been either stopped

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or restricted. I want to throw some light on the policy adopted by the Government of our province in regard to the sacrifices performed by the Muslims. Government have disallowed the Muslims to perform such sacrifices. Instances are not wanting in this connection. This year the Hindu and Sikh inhabitants of village Kurasan in district Ambala did not permit the Muslims to perform any sacrifices. They assembled there in large numbers equipped with *lathi* and other deadly weapons, frightened the Muslims of that village and compelled them to abandon their religious rites. The local authorities for reasons best known to them decided in favour of Muslims. There is a village named Kotla—a purely Muslim village in the same district where permission for performing religious sacrifices was not granted last year. The Commissioner on appeal found that the cow sacrifice was invariably performed in that village and recommended on the principle of *status quo* that the residents of Kotla should be allowed to perform their religious rites. This recommendation was not accepted by the Government and Deputy Commissioner, Ambala, accordingly refused to permit them to perform the sacrifice. My honourable friends would be surprised to learn that the Deputy Commissioner who happens to be a Muslim having no regard for *Shariate Khalil* (شریعت خلیل) did not grant permission even on repeated representations of the Muslims of this district in order to please the non-Muslims.

**Premier :** May I request the honourable member not to refer to the community of the officer. He has so far been attacking the Hindu Tahsildar of Shakargarh. Now he is attacking a Muslim Deputy Commissioner. In the case to which he is referring orders have been pronounced by the Deputy Commissioner. I am sure they have not been pronounced on any communal considerations. He is referring to Kotla and we know that he is also referring to the Deputy Commissioner, Ambala. The honourable member is not helping communal harmony.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** I am not communal. I am always in favour of promoting communal harmony. It is the Government officers who obstruct communal harmony, by passing absurd orders and by interfering in our religion. They are accused of "*mudakhalat fiddin*"?

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**Premier :** I am glad that the honourable member is not communal. If he is not communal then no officer of Government can be communal.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** I wish the Honourable Premier were as communal as I am. I always bring to his notice the communal attitude of his officers and Ministers. If I am considered communal because I mention these communal activities against the Muslims, I pray that every Muslim may be communal like me.

The next point to which I want to draw the attention of the House is regarding the waste lands which were distributed in the districts of Montgomery and Lyallpur. So far as these waste lands are concerned I wish to submit that fair distribution was not made while making allotments. In the Montgomery district alone the waste lands, or in other words the *bara* lands as they call it, was divided into many lots and these lots were distributed among those zamindars who possessed more than 60 or 100 squares of land and the poor zamindars of the district were completely ignored. This is a thing to which I take strong objection. (An honourable member : These lots were distributed among 55 zamindars.)

I make bold to submit that the poor zamindars have been completely ignored. May I inform the honourable member that the total number of these lots was not 55? Wherefrom did he get this baseless information?

**Minister of Revenue :** More than four hundred applications were received for these lots.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** I am pleased to learn from the Honourable Minister of Revenue that four thousand applications were received for these lots. But I wish to bring this point home to the Minister-in-charge of the department that these lots were distributed among those zamindars only who managed to influence the officers and three big lots were either taken by the Honourable Minister of Revenue or were given to his kiths and kins, the Jats, on his recommendation.

Next I wish to make a few observations in regard to dearness allowance.

**Mr. Speaker :** Will the honourable member please wind up his speech?

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Very well, Sir. I will try to wind up my speech. I wish to say a few words concerning dearness allowance. So far as this allowance is concerned, I want to point out that it is a matter of gratification that this year the amount of dearness allowance in comparison to last year has been increased. It was 1,32 lakhs last year. In the budget of the next year an increase of about 10 lakhs has been shown.

**Premier :** Wherefrom did the honourable member get these 10 lakhs rupees? May I inform him that it is one and a half crore and not 10 lakhs?

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Very well, what I mean to say is this that there has been an increase of about 10 lakhs in the amount provided in the budget. My honourable friends are aware of the fact that during these abnormal times the prices of almost all the essential commodities have risen to unconscionable levels so much so that an ordinary commodity which used to be sold previously at Re. 1 is being sold these days at Rs. 5 and thus the price of the rupee is now annas 3 only. Under the circumstances an ordinary clerk drawing Rs. 20, Rs. 50 or Rs. 60 or more is hard hit. At present dearness allowance is granted to those Government servants who draw their salary up to Rs. 250 per month. In this connection I wish to draw the attention of the Honourable Finance Minister whose sympathies have always been with the poor and down-trodden low-paid Government servants to the point that the present percentage of dearness allowance is quite insufficient to meet even the necessary expenses during these abnormal times. I hope he will be pleased to come to their rescue and thus save them from starvation.

**Mr. Speaker :** Will the honourable member please wind up his speech? Other honourable members have also to speak.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Sir, one thing more and I have done. I have been given to understand from the Pensioners Association that they had made a representation to the Honourable Premier and the Honourable Finance Minister and that the latter were pleased to solve their difficulties to some extent. But I wish to point out that dearness allowance has been granted only to Government pensioners drawing a pension of Rs. 40 per month, and that too at very low rates, while no such allowance has been granted to those pensioners who draw more than this amount. In this connection I wish to point out that these pensioners have served the Government faithfully and loyally, like the Government servants who are now serving. These poor pensioners are hard hit by the abnormal rise in the prices of food-stuffs, etc. Instances in this connection are not wanting. Under

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the abnormal circumstances these poor pensioners have been forced by their weak financial position to make their ambitious children bid good-bye to their studies for good. These poor pensioners cannot even make their both ends meet, hence their inability to provide ordinary education for their children. It will not be out of place to mention here that these poor pensioners have no other income except their pensions to fall back upon. In spite of the fact that all-out efforts are being made to make the removal of illiteracy campaign a success no encouragement in the form of free education facilities, etc., is afforded to the Government pensioners as a result of which their poor children will suffer in the long run. Under the circumstances I wish to urge upon the Government in general and the Honourable Minister for Finance in particular that the same and if possible greater percentage of dearness allowance should be granted to Government pensioners up to the same extent as has already been fixed in the case of the present Government servants. In this connection I wish to bring this point home to the Honourable Finance Minister that these pensioners have centred all their hopes in him and if something substantial is done for these people who are suffering silently, I am sure, God will reward him in this and the next world.

Now, Sir, I will pass on to another important subject which is so sacred to the Muslims that they cannot tolerate any interference in that. I mean the sacrifice on Id-ul-Zuha. This is the sacred function of Muslims and it commemorates the noble practice of Hazrat Ibrahim—may the peace of God be upon him. It is with pain and regret that I have to refer to the unwelcome order of our District Magistrate in this connection. He had ordered that the sacrifice of animals be restricted to one day while the Muslims are allowed to continue it for three consecutive days according to their religious personal law, viz., shara. If the Id falls on 10th, the sacrifice can continue up to the afternoon of the 12th of the lunar month. But the District Magistrate restricts it to the 10th alone or the 11th or the 12th only. That is nothing short of interference with our religion. No Muslim can brook this interference with his religion. This is a clear case of interference in our religious matters. I would fervently appeal to the Honourable Premier to remove this grievance of the Muslims. Some officers pass such orders for the sake of the protection of cows. But this is not the way of protecting cows. Muslims are enraged in this way and they may slaughter more cows in retaliation to the *zid* of the Hindus. The wise course would be to give full freedom to Muslims. They need not sacrifice cows particularly. Goats and sheep are generally slaughtered by Muslims.

The Honourable Minister of Finance seems to be very anxious to industrialise the province. I am glad to know that. The Peasants' Welfare Fund is calculated to help the rural poor. But what about the urban poor? The Government should start without fail State industries and the huge sums of the Peasants' Welfare Fund and the Special Development Fund should be spent in starting cottage industries in the rural areas. A committee appointed by the Government has suggested many schemes for utilizing these funds. But I can dare say that those schemes shall never be acted upon. Even if they are acted upon, those schemes cannot serve any useful purpose. But if these funds are spent in starting industries, the province will benefit to a large extent. The capitalists should also be asked to co-operate because without their help industries cannot flourish. It would be a wrong policy to work without the co-operation of the capitalists. It is a pity that the Factories Acts recently passed have hindered the progress of industries in the Punjab. The result of these Acts has been

hopeless. Trade and industries have moved out of this province into the neighbouring states and provinces. The sugar factories of Hamirpura and Phagwara are before you. Had there been no such restrictions as have been imposed by the Factories Acts, our industries would have made rapid strides. The War has provided excellent opportunity of starting industries in the Punjab. Even machinery should be procured during the war time. After all so many other articles are reaching India from far off places like America and Europe. The Government should not make lame excuses. Why cannot the import of machinery be arranged? The transport facilities still exist for machinery. A firm at Lahore has got ice-plant from America. Other machineries are also being imported in India from foreign countries. Where there is a will, there is a way. Fortunately the Government has huge surpluses which must be utilised for industrialising the province. It would be a highly paying thing to start industries even though the machinery is obtained at a high cost and even if we have to pay five or six times more than the normal price for this machinery.

With these few humble but useful suggestions, I close my speech and resume my seat.

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

That the demand be reduced by Rs. 100.

**Chaudhri Sumer Singh :** Only those members who have given notices of cut motions, should be allowed to speak first. They should have priority over others.

**Minister of Development** (The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh): Sir, I just want to give a few figures to the House in order to facilitate the work of the members. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad, who spoke just now, stated in his speech that the Muslims were not well represented in the inspection staff that has been employed recently in the Civil Supply Department. I want to give the figures relating to the Civil Supply Department from the very beginning. There is only one post of Chief Inspector and that has gone to a Muslim. So far as Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors are concerned, there are 84 Muslims, 14 Sikhs and 19 Hindus and others. The total comes to 117 Muslims, 14 Sikhs and 19 Hindus and others. Percentage community-wise comes to 51 per cent Muslims, 21 per cent Sikhs and 28 per cent Hindus and others. Inspection staff recently sanctioned for civil supply and cloth work is, Muslims 78, Sikhs 33, Hindus and others 52. The following are still to be appointed and candidates for these posts have been called for interviews :—

Muslims 14, Sikh 1, Hindus and others 2.

The total is 87 Muslims, 34 Sikhs and 54 Hindus and others.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** What is the number of Muslims?

**Minister of Development :** 87 Muslims, 34 Sikhs and 54 Hindus and others. The percentage community-wise is Muslims exactly 50 per cent, Sikhs 19·5 per cent and Hindus and others 30·5 per cent (*Cheers*).

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang** (West Lahore Division, General, Rural): I would refrain from taking the time of the House by indulging in unnecessary remarks. Besides this, I am sure, the Honourable Finance Minister himself must be sick already of the congratulations which have been showered upon him and I do not want to add to his nausea. We have been very lucky as well as he in having bumper seasons during the last few years, inasmuch as almost every year we have had the good fortune of having surpluses. It, however, should

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not be forgotten that these surpluses, since the war started, have been, not in spite of war, but mainly due to the war. The misfortune of humanity at large has been the good fortune of this province, particularly of the peasants of this province. The prices of foodstuffs have gone so high that there was no excuse left to the cultivators to withhold payments due to the Government and even the long-standing arrears were realised by the Government. People had to pay very high prices for their bread, for their vegetables, for ghee and milk and other necessities of life, but the Government reaped an excellent harvest and the budget of the province ended in surpluses. It should, however, be remembered—though I am not at all an economist—that although a deficit is a curse and a calamity, a surplus is not always a blessing. From the nod of the Honourable Finance Minister's head I can conclude safely that he agrees with this proposition which I have laid down. What does this mean? It can mean two things either that taxation has been reckless or that there has been some carelessness in assessing the income and the expenditure. If the income is estimated at a low figure, a surplus is bound to result. I do not mean to say that those people who are responsible for estimating income and expenditure deliberately assess income at a low figure and deliberately assess expenditure at a higher figure, so that they may be able to show a surplus. Whatever it may be, the result is—and it has been noticed by the press—that there has not been sufficient accuracy in assessing the figures of income and expenditure. I would, however, leave that matter there. I only referred to it in order to show that surplus is not always a great blessing nor a very great achievement. One instance I remember so far as the Public Works Department in the Irrigation Branch is concerned. On certain works a great deal of saving was shown, not only in money, but also in time and the Finance Minister made a great capital out of it and said that such a thing had never been done before; although people who understood the matter simply smiled over it because another alternative of this achievement would be that there had been a mistake in assessing both the expenditure and also estimating the time that would be required.

The next thing to which I want to draw the attention of the House is that so far as the budget is concerned, it is all one-sided. It is a great pity that in spite of the presence of the Finance Minister in the cabinet, belonging as he does to the neglected class of the province, the budget has been throughout one-sided.

**Premier :** Khawaja Sahib also claims to represent that backward class.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** We are all backward. He is the Honourable Premier's mouth-piece. I do not mean backward in that sense. I said the neglected classes. From the budget figures it appears that only one class is being favoured in this province and that class is that of peasants and landholders. Let me make myself absolutely clear that I do not grudge any amount of sympathy that any Government or any individual may be able to show for poor peasants. In a way I myself am a poor peasant, coming from a village as I do, I know their needs, I know their troubles and their sufferings and I know what hard work they have to put in during hot weather and during cold weather in order to make both ends meet. But the question is that poverty is not confined only to those people. I was very agreeably surprised one day when I found an article in the *Civil and Military Gazette* of January 25, 1944 headed "Punjab's Poor". The ideas expressed therein were the reflections of my own mind and were so true in their character that I thought I might draw

the attention of the House and of the Government to those remarks made by the Editor of the *Civil and Military Gazette*. He says :

"As for the urban poor, the "step-Children" of the present Ministry, who form at least 10 per cent of the population of the Punjab, we see no serious attempt to allay their suffering. The cost of living for the city-worker has gone up at least three times for he must buy all his requirements and high food prices strike him particularly forcefully. Before the war the expenses on food for the Punjab urban working classes used to be calculated at 50 per cent of their domestic budget, but now it stands at 65 per cent, if not more, while incomes for a majority of these classes have shown little increase, particularly for the "fixed salary" group. Has the Unionist Ministry shown any serious concern for these unfortunates, who have to pay over five times as much as they did for their wheat, four times for their pulses, six times for their gur-shakkar, and at least double if not three times for their cloth?"

These are the words of an impartial writer and not a syllable of these words is incorrect. What has the present Ministry done for these poor people? Are not these thousands of urban people—and by urban people I mean people who are not agriculturists whether they live in villages or in towns—finding it very difficult to make both ends meet? Has any scheme been devised by this Government or by our Finance Minister for the relief of these people? Does he not see hundreds of *chhabriwalas* wandering the whole day both in summer and winter before they can make six annas or eight annas in a day. They have to pay house rent which a villager has not got to pay. They have to pay for fuel which a villager has not to pay for because he can pick up cow dung cakes or dry fuel from here and there. He has to pay for every little thing when he is living in a town: while the villager has not got to pay for these things. Has the Government spent one single pie over them for their relief? This is not the first time that I have brought up this matter, but it is a pity that the Government has paid no attention to it. On the other hand, what do we find? Every thing is done for agriculturists. If you turn to the Honourable Finance Minister's speech at page 19, you will find a reference to peasants' welfare fund. After giving the history and after stating that the fund has risen to 1,50 lakhs and also saying that a sum of 50 lakhs more will be added this year, raising it to 2 crores, what does he say about the object of this fund?

In the words of the Finance Minister :—

The main object of this Fund has been the subject of wide discussion in the province during the last 12 months. It is to be directed wholly to the amelioration of conditions in the country side and in securing reasonable and just terms to the grower in the marketing of his products.

Already we have had so many laws which have impinged on the trade and commerce of this province, and have circumscribed the activities of the trading class in this province in the form of marketing committees, the general sales tax and so many other restrictions and other ordinances that they have made the life of the trading classes a hell and worse than hell. In addition what do we find? In the words of the Finance Minister—

Schemes have not been fully worked out to this end yet, but ideas are taking definite shape and it is hoped that it would be possible to devise plans to give them effect before long. When in full operation, this Fund should prove of the highest benefit, particularly to our small peasants and workers. They would then have at their hand a properly organised machinery, and it is now recognised that this would be of much greater value to them than any small relief that could be directly given.

We have been noticing that he has been a silent witness to the pillage and slaughter of these unfortunate people; and the most unkind cut is contained in this reference of which he and his Government are so proud. What is the implication of this? The implication is that what little bread is left will be



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taken out of the mouths of the trading classes and they will be deprived of running their shops and thus making a living by carrying on trade on a petty scale. It is apparent from the general trend of the speeches made by the Revenue Minister and the Finance Minister that these two crores will be used for opening shops which will deal with the whole produce or as much produce of the province as possible, and will thus deprive those *banias* and other shopkeepers carrying on their business in mandis and elsewhere, who were making their living as middlemen by purchasing or stocking grains and selling them either as wholesale dealers or retail dealers. This is going to be the result. The Government by means of these two crores will enter into a competition with the traders and will deprive them of a living; and this at the hands of the Finance Minister who is supposed to represent that very class. He has no doubt publicly stated that he does not represent any community; but unless he be born again he can be looked upon to represent at least that one class and that class is being given a deadly blow at his own hands. This is one feature of the budget of which the Government and the honourable Finance Minister have been proud. He himself, when outside the Assembly Chamber, recognises the difficulties of the poor shopkeepers. The other day I referred to a speech which he had made somewhere, and I shall, in order to clinch the matter and have it properly put on record, quote from the words reported by his own paper from the speech which he delivered at the meeting of the Punjab Federation of Industries. This is from the *Tribune* of the 12th February 1944:—

Sir Manohar Lal in passing referred to the various ordinances passed to control profiteering and hoarding. He said that in principle they were all sound in time of war. He however, added that humble persons like him who had to visit shops had felt that to conduct shops, to run commerce and trade today was a difficult process indeed. For a shopkeeper it had become difficult to run his business without exposing his skin to the prosecutor's hard bite. The Finance Minister had no hesitation in saying that if he were running a shop he would find it difficult to work under present conditions. One could carry out the spirit of the ordinance but it would be impossible to stand the strain of the words in which the ordinance had been launched by its sponsors. If trade and commerce were to flourish they must be allowed to flourish within certain limits which were desirable for their happy growth. It was the Government's duty to preserve and to keep intact the country's industry. Industry and trade should be allowed to proceed unrestricted.

These are excellent words to which no exception can be taken. I wish he could live up to his own teachings as a member of the Government and could influence his colleagues on the lines which he has suggested in this speech; but unfortunately during all these budget discussions and these budget proceedings during the last 7 years or so we have not found any attempt not to hamper the trade and commerce and industry in this province. On the other hand every law that is made is intended to put more and more restrictions on the trade and commerce as well as on industries and create more hurdles in the way of the poor shopkeepers for whom he showed such tender feelings in his speech from which I have just quoted. This is so far as the effect of the budget on the neglected class of traders and other people in general is concerned.

The second feature of the General Administration to which I would like to refer is the treatment accorded to political prisoners and detenus. Last year, or perhaps year before the last, I dwelt on this subject at some length. It is some relief that the conditions of the detenus and of the political prisoners have improved a little. Even now, however, the condition of these political prisoners and detenus—there are so many classes of these people—is pitiable. They are deprived of most of the amenities to which even ordinary prisoners are entitled and which are enjoyed by them. One particular thing to which I would refer

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is this that even when these people are released on parole they are subjected to irksome restrictions. I know the cases of some who are interned in places where they have no means of livelihood and to which they have no attachment. In one case I was told that a person was confined in a particular place because 30 years ago his grandfather lived there. I would also like to draw the attention of the Government to the case of a young boy of 17 Krishen Kant, son of Lala Achint Ram, who is detained in Mianwali. He is detained in a small village. Though a student he is not allowed to attend his college. I do not know what the Government is going to gain by keeping this little boy in a village where he cannot pursue his studies. He has lost more than a year. He was confined in February 1948 so that for the last 13 months he has had no access to any school or college. He is a first year student and would have appeared this April probably in his F. A. or F. Sc. examination if he had not been detained there. There are cases where some boys have been allowed to remain in Lahore as internees so that they may have facilities to attend their college. I would request the Honourable Premier, though he does not happen to be here, that he should look into this case.

2 p.m.

I know of another case where the party concerned is not allowed to stay in Lahore for medical treatment. We have the instance of Munshi Hari Lal. He had to undergo an operation but could not do so on account of his Diabetes and he was to be treated for his Diabetes before he could undergo an operation. He was not allowed to stay in Lahore but was sent back to Multan. He would not have set fire to Lahore if he were allowed to stay here. There are many other cases like this. I would also like to refer to the humiliating conditions imposed on some of the people who are released on parole. One of those conditions is that they are to report themselves periodically or once a week at the thana. Is this a condition for any respectable man to accept? I was told that even ladies were not exempt from such a restriction though I understand that now that condition has been relaxed so far as the ladies are concerned. (*Mian Abdul Aziz*: There are yet two cases.) I am very sorry to learn that such conditions still exist. It is a matter of great regret; it is most scandalous; it is nothing short of it that our ladies should be compelled to report themselves to the sub-inspectors at the thanas.

**Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan**: Are you sure about that?

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang**: I was told that this condition had been removed so far as women were concerned, but Mian Abdul Aziz tells me that such a condition still exists in the case of two ladies.

**Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan**: He too is not sure.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang**: I am glad if the restriction has been removed—so much less discredit for this Government. (*Laughter*). So much more honour for the Government if it pleases the honourable member better. I know of a case, a gentleman from Sheikhpura who was keeping bad health and wanted to come to Lahore for treatment but was not allowed to come here. He is one of those who are required to report themselves periodically at the thana. I know personally that he is a very respectable gentleman.

**Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan**: Will you please give his name?

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang**: Sardar Atma Singh. I understand that he is a millowner and a fairly well-to-do gentleman. He was at one time the President of the Municipal Committee.

**Minister of Finance**: He was not a political prisoner.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** What was he? Was he a Congress prisoner?

**Minister of Finance :** I do not know.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** Why then was he sent to jail? Was he convicted?

**Minister of Finance :** I am sorry I was thinking of another person.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** The Honourable Minister is not supposed to know everybody. Anyway, he is one of those persons who are asked to report themselves periodically at the thana. It is most humiliating, most provoking and most vindictive that a condition of this kind should be imposed on such persons. These gentlemen were never put on trial. It is most shameful that people should be kept in jail or under detention without any trial. Then gentlemen like Bhim Sen Sachar, Diwan Chaman Lall are not allowed to come here; respectable people who can never be expected or even suspected of doing anything subversive of law and order. There is Shrimati Shanno Devi who is not allowed to come here. Can it be imagined that she would set this House on fire if she were allowed to come here? There are the cases of Shrimati Parbati and Shrimati Purn Devi. They have been sent to jail without any trial and are rotting there. This brings great discredit to the Government. Is it the Government's case that these ladies and gentlemen have been detained or sent to jail under the instructions of the Government of India? If that is so, let them say so; I will not then blame the Punjab Government. Let them say that they are utterly helpless in the matter and that they have got to carry out the instructions of the Central Government so that the blame can be laid at the doors of that Government. But if they are really independent and this action is being taken at their own instance then it is a matter of great shame that so many persons who are perfect gentlemen in private life and for whom my honourable friend, Mir Maqbool Mahmood seemed to be so deeply moved when he mentioned their names should be kept under detention and in jail without any trial whatsoever. Mahatma Gandhi challenged the Government to put him in a court of law or release him. I plead for all these gentlemen and say that the Government have no right to deprive these men of their liberty unless they are given a chance to defend themselves and unless their crime is established. A charge sheet is sent to every prisoner and every detenu—I do not know what nice distinction is made between a prisoner and a detenu—that he took part in Congress activities or that he took part in the resolution of 8th August which was passed in Bombay and so on. Is this the way of charging people and sending them to jail? Those charges have never been placed before a court of law. Such charge sheets, or whatever they are, are of no use and of no help to them. There seems to be no intention at all so far as I can gather, of putting them on trial before a court of law and bringing those charges home to them.

I will not take any more time of the House on this point because I have to deal with another important matter which has become an All-India question and that is the incident that occurred at Amritsar on the 25th of December 1948. It was the Christmas day the day which is associated with the birth of Jesus Christ who is rightly looked upon as the Prince of Peace. It was on that day dedicated to the sacred memory of Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, that the peace of that town was broken by the guardians of law and order. On the 25th of December the presidential procession was taken out under a licence which had been issued by the authorities. The procession started; it had gone a little way

when the licence was cancelled. The procession was charged by the police with lathi resulting in injuries to about 100 persons. That very evening the District Magistrate of Amritsar issued a *communiqué* in which no reference was made to the lathi charge. In fact it was stated definitely that the procession dispersed peacefully. That goes to the credit of the processionists that in spite of grave provocation, in spite of being beaten inconsiderately by the police without any justification whatsoever, the procession dispersed peacefully. That shows that the authors of the *communiqué* admitted that the procession was not to blame in any way. What was the reason for the lathi charge? The reason alleged was that the licence had been cancelled and still the procession proceeded. That very night the Chairman of the Reception Committee of the Maharabha Session at Amritsar issued a *communiqué* in reply to the *communiqué* of the District Magistrate. Both these *communiqués* were issued so far as I can recollect the same day. They appeared in the *Tribune* dated the 27th December. On the 26th probably there was no issue of the paper. The *Tribune* came out with both these *communiqués* on the 27th December. The vernacular paper '*Mitap*' which came out on the 26th, that is, the very next day after this occurrence, contained the names of more than 80 injured persons referred to in the *communiqué* issued on behalf of the Reception Committee. Therein exception was taken to the statement made by the District Magistrate and surprise was expressed that the District Magistrate should have thought fit to suppress the news regarding the lathi charge and should have made no reference to the lathi charge in his *communiqué*. Though this *communiqué* appeared as early as 27th December 1948, yet up to the 28th February 1949, that is for nearly two months no contradiction of the *communiqué* of the Reception Committee was issued by the Government. Not a word of that *communiqué* was contradicted. As a matter of fact it does credit to the local authorities of Amritsar that they did not hasten to contradict truth, because if they had tried to do so they would have been guilty of saying anything but truth. It was then considered necessary by the organisers of the Maharabha Session that an enquiry should be made into the matter. They knew that the Government officers had put themselves in the wrong and there was no hope that the Government would make any enquiries. In fact, some honourable members may not know the fact that the local authorities of Amritsar tried to suppress the news altogether. The representatives of the Press were told not to send any news regarding the lathi charge to their newspapers. Instructions so far as I am aware, were also issued that telegraphic messages in regard to this matter were not to be sent. In fact evidence has been given on the point that restrictions were placed on the transmission of telegraphic messages. It was only by a special messenger from Amritsar that some information about the matter came into the press. Why was all this done? That shows a guilty conscience. Then an enquiry was made and you will agree with me that from among the non-officials of this province three better men could not have been selected to sit on the committee. The Chairman of the Enquiry Committee was Bakhshi Sir Tek Chand who adorned the Punjab High Court for so many years than whom no more capable judge has ever sat on the bench of the Punjab High Court. His colleagues were Rai Bahadur Ganga Ram Soni, a retired District and Sessions Judge, and Rai Bahadur Diwan Badri Das, the senior most Advocate of the High Court of this province. These three gentlemen constituted the committee and they examined as many as 86 witnesses and they arrived at certain conclusions. You will permit me to say that besides examining these 86 witnesses they had before them the statements of gentlemen like Dr. Heman Das, a Minister of Sind and some other eminent gentlemen. This is the conclusion

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at which the Enquiry Committee arrived. This Report, I understand, has been sent to many of the members of this House and I am informed that copies of the Report have been sent to all members of Government including the Honourable Premier. This is what the Committee say—

We may now sum up our conclusions. We have already indicated that the terms of the licence had not been contravened in any way and there was no justification for its cancellation. The supposed reason for the cancellation did not exist in fact and it seems that the order was passed upon wrong information conveyed to the District Magistrate and the Superintendent of Police, presumably by some of their subordinates. The decision actually arrived at by the Reception Committee was in full compliance with the orders of the District Magistrate.

Here I may say that the District Magistrate ordered that no one should go in uniform without his khaki shirt being covered either by a pull-over or otherwise. The Chairman of the Reception Committee announced on the loud speaker the order of the District Magistrate, not only once but twice so that there was no presumption whatsoever that any member of the volunteer corps had joined the procession in any objectionable uniform. As a matter of fact it has been established by incontrovertible evidence that the Mahabir Dal people who were the people concerned had as a protest refrained from joining the procession and therefore the only ground for the cancellation of the licence did not exist.

The decision actually arrived at by the Reception Committee was in full compliance with the order of the District Magistrate. This was publicly announced on the microphone in the pandal by the Chairman of the Reception Committee, Dr. Sir Gokal Chand Narang, and in pursuance of this announcement the Mahabir Dal volunteers had retired, taken off the objected uniforms and none of them had actually accompanied the procession.

On this point the evidence of the leaders of the Mahabir Dal has been recorded as well as the evidence of other people.

Nor did any volunteer or other person in the procession carry arms or conduct himself in any objectionable manner. There does not, therefore, seem to have been any justification for the cancellation of the licence.

When the City Magistrate, S. Hardy Singh, conveyed to the President-elect of the Conference and the Chairman of the Reception Committee, who were on the elephant in the midst of the procession, that the licence had been cancelled and after he was told the true facts about the Mahabir Dal volunteers not having joined the procession in protest, he left saying that he would inform the District Magistrate, and the impression created by his conversation on both Dr. Mookerjee and Dr. Narang was that the order having been passed under a misconception would be withdrawn. This, however, was not done and a strong force of police arrived and began to disperse the procession. All the witnesses are unanimous in saying that in no part of the procession was the order to disperse announced nor any warning given before the lathi charge began. The number of persons in the procession at this stage is variously estimated to have been a lakh or more and the procession was spread over a fairly long distance. If the intention of the authorities was to disperse the procession, sufficient time should have been given to them to do so, but this was not done.

The procession had started legally under a properly granted licence. It had gone on for about three-quarters of an hour in an orderly and peaceful manner. It had not conducted itself in any way which might have indicated an inclination to do an illegal act. If the cancellation order had been properly announced to the processionists there is not the slightest doubt that they would have departed peacefully. The police, however, immediately after its arrival, began to shower blows right and left indiscriminately. It is significant that even then there was no resistance offered by any one.

The beating was not confined to the persons actually taking part in the procession, but many of the spectators were also injured and in some cases persons who were trying to escape were pursued in the bye-lanes and beaten. There is also unimpeachable evidence of lathi charge on persons awaiting to see the procession at places far away from the procession.

In face of all these facts it is really surprising that the official *communiqué* made no mention of the use of force but merely stated that the procession 'dispersed peacefully'.

These are the conclusions which the members of this Enquiry Committee arrived at. I am fully cognisant of the fact that it might be urged in our face that this was an un-official enquiry committee. It was. That the evidence led was led only by one party. Perfectly true. There was nothing to prevent Government from sending its representatives to this committee, but probably official prestige stood in the way. I cannot say with absolute certainty but I have reason to believe that the matter was broached to the District Magistrate of Amritsar and he was asked whether he would like to lead any evidence before this committee and my report is that he said that he did not recognise this committee and was therefore not prepared to lead any evidence before this committee. That is perfectly true. But then the facts had to be ascertained and if Government was not prepared to move in the matter a private agency had to be set up by those who were responsible for bringing out the truth and of justifying their own position and of exposing the conduct of the Government officers at Amritsar on the 25th. I think no blame can attach either to this committee or to those at whose request this committee was set up. The question is whether the findings of this committee are such as can be ignored and on that point I may tell you that the factum of the lathi charge has not been denied by anyone except by Government. When this report of the committee came out last month then it occurred to the authorities to issue a *communiqué* and that *communiqué* of theirs which is dated Lahore, the 22nd February, was published in the *Tribune* of the 23rd. That is the *communiqué* to which reference was made in one of the questions put the other day to the Honourable Premier and answered by him on the floor of this House. I used rather a strong word on that day and I am sorry that I should have used a word which was not liked by the Honourable Premier. I would not like to offend anybody's feelings, but he would excuse me if I tell him that the word that I used has been used practically by the whole press, and the *Tribune* gave a heading which was indicative of the same expression. The heading of its leader on this *communiqué* was "Bare Faced—". I would leave to the Honourable Premier or any other very intelligent members of the Cabinet to fill in the blank. The heading was "Bare Faced—." The *Tribune* cannot be accused of being anti-Government. (An honourable member: Achha ?) Do you accuse it of that? You cannot. Well, I would leave it to you or the Honourable Premier to fill in the blank. The only word would be "lie"—Bare-faced lie. Or else the Honourable Finance Member who is a master of English can suggest a word which would fill the blank more suitably considering the circumstances of the case. The *Tribune* wrote an article, about a column and a half, exposing the hollowness and cheekiness of the *communiqué* which had been issued by Government. I am extremely sorry that such a *communiqué* should have been at all issued by Government. I have great regard for some of those who may be responsible for this. I look upon them as friends and as gentlemen, and I am sorry that they have been so badly caught in this and were somehow prevailed upon or deceived into issuing a *communiqué* like this. It does not do anybody any credit to have come out with this kind of *communiqué*.

So far as the factum of this lathi charge is concerned I can produce two other very important witnesses whose respectability cannot be questioned by members of this Government. One is Sir Sultan Ahmad, a Member of the Executive Council of His Excellency the Viceroy. It may be said that he was not an eye witness. But you should remember that he is the Member for Information and he was speaking on the basis of the information which was conveyed to him by official agency, because he would not base his remark on an unofficial agency, most probably the Information Bureau or the C. I. D. of the Punjab Government.

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itself. Had they known that this information had been supplied to Sir Sultan Ahmad, probably they would not have issued such a *communiqué*. What does he say? The matter was raised in the Central Assembly with respect to certain films which had been taken of certain processions including the Muslim League procession at Karachi and some people asked why only the Muslim League was selected for such a film? He was asked whether he took notice of all important functions and processions, and then he mentioned some of the processions which had been filmed and while mentioning them he referred to the Hindu Mahasabha also and this is what he said:

An attempt was made to film the procession, but the cameraman was badly mauled by the crowd and in the subsequent *lathi* charge the camera was broken.

**Premier:** Note "mauled by the crowd."

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang:** I am coming to that.

**Premier:** He was no better informed than my friend opposite.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang:** I was an eye-witness; you were not, unless you were sitting on some tree watching the procession. In our youthful days we have all watched *tamasnas* from tree-tops.

The Honourable Premier has drawn my attention to the words "mauled by the crowd." That must have been reported by somebody belonging to the Punjab Government agency. If it was so then why did not the District Magistrate in the *communiqué* which was issued immediately after the event refer to it? It is said that the procession dispersed peacefully. Not a word was said that any section of the procession behaved badly or lawlessly or mauled any one.

Perhaps when they came to know that this enquiry committee had published a report they thought that some excuse must be found for their conduct and it is now in this latest *communiqué* that they have issued at the 12th—not even the 11th—hour that they say that the conduct of the crowd was defiant. They never said such a thing before. If there was any foundation for such an allegation, they would have tried to justify their conduct very easily by making use of the defiant conduct of the crowd; they would have said that the crowd was defiant, that it was asked to disperse but it did not disperse and so the police was forced to make the *lathi* charge and probably nobody would have bothered himself about the affair after that. By "mauled by the crowd" Sir Sultan probably meant only the rush and crush of the crowd which made it impossible for the police to save the camera when charging the crowd with *lathi*. I am tempted to read out a passage from the *Leader* of Allahabad. It is not a small matter and the whole Press of India took it up. One lakh of people were in the procession.

(*Interruption*). No doubt we are weak; we are divided. I know we have not got sufficient *sangathan* or organisation; otherwise no one would have dared to interfere with a procession consisting of a lakh of people, not even 20 superintendents of police and 50 district magistrates and not even the whole Unionist Government. I may tell the Premier that the incident has caused great humiliation to us. It is a painful matter to me that I am discussing this on the floor of this House, because I am publishing our own weakness, our own disunion, our own disorganisation. If Hindu India had been united, there would have been no such occasion either for a *lathi* charge or for a *communiqué*. We would have known how to deal with those who insulted us. I am publishing our own weakness. I am conscious of that. But facts are facts and until Hindus once more become strong we have to put up with all sorts of humiliations, because we are

weak, we are divided and full advantage is being taken of the division in our ranks. Let it not be thought that we are not conscious of our weakness or that we consider ourselves to be strong. The evidence of our weakness here in this House as well as outside this House is clear. But limited as our activities are, limited as our opportunities are and limited as our strength is, we cannot quietly pocket the insult heaped upon us and it is from that point of view that I have taken up this matter at great mental pain to myself. Whenever I think of the humiliation caused to me and to Dr. Mukherjee and also to other Hindus, I am overwhelmed with grief, but I am helpless. This was however by the way. I was going to refer to what the *Leader* said about the factum of the *lathi* charge, which the Government has denied. The following appeared in the *Leader of Allahabad*, dated the 7th of February 1944, even before this *communique* came out :

The fact that there had been a *lathi* charge cannot be denied. There is unimpeachable evidence. It was witnessed by thousands of people, including a minister, five ex-ministers, title holders and Government pensioners. The Reception Committee Chairman, Sir Gokul Chand Narang, issued a statement on the morning of December 26 regarding the incidents of the preceding day. In that statement he said, 'the processionists were dispersed by a *lathi* charge resulting in injuries to about a hundred persons'. It is significant that not only have the Punjab Government not yet contradicted this statement, but that one of the members of the Government expressed sympathy with the Hindus. Sir Manohar Lal's statement to which we had occasion to draw attention in these columns previously, will bear repetition. The Finance Minister said, 'My mind is full of grief at these sights. Every Hindu must sympathise with the lot of the sufferers'. If there was no *lathi* charge, the Finance Member should have sympathised not with the Hindus but with the police whom the Hindus are maligning. Why was the Finance Minister's mind full of grief at these sights if no 'sights' existed? Alice has recorded that she had often seen a cat without a grin, but that in Wonderland she saw a grin without a cat. Amritsar seems to be an equally wonderful place. Elsewhere there might have been *lathi* charges without casualties. At Amritsar 100,000 people witnessed casualties which filled their mind with grief without a *lathi* charge. Mr. Addison should be a writer of fiction and not the District Magistrate of Amritsar.

The second important witness whose responsibility cannot be questioned on the floor of this House is the Honourable Finance Minister himself.

**Sardar Moola Singh :** Now that it is alleged that the Honourable Finance Minister was also of the same opinion as Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang, will the Hindu Mahasabha demand the resignation of ministry from the Finance Minister?

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** We are people who thank others even for small mercies. We are prepared to thank him even for this.

Now, Sir, in the *Tribune* of 29th December appeared a report of Sir Manohar Lal's visit to Amritsar. The heading of the report is, "Amritsar Incident: Sir Manohar Lal visits injured." This means that there were some people injured. This is what the *Tribune* says :—

Sir Manohar Lal answering an enquiry told the large audience that before coming to Amritsar he had taken up the matter with the highest authority in the Punjab. On arrival here the first thing that he did was to see some of the injured persons among whom was a brother teacher of economics and saw their injuries. He said: 'My mind is full of grief at the sight'.

These were the very words which have been quoted by the *Leader*. In fact I was not present at the time, but it was conveyed to me and I was wondering whether really Sir Manohar Lal's own brother was injured. Afterwards it came out that it was a brother teacher and not any brother of his. He was Professor Ghosh of the Calcutta University, Professor of Economics, who was one of those who had received injuries. There was another important sentence in this. Sir



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Manohar Lal is reported to have said that he had taken up the matter with the highest authority in the Punjab. At first we thought it was probably the Governor. But then we came to know it was not the Governor but it was the Premier to whom he had referred.

But when the Premier was questioned on the floor of the House whether he had consulted the Honourable Finance Minister before that *communiqué* was issued, so far as I remember he said "No" but then I asked him whether he had seen Sir Manohar Lal's statement about this. Then also he said "No". Of course I cannot say that he reads every paper or everything that is in any paper but surely if Sir Manohar Lal had told the Premier—

**Premier :** May I just explain? The honourable member is confusing the word.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** All right. The Honourable Premier is taking his stand on technicalities but in any case I take it for granted that the Honourable Premier was informed by the Honourable Finance Minister of the occurrence. Am I justified in my supposition?

**Premier :** The honourable member asked me, "Did you issue the *communiqué* after you had consulted him?" I said, 'No.'

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** The other question was whether the Honourable Premier had seen the statement of the Honourable Minister and he said 'No.'

**Premier :** The honourable member was putting something into the mouth of the Honourable Finance Minister which he had not stated and I said 'No' in that connection.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** All right. I might be mistaken but the record will not be mistaken. The record will be there. It can be changed. It has many times changed. I know it has been changed.

**Premier :** Nobody changed the record. That is my recollection.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** That is only by the way.

**Premier :** The Honourable member was quoting the Finance Minister in favour of his statement. What I meant when I said 'No' was that the Finance Minister had not said all that. He had expressed sympathy and he had seen the injured. Beyond that he had not supported anything about the occurrence. The honourable member is quoting the Finance Minister in his favour with regard to what took place.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** I am quite prepared to admit. I might be mistaken but the Honourable Minister is always right!

**Premier :** I am not admitting anything. He might have misunderstood me. That is what I said.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** We are always wrong! Now, the *Tribune* might be considered to have been a little partial although it should not be and it is not so far as this matter is concerned, but the C. & M.G. cannot be accused of having any tenderness for any particular individual and this is what it said :—

As Sir Manohar Lal rose to inaugurate the Conference a large section of the audience stood in their seats and wanted to know what he had to say with respect to Police action on Saturday evening. The Chairman informed the audience that the matter had been brought to the notice of the Minister and asked the volunteers to bring

as many injured persons as they could to the Pandel. As soon as Sir Manohar Lal finished his speech, the volunteers brought the injured persons on stretchers and after the Minister had inspected the injured, they were taken back to hospital.

So far as the factum of this charge is concerned, I think it cannot be denied. The Committee examined four classes of witnesses. Amongst the eye-witnesses are Dr. Mukerjee, Rai Bahadur Mehr Chand Khanna, Raja Rameshwar Dayal and Rai Bahadur Captain Ram Rakha Mal Bhandari who was Public Prosecutor in this province for so many years and Secretary of the Red Cross and War Front and so many other things. The eye-witnesses also include Lala Amrit Rai, retired Engineer, Dr. Chaudhri, President of the National War Front in Ambala, besides us poor folks. All these gentlemen were among the eye-witnesses. The second class of witnesses were the injured persons and what is most remarkable is that the very next morning the names of at least 36 injured persons appeared in the papers, so that it cannot be said that this was an after-thought like the *communiqué* of the Amritsar authorities and among the injured there were all sorts of persons. One was a brother teacher of the Honourable Finance Minister who is Lecturer in Economics in the Calcutta University, i.e., Professor H. C. Ghosh. Another was Mr. N. C. Chatterji who is one of the most leading advocates of Calcutta and I think Vice-President of the Hindu Sabha of Bengal. The third was Mr. B. Chatterji, his younger brother. Then there was Captain Keshub Chander himself, the Secretary of the Reception Committee, and there was L. Sohan Lal, Advocate, who was the Procession Secretary. He was also amongst the injured. Then there was L. Mulk Raj of Shambu Nath and Sons, a gentleman whose firm was assessed to two lakhs in income-tax and excess profits tax last year. These were some of the people who were injured and the total number of injured was nearly a hundred and as I have said 36 names appeared the very next day in *Milap*. The third class of witnesses were the medical practitioners who examined these people that very evening and entered their names in their registers which are regularly kept. These registers were produced before the Enquiry Committee and the names of the persons whom they had examined and treated for their injuries were all given in their registers. Among these I may mention a few. One was of course Dr. Heman Das, a Minister of Sind Government. He himself examined the injuries of some of the injured persons and treated them. He happened to be at the house of Bawa Gurmukh Singh where some of the injured persons were staying and then there were Major Wardhan, retired, I.M.S., Dr. Sain Das, Dr. Kesho Das, Dr. Diwan Chand, Dr. Ram Rakha Mal, etc., etc. All these people produced their registers. The fourth class of witnesses—not in the order of merit but as their names have been supplied, represent the fourth estate and they are the press representatives among whom one of the most prominent witnesses was no less a person than Mr. Bali who is well known in journalistic circles and is known to all the members of the Government. Then there was Mr. Sant Parkash who represents four papers, *Amrit Bozdar Patrika*, *Hindusthan Standard*, *Bombay Chronicle* and *Bombay Sentinel*. Then there was Mr. Das Gupta, the representative of the United Press. Then there was Mr. Saxena who is Chief Editor of the well known paper *Navyawan*. Some of these gentlemen have also given evidence that their messages were stopped by the authorities at Amritsar. It has appeared from the evidence that there were *lathi* charges in no less than four places. People were beaten in front of the electric power house. They were beaten even when they were so close to the presidential elephant. They were beaten outside the Hall Gate and some of them were beaten inside the Hall Gate and as the Enquiry Committee has pointed out, they were even pursued and beaten. It has also come out in the evidence of very respectable witnesses, whose word cannot be questioned, that

[Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang.]

these police people were chuckling over the discomfiture of the processionists. They were thus adding insult to *lathi* injuries. They were ridiculing them and cutting jokes at them and laughing at their predicament which certainly to some people was more painful than even the *lathi* charges.

Now I come to the version which has been published by the Government. The first thing that they say is that three hours were taken by the organisers of the procession to decide whether the orders of the District Magistrate should or should not be defied. I tell you that this is untruth No. 1. It is absolutely wrong. There was no intention or attempt on the part of anyone, whether the Mahabir Dal people or others, to defy the orders of the authorities. The only thing that they were debating for some time was whether under the conditions imposed by the District Magistrate a procession should or should not be taken out. Most people were in favour of abandoning the procession as a protest against the unfair conditions imposed by the District Magistrate. There was no question of any civil disobedience at the time because the Hindu Sabha had not decided that the policy of civil disobedience should be adopted at least on that occasion. Therefore, this statement is entirely wrong and I may tell you that this condition, as has been stated by me and by others, was most unfair, as the Mahabir Dal volunteers have been wearing this uniform for over twenty years without any objection.

Objection was taken to the khaki shirts worn by the Mahabir Dal people and it was said that some one was prosecuted in Amritsar for having worn a shirt like that. Afterwards, on enquiry, it turned out that the man was certainly prosecuted, but he was prosecuted because he was wearing a bush-shirt which is worn by military people and not an ordinary khaki shirt which is worn by members or volunteers of the Mahabir Dal or by other people. If the officers really thought that it was an offence against an Ordinance issued by the Government they could start a prosecution. They would arrest no person because they must have thought that if the matter went to a court they would have no chance of success whatsoever in a court of law. If a khaki shirt were considered to be an objectionable uniform, then a pair of khaki socks might also be considered an objectionable uniform and the people might be prosecuted for wearing a pair of khaki socks. No objection could really be taken against the Mahabir Dal's uniform. Though they had khaki shirts on, yet they had no resemblance to the uniform worn either by the police or by the military because their distinguishing badge is a red turban and a red kerchief and nobody who was not suffering from bad eyes could ever mistake a member of the Mahabir Dal for a member of the police force or any member of the military force.

Then, Sir, in the *communiqué* it has been stated that the organisers of the procession had lost control. This is again absolutely incorrect and an afterthought. As I have already pointed out, they had already admitted that the procession dispersed peacefully. The organisers of the procession had never lost control. I can assure you that the procession was proceeding in a most peaceful manner because they were told that they were not even to cry any slogans which might be calculated to give the slightest offence to anybody or any community whatsoever. Then, Sir, what is most important is that in this *communiqué* it is said that definite information was received. They have not disclosed who the informant was. The whole blame really falls on the person, whoever he was, who took this false information to the Deputy Commissioner or to the Superintendent of Police that the Mahabir Dal people had defied the order and had

joined the procession with the so-called objectionable shirts on. It is the duty of the Government to ascertain who that informant was. Further, the City Magistrate went to the President and told him that the licences had been cancelled and—as has been pointed out by the members of the Enquiry Committee—the President was waiting to hear from the District Magistrate when he told the City Magistrate that no volunteer had joined the procession at all. The impression left by the City Magistrate was that the procession—when true facts were intimated to the District Magistrate—would be allowed to proceed and the order which had been passed under a misconception would be withdrawn. But what happened. The City Magistrate went to the District Magistrate and as mentioned in the *communiqué* he then ordered the police to disperse the crowd. What did the District Magistrate say or do? The *communiqué* is silent on the point. This lacuna is a matter which the Government ought to enquire into. What seems to have happened was that the City Magistrate never told the District Magistrate that no volunteer with objectionable uniform had joined the procession or the District Magistrate kept mum. What happened then? No intimation was conveyed to the President or to the organisers of the procession. The only thing that was done was that the order was given for *lathi* charge, and the police began to charge the crowd with *lathis*. So this *communiqué* is absolutely unconvincing and as has been stated by most members of the press of this country, it is nothing but a bundle of untruths. All the vernacular papers of the Punjab have said so. I can refer to the article published in *Partap* where the word “*j hoot*” has been used for the *communiqué* issued by the Government. If you were to consult other papers—the extracts I have in my possession, but I have no time to read them out—if you consult other journals you will find that the opinion of the whole press of this country—the whole impartial press—is that the Government did not behave in a proper manner and that the Government failed in its duty in taking no action against the local officers of Amritsar, who were responsible for this mishap and for this excess and lawlessness on their part. I do not know whether the Government intends now to take any action. In answer to a question put by me, the honourable Mir Maqbool Mahmood was pleased to point out that a *communiqué* had been issued and no action however was contemplated. Well the Government can please itself, but the people can form their own opinions and their own judgment with respect to the attitude of local officers and with respect to the attitude of the Government in passing over the matter so lightly. I may tell you, not only for your benefit, but for the benefit of all who are concerned that this is an insult which the Hindus of India will never forget. They will never forget that on Christmas day when Mr. Addison was the District Magistrate of Amritsar, and Mr. Garrade was the Superintendent of Police of Amritsar and Mr. Har Dyal Singh was the City Magistrate of Amritsar and Mr. Asghar Ali was the D. S. P., C. I. D. at Amritsar, the Hindus assembled in their thousands were insulted and humiliated by the action taken by them. They will never forget it and they will also never forget that the Punjab Government treated them with the utmost contempt in taking no action on this most serious breach of law by the guardians of the law themselves. That is all I have to say. (*Cheers*).

**Shrimati Raghubir Kaur** (Amritsar, Sikh, Woman) (*Punjabi*): Sir, the budget is being considered for the last so many days and much discussion has taken place over it. A surplus of nearly four crores of rupees has been shown in it. No one can deny that the Honourable Finance Minister has submitted the budget in a presentable form. But I want to point out that it will not benefit those people from whose pockets this money has come. In fact those who toil day in and day out and pay taxes to the Government do not stand to gain anything

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from it. We are told that the Minister of Education has arranged for enough money to establish new schools and colleges, but may I know from him as to how the opening of these colleges, etc., will benefit those poor agriculturists who own 5 or 10 *bighas* of land? Those poor zamindars cannot afford to send their boys to colleges for higher education. To this the Honourable Minister might reply that they are very well off these days on account of the high prices of agricultural produce ruling in the market. In this connection I may be permitted to point out to him that the present rise in prices does not benefit the smallholders who own 5 or 10 *bighas* of land. It is the big landlords possessing whole villages or hundreds of acres of land who are making immense profits from the wartime boom in the prices of agricultural commodities. The majority of the poor zamindars do not possess enough land to grow vegetables for their own use and are hardly able to make both ends meet even in these days of high rates. So long as the existing inequitable distribution of land continues, there is very little hope of the lakhs of poor zamindars deriving any benefit from the present budget. Again the workers in towns and petty clerks whose income hardly suffices for obtaining their daily fare cannot receive any benefit whatsoever from this budget. Just now an honourable member informed the House that sugar and kerosene oil for which depots have been established by the Government were being supplied on communal considerations, that is, those who were in charge of these depots made a distinction as between the Hindus and Muslims. But I wish to point out that neither the Hindus nor the Muslims have any inherent defect or bias against each other. They are not to blame for this state of affairs. The fault lies with this Government which notified that 2,000 bags of sugar were being procured for distribution among the masses, and then created a defective machinery for carrying out this work. People who had heard about this notification flocked to these depots but found that the sugar was not meant for them. The poor from the towns and the rural areas waited at these depots in vain to get even the smallest quantity of sugar, but it appeared that all the supply of sugar went systematically into that machinery and was lost to the general public. This was not the fault of the Hindus or Muslims that people could not get sugar in spite of the fact that large stocks of it were available. It was the fault of the Government which set up such a corrupt and defective agency for the distribution of sugar. Exactly the same thing is happening in the case of kerosene oil. The people are being put to very great trouble on account of its non-availability. Honourable members occupying the Government benches who reside in palatial bungalows lit up with electric lights cannot realise the inconvenience and discomfort of the poor who cannot do without kerosene lamps. The present scarcity of kerosene oil has virtually brought about a blackout for the masses whose share of oil has been misappropriated by the agency set up for its distribution. Such is the administration of their control policy for the efficiency of which the Government so loudly blow their trumpet. Although they have miserably failed in running their depots already opened by them, yet they are talking of controlling other articles as well. If they want to control all commodities they ought to have set up a better machinery for dealing with it. The Government should appoint honest men, who feel sympathy for the masses, to carry out the control policy so that all the necessities of life may easily be available to the public. But the mentality of this Government is quite different from that of the Governments in other provinces. They have imprisoned innocent young patriots who were neither going to set fire to any government buildings nor were they found tampering with railway lines. They have been shut up in jails without any

trial whatsoever. Anyhow as much has been said about men by many honourable members on this side, I shall confine myself only to the treatment meted out to the women folk of our province by the Punjab Government. Shrimati Parvati Devi of Kamalia, who had taken up her residence in the United Provinces, has been kept behind the bars in the Punjab without any rhyme or reason. This old lady is about sixty years of age and has not committed any act of violence or taken part in any subversive activity which can afford even a semblance of justification to the Government for imprisoning her in the Female Jail at Lahore. Then, as Sardar Sohan Singh Josh informed us yesterday, Bibi Ghulam Fatima was interned in Sangla. Again, Bibi Puran Devi of Lahore was notified by the Government to go and periodically report herself at the police station. Now, you can very well imagine, Sir, how shameful it is on the part of this Government to ask a lady to go and report herself at the police station. This reminds me of the story of that old woman whose son, unfortunately for her, became a *thanedar*—unfortunately, because the moment he took charge of his duties, he started scolding his mother on every little thing. Unfortunately for the Punjab, this Cabinet of Ministers consisting of our own brethren has, similarly, after assuming power started sending their own sisters, as old as Shrimati Parvati Devi, to jails and asking them to report at police stations. Like the mother of that *thanedar* we also wish that they had never become Ministers to use their powers against their own sisters. All the honourable members in this House fully know what sort of police we have in the Punjab before whom they have ordered the ladies to appear. An honourable member from this side of the House will describe the conduct of the police at length, if he gets an opportunity to do so. The greatest achievement of the Punjab Government who claim to raise the status of the province to the level of other countries of the world, is that they have put restrictions on the liberty of speech of the people. They also boast that they belong to a martial race. Yet they are afraid of women. Shrimati Sarejini Naidu came to see her ailing sister in Lahore but our Honourable Premier suspected that she had come to become a minister here. She had come to visit her sister and it was just possible that she would have met other sisters in the Punjab and advised them to follow some constructive line of action whereby they could prove useful to their country. But this brave Government was struck with terror lest Mrs. Naidu should bring about their downfall, and they served her with a notice imposing restrictions on her participating in public meetings. Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram says that he is greatly worried on account of the zamindars and it is possible that he is considered to be an object of veneration and worship by that section of the society towards whose welfare all his energies are being directed. Our friends over there have described Sardar Sohan Singh Josh and other friends of labouring classes as the agents of the Central Government and, not this much only, but their pillars as well. The Communist Party too has been honoured in a similar fashion. I do not think it necessary at all to waste my time in advancing arguments in defence of that, because I know that time itself will prove who is the real agent and pillar of the Central Government.

There exist a hundred and one basic defects in the present budget and I will not be mistaken at all if I say that our Government not only have failed in improving the lot of the down-trodden people but they are worsening the lot of those people also who are already better off. Personally I have got no grudge against anybody and it is my keen desire that all of us should be happy and prosperous without any discrimination. Colleges must be started and must be thrown open to everybody and not for a specific set of people. They should benefit the working as well as the capitalist classes alike. My honourable friends

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are raising so much hue and cry against false weights of banias and the maltreatment meted out by them but I draw their attention to this maldistribution of our society, to which I attribute every existing misery and trouble. They must join hands with me in putting an end to it. This discrimination is solely responsible for our present class quarrels and the sooner it is ended the better it will be. I appeal to the good sense of everybody here to join hands with me. How useful will it be if we all join hands and work together for the future betterment of our motherland. In this august House we may sit together and devote our time in finding out useful solution for the pressing problems facing our country. Educational institutions may be started and may be open to every Indian child of ours and the day may come when every young girl or boy may hold the degree of M. A. In short, our country which is so down-trodden and oppressed at this time may ultimately become a land of happiness and prosperity.

**Sardar Gopal Singh** (American) (Ludhiana and Ferozepore, General Reserved, Rural) (*Punjabi*): Sir, I have to make a few observations about the present budget estimates. In the last budget estimates as well as in the present one there is no reference about the *Achchuts*. Since the sad death of late Sir Sikander Hyat-Khan no justice is being done to *Achchuts*. I wonder whether a mere reference to Schedule Castes would have made the budget estimates impure. Everybody will agree with me how poor this community is in social, economic and political fields and deserves our immediate attention.

To-day we feel that by voting for the panchayats we committed a great harm to our community. *Achchuts* are subjected to tyranny under the shelter of this Bill. We have brought this thing to the notice of respective Deputy Commissioners and the Director of Panchayats but to no avail. Things remain as they are. I stress upon the need for a joint board where the representatives of *Achchuts* and zamindars may sit together and consider the troubles. In the presence of these hardships it has become impossible for us to sleep at night even. In the Ludhiana district there is a place known as Mundiala Khurd. There an *Achchut* was unjustly prosecuted by the Panchayat and fined Rs. 650. He paid Rs. 250 and for the rest he demanded time. Here I have got an application from him addressed to the Minister concerned. Many *Achchuts* seek elections to Panchayats but fare no better. Moreover, they are prosecuted for nothing. Police involves them in false cases and they are fined also. In Saidon Kalan District Ferozepore, an *Achchut* whose name is Ram Rakha, was beaten. Telegrams were sent to the Superintendent Police, Ferozepore. He made arrangements for enquiry into the matter but it proved fruitless. Sir, these things are of extraordinary importance and I deem it urgently necessary to place them before the House.

Now I take up the Police. It is said that now *begar* (forced labour) stands totally abolished. In the Ludhiana district there is a village known as Deharka. *Begar* was forced there and we brought it to the notice of the Superintendent, Police. He sent an Inspector of Police to inform the local authorities that *begar* was unlawful. The local head-constable challaned 29 innocent people. The court while acquitting them, declared that it was simply an act of high-handedness on the part of police but so far no action has been taken in this matter.

**Pir Akbar Ali**: Not so in Ferozepore district. I vehemently contradict that.

**Sardar Gopal Singh**: My friend Pir Akbar Ali says that this system does not exist in his district. There is a village known as Sadow in his district

where *begar* used to be in practice. I do not know whether it exists now or not. It is a deplorable fact that such a poor treatment should be permitted in a province like the Punjab. Here in spite of all advancements in every sphere this community is debarred from executive line. As long as one remains *Achhut*, all doors of promotion are closed to him and the moment he becomes Sheikh or something else, he is eligible for all the executive posts. If this rotten caste system is held so dear, then why not accept Pakistan? I want to draw the attention of Sardar Baldev Singh and Sir Chhotu Ram to this unfair lot of the scheduled castes. I condemn caste system and stand totally against it. So must every gentleman do. There is no justification for such system. (*Laughter*).

This is not a matter for laughter. What I wish to point out is this that the depressed classes are treated with contempt on the ground that they belong to a low caste. I am constrained to say that we are hated everywhere and nobody cares to redress our grievances. We cannot take part in politics because we are untouchables. I wish to submit that considerations of caste should never be allowed to carry weight with those who indulge in politics. The caste system has up-rooted our social and cultural advancement and as a result of that we stand nowhere. I take strong objection to the existence of water-tight compartments in society. So far as I am concerned I wish to point out that I do not want to hear anything about caste system and the sooner it is done away with, the better it would be. I really fail to understand why the Hindus who are staunch followers of caste system, oppose Pakistan tooth and nail.

At present there exist various parties, namely, the Azad Punjab Party, Muslim League Party, the Mahasabha Party, Jat Party and many other parties. All these parties are fighting for their selfish ends. But so far as the scheduled castes are concerned, I wish to submit that unlike other parties in the province they always demanded fair and equal treatment from the Government, but they always met disappointment in this direction.

The next point to which I wish to draw the attention of the House is concerning the clannish mentality of different parties in our province. Sometimes it is said that Jats will rule over the province, and sometimes it is said that the Mahasabha, the Muslim League and the Azad Punjab Party will rule over this province. But I wish to inform those of my honourable friends who belong to this school of thought that if internal dissensions in different parties continue to remain then none but the British would ultimately succeed in continuing to govern us. This tribal and clannish mentality will disrupt and disintegrate the entire society in the province. I vehemently oppose those honourable friends in the House who are trying to inculcate tribal mentality by holding and organising Jat conferences, Rajput conferences and Azad Punjab conferences in our province. If such conferences are held, I see no reason why Bhangi conferences, Chura conferences, and Chamar conferences should not be held in our province. Again if they can publish the gazettes after the names of their so-called tribes and clans, there is no harm in publishing Bhangi Gazette, Chura Gazette and the Chamar Gazette.

I am really pained to see the internal dissensions among all the classes in our province. So long as we do not unite and stand shoulder to shoulder, we cannot succeed in any walk of life whatsoever. We must make a united effort to uproot caste system and thus pave the way for our future welfare. I can do nothing except attribute the motive of clannish mentality to the person of those honourable friends in the House who are in favour of creating party feelings and caste restrictions.



[S. Gopal Singh.]

The present Ministry does not want to ameliorate our hard lot on the ground that we belong to a low caste. I wish to draw the attention of the Government to the paucity of scholarships for the depressed classes. The Central Government provides Rs. 8 lakhs for the education of the depressed classes, and affords suitable facilities to *Achuts* in giving foreign education, etc. It will not be out of place to mention here that the provinces of Bombay and Madras which are more caste-ridden than our province, afforded various suitable facilities to untouchables while no such facilities are afforded to untouchables in this province. In fact nobody cares to redress our grievances. I wish to submit that it is time that Government should remove the difficulties and troubles of the depressed classes. The defects cannot be remedied unless and until the machinery of district administration is over-hauled, and guilty officers are punished. My honourable friends think that untouchables should lead the life of serfs simply because we happen to be untouchables. This is a strange mentality.

Muslim League demands Pakistan from the British in return for its co-operation, the Congress wants independence as the price of its help, in the war and the Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh's party desires Azad Punjab as the condition precedent to its shouldering the responsibility of furthering the War effort of the allies. But so far as we are concerned, I wish to submit that we have given unconditional help in the successful prosecution of the war and yet nobody seems to pay any regard for this whole-hearted and sincere offer to the Government. In the end I would urge upon the Government to redress our grievances. Government by doing this will be serving not only the Punjab but the whole Indian Sub-continent.

**Sardar Muzaffar Ali Khan Qazilbash** (Lahore, Muhammadan, Rural), : We have heard several speeches criticising the various aspects of administration, but I want to draw the attention of Government to one aspect and that is the running of district boards. Unfortunately the war has hit the district boards very badly. The income of the district boards is the same as it was before the war whereas the expenditure has increased to a very great extent. I will give the instance of the Lahore District Board. Its income used to be about 8 lakhs whereas its expenditure at the present moment is about 9 lakhs. Therefore unless something is given by the Government in the form of a consolidated grant, I am afraid the reserves that the Board had built up in all these years, will vanish within two years. It is all very well to have a surplus budget and start sinking fund, development fund, peasants' welfare fund, rural reconstruction fund and so on ; but I warn the Government that if money is not spared for the district boards at present, the time is not far when it will have to spend ten times more than what it will have to spend at present.

The other thing about which I want to say a word is the dearness allowance. I am of the opinion that the rates of dearness allowance sanctioned by the Government are not adequate. We have a huge surplus budget and the poor clerks and other low paid servants of the Government should be given considerably more allowance than they are at present getting. Giving them a dearness allowance amounting to Rs. 20 or Rs. 40 is nothing. The prices have gone up more than 100 per cent. Now that prices are being controlled, things may turn out to be better but still with this surplus budget they should be given more allowance and made happier.

On the same ground I would request that the Government should give the district boards full dearness allowances to be paid to their employees. The condition of the district board employees is far from satisfactory. They are badly

paid. The district boards are not able to pay their employees dearness allowance at the present Government rates. In fact many of the district boards are not paying any dearness allowance at all with the result that the clerks have left their employment and gone to other places on temporary jobs giving up their permanent service. District boards are very important institutions and they are a part of the administration of the province. In case the Government wishes the local bodies to continue then it should take a generous view of the entire situation and help them to tide over these difficult times.

**Malik Barkat Ali** (Eastern Towns, Muhammadan Urban): I had really no intention of taking part in to-day's debate but the misrepresentation deliberately indulged in on the floor of this House by the Honourable Finance Minister and echoed in the columns of the *Tribune* has compelled me to avail myself of the opportunity furnished by the discussion on this cut motion and get up and speak so as to clear the situation. This House will remember that when speaking the other day on the general discussion of the Budget, I had drawn attention to two glaring and outstanding facts—No. (1) that the Honourable Finance Minister was under-estimating income so as to show large surpluses at the conclusion of the year; No. (2) that he had been consuming the capital of the province,—and in the course of my speech I gave figures to show the extent to which capital of the province had been consumed. Now instead of challenging these figures—he dare not challenge the figures because they were taken from his public documents—he has tried to put in my mouth a statement which I never made. He has said on the floor of this House as if I had suggested or said that this surplus came from the capital. I never said anything of the kind. Let me quote the exact words which I used on that occasion. I was speaking of the deliberate under-estimation to which the Honourable Finance Minister has been resorting; I was also drawing the attention of the House to the capital that had been consumed and I used these words:

This surplus is more than offset by the capital that he has been consuming.

He has understood this simple statement to mean as if I had represented that the surpluses came out of the capital—a statement I never made, and I am really surprised that a Finance Minister of his ability should have so completely failed to comprehend the point of my criticism and in order to actually side-track the issue should have gone to the length of misleading the House by attributing to me a statement which no fool would ever make and which no fool would ever understand in that sense. He accused me of being an irresponsible member. Let me tell him that there is no apter word which could describe his position in this House. He entered this House as the sole representative of the Punjab University, that den of communalism the reeking smells of which have not yet left him. Hardly had the election been over, than he joined the party of the Hindu Mahasabha in order that he might be able to angle for a seat in the Cabinet, and thanks to the support that he obtained from the leader of that Party, Raja Narendra Nath, he succeeded in getting a Ministership.

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Mir Maqbool Mahmood): On a point of order. The honourable member is perfectly justified in criticising or refuting any arguments of the Honourable Finance Minister, but it is not desirable in this debate to make such personal remarks.

**Mr. Speaker**: The honourable member should not be personal.

**Malik Barkat Ali**: I was submitting that with the support of the party of Raja Narendra Nath he had secured a seat in the Ministry. A time came when that party left the Ministerial benches. One had expected that as soon as his

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Party left the Ministerial Benches, he would also in keeping with the best traditions of public life leave those Benches, but instead of adopting that honourable course, he remained stuck to his seat. I can well understand the bread and butter argument which made him stick to the job, but let me tell him in the frankest terms that that is not public life; that is not responsibility.

To turn to the misunderstanding or misrepresentation that has been indulged in in the columns of the *Tribune*. I had thought that a reporter of a paper of the position of the *Tribune* would at least be fair in his report. But it appears that the lesson administered to him by Mr. Henderson, the District Magistrate of Lahore, has had little effect, and in order to please his breadgiver, he has repeated the same lie in his paper. In this connection I should like to make honourable mention of the reporter of the *Civil and Military Gazette*. What a contrast between the two reports! The one is as honest and straight as any report can be. The other is as malicious and dishonest as any report can be. In order that this House may get an idea of the venom and the malice which this special reporter injected into his report, I would read out the very words of his report. This is what he has published in the *Tribune*:

Malik Barkat Ali though very vociferous in congratulating the Premier for his having lived up to the Malik's expectation in not letting any injustice being done and thanking the Minister of Education particularly for his having created another Medical College and done good work in his department thought that the increase in the province's finances and the huge surpluses were all the result of consumption of the Capital of the province".

This extract would show to the House that this reporter has been cut to the quick by the fact that I congratulated the Honourable Premier on having released Diwan Chaman Lal and Mr. Bhim Sen Sachar, the Leader of the Congress Party. I am really surprised at the cussedness and the Communal fanaticism which is not prepared to give appreciation to this act of magnanimity extended by the Leader of the House to his political opponents. I wish that the Honourable Premier had gone further and had allowed these honourable members to walk freely into the House but he is working under certain restrictions. He is very probably restricted in this regard by the orders of the Government of India. To go back to my charge. The House will further realise that this reporter or his inspirer has been cut to the quick by the fact that I had complimented the Education Minister on having converted the Medical School into a Medical College and for having given to that College the services of a first-rate man as its first Principal. Again, he has been cut to the quick because I had exposed his breadgiver, the Honourable the Finance Minister who is a Trustee of the *Tribune*. I feel that the Reporter owes it to himself to correct his flagrant misrepresentation.

I want to read another piece of mendacity to which he has given publicity in the columns of his journal. This is what he says:

After the Opposition had withdrawn only members left sitting on those benches were S. Gurbukhsh Singh and S. Lal Singh Private Parliamentary Secretary, both members of S. Baldev Singh's Party. Two members of the Opposition who came in little late withdrew as they realized what had happened. Malik Barkat Ali, however, who came a little later and was seen being told by L. Sita Ram to go out with him continued to stick to his seat. Referring to Malik's presence in the House a Minister told the Pressmen, "Malik Barkat Ali is no longer with the Opposition. He has joined the Government. Long live Revolution".

I do not know who that faithful Minister of the Honourable Premier is who passed on this treacherous message to the gentleman concerned. But if this had caused him headache, I should have expected him to come to me, put me the question and get his answer. Whether this answer that I am now giving to

him will add to his headache or not, I do not know. But he ought to have known and he knows that from the day I have entered this House I am a Muslim Leaguer and if to-morrow the Leader of the Muslim League Party which is forming or has been formed, summons me to the Muslim League Benches, I will sit on those benches without a moment's pause or hesitation. (*Cheers*). And if this gives headache to the writer in the *Tribune* or to his inspirer, that does not in the least affect me.

**Mian Abdul Aziz :** I understood you had become a Unionist.

**Malik Barkat Ali :** I never was a Unionist and I shall never be a Unionist.

I will now turn from this personal explanation to other matters of more important concern. Here is a thrilling and startling story of how officers of the Government and others, against whom serious charges have been preferred, have been shielded by a Minister of the Crown. I have been supplied with information on the authority of an honourable member of this House who, on account of his self-imposed ordinance, cannot be present here. I have got a typed statement of the charges that have been made. I am not making these charges without any enquiry. I have satisfied myself that the facts mentioned in this statement are perfectly true and now that the Honourable Premier is sitting, I want to bring these facts to his notice by means of this responsible statement I am making on the floor of this House. The facts are these : About 80 respectable gentlemen submitted over their signatures a statement to the officer in charge of the Special Enquiry Agency iterating or making serious charges against a certain Government official, whom I will not name. The Officer in charge of the Special Enquiry Agency sent this statement to the Honourable Minister with the request that permission for starting enquiry be given. It duly reached the Honourable Minister concerned who happens to be no other than my honourable friend, the Finance Minister, and the Honourable the Finance Minister, that is the allegation—put his foot down on that enquiry. We have been told that there is an anti-corruption department and the rule of Government is that when 5 or more gentlemen over their signatures make an allegation of bribery against any official, the allegation must be enquired into by the Enquiry Agency. What were the charges made in this statement which was formally placed before an Honourable Minister of the Crown ? The charges were that Government money was being misappropriated. The details of this misappropriation are these. This officer, whom I shall not name, showed the appointment of an orderly on Rs. 20 a month. As a matter of fact no such orderly was kept, but he showed in the pay bill of the Jail Department one Lachman as orderly. In the cash book Rs. 20 were entered as disbursed to this fictitious Lachhman on the first day of every month, but when it came to the acquittance roll there was neither any signature nor any thumb-impression of this Lachman. It was in fact noticed that the acquittance rolls from March to October 1948 showed no thumb-impression or signature of Lachman. One non-official visitor of the jail attested that page on which there was neither any thumb-impression nor any signature against the name Lachman. A gazetted officer of Government also attested that page. Those in the department who knew what had been going on took the precaution of having that page photographed. What took place after this ? That page was removed from the acquittance roll. A photo had already been taken. The official concerned was not aware of the fact that a photo has been taken of the page that had been removed from the acquittance roll. He set putting matters right, thumb-impressions were against the acquittance rolls prior to March 1948. Similarly the acquittance rolls after October 1948 were also affixed some kind of thumb-impressions

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purporting to be those of Lachman. As a matter of fact, these thumb-impressions were not of Lachman but promiscuously of the prisoners in the jail. Further, if the thumb-impressions before March 1943 be compared with the thumb-impressions obtained after October 1943, it would be found that the thumb-impressions prior to March are quite different from the thumb-impressions subsequent to October 1943. These are the details alleged and mentioned explicitly in the statement which was duly brought to the notice of the Honourable Finance Minister.

The second charge is misappropriation of the produce of the jail garden and jail farm. A third relates to the misappropriation of Government articles from the factory. I will just read out only one passage in order to give this House an idea of the misappropriation that was being practised. This is what these gentlemen wrote.

The cotton as well as leather articles prepared at the jail factory were made of short weight of the standard, and the raw material thus saved was utilised in preparing articles for the Superintendent. As many as 24 leather boxes were prepared for the Superintendent during the last year alone.

The next charge is regarding money made through purchases and I will place the allegations before honourable members. This is what the statement says:—

It was his invariable practice to take bribes from the contractors. When the contract of gur was given to a Lahore dealer year before last, the Superintendent twice rejected the good gur supplied by him without any reason whatsoever. The contractor, L. Sunder Dass, made a representation to the Government. On this the Superintendent forced the temporary medical officer to make a later entry on the inspection book to the effect that the gur was not of good quality. When the contractor claimed to prove that the entry was a later concoction, the Superintendent denied the very existence of the inspection book kept by him. But a photo of the inspection book, maintained by the Superintendent in an unauthorised manner, had also been taken. The application of the contractor is on record with the Store Purchase Officer.

Similarly, another charge was that money was being taken from the prisoners. How? This is what is alleged: The prisoners were allowed a fixed number of interviews, but interviews in addition to those fixed under the rules were allowed by this Superintendent to various prisoners at night at his own house and then follow the details of these interviews. One interview took place on the 8th October 1943 and another on 13th October 1943. These prisoners were removed from the jail and were taken to the house of the Superintendent and the fact that they were taken out of the jail finds mention in the jail records. There are many other charges. For instance, he would collect money "by letting many prisoners sit idle without any work on a fixed payment of monthly rate of money." The history tickets of many prisoners would prove this charge. Further, money was made by awarding special remissions to the prisoners. The statement ends thus:—"It may be conveniently added here that the above mentioned facts do not exhaust the corruption of the Rai Sahib, and it is worth noting that a special audit took place in Lyallpur during the days of... Moreover, he tried to misappropriate many articles from the stores at Ferozepore by giving a false report of shortage in the stock. It was later proved on the inspection of the Factory by Sheikh Alam Ali that there was no shortage at all. But the collaborated help of officers of the department and that at the top who all happen to be members of the same community as the Superintendent himself, has always been successful in saving him from the consequences of his misdeeds."

Now my question is very simple. Whether this statement over the signatures of thirty people was brought by the officer in charge of the

Special Enquiry Agency to the notice of the Honourable Finance Minister or not. If it was brought to his notice, why did he stop the officer in charge of the Special Enquiry Agency from investigating into the matter? I accordingly repeat this statement on the floor of the House to give him an opportunity of explaining what he has to say and if these matters have not been brought to his notice or if despite notice he has condoned them, I ask him, as a responsible Minister of the Crown, either to give his explanation as to why he condoned these malpractices, or, if they have not been brought to his notice to hand over this statement to the Officer of the Special Enquiry Agency and have the investigation completed and if it is found that his officials have been guilty of the grossest malpractices, it is his duty to see that justice takes its course and is not deflected. I am glad, to have an opportunity of disclosing these facts on the floor of this House. This House would remember that sometime ago another highly placed officer of Government who happened to be a European, had travelled to Calcutta and had submitted and realised a travelling allowance bill in the name of his orderly when he never took that orderly to Calcutta. It was my privilege to bring this fact to the notice of the Honourable Finance Minister in the course of the Public Accounts Committee meetings. I am aware of the resistance that I met with at his hands, but I pursued the matter and ultimately when the matter was handed over to the police and a report was called for, it was actually found that the European Electrical Inspector did proceed to Calcutta and he did charge the Government with travelling allowance money in the name of his orderly when the orderly was as a matter of fact at Lahore and had never travelled to Calcutta. All the action that the Honourable Finance Minister and his Government took was that they made that European officer pay back the thirty or forty rupees that he had charged. Compare this action with the enormity of the act, a forgery that had been done by that officer. I repeat that it is my privilege to mention these facts on the floor of this House and I ask for the appropriate answer.

**Chaudhri Sumer Singh**-(South-East Gurgaon, General, Rural) (*Urdu*): Sir, before I proceed with my speech I would like to make a request to the Honourable Premier. And that is that if I offer any criticism to-day he may take it in the spirit in which it is made and not to attach much importance to my tone. If he finds that there is any truth in my complaints he may kindly take suitable action. If, on the other hand, he thinks that my complaints are not justified he may ignore them.

You are aware of the fact, Sir, that recently the N.-W. R. authorities stopped running 72 trains on the said railway. When an adjournment motion was tabled in the Central Assembly in regard to this matter it was over-ruled on the score that this matter concerned a provincial Government, i.e., the Punjab and it was for that Government to take any action in the matter or not. Now I want to inquire from the Honourable Premier as to what steps he has taken in the matter. After all this matter concerns our province. Seventy two trains have been cancelled with one stroke of the pen and this action of the railway authorities has caused a lot of inconvenience to the people. Is it not a matter which calls for action?

**Premier** If my friend somehow or other contrives to bring the N.-W. R. under our control I promise that I will rescind the cancellation order at once.. (*Laughter*). But as he knows we have no control over the railways at all. How then can we take any action in the matter?

**Chaudhri Sumer Singh**: The Government should have brought the inconvenience caused to the public to the notice of the authorities to take

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some action in the matter. In fact the Punjab Government by not moving in the matter have so to say been responsible for causing so much inconvenience to people which they have to bear on account of the closing down of 72 railway trains. It was the duty of the Government to have drawn the attention of the railway authorities to this matter. But no such action has been taken at all. As I have already pointed out when an adjournment motion in regard to this matter was tabled in the Central Assembly by Sardar Mangal Singh, it was ruled out on the plea that it was a provincial concern and that only the people of the Punjab have suffered and that it did not affect the rest of India. After this answer it was the duty of the Honourable Premier to have interfered in the matter and taken some action in order to remove the inconvenience of the people which they were undergoing on account of the closing down of 72 Railway trains.

Besides, I want to draw the attention of the Honourable Premier to the fact that just as we elect two representatives of the Punjab on the Advisory Board of the N.-W. R. similarly steps should be taken to secure representation on the B. B. & C. I. and G. I. P. Railways. Due to the absence of our representatives on those railways the Punjabies residing in areas through which those line pass have to suffer a lot of inconvenience on those railways. It is therefore essential that we should have some representatives on the Advisory Boards of those railways so that the interests of the Punjab may be properly safeguarded on those railways.

Some four or five years ago I gave an application to the Honourable Minister of Education inviting his attention to the fact that there was not a single representative of Hindu agriculturists to represent them in the Punjab University. At that time I was assured by the Honourable Minister that he would nominate some one to safeguard the interests of the Hindu agriculturists and he also promised to nominate the Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram, I am sorry to say that in spite of an oral promise to that effect and the passage of so much time no attempt has been made to give a practical shape to my suggestion by the Honourable Minister and this has put them to a great loss. I hope he will kindly consider this longstanding grievance of the Hindu agriculturists and nominate one representative from among them to safeguard their interest in the University. We leave it to his better judgment to nominate whomsoever he thinks fit for the purpose but this should be done without further delay.

4 p. m.

Next I want to bring the policy governing the communal proportion in services to the notice of the Government. They have laid down that 50 per cent of the posts shall go to Muslims, 20 per cent to the Sikhs and 30 per cent to Hindus and others. Yet Hindu agriculturists have not been given their due representation in services and nothing seems to have been done for safeguarding their legitimate rights in this respect. Although the Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram says much about things in general, yet nothing has been said or done by him for getting them their due share in services. This is an incontrovertable fact that our proportion in the Public works, Education and the Police departments is far below what it should be under the proportion principle laid down by the Government. Apart from the fact that Hindu agriculturists are under-represented in various services even the tenure of service of such as are already employed is far from secure. Government servants of no other community feel themselves as insecure in their offices as is the case with Hindu agriculturists. Their rights are being trampled upon without a single voice of protest being raised by their representatives. It is a pity that the Hindu officials in Government

service try to crush them because they are siding with Muslims and they are the root cause of division amongst the Hindus and they demand separate share out of their lot which they have been getting for such a long time and the Muslims think that they are *kafirs* and so deserve no consideration. Something should be done to safeguard them from their difficulties. It is high time that the rights of the Hindu agriculturists are safeguarded.

Another thing which I wish to bring to the notice of the Honourable Minister of Revenue is that people from other districts apply for the posts of patwaris in districts to which they do not belong by claiming that they belong to those districts thus depriving the residents of those districts from getting employment there. Such false representations should be guarded against by making it necessary for the applicants to produce evidence certifying that they belong to the particular district in which they seek employment; and applicants should be asked to certify the contents of their application just like plaints in courts so that if any particular information is wrongly given the applicant may be run in a court of law under section 198, Indian Penal Code.

Now I would address a few words to the Honourable Premier in respect of sectional holidays. This practice of allowing one community to remain away from the office on account of some festival or religious ceremony has fanned the fires of communalism. Even in the interest of efficiency this policy has proved its futility. If on account of a sectional holiday, half the number of clerks in an office do not come the others who are present find it difficult to proceed with the work because the relevant references cannot be dealt with that day by those who are present because they have to get connected paper from those who are away. However, if it is thought that by closing down the whole office the work will suffer it can be so arranged that the office hours on other days may be increased daily by some fifteen minutes or half an hour to make up for the time lost. Anyway if a certain day is to be a holiday it should be for all the communities and not for a particular community. The sooner this practice of giving partial holidays is discontinued the better.

Again, the Government announced that they would control other articles before they agreed to a control of the price of Wheat. May I ask if they can procure these controlled articles for the zamindars? They have no doubt issued orders but people have great difficulty in obtaining the controlled articles. It is the duty of the Government to open their own shops which can supply the articles needed by the zamindars. Again they should arrange to get the hardware shops searched for the iron so badly needed by the agriculturists. I hope the Honourable Premier will consider my submissions and arrange for the opening of Government shops thus ensuring the supply of such articles as are needed by the zamindars to them at control rate, so that they may not suffer by control of wheat alone.

Another thing which I do not understand in respect of the control of wheat and other foodgrains is as to why oil seed has been controlled. What was the need for imposing control on oil seed at a time when the next crop was expected in a short time? The Government of India had not done so. Then there was no danger of the crop failing for an order to be issued prohibiting the export of this commodity. It has adversely affected the price of oil seed and the zamindars will suffer a great loss on the next crop.

The Punjab Government has done nothing to improve the industry of the province. It is difficult to increase the wealth of the province without its development. The Government has placed so many restrictions on industry



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that it is very difficult for private individuals to invest their capital in the development of industry. I request the Government either to start State industries or to remove all restrictions which hamper the free progress of industries. If this is not done, the province will suffer a lot and after the war it will be a pauper province.

Now, I want to say something about Debt Conciliation Boards. Government has framed such laws that it has become humanly impossible to recover a debt from a Zamindar. No belonging of his can be auctioned, nor does there exist any other method to make the recovery. These bodies are doing nothing concrete and the entire money is being wasted for nothing. There is no need for them and Government must consider this aspect of the question seriously.

The future of the Panjab solely depends upon the future yield of its agricultural lands. There is every possibility that just after the war prices may go down and wheat may begin to sell at 30 seers per rupee. It goes without saying that with such poor rates for agricultural produce the province will turn pauper. Increase in the yield is the only remedy which can save our province in any economic crisis in the days to come. If Government officers cannot cope with the situation then some officers must be sent to Russia and America to study the problem and to find out suitable means for its solution. It is the foremost duty of the Government to increase the national wealth of the province and it should leave no stone unturned in its achievement. Government should take care of the key industries. Government may make partial investments and public may also be given a chance to take part in such schemes. Such useful schemes ensure nothing but the future prosperity and welfare of the province.

Sometime ago we passed a Bill whereby the vegetable oils were to be so coloured as to make its mixture with ghee distinguishable. But I am constrained to say that nothing has been done in this direction so far. It may be argued that the proper dyes are not available. I would like to say, that the Government should ask its experts to find out some other colour which may be useful and this nuisance of impure ghee may be stopped once for all.

Every day something or other is said about this top heavy administration. Retrenchment and Resources Committee's report is there but no heed has been paid to it. Abolition of one post of Financial Commissioner was recommended but what we find is this, that an additional Financial Commissioner is also working. The recommendations of the committee must be given due consideration and the hard-earned wealth of the province should not be wasted in such a poor manner. Government must pay full attention to backward areas. Schools, colleges and other progressive institutions should be started. As long as the entire province does not progress swaraj is impossible. Equality in the province must be maintained. It is a very bad thing to confer favours upon a very limited section and the rest left to dogs. Education is needed everywhere but the backward areas and backward communities must be paid more attention. Another important thing is the every day decreasing number of cattle. Some steps must be taken to save the province from this calamity. In Hissar there is one cattle farm and nothing else. It is not sufficient to cope with the situation. If the opportunity is lost God knows how serious will be the results of this decrease, and it will be very difficult for the zamindar to get bullocks for agricultural purposes.

Quinine is not made available to the inhabitants of the villages in the district of Gurgaon. During the malarial season quinine is sold at the rate of 5 annas per tablet. I wish to request the honourable minister-in-charge that necessary arrangements be made to make these tablets available to all the villagers at cheap rates so that they may not find any difficulty at the time they fall a prey to this disease, and action should be taken in this respect in time to avoid further difficulties. So far as medicines in the dispensaries are concerned I wish to point out that the expenditure in regard to these medicines provided in the budget is a very insufficient in comparison with the expenditure provided in the previous year's budget. The rise in prices of the medicines has also affected the present budget provision. Now-a-days water is being added to the mixtures for want of medicines, as a result of which the diseases are not cured fully. In this connection I wish to suggest that sufficient money should be provided for the purchase of medicines to meet the demands of those patients whose diseases can only be cured if the medicines supplied by dispensaries are pure and genuine.

Then I wish to make a few observations in regard to clerical services. I am given to understand that the dearness allowance already granted to Government servants is not sufficient to make their both ends meet. So far as the junior clerical services are concerned. I wish to point out that an ordinary Government servant drawing Rs. 16 or 17 as his monthly salary is hard hit by the abnormal rise in the prices of food-stuffs, etc. At present the low paid servants in general and chaprasies in particular find it very difficult to pull on with a monthly income of Rs. 20. The present amount of dearness allowance is very insufficient and they do not know how to manage their house-hold affairs. During these abnormal days they find it very difficult to feed their children. These poor low-paid servants excepting their pay have no other income to fall back upon. In this connection I wish to suggest to the Hon'ble Finance Minister to increase the dearness allowance of these low-paid Government servants by about 50 per cent.

The next point to which I wish to draw the attention of the House in general and the Hon'ble Chaudhari Sir Chhotu Ram, in particular is in regard to irrigation. My hon'ble friends know it full well that most of the land in our district is barani land. I do not hesitate to remind the Honourable Revenue Minister of the promise he gave us to the effect that canal water for irrigation purposes would be made available to us as soon as possible. It will not be out of place to tell him that it is time that ways and means should be devised with a view to making the water-supply available to all zamindars for irrigation purposes. Once again I wish to bring this point home to the Honourable Minister that steps should be taken to do something substantial in this direction in these days of good prices for agricultural produce.

Further, I wish to submit that there are such dispensaries in our district which are not within the jurisdiction of the district board. The district board decided to close these dispensaries, but the Commissioner of Ambala intervened and forced the district board not to close them. I wish to submit that these dispensaries cause great hindrance in the efficient discharge of its work. If these dispensaries were taken from the district board, I am sure the burden of this board would be lightened to a great extent, or it would be in the fitness of things if an yearly grant of Rs. 16,000 were given to the district board to run the dispensaries.

[Ch. Sundar Singh.]

In the end I wish to make a few submissions regarding services in the district of Gurgaon. I really fail to understand the policy of the Government in showing preferential treatment while making appointments. It will not be out of place to mention here that majority of appointments are being made from people in the districts of my honourable friends the Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram and the Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh, while scant attention is paid to backward areas which in my opinion should have received the first preference. Hardly has any gazetted appointment been made so far from people in our district. If I remember right, there was one E. A. C. who belonged to this district, and who, I am given to understand, has since joined the War service. I urge upon the Government to keep in view the district of Gurgaon while making appointments, etc.

*At this stage the Assembly adjourned till 10 a.m. on Friday, 10th March 1944.*

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# PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

## ELEVENTH SESSION OF THE FIRST PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

*Friday, 10th March 1944*

*The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber at 10.30 a.m. of the clock (there being no quorum at 10 a.m.). Mr. Speaker in the Chair.*

### QUESTION HOUR

**Premier :** It has been suggested to me by some honourable members that the question hour to-day may be dispensed with in order to provide more time for the discussion of the demand for grant for General Administration. The questions can be conveniently taken up on Monday. I accordingly move—

*That the question hour be dispensed with.*

*The motion was carried*

### LEAVE OF ABSENCE OF MR. DEV RAJ SETHI.

**Mr. Speaker :** I have received the following application from Mr. Dev Raj Sethi, Member of the Assembly, for permission to be absent from the meetings thereof :—

“ I have the honour to inform you that I am under detention since August 1942. Through you, I seek the leave of absence from the Punjab Legislative Assembly for the period of my detention. I hope the Assembly will accord the necessary permission.”

The question is :—

*That the permission asked for be granted.*

*The motion was carried*

### PRIVILEGE MOTIONS

#### RESTRICTION ON CERTAIN MEMBERS MAKING SPEECHES IN THE ASSEMBLY

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma** (Kangra West, General, Rural) : Sir, I have a privilege motion to move.

**Mr. Speaker :** Does it relate to freedom of speech ?

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Yes.

**Mr. Speaker :** Will the honourable member please read section 71 (1) ? Unless I am satisfied that the motion is on a question of privilege, I cannot allow it to be moved.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Mr. Speaker, you were pleased to rule the other day that there was only one privilege of members and that is with respect to making a speech under section 71 (1) of the Government of India Act, and my privilege motion directly relates to that privilege.

**Mr. Speaker :** How ?

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Four honourable members have been restricted from making a public speech. The restriction order says that if an interned M. L. A. comes here and makes a speech, he will be arrested and dealt with.

**Mr. Speaker :** Your contention is that the order restricts a member from making a speech.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Though no action has been taken yet, it has been threatened that if any interned M. L. A. makes a speech in the Assembly, he would be arrested. Under section 71 a member is allowed full freedom of speech and no action, civil or criminal, is taken against him for making a speech whereas one of the restrictions imposed under Ordinance 3 is that no speech is allowed.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Supposing I come here and make a speech. The executive order threatens that if a member makes a speech on the floor of the House he will be dealt with according to law. Is not that breach of privilege ?

**Premier :** You know what is done to offenders against the State in Russia.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Your " turrahs " are flying to-day because of Russia.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** My friend, the Premier, does not seem to understand. Ordinance 3 of 1944 only seeks to amend section 26 of the Defence of India Rules. The Ordinance only deals with two things : one suppressing of subversive activities, and (2) restricting movement to secure successful prosecution of the War. This is how Ordinance 3 reads :

Whereas an emergency has arisen which makes it necessary to empower the Central Government and the Provincial Government and any officer or authority to whom the Central Government or the Provincial Government may delegate its powers in this behalf to restrict the movements and actions of and to place in detention and detain certain persons, to regulate the exercise of these powers and the duration of orders made in such exercise, and to confirm the validity of the past exercise of such powers under rule 26 of the Defence of India Rules.

Now, therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred by section 72 of the Government of India Act, as set out in the Ninth Schedule to the Government of India Act, 1935 (26 Geo. 5, c. 2), the Governor-General is pleased to make and promulgate the following ordinance :—

The purpose is to amend rule 26 of the Defence of India Rules. This Ordinance does not in any manner amend the Government of India Act which gives us a fundamental right to come to this House and make speeches. By no stretch of imagination can this Ordinance 3 of 1944 be calculated to abrogate or take away something which is given to us by the Government of India Act, 1935. Section 3 of this Ordinance gives the local authority or the Central Government or a person authorized by the Provincial Government several powers. I want to draw your pointed attention to part (f) imposing restriction with respect to the movement of person in respect of association or in respect of activities.

**Mr. Speaker :** The honourable member is taking too much time of the House. The question is whether the District Magistrate was acting under any law. If he was not acting under any law, then his order was illegal and it could be appealed against to the proper authority.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** I am only making this point that the District Magistrate has no authority to issue such orders.

**Mr. Speaker :** The honourable member may be right. Even in that case the higher courts are open to aggrieved persons.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** You are the highest court for us.

**Mr. Speaker :** I am not aware of any law under which the Assembly or its Speaker can hear appeals against a District Magistrate's orders.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** That order is *ab initio* void. The District Magistrate has committed contempt of this House and I ask you, Mr. Speaker, to call upon him to come and explain his conduct.

**Mr. Speaker :** Under which law or rule? Was he not acting as District Magistrate?

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** He has issued an order restricting a member making a speech in this House. He has no authority to issue such an order.

**Mr. Speaker :** He may have no authority. But the question is whether he was acting as a District Magistrate. Further, under what law can I call upon him to explain his conduct to this House?

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** It is an executive order. No appeal lies against it.

**Mian Abdul Aziz :** Suppose a District Magistrate issues an order to an honourable member of this House or to any of the Honourable Ministers not to make any speeches and not to say anything in this House, is he entitled to do so? I do not want that we should be driven to courts for a decision on questions which relate to the privileges of this House. Such decision lies with the Chair. Under what law can we go to court?

**Mr. Speaker :** Under what law can the Speaker interfere? Will the honourable member quote any authority under which I can pass an order against an order of a District Magistrate?

**Mian Abdul Aziz :** It is not a question of passing an order against the order of a District Magistrate. When there is a section in the Act under which the privilege of speech in the House is allowed and you are acting under it, you can declare this much, that the order of the District Magistrate is *ultra vires* and is null and void. We shall see what happens then.

**Mr. Speaker :** I do not think the Speaker has any such power.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** The District Magistrate is not acting in his judicial capacity.

**Mr. Speaker :** His action might be quite illegal, but the question is under what law can I declare it to be illegal.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** On the simple ground that the honourable member has been dissuaded by him on account of his order not to make any speech here.

**Premier :** May I say that if the honourable member had been here he would have been permitted to make a speech? Nobody prevents him from doing so. These members were detained in jails under the Defence of India Rules and they have been let out on certain conditions and they have to abide by these conditions. If they do not like them, their course is easy. Lord Wavell has shown the way.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** There was absolutely no condition attached to the order of internment. It is not stated that they would not be allowed to attend the session. It was when they came to attend the Assembly that they were obstructed in the discharge of their duties.

**Premier :** They had decided to take part in a subversive movement, that is, in regard to the resolution of the 8th August 1942. They were imprisoned. They said : ' We are ill, we want to be treated '. We said ' go and be treated '. Instead of this action being appreciated, honourable members are taking it as a restriction. They have been let out for treatment under the condition that during this period of treatment they are not to take part in any unconstitutional activity. Therefore two courses are open to them. They can become constitutional and then come and join my honourable friends here and make speeches. But if they still want to take part in a subversive movement, they have to observe these restrictions. Now they are under a sort of truce and the condition of the truce is that they should be treated medically. It is on humanitarian grounds that we have given them the truce. The honourable members should, I think, appreciate this action and not make matters worse.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** Pandit Muni Lal Kalia was not released on account of illness. He was released on some other grounds.

**Mian Abdul Aziz :** What I understood from the honourable Premier is that these orders were subject to certain conditions and that is the only point he submitted before you. My submission is that we have to see whether the restriction which has been placed on their release is according to law or not. If that restriction which has been placed on them is *ab initio* void and *ultra vires* of section 71 of the Government of India Act, we are entitled to have those members here and they have a right to sit here. Section 71 makes it clear that no such restrictions can be placed on their coming here and making speeches. That is the chief point which I humbly make before you.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** I have got here a notice which was issued to Shrimati Shanno Devi and paragraph 5 of that notice says that she shall not make any speech in public. This is one of the conditions, that she should not make any speech. This is issued by the Home Secretary to Government, Punjab.

**Mr. Speaker :** Section 71 of the Government of India Act, does not deal with the privilege of attending the Legislative Assembly meetings. It deals with the subject matter of speeches. But that has nothing to do with the coming of members to attend the Legislative Assembly. The Section says :

Subject to the provisions of this Act and to rules and standing orders regulating the procedure of the Legislature, there shall be freedom of speech in every Provincial Legislature, and no member of the Legislature shall be liable to any proceedings in any court in respect of anything said or any vote given by him in the Legislature or any committee thereof, and no person shall be so liable in respect of the publication by or under the authority of a Chamber of such a Legislature of any report, paper, votes or proceedings.

This does not deal with the member's right to come and attend a meeting. It is the contents of what one speaks that are dealt with in this section.

\* PASSING ON TO THE C. I. D. ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS IN ORIGINAL

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** I gave notice of another privilege motion yesterday but I was not in time to take it up. I am referring to my yesterday's notice with respect to the breach of privilege in so far as Sardar Kapoor Singh's original question with respect to Jai Parkash Narain was passed to the C. I. D. He gave notice of a question and that very question in original was passed on to the C. I. D. which was investigating into the matter and the C. I. D. threatened certain people that it was the handwriting of a particular individual and it wanted to know the source from which that information was obtained.

**Mr. Speaker :** Will the honourable member please explain the matter a little further ?

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** One question was put by Sardar Kapoor Singh, M. L. A., and notice was sent by him to the Assembly office. The question was with respect to the treatment of Jai Parkash Narain. That question in original was passed over to the C. I. D. and the C. I. D. officers were investigating on the basis of that as to the person who had written it and as to the source from which that information was obtained. That question in original was passed on to the C. I. D. I bring it to your notice that this is breach of privilege of a member that he, as a member, addresses certain letters to this House and puts certain questions, and those original documents are handed over to the Police and the people who write on our behalf are harassed as to the source from which they got the information. I ask the Chair that the person, howsoever responsible he may be, should be taken to task for passing such papers to the C. I. D.

**Secretary :** Let me state the facts. It is incorrect that any original notice was handed over by the Assembly Department to the D. I. G., C. I. D. The original notice of a question, which was admitted in the month of November 1948 and copies thereof had been sent to the Government and had also been published, was requisitioned by the Punjab Government through the Home Secretary. I saw no objection to that original notice being sent to the Punjab Government on their requisition, and it was accordingly sent to the Punjab Government under my instructions.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** Did the Secretary bring it to the notice of the Honourable Speaker ?

**Secretary :** No, I did not consider it necessary.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** It is clear that a breach of privilege had been committed and it was committed by the Secretary without your permission.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** He communicated to the Government without your authority.

**Premier :** A question is not a secret document at all after it has been admitted.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** Mr. Speaker, your authority is in question. Your authority is, as a matter of fact, flouted by the Secretary. He should not have done it.

**Mr. Speaker :** But it is for me to take notice of that matter.

**Premier :** May I submit that as soon as an honourable member sends a question, it is released to the press after admission and there is nothing confidential in it ?

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** I think the real point in this case has been missed.

**Malik Barkat Ali :** Your ruling is that a question which is sent to the Legislative Assembly is confidential until it is put on the floor of the House and no honourable member should send his question out unless and until that has been admitted and asked on the floor of the House.

**Mr. Speaker :** Questions are released for publication after admission.

**Malik Barkat Ali :** Is it true or not that you have ruled that out of courtesy to you, honourable members should not communicate their questions to the press until they are put on the floor of the House ?



**Mr. Speaker :** Till after their admission.

**Malik Barkat Ali :** I take it from you now that it is open to honourable members to send their questions to the press as soon as a communication is received by them that their questions have been admitted. The question now on which I respectfully ask you to give us a ruling is whether it is really open to any official of the Legislative Assembly to communicate the original copy of these questions to any member of the Government.

**Mr. Speaker :** The members of this House used to send copies of notices of their questions, etc., beforehand to the press. That was an irregularity and therefore it was decided both informally and formally that they should not do so. The position is that after their admission the questions become public property and that is what has been done here.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** As I understand the position, the question is entirely different. It is not objected to why the question was made public because, as you have pointed out, once it is admitted it can be made public. The point is really different and that is this. A question after it was admitted was sent to the Government, as is usual, for the Honourable Minister concerned to prepare his answer. Is that not so? That is the usual procedure. Every question which is sent to the Secretary, after it is admitted, is forwarded to the Minister so that the Minister may refer to the Secretariat and get the information and draft the answer. That is the procedure. The question really is why did the Government send for the original notice? That is what I am asking the Government. The Secretary is not to blame, you are not to blame. The Secretary might have, as a matter of routine, sent the original notice to the Government. Why did the Government requisition it? That shows that there was something else in the case because a typed copy of the admitted question had already been forwarded to them. They were probably approached by the C. I. D. and the C. I. D. wanted the original notice with a special purpose. They probably thought—I cannot claim to be a thought reader—but they probably thought that the question had been drafted by Jai Parkash Narain himself and had been communicated to the person concerned or prepared by somebody else in the gentleman's name and they wanted to trace how access was obtained to Jai Parkash Narain or how Jai Parkash Narain secured access to a member either directly or through somebody else and I have no doubt whatsoever that the Government sent for the original notice at the requisition of the C.I.D. The question now is, has the Government a right to send for the original document submitted by a member to the Assembly Department when they had been supplied with a typed copy of that admitted question? That is the real question and I would request the Honourable Premier to make the position clear. Why was the original notice requisitioned after a typed copy had been supplied to the Government?

**Malik Barkat Ali :** To my mind the question is not what my honourable friend Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang has stated. The question really is—whether the Government requisitions or not—that is entirely their lookout—what business had the official of the Punjab Legislative Assembly to comply with that requisition without your authority? It is a very serious matter that the Secretary or any other official of the Punjab Legislative Assembly should part with a document communicated to the Assembly by an honourable member. This House has nothing to do with any requisition which either the Government or anybody else may have addressed to the Secretary. This House cannot stop anybody or the Government from addressing any communication to the Secretary or asking for any document. But what business had the Secretary to pass that original document without your permission and without reference to you?

**Premier :** May I say a word ? I think the point that this House should discuss is whether there was any breach of privilege or not. The question why the Government asked for a certain document is not relevant to the discussion.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Do not beat about the bush.

**Premier :** I am not trying to beat about the bush. I have not got many bushes on this side. What I said was that as far as the requisition of a particular document by Government is concerned, there is nothing wrong about it. We have got ample powers under various laws and under the Criminal Procedure Code to get possession of any document. If we wanted to have its possession we could have employed that power. But in this case no such necessity arose because we can officially ask for papers from the Assembly office. It is not a secret document and no privilege whatever attaches to it. The honourable members opposite have not been able to say a word in order to establish that there was any breach of privilege. Notices of questions in the original writing are circulated to us and sometimes copies are sent. When a question is admitted, it becomes a public document. It can be hung in the Assembly and it can be seen by anybody. I do not know what ulterior motive the Government could have in sending for this document. We only wanted to see the document. Had there been any motive we could have employed the legal powers to take that document. There is no question of privilege.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** May I know whether the Government have legal powers to compel the Assembly staff to supply you with any document ? Of course the police can raid the Secretary's office.

**Premier :** No question of privilege was involved. Had there been any such thing the Secretary would have pointed out to us that there was this privilege involved and then we would have examined the legal side. But this was a public document. The Home Secretary sent for it and he got it. It is not necessary to raise legal technicalities over a very simple matter.

**Malik Barkat Ali :** There is no question of legal technicalities. The question is that the Home Secretary summoned the document from the Legislative Assembly office. The Legislative Assembly office is absolutely an independent office and it is not open to any police officer to search the records of the Assembly office without the permission of the Speaker. I am not aware of any provision of law, whether in the Criminal Procedure Code or in any other enactment, under which it is open to the Government or to any agent of the Government or any officer of the police to obtain or search independently the records of the Assembly office without the permission of the Speaker.

**Premier :** In reply I may say that no search was made and no legal action was taken. All I said was that we have the legal powers to take possession of any document.

**Malik Barkat Ali :** I want to know what powers the Honourable Premier has, and under what section and under what law he can send for the original document from the Assembly office, as of right, without the permission of the Speaker.

**Premier :** I was saying that there was no breach of privilege. The document was a public document. Had there been any difficulty in getting it, I would have consulted the law officers of the Crown and also my honourable friend opposite as to how to get it. But there was no question of breach of privilege involved.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** What did you want it for ?

**Premier :** We wanted to have the pleasure of seeing that document (*Laughter*).

**Malik Barkat Ali :** It really comes to this that the Secretary had no business to part with that document without the permission of the Speaker. (*Interruptions*).

**Mr. Speaker :** Order, please. Honourable members must know that the Secretary is the head of the Legislative Assembly office and not the Speaker. I am not the head of the Legislative Assembly office ; it is the Secretary and all these powers vest in him.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** I beg to differ very much.

**Mr. Speaker :** The honourable member may be right. But I have understood throughout that the Secretary is the head of the Assembly office ; while I am your representative. No doubt, he is a servant of the Crown ; while I am your elected representative and not a servant of the Crown.

**Malik Barkat Ali :** He is your agent.

**Mr. Speaker :** He is a servant of the Crown.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** He is not a Government servant.

**Mr. Speaker :** I do not think that he exceeded his jurisdiction, He acted *bona fide* and not with any ulterior motive.

**Malik Barkat Ali :** May I know whether the Clerk of the House of Commons can part with any document relating to the office of the House of Commons without the permission of the Speaker ? It is a serious dereliction of duty.

**Lala Bhagat Ram Choda :** Sir, it appears to me that the office of the Assembly is either working as a C. I. D. for the Government or intends bringing about our political ruin.

**Premier :** Nothing of the sort.

**Mr. Speaker :** The House will now resume discussion on the Demand under consideration .

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** We want a definite ruling for our future guidance.

**Mr. Speaker :** If the Assembly legislates that it is a privilege of the House that the original manuscript of a question is a secret document, then the Secretary's conduct will amount to a breach of this privilege, but not otherwise.

## DEMANDS FOR GRANTS

### GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

#### *General Policy.*

**Mr. Speaker :** The Assembly will now resume discussion on the demand for Grant for General Administration.

**Chaudhri Sumer Singh** (South-East Gurgaon, General, Rural) (*Urdu*): Now, Sir, I come to another very important matter. At the very headquarters of Gurgaon district, that is, in the city of Gurgaon proper the drainage system is very defective. The local committee is too poor to undertake the work of improvement in this behalf. I would, therefore, request the Government to come to the rescue of the Gurgaon Committee and grant an adequate sum of money to the local committee to improve the drainage system of the city.

Moreover there is the scarcity of drinking water in Mewat and in Palwal in particular. This must be remedied.

**Mr. Speaker :** The honourable member's time is over.

**Chaudhri Sumer Singh :** I pray for the grant of another two or three minutes, so that I may be able to wind up my speech after stating a few very important facts before the House.

Sir, two or three years ago, the Government had promised to introduce gradual prohibition in the Punjab. But up till now nothing seems to have been done. Now is the opportunity to introduce prohibition. These are the days of dearth and scarcity. Let the Government step in and start the work in right earnest. The people are in the grip of this evil and Government must come to their rescue. Particular attention must be given to those districts which are adjacent to the neighbouring provinces and States.

Coming to the restrictions of entertaining not more than 50 guests, I would submit that the restriction is not being rigidly imposed. More strict action and drastic measures ought to be taken in this connection so as to avoid the unnecessary luxury of tea and dinner parties. I do not think that the number should be increased or decreased. The number 50 is reasonable. But what I want to stress is that the restriction should be strictly imposed and the offenders brought to book.

One word about the control of certain commodities in the province is highly called for. In the neighbourhood of Delhi we are forbidden to import or export certain foodstuffs or other articles. But the people in Delhi are not restricted to that extent. If we are allowed to purchase paper, for instance, from Delhi in exchange for certain other articles which we can supply to the people of Delhi, our task will be facilitated. We are in dire need of paper. I hope the Government will allow us to purchase paper from Delhi in exchange for some commodities that we can spare.

Another very troublesome situation has been created by the restrictions imposed on free trade and commerce by the Government. When the poor rural people request the local authorities to grant them licences, they are refused on the ground that they were not previously carrying on trade. But in fact they had been carrying on trade on the modest scale in the villages. I would strongly urge upon the Government the need of their kind indulgence in the matter. Instructions may be issued to the local authorities to freely grant such licences if and when they are demanded by the people.

Government should also see to the grievances of the public with respect to the Railway Board. I do not say that the Board is under the Punjab Government. But as our representative, the Government should arrange to communicate the grievances of the public to the Railway Board, so that the grievances of the people may be removed.

With these few words, Sir, I beg to close my speech.

**Mian Abdul Aziz** (Outer Lahore, Muslim, Urban) (*Urdu*) : Sir, during this general discussion of the Budget much has been said in criticism or repudiation of the Government. In fact it does not lie in the mouth of the Unionist Party to say that only the Opposition have criticised or blamed the Government. If I mistake not, many of the honourable members of the Ministerialist Party have adversely criticised the present regime. Several objections have been levelled against the Government run by the Unionist Party. Among other objections, the charges of favouritism, nepotism and utter disregard for the scheduled castes

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have been laid against the Unionist Government. And all this has happened in spite of several conferences of communal harmony that are held from time to time. The actual conduct of the Government is such as sows the seeds of discord among the various communities and castes. Unfortunately, we are divided into several divisions. But as a matter of fact previously there used to be only two main divisions of Muslims and Hindus. Later a third party came into this arena and we had the Hindu-Sikh or Sikh-Muslim question in addition to the Hindu-Muslim question of the previous days. On the other hand the Government from time to time, created various questions such as those of rural and urban, zamindar and non-zamindar and Unionist and non-Unionist. And quite recently an Honourable Minister, about whom I had very high opinion, has outdone all his predecessors in this respect, creating a new distinction of Jat and non-Jat, by publishing *Jat Gazette* and convening Jat Conference. I do not mean that any community or a part thereof has no right to carry on educational or social activities amongst them. What I take exception to is this, that on the one side unity conferences are being convened and it is being said that the object of the Unionists is to bring about the unity amongst all the classes here, and on the other side such such distinctions are being created by that very Government.

**Rai Sahib Chaudhri Suraj Mal :** What about Arain Conferences, Mian Sahib ?

**Mian Abdul Aziz :** If you had patience, which is a virtue and which you lack unfortunately, I myself was coming to this very point. The Arain Conference never meddles in political problems. Its activities are limited only to the social and educational problems of the community.

**Premier :** And what about Jat Conferences ? Do they interfere in politics ?

**Mian Abdul Aziz :** Only a few months ago it was said to the Jats in a Jat Conference "You are everything, and everything depends on you". Do not force me to say more about it. All this has been published in the newspapers. You cannot conceal it now. Well, Sir, I was saying something about the activities of an Honourable Minister of this Government. I hope it is not his intention to create more and more differences amongst the population of this province, but all the same his activities are leading to these very results. Therefore I hope that while he will do everything that lies in his power to uplift Jats socially and morally, he will not bring this question of Jats and non-Jats into politics, I mean that he will not give nine out of every new ten jobs to Jats. Yes, a complaint in this respect was brought forward yesterday. Even my honourable friend Chaudhri Sumer Singh admitted in his speech here yesterday that every new job was being given to the residents of Rohtak district.

**Rai Sahib Chaudhri Suraj Mal :** That was only a joke.

**Mian Abdul Aziz :** بازی بازی یا درس یا بدم بازی

The effect of such an attitude on the part of a Minister will be very ruinous to his subordinates. They will try to go a step further in this direction in order to win the favour of their chief, and as a result of that no deserving person shall ever be appointed to any post. Some time ago it was said that as the Hindus are in a majority in the eastern districts and the Muslims on the Campbellpur side, therefore more Hindus should be appointed in the former area and more Muslims in the latter. If we are to follow this policy, it will lead to such a state of affairs that we will have to keep in view these nice distinctions in every small

district and tahsil even. My request is that all the vacancies should be filled according to the percentage of each community including the Scheduled Castes, Indian Christians and even Anglo-Indians having equal regard to their emoluments proportionately. No member of a community should be favoured simply because he belongs to that community. Whenever we ask such questions on the floor of this House, we are told that it is not in the public interest to answer such questions, which means in plain English that some injustice has been done in that matter. Otherwise if their slate is clean, the Government should welcome such an opportunity to clear their position and to remove doubts from the minds of the honourable members of this House and the public outside. I wish they had the courage of owning their mistakes and declaring publicly that they will set those mistakes right. Besides it is said by the Government that questions about communal matters should be asked in the form of unstarred questions only. The fact is that when the answer goes in Government's favour they reply to the questions about communal matters even when they are given in the form of starred questions. But when the answer goes against their interest they refuse to reply even when such questions are asked in the form of unstarred questions. My request is that the Government should follow the policy of justice and equity to every community of the Province, so that it may not feel shy over such questions.

Yesterday the Honourable Minister for Development, Sardar Baldev Singh, volunteered a statement in the House giving detailed figures about the recruitment of Hindus, Muslims and Sikhs in the Civil Supplies Department without their emoluments. That is only one department in regard to which these facts and figures have been supplied. What about others? (*A voice* : You will get those facts and figures by and by). I am not talking about any particular community, although it is my duty, if the Muslims are not given their due representation, to bring their grievances before the Government. However, what I am urging, is, that it is the duty of the Government to see that all the communities should get their due share in services. Do my friends know as to what is happening now? Although it is said that whenever any vacancy occurs in any department it is advertised in the press, yet in practice it is decided first and then it is advertised. As a matter of fact, such vacancies are generally reserved for the relatives of Ministers and their followers. And long before they are advertised in the press they are virtually filled. Consequently those who apply for such posts are disappointed. I am prepared to quote many such instances where the rights of the deserving people have been ignored and the relatives of the Honourable Ministers or of the members of the Unionist Party have been selected.

Now, Sir, my friends assumed office in 1937. I ask them, since then what steps have they taken for the welfare of the Punjab as a whole? I admit that my friends have made some efforts to carry their province on the road to progress. They have increased the income of the province. They have shown a surplus budget, which is commendable and for which I really congratulate the Honourable Minister for Finance. The preparation of a budget is not an easy matter and usually the Honourable Minister takes great pains to prepare it. And for this he deserves congratulations. But what I want to ask is as to what steps the Ministry have taken for the welfare of the Punjab as a whole. Their regime is a regime of taxes, which have been particularly imposed on the urban people. I do not say that my friends should not protect the interests of the zamindars. By all means let them do so. Let them do legitimately whatever they like to help the zamindars. Give them more and more facilities. Give them lands. Sir, it is very strange that on the one hand, my friends claim to be the greatest sympathisers

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of the zamindars, on the other hand, they cannot give lands to them, thousands of whom own one, two or four kanals or at the most a ghumaon or two. There are lakhs of zamindars who do not get even bare living from their lands. What has the Government done for them? I admit that there are a few big landlords in the province, who can be counted on the finger tips and out of whom two or four are sitting in this House as well, but that is no consolation to the smaller land-holders. What is the plight of the peasant in general? The condition of the smaller land-holders is very miserable. I ask what have the Government done for those zamindars who pay from Rs. 5 to Rs. 10 as land revenue? What steps have they taken to protect their interest? Two or three years ago Mian Nurullah moved a resolution in the House to the effect that the rates of *abiana* should be reduced to the extent of 20 or 25 per cent. But in spite of the fact that my friends claim to be the greatest well wishers of the zamindars, in spite of the fact that the cost of construction of canals has been met, and the canals are the most paying concern, still they did not want to reduce the rates of *abiana* to the tune of 20 per cent. With all this my friends claim to be the well wishers of the zamindars. I do not say that they should not take steps to better the hard lot of the poor peasants. Let them do so. But they should not make any difference between the urban and the rural zamindars. They should not mete out step-motherly treatment to the urban zamindars. At present they are bent upon reducing them to the state to which the rural zamindars have been reduced. This attitude of theirs reminds me of the famous story of the hunchback woman. Somebody asked her whether she would like her hunch to be set right or whether she would like other people to become hunchbacks. She calmly replied that she would prefer that other people should also become hunchbacks like her. (*Interruptions*). I do not mean to cast any aspersion on anybody. What I want is that Government should take steps to remove the grievances of the people which have been voiced by the members of their own party.

Sir, you are aware of the fact that the Report of the Resources and Retrenchment Committee has been published long ago. So far my friends have given effect to those recommendations which related to the augmentation of the resources of the province. But they have not given effect to one-tenth part of its recommendations which related to the retrenchment of expenditure. The people living in cities like Lahore and Amritsar are being taxed to the last degree. I ask whether zamindars are not living in Lahore? I personally think that the population of Lahore, to a great extent, consists of agriculturists and of statutory agriculturists for whom my friends show so much lip sympathy. Instead of protecting the interests of the urban zamindars what is actually being done? Whenever a new settlement is done, the land revenue of the people is increased in some cases up to 5, 10, 20, or even 50 per cent. During the last two years zamindars have received good prices for their produce and they have paid up their land revenues. These abnormal times do not continue for ever. Fat years are bound to be followed by lean years. When that time comes these urban zamindars whose land revenues have been enhanced will find it very difficult to pay the demand of the Government. Just consider the plight of a zamindar, who though not living in the city proper has come within the Corporation limits on account of its extension of boundaries. In the first place, he has to pay land-revenue at an enhanced rate as compared with zamindars living in rural areas. Secondly, he has to pay house-tax on account of the drainage scheme which has turned out to be a white elephant and on account of which the Corporation will remain mortgaged with Government for the next 15 to 20 years. Anyway

this is the second tax which he has to pay. The third in this series of taxes is the Urban Immovable Property Tax. In the fourth place comes the income-tax which is levied on the rental value or annual income received on account of rents from these very houses. Although in such cities as Amritsar, Rawalpindi, etc., the cost of living is considerably high, yet Lahore is by far the costliest of them all to live in. Besides the taxes enumerated above, taxation measures, e.g., the General Sales Tax Act the like of which the Unionist Government has always up its sleeves, put an indirect burden on the shoulders of the people. You can hardly breathe in the Punjab without paying some sort of a tax or another. This crop of taxes is an achievement in which our Honourable Ministers take so much pride. But do they know what happens to those poor people who possess only four or five kanals of land which is not enough even to provide their children with bare living? Has it even occurred to them that these people starve because of these taxes? How can our Ministers who receive such fat salaries and live in palatial bungalows with police guard at their gates know their woes? Only if they could gain the goodwill of the public, there would not be any need for them to have police guard posted at their gates. You will then be the objects of veneration of the very people whom you fear now.

**Mr. Speaker :** May I ask the honourable member to be brief, if possible?

**Mian Abdul Aziz :** I am prepared to obey your orders at any stage and at any time, but so far no time limit has been fixed. When you ring the bell and ask me to stop I will sit down.

**Mr. Speaker :** The Government members as well as the front benchers have yet to speak. So, the honourable member should say briefly what he wishes to say.

**Mian Abdul Aziz :** Very well, Sir, I will try to be as brief as you wish me to be.

On the one hand, Government claims to be the guardian and well-wisher of the zamindars, on the other, the departments set up by it deprive these very zamindars including Hindus, Muslims and Sikhs of their ancestral lands and render them homeless. Recently the Lahore Improvement Trust has planned to acquire 7 or 8 villages for factory area near Shalamar such as Fatehgarh, etc. It means that these zamindars shall be deprived of their valuable land for the benefit of the non-zamindars. The homeless zamindars have knocked at the door of the Honourable Minister of Public Works in vain. The facts are as clear as the day and the Honourable Minister is aware of them; yet nothing has been done to stop this highhandedness on the part of the Improvement Trust. I do not suggest here that Industry should be discouraged. I am as much for the encouragement of industries as any member of the Government may be, but I am not in favour of encouraging industry at the cost of poor agriculturists. The Government are welcome to acquire as much land for the factory area as they wish but not by rendering the zamindars of these 8 villages homeless. If factory area must be set apart, why should it not be 10 miles further than the site of these villages. Had the Government thought of encouraging industry 7 years earlier, there would have been no need of levying so many taxes and even the income would have also doubled. You have turned your attention to industries now when the War is on and the people are so badly off financially on account of ten-fold rise in prices. I pray to God the War may end soon. Long ago I requested the Honourable Finance Minister to set apart 10 or 20 lakhs of rupees for each of the five divisions every year with the object of establishing industries in the province. Had it been done we would have had a large sum collected by now and



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with public co-operation and shares it would have been possible for the Government to establish factories in suitable places. They could have called in European experts to assist them and the province would have been on its way to industrial progress. For God's sake do so even now. Do not be misled into believing in the prosperity of the Punjab because of the few rich landlords that you see in this House. Look at the teeming millions of the poor masses. There is still time while you have a surplus of three crores. It is not enough to give two or three lakhs of rupees to help the Hosiery industry. If by a little effort a small island like Japan, which in area and population is smaller than the Punjab, can achieve such phenomenal success in the world of commerce, why cannot we do the same here? Only two or three lakhs of rupees, an insignificant amount, have been earmarked for industries. If we really desire to do something constructive, then three or four crores of rupees should be spent in this direction every year. What we find today is this that no important industry has been established. So far Government has been successful in establishing only hosiery factories and some other very small factories. I suggest that every essential thing like paper, pencil or thousands of other articles of every day use should be manufactured. You can easily take two or three crores of rupees as shares from the public and Government can easily supervise their work.

Sir, I want to discuss many things. Most important of them all is the question of detenus. Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang has also stressed upon the same point and I too wonder why Government with all its might and strength is afraid of these 150 or 200 men. Is it possible that these few scores of men will start a revolution or they will be able to carry with them the entire population of 3 crores of the Punjabis? The Government is quite incorrect in taking such an ugly view of the picture. I want to make it public that nine Khaksars in the Lahore Central Jail have gone on hunger strike since the 1st of March. Their grievance is this that no justice is done to them and nobody pays any attention to their complaints. They do not want to have extraordinary favours, but they want that much only which is sanctioned by the common canons of justice. My information goes to this extent that the condition of two men is grave. You get it attested yourself.

Maulana Daud Ghaznavi is detained in jail. His release orders I understand had been issued and on the day he was to be released the Jail Superintendent shook hands with him and bid him good bye. But, I am sorry to say, Sir, that he has not been released so far. I want to know the reasons that stood in the way of his release. He is keeping indifferent health. Doctors too have certified this thing. I am making no recommendation but I demand justice. Our present Government is humorously described as a triangle. Its three corners A, B, and C, are explained in a very humorous manner. A is described as Mr. Abbott (Secretary to Honourable Premier), B as Sardar Baldev Singh and C as Sir Chhotu Ram. (An honourable member: What about Mian Abdul Haye?) He is an obtuse angle (Laughter).

Now I come to the question of food. A depot was started last year for two months near my house. It had been opened after great pains. Baji Rashida Latif too visited that place. There I found people who had been starving for days. How deplorable it is that in a surplus province like the Punjab people should starve. It is solely due to the mismanagement of our Government. I do not say that the zamindars should not be permitted to make any profit, but my contention is that everything must be sold at reasonable rates. Poor people and especially those respectable people who cannot beg, are so hard-pressed,

that there is no end to their miseries and worries. You should take pity upon them and take account of those factors which are the real cause of this famine.

**Mr. Speaker :** The honourable member will please wind up his speech.

**Mian Abdul Aziz :** Sir, I want to take a few minutes more. I want to draw the attention of the Honourable Minister for Education towards the Government Middle School, Hoshiarpur. Formerly it used to be a high school. Repeated requests have been made to raise it to a high school again. I once more repeat the request that no time should be wasted and it should be raised to the high standard. I know that you have got every power to reject any proposal, irrespective of its merits, advanced by the Opposition. Moreover, we do not say that you should not benefit the zamindars. We want only one thing and that is justice. You must maintain justice and equality between all the sections of the population. You should not favour one section of the population at the cost of another and thus multiply controversies and fan the flames of communal strife.

I wish to say a few words with regard to the heavy expenses of the pay of the Honourable Speaker, the Deputy Speaker and the honourable members of this House. (*Interruptions*). So far as I am concerned I wish to suggest that those of my honourable friends who belong to or live in Lahore should not be given any allowance, while those who come from outside Lahore should not be given more than Rs. 10 or 12 per day. I beg to submit in this connection that the fat salaries of the honourable members sitting on the treasury benches including the Honourable the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker and also their Parliamentary and Private Parliamentary Secretaries should be reduced so that the poor people of the province may be benefited.

The work which has been done by this Assembly since 1937 is that 72 Bills were sponsored by this Unionist Government up to the end of last year. The first three relate to salaries of Ministers, the Honourable Speaker and the Deputy Speaker, and the members allowances Bill, and the fourth is about the removal of disqualifications of members of the Legislative Assembly. Out of the rest there are Bills to amend Alienation of Land Act, Debtors Protection Act, Suits Valuation Act, Registration Act, Restitution of Mortgaged Lands Act, and such other Acts, which have been amended three, four or five times over. The others are useful Bills but they are very few. In this connection I wish to say that these various amendments off and on which are before the House are due to the fact that the amendments suggested by the Opposition or even by some of the other members of the House are not duly considered. Sometimes some important comments and criticisms on some of these Acts have been made in the High Court, something like this :— "Intellects shown in some of these Acts which are in some places not only silent but inconsistent, etc. etc.," This is due to the fact that the Government does not pay any heed to the suggestions made by the Opposition and on the strength of their majority they want to pass the Bills as prepared by them, with very few insignificant and minor amendments, invariably suggested by their own side.

Some very important Private Bills brought by some of the members have been so shelved in airtight compartments and boxes that they have not seen the light of the day during the last 6 or 7 years, such as Aqaf Bill, Muslim Bill and Hindu Charitable Bill. It is in the fitness of things that they should be passed by the Assembly. (*Interruptions*).

**Mr. Speaker :** The honourable member will please wind up his speech.

**Mian Abdul Aziz :** Very well, Sir, I will try to wind up soon. I wish to submit that out of these Acts there are six or seven which have been amended more than three, four or five times during the last 7 years.

**Khan Bahadur Shaikh Karamat Ali :** Do they improve the Acts in form or in substance ?

**Mian Abdul Aziz :** What does the honourable member think ?

**Khan Bahadur Shaikh Karamat Ali :** I believe that they are good ones except that the form is defective here and there.

**Mian Abdul Aziz :** There is no doubt that laws cannot be perfect, but the House is aware of the fact that the amendments suggested at the time by the Opposition were not listened to, hence defects remain. The Indian Penal Code and the Law of Evidence, etc., were enacted some 80 years back. So far as these laws are concerned, I think, hardly any amendment has been made, because due consideration was paid and they were not passed hastily.

**Mir Maqbool Mahmood :** On a point of order, Sir. My honourable friend opposite is reflecting on a previous decision of this House; if he wants to do that he should bring forward amendments.

**Mian Abdul Aziz :** Thank God ! My honourable friend who is blessed with a sweet tongue like that of a nightingale has risen to say something. (Laughter). However, my honourable friend has raised the objection on the ground that it is a reflection upon the House. So far as I am concerned, I wish to submit that I had no ill motive in saying so. I was only submitting that these Acts are often commented upon by the High Court due to their being defective.

**Mr. Speaker :** That is reflection upon the House and, therefore, is not permissible except when the repeal of a measure is before the House.

**Mian Abdul Aziz :** Very well, Sir, if it is a reflection upon the House I leave it there.

I wish to make a few observations in regard to industries. I am pleased to learn that the Honourable Finance Minister is taking keen interest to develop the industries in the province. On various occasions I have seen the Honourable Finance Minister participating in the deliberations of the Industrial Board and devising ways and means for accelerating the industrial progress in the province. In this connection I wish to point out to the Honourable Finance Minister that large scale industries should be set up in the five divisions at a cost of two or three crores.

**Minister of Revenue** (The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram) (Urdu) : Sir, I propose to make a brief speech in which I propose to deal with the objections raised by some honourable members. First of all I shall deal with the observations made by my Honourable friend Sardar Gopal Singh Khalsa. He said that, after the death of the late Sir Sikander-Hyat Khan, nothing substantial had been done for the benefit of scheduled castes. I do not propose to give a detailed account of what the Punjab Government has done for these people during and after the regime of the late Sir Sikander-Hyat Khan. I am glad my honourable friend admits that something substantial was done for scheduled castes during the regime of the late Sir Sikander. If his attention has not been drawn to a pamphlet, a copy of which I am now holding in my hand, I would like to present it to him. On going through this pamphlet he will find how much had been done for his class before 1940. Since then some 3,000 acres of land have been distributed among them. Moreover, 1,000 acres of land were distributed among the members of criminal tribes among whom seventy-five per cent are men of his class. My

honourable friend has complained that no member of scheduled castes has been appointed in the executive line. May I take the liberty of informing him that for the last two or three years no Hindu, Muslim, Sikh or Christian has been recruited for executive posts? All these posts are being reserved for those who have joined the army.

Now I shall mention what the Government has done for scheduled castes in the past. According to the decision of the Unionist Government one of the posts of sub-judges was filled by the appointment of a gentleman belonging to one of the scheduled castes. This post had been reserved for them.

In the Irrigation Department vacancies were reserved for scheduled caste candidates for the posts of munshi and zilladar. One such candidate was found through the good offices of Mr. Ismail Pervez, Deputy Registrar, Co-operative Societies. He was appointed as zilladar. Another was selected for the same post only a few weeks earlier. One member of scheduled castes was appointed a munshi after waiving the age condition. One from Gurgaon was appointed a Naib-Tahsildar, another from Rohtak an Excise Sub-Inspector, and yet another from Ambala, a Girdawar. (*An honourable member* : In how many years?) During the course of the last two years.

Coming now to the criticism of Chaudhri Sumer Singh, I cannot help congratulating him on the restraint and moderation with which he has ventilated the grievances of his class. But I may assure him that there is no cause to despair. I quite appreciate the line of his argument and the genuine difficulties which Hindu Zemindars have to meet. The Hindus accuse them of being the allies of the Muslims and the Muslims look upon them as mere Hindus, that is, as communalists of the rival group. But that is not the all-important question. The question of questions is whether you are following the right course of action or not. I for one believe that our course of action is the only right course. Come what may, we must stick to it. As to the clouds of misunderstanding and the difficulties of the transitional period I have not the slightest doubt that just as day follows night our present disappointments and difficulties will make way for success and bright prospects give way to perfect hope and understanding. Remember that darkness is deepest before the dawn. Wait a little. The morning is near. The principle of economic interests being accepted as a guiding factor of politics for which we have been fighting so long and so hard is sure to be crowned with success sooner or later. Personally I believe that the day of our victory is near.

Coming to the adverse criticism of my honourable friend, Khan Sahib Khawaja Gulam Samad, I may point out that his complaint of injustice to the Muslims in my departments is wholly baseless. Presumably he is ill-informed and in his ignorance he thinks that the rights of the Muslims have been trampled under foot. He thinks that in making grants of land the claims of Muslims have been ignored. But facts disclose a different story. Had he cared to collect correct information he would not have levelled these charges. Now let me give a few sober facts. Take the case of jagirs, for instance. Eighty jagirs have in all been granted in my time. Out of them 40 were given to Muslims, that is, 50 per cent, 24 jagirs were given to the Hindus, that is, 30 per cent, Sikhs received 16 jagirs or 20 per cent of the total. These are exactly the percentages fixed for the three communities in the matter of Government appointments. Although no percentages have yet been fixed formally for the distribution of jagirs and land grants among the various communities, yet, if circumstances warrant, an attempt is made to conform, even in other matters of patronage, to the formula which governs the distribution of services. Thus in respect of the distribution of jagirs I have succeeded in conforming to this formula literally.

[Revenue Minister.]

The awards under the first instalment of landed gentry grants have also been made. Out of the total of 49 squares of land actually awarded, 25 have been given to the Muslims, 14 to the Hindus and 10 to the Sikhs. Two more squares remain to be given to suitable Muslims and will be adjusted in the next instalment. Even on the basis of allotment already made Muslims get 53·2 per cent, Hindus 25·4 per cent and Sikhs 21·4 per cent. If any complaint is to be made at all, it can be made only by Hindus. Nobody can maintain that any injustice has been done to the Muslims. (*Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad*: I said that the small holders of land had been neglected. I did not complain about the Muslims). I am coming to the point immediately. *Khawaja Sahib* refers to the grant of *Bara* land made recently. I frankly admit that in making grants of *Bara* land preference is ordinarily given to big zamindars. But there is a very good reason for this. For the first two or three years there is not much income from *Bara* land while a great deal of expenditure has to be incurred before *Bara* land is actually reclaimed. This the small zamindars cannot afford to bear.

The total area given away on *Bara* land reclamation conditions is 1,961·34 acres. Out of this area Muslims get 1,048·37 acres, that is, 53·4 per cent, Sikhs get 660·38 acres, that is, 34·2 per cent and Hindus get 242·59 acres, that is 12·4 per cent. (*Rai Bahadur Lala Gopal Das*: How is it that the Hindus get only 12 per cent?) (*Lala Sita Ram*: Has the Honourable Speaker allowed the discussion of the communal question on the floor of the House?)

It is true that seven large plots comprising 1,403 acres have been given to big land-owners and ten small plots measuring 558 acres have been given to small land-owners. The reason, as I have already explained, is that for the first two years, *Bara* lands yield hardly any income. On the other hand, large sums of money have to be spent on them. It is only after the third year of successive expenditure that grantees can hope to make a profit out of these grants. A great deal of spade work for rendering *Bara* land fit for producing any crop has to be done and requires a great deal of finance. This task can only be entrusted to people who possess capital and who can bear initial losses. To entangle the small land-owners in a responsibility of this kind would be no great kindness to them. Ordinarily grants of *Bara* land are made only to men who have substantial financial means. A share is also given to small land-owners who have their previous lands situated in close neighbourhood so that they can use their old land for the purpose of growing fodder, etc., for their animals during the period when *Bara* lands yield little or no produce.

Another point raised by some of the honourable members was as to why Hindus did not get their share of 30 per cent. Let me say for their information that no formula fixing the proportions for various communities in the distribution of grants has been formally adopted so far. However, if circumstances permit or justify the course, we act even in this respect on the formula which was devised for Government services, that is, the formula which lays down 50 per cent, 20 per cent and 30 per cent in Government appointments for Muslims, Sikhs and Hindus and others, respectively. Now let me state why Hindus have got a smaller share than would fall to them under this formula. The first reason is that the number of Hindu agriculturists is very small in that part of the province where *Bara* lands are situated. Secondly, in the distribution of *Bara* land preference is given to those who have previous experience in this line. Sikhs are the foremost in having this experience while Hindus come last.

**Rai Bahadur Mukand Lal Puri**: In which part of the country is this land being distributed?

**Minister of Revenue :** In the Montgomery district.

**Rai Bahadur Mukand Lal Puri :** Is it not possible for the Hindu agriculturists to go there from other parts of the province?

**Minister :** Including the Hindu agriculturists from Kangra, Rohtak and Hissar who have settled there as grantees the total number of agriculturist Hindus in Montgomery does not exceed five thousand. All the same deserving Hindu agriculturists from other parts of the province are not ignored. For example, a Hindu zamindar of Kangra has been allowed 9 squares of *Bara* land there. (*Hear, hear.*) My friend, Khawaja Sahib, is not fully aware of the condition there, neither does he know how much previous experience and capital is required for the reclamation of these lands. He was also one of the applicants for these grants, but as he did not fulfil the required conditions his application had to be rejected. He is not an agriculturist by profession nor has he any previous experience of reclamation. Now he seems to be under the impression that just as his application was rejected the applications of most of the other Muslim candidates must also have been rejected.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Sir, I want to make a personal explanation. The Honourable Minister has been pleased to remark that I had delivered my speech against him simply because my application had been rejected.

**Minister :** I did not say that.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** I went to Pakpattan, Montgomery district, there my *Pir Bhais* met me. I travelled with them from village to village in order to see the plight of zamindars in that district. They also being my spiritual preceptors, I had every sympathy with them. They took me to Montgomery to recommend them for plots of *Bara* land for which they had applied. They showed me the terms to reclaim land. In fact it were they who explained to me how the big landlords were gaining by the prevalent method of distribution and how the small landholders were being ignored. They also told me that three big plots had already been allotted to a certain Minister or on the Minister's recommendation to his relatives and friends. I saw the Reclamation Officer. He explained to me that the small holders were not being given this land as they had no capital to invest. I told him that there were other persons who were prepared to help the small holders in that respect. On hearing this they compelled me to apply for one or two big plots and to invest capital for its reclamation. I told them that the Honourable Minister will never accede to my request. But still they forced me to apply which I half-heartedly did.

**Mr. Speaker :** Is that a personal explanation?

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** The Honourable Minister has said that I possess no agricultural experience. Let me say for his information that I possess as much experience of that kind as he does. I am as great, or small, an agriculturist as he is. Neither has he ever ploughed the land with his own hand nor have I done that.

**Mr. Speaker :** Order, order.

**Minister :** My honourable friend has misunderstood me. I did not say that his adverse criticism was due to the fact that his own application had been rejected. (*An honourable member :* All the same you meant that very thing.) I only said that *Bara* land was given ordinarily to those persons who had experience of reclamation and had capital to invest for that purpose. It is no gain to apply for land. If he so desires, he is welcome to apply as many times as he pleases. Tenders are called for temporary cultivation so frequently.

**Mr. Speaker :** The Honourable Minister will please leave this point and proceed further.

**Minister of Revenue :** His second allegation was that I had allotted three plots to a gentleman beforehand. I am not aware of any person who has been allotted three plots. Of course, I did allot some big plots to certain individuals, but only after they had applied and had been duly recommended from below. One of these persons was a friend of mine, but he was one of the most suitable persons for such a grant. Anyway, I am not one of those who harm their own friends. If they are recommended from below I do prefer them (*hear, hear*) and, if justice permits, I try to help even if they are not recommended from below, but only after due procedure has been observed. (*Loud applause.*)

My honourable friend Mian Abdul Aziz remarked during his speech that though income from canals had increased considerably the Government had not brought about any reduction in water-rates. Let me remind my friend that reduction in water-rates had been brought about twice or thrice before, although it is true that no reduction has been sanctioned during the present regime. Moreover, reducing water-rates during the present prosperous times will be sheer injustice to the inhabitants of those areas which have not the benefit of canal irrigation at present and which Government considers it necessary to be brought within the orbit of irrigation. In order to achieve this object, we have definite schemes before us which are estimated to cost roughly between 70 and 80 crores of rupees. Originally it was thought that about 30 to 40 years' time would be required to complete these schemes, but now we think that they can be completed between 15 to 20 years provided we act diligently and vigorously. But if we now reduce the pitch of water-rates it will mean favouring still further those who are already fortunate at the expense of those who are poor and unlucky and deserve a more favourable treatment at the hands of Government.

**Mian Abdul Aziz :** When a resolution to this effect was moved by Mian Muhammad Nur Ullah the conditions were not as they are at present.

**Minister :** No, Sir, the conditions were more or less similar to those which exist now. Moreover, as I have already stated, a reduction in water-rates has been given twice or thrice within the last 15 or 16 years. The last reduction was given in 1934-35, the total value of which at that time was Rs. 87½ lakhs per year and must have risen by this time to no less than Rs. 50 lakhs.

Mian Abdul Aziz was also pleased to observe that the Punjab Government was like a triangle wherein the Premier formed only an obtuse angle. His object in making such observations is obviously to discredit the Premier among the Muslims. It is possible that in this way he may succeed in achieving his object to some extent. But I have no doubt in asserting that both morally and factually the observations are entirely unjustifiable and malicious. I can say on the basis of my own personal experience that the late Sir Sikander-Hyat Khan did not exercise even one-tenth of his powers of interference which the present Premier is doing in the work of his colleagues.

There is yet another point in regard to which I propose to say a few words. Some of the honourable members have suggested that communalism is being preached in the province by the Ministers; that Rajput and Jat conferences have been held and that a daily newspaper by the name of the *Jat Gazette* is proposed to be issued shortly. It was also suggested that I had started the new stunt of the Jat Mahasabha with the result that the atmosphere of the province was becoming poisonous. Probably these gentlemen do not know that I have been a member of the Jat Mahasabha since its very inception in 1905 and have hardly

ever missed attending its annual meetings. But they do not seem to know that the main object of this Mahasabha is the furthering of the social, educational and economic interests of the Jats. It is entirely wrong to suggest that the holding of Jat conferences would in any way poison the atmosphere of the province. On the contrary it will serve as a guarantee for the maintenance of communal harmony in the province for the simple reason that the Jat Mahasabha is not a communal body but a tribal organisation which all Jats, whether Hindu, Muslim, Sikh or Christian, are free to join and have actually joined. (*Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad*: For creating disruption among the Muslims.) If Khawaja Sahib thinks so I am really sorry for him. I assure my friends that we will not allow anybody in the Jat Sabha to act in a manner which might adversely affect the interests of Muslims, Hindus, Sikhs or Christians. According to my view the Jat Sabha will serve as the best guarantee for maintaining communal harmony in the province. It will also serve as a bulwark of strength to the Unionist Party because it will not swerve an inch from the principles laid down by that party. In fact the Sabha will carry on the work of serving the zamindars and all other backward classes along the lines laid down by the Unionist Party. The daily newspaper which it is proposed to issue shortly will lay before the general public and the Government the point of view of the agricultural community in important economic matters. The newspapers now in existence are practically all owned by capitalists. There is hardly any paper which can ventilate the grievances of agricultural classes or express the point of view of the zamindar community. The present position is that there are many misunderstandings in the minds of the public and the authorities which it will be easy enough to remove if an organ like the one which we have in view were in existence. Last year the absence of any organ to give expression to the point of view of agricultural classes on the subject of control and controlled prices had almost led to most disastrous consequences. If the point of view of trade interests had succeeded the Punjab zamindars would have suffered a loss of about Rs. 15 crores in respect of wheat crop alone. Can anybody reasonably contend that there is no need of placing the point of view of the zamindar community before the public or the Government of India and, if I can bring into existence a zamindar paper for this purpose through the Jat Sabha, can it be said that it would be a sin on my part?

Some of my friends have taken hold of another expression *اج بڑا جٹ* to give vent to their malice. It is true that on one occasion I had used this expression. But the background against which this expression was used should not be forgotten. I had used this phrase in response to extremely disparaging remarks about the social and political importance of Jats. Certain papers took up the expression and gave it currency as a new political slogan. Since then I have explained the background more than once. In my own constituency to a gathering of 25,000 or 30,000 people, 95 per cent of whom were Jats, I explained the surroundings and the context in which I had used this expression. I warned my audience that it would be ridiculous to take the words literally. (*Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad*: That was Jatistan against Pakistan.) The honourable member may please himself by saying what he likes. There are many people who will take up any cry whether it is the cry of Pakistan or Jatistan or Akhand Hindustan. Anyway I told my Jat brethren quite frankly that I had used the words to repel the insinuation about the social and political inferiority of Jats. I further told them that it was ridiculous to think that the Punjab would be ruled by Jats alone. That would never happen. Such a thing is neither practicable nor morally right. (*Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad*: One day the Punjab will be ruled by the Jats.) I do not agree with my friend that the Jats alone



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will or can rule the Punjab. But if my friend is inclined to pray for the rule of Jats he is welcome to do it. All that I can say is that such a prayer has no chance of being granted. To-day it is impossible for anyone community or tribe to rule in any province or in India as a whole. India cannot be ruled either by Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs or Christians. Similarly Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs or Christians cannot rule alone in any province (*Honourable members*: Christians are ruling. Are not the Englishmen Christians?). But they are white people. I was speaking of Indians alone. In fact I further maintain that, although zamindars by themselves can rule the Punjab, it is not morally right or politically expedient that they should do so. Non-zamindars should also get their due share (*hear, hear*). If in spite of this anybody insists upon a wrong meaning being placed upon the expression *راج پٹیا جات* I cannot help it. All that I mean by this expression is that under the principle of democratic rule whichever community's strength is larger in numbers, whether it is India as a whole or any province, that community is ultimately bound to get a representation in Government in proportion to its strength. I mean nothing more and nothing less. (*Mian Abdul Aziz*: If this principle is adopted we will have no objection.) Yes, Arrains, Syads, Pathans, Ahirs, Sainies, in fact every section of the population will get its due share, though all cannot be represented at the same time in the Government of a province. In fact when suitable men are forthcoming from scheduled castes they should also get their due share. It seems that some people are narrow-minded themselves and they impute their own narrow-mindedness to me. I am a thorough *Hindustani* where India's interests are concerned. I am a thorough Punjabi where the interests of our province are concerned. I love my country and I love my province. I am a thorough zamindar also. So far as due protection of the rights of Jats is concerned I am a thorough Jat as well. No one need feel perturbed over it. But if anyone does, I cannot change myself for him. I feel no hesitation in giving expression to these feelings nor do I feel that there is any reason for my feeling apologetic about these sentiments.

**Premier** (The Honourable Malik Khizar Hayat): First of all I should like to say that the complaints which certain members have brought to the notice of the Government will be sympathetically considered and we will endeavour to do what we can to remove those complaints. In the course of my remarks I may be able to refer to only some of those matters and I therefore say that if I do not refer to any of them specifically today it should not be presumed that I or my colleagues will not pay heed to them or set them right to the extent that funds permit and I am glad to say that in this particular year funds will be forthcoming. (*An honourable member*: Was this done in the past?) If it was not done in the past it was an omission.

Before I proceed further I should like first of all to refer to the question that was raised by Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang, who I am sorry to see is not in his seat at present, about the Amritsar lathi charge. In that respect the Doctor Sahib was at a disadvantage in certain respects and I am at an advantage. I have had two versions of the case. I stand by the *communiqué* issued by the Government and the official sources of information. I should not like to take up the time of the House by reading that *communiqué* as it has already been published. As honourable members may be aware, processions as a rule are banned in the Punjab. In particular cases special exemption is given. In order to accommodate the Hindu Maha Sabha we allowed the procession. But this procession could not be allowed without conditions and those conditions too are well-known in the Punjab. One of the conditions is the forbidding under all

circumstances of volunteers in uniform resembling military uniforms. This is an all-India restriction. Another restriction was in respect of the volunteers taking part in drills and military marching. There were many other conditions, but I will not take up the time of the House by going through them now. But these were the two main conditions and they were accepted by the organisers of the procession and I thought that everything had been amicably settled. But I am sorry to say that there was a section in the Maha Sabha organisation which wanted to flout these conditions. Internal dissensions arose and that is how the trouble came about. When the procession was about to begin, the Mahabir Dal organisation insisted on joining it. There were two complaints against it. First of all the volunteers wore military-type uniform. Honourable members may be aware that similar difficulties arose on a previous occasion in connection with a similar procession, and very bad consequences followed. Secondly, we do not allow military formations. When the District Magistrate realised that there would be a breach in respect to these two conditions he reached the pandal and for three hours he carried out difficult negotiations and his officers tried to arrive at a compromise. Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang said that the negotiations and parleys that were carried on were as to whether the procession should be taken out or not. I certainly maintain that that was not the case. I wish the Doctor Sahib were here, because I may point out to him that if it was only a debate or discussion about taking out the procession or not taking out the procession, he would not have made the statement which he made publicly that the volunteers would join at their own risk.

Next I shall take up the findings of the Tek Chand Committee on which my honourable friends are basing their case. The Tek Chand Committee has found that Bhandari intimated to the President of the procession that the volunteers would not join. What I understand is that the volunteers persisted in joining and even according to their case the intimation was only given to the President, when the procession had gone a little distance on the road, that the volunteers would not join. This is another proof that the volunteers were out to flout the conditions of the licence and wanted to join (*An honourable member* : Question). It is not relevant to the discussion at all whether the volunteers joined or did not join. The mere fact that they were there in uniform and were bent on breaking the conditions of the licence was sufficient justification for the District Magistrate to cancel the licence. Having accepted the conditions and having agreed to abide by them, they had no excuse to wear shirts resembling the military and they had no business to go to the extent of insisting on joining the procession and while my honourable friend tried his best to bring about a compromise the other side would not heed him and was bent upon breaking the restrictions and that is how the trouble arose.

The other day Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang asked who was the person who informed the District Magistrate about this matter. I shall not keep anything back from the House. I am perfectly prepared to name the person who went to convey the news to the District Magistrate that the negotiation had broken down, and that the organisers had lost control and the Mahabir Dal Volunteers insisted on joining the procession. This information was sufficient for any district magistrate to cancel the licence. The person who informed the District Magistrate was the Additional District Magistrate, a very senior officer of the P. C. S., Mr. Raushan Lal of Amritsar who was accompanied by the D. S. P., C. I. D., Muhammad Asghar Ali. These were the two responsible officers who conveyed the information to the District Magistrate that the terms of the licence were not being observed and that the volunteers were bent on breaking the conditions,

[Premier.]

that the negotiations had failed, that the compromise effected was not likely to be enforced and that control had been lost. In Sir Gokul Chand's remarks and Mr. Bhandari's statement I have got ample proof that that was so. Therefore the District Magistrate was perfectly justified in his action. Again, it was not only a question of faction in the Mahasabha. Amritsar is always a powder magazine for communal troubles. The District Magistrate had to take that also into consideration.

The second point raised by Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang was this—Admitted that the licence had been cancelled. Was it properly conveyed to the procession and the President of the organisation? There again, I think the Doctor Sahib did not state the facts. The order was announced by Sardar Hardayal Singh, the City Magistrate, that the procession was henceforward unlawful. Doctor Sahib excused himself by saying that he got the impression that perhaps the District Magistrate would revise his orders. When a specific order is conveyed to a responsible person I do not know how he can run away with the impression that that was being revised. Why did they proceed further without ascertaining that that revision had come about? That is another breach of the terms of the licence. From the time of cancellation of the licence the procession had become an unlawful one. The Tek Chand Committee has also admitted it and I have taken it from that report.

What happened subsequently is very important. The crowd was a lakh or fifty thousand according to the official reports as well as that of the Tek Chand Committee. If a crowd like that is moving along there is always need for a little persuasion to control the crowd. It was used wherever it was successful but minimum force was unavoidable. This might have resulted in a melee and perhaps some people received bruises and scratches by falling here and there. Honourable members are aware that even at a hockey match or at a prize distribution where there is a crowd the police have to brandish their batons and *lathis* and actually use them when needed. But the minimum force was used.

**Rai Bahadur Lala Gopal Das :** Do you say that no charge was made?

**Premier :** This is what happened. Individual use of *lathi* and baton is quite different from a *lathi* charge. That is where the trouble arose. Some have said that Government has come out with a "bare faced lie", because Government has said that there was no *lathi* charge. We say that there was no *lathi* charge, because we maintain that there is a great deal of difference between the individual use of *lathi* and baton and a *lathi* charge. In this connection I will explain what we mean by a *lathi* charge. I will read out the gist of the police rules, and try and explain what is a *lathi* charge and what is not a *lathi* charge.

Where it is not apprehended that the maximum use of force will be necessary, *lathis* may advantageously be the sole weapons carried. But the mere use of a *lathi* by a member or members of a force so equipped does not constitute a *lathi* charge. In one case, the mere brandishing of *lathi* by a few persons may cause an unlawful assembly to disperse. In another, a blow delivered here and there with a *lathi* might induce dispersal and restore peace. By no stretching of the meanings of the words can these tactics be described as a *lathi* charge. This is a tactic which is employed only in the dispersal of unlawful assemblies which are defiant and unruly. Its characteristics are the employment of a trained force, uniformly equipped with *lathis* as their sole weapon, and acting as one man under a single command: the deployment of such a force is governed by the orders of the commander, and the operation is by a simultaneous movement of each member directed towards the most defiant section of the crowd: the weapons are brought into play simultaneously in a manner which each member of the force has been trained to employ. The objective is the production of the greatest effect, by application of the requisite amount of force with the minimum of hesitation and the maximum of determination.

This is what is technically meant by a *lathi* charge.

**Rai Bahadur Lala Gopal Das :** From which book have you read out this definition of *lathi* charge ?

**Premier :** From the book of commonsense.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** You were reading out from a document. What document is it ?

**Premier :** This is not an Assembly question.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** We should like to know the nature of the document from which the Honourable Premier was reading out this definition of a *lathi* charge. Was he reading out from his notes ?

**Premier :** This is what the police organisation and what we on the official side understand by a *lathi* charge.

**Mian Abdul Aziz :** Is it not from any book or document ?

**Premier :** I have not got it from Ireland.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Was that document supplied to you by the police ?

**Premier :** That is what is officially understood to be a *lathi* charge.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** Who supplied you that paper ?

**Premier :** It is a statement taken from various documents.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** Was this document supplied to you by the police ?

**Premier :** That is what we understand by a *lathi* charge.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** That is what you are officially made to understand.

**Premier :** I would not quarrel with my friends opposite. If the brandishing of a baton is considered a *lathi* charge by any one, I cannot help him. If a policeman knocked down a few men with a stick or a baton, you would not call it a *lathi* charge. I am glad to say that there was no *lathi* charge, otherwise the ambulances would not have returned empty. When a Punjabi stalwart uses his *lathi*, I am afraid the consequences are very grave. There were 100 constables and if they had been engaged in a *lathi* charge, God alone knows what might have happened.

**Rai Bahadur Lala Gopal Das :** Do you admit that the police used *lathis*.

**Premier :** They always go about with *lathis* and batons. When dealing with crowds they use them.

Instead of Doctor Sahib quoting from any document he went on to quote from the press. The press is a machinery which can just by a hint be started in a particular direction by press lords.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** Is that your experience ?

**Premier :** But sometimes they forget that even the press itself slips and mentions things which are wrong.

**Rai Bahadur Lala Gopal Das :** Is the press in this province irresponsible ?

**Premier :** I have not said that the press is irresponsible. I said that there are press lords who can set the press machinery in any particular direction.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** The press lord is sitting on your side.

**Premier :** Let us take the *Tribune* that Doctor Sahib quoted extensively. It mentions that swords were carried, but that they were dummy swords. The Committee's version is after all a one sided version based on information given by some witnesses. We cannot deduce any principle from it simply because a self-constituted judge and a self-constituted committee, howsoever important the personnel might be, has said something and they cannot force the hand of Government to believe in a certain thing. After all it is a one sided version and we are in a position to judge what are the real circumstances.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** Why not appoint another committee?

**Rai Bahadur Lala Gopal Das :** Is not the version of the Government that of an accused?

**Premier :** They first accepted the conditions of the licence and then they began to break the conditions. I am sorry for the whole occurrence.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** If the Premier thinks that the report of the enquiry committee is one sided, so is his statement. Therefore is he now prepared to appoint a committee of officials and non-officials to make an independent enquiry which can take evidence of both sides?

**Premier :** I shall come to that later. I was only quoting from the committee's report. Now what do they say? They say that gas was used. Witnesses, very responsible witnesses, state before the committee that gas was used. One can say perhaps that *lathis* were used though there was nothing to prove it. But in the case of gas it can easily be proved. Some of the witnesses deposed that gas was used and the Tek Chand Committee experts had to explain this. So they said that probably a photograph was taken and the flash from the camera or perhaps a fuse of the street lights was the cause of the smoke. I ask my honourable friend to contradict me in this.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** I know that one or two witnesses did refer to gas. But it was explained by the committee that probably the witnesses saw a flash from camera and mistook it for gas. It is actually proved that there was a camera and somebody did try to take a flash light photograph. This is also proved by the statement of Sir Sultan Ahmad who said that a camera man was sent there. He might have tried to take a flash light photograph because at that time it was fairly dark and some of the people who were not familiar with the use of gas might have said that it was gas when they saw the flash light of the photographer. There is no serious contradiction in this and this is not a finding of the committee.

**Premier :** What I maintain is that it was dark as stated by the honourable Doctor himself. Feelings were running high and the flash of a camera or a fuse was mistaken for gas. That being so, what wonder is there that the knocking of the *lathis* on the road might have been mistaken for a *lathi* charge?

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** I saw with my own eyes the police beating the people and I shouted *Mat Maro, Mat Maro*. I would not have shouted this if they were only striking on the ground.

**Premier :** The police behaved well and in a justified manner in this confusion and only minimum force was used. There was no determined *lathi* charge. Their action has been mis-interpreted as a *lathi* charge.

I will now take up the camera affair which my honourable friend, the Doctor, has mentioned. A lot has been made of this camera affair. The Government of India had sent down a camera man with a camera to take a film of the

Hindu Mahasabha procession. It has been said that because the Honourable the Information Member of the Government of India has mentioned something about a *lathi* charge, therefore it should be maintained that there was a *lathi* charge. The Government of India has made no enquiry from us and whatever they have said in the Assembly was entirely their own. Even taking at its face value, the reply given in the Central Assembly states that the crowd mauled the camera man. There is no wonder that in the darkness the camera man was mauled and the camera badly damaged by the crowd. If there were contusions and bruises and the feelings of the people ran high and there was a camera casualty, it does not add to the offence. Or it may be that the Honourable the Information Member of the Government of India was misinformed. In any case I am not responsible for the replies that he might have given in the Central Assembly and even if they are true they do not indicate anything. The Information Member can be misinformed.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** So can you be.

**Premier :** Perfectly.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** And so you are.

**Premier :** And so is my honourable friend. Then my honourable friend said that it was an insult to the Hindu community. I have already said that we are extremely sorry that this unhappy incident did ever occur, and whatever their trifling nature, we are sorry for the injuries that might have been caused to those people who were our guests on the Punjab soil. I express my regret and I am very sorry that this should have happened. I am one with my colleague the Finance Minister who expressed sympathy with those people. I am sorry that this should have happened, but the fault does not lie in any way with the executive. It is due to internal faction. It was due to the insubordination of the Mahabir Dal. It was the faction amongst the organisers that has brought about this state of affairs and in spite of the best and honest efforts of my honourable friend opposite who tried to see that the conditions of the licence were observed. He was talking about division among Hindus. Division in any community on political issues is healthy. But probably he was referring to the division among the Mahabir Dal, because I have heard that some prominent Hindus remarked—and these remarks are attributed to my honourable friend opposite also—that the Mahabir Dal wanted to ruin the Hindu Maha Sabha and that it ought not to have been invited. We hear that such remarks have been made. Is it correct?

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** It may or may not be. It is a different question altogether. The question now is whether the Mahabir Dal people are responsible for this trouble. They did not join the procession as a matter of protest. Therefore they are not in the least responsible for what happened or for the *lathi* charge. They had made it clear that they were not joining the procession. It might be that some people blamed them for not doing something. But they had their own code of honour and they stood by it. It does not mean that they were responsible for anything that has happened there.

**Premier :** All I meant was that they were responsible for this indirect trouble caused to distinguished guests from other provinces and I am very sorry that this should have happened. That is why I say that the trouble is not with the Government, it is not with the executive, but it is with that organisation which wanted to get over the terms of the licence. I know that one gentleman remarked that the Mahabir Dal wanted to ruin the Mahasabha and they ought not to have been invited. It was these people who caused undue trouble and not anybody on the official side. It

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was Christmas Day, and the District Magistrate of Amritsar gave up his Christmas and remained on duty trying to bring about a compromise, trying to set matters right. He used a little force but still he had to use it to enforce law and order. The trouble lay with somebody else and while I am talking on this subject I must say that all goes to the credit of these officers. We are fully satisfied that they did their duty well and in very difficult circumstances. It is an unhappy state of affairs if instead of getting appreciation they get some sort of criticism. However, I regret again and I must say here publicly that I am very sorry that inconvenience was caused to these gentlemen and I hope the general public realise the facts of the case. Under the circumstances I do not think I need say anything more on the subject.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** Is the Honourable Premier prepared to hold an impartial enquiry according to his own standard ?

**Premier :** I have no power to hold any enquiry against the Mahabir Dal and that organisation. I have shown how it was that a certain faction in the Hindu Mahasabha was causing this trouble.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** Not at all. I must protest against this. The Honourable Premier has tried to throw blame on others.

**Premier :** I have very short time at my disposal and I have still a few points to mention. If there is time left I will be willing to answer questions.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** This is the question of questions. Are you prepared to appoint an enquiry committee ?

**Premier :** If I take my honourable friend's words, which are not denied, the enquiry should be against the Mahabir Dal.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** Not at all.

**Premier :** I hope he will hold an enquiry and see that this trouble does not arise in future and they are not invited.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** That is very unfair. The Honourable Premier is accusing people who are not here to defend themselves.

**Premier :** I have all along quoted my honourable friend's words.

I now come to another case mentioned by Malik Barkat Ali rather prominently yesterday, that a colleague of mine had been responsible for shielding a corrupt officer. I wish Malik Barkat Ali were here in his seat but he is not. The case came to my notice and it concerned a jail official. Reports were made to Honourable Minister of Finance and the Honourable Minister of Revenue and enquiries were made. I do not want to go into the facts of the case because the member who raised the question is not here and the honourable members here do not know the details of the case. This officer, who happens to be a senior Hindu gentleman, had a very good record in the Jail Department. He is supposed to be one of our best superintendents. He took certain jail officials to task and tried to eradicate corruption and got an Assistant Superintendent first suspended and then dismissed. The dismissal took place on the advice of the Public Services Commission, so the case was amply proved. Then he had to take action against certain prominent prisoners and some non-official jail visitors. About the jail visitors there was no other trouble except this. You know that durries are made and repairs are carried out to them in jails. This particular jail visitor sent a durrie for repairs which the Superintendent could not carry out ; hence this trouble. So, all these people who had grudges against this officer, combined

together and sent a petition. According to the declaration of the Punjab Government that any petition received against corrupt officers would be enquired into, this petition was enquired into, but in view of the past trouble in the jail, we asked the Home Secretary himself to look into the case and the Home Secretary, after due enquiry, came to the conclusion that this was due to enmity. Another case that was brought up by Malik Barkat Ali was that some peon was wrongly paid. It so happened that there were two peons with the same name. The names were similar, the peon was there and had been rightly paid. All the other cases showed that there was nothing but malice and on the Home Secretary's report the Honourable Finance Minister, with my concurrence, said that the case was not worth proceeding. That is a simple sort of case and it is nothing more than this. The other case he mentioned was that a particular peon did not travel and the officer concerned realised his travelling allowance for his bearer. That is a perfectly true case and we were thankful to Malik Barkat Ali for bringing it out. The officer was taken to task. The Electricity Department was then in my portfolio and serious departmental action was taken against the official. The facts were reported in the Public Accounts Committee. It is an old case and there is now nothing about it. The particular officer is no longer serving in the Punjab. In this very connection I would like to refer to a remark made by Mr. Guest. He said that dearness allowance had not been sufficiently generous and that the police deserved special consideration. I do not want to differ from him. Dearness allowance has been very liberally given in the Punjab to the tune of a crore and a half already. I do not say we should stop here. We are constantly examining as to what are the classes of Government servants who want more relief. The betterment of their condition is engaging our attention. The result will be known when we have examined the cases. Dearness allowance is already given to all deserving servants but if further relief is needed that question is being looked into.

One thing more I would like to say. During the course of discussions there is a tendency to lapse into communal discussions from time to time. I know that on railway platforms we get an element like water by certain names. One is called Hindu Pani and the other is called Muslim Pani, etc., and today I notice a tendency that even irrigation projects are being given communal names. Even judged from that point of view we are happy in the Punjab because we have two projects under construction—one in the Hindu area and the other in Thal—a Muslim area and Sikhs, luckily, have their area already irrigated.

**Sardar Bahadur Sardar Gurbachan Singh :** What about Jullundur ? That is left out.

**Premier :** That is not left out. That is one of the important problems we are tackling at the present moment and I hope relief will come that way also.

I was not present in the House when some people said that a certain Minister was strong and a certain Minister was weak. I do not want to say anything on this subject. We have big principles in view on which we are working and the strength or weakness of a Minister does not count. It is those principles that bind us together as a team and the principle according to which we work is justice to all without any caste, creed or community (*Hear, hear*). If any honourable member has any doubts on that, I cannot perhaps remove all his doubts but I will endeavour to do so as we have done in the past. Then, some people talked about politics and said that this was happening and that was happening and vast differences were coming in. So far as I am concerned and as long as I am here I do not stand for the rule of any one class. Here the rule is by the



[Premier.]

Punjabees of the Punjab. It is a rule by the Punjabees of the Punjab and for the Punjab.

Well, Sir, the creed of our combined party stands as follows. It is particularly to look after the agricultural classes because they are backward. We do not exclude any other backward community or class and we include all poor urban areas and poor scheduled castes. I was sorry to find out that there was a remark made by my scheduled caste colleague that nothing in the budget appeared for them. I have not looked into it. But I may say that scholarships to the tune of 82 thousand rupees were earmarked for them. If there was such a provision previously and is not there at present, I stand here to announce that it shall be restored. (*Hear, hear.*) Not only that, if genuine cases are put forward on behalf of minorities, I can assure my friends that, with the ample finances we have, they will receive sympathetic consideration of the Finance Department and I will look into all those cases. (*Interruptions.*) As to the Christians, my honourable friend has remarked that they are the ruling class of the Punjab. I, of course, do not claim that there is any ruling class. We are fast approaching a stage when there will be no particular ruling class. It is the Punjabee who is ruling the Punjab and will rule the Punjab. If there is any question of a particular class being the ruler, I can assure you that it will not be Mr. Singha.

**Khan Bahadur Shaikh Karamat Ali:** May I know one thing with regard to scheduled castes? Is there any possibility of this class being consumed by the three major communities of the province, i.e., Muslims, Hindus and Sikhs?

**Premier:** With regard to this my honourable friend can negotiate with their representatives. I was saying that here we stand committed to looking after the backward classes and particularly the agriculturists because they happen to be the majority community in this province. I do not stand for any sub-division amongst agriculturists. I should make it plain that I want them all to live as a happy family, as a big brother and small brother live together in the same family and pursue one objective. Similarly all Punjabis should have that objective in view. If we have that objective in view, I am sure we will be able to make a success of it, however difficult the circumstances may be to-day. After all Provincial Autonomy is working well in this province. This is due to the common sense of all Punjabees and of all communities. We do not claim any particular credit for it. It is due to all gentlemen taking a broad view of things and not being narrow minded. If we pursue the same objective and if we stick to the principles laid down by this Party during the last 7 years, I am sure, with God's grace, we will go from success to success. With these words I conclude my remarks.

**Minister of Public Works** (The Honourable Sirdar Shaukat Hyat-Khan): Sir, I have just to say a few words with regard to the criticism levelled against the department in my portfolio. First of all, I would like to deal with the criticism brought forward by my honourable friend from Lahore about the grants made to district boards. Before I go into the details, I would like to make it quite clear at the very outset that the policy of the Government is to help, as far as possible, this great rural link in the chain of democracy. The Government has been following this policy ever since it came into power. Apart from handsome contribution to the district boards from the Education Department for the betterment of education and for the dearness allowance of teachers, we have given definite consolidation and development grants for the betterment of the

district boards. But while we have to give a great deal of help to local bodies, this House would not wish us to do spoonfeeding to them at the time when they should try to stand on their own legs. District boards have ample power for taxation and if they use them properly, I am sure, in these days of boom they will find money for expenses from extra taxation. But, however, this does not mean that we are not prepared to give any help to those who still need help from the Government and from the province. As a matter of fact, this year we are going to review our previous grants to district boards and I can assure the House that every possible consideration will be given to the claims of needy district boards whose income falls below their expenditure. We have further provided in the new District Board Bill, which is coming before the House in a shortwhile, for increase of power of taxation of the district boards. We are doubling the land cess which a district board can impose and, I am sure, if they make use of these means, they will have the finances and be able to further their own schemes. If my honourable friend brings forward any special scheme, I am sure, the Government will pay due consideration and will give any help that his district board requires.

The next point I have got here is from my honourable friend the representative of the scheduled castes. He has brought forward allegations of maltreatment of his class in the Panchayats and various other difficulties which his community is suffering from in the Panchayat Department. I can assure him that if any specific cases of any such maltreatment at the hands of other communities are brought to the notice of the Government, certainly action will be taken by us against all offenders. He has already referred one case to me and I have ordered an enquiry into the matter and I am sure he will soon hear the result.

Then, my honourable friend from Lahore came forward with the remarks with regard to acquisition of land in the Lahore Corporation area. I do not want to go into the details because the matter is going to be discussed and decided in a short-while. But what I would like to point out to my friend is that factories cannot be built in the air. We have to find some land and some place for site within the corporation area of Lahore. If we do not provide land for factories, I am sure, the industries of the province and specially in the city of Lahore, will remain undeveloped. We are trying our level best to help those agriculturists whose lands are being acquired and to provide for them land if they require land and houses in place of their present houses and at the same time we are giving them option to sell their lands independently, if they like and we are also prepared to pay them the same price which is required by them to purchase other land. We have to plan this industrial town of Lahore. Those people should not find any difficulty in getting justice and treatment which they deserve. I have not got much time and therefore I submit that if any honourable member has got any difficulty about it he can discuss it with me.

**Mr. Speaker :** 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. 1,21,73,400 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March 1945, in respect of General Administration.

*The motion was carried.*

*The Assembly then adjourned till 12 noon on Monday, 18th March 1944.*

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**PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**  
**ELEVENTH SESSION OF THE FIRST PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE**  
**ASSEMBLY**

*Monday, 18th March 1944*

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

**STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

**BABA GURMUKH SINGH**

**\*9010. Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Will the Hon'ble Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether he is aware of the fact that Baba Gurmukh Singh a well known political prisoner is lying ill in the Lyallpur District Jail ;

(b) whether he is aware of the fact that Baba Gurmukh Singh's eyesight is very weak and that his spectacles have broken and new ones have not been provided to him ;

(c) whether he is aware of the fact that Baba Gurmukh Singh lost his set of artificial teeth long ago and that no provision has been made so far to furnish him with a new set ;

(d) if the answers to the foregoing parts be in the affirmative, the reasons therefor and the action Government intend to take in the matter ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) :** (a) He is confined in the District Jail, Lyallpur, but is not ill.

(b) No. When a report is submitted to Government that his spectacles have broken he will be provided with new ones. No such report has so far been received by Government.

(c) He has been permitted to consult a local dentist at Lyallpur. He will be properly attended to for all his ailments.

(d) Does not arise.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** May I know when the Parliamentary Private Secretary got this information from the local authorities ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** About a fortnight ago.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** May I know whether this gentleman was ever admitted into the jail hospital ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** No.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Is the Parliamentary Private Secretary sure that Baba Gurmukh Singh did not apply for getting spectacles at Government cost ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** From the information which I possess, he did not apply.

**RAJWANT SINGH**

**\*9071. Sardar Teja Singh Swatantar :** Will the Hon'ble Finance Minister be pleased to state—

(a) whether he is aware of the fact that one Rajwant Singh, son of Budh Singh, of village Santpura, District Gujrat, appeared before the High Court

[ S. Teja Singh Swatantar ]

Lahore, on August 27, 1943, in connection with his revision petition before the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Mohammad Munir ;

(b) whether he is aware of the fact that orders were passed by the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Mohammad Munir on August 27, 1943, in the presence of the aforesaid Rajwant Singh that his sentence was reduced from three years to one year ;

(c) whether he is aware of the fact that on August 27, 1943, Mr. Rajwant Singh had already undergone more than one year of his sentence inclusive of the remission earned by him ;

(d) whether he is aware of the fact that the reduction warrant of Mr. Rajwant Singh was sent to the Lyallpur Jail for his release on October 4 1943 ; if so, the reasons for sending the above-named release order after so much delay ?

**The Honourable Sir Manohar Lal :** (a), (b), (c) Yes.

(d) Yes. The delay which occurred in the course of transmission of the reduction warrant, was due partly to the absence from the station on account of vacations of the Sessions Judge who was to issue the necessary revised order to the Jail authorities, and partly to up-to-date information being not available in the office of the Sessions Judge about the jail in which the prisoner was confined at the time.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** May I know who supplies the information to the Sessions Judge that such and such prisoner is in such and such prison ?

**Minister :** I really do not know.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** May I know how much time usually or ordinarily it takes to serve a reduction warrant on the prisoner ?

**Minister :** Ordinarily it would not take more than a few days.

**Sardar Sohn Singh Josh :** Few days means five or ten days ?

**Minister :** Less than ten days.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Could not this delay have been avoided in the present case ?

**Minister :** I have given the reasons which led to the delay.

RAM NATH

\*9038. **Sardar Teja Singh Swatantar :** Will the Hon'ble Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government has received any application from one Ram Nath an internee in Amritsar, dated 14th August 1943, addressed to the Home Secretary ;

(b) whether he is aware of the fact that the aforesaid Ram Nath has to work hard for his livelihood and that his restriction to the limits of the Amritsar city hinders his work ;

(c) whether the Government has considered his application mentioned above ; if so, the action taken in the matter ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) :** (a) No.

(b) Government are not aware that restriction to Amritsar hinders his work; the contrary would appear to be the case.

(c) In view of answer to part (a), does not arise.

MR. AVINASH CHANDER SEHGAL

\*9035. **Sardar Ajit Singh** : Will the Hon'ble Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that Mr. Avinash Chander Sehgal, M.A., son of Shrimati Shanno Devi, M.L.A., has been interned in the Dera Ghazi Khan District Jail for the last 10 months; if so, his present state of health, his weight at the time of his internment and his weight at present;

(b) under what circumstances Mr. Avinash Chander was interned and what were the allegations against him;

(c) whether he is aware of the fact that Mr. Avinash Chander is the only political prisoner in the aforesaid jail; if so, why he has not been interned where other political prisoners have been interned;

(d) whether the Government has any intention of transferring him to some other jail in the Punjab where other political prisoners are interned; if so, when, and if not, why not?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah): (a) (i) Yes.

(ii) It is regretted that the information is not readily available in head-quarter offices in Lahore.

(b) Subversive and anti-Government activities.

(c) He is not the only prisoner of his kind there.

(d) Does not arise.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan** : May I know whether previous to his arrest he was living in the municipal area of Lahore?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** : I am not aware of it.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan** : Did the Parliamentary Private Secretary try to find out the allegations against him?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** : I have already said 'subversive and anti-Government activities'.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan** : May I know what were those activities?

**Premier** : Every detail which comes under the main head cannot be described.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan** : Does not the Parliamentary Private Secretary know the details?

**Premier** : I am sorry, but the honourable member's curiosity cannot be satisfied in this respect.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma** : May I know whether the Government is prepared to bring this gentleman before a regular court of law for trial?

**Premier** : That does not arise out of this question.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan** : Is it the fear that Government's case will fall through and that is the reason for not trying this gentleman in a court of law?

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** What are the difficulties in the way of the Premier in getting information with respect to the health of Mr. Avinash Chander Sehgal asked for in part (a) ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** I have already stated that the information is not readily available in headquarter offices.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** What is the difficulty in the way of the Parliamentary Private Secretary in getting the information ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary, :** I want notice for that.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** Is the Parliamentary Private Secretary aware in which jail Mr. Avinash Chander is detained at present ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** I am not aware.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** May I know whether in the case of detenus or security prisoners any record of their health is maintained in the jails ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** Yes, in the jails where they are confined a record is maintained.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** May I know whether the Government tried to get information about his health from the Superintendent of Dera Ghazi Khan jail where he is confined at present ?

**Premier :** Why should we find out ? According to our knowledge Dera Ghazi Khan is a healthy place and in the absence of information to the contrary, it is to be presumed that he is hale and hearty.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** The questioner has asked about the detenu's health as he has been confined in jail.

**Premier :** If we have not received any information about his bad health it means that the man is in good health.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** Does it mean that people do not fall ill there ?

**Premier :** If any of such prisoners fall ill we usually get the information.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Is any report available about the health of this gentleman ?

**Premier :** There is no report about his illness.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Did Government try to collect information about his health ?

**Premier, :** Why should we collect any such information ?

#### SAID GUL KHAN

**\*9056. Sardar Ajit Singh :** Will the Hon'ble Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether he is aware of the fact that one Said Gul Khan, a political worker, who is interned in his village in Chak 288-G. B., Tahsil Jaranwala, District Lyallpur, is suffering from pleurisy and chronic fever ;

(b) whether it is a fact that the said Said Gul Khan was for three years a prisoner in Deoli and Gujrat Jails and was released on medical grounds from the Gujrat Jail and later on he was interned in his own village ; if so, whether Government intend to allow him to proceed to Lahore to get necessary medical aid ; if not, the reasons therefor ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah):** (a) Sher Gul (not Saif Gul Khan) is restricted to the revenue limits of Chak No. 298-G. B., Lyallpur district; Government is not aware of the fact that he is suffering from pleurisy and chronic fever at the present time.

(b) He was detained in June 1940, and was released and restricted to his village in September 1942, as a result of a review of his case by Government. The release was not on medical grounds. His case for permission to come to Lahore for treatment will be considered if and when he applies for such permission.

### CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE DETENUS

**\*9080. Lala Bhagat Ram Choda:** Will the Hon'ble Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that non-official visitors are not allowed to meet the civil disobedience movement detenus and convicts unless they are accompanied by the official members of the Jail Visitors Board; if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether he would be pleased to place on the table of the House copies of the circulars issued in the above-named connection to the jails where civil disobedience movement detenus and convicts are confined?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah):** The attention of the honourable member is invited to the reply given to question \*8985<sup>1</sup> asked by Sardar Kapoor Singh on 3rd March 1944.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan:** What are the fears of the Government in allowing the non-official visitors to see these prisoners?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary:** The honourable member can find the reply in the answer to Question No. \*8985<sup>1</sup>.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan:** Will the Parliamentary Private Secretary read out the reply to that question now?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary:** I have not got the reply with me at present.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan:** What are the reasons for not allowing the non-official visitors to see the prisoners?

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma:** Is very harsh treatment being meted out to these detenus so that Government do not want the non-official visitors to know this state of affairs?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary:** No, Sir.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma:** What else is the reason?

**Premier:** Non-official visitors come and look into the ordinary jail administration. These detenus, not being ordinary prisoners, are getting special treatment.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma:** Are these detenus being governed by a different set of jail rules?

**Premier:** Of course they are. We are giving them special concessions which ordinary prisoners do not get.



**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** What are those concessions? Is the Honourable Premier prepared to bring those concessions to the notice of the non-official visitors?

**Premier :** Honourable members get this information here on the floor of the House. There is no necessity of our giving this information to Jail visitors.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** The Honourable Premier conceals this information as a matter of fact.

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** I gave all the information with regard to the concessions to this class of prisoners to the House the other day.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** Will the Parliamentary Private Secretary read his reply to Sardar Kapoor Singh's question?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** I have not got a copy of the reply with me at the moment.

#### CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE DETENUS

**\*9081. Lala Bhagat Ram Choda :** Will the Hon'ble Premier be pleased to state whether the civil disobedience movement detenus and convicts, 1942, are allowed to see the rules governing their treatment in jails; if not, why?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) :** The attention of the honourable member is invited to the reply given to question \*8986<sup>1</sup> asked by Sardar Kapoor Singh on the 3rd March 1944.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** Will the Parliamentary Private Secretary kindly read out the reply to that question?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** I am sorry I have not got a copy of the answer with me.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** Can the Parliamentary Private Secretary give the gist of that reply?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** No, Sir.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Is that exactly the same question as the present one?

**Premier :** More or less.

#### LALA GIAN CHAND

**\*9082. Lala Bhagat Ram Choda :** Will the Hon'ble Premier be pleased to state —

(a) whether it is a fact that Lala Gian Chand of Mianwali was arrested and kept as an under-trial civil disobedience prisoner in the local district jail;

(b) whether after being sentenced under the Defence of India Rules for hoisting the National Flag on the municipal building on the 26th January, 1943, he was sentenced and ordered to be treated as ordinary "C" class prisoner;

(c) the reasons for his not being treated as a civil disobedience prisoner after his conviction?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah): (a) No. He was treated as an ordinary prisoner while under trial.

(b) and (c) He was classified as a 'O' class prisoner by the trying magistrate, but was reclassified as civil disobedience prisoner by the District Magistrate.

#### SECURITY PRISONERS

**\*9113. Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma:** Will the Hon'ble Premier be pleased to state whether any distinction is made in the treatment and status of security prisoners confined in Special Jail, Gujrat, District Jail, Rawalpindi, and District Jail, Jhang; if so, the reasons therefor?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah): No distinctions exist.

#### SARDAR NARANJAN SINGH TALIB

**\*9114. Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma:** Will the Hon'ble Premier be pleased to state—

(a) the jail where the security prisoner named Sardar Naranjan Singh Talib is confined;

(b) whether it is a fact that he has been suffering from some nose and throat diseases for the last two years;

(c) if the answer to (b) be in the affirmative whether Government has made arrangements to have his nose and throat treated by a specialist; if not, why not;

(d) whether any qualified physician has made a report on his case; if so, whether he is prepared to lay a copy of the report on the table of the House;

(e) the present state of his health and the nature of medical treatment he is receiving at present?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah): This prisoner is detained under the order of the Central Government. Questions about him cannot be asked on the floor of this House but should be addressed to the Government of India.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan:** Is he in this province or outside the Punjab?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary:** I have already stated that this prisoner is detained under the order of the Central Government. Such questions should therefore be addressed to the Government of India.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan:** Is he confined in this province?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary:** Obviously he is detained in this province.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh:** Is this Government responsible for his health?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary:** Nobody can be responsible for his health. It is God Almighty who is responsible.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma:** Who is in charge of the jail?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary:** The jail officials.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma:** Have the Punjab Government abdicated in favour of the Government of India?

**Premier :** We are carrying on this work on their behalf. The honourable member can have a question put to the Government of India and we shall supply the necessary information to them when they ask us.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Are the Punjab Government only the agents of the Government of India ?

**Premier :** They have entrusted this work to us and we are doing it on their behalf.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Are the Punjab Government responsible for his health ?

**Premier :** Nobody can be responsible for anybody's health. As my friend said, it is God Almighty who is responsible.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Then say the Punjab Government are not responsible.

**Premier :** The Central Government is responsible for his detention.

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** Why does not my honourable friend have this question put in the Central Assembly ?

#### DEOLI CAMP PRISONERS IN DISTRICT JAIL, JHANG

**\*9115. Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Will the Hon'ble Premier be pleased to state :—

(a) the reasons for the abolition of the Deoli Camp ;

(b) whether it is a fact that one of the demands of the Deoli Camp prisoners was to transfer them to jails in their home districts ; if so, the distance of Jhang from the home districts of each of the prisoners who were formerly confined in the Deoli Camp and who are at present confined in the District Jail, Jhang ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) : (a) (i) Persistent demand of security prisoners on hunger strike to be repatriated to their own provinces.

(ii) Difficulties of interviews owing to long distances.

(iii) Lack of medical facilities.

(b) No.

#### CONGRESS DETENUS, CONVICTS AND SECURITY PRISONERS

**\*9122. Sardar Kapoor Singh :** Will the Hon'ble Premier be pleased to state the total number of Congress detenus, convicts, security and State prisoners detained in each of the following jails in the Punjab :—

(i) Lahore Central Jail,

(ii) Lahore Borstal Jail,

(iii) Sub-Jail, Muzaffargarh,

(iv) Sub-Jail, Kasur,

(v) Sialkot Jail,

(vi) Sub-Jail, Gujrat,

(vii) Old Central Jail, Multan, and New Jail, Multan,

(viii) District Jail, Mianwali,

(ix) District Jail, Ambala,

- (x) District Jail, Rawalpindi,
- (xi) District Jail, Jhang,
- (xii) District Jail, Ferozepore,
- (xiii) District Jail, Lyallpur,
- (xiv) District Jail, Campbellpur,
- (xv) Sub-Jail, Dharmasala ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah):** The position as it stood on the 1st February 1944 is as follows :—

		Civil Disobedience detenus	Civil Disobedience Convicts	Security Prisoners.	State Prisoners
(i)	..	23	..	21	..
(ii)	..	1	4	..	..
(iii)	..	..	..	4	..
(iv)	..	..	..	5	..
(v)	..	33	..	..	..
(vi)	..	..	..	57	..
(vii)	..	141	98	..	..
	..	2	..	23	..
(viii)	..	45	3	..	..
(ix)	..	43	9	..	..
(x)	..	..	..	9	..
(xi)	..	..	..	2	..
(xii)	..	47	23	1	..
(xiii)	..	1	1	2	..
(xiv)	..	..	..	3	..
(xv)	..	..	..	3	..

**MR. KHUSHI RAM**

**\*9124. Sardar Ajit Singh:** Will the Hon'ble Premier be pleased to state whether he is aware of the fact that Mr. Khushi Ram of Oty Bank case is interned within the limits of the City of Lahore Corporation; if so, whether any representations have been made to the Government by the said Mr. Khushi Ram praying that the restrictions imposed upon him may be removed; if so, with what result?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah):** First part :—Yes.

Second part :—Yes, these were duly considered and rejected.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh:** Since how long has he been interned within the city of Lahore?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary:** I require notice of that.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh:** Did he represent to the Government that he could not be given an appointment because he was interned in this city and could not go out?

**Premier:** We will consider that question if and when he gets an employment.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh:** Did the Government receive any representation from the Manager, Tata Oil Mills, saying that Mr. Khushi Ram would be given an appointment if he were allowed to go out of Lahore?

**Premier:** Nothing definite has been heard. As I have said when we hear definitely that he is getting an appointment we will consider the question.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh:** Has he received an application from the Manager, Tata Oil Mills.

**Premier:** We have heard nothing definite.

#### POSTING OF EXTRA POLICE IN CERTAIN VILLAGES OF THE HOSHIARPUR DISTRICT

\*9145. **Sardar Sohan Singh Josh:** Will the Hon'ble Premier be pleased to state—

(a) the number and names of villages in the Hoshiarpur district where extra police have been posted on grounds of misconduct with a statement of the expense borne by each such village in the year 1943;

(b) whether Government have considered the question of withdrawing the extra police from any of the villages mentioned in (a); if not, why not;

(c) the amount realized from the villages so far, and the methods of realizing it;

(d) whether the grounds on which the extra police were posted still operate in all the cases?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah):** (a) A statement detailing the required information is placed on the table.

(b) No, the circumstances which necessitated the location of the Police Posts, still exist.

(c) No amount has so far been realized from the villages. The cost of the posts will be realized with the land revenue instalments.

(d) Yes.

## Statement

Serial No.	Name of the post	Names of the villages saddled with the cost of the Additional Police	Date of location of the post	Expenses to be borne by the villages noted in column 2.
				Rs. A. P.
1	Ajnaha, Police Station Mahilpur.	(1) Ajnaha, (2) Baddon, (3) Nangal Thandal, (4) Pinjaur, (5) Dandian, (6) Nidalou, (7) Mehlan, (8) Alawalpur, (9) Pandori, Ganga Singh and (10) Jalvera	1st September 1943	22,609 4 2
2	Moranwali, Police Station Garhshankar.	(1) Moranwali, (2) Whidpur, (3) Farsi, (4) Paddi Sura Singh, (5) Kitha and (6) Akalgarh.	1st September 1943	12,649 13 1
3	Kukran, Police Station Garhshankar.	(1) Kukran, (2) Jaasowal, (3) Pokhowal, (4) Biram, (5) Rampur, Biron, (6) Bhaowal, and (7) Hadran.	1st October 1943	10,029 9 6
4	Bhungarni, Police Station Sadr.	(1) Bhungarni	1st October 1943	9,319 7 4
5	Jian, Police Station Sadr.	(1) Jian, (2) Chabbewal, (3) Bathula, (4) Bibala, (5) Lahli Kalan, (6) Lahli Khurd and (7) Dhillowal.	15th October 1943.	12,315 13 6
6	Dhada Kalan,	(1) Dhada Kalan, (2) Dhada Khurd, (3) Mehrowal, Tobana, (5) Data, (6) Chela, (7) Binjon, (8) Pandori Ladha Singh, (9) Kot Fatubi, (10) Bahbelpur, (11) Mananbana, (12) Pach Nangal, (13) Khushalpur and (14) Bha-gatpur.	20th November 1943.	34,432 10 10
7	Binjon			
8	Pandori Ladha Singh			
9	Pach Nangal, Police Station Mahilpur.			
10	Barian Kalan, Police Station Mahilpur.	(1) Barian Kalan and (2) Barian Khurd.	1st December 1943.	7,711 4 9

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** May I know whether the people concerned wrote to Government that they were not harbouring any proclaimed offenders?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** I have no information.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** May I know whether Government received any application from these people saying that they wanted to keep peace and that they were fighting against the proclaimed offenders?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** If the honourable member had listened to my answer, he would have found that I have already answered his present question. If he wants to ask any further question, will he please give notice?

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** Has Government considered the question of withdrawing the extra police from these villages? If so, when did it consider it?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** These police posts have only just been established and if the honourable member looks at the dates he will see that they are of very recent dates.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** I want to know whether Government has considered the question of withdrawing the police posts from these villages or not.

**Premier :** Obviously not. It is only recently that Government decided to impose the posts. The question of withdrawal will be considered after the lapse of sufficient time. If they mend their ways, then the posts will be withdrawn.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** Have they not mended their conduct during these days ?

**Premier :** We have been watching them for years without any change. We will re-examine these cases after six months or a year. We cannot very well impose a post and shortly afterwards withdraw it. Normally if a village has been considered criminal and Government has come to a decision to impose a post, no revision takes place earlier than six months or a year.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** The leopard cannot change its spots.

**Premier :** I think that is correct.

**Sardar Moola Singh :** May I know from the Honourable Premier if those poor depressed class people who have helped the police in arresting absconders will be exempted from the payment of the punitive tax ?

**Premier :** The District Magistrate has the power to examine the cases and where there have been people who have been helping the police, those cases are sympathetically considered.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** Has any policy been laid down governing these cases or is the matter left to the District Magistrates ?

**Premier :** We cannot very well decide these matters. The District Magistrate puts up the facts before Government, and Government, decides.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** May I know whether it is the general rule that the tax is levied on everybody ?

**Premier :** Yes, there is collective responsibility, except when it is specifically proved that a particular person was helping the law and was not criminal.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** There may be only half a dozen criminals, yet their sins are visited on all the people.

**Premier :** Yes, there is collective responsibility. Every citizen is expected to preserve law and order.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** In 99 per cent cases the police informers are themselves dacoits, is that not so ?

**Premier :** Rarely there may be mistakes, but not ordinarily ; otherwise criminals would not be brought to book.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** No respectable man can be a police informer.

**Premier :** I entirely agree with you.

POST-WAR RECONSTRUCTION COMMITTEE

\*9146. **Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Will the Hon'ble Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government has set up any Post-War Reconstruction Committee;

(b) if the reply to (a) above be in the affirmative the names of its members; the number of meetings held by the said committee, if any, and the items of agenda discussed by the committee in question, if any, so far?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) :** (a) and (b) A meeting of the Punjab Post War Reconstruction Board, which is purely an official body, was held on the 3rd February 1948. A copy of the proceedings which includes the names of members is laid on the table<sup>1</sup>. This Committee is concerned with departmental plans only, but the Honourable Ministers concerned have constituted sub-committees of members of this House to advise them on departmental plans. These would be considered by Government and due weight would be given to the opinions expressed by non-officials.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** May I know who constituted this official committee?

**Premier :** Government.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Governor or the Honourable Premier?

**Premier :** Punjab Government.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** May I know whether there is any Minister on this committee?

**Premier :** The heads of departments meet together to frame the schemes. The schemes are then laid before the Honourable Ministers who on the advice of the official members of the department concerned decide. The Honourable Ministers have other advisory bodies in their departments. They consider these schemes and bring about departmental co-ordination.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** May I know why no non-official members have been taken on this committee or consulted in this matter?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** I have already stated that these committees are concerned with departmental plans and as the Honourable Premier has stated, after these plans have been formulated the Honourable Minister concerned will examine them with the advice of the honourable members of this House and later on the Punjab Government will come to a decision about them, and if the Soldiers Board have to be consulted they will be consulted.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** The Parliamentary Private Secretary says that the Honourable Minister will set up some sub-committees. What are the names of those sub-committees?

**Premier :** Certain sub-committees have already been constituted, and my honourable friend has attended one of those meetings.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** I have read the statement. There is nothing there. I have attended none.

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



**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** The Honourable Finance Minister has constituted a sub-committee with regard to post-war industries, the membership of which is not confined to members of this House but prominent outside industrialists are also members of that sub-committee.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** What are the criteria by which Government takes people on these committees ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** Their knowledge and experience on the subject. My friend does not expect that a committee which sits on post war industries will have a doctor serving on it.

\*9165—9167—*cancelled*.

#### DIFFICULTY IN OBTAINING SMALL CHANGE

**\*9044. Sardar Kapoor Singh :** Will the Hon'ble Minister of Finance be pleased to state —

(a) whether he is aware of the fact that the public in general in the Punjab Province have for some time past, been experiencing considerable trouble in obtaining change, i.e., small coins below rupee one in the market :

(b) if reply to question (a) above, is in the affirmative, the various causes of the aforesaid trouble and inconvenience ;

(c) the measures that have so far been adopted by the Punjab Government to remove the aforesaid grievance ?

**The Honourable Sir Manohar Lal :** (a) Yes ; though the situation of late has considerably improved.

(b) So far as Government are aware, the causes of shortage are :—

(i) hoarding ;

(ii) increased earning power of the public necessitating greater volume of small coin in circulation ;

(iii) influx of people to towns for employment in factories started for military work and thus resulting in greater demand for small change ;

(c) (i) Depots for the issue of small coins were opened in various localities ;

(ii) increased supply of small coins by the Currency to treasuries and sub-treasuries and Imperial Bank Branches was arranged ;

(iii) Prosecutions were launched against hoarders of small coins and dealers who for the sake of profit sold small coins at other than their face value ;

(iv) offer of liberal rewards to persons on whose information convictions of hoarders and dealers were secured.

#### GUR AGENTS IN GURGAON DISTRICT

**\*9090. Chaudhri Sumer Singh :** Will the Hon'ble Minister of Development be pleased to lay on the table of the House —

(a) a copy of the letter sent by the Deputy Commissioner or Civil Supply Officer to all the Tehsildars regarding the appointment of gur agents in the Gurgaon district ;

(b) the date or dates of circulation of the above letter among the *bona fide* dealers in gur in each tehsil of the Gurgaon district ;

(c) the date or dates of receiving applications for agencies in this connection by the Tehsildars ;

(d) if the above-named letter was not given wide publicity, the reasons therefor as also the reasons for not inviting applications in this connection ;

(e) the number of applications for agencies received tehsilwise, with full particulars and the reasons given by the Tehsildars for recommending or rejecting applications in each case in each tehsil ;

(f) how many agents have been appointed and how many of them are *bona fide* dealers in gur and for how long they have been doing this work ;

(g) the amount of gur sold by all the appointed agents in the Gurgaon district during the last two years ;

(h) how many of the agents are *bona fide* dealers in gur, if any non-dealers in gur have been appointed agents, the reasons for their appointments ?

**The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh :** I am sorry that the answer to this question is not yet ready. As complete information was not available in the Deputy Commissioner's office, enquiries have been made from the Tehsildars.

#### DISTRIBUTION OF GUR IN GURGAON DISTRICT

\*9091. **Chaudhri Sumer Singh :** Will the Hon'ble Minister of Development be pleased to supply the following information :—

(a) the basis on which gur has been distributed, tehsilwise, in the Gurgaon district ;

(b) the population of each tehsil in the above-named district and the reasons for giving very little amount of gur to the Ballabgarh tehsil and whether he would be pleased to lay a copy of the Tehsildar's recommendation in this case on the table of the House ?

**The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh :** (a) Gur has been distributed according to the demands of Tehsildars in proportion to the allotment made by Government.

(b)	Population			
(1) Gurgaon	..	..	..	140,523
(2) Rewari	..	..	..	182,175
(3) Palwal	..	..	..	159,641
(4) Nuh	..	..	..	147,649
(5) Firozpur-Jhirka	..	..	..	123,743
(7) Ballabgarh	..	..	..	97,707

The District Magistrate, Gurgaon, asked for 4,000 tons of United Provinces gur for his district on the basis of Tehsildars demands but allotment of 2,000 tons was made to this district. Hence the demand of each Tehsildar was cut by half approximately. A copy of Tehsildar, Ballabgarh's report is attached.

*Copy of a telegram dated the 17th September 1943, from the Tehsildar, Ballabgarh, to the Deputy Commissioner, Gurgaon.*

Nearly 1,500 maunds of first quality gur will be imported from United Provinces for next year.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Which is the Government agency for distribution of gur there ?

**Minister :** The next question deals with this.

**Mian Muhammad Nurullah :** Was the gur meant to be a substitute for sugar ?

**Minister :** It is the usual amount of gur that is imported into the Punjab every year.

#### GUR AGENTS IN GURGAON DISTRICT

**\*9092. Chaudhri Sumer Singh :** Will the Hon'ble Minister of Development be pleased to state —

(a) the number of applications received from the Gurgaon district for their appointment as gur agents ;

(b) how many among those who have been appointed gur agents are statutory agriculturists of the same area and the war services, if any, rendered by them ?

**The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh :** (a) 65.

(b) 4 out of 15.

(1) Shaikh Muhammad Qasim Hussain of Gurgaon donated a sum of Rs. 25 towards the Red Cross.

(2) Pandit Bakhtawar Lall of Farrukhnagar, donated Rs. 617 as War Fund and Rs. 505 towards the Red Cross Fund.

(3) Hakim Sayed Iqbal Hussain, Municipal Commissioner of Rewari, did not render any war service.

(4) Sheikh Faiz Bakhsh, Municipal Commissioner, Rewari, contributed Rs. 10 as War Fund and Rs. 5 towards the Red Cross Fund.

**Chaudhri Sumer Singh :** May I know whether all these agents were *bona fide* gur dealers before they were appointed agents ?

**Minister :** I have got no information on the point.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Are these people required to render any service and are they given these agencies as rewards ?

**Minister :** No.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** What are the considerations which prevail in the appointment of these agents ?

**Minister, :** I have got no information. If the honourable member wants to have further information I shall be glad to get it.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Usually what are the considerations which weigh in their appointment ?

**Minister :** People dealing in gur trade are given preference.

**Chaudhri Sumer Singh :** Was the first named man a *bona fide* gur dealer ? He retired from Government service in the Karnal district only last year.

#### MASTER WAZIR CHAND

**\*9083. Lala Bhagat Ram Choda :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that Master Wazir Chand, B.A., of Mianwali, was arrested by the police under Defence of India Rules, on the 26th January 1943, and was kept in the police lock-up for 15 days ;

(b) whether many books from the private school that was being run by the said Master Wazir Chand were removed by the police after search ; if so, for what purpose ;

(c) whether no water for bathing was given to him in the lock-up and whether he was also tortured ; if so, why ;

(d) whether he was treated as a civil disobedience prisoner in the jail ; if not, why ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) : (a) Wazir Chand was suspected to have been in possession of prejudicial literature. His house was searched and certain books containing alleged prejudicial literature were seized. He was arrested on 25th January 1948 under rule 129, D. O. I. R. and remanded for 14 days to police custody. He was subsequently sent for trial under rule 99 of the Defence of India Rules for being in possession of alleged prejudicial literature but was finally acquitted.

(b) The only books seized were those alleged to contain prejudicial matter.

(c) He was not tortured, and did not ask for water for bathing.

(d) As he was being prosecuted for a substantive offence, he was treated as an undertrial prisoner.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan** : For what purpose was the remand granted in the case of this prisoner ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** : Investigation.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan** : What investigation ? Was any evidence being collected during these 15 days when he was in the police lock-up ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** : My honourable friend had been a police officer and he knows for what purpose remand is made. I have not got any further information.

#### DISTRICT JAIL, JHANG.

\*9084. **Lala Bhagat Ram Choda** : Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state whether he is aware of the fact that there is no electric light in the District Jail, Jhang ; and that a small kerosine oil lamp is provided with a very small quantity of kerosine oil to the political prisoners confined there who are consequently put to great inconvenience ; if so, the action the Government intend to take in the matter ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) : The attention of the honourable member is drawn to the reply given to Assembly question No. 8966<sup>1</sup> asked by Sardar Kapoor Singh in the last Assembly session.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma** : What is the position now ? Are they provided with lights ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** : I have nothing to add.

#### STATEMENT BY DR. SAIF-UD-DIN KITCHLEW.

\*9085. **Lala Bhagat Ram Choda** : Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state whether he is aware of the fact that a certain statement issued by Dr. Saif-ud-Din Kitchlew, a prominent Congress Leader of the Punjab, in the first week of August, 1948, regarding the congress policy with special reference

[L. Bhagat Ram Choda]

to the 9th August, "Congress Leaders' Arrest Day" was not allowed by the Punjab Government to appear in the newspapers of the Province; if so, the reasons therefor and whether he would be pleased to lay a copy of the orders passed in this connection on the table of the House?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah): No orders were passed but advice against publication was given by the Special Press Adviser when the statement was submitted to him, incidentally by a representative of an extra-political newspaper. It is not in the public interest to give reasons.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan**: Was the advice given by the Press Adviser under the orders of the Honourable Premier?

**Premier**: The Press Adviser gives his advice according to his discretion.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan**: His discretion or the Premier's discretion?

**Premier**: It is his discretion, but we appoint him and lay down the policy.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan**: In this particular case, did you instruct him to tender this advice?

**Premier**: He is an officer of standing and he can use his own delegated powers according to his own commonsense.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh**: What was there in the statement which was considered objectionable by the Government?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary**: I have already stated that it is not in the public interest to give reasons. My honourable friend is only putting the same question in another form.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh**: Is it a fact or not that in his statement Dr. Kitchlew advised the Congressmen not to resort to sabotage activities? If this is a fact, then, why was this statement suppressed? Was it suppressed in the public interest?

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma**: Just as the answer is not being given in the public interest?

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan**: Did the Honourable Premier read the statement of Dr. Kitchlew?

**Sardar Santokh Singh**: What was particularly objectionable in that statement?

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh**: May I know who was the representative who brought this statement to the notice of the Government?

#### VISITS TO SECURITY PRISONERS.

\*9116. **Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma**: Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

- (a) the rules governing visits to the security prisoners;
- (b) the period which must elapse between one permissible visit to a security prisoner and the next;
- (c) the number of the security prisoners who have so far taken advantage of the rules governing such visits to them;

(d) if no security prisoner has so far taken advantage of the said rules, the reasons therefor, if they are within the knowledge of the Government ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah): (a) and (b) Security prisoners are allowed one interview in a fortnight and not more than three persons are permitted to visit a security prisoner at one interview. Persons so permitted are allowed at the discretion of the Superintendent to take children under 10 with them.

(c) This information is not available.

(d) Does not arise.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma** : May I know whether at the time of the interviews the Police C. I. D. is also required to be present there ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** : Yes, Sir.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma** : Is he aware that the C. I. D. do not permit any interviews by a person who has no authority to do it ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** : I am not aware of it.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma** : Who is responsible for permitting the children ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** : I have already stated that it is the discretion of the Superintendent.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma** : May I know whether the C. I. D. has anything to do with permitting children for the interviews ?

**Premier** : What does the honourable member mean by ' anything ' ?

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma** : May I know whether the C. I. D. has anything to do with the matter or it is only the discretion of the Superintendent ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** : When application is made, the C. I. D. consider that application and they have the discretion.

**Chaudhri Surher Singh** : Does the rule apply to the ordinary prisoners also ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** : No, Sir.

**Premier** : It applies to a particular class of persons.

#### COMRADE RAM KISHAN

\*9125. **Sardar Ajit Singh** : Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state :—

(a) whether it is a fact that various representations have been made to the Government by the relatives of Comrade Ram Kishan, Secretary, P. P. C. C., to release him on parole so as to enable him to attend upon his ailing son and daughter, if so, with what result ;

(b) whether it is a fact that no family allowance is being given to the said Comrade Ram Kishan, if so, the reasons therefor ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) : (a) Only one representation was received for the release of Ram Kishan on parole owing to the illness of his son. Enquiries were made, but it was considered that the illness of his son was not sufficiently serious to justify a release on parole.

(b) Yes. No application has been made nor is it the policy of Government to give such allowances.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** From where did the Honourable Premier get that information that the condition of his son was not serious?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** From the application.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** From where did the Parliamentary Private Secretary get the information that his son was not ailing or that his condition was not serious?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** Enquiries were made.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** Enquiries from whom? From the Police or from the doctor in charge?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** I am not in possession of all the details. If the honourable member wants further information, he can give me another notice.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** From where did the Parliamentary Private Secretary satisfy himself as to the condition of his child's health?

**Premier :** Intimation about the condition of his son was given by the man who gave the application.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** The position of the Government is that the condition of the child was not serious.

**Premier :** We made due enquiries.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** What is the source of the Honourable Premier's information?

**Premier :** We asked the local people to find out. We have various ways of finding out.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Did the Honourable Premier consult some medical man?

**Premier :** Oh yes. Please give us that much credit.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** Did the Honourable Premier send a doctor there?

**Premier :** We satisfied ourselves through official sources and found that the child was not seriously ill.

#### MAULANA DAUD GHAZNAVI

**\*9126. Sardar Ajit Singh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state :—

(a) whether he is aware of the fact that Maulana Daud Ghaznavi a member of the Provincial Congress High Command, has been keeping indifferent health for some time past, if so, since when ;

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

(c) the nature of the disease he is suffering from ;

(d) whether the Government intend to release him on parole so as to enable him to seek medical treatment according to his choice ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) :** (a) Yes. He has been complaining of one trouble or another since the beginning of 1943.

(b) I regret that this information is not available.

(c) His main complaint is dental trouble for which he has been permitted to visit the clinic of a private local dental surgeon of his own choice. For his other ailments, he is being given proper treatment in the jail hospital under the advice of specialists of the Mayo hospital.

(d) Does not arise.

# ENTRY OF PRESS REPRESENTATIVES INTO PUNJAB CIVIL SECRETARIAT

\*9148. **Sardar Ajit Singh** : Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state :—

(a) whether it is a fact that the entry of certain Press representatives has been prohibited into the compound of the Punjab Civil Secretariat, Lahore by the order of the Punjab Government ;

(b) if so, the names of those Press representatives whose entry has been prohibited and the reasons for the action in question by Government ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) : (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan** : Is it a fact that Mr. Sant Parkash of the United Press was asked not to enter the premises ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary**,: I am not aware.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan** : Did the Parliamentary Private Secretary make enquiries ? When that information was collected, were any enquiries made as to whether any press representative was prohibited from entering the Civil Secretariat or not ?

**Premier** : Nobody is prohibited from entering the Secretariat. There are certain restrictions and those have to be complied with. They have to get proper permission.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan** : From whom ?

**Premier** : From the authorities.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh** : Is the Honourable Premier aware that Mr. Sant Parkash was not given that permission to enter those premises ?

**Premier** : That is a different question. There are certain people who are given perpetual permission. Others have to apply for permission each time.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh** : My question arises out of the reply given.

**Premier** : We know nothing about anybody having been stopped from entering the Secretariat. Certain press representatives who frequently go to the Secretariat are given a sort of permit. If there is any other press representative who wants to visit the Secretariat he can apply. If any press representative has been refused permission, I am not aware of that.

# DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, MONTGOMERY, AND WAR PURPOSES FUND

\*9155. **Sardar Sohan Singh Josh** : Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state whether he is aware of the fact that the Deputy Commissioner of Montgomery at a meeting held in the city on the 11th January 1944, told the lambardars to contribute Rs. 500 each for the War Purposes Fund and that he also threatened them with suspension if they did not contribute the allotted sum ?



**Parliamentary Private Secretary** (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah): I have seen the proceedings of this meeting. It is not a fact and no such threats were held out. The Deputy Commissioner merely made a plea for greater investment in war loans and defence saving certificates and also stressed that recruitment should be speeded up.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh**: May I know whether the Honourable Premier enquired from anybody whether that threat was delivered by the Deputy Commissioner or not? There is no question of going through the entries in the proceedings book.

**Premier**: We have made enquiries and found out that no threat was held out. The Deputy Commissioner, of course, asked people to save a certain amount of money and invest in war loans. He further asked them to accelerate recruiting which is, of course, a laudable object. And why should an anti-fascist be worried over that?

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh**: I am not worried. I want that people should give money but not through threats.

**Premier**: We are against threats but I thought that the honourable member was for total war effort. Now the honourable member is coming under another influence. He is becoming less anti-fascist.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh**: We are growing more and more anti-fascist. The Premier is becoming pro-fascist.

#### POLICE CHOWKI AT SUBHRAI, POLICE STATION PATTI, LAHORE

**\*9158. Sardar Sohan Singh Josh**: Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) the date on, and the reasons for which, the Police Chowki at Subhrai Thana Patti, Lahore, was set up;

(b) whether those reasons still exist;

(c) whether the Government contemplates withdrawing the said police-chowki, if so, when, if not, why not;

(d) the total amount realized from the villagers concerned in this connection up-to-date?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah): (a) The additional police post at village Sabhra, police station Patti, Lahore District, was located with effect from the 8th April 1941, for a period of two years in the first instance and later extended by one year, owing to the criminal activities and associations of the villagers.

(b) Yes.

(c) Yes; on the expiry of the present term of the post; provided the conduct of the inhabitants is satisfactory.

(d) Rs. 7,296-12-6 have been recovered so far.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh**: May I know what the people of this village should do so that they can claim to possess a satisfactory conduct?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary**: All should help in the preservation of law and order.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh**: Is the Parliamentary Private Secretary not aware that they are already law-abiding?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** I have already stated that this punitive police post will be removed if at the end of this year it is found that the criminal activities and associations of the villagers are no longer there.

GANDA SINGH AND HAKIM SINGH

**\*9159. Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state whether the houses of Ganda Singh and Hakim Singh, son of Dayal Singh, of village and thana Bhikiwind, district Lahore, were searched in December 1943, in connection with the search for one Teja Singh, an absconder of the said village, who was convicted and sentenced in connection with the Lahore Conspiracy Case of 1918-14 ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) :** Yes.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** May I know why these people were kept in the lock-up and tortured for days together ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** That question does not arise.

FIXED TRAVELLING ALLOWANCE FOR LOW-PAID OFFICERS

**\*9190. Mian Muhammad Nurullah :** Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the fixed travelling allowance for low-paid officers used to be Rs. 15 per month in the past ;

(b) whether it is also a fact that this travelling allowance was reduced during the financial stringency days to Rs. 11-4-0 per month ;

(c) whether since the war, this travelling allowance has again been raised to Rs. 14 per month ;

(d) whether he is prepared to lay on the table of the House the living index number when fixed travelling allowance was Rs. 15 per month and the living index number when fixed travelling allowances was below Rs. 15 per month ?

**The Honourable Sir Manohar Lal :** (a) Presumably by " low paid officers" the honourable member refers to munshis and clerks in the Irrigation Branch of the Public Works Department. If so the reply is in the affirmative.

(b) Yes.

(c) It has been increased from Rs. 11-4-0 to Rs. 14 per month, with effect from the 1st November 1943, and not since the outbreak of war :

(d) Government do not maintain any living index number.

COMPENSATORY ALLOWANCE OF MEMBERS OF THE PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

**\*9191. Mian Muhammad Nurullah :** Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the compensatory allowance of members of the Punjab Legislative Assembly is going to be subjected to income-tax in the near future, if so, the manner of assessment of the same ;

(b) whether the income-tax rate is going to be uniform for all members irrespective of their income from other sources ;

(c) whether Government contemplates to amend the Members Salaries Act to make compensatory allowance free from income-tax ;

[Md. Nurallah]

(d) whether Government intends to compensate members by raising the scale of compensatory allowance to cover the income-tax deducted?

**The Honourable Sir Manohar Lal :** (a) It is understood that the allowance has been held to be subject to income tax.

(b) The deduction on account of income tax on the allowance would be the same in the first instance but eventually the total amount of income-tax payable by any member would depend on his total income.

(c) and (d) The matter is under consideration.

#### FEES ADMISSIBLE TO LADY DOCTORS

**\*9184. Chaudhri Ali Akbar :** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state :—

(a) the fees lady doctors attached to Government hospitals are officially authorised to charge from patients in the same city or in the neighbourhood ;

(b) whether Government is aware of the fact that lady doctors are charging fees according to their own sweet will and the poor patients have to pay the fee demanded of them, if so, what action do the Government propose to take in the matter?

**The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye :** (a) Where the patient sees the lady doctor at a Government hospital the fees charged are as stated in Government's notification No. 802-M-48/17357, dated the 12th March 1943, that is one pice in the case of an out-patient and one anna in the case of an in-patient. Visiting and operation fees in private wards where the patient's income exceeds Rs. 150 per mensem are shown in appendix LIII to the Punjab Medical Manual. Where the patient's income is less than Rs. 150 per mensem no charge is made.

(b) The honourable member refers perhaps to the fees charged by Government lady doctors during the course of their private practice. No rules have, however, been framed in this connection. The fees are settled by private arrangement between the lady doctor and the patient who wishes to consult her.

#### SITTING ROOM FOR INDIAN TEACHERS OF QUEEN MARY COLLEGE

**\*9185. Rai Bahadur Lala Gopal Das :** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state :—

(a) whether it is a fact that a sitting room is provided for European lady teachers in the Queen Mary College, Lahore ;

(b) whether it is a fact that no such room is provided for the use of Indian teachers of the aforesaid College, if so, the reasons therefor ;

(c) whether Indian teachers are allowed the use of the sitting room provided for the European lady teachers in the aforesaid College; if not, the reasons therefor ;

(d) whether it is a fact that some time back there was a common mess table in the hostel of the above-named College where the teachers could take Indian or English food whichever they liked ;

(e) whether this has been discontinued now ; if so, the reasons therefor ;

(f) whether the Indian teachers of the above-named College have made any representations to the Principal of the college or to the Education Department in respect of the matters mentioned above ;

(g) what action has been taken or is intended to be taken in the matter?

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

(b) Yes, there is a general staff room which is used by all.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) No. There has never been any such arrangement.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) No, the question does not arise as arrangements to which references have been made do not exist.

(g) Does not arise.

#### RESIDENTIAL QUARTERS FOR THE STAFF OF QUEEN MARY COLLEGE

**\*9186. Rai Bahadur Lala Gopal Das :** Will the Hon'ble Minister of Education be pleased to state :—

(a) whether any residential quarters are provided in the Queen Mary College, Lahore, for the members of the staff ;

(b) whether there are any separate quarters ear-marked for the European and Indian staff of the aforesaid College, respectively ;

(c) whether there is any difference between the two types of quarters, e.g., in the matter of ventilation and furniture ; if so, the reasons therefor ;

(d) whether the Indian staff of the above named College represented to the Principal that they may be provided with a separate kitchen with a separate cook ;

(e) whether it is a fact that the request mentioned in (d) has been turned down by the Principal of the aforesaid College ; if so, the reasons therefor ?

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

(b) No.

(c) No furniture is provided by the Government to any member of the staff with the exception of the Principal of the College who, under the terms of her appointment, is provided with furniture for her residence.

(d) A proposal for a separate kitchen was made by a member of the staff at a staff meeting ten or eleven years ago, but after some discussion it was not agreed to by the staff. No representation was made by the Indian staff.

(e) Does not arise.

#### MUSIC CLASSES IN QUEEN MARY COLLEGE

**\*9187. Rai Bahadur Lala Gopal Das :** Will the Hon'ble Minister of Education be pleased to state :—

(a) whether any music classes are conducted in the Queen Mary College, Lahore ;

(b) the date on which the above-named classes were started ;

(c) whether any special fees are charged from the students who take up music as one of their subjects ;

(d) whether a portion of such fees is paid to the Music teacher attached to the aforesaid college ;

(e) whether the various funds administered by the Principal of the college are audited from time to time, if not, the reasons therefor ?

**The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye :** (a) There are no music classes in the college, but if any parents wish their daughters to learn music, private tuitions are arranged by the Principal. The music teachers employed are not Government servants.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The various funds administered by the Principal are audited yearly by the auditors appointed by the Advisory Committee under the scheme approved by Government.

#### NEW SYLLABUS OF STUDIES

**\*9189. Mian Muhammad Nurullah :** Will the Hon'ble Minister of Education be pleased to state :—

(1) whether it is a fact that a new syllabus of studies was approved by the Punjab Government in 1941 ;

(2) whether it is a fact that the Government in the first instance notified that 31st April 1942 as the last date for the submission of the books under the new scheme for approval, which date was however changed later to 31st of October 1942, then to 31st of April 1943, then again to 31st of April 1944 and lastly to 31st of April 1945 ;

(3) the reason or reasons for the postponement of the above dates ;

(4) whether 31st of April 1945 is the final date for the submission of the books and is not likely to be changed as heretofore ?

**The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye :** (1) Yes.

(2) In the first instance Punjab Government notified 31st August 1942, as the last date for the submission of text books under the new scheme. The date was postponed to the 19th October 1942, then to 30th April 1943 and then again to 30th April 1944 and lastly to 30th April 1945.

(3) The postponement in the first instance was due to representations made by the authors and publishers that the time at their disposal for the preparation of text books according to the new syllabus was short, but subsequently the period had to be extended owing to the scarcity and high cost of paper and printing materials, due to the conditions created by the War.

(4) As the printing and publication of good and cheap books is chiefly dependent on the availability and reasonable cost of paper and other writing materials, it is not possible to say at this stage, whether or not this period will be further extended. The position will be reviewed at the appropriate time and the decision will be made after careful consideration of all relevant factors.

**Mian Muhammad Nurullah :** May I know whether the Honourable Minister liked that scheme or not ?

**Minister :** Yes, it has been approved by the Government.

#### SUGAR AGENTS IN PALWAL SUB-DIVISION

**\*9093. Chaudhri Sumer Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister of Development be pleased to state :—

(a) the names of the sugar agents of Palwal sub-division in the Gurgaon district ;

(b) how many of these agents were *bona fide* dealers in sugar before their appointment as such and if they were not dealing in sugar, the reasons for their appointment as agents for sugar?

**The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh :** (a) (1) Lala Ram Chandar, Municipal Commissioner, Palwal.

(2) The Palwal Co-operative Union Bank Limited, Palwal.

(3) Messrs. Reoti Mal-Kirpa Ram of Hodal.

(4) Messrs. Jamna Dass-Piare Lal, Ballabgarh.

(5) Messrs. Nanak Chand-Babu Ram, Ballabgarh.

(6) Messrs. Bindra Ban-Bed Ram, Faridabad.

(7) Lala Banarsi Dass of Fardiabad.

(b) Nos. 3 to 7 were *bona fide* dealers in sugar before their appointment as such. Nos. 1 and 2 were, however, not *bona fide* dealers of sugar. No. 1 was appointed on account of being a reputable firm of sound financial position, and No. 2 to help the co-operative cause.

**Chaudhri Sumer Singh :** Does the Honourable Minister know that there are many complaints against No. 1?

**Minister :** Nothing has been brought to the notice of the Government.

#### VISITS PAID BY DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE TO GURGAON DISTRICT

**\*9096. Chaudhri Sumer Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister of Development be pleased to state—

(a) how many times during the last calendar year the Deputy Director of Agriculture paid visits to the Gurgaon District;

(b) the number of villages visited on each occasion by him and the purpose thereof?

**The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh :**

Dates of visits	No. of villages visited	Purpose
25th January 1943 to 2nd February 1943 ..	22	Inspection of District work, demonstration plots, village touring for development of Agriculture.
11th February 1943, 25th February 1943 to 27th February 1943 ..	2	
18th April 1943 to 20th April 1943 ..	9	
20th May 1943 and 21st May 1943 ..	7	
13th July 1943 .. .. .	..	Inspection of offices of Agricultural Assistants and Extra Assistant Director of Agriculture.
24th September 1943 .. .. .	..	
6th November 1943 .. .. .	..	

#### MODEL FARMS IN TAHSIL BALLABGARH

**\*9097. Chaudhri Sumer Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister of Development be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Deputy Director of Agriculture has made any efforts to start model farms in Tahsil Ballabgarh;

[Ch. Sumer Singh]

- (b) if so, the extent to which he has been able to achieve his object ;
- (c) if he has not succeeded in his object, the reasons therefor ;
- (d) the names of the villages where he tried to start the aforesaid farms?

**The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh :** (a) and (b) No. Model farms can be successfully started in places where consolidated blocks and irrigation facilities exist. The interest taken by the farmers themselves also counts a great deal in pushing the work. Gurgaon district is mostly barani and Ballabgarh Tahsil has a little irrigated area. Under such conditions advantages of Watbandi and levelling only could be demonstrated and with this object in view Watbandi farms were started in five villages. These farms are still in existence but are below the standard.

(c) Lack of interest and apathy of the cultivators stand in the way of further development of this work.

(d) Mulamahrajpur, Dobj, Ajraunda, Tegaon and Dyalpur.

PRINCIPAL, AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE, LYALLPUR

**\*9176. Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister of Development be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government intends to appoint a new Principal for the Agricultural College, Lyallpur; if so, whether he is a European or an Indian ;

(b) whether the claims of the deserving members of the staff of the aforesaid College have been considered in this connection ; if not, why not ?

**The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh :** The matter is under consideration.

#### UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

AHMADI POLICE INSPECTOR, ETC., AT BATALA SADAR OR QADIAN

**1715. Pir Akbar Ali :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state whether an Ahmadi Police Inspector, Sub-Inspector or Head Constable has ever been posted to the Police Station at Batala Sadar or Qadian in the Gurdaspur District ; if not, the reasons therefor ?

**The Honourable Malik Khizar Hayat :** As far as is known, no Ahmadi Police Inspector or Sub-Inspector has ever been posted to the police station at Batala Sadar or Qadian. The Superintendent of Police is not able to say if any of the Muslim head constables posted to these places were Ahmadis or not.

Police officials are posted according to administrative expediency and not according to their religious views.

#### PUNJAB GOVERNMENT PRESS

**1716. Sardar Lal Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state—

(a) the total amount of the salary budget of the employees of the Punjab Government Press for the year 1944-45 ;

(b) the amount paid as salary to the Sikh employees of the Press in question annually ;

- (c) the proportion of (b) to (a) ;  
 (d) the number of employees of the said press who are drawing more than Rs. 100 as monthly salary ;  
 (e) the number of Sikhs among the employees mentioned in (d) ;  
 (f) the proportion of those mentioned in part (e) to those mentioned in part (d) ;  
 (g) if the above figures reveal a marked inequality the steps which Government propose taking to redress the grievance of the Sikhs in the matter ?

**The Honourable Sir Manohar Lal :** (a) Rs. 2,65,690.

- (b) Rs. 10,902.  
 (c) 4.1 per cent.  
 (d) Twenty-two.  
 (e) Nil.  
 (f) Nil.

(g) Posts carrying salaries of Rs. 100 per mensem and above involve a considerable amount of technical knowledge and skill and are necessarily filled by promotion from amongst those members in service who have achieved the requisite technical qualifications and experience in the Department.

#### PUNJAB GOVERNMENT PRESS

**1717. Sardar Lal Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state—

(a) the percentage of Sikh amongst the employees of the Punjab Government Press in January 1944, and January 1943, respectively, and if there has been a decrease in the Sikh representation the reasons therefor ;

(b) whether the Government issued instructions at any time to the Superintendent, Government Printing, Punjab, to the effect that the deficiency in the number of Sikh employees in the Press should be made up, if so, with what result ?

**The Honourable Sir Manohar Lal :** (a) The percentage of Sikh community amongst the employees of the Punjab Government Press is as under :—

In the year 1943 .. .. .	6.4
In the year 1944 .. .. .	5.6

Variations in the percentages of representation of communities are bound to take place. During the calendar year 1948, 8 Sikh employees left service and these vacancies had to be filled by members of other communities in accordance with the rotation of communities prescribed in the block system.

(b) All fresh recruitment is made in accordance with the block system and to improve the representation of Sikh community, the first appointment in each block of 10 posts is allotted, out of the usual rotation, to the members of Sikh community.



## PUNJAB GOVERNMENT PRESS

**1718. Sardar Lal Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state—

- (a) the number of Heads of Branches in the Punjab Government Press?
- (b) the number of Sikhs among those mentioned in part (a) ;
- (c) the proportion of those mentioned in part (b) to those mentioned in part (a) ;
- (d) whether there has ever been a Sikh Head of any Branch in the Press in question, if not, why not ;
- (e) the steps Government contemplate taking to redress the inequality, if any, revealed by these figures ?

**The Honourable Sir Manohar Lal :** (a) There are 9 Heads of Branches in the Punjab Government Press.

(b) None.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Yes.

(e) In making fresh recruitment by block system, the first vacancy in each block of 10 posts is given to a member of the Sikh community to improve their representation. Since January 1941, 30 members of the Sikh community have been appointed. Out of these 23 have left service, probably due to the fact that jobs in the Press are comparatively low-paid and members of the Sikh community, who are generally good artisans find it more remunerative to find employment elsewhere. It will thus be seen that unless members of the Sikh community remain in the department and gain sufficient technical experience by gradual promotion, it will not be possible for them to acquire higher posts in the Printing Department.

## PUNJAB GOVERNMENT PRESS

**1719. Sardar Lal Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Government gave discretionary powers to the Superintendent, Government Printing, in regard to recruitment and promotion to make up the deficiency in the representation of the Sikhs on the staff of the Press, if so, in how many cases have such powers been exercised, if not, why not ?

**The Honourable Sir Manohar Lal :** No. The Superintendent, Government Printing, Punjab, has been authorised to vary in favour of Sikhs the rotation of appointments in each block of ten appointments. In making fresh recruitments by block system the first vacancy in each block of ten posts is given to a member of the Sikh community to improve their representation.

## PUNJAB GOVERNMENT PRESS

**1720. Sardar Lal Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state—

- (a) the method of recruitment in the Punjab Government Press ;
- (b) whether the posts are advertised to get suitable candidates for various posts in the event of their falling vacant or the creation of new posts ;

(c) the measures, if any, proposed to adopt for making up the deficiency in the number of Sikh employees of the Press ?

**The Honourable Sir Manohar Lal :** (a) Recruitment in the Punjab Government Press is made on the basis of the block system. In each block of 10 posts communal proportions laid down are as follows :—

	Per cent
Muslims .. .. .	50
Hindus and others .. .. .	30
Sikhs .. .. .	20

(b) Posts are advertised only if suitable candidates are not available from the waiting list of applicants.

(c) In order to improve representation of Sikhs, the first post in each block of 10 posts is given to a member of the Sikh community instead of a member of the Muslim community.

### SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS

#### LAND REVENUE

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

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,13,440 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.

1 p.m.

*The motion was carried.*

#### FORESTS

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

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 24,33,430 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.

*The motion was carried.*

#### REGISTRATION

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

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 2,410 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.

*The motion was carried.*

#### IRRIGATION WORKING EXPENSES

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

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 27,12,400 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 Irrigation Working Expenses and other Revenue Expenditure financed from ordinary revenues.

**Mr. Speaker :** Demand moved—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 27,12,400 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 Irrigation Working Expenses and other Revenue Expenditure financed from ordinary revenues.

*Additional Supply of Water*

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh** (Amritsar North, Sikh, Rural (Punjabi) :

Sir, I beg to move :—

That the item of Rs. 20,700 on account of 18-A (1)—26—Extension of the Reclamation work and allotment of additional supply in connection with Grow-More-Food campaign be omitted.

Sir, there are complaints about the additional supply of water in connection with Grow-More-Food campaign to the effect that the public at large was not duly and fully informed before-hand of the additional supply of water, and the Government officials have been favouring with water only those persons and areas which are in their good books. I mean to say that the merits of the claims for additional water are not considered. For example, nobody takes the trouble of finding out which area is badly in need of reclamation or which person needs additional water for growing more food. My point is that the present method of indifference should be discarded forthwith. The Government should find out and make a record of all the areas where they want to give additional supply of water, the areas where more food is to be grown and the areas which are comparatively in greater need of reclamation. Such a scheme should be worked out and given publicity, so that everybody becomes aware of that and thus may not feel any difficulty in putting forth his claim. The present secretive policy of distributing the additional supply of water is not creditable.

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

That the item of Rs. 20,700 on account of 18-A (1)—26—Extension of the Reclamation work and allotment of additional supply in connection with Grow-More-Food campaign be omitted.

**Minister of Revenue** (The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram) (*Urdu*):

Sir, I have not followed exactly what the Honourable member has said. It seems he has some complaint about the distribution of additional water for reclamation, which according to him is being done unfairly. According to him we have been guilty of distributing that water secretly and only among friends. Let me make it clear for the benefit of my honourable friend that the additional water is distributed fairly to each and every canal and distributary of the province. Our former method of distributing this water was a little different from the present one. Formerly we used to grant an additional supply of water to any person who applied for it whether he was in the head, tail or middle reach of the distributary. But that method proved defective in certain respects. For example, in case the applicant owned land in the tail reach most of the water allowed for his additional need used to be usurped by those in the head or in the middle reach of the distributary. Now-a-days requests for additional water are granted in order. First come those who own land near the head of a distributary, then those whose lands are in the middle and last of all those who are at the tail. This is just to avoid the former difficulty. Otherwise there is no question of distribution among friends. There is not a single canal or distributary in the tract concerned where additional water has not been allowed.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Is the public informed ?

**Minister :** Everybody knows that so much water is allowed on such and such distributary.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Formerly the members used to be informed that such and such distributary shall run from such and such a date to such and such a date and that it shall contain so much water.

**Minister :** What does the honourable member mean by 'members' ?  
(An honourable member : Members of the Assembly).

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** But how can the people know ?

**Minister of Revenue :** When on tour I come in contact with thousands of zamindars but I have never come across anybody who had such a complaint to make. Besides, there are scores of patwaris, overseers, S. D. O.'s, Deputy Collectors, Zilladars and Research Assistants to convey this information to the people concerned.

**Mr. Speaker :** The question is—

That the item of Rs. 20,700 on account of 18-A (1)—26—Extension of the Reclamation work and allotment of additional supply in connection with Grow-More-Food campaign, be omitted.

*The motion was lost*

*Extra travelling allowance to low paid officials*

**Mian Muhammad Nurullah** (Lyallpur, Muhammadan, Rural) (Urdu) :  
Sir, I beg to move :

That the demand be reduced by Re. 1.

Sir, once I had an occasion to meet some petty officials of the Irrigation Department. They told me that their fixed travelling allowance was very small. It used to be Rs. 15 but when during the last depression period the prices of the agricultural produce fell considerably it was reduced to Rs. 11-4-0 per mensem. Now when the prices of food grains have again risen this allowance has been increased to Rs. 14. To-day in reply to my starred question No. 9190<sup>1</sup> it has been stated that the fixed allowance of the petty canal officials has been increased to Rs. 14. As I have stated previously when the price of wheat was Rs. 3-8-0 or when it had actually fallen to Rs. 1-6-0 the fixed travelling allowance allowed to the canal officials was Rs. 15. Now the price of wheat has touched the level of Rs. 10, 12 or even Rs. 13 a maund and the prices of other articles of food have also gone up considerably yet this allowance has not been increased to Rs. 15. At least it should have been raised to Rs. 15. As my friends are aware the living index number has gone up considerably on account of the rise in prices of agricultural produce. In fairness this allowance should have been raised to Rs. 15 which these officials had been getting for several years in the past. It is regrettable that it has been increased to only Rs. 14 which is less than what they used to get. This amounts to injustice. Now, when the Punjab Government has ample money it is only fair that the fixed travelling allowance of the petty canal officials should be raised to Rs. 15 a month.

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

That the demand be reduced by Re. 1.

**Minister of Finance** (The Honourable Sir Manohar Lal) : I have to say just a word that this is in addition to the dearness allowance we are giving to these officials.

**Mian Muhammad Nurullah :** I want the allowance to continue at Rs. 15.

**Minister of Finance :** That is a matter of opinion.

**Mr. Speaker :** Question is—

That the demand be reduced by Re. 1.

*The motion was lost*

**Mr. Speaker :** Question is—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 27,12,400 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 Irrigation Working Expenses and other Revenue Expenditure financed from ordinary revenues.

*The motion was carried*

#### IRRIGATION ESTABLISHMENT

**Minister of Finance** (The Honourable Sir Manohar Lal): I beg to

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 6,22,400 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 charges on Irrigation Establishment.

*The motion was carried*

#### GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

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

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 8,29,720 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 :** Demand moved is—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 8,29,720 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.

#### *Dearness Allowance*

**Mian Muhammad Nurullah** (Lyallpur, Muhannmadan, Rural): Sir, I beg to move—

That the item of Rs. 65,630 on account of Secretariat and Headquarters Establishment—Civil Secretariat—Dearness Allowance, be reduced by Re. 1.

**Minister of Finance :** The honourable member wants to discuss the question of dearness allowance generally. It was a matter of discussion at the last year's general discussion and objection can be raised now only to the specific item making the provision.

**Mian Muhammad Nurullah :** These estimates have been presented to us after the discussion on the Budget of this year. I want to urge that dearness allowance granted last year was too low.

**Mr. Speaker :** The Hon'ble member may proceed.

**Mian Muhammad Nurullah :** Sir, I happened to meet one or two Assistants of the Civil Secretariat on the road just opposite the Assembly Chamber. I found that the condition of at least one of them was very deplorable and I asked him what the matter was. He replied that they were working under very difficult conditions; they were being under fed and over worked. I asked him whether he was getting any dearness allowance or not and I found that the amount of dearness allowance for men getting up to Rs. 250 was only 10 per cent so that a person who was getting Rs. 250 as his salary will now get Rs. 275. I have tried to study the working class living index number. Taking the average of 1931—35 as the basis, the index number in the year 1939 when the war broke out was 120 and in course of the year it increased to 125; in the year 1940 it was 129; in 1941 it rose to 145; it went up to 205 in the year 1942 and during the period under discussion, that is, 1943-44 it shot up to 339. Now, Sir, how can you imagine that a person getting Rs. 250 before the war when the index number stood at 120 can manage with a meagre allowance of Rs. 25 when the index number stands as high as 339? He cannot afford even buttons for his coat. Imagine a family with two or three children who have to go to school, when everything is so costly.

How can the poor man manage all that especially if there is no other source of income? In the districts there can be other sources of income but I am sure that for the Secretariat officials there is absolutely no other source; they are very honest people. A special case can be made out for the Assistants in the Secretariat who are living in Lahore. I would request the Honourable Minister of Finance to consider this question seriously and increase the dearness allowance to the Civil Secretariat Assistants or adopt means to supply them foodgrains at cheap rates as a special case.

**Mr. Speaker :** The question is—

That the item of Rs. 65,636 on account of Secretariat and Headquarters Establishment—Civil Secretariat—Dearness Allowance, be reduced by Re. 1.

*The motion was lost*

### *Rationing Policy*

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh** (Amritsar North, Sikh, Rural) (*Punjabi*) :—

Sir, I beg to move—

That the item of Rs. 50,710 on account of expenditure on rationing—total item be omitted. Before I proceed with my speech I would like to request the Honourable Minister in charge to kindly lend me his ears so that he also may not put forward the plea, as the Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram did that he could not understand what I had said. I am not employing a foreign language as the medium of my speech that the Honourable Ministers should find it difficult to follow my arguments.

We have been told that this sum of money, that is, Rs. 50,710 is to be spent on the employment of a staff in connection with the rationing scheme which the Punjab Government are going to inaugurate in only three large towns of the province, namely, Lahore, Amritsar and Rawalpindi. A perusal of the note in this connection reveals that they are also going to employ an Englishman as controller for whom overseas allowance 'at £15 per mensem' has been mentioned. I fail to understand why an Englishman should be appointed. It is both unnecessary and uncalled for. If the Government really need an expert who can run this scheme they can easily get Indians eminently suited to make a creditable job of this rationing business.

**Minister of Development :** On what page of the Budget does this item occur in connection with which my honourable friend is mentioning an Englishman?

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Supplementary Estimates, page 59. I will read the relevant lines :

"Overseas pay for one Controller at £15 per mensem for one month and ten days."

**Minister :** No. This is not for any new appointment.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Anyway the most essential requirement for the successful working of the rationing scheme is the co-operation of the general public. No scheme can ever succeed which is not run with the co-operation of those whom it largely concerns. But before we consider the essential of rationing we must know what rationing means. The one and only object of rationing is that the public at large may be able to buy wheat cheaper than it is possible for them to get either from the middle men or from the hoarders. In a food crisis such as the present the public is ordinarily left at the mercy of the middlemen or the grain hoarders who keep their stocks underground with the

[S. Sohan Singh Josh]

object of making larger profits. Now to defeat them in this object the Government has come out with this rationing scheme. But in these times those who think that they can successfully carry out a rationing scheme without the middlemen are pursuing a wrong policy. You cannot do away with them. What is required at this moment is to dissuade them from making anti-social profits and to rouse their patriotic feelings rather than to antagonize them by outlawing them. Let us learn a lesson from the experience we have had in the case of sugar rationing. I need not recount the sorry tale of misappropriation and corruption which goes on unchecked in the machinery set up for the distribution of sugar. It should serve as a beacon light to the Government to steer clear of such shoals in connection with the food rationing scheme on which they are about to embark, so that the object of their scheme may not be defeated by the food grains finding their way from shops into the black market for being sold at higher rates to the public. Again there appears to be no point in starting food rationing in only three towns. The scope of this scheme should be wider than it is intended to be at present. There cannot be any reasonable hope of this scheme proving successful unless it is worked by the Mohalla Food Committees under the direct supervision of the representatives of the people. If that is not done the result will be that food grains will not reach the masses for whom this scheme is being inaugurated, and we will find the bitter experience of sugar rationing repeated in respect of wheat. No rationing scheme could either succeed in its object or be termed fool proof if it does not gain the active co-operation of the various public bodies. Let the Government arrive at a decision in this respect if they seriously desire this scheme to succeed.

Moreover from the figures collected by the Government statisticians it appears that there is going to be a 30 per cent decrease in the production of food grains this year. In view of this fact it is all the more necessary for the Government to decide about the institution of control as soon as possible and the people should know at what rate the foodgrains are to be controlled. If that is not done there is great danger of the coming crop falling into the hands of the hoarders. The remaining will be purchased by the Government for the fighting forces and the public will once again be unable to get the foodgrains. The province will be plunged into the same grain shortage as was experienced in 1942. The parents of the soldiers, fighting for their country in the far flung battle fields, will go about with money in their hands for purchasing wheat but will not be able to obtain any. The people of this province will find it very difficult to keep themselves safe from the ogre of starvation.

The Government at present contemplate starting rationing scheme in three cities only. I appeal to the Government that they should take into account the grim realities facing the province. Where lies the use in starting rationing in three cities only? If the Government are really serious and want to start this useful scheme then they should work it out on the provincewise basis. I can say without any hesitation that it is the earnest desire of the Government to make this scheme a failure. They want to justify that this scheme was thrust upon them and they knew beforehand its impracticability. They want to prove that the stand taken by them was right and the Central Government made a blunder in imposing rationing on the Punjab Government. The Government is prosecuting this scheme in such a hopeless manner that no use can be expected out of it. If rationing is to come, it must be adopted in every city of the province. There is no fun in starting this scheme in three cities only. If the scheme is adopted in this half-hearted manner then absolutely no good can come out of it.

If the control officers are to work with one stenographer and a peon so much expenditure is to be defrayed. Undoubtedly middleman will be in a position to sell cheaper than the Government. Need demands that wheat must be sold at the cheapest rates. In Lahore city 8 depots were started under the auspices of the women's Self-Defence League. They are meeting with extraordinary success. The secret of their success lies in the public co-operation and goodwill. The Government knows nothing else but to establish an expensive machinery. Heavy salaries are fixed. Corruption is the natural outcome of these new departments. We have established a Central Food Committee at Lahore. Its membership includes men of every rank. Starting from Raja Narendra Nath it goes up to very ordinary citizens of Lahore. Its membership includes, without any difference of castes and creeds, people of every political shade. Women's Self-Defence League has started many depots. At that time nobody was permitted to keep any stock but they were permitted by the district magistrate, by a special order, to maintain stock up to any quantity. I again lay stress upon this point that as long as there is no popular co-operation no success can be achieved. Rationing should be adopted in every town and city of the province. For efficient management I voluntarily offer the services of the communist party. You furnish us with stocks and shops and I can guarantee you that not a single penny will be wasted.

**The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh :** The honourable member wants to utilise the opportunity for communist propaganda.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** I am making no propaganda but I am simply narrating the facts. We serve the people.

Sir, I was saying that these schemes are altogether camouflaged frauds and in the face of the present circumstances when the general condition in the country is very grave, the national interests demand that rationing on the provincewise basis must be adopted—specially at a time when the future forecast of harvest is 30 per cent less. Sir, the only remedy to rescue the country is rationing and no other scheme can save us from destruction. Public co-operation and goodwill can make rationing successful.

**Mr. Speaker :** Question is—

That the item of Rs. 57,10 on account of expenditure on rationing—total item be omitted.  
*The motion was lost*

**Mr. Speaker :** The question is—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 8,29,720 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*

#### JAILS AND CONVICT SETTLEMENTS

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

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 17,53,700 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 Jails and Convict Settlements.

*The motion was carried*

#### POLICE

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

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 8,17,490 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.



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

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 8,17,490 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.

*Additional Mounted Police, Ferozepore*

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh** (Amritsar, north, Sikh, Rural) (*Punjabi*):  
Sir, I rise to move—

That the item of Rs. 43,940 on account of District Executive Force—Continued employment of additional mounted police, Ferozepore District, be omitted.

Sir, more than once I have laid stress upon this question. Mounted police was established on the first of May 1942. It has been getting extensions after extensions. Sir, I want to draw the attention of the Honourable Minister to the following facts :

All the notorious gangs operating in the district were gradually broken or rounded up but it was not considered desirable to slacken the efforts or to curtail the precautionary measures adopted, because owing to a *general tendency on the part of the population in the Ferozepore District to take to serious crime there is always a danger of serious trouble at a moment's notice.*

In this connection I wish to submit that the words used in the Supplementary Estimates asking for the money in respect of continued employment of mounted police in Ferozepore, imply that the whole population of this district is criminally minded. It appears to me that seven and three quarter members representing this district have also been included in the population and they must be ready to share the compliment paid to them. (*An honourable member* : What does the honourable member mean by seven and three quarter members ?) Because out of these, three honourable members are muslims, four Sikhs and there are one or two more in whose case the district is a part of their constituency. In this connection I wish to sound a note of warning to my honourable friends sitting on the treasury benches lest these criminally minded honourable members from Ferozepore should pick their pockets or even go to the extent of employing a knife on them. I am really pained to see that most of my honourable friends from Ferozepore do not even care to voice the grievances of the inhabitants of the district. It appears to me that they do not possess enough courage to draw the attention of the Government to the difficulties under which the poor inhabitants of this district are labouring.

The next point to which I wish to draw the attention of the House is concerning the punitive police posts. In this connection I wish to submit that among all the districts in the province, Ferozepore is the only district where majority of punitive police posts have been set up. The number of such punitive police posts, established in Ferozepore district according to the Government list, is 18. Government by establishing punitive police posts at different places in the district have so far made forcible realisations from the poor and innocent inhabitants, amounting to Rs. 29,745-2-11. These enormous exactions have been made from those poor Hindu, Muslim, Sikh and Christian inhabitants who are in a miserable plight and who find it very difficult even to make their both ends meet. Besides these forcible collections, the poor inhabitants of the district have been harassed unnecessarily by the police officer-in-charge of these punitive police posts. They are forced to offer them food-stuffs without getting any payment in return.

So far as the district of Ferozepore is concerned, I wish to submit that Government wants to continue the employment of mounted police in order to ward off the attacks of the dacoits, who in its opinion are creating unpleasant

atmosphere in the district. May I take the liberty of informing my honourable friends in general and the Honourable Ministers in particular that at present no cases of dacoity occur in this district and that those dacoits who used to exploit the situation, are already dead? My honourable friends would be surprised to learn from me that it is the mounted police who encourage dacoity in the district. If my honourable friends doubt the correctness of my statement, my honourable friend, Pir Sahib from Ferozepur, will bear me out that these punitive police posts and the mounted police are responsible for encouraging dacoity and creating bad characters in the district. Not only this but the police officers-in-charge of these posts share the booty with the so-called dacoits with whom they form secret pacts every now and then. In short the condition of the district is very precarious. There are neither dacoits nor are there bad characters found in the district. But so far as deserters and proclaimed offenders are concerned, I wish to submit that they are found in almost every district. I make bold to say that if any deserter or a proclaimed offender belonging to this district, is found there, allow us to do patriotic propaganda in the district and he will go back to join his ranks to fight fascism. I really fail to understand the perverse mentality of the Government who instead of bringing the real culprits to book is engaged in harassing those poor inhabitants of the district, who are day and night doing propaganda in favour of the allies. Not only this but these poor people are incarcerated without any rhyme or reason under section 126, Defence of India Rules.

Next I wish to make a few observations in regard to two villages in the district where corruption is the order of the day. First of all I take the village Daudhar wherefrom I received many letters from the peace-loving inhabitants to the effect that there was no deserter or any proclaimed offender found in their village and that they were very peaceful. In their letters to me they have mentioned that the punitive police post established in their village resorted to unbridled oppression. They have also complained against the attitude of the policemen who would force them to sell their wheat, etc., at very low rates and sometimes their horses and camels would be requisitioned for forced labour. Briefly speaking their hardships have become simply intolerable. So far as the kisan workers of this village are concerned, I wish to point out that they are anti-fascists and are making all-out efforts to spread patriotism. The policemen are always at their heels to harass them and are forcibly devastating their harvests and taking away whatever they lay their hands upon. Instances in this connection are not wanting. A Sub-Inspector in charge of this police post forcibly took away the horse of a kisan Bantu by name. The policeman beat him mercilessly when he went to ask for the return of the same. Such is the state of affairs in this village where Sardar Chanan Singh, and Sardar Gurbachan Singh and other patriotic persons have been beaten without any rhyme or reason. The other villages to which I wish to make reference are Lopon and Chuhar Chak, the residence of Baba Rur Singh, M. L. A. So far as these villages are concerned, I wish to submit that the inhabitants of these villages are out to fight fascist Japan and Germany. The inhabitants of these villages are patriotic people. Government by establishing punitive police post in village Lopon is anxious to suppress their patriotic sentiments. In spite of the fact that no deserters or proclaimed offenders lived in this village and that the inhabitants made all-out efforts to hand over the deserters to police, Government did not hesitate to realise huge amounts from these poor patriots by the establishment of punitive police post from 1st January 1943 to 3rd November 1943. Such is the state of affairs in the district of Ferozepur.

[S. Sohan Singh Josh]

It is a great slander and slur on the people of Ferozepore that they should be called criminal people. They are as law-abiding people as the residents of any other district. I have already proved in connection with the case relating to Dadaur that it was the local people of Ferozepore who had assisted the police in capturing the dacoits. Yet they are being dubbed in the Supplementary Estimates as criminal people. We cannot tolerate this insult of the law-abiding people. The fact of the matter is that these remarks are being made in order to provide for the continuance of the mounted police which is not really wanted even for a single day. I would, therefore, request that these remarks may be expunged. With these few words, Sir, I commend my amendment for the acceptance of the House.

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

That the item of Rs. 43,940 on account of District Executive Force—Continued employment of additional mounted Police, Ferozepore District, be omitted.

**Pir Akbar Ali** (Fazilka, Muhammadan, Rural) (*Urdu*): I am not one of those who would oppose whatever comes from the Opposition. If the demand made by the Opposition is reasonable, I for one would support it wholeheartedly. In the Supplementary Estimate the following remarks are given at page 77—

It was not considered desirable to slacken the efforts because owing to the general tendency on the part of the population in the Ferozepore district to take to serious crime, there is always a danger of serious trouble at a moment's notice.

• Now these words, are very very damaging to the reputation of the residents of the Ferozepore district. The remarks say that there is always a tendency on the part of the population of this district to create serious trouble at a moment's notice. This is not correct. I admit that the situation of this district is not happy because of its neighbourhood to the Indian States like Nabha, Patiala, Jind and Bahawalpur. Bad characters come from these neighbouring states or run into them when chased by the police. In fact the police can never arrest them unless and until the residents of Ferozepore help the police. And I may mention here that the people of Ferozepore are as law-abiding as the residents of any other district. They are very loyal. Even in the recruitment campaign, they are second to none unless, of course, you include the districts of Jhelum and Rawalpindi. Barring these two districts, I presume no other district of the Punjab can boast of a better or higher record of service so far as help in the matter of recruitment is concerned. About 16 or 17 thousand men have been recruited from this district. In view of these facts, the remarks in question are highly objectionable and must be deleted forthwith. I wonder why the Honourable Ministers did not take notice of them. Some lower officials must have made these remarks to save the police and retain the services of the mounted police which in fact is not wanted in Ferozepore. It adds a heavy burden on the shoulders of the population because it takes fodder and other necessities from the people and even indulges in so many other nefarious practices which I need not mention here in detail beyond giving a broad hint. These policemen do very bad things in the countryside. There is absolutely no justification for keeping this police. It is for the retention of this police that the people of Ferozepore are being given a bad name. In fact the residents of Ferozepore assist the police in arresting the bad characters only if the police tries to arrest them. The people helped in the arrest of Jagira. But the fact to be remembered in this connection is that delayed action is taken by the police. Dacoits are allowed to remain for a long time to harass the people before drastic action is taken to arrest them.

In reality the mounted police is not wanted as much as the ordinary police is wanted. After all what is the strength of the police in a thana? There are only 12 constables in the police station. They cannot cope with the situation. The strength of the police should be increased in all the thanas. The headquarters of our district is situated at one end of the district and the Superintendent of police cannot reach the distant place so easily. That is the real difficulty in addition to the strength of the police being very low. Otherwise it is wrong to say that the people of Ferozepur are naturally criminal. They are not criminal. If they are, then why not declare them to be criminal tribes and every one in the district called to the thana for daily report? I should also be considered as belonging to a criminal tribe as well as Sodhi Sahib and Sardar Tara Singh. That should be the way of dealing with a situation of that type. But things are not as that. The remarks in the memorandum are erroneous. The loyal and obedient people engaged in doing their duty should not be insulted in this way. These *khidmatgirs* of the Government deserve better treatment than that. The number of punitive police posts need not be increased. We are no criminals.

Another reason given for these police posts in that ilaqa is that canals

2 p.m.

are so often cut there. Well, canals may be cut in an area and there can be several reasons for that. Sometimes banks of a canal give way to the pressure of water of their own accord merely because they are not strong enough. As a proof of that I can cite the example of a place in my district, a low place, from where a certain canal gets broken every year, but the authorities do not take the trouble of filling that low place. No doubt sometimes cuts are made in the canals. But they, again, fall under different heads. Sometimes, as was found out by the Deputy Commissioner of that district during an enquiry, these cuts (according to him) no less than 75 per cent out of them) are made with the previous knowledge of canal authorities, who take bribe and keep quiet. The Government are welcome to enquire from the Deputy Commissioner himself. If that is the finding of a responsible Government officer then why is the responsibility of such acts thrown on the poor village people? Now we come to the cuts made by the people themselves. They are again of two kinds. The first are those which are made to harm enemies and the other are those which are made to benefit one's own lands. Last year I got published in a local paper an article to the effect that one cut in a canal causes a loss of about one lakh. But our Government never takes the trouble of finding out, whether the person whose land is near the cut has suffered a loss on that account or whether he has reaped any benefit out of that; in other words, whether that is his own work or the work of some of his enemies. As a result, very often a poor zamindar has to pay the punitive money also, in addition to the loss suffered by him on account of that cut. Thus, such actions on the part of one's enemy can prove doubly harmful to him. Now that is unjust. The authorities must enquire into the causes very carefully before making one liable to pay the punitive money. (*An Honourable member:* The honourable member is not speaking to the motion). I am referring to the reasons, as given by the Government for the increase of police posts. If there has been a real increase in crime in that part of the province then the number of police stations there may be increased, but if the police themselves say about an area that crime has decreased there, then why these police stations and this persecution of the people? What I wish to impress upon the Government is that the mounted police is of no use. It would be much better if the Government spends that money for increasing the number of police constables in every police station.

There are certain sentences in the Supplementary Estimates about "the general tendency on the part of the population in the Ferozepur district to take

[Pir Akbar Ali]

to serious crime" which are very objectionable. I do not know how these remarks came to be put in there. Either they have been included by mistake or their full significance was not understood at that time. (*An Honourable Member: Why this black remark?*) My friend here asks, why this black remark? Should I remained him that we are 8 or 9 members from the same part of the province, and only if we stand united and make our presence felt, all our grievances will be given serious thought to and removed? Now nobody cares for us or for what we say. We get up in our seats every time but we are not allowed to state the conditions prevailing in our district or division. There is absolutely no justification for keeping the mounted police in our district and they should please see to it that it is removed from there during the next year.

**Sayed Amjad Ali Shah:** If there are not many pucca roads in that district then is it not necessary that mounted police be kept as lorries cannot be used?

**Pir Akbar Ali:** Perhaps my honourable friend does not know that even horses are useless where there are no good roads. The police cannot reach from one place to another on horses or camels in cases of emergency. Only motors can be used for that purpose and that, too, after paved roads are constructed there. But it is useless to say anything to my honourable friend, the Parliamentary Private Secretary because his interests are not those of a zamindar. He sees with the eyes of a Maghi Mal. If there are no good roads in that district, whose fault is that? Our district pays not 1/16 or 1/30th part of the revenue of the province but 1/6th of the whole income of the province comes from that district. If to-day with all surplus money at our disposal we are not going to have paved roads in our district, I do not know at what other time we are going to have them. With these words, I resume my seat.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan** (Ludhiana, Muhammadan, Rural) (*Urdu*): Sir, as the district of my honourable friend who has just finished his speech is quite near to mine, I am fully aware of the conditions prevailing there. Everybody coming from Ferozepore knows that bribery and mal-administration are the rule of the day there, and it is leading all the province in that respect. The Parliamentary Private Secretary is not aware of the facts as he is often away from his home. To accept this supplementary demand of Rs. 43,940 would mean that the present regular police of that district is inefficient and dishonest, otherwise there can be absolutely no justification for the mounted police there. The only object before the authorities of that district in asking for the mounted police, as my honourable friend Pir Sahib, has pointed out, is to conceal their own faults such as bribery and inefficiency. The Government should ask the officer in charge of police in that district as to why he asks for more police. Then something about the "general tendency on the part of the population in the Ferozepore district to take to serious crime" has been said in the Supplementary Estimates. I am one with my honourable friends in condemning these words. These words are very unfair. But, perhaps, the Government is not to be blamed for that. Possibly some officer from below wrote those words and the Government included them in the Supplementary Estimates without any alteration. If I am correct, let the Government ask the officer concerned to explain whether his tendency, too, was not towards serious crime by association, as he himself was living among such persons. Whoever has written those words, has been guilty of gross misrepresentation. His is a sweeping remark and he has not spared the members of this House even. This blot can be removed only by asking the person concerned to apologise before those whom he has thus wronged. The Honourable

Minister, by including those words in the Supplementary Estimates has done something which is not worthy of him. The Government should see to it in future that no officer writes any such words in his effort to lay the blame at other persons' doors. If there is lawlessness in that district what earthly reason is there why action should not be taken against the local officers? Rather they should be asked to explain why they should not be taken to task for inefficiency? Why should they not be transferred and some others who would discharge their duties better posted in that district?

Besides, the D. I. G., Jullundur Range, should be asked to explain why such a state of affairs is prevailing in a district under his control. Why should he not be transferred and somebody else posted there in his stead? Any way these are matters which require the urgent attention of the Government. I think Pir Sahib and Sardar Sohan Singh Josh are justified in taking exception to the words employed in the Supplementary Estimates in respect of the residents of the Ferozepore district. There was absolutely no need for using such words and the Government would do well to take suitable action against the person, whoever he may be, who has used these words.

**Minister of Finance** (The Honourable Sir Manohar Lal) : Sir, let me say at once that the words actually employed here are unfortunate and certainly unhappy. No one by these words wished to convey that the population of the Ferozepore district generally is criminally minded or likely to commit serious crimes at a moment's notice. Nobody intended to convey any such idea. I think if the words were that the "criminal" population of the Ferozepore district was likely to burst into serious crimes such as dacoities and dacoities with murder, that would not be far from fact. The reference is not to the population generally but should have been more clearly expressed as the population of a particular type that might burst at any time into serious crime. I think the House should take it from me that it was never the intention of the Government in the least to make any reflection on the population of Ferozepore. This is perfectly obvious from the fact, apart from anything else, that we have so many honourable members coming from that district with whom we are on terms of cordial and sincere friendship. That ought to be the end of this matter.

I do not wish to enter into the merits of the question, but it would be readily recognised that if the dacoits in the Ferozepore district have been brought under control, and many of them had to be shot down on the spot because otherwise there was no way of meeting them, it is a matter on which the Punjab Government should congratulate itself. Honourable members would also remember that we read in the papers only a few days ago that a leading dacoit was shot and killed. Although so many dacoits have been shot down still there are some at large : it means that there is still a possibility of serious and terrible crime being committed in that district ; and, I may say that the Government's anxiety to make every possible effort to check that crime and bring it under control continues. If a small demand of Rs. 43,940 is made, I for one do not see how that can be really resisted. So far as Sardar Sohan Singh Josh is concerned he made many assertions, but I may tell him that to assert in these matters is not proof ; because he has referred to some of the villages in the Ferozepore district, crime in the district has not disappeared. I am not probing into the reasons, but as my friend, Pir Akbar Ali, has pointed out Ferozepore is surrounded by Indian States from which dacoits emerge and to which they retire unless they are effectively interrupted. I have no particular experience but had the privilege of visiting the Ferozepore district only a week ago and I had an occasion also to talk to the head of the police in the district. Crime in the district is still a live problem, and the Government

[Finance Minister]

could not possibly ignore it. That is really the position and that is how I understood the demand had arisen.

As regards the mistake in the memorandum, I am prepared to admit my own negligence in not having exercised sufficient vigilance, the Finance Department in not examining every word of the memorandum; we hardly have time to do so, but as I have said it is a matter of regret that the words employed are such that may easily give offence to any member of this House or anybody whatsoever in the Ferozepore district. That was never our intention.

**Sardar Tara Singh** (Ferozepore South, Sikh, Rural) (*Urdu*): We are fully satisfied with what the Honourable Minister for Finance has stated in respect of the import of the words in question and we do not wish to pursue the matter any further. But this much I must submit that if Government want to increase the police force of the Ferozepore district they should, instead of deputing mounted police increase the number of police force in the police stations. As I submitted last year the mounted police is not as useful as the local police is. On receiving information the local police can do the same work for which the mounted police is employed. If in future any such necessity is felt, instead of deputing mounted police provision should be made in the budget for increasing the number of police force of police stations. If that is done it will be much better.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh** has asked: What are the honourable members from Ferozepore sitting over here doing? Does he not know what we are doing? We are giving effect to the programme which we have set before us for the amelioration of the condition of the poor zamindars. We are fully satisfied that this work is being done. That is the reason why we are sitting on this side of the House.

Then my honourable friend **Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan** pointed out that the officer concerned should be punished for neglect of duty and that an explanation should be called for from him as to why he should not be hauled up for inefficiency. I do not know why he is so dead against this officer. Last year also he made damaging remarks against him when he was posted in Ferozepore. Let me tell him that it is due to the efforts of this officer that complete calm is prevailing in the Ferozepore district. Due to his efforts and that of **Sardar Narinder Singh** many dacoits have been shot and many have fled away. In a way both of them have succeeded in extripating the dacoits from that district. Now there is peace and tranquillity prevailing in the district. My friend **Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan** stated that the officer concerned is inefficient and that he should be asked to explain his conduct. I ask, is the maintenance of law and order in the district a matter of inefficiency? What else then is efficiency? Anyway my submission is that there is complete calm prevailing in my district and there is no need of strengthening the police force of that district. If in the opinion of Government any such necessity is felt then instead of deputing mounted police provision should be made in the budget for increasing the force of police stations. Experience has shown that the treatment of the public by the mounted police is not fair. In fact the Sub-Inspector in charge of any police station is a responsible person and while dealing with the public he pays due regard to the social status of the person with whom he deals. He keeps in view the fact whether he is dealing with a chaudhri, a lambardar or a zaildar. But the mounted police do not care for any person howsoever respectable he may be. I would therefore urge that if at any time any need is felt for increasing the police force of my district for coping with the activities of bad characters, instead of deputing mounted

police the strength of the force at police stations should be increased. Mounted police consist of men from different places. Some come from Jhelum and some from other places. They mete out harsh treatment to the public. As against them the local police consists of responsible persons and they know how to deal with different persons. As I have submitted there is at present peace and tranquillity in my district. Instead of rewarding the officer who has brought about this state of affairs my friends over there are asking the Government to take action against him and call for his explanation. This is not fair on their part. With these remarks I oppose the cut motion.

**Captain Sodhi Harnam Singh** (Ferozepur North, Sikh, Rural) (Urdu):

I am glad that the Hon'ble Minister for Finance has removed the misunderstanding caused by the remarks in the memorandum. It is no doubt true that the Government is doing the utmost it can in the circumstances in which our district unfortunately finds itself. The peculiar geographical position occupied by Ferozepur district has much to do with the prevalence of crime there. It is hedged in on three sides by Indian States which afford a safe hiding place to the dacoits who just cross the boundary after committing a dacoity and make themselves scarce. Moreover they do not have any difficulty in arming themselves, because they can easily obtain firearms without licence in the Bikaner State. Five or six years ago, the Punjab Government instituted an inquiry into the allegation that dacoits got their arms and ammunition from the Bikaner State. Sardar Jhabail Singh, an inspector from the Ferozepur district, was deputed to make an enquiry and to submit a report. The next day the inspector with two constables entered the state territory in plain clothes and returned with three rifles purchased in the State without the least difficulty. It is an ordinary matter for one to obtain a certificate from some lambardar testifying that he is a State subject and purchase a rifle without any licence. The ease with which firearms can be obtained from the neighbouring States tempts many a young man from the Ferozepur district to possess a rifle of his own. Having once obtained a firearm they have to keep it concealed, because they do not have a licence. This is their first step towards lawlessness and brings them in conflict with the police. This is the main reason why the police has to contend against greater odds in hounding out the absconders from law. For the past 30 or 40 years Ferozepur district has had by far the largest number of murders recorded in the whole province. It is no exaggeration to say that the number of murder cases in this district equals that of the rest of the province taken together. In the number of dacoities as well, it easily leads the province, although the cases of theft are almost at par with other districts. The reason for this greater incidence of crime does not lie in that the people of this district are more criminally minded than the people elsewhere. But as I have already stated it is the ease with which firearms can be obtained that encourages crime. Another reason why the police does not often get the upper hand in their encounters with the dacoits is that the latter are better equipped. Recently persons coming back from Burma have brought with them Tommy guns as well as machine guns. Now the police who are armed with only obsolete rifles are no match for the dacoits who use Tommy guns or machine guns against them. On more than one occasion the police have had to summon the aid of the military in fighting against the dacoits. In such encounters where the dacoits are better armed than the police and the military aid is not forthcoming, the former naturally get away and escape capture. Since the past 5 or 6 years, thanks to the efforts of our Government, the situation has greatly improved. Law-abiding people are not afraid of living in the villages now, whereas formerly no one could be persuaded to live in the countryside at any cost.



[Capt. Sodhi Harnam Singh]

So far as the mounted police are concerned they are useful when either on account of the scarcity of petrol or due to the difficulty of terrain the dacoits cannot be swiftly pursued by any other method.

Last year some dacoits were being taken back from the court in a lorry when they suddenly overpowered the constables escorting them and ran away with the lorry which they left some six miles away. They were apprehended after much difficulty, but it should serve as a lesson to the police that they must be more careful in future. While admitting that the mounted police is very necessary, I will request the Honourable Minister in charge to issue orders that they should not harass the public, and the public should also be asked to report any case of high-handedness on the part of the police to the Superintendent.

We are indebted to Mr. Chaudhry, the present Superintendent, and the other two Additional Superintendents, Mr. Malik and the Australian gentleman whose untiring efforts have brought peace to the district. The lack of good metalled roads is a great drawback, because if good roads are constructed mounted police will no longer be necessary.

I would like to say a few words with regard to the complaint that the zamindars do not make any efforts to help the police during their encounters with the dacoits. It is to a certain extent true that the necessary help is not forthcoming.

**Pir Akbar Ali :** There are many cases of the villagers helping the police.

**Captain Sodhi Harnam Singh :** I know that even a Sikh girl bravely confronted the dacoits some time back. But what I wished to point out to the Government was that if the strength of the police in the Ferozepore district is increased they would be able to face the dacoits more successfully, or they may increase the number of gun licences in the rural area, every village should have at least two or three guns to protect the villagers from the dacoits. Nobody can expect the armless villagers to chase the armed dacoits, or to have encounter with them.

Another matter to which I would draw the attention of the Government is that the persons who really help the police should not be made to pay the expenses of the mounted police along with others. Generally people do not help the dacoits or harbour them of their own free will. More often than not the dacoits come and get their supplies from the villagers by force. It often happens that the dacoits come to a house and take milk, cream or butter or whatever they can lay their hands on, without even saying a single word to the members of the household. I wish that such people should not be penalized as harbourers. Unless the grievances of the public against the police are redressed the police cannot hope to gain the assistance of people in their fight against the criminals.

**Premier (The Honourable Malik Khizar Hayat) :** I had no intention to say anything on this demand, but I find that an item which should ordinarily have got the assent of my honourable friend opposite has been unnecessarily criticised. I also find that the cause of this criticism is just a typing error or something of that sort. The honourable member has been trying to read in this memorandum that the Government or some department holds that the whole population of Ferozepore is criminally minded. I think the honourable gentleman who propounded that proposition was unnecessarily thin skinned. Is it possible to believe that a whole district which had produced men like Sodhi Harnam Singh, Sayed Amjad Ali Shah and Pir Akbar Ali is criminally minded? (An honorable member : "No") I ask the Honourable Premier what he understands

by what is contained in the memorandum?) I was not educated in Moscow. (*An honourable member*: You were educated in the Chiefs' College) Well, I am a Jat; you may call me an illiterate Jat or zamindar. However, I can say this much that the expression 'Criminally minded' has been omitted in the memorandum by oversight. It does not mean that the whole district has turned out to be criminal. Comparatively speaking there have been more crimes in the Ferozepore district than in any other district. Nobody can deny that. (*An honourable member*: Would you like to apply it to your own district?) As far as my own district is concerned, the question does not arise. However, an entirely innocent mistake has been misinterpreted and my colleague the Honourable Finance Minister has fully explained the position.

I wish to say only one or two things more. My honourable friend from Ludhiana brought in the old controversy of himself *versus* the police officers. That question has been thrashed out in courts of law and there is an end of it (*An honourable member*: Pir Akbar Ali referred to it). Pir Akbar Ali was entitled to do so. But when the honourable member had a personal conflict with that officer he should not have referred to it. The next point is that objection was raised to this additional police. If I remember aright, my honourable friend, Pir Akbar Ali used to come to me often and complain that there was a lot of crime going on in Ferozepore and request that special steps should be taken. Steps have been taken and things have improved since. We should be congratulated for this instead of being criticised as at present. I do not mean to say that all policemen are angels or that there is no black sheep among them. If anybody has transgressed the limits it is always open to honourable members to bring the fact to the notice of higher police officers who will take action against the person concerned. But we should not blow hot and cold with the same breath. At one time there is the complaint that there is no law and order in a particular place and if we post additional police to cope with extra crimes, then too we are blamed. After all, we have not imported these policemen from outside. They are of the same class or type of Punjabis as ourselves. If there is any defect among us it is for our society to cure it. I will say this much that severe steps will be taken if anybody is found transgressing the limits. That law and order has improved in Ferozepore is welcome and I hope Pir Akbar Ali will not grudge acknowledging it with a tribute to the police for bringing about that improvement.

One thing more. The question of local police and outside police was raised. I may point out that the local police has a limited sphere of work to do. It cannot cope with criminals, because these criminals shift their activities from one police station to another. Today they are in the jurisdiction of one police station; tomorrow they are four stations away. So we need a special type of police to pursue the criminals from place to place. If this is not done, then the criminals can never be traced. We must therefore have swift moving mounted police to pursue the criminals who might have moved forty miles away. Where lorries can be used these criminals can be pursued in lorries. But in broken countries, where lorries cannot ply, mounted police is a necessity. The organisation of police in the Ferozepore district is as good as in any other district and it has got at its top very efficient police officers who have shot down many dacoits. One was shot the other day. He has got two Assistant Superintendents who are trying to do their duty to the best of their capacity. I hope this demand will be passed without any further criticism.

**Mr. Speaker:** Question is—

That the item of Rs. 43,940 on account of District Executive Force—Continued employment of additional mounted Police, Ferozepore district, be omitted.

*The Assembly divided: Ayes 7, Noes 69.*

### AYES

Bhagat Ram Choda, Lala.  
Bhagat Ram Sharma, Pandit.  
Duni Chand, Mrs.  
Muhammad Hasan, Chaudhri.

Raghubir Kaur, Shrimati.  
Sohan Singh Joshi, Sardar.  
Teja Singh, Sardar.

### NOES

Abdul Hamid Khan, Sufi.  
Abdul Haye, The Hon'ble Mian.  
Abdul Rab, Mian.  
Abdul Rahim Chaudhri (Gurdaspur).  
Abdul Rahim, Chaudhri (Gurgaon).  
Ahmad Yar Khan, K. S. Chaudhri.  
Akbar Ali, Pir.  
Ali Akbar, Chaudhri.  
Allah Bakhsh Khan, Khan Bahadur  
Nawab Malik, Sir.  
Allah Yar Khan Daultana, K. B.  
Mian.  
Amjad Ali Shah, Sayad.  
Anant Ram, Rai Sahib Chaudhri.  
Asghar Ali, K. S. Chaudhri.  
Ashiq Hussain, Nawab Major.  
Baldev Singh, The Hon'ble Sardar.  
Brijraj Saran, Kanwar.  
Chhotu Ram, The Hon'ble Chaudhri  
Sir.  
Faiz Muhammad, K. B. Shaikh.  
Faqir Hussain Khan, K. B. Chaudhri.  
Farman Ali Khan, Subedar Major  
Raja.  
Fateh Khan, Khan Sahib Raja.  
Fateh Muhammad, Captain Mian.  
Fazal Karim Bakhsh, K. S. Mian.  
Ghazanfar Ali Khan, Raja.  
Ghulam Qadir Khan, Khan Baha-  
dur.  
Guest, Mr. P. H.  
Habib Ullah Khan, K. B. Malik.  
Harnam Das, Lala.  
Harnam Singh, Captain Sodhi.  
Het Ram, Rai Bahadur Chaudhri.  
Ifikhar Hussain Khan, Nawab.  
Jafar Ali Khan, Chaudhri.  
Jagjit Singh Man, Sardar.  
Jogindar Singh, Man, Sardar.  
Khizar Hayat, The Hon'ble Malik.  
Kishan Das, Seth.  
Lal Singh, Sardar.  
Manohar Lal, The Hon'ble Dr. Sir.

Mohar Singh, Rao.  
Mohi-ud-Din Lal Badshah, Sayed.  
Mubarik Ali Shah, Captain Sayed.  
Muhammad Ashraf, Chaudhri.  
Muhammad Faiyaz Ali Khan, Nawab-  
zada.  
Muhammad Jamal Khan Leghari,  
Khan Bahadur Nawab Sir.  
Muhammad Saadat Ali Khan, Khan  
Bahadur Khan.  
Muhammad Shafi Ali Khan, Khan  
Bahadur Chaudhri.  
Muhammad Yasin Khan, Khan  
Sahib Chaudhri.  
Muhammad Yusuf Khan, Khan.  
Mumtaz Muhammad Khan Daul-  
tana, Mian.  
Mushtaq Ahmad Gurmani, Khan  
Bahadur Mian.  
Nasir-ud-Din, Khan Bahadur, Chau-  
dhri.  
Nasrullah Khan, Rana.  
Naunihal Singh Mann, Captain.  
Sardar  
Nawazish Ali Shah, Sayed.  
Pritam Singh Siddhu, Sardar.  
Ram Sarup, Chaudhri.  
Ranpat Singh, Chaudhri.  
Ripudaman Singh, Rai Sahib Tha-  
kur.  
Roshan Din, K. B. Chaudhri.  
Sadiq Hassan, Shaikh.  
Sahib Dad Khan, Khan Sahib Chau-  
dhri.  
Shahadat Khan, Khan Sahib Rai.  
Shaikat Hyat-Khan, The Hon'ble  
Sirdar.  
Sher Singh, Sardar.  
Singha, Diwan Bahadur S. P.  
Sultan Mahmood Hotiana, Mian.  
Suraj Mal, Rao Bahadur Chaudhri.  
Talib Hussain Khan, Khan.  
Tara Singh, Sardar Sahib Sardar.

**Mr. Speaker :** The question is—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 8,17,490 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.

*The motion was carried.*

#### EDUCATION

**The Honourable Sir Manohar Lal (Finance Minister) :** I move—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 22,15,590 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).

*The motion was carried.*

#### MEDICAL

**Minister of Finance :** I move—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 3,11,990 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.

*The motion was carried.*

#### PUBLIC HEALTH

**Minister of Finance :** I move—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 22,110 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.

*The motion was carried*

#### AGRICULTURE

**Minister of Finance :** I move—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 21,45,220 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.

*The motion was carried*

#### VETERINARY

**Minister of Finance :** I move—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 85,200 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 Veterinary.

*The motion was carried*

#### INDUSTRIES

**Minister of Finance :** I move—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 94,280, 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.*

## CIVIL WORKS.

**Minister of Finance** (The Honourable Sir Manohar Lal): I move—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 21,89,750 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.

*The motion was carried.*

## ELECTRICITY SCHEMES—WORKING EXPENSES

**Minister of Finance** : I move—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 15,700 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 Electricity Schemes—Working Expenses.

*The motion was carried.*

## FAMINE

**Minister of Finance** : I move—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 9,55,450 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.

*The motion was carried.*

## STATIONERY AND PRINTING

**Minister of Finance** : I move—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 4,260 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.

*The motion was carried.*

## MISCELLANEOUS

**Minister of Finance** : I move—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 73,53,280 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.

*The motion was carried.*

## IRRIGATION WORKS

**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 1944, in respect of Construction of Irrigation Works.

*The motion was carried.*

## MISCELLANEOUS DEPARTMENTS

**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, 1944, in respect of Miscellaneous Departments.

*The motion was carried.*

## P. W. D. BUILDINGS AND ROADS ESTABLISHMENT

**Minister of Finance** (The Honourable Sir Manohar Lal) : 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, 1944, in respect of charges on Public Works Department, Buildings and Roads Establishment.

*The motion was carried*

## CIVIL WORKS

**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, 1944, in respect of Capital Account of Civil Works (outside the Revenue Account).

*The motion was carried*

## CAPITAL OUTLAY ON ELECTRICITY SCHEMES

**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, 1944, in respect of Capital Outlay on Electricity Schemes (outside the Revenue Account).

*The motion was carried.*

*The Assembly then adjourned till 12 noon on Tuesday, 14th March 1944.*

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# PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

## ELEVENTH SESSION OF THE FIRST PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 14th March 1944

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

### STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

MRS. SARAJINI NAIDU

**\*9086. Lala Bhagat Ram Choda :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that a prohibitory order was served by the Punjab Government on Mrs. Sarojini Naidu, a member of the Congress Working Committee, on January 26, just after her arrival in Lahore on a private visit to her ailing sister Miss Chatopadhyaya, Principal of the Sir Ganga Ram College for Women;

(b) if so, what were the reasons that led the Punjab Government to issue this order?

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

(ii) Government are not aware of the purpose of her visit.

(b) With a view to preventing her from acting in any manner prejudicial to the maintenance of public order.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Did the Government collect any information with respect to whether she had come only to see her ailing sister?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** The prohibitory order served on her should have made it easier for her to look after her sister.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** The answer to (a) (ii) is that the Government are not aware of the purpose of her visit. I want to ask whether the Government had made any effort to know whether her sister was ailing. That is my question.

**Premier :** May I know how that affects the question?

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** The notice is already there.

**Premier :** What notice?

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** With respect to the fact that the sister of Mrs. Sarojini Naidu was ailing and she came only to see her.

**Premier :** That is not the issue. The issue is that certain restrictions were imposed on her. If she had no intention of taking part in anything political, well and good, and if she had some intention, then the ban was there. There would have been no harm if she were going to look after her sister. We sent her the order so that she should devote her attention more to her sister.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Does the Honourable Premier mean to say that only questions with respect to which we are at issue can be asked and no other question can be asked?



**Premier :** The honourable member's question is irrelevant to the issue. The restriction was on her political activities. She had come either for a political purpose or she had not. If she had come for attending to her sister, the restriction did not affect her. We only wanted that she should not take part in politics. If she came to see her sister, well and good ; she could look after her all the time without devoting her attention to political matters.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** The question suggests that her visit was purely non-political and she had come to see her ailing sister. Does the Government deny this fact ?

**Premier :** We concede that it was non-political and, therefore, the ban did not affect her. If she had come to see her ailing sister, we said, "Look after her all the time without devoting any attention to gentlemen of the honourable member's sort".

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** How did the Government come to the conclusion that she came here for committing any prejudicial act ?

**Premier :** That is not the issue. That was a possibility. We said, "Devote your whole and sole attention to matters non-political and look after your sister and do not worry about Sardar Sohan Singh Josh". That is all we had said and if the honourable member says the same, where is the dispute ?

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** May I know whether the Government had any evidence in its possession that she was going to act in a prejudicial manner here in the Punjab ?

**Premier :** That does not arise. We wanted that she should not get into any difficulty in our province. We prevented her from getting into any difficulty.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Is the Honourable Premier aware of the fact that she was herself ill and could not afford to deliver speeches here ?

**Premier :** The honourable member is now contradicting himself. At first the contention was that she had come to see her ailing sister and she had no mind to take part in politics. Now he says that there was this apprehension. There are certain matters of which the honourable member is aware and I am not. We did not want any fuss here. We said, "If you have come to see your ailing sister, devote all your attention to your ailing sister". We took her—as we do all others—at her face value.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** May I know why the Punjab Government is so anxious to curtail the civil liberties, small though they are, existing in the Punjab ?

**Premier :** Will the honourable member please tell me whether she came for matters political or to look after her ailing sister ?

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** We are not taking alternative positions like the Government. I enquire whether there was any justification for the issue of the order.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** Was there any justification for serving the prohibitory order on Mrs. Sarojini Naidu ?

**Premier :** Every justification if she had intention of taking part in politics.

LATHI CHARGE ON PRESIDENTIAL PROCESSION OF DR. S. P. MUKERJEE  
AT AMRITSAR

**\*9087. Lala Bhagat Ram Choda :** 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 presidential procession of Dr. Shyamaprasad Mukerjee, former Finance Minister of the Bengal Government, on the occasion of the Silver Jubilee Session of the All-India Hindu Maha Sabha at Amritsar on the 25th December 1943 ;

(b) whether he is aware of the fact that the Enquiry Committee consisting of Bakhshi Sir Tek Chand, former acting Chief Justice of the Lahore High Court, Rai Bahadur Ganga Ram Soni, Retired District and Sessions Judge and Rai Bahadur Badri Dass a well-known advocate of the Lahore High Court, appointed by the President of the Hindu Maha Sabha has blamed the Amritsar authorities for using force, for cancelling the license of the procession at the eleventh hour and giving no time to the processionists to disperse ;

(c) whether the Government have considered the recommendations of the Enquiry Committee and whether they contemplate appointing an official enquiry committee of their own to investigate the charges against the Amritsar authorities ; if so, when ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Mir Maqbool Mahmood) :** (a) The attention of the honourable member is drawn to the Press *communiqué* issued by Government.

(b) Yes.

(c) First part—Yes.

Second part—No.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** When the Government has given a version different from the one given by the Enquiry Committee, why is the Government not prepared to set up an official Enquiry Committee ?

**Premier :** The matter was discussed threadbare in the debate the other day.

SECURITY PRISONERS IN DISTRICT JAIL, JHANG

**\*9123. Lala Bhagat Ram Choda :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) the number and names of security prisoners confined in the District Jail, Jhang, with the dates of their admission in the jail ;

(b) the arrangements made for these prisoners regarding their accommodation, bathing, kitchen, lighting requirements and provision of electric fans ;

(c) the arrangements made for the prisoners convicted of offences involving moral turpitude regarding lighting and provision of electric fans to them in hospital ;

(d) the number of official and non-official visitors who visited the jail from October 1942 to October 1943 and saw the above-mentioned security prisoners, the dates of their visits and the details of the complaints, if any, brought to their notice by the said security prisoners ;

(e) the expenses incurred from October 1943 on the provision of medicines to the sick security prisoners, if any, the date of sickness of the security prisoners, if any, during this period and the details of the medical treatment allowed to them, if any ;

[L. Bhagat Ram Choda]

(f) the total number of prisoners in the said jail ;

(g) the total number, names and length of service of the doctors, compounders and ward boys serving in the said jail ;

(h) whether there is a library in the said jail, if so, whether he is prepared to place the catalogue of the library on the table of the House with rules governing the issue of the books ;

(i) the number of those among the above-mentioned security prisoners who applied for the grant of family allowance, the number of those to whom allowance were granted with the amount sanctioned in each case ;

(j) whether it is a fact that the physician in charge of the hospital of the above mentioned jail is himself suffering from a dangerous and a highly contagious disease ; if so, the action, if any, Government has so far taken in the interest of the health of the prisoners in the said jail, in this connection ; if not, whether Government intends making an inquiry into the matter, if not, why not ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Mir Maqbool Mahmood) :** I regret that the information asked for by the honourable member is not readily available in headquarter offices in Lahore ; and in the present conditions created by the War it is very difficult to undertake to secure it by enquiries from out stations as this would impose a burden on already overworked officers and also involve consumption of paper that would be incommensurate with the results to be achieved.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** May I know whether all the prisoners are transferred or sent from the headquarters to other jails under the direction of the Inspector-General of Prisons ?

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

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** Is it the practice of the Punjab Government only to answer questions which relate to the headquarters ?

**Mr. Speaker :** Disallowed. The next question.

#### PERMISSION TO CERTAIN M. L. AS. TO ATTEND THE ASSEMBLY SESSION

**\*9149. Sardar Ajit Singh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) the total number and the names of the members of the Punjab Legislative Assembly who are detained at present in the Punjab jails, together with the reasons for their detention ;

(b) whether the members of the Punjab Legislative Assembly who have been restricted in their respective localities recently are entitled to attend the forthcoming session of the Punjab Legislative Assembly, if not, the reasons therefor ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Mir Maqbool Mahmood) :** (a) Eleven. Mr. Dev Raj Sethi, Mian Iftikhar-ud-Din, Pandit Sri Ram Sharma, S. Partab Singh, Seth Sudarshan, S. Channan Singh, Dr. Sant Ram Seth, Chaudhri Kartar Singh, Master Kabul Singh, Baba Rur Singh and S. Harjap Singh. They have been detained with a view to preventing them from acting in any manner prejudicial to the public safety, the maintenance of public order and the efficient prosecution of the war.

(b) No. They have been released under certain conditions by which they have to abide.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** May I know whether all these gentlemen who are said to be in jails, were in jails at the time the present Cabinet was formed ?

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

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** Was it one of the conditions in the notices served on those gentlemen who are interned in different areas, that they are not to attend the Assembly meetings ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** The conditions under which they have been released are known to each one of those gentlemen and they know what is implied.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** Was this a specific condition in the notice ?

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** Before orders for their detention were passed, did the Government have any evidence before it to justify the order of detention ?

**Premier :** I thought the honourable member would know this much, that no Government would go to the extent of detaining persons in jails, especially, honourable members of this House, without having reasonable cause for it.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** Was there any evidence that they were about to act in a manner which was detrimental to the law and order of the province ? Is it not a fact that they were shut up simply because they were Congressmen ?

**Premier :** All Congressmen have not been shut up. As the honourable member knows there were certain Congressmen about whom there were apprehensions and they were detained because of the policy laid down openly by their body in its famous resolution.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** That resolution which the Honourable Premier has been pleased to call 'famous', affected all the Congressmen. What was the line of distinction between those who have been detained and those who have not been detained although they are Congressmen ? Is it not correct that the Government detained those whom it considered to be of sufficient importance irrespective of any evidence whatsoever ?

**Premier :** I have again to ask how my honourable friend concludes that we took action without any evidence. Congressmen may be in thousands, but there were some who were likely to implement that resolution and so they were dealt with accordingly ; others, who might profess to follow a certain creed but were not likely to be dangerous, were left out.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** Was that evidence in existence before the Bombay resolution was passed ?

**Premier :** The evidence is always available about the various types of gentlemen, and we go on assessing, adding to and subtracting from it from time to time according to the circumstances. We always go on collecting it.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** Am I right in assuming that the evidence was in existence before the Bombay resolution was passed ?

**Premier :** Not the evidence.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** Whatever it may be called—call it the material on which the Government could act and did act—was that in existence before the Bombay resolution or did it come into existence after the Bombay resolution?

**Premier :** How can evidence come into existence in anticipation? My honourable friend is a very able lawyer. Why does he want to pursue this old story? He knows how things happen.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** I am not pursuing this. I just want to know from the Government clearly whether this action was taken by them under instructions from higher authorities and whether they did not exercise their own discretion. It is in their own interest to say that they were helpless agents and that they were quite innocent.

**Premier :** I never try to mince matters. I have clearly stated that the movement started as a result of that well-known resolution. It was an All-India movement. Therefore, the policy laid down to deal with it was an All-India policy and we agreed to that policy and we have carried out that policy in order to deal with an All-India problem.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** In part (b) of the question the reasons are asked as to why those M.L.As. are restricted and are not allowed to come to this Assembly. The reasons are not given. Now, may I ask why these M.L.As. are restricted and are not allowed to come to this House?

**Premier :** I have already said in reply to my honourable friend, Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang's question, that there were some people who were likely to implement and others were not likely to implement that resolution.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Why can they not come and attend the Assembly in spite of the fact that they are in Lahore and other places?

**Premier :** They are bound by the conditions of their release. I have to reply to this question in various forms practically every day on the floor of the House.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** In this question reasons are asked.

**Premier :** They have been asked twenty times. On each question this supplementary question is asked. Previously it was under a privilege motion and now it is in the form of questions.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** May I know whether the reason is that the Premier and his Cabinet are feeling that if these members are allowed, they will be nowhere?

**Premier :** We were here even when they were all here.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Then why were they not allowed to come here?

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** May I know whether there is any difference between the notice served on Shrimati Raghbir Kaur and the notice served on Lala Bhim Sen Sachar?

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

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Is the Parliamentary Secretary aware that the same kind of notice was served on Bibi Raghbir Kaur and Lala Bhim Sen Sachar but a different interpretation is being put on the second notice?

**Premier :** Does the honourable member want others to be tagged in ?

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** May I know when the cases of those persons who are in prison were last reviewed ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** It has already been stated more than once that they are periodically reviewed. If my honourable friend requires information with regard to any specific case, he may give notice.

**COLLECTION OF EXTRA WAR FUND ALONG WITH LAND REVENUE IN MONTGOMERY DISTRICT**

**\*9160. Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether a fund of 2 annas per Killa was collected in the Montgomery district along with the land revenue last year ;

(b) whether the receipts given showed that the money went to the Montgomery District Benefit Fund ;

(c) the total amount thus collected and the use to which it has been put ;

(d) whether the Government has considered the question of transferring this fund to the War Purposes Fund ?

**The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhote Ram :** (a) and (b) Yes.

(c) The total amount thus collected during the year 1948 amounted to Rs. 1,68,300 and out of it a sum of Rs. 1,63,620 was used as detailed below :—

	Rs.
(i) Amount contributed to Red Cross Fund .. ..	8,120
(ii) Amount paid to District Sports Association for public utility .. ..	40,000
(iii) Amount invested in War Loans .. ..	68,250
(iv) Amount presented to Sir James Penny, Financial Commissioner, as contribution to War Fund .. ..	50,000
(v) Amount paid to various educational institutions in the district .. ..	2,050
(vi) Miscellaneous charges .. ..	200

(d) It is a private society registered under the Societies Registration Act, XXI of 1860, and as such the question does not arise.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** May I know who gave the order to collect this fund along with land revenue ?

**Minister :** Presumably the order was given by the Collector of the district.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** May I know whether he had in mind any scheme when he ordered the collection of this amount ?

**Minister :** I am afraid I cannot read the Collector's mind from here.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** May I know how this money was adjusted to different items mentioned by the Honourable Minister in his reply ?

**Minister :** When I went to Montgomery about six weeks ago, I made informal enquiries from the Revenue Assistant and he told me that there was a regular committee representing all the tahsils of the district and that the method

[Revenue Minister]

in which the money was to be spent was devised by that committee and disbursements were made according to the decision of that committee.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** May I know how much money was spent on giving tea parties to different officials out of this Montgomery District Benefit Fund ?

**Minister :** All the items on which this money was spent have been read over by me in answering this question.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** May I know whether the Honourable Minister is aware of any coercion being used in collecting this money ?

**Minister :** I hope no coercion was used. But I have no information.

#### POLICE AT KUKRAN, DISTRICT HOSHIARPUR

**\*9172. Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the expenses incurred in respect of police post set up at Kukran, district Hoshiarpur, will be realised from the residents of villages Kukran, Warpal and Jassowal, Garh Shankar, District Hoshiarpur, if so, the reasons for the same ;

(b) whether the Government received any representation from the residents of the villages mentioned above in February 1944, requesting that the police post be withdrawn from the village ;

(c) whether the Government has considered the question of withdrawing the police post from the above-mentioned village ; if so, with what result ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Jagjit Singh Man) :** (a) The expenses incurred in respect of the additional police post located at village Kukran in the Hoshiarpur district will be realised from the residents of villages Kukran, Jassowal, Pakhowal, Biram, Rampur Bilran, Bhahowal, and Hailran, as the post was set up owing to the misconduct of the inhabitants of these villages.

(b) Yes.

(c) Yes, but the circumstances which necessitated the location of the post still exist.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** What are the circumstances that still exist ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** The misconduct of the people of that area.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** What sort of misconduct ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** Misconduct in harbouring the dacoits and committing other crimes.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** In reply to part (b) the Parliamentary Secretary says that representations were made. May I know whether Government is aware that in the representation it is made quite clear that they do not harbour any offenders or any people who violate the law ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** But their saying will not suffice until the officers on the spot are satisfied that they are not harbouring the criminals any longer.

**Lala Bhagat Ram Choda :** How many dacoits have been killed ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** Certain dacoits have been arrested there.

**Lala Bhagat Ram Choda :** In view of the fact that the notorious dacoit, of whom the police were very much afraid has been shot dead or caught, will the police post be removed now ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I do not know whether anybody has been recently killed.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** May I know whether the Parliamentary Secretary's attention was drawn to the fact (contained in the representation) that they have not the least sympathy for the criminals at large who go about terrorising and robbing the people ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I am not aware of this particular representation. All I can say is that their saying will not do, until the officers on the spot are satisfied with their conduct.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** How should the people there behave, so that the officials are quite satisfied with them ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I have already said in reply to the question that the conduct of the inhabitants of these villages is not satisfactory yet.

EXTRA POLICE STATIONED IN CERTAIN VILLAGES OF HOSHIARPUR DISTRICT

**\*9173. Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Home Secretary, Punjab Government, and Deputy Commissioner, Hoshiarpur, received any representations in January 1944 from the inhabitants of villages Possi, Paddi Sura Singh, Biran, Rampur Bilrom, Pakhowal, Kukram, Biran, Bharewal, Hiram, Wahidpur, Moranwali, Bhungarni, Akalgarh, Chahalpur, Jassowal, Nangal Thandal, Thurwans, Ajnoha, Kitna and Sata in the district of Hoshiarpur, requesting that the extra police stationed at their expense in the villages in question be withdrawn ;

(b) whether the Government have given their attention to these representations ; if so, with what result ;

(c) the total amount realised from each of the above-mentioned villages so far, in connection with the expenditure on extra police stationed there ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Jagjit Singh Man) :** (a) Yes.

(b) Yes. No circumstances have so far arisen to justify the withdrawal of the additional police posts before the expiry of their present terms.

(c) Nil.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** May I know for how long in the first instance these police posts have been set up ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I require notice for this question.

MAXIMUM AGE FOR BOYS STUDYING IN QUEEN MARY COLLEGE

**\*9188. Rai Bahadur Lala Gopal Das :** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state—

(a) whether any maximum age limit has been fixed for boys studying in the Government Girls Schools in the province, if so, what is that age limit ;

(b) whether it is a fact that there are or there were boys of an age higher than the one prescribed by the Education Department who are or were



[R. B. L. Gopal Das]

allowed to study in the school attached to the Queen Mary College and whether they are or were permitted to reside in the hostel, if so, the circumstances under which such boys were permitted to remain in the school?

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

(b) Queen Mary College is a special institution, which is governed by rules in the college prospectus according to which boys may study in the junior school of the college till they are about ten or eleven years of age. No boy has been allowed to study in the college in contravention of this rule and boys are not permitted to reside in the girls' boarding house.

#### SCARCITY OF PAPER IN PALWAL SUB-DIVISION

**\*9136. Chaudhri Sumer Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister of Development be pleased to state—

(a) whether there is scarcity of paper in the Palwal sub-division of Gurgaon district;

(b) when and what quantity of paper was last supplied to this sub-division;

(c) what is the annual requirement of the sub-division and what proportion has the amount supplied to the amount required?

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

(b) and (c) Punjab Government have no information as they do not control the supply and distribution of paper. The distribution is carried out through normal trade channels.

**Chaudhri Sumer Singh :** May I know what arrangements are made for supplying paper to areas where it is not forthcoming?

**Minister :** We will try our best if the honourable member will let us know the complaints.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** May I know whether there is any paper merchant at Palwal?

**Minister :** I have got no information. I think the honourable member may be in a better position to know.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** How is paper distributed out of the quota given to the Punjab?

**Minister :** I have already said that distribution is carried out through normal trade channels.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** What are those normal trade channels that distribute the paper?

**Minister :** What I understand by normal trade channels is those people dealing in paper.

**Chaudhri Sumer Singh :** Does the Minister know that a quire of paper costs one rupee?

**Minister :** I have got no such information but if there are any specific complaints we will certainly look into them.

**Chaudhri Sumer Singh :** Does the Minister know that on account of shortage of paper supplies, people are put to great trouble?

**Minister :** Yes, the trouble is there.

**Chaudhri Sumer Singh :** Is it not for the Government to see that the trouble of the people is removed?

**Minister :** I have already stated that there is scarcity of paper and whatever paper is available is being distributed through the normal trade channels.

**Chaudhri Sumer Singh :** Has the Government prepared an estimate as to how much paper is required for use in the countryside?

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** May I know whether any district quota of paper is fixed for different districts?

**Minister :** No.

**Chaudhri Sumer Singh :** Does the Minister know that the Government paper, the single sheet of which costs one anna, is cheaper than the ordinary paper?

#### INCOME FROM LOCAL RATE OF DISTRICT BOARD, GURGAON

**\*9138. Chaudhri Sumer Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister of Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the income from local rate of District Board, Gurgaon, has gone down, if so, by how much and the reasons therefor;

(b) what action does he intend to take to make up the deficiency, if any in the permanent income of the District Board; if no action is intended, the reasons therefor?

**The Honourable Sardar Shaukat Hayat Khan :** (a) Yes, the income of the Board from local rate has gone down by about Rs. 65,000 owing to reduction in land revenue as a result of the recent settlement operations.

(b) In the new District Board Bill, which has now been before the House for some time, provision is made for the increase of the local rate above the present maximum where a district board so desires. When the Bill passes into law it will be open to the Gurgaon Board to make up the decrease referred to by raising the local rate.

**Chaudhri Sumer Singh :** Is the Honourable Minister aware that the District Board, Gurgaon, is already charging maximum local rate?

**Minister :** My honourable friend has not understood my reply. As soon as our new Bill is made into law, I said, the maximum rate will be doubled, and if the honourable member moves his Board to levy that rate he will get the increased income.

**Chaudhri Sumer Singh :** Is the Honourable Minister aware of the fact that it is beyond the capacity of the people to pay this local rate?

**Minister :** I am not prepared to agree with my honourable friend on that point.

**Chaudhri Sumer Singh :** Is it a fact that the money of the District Board, Gurgaon, is expended on other local bodies?

**Premier :** The District Board's income will be increased by the opening of canals.

## LEAVE OF ABSENCE OF M.L.As.

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

(1) **Major. Dina Nath** writes—

Owing to the Military Service I am unable to attend the present Budget Session. So permission for absence may please be granted.

(2) **Mian Iftikhar-ud-Din** writes—

Owing to my continued detention in jail, I am unable to attend the meetings of the Punjab Legislative Assembly. I shall be highly obliged, therefore, if leave under Rule 34 (2) of the Rules of Procedure is granted to me for the period of my detention.

Question is—

That permission asked for be granted.

*The motion was carried.*

## DEMANDS FOR GRANTS

## EDUCATION

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

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,00,61,100 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March 1945, in respect of Education (Excluding European and Anglo-Indian Education).

**Mr. Speaker :** Demand moved—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,00,61,100 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March 1945, in respect of Education (Excluding European and Anglo-Indian).

*Educational policy*

**Mian Muhammad Nurullah** (Lyallpur, Muhammadan, Rural) : Sir, I move—

That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100.

In moving this motion, Sir, I want to raise discussion on the educational policy of the Government. It is very nice of Khawaja Sahib, who is not here, to have given me an opportunity to express my views. I hope that you will, Sir, give him ample opportunity to express his views regarding his Ambala division. (Premier : His Ambala division!) Yes, because he comes from that division. I wanted to study this important subject of education before coming here and for that purpose I went to our Assembly Library, but I was greatly disappointed to see that there was hardly any book worth reading or worth consulting on this subject. I had thought that the Honourable Minister in charge of Education would have taken some interest at least in seeing that the Library of this honourable House possesses some of the latest books on Education, but I was greatly disappointed and had to look for such books elsewhere. I have been able to get only two reports on the progress of Education in the Punjab, one relating to the year 1936-37 when this Ministry came into power and the other for the year 1941-42. In any case this gives some food for thought on this subject for about five years for which this Ministry were to carry on but owing to circumstances beyond all

control they still continue to be in power. The report for the year 1942-43 ought to have come out by now but it has not been published so far and if it were published we would have had the latest information before us.

To begin with, I must say that the Unionist Ministry have treated the Department of Education in a step-motherly way. I will prove it by quoting facts and figures. In this connection I would refer the House to two charts in the Budget Memorandum for the year 1944-45 on pages 3 and 4. We find in those charts statements showing the progress of expenditure in certain departments since 1921-22, i.e., the year when Reforms were introduced and the expenditure for the beneficent departments is shown in column E. It will be seen from the chart that the expenditure on the beneficent departments has been growing mostly except for a year or two. On the next page you will find a graph—graph in the real sense—which shows the expenditure incurred by this Government on Education, Medical, Agriculture, Public Health and Industries, i.e., all the beneficent departments in a comparative table from 1921-22 up to date. If you study these two charts analytically and statistically the following facts will come out as day light. I must say that the Department of Education has been very badly treated. In the year 1921-22 the total provincial expenditure was 1,069 in lakhs of rupees and out of this the beneficent departments drew 170 in lakhs of rupees and Education drew 88. The percentage of expenditure on the beneficent departments to the total expenditure comes to 15.9 per cent and that of Education comes to 8.23 per cent and the percentage of expenditure on the Education Department to the total of the beneficent departments comes to 51.77 per cent. Similarly, in the year 1929-30 the provincial expenditure was 1,110 in lakhs of rupees; the beneficent departments drew 323, the percentage of the beneficent departments to the total comes out to 29.09 per cent; Education drew 172 and its percentage to the total expenditure was 15.5 per cent and the percentage of Education to the beneficent departments comes out to be 53.2 per cent. Further on in the year 1930-31 the total provincial expenditure was 1,099; that of the beneficent departments 310, per centage being 28.2 per cent and out of this Education drew 172 and its percentage to the total is 15.63 per cent and the percentage of Education to the beneficent departments comes out to be 55.5. All these figures go to show that there has been steady increase in the expenditure incurred by the Government on the Education Department, ever since 1921-22.

In the next year, 1932-33, when the provincial exchequer had been at its lowest ebb the total income was 9,190 lakhs and the beneficent departments drew 2,517 lakhs, the percentage of this to total provincial expenditure being 27. Education drew one crore and fifty lakhs and as compared to total expenditure the percentage comes to 15.1. As compared to total expenditure on beneficent departments this expenditure comes to 58.4 per cent. This was the best year when Education drew the maximum percentage and this was a little earlier than the coming into existence of our present ministry. In 1937-38 when the present ministry came into being what was the position? Then 1,031 lakhs was the total provincial expenditure. The beneficent departments got 309 and Education 160. The beneficent department got 29.6 per cent of the total expenditure while Education got 14.8 per cent. Education expenditure as compared to total expenditure on beneficent departments comes to 51.6 per cent. This is where our ministry starts from. To-day, if you look at the budget you will find that the total provincial expenditure is 1,578 in lakhs and the beneficent departments' share of it is 464, that is 29.4 per cent while the share of the Education department is 209, that is 18.25 per cent only as compared with the 14.8 per cent in 1937-38. This is what I want the House to note specially. The percentage on Education has gone

[M. Muhammad Nurullah]

down while the expenditure on the whole of the beneficent departments has gone up. That is why I say that step-motherly treatment has been meted out to this department. I do not know why. We had thought that the Honourable Minister of Education was one of the few educated Ministers and that the best interests of the Education Department were safe in his hands, but he seems to be doing nothing. Perhaps he cannot assert himself properly against other Ministers who have taken a larger share of this budget. I hope that in future the Education Minister will take up a very strong attitude and try to get as much money as possible for this department. After all, education is the basis on which our social, economic, agricultural and industrial progress depends. I do not know whether it is the fault of the Honourable Finance Minister or of other Ministers that they have taken more money for their departments and neglected education. If I am allowed to do so, I shall say that on the basis of 58·4 per cent that Education drew from the provision for beneficent departments in the year 1932-33 the budget provision for Education this year must be 246·7 lakhs, while the actual provision in the budget is only 209 lakhs, that is, 37 lakhs less than what it ought to have been.

*(At this stage Mr. Speaker left the chair and it was occupied by Mr. Deputy Speaker).*

It may be said that while it was only 1,60 lakhs in 1937-38 it is now 209 lakhs, that is, the expenditure has gone up. That is where the fallacy lies. No doubt the expenditure has gone up, but the expenditure on all the beneficent departments put together has been going up much more rapidly than that on education. Even if the percentage of allotment for Education this year is to be the same as that for 1937-38, the budget provision must be about 30 lakhs more than what it is now. It is because the Ministry or the party in power will not allow more expenditure on Education that the poor teachers in the villages are suffering, that no provision is made specially for the depressed classes and backward areas. If you do not provide adequately for Education, how can the Minister meet the needs of the department? Certainly not from his own pocket. Nobody, not even the head of the department or any other enthusiast or educationist would do that. It is the duty of the Government to increase the grant for Education.

Now, I shall pass on to another point, namely the reform of the educational system. It was in 1921 that education was transferred to the control of popular ministry. Now, 23 years have passed and what has been done to improve the educational system? It may be said that while in 1921-22 the provision for Education was only 88 lakhs, now it is 209 lakhs, that is two and a half times. That is quite true. But what reforms have been effected? We are where we were before in spite of all the resources at our disposal. That is where the Government have failed. In support of this contention I may take back the House to yesterday when I put a question in the House and here is the reply of the Honourable Minister. It is only luckily that the answer was given in time to enable me to refer to it. Certainly the reform that could have been effected and should have been effected was not effected, that is, the change of the system of education in such a way that instead of producing lakhs of glorified babus that were needed about forty or fifty years ago for Government service we should have produced citizens of the first class type, citizens who can run their own administrations, citizens who can think over their problems, citizens who can act according to their conviction. Have we created any thinking power among our boys? Have we produced educated people in the real sense of that word? I doubt. If you ask me, I will definitely say, no. If I am permitted I shall read an extract

from the speech of Mrs. Harper who presided at the non-Government Schools Federation last year. This will give you some indication of what is really wanted from one education. Even if you look at the All-India Educational Reports published ever since the Resolution of 1882 and the reports of committees appointed by the Government, you will find that the one ultimate result expected of education was the production of good citizens.

What does Mrs. Harper say?

First, then, a good citizen acts on his own thinking. Plato defined a slave as one who accepts his purposes from another. His master directs his actions.

Probably you and I accept our purposes from our leaders. A leader is thrust upon us and we are asked to follow him. Even in a school we are asked to follow the teachers and we are asked to follow the books. We do not inculcate the power of thinking. I do not know where the difficulty lies, and what it is. Why could not the Honourable Minister with all his funds revolutionise education of which he has held charge for seven or eight years? He should have had the cumulative effect of the previous working of the Reforms since 1921. Even this he could not utilise.

His master directs his actions. In other words, another person thinks for him. Dr. Kilpatrick has said, "Respect for personality demands that thinking and action be normally joined together within one and the same person." But in the usual school, children live through ten years of doing as they are told, thinking as the teacher or the book tells them. How can we expect them to become other than parts of a herd of sheep who follow a leader, parts of a mob who are swayed by a demagogue, slaves who bow to an autocrat? If a resident of another world visited our schools, would he not say we are bending every effort to train for a totalitarian regime?

Comparing the totalitarian regime with the democratic regime, have we inculcated the spirit of democracy that should have been done with the introduction of the reforms? I say we have badly failed.

I gave notice of a question, and here is the reply that the Honourable Minister gave yesterday. The question was—

Will the Honourable Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(1) whether it is a fact that a new syllabus of studies was approved by the Punjab Government in 1941?

The reply was: Yes. Just imagine the new syllabus was approved in 1941 and now it is 1944. What has happened?

The second part of the question was—

(2) whether it is a fact that the Government in the first instance notified that 30th April 1942 as the last date for the submission of the books under the new scheme for approval, which date was however, changed later to 31st of October 1942, then to 30th of April 1943, then again to 30th of April 1944, lastly to 30th of April 1945;

This was just to show that the question had been shelved from year to year. Probably the Honourable Minister did not favour the scheme. I do not know what circumstances existed which would not allow of the scheme being put into force. What is the reply?

(2) In the first instance Punjab Government notified 31st August 1942, as the last date for the submission of textbooks under the new scheme. The date was postponed to the 10th October 1942, then to 30th April 1943, and then again to 30th April 1944, and lastly to 30th April 1945.

So it was admitted that there have been day to day, month to month, year to year postponement of the scheme, the consideration or the enforcing of it.

Next we come to the reasons for the postponement of the above dates. Here is the reply to part (3).

(3) The postponement in the first instance was due to representations made by the authors and publishers that the time at their disposal for the preparation of textbooks according to the new syllabus was short, but subsequently the period had to be extended owing to the scarcity and high cost of paper and printing materials, due to the conditions created by the war.

[Mian Muhammad Nurullah]

The first reason given by the Honourable Minister is that there were representations made by the authors and publishers that the time at their disposal being short, the books were not ready. Was it a favour shown to certain publishers because their books were not ready? If they were not ready, surely there were others that were ready. You could have ignored those whose books were not ready; they could take their chance later. I do not make a definite allegation that there were certain favourites. I am only saying that if this was the reason that certain authors had not finished their books, they could wait. They should have been ignored. Why should we at the cost of a few persons detain the whole system of reform?

**Chaudhri Sumer Singh :** If the books of those authors are completed then what will be the attitude of the Department?

**Mian Muhammad Nurullah :** All these questions could be considered and decided on merit. My main contention is that there was no need to postpone the whole scheme of the syllabus by which our educational system would benefit. I do not go further than that.

Let us admit for the sake of argument that the authors and publishers were not ready and we had to postpone the dates and give them an extension, but after that what happened? After that came the war and the lame excuse of there being no paper. I cannot imagine how so little paper cannot be procured by Government for these important publications when thousands of tons of it is being wasted. We find that the control order in the beginning was for 90 per cent and now it is for 70 per cent. How much paper do you need? The Honourable Minister might know better. I am a layman and I do not know much about it. All the same I can imagine. I know that only 20 copies are to be produced in the beginning. A publisher would have to print 20 copies. Even if there are 100 books, that would mean 2,000 copies and not more than that. And for these books you cannot get paper! I can never believe it. Therefore this is not the real reason. Probably out of 20 books you can publish 6 books. That much you can do. That is a subject about which I do not know much, but the excuse of the conditions created by the war is no excuse as against the immense benefit that we would have derived from the new syllabus, the new books and the new scheme. If you had carried out this 20-copy scheme disregarding this control order or somehow managed to secure paper for these important publications, the present time would have been utilised for taking further steps. I am very doubtful that we will have these books even in 1945, because the next reply is still more wonderful.

The next question will show that it is only an excuse and the reply given to this question does not hold water. The next question was "whether 30th April 1945 is the final date for the submission of books and it is not likely to be changed as heretofore". And what is the reply? "As the printing and publication of good and cheap books is chiefly dependent on the availability and reasonable cost of paper and other writing materials it is not possible to say at this stage whether or not this period will be further extended". Now the Government cannot make up their mind whether this period will be extended or not. They are not very keen about this scheme. It looks as if they are not keen to effect any real reforms. The last sentence of the reply is that "the position will be reviewed at the appropriate time and the decision will be made after careful consideration of all relevant factors". Sir, I cannot speak on behalf of the Honourable Minister for Education, but yesterday I put some supplementary questions and the Honourable Minister

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said that the Government approved the scheme in 1941 and I was told by some people—I am subject to correction—that the Honourable Minister was very much in favour of this scheme. He thought that it was one of the best syllabi, that it was a great improvement, that it was the Taj Mahal of educational reforms, that it was better than the Wardha Scheme and so on and if these things are true he should have pursued the scheme and pushed it through in spite of the difficulties, even if he had to approach the Government of India for relaxing control order and even if he had to ask the Finance Minister for more funds. He knew he was going to have a surplus of 8,86 lakhs. He could have enforced his scheme even this year by getting the necessary amount of money. Therefore my point is that this is only an excuse, this is only a made-up answer and if the Honourable Minister wanted really to push on the thing, he could have done so. It is possible that some strong factors or some people who have control over the press might have opposed the scheme and the scheme, although not entirely shelved, has for the time being been thrown into the background. I want the Honourable Minister to adopt all measures to expedite the thing because this is the time when he should do so. He should be able to say that the Unionist Ministry was able to do something in respect of education which was not possible for so many years. If they do not take any steps now in this direction, what will they do afterwards? Things will change, circumstances will change and a great deal of reforms and reorganisation is expected in future everywhere. May I ask the Honourable Minister in charge if he has taken any steps, if he has ever seriously considered this matter of post-war reconstruction? I doubt because his scheme is still under consideration and in 1945 and 1946 there will be a number of other problems. God knows how long the war lasts. War may end or may not end soon. That is a different matter. There are so many problems to be considered from the point of view of national welfare and we should not ignore the post-war reconstruction schemes of education. I do not want to detain the House long on this matter of reforms but I do want to take certain specific points now regarding what our education has been and what we have been doing with our education in the past. In this connection I must draw your attention to the budget and the expenditure that we are incurring on account of local bodies. The whole of primary education is through local bodies except for a few schools and we are spending 1,08 lakhs. As regards the district boards, only the other day an honourable member from the other side said that the district boards are being starved. There is hardly any money with the district boards. The funds of the district boards are going down and down because prices have risen and the district board income has not gone up so much. My honourable friend also explained, he is the Vice-Chairman of the District Board knowing the ins and outs, how within the next two or three years they may not be able to run the board. The position might become serious. The main sources of education being primary and secondary schools, if we cannot maintain these schools, the whole system of education may be affected and we may not be able to get the proper return for the money spent, because after a certain point the return will necessarily diminish. Again you should not ignore the interests and the needs of the private institutions. I am now referring to the grant-in-aid given to non-Government schools. If you look at the budget you will find that the grant has no doubt been going up just as efficiency has been going up and we are spending a few lakhs on grant-in-aid. But you should take the realities of education into consideration. If facts and figures are examined, it will be clear to everybody that two-thirds of education comes from non-Government schools. Two-thirds of students are taught by these schools. Most of the education, therefore, comes from non-Government schools and we are giving them only 8 or 9 lakhs as compared with total expenditure of 4 crores and some



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lakhs. That is nothing. This is ignoring the rural education in the province. Particularly with such a heavy surplus budget you should give more grant-in-aid to these schools. You should feed the institutions which give you primary and secondary education so well. It is time that you should reconsider your rules regarding grant-in-aid. Only a few years ago it was pointed out to my honourable friend and a resolution signed by a few members was sent to him regarding the maximum limit of grant-in-aid to any one school. Government has fixed Rs. 6,000 as the maximum grant to any one school and there are only a few schools that come under this category. You can count them on fingers' ends. (*Minister of Education*: Twenty-three). My honourable friend says that only 23 come under this category. I am very glad that there are good schools which are very popular and many students attend them. Twenty-three is not a big number and more grants should have been given to them. If this rule is not there, it would cost them a few thousands more. It could not have been more than a lakh in any case. All the schools in the whole province get 9 lakhs, and if these schools where the students are more should get more than Rs. 500 a month it would not make much difference. There is my honourable friend belonging to the Rang Mahal High School, a great educationist, who has been recently returned to this Assembly. He is not in his seat just at present but I am sure he will be able to throw a good deal of light on the problem of education. We would have liked to hear what he has to say on the educational requirements of the schools. He is one of the prominent educationists of this Province and we would have liked to benefit from what he has to say on educational reforms in the interests of the schools. He would have made a convincing speech to show if some reforms had been effected so far. I am sorry that he is not here. His school is very popular and is within the thickly populated area of Lahore. The practice of fixing maximum grants-in-aid of Rs. 500 per mensem is not desirable. There should be no limit at all. Nothing has been done in this direction in spite of the resolution we gave notice of. I was saying that two-thirds of the students of the Province come from the aided schools which are given grants-in-aid by the Government. The Government is now paying lot of dearness allowance to the local bodies and teachers serving under the local bodies but they have done nothing for teachers in the schools which accommodate two-thirds of the number of students of the Province. They are sitting tight and by the time war ends and prices come down, they will say that the emergency is over and nothing can be done. It is time that the Government grant those teachers some dearness allowance. The Government cannot give it directly as it gives to local bodies but it can be given in the form of increased grant-in-aid and thus the Government can help the teachers in these hard days. How can a teacher of a non-Government school make both ends meet with the small salary that he draws? The teachers of private schools, which are run by philanthropists, suffer a lot and it is time that the Government came to their help.

I would now like to draw your attention to a very important point and I feel that the Honourable Deputy Speaker should be given all the possible credit for having done some service by bringing that point before the Punjab Legislative Council in the year 1935. The question relates to the seduction of boys in schools. It is a very important question and should not be ignored. Lot of discussion took place about this matter in the Legislative Council in the year 1935. I need not take the time of honourable members by going into the very details but I would only say that the evil is there and is increasing day by day. There is the need of a strong hand to put a stop to it. It is prevalent from top to bottom and it

must be attacked at every stage. Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang says that many complaints have been brought to the notice of the authorities without any tangible results or action. I think that is very degrading. Action in such matters should be taken immediately because it reflects very badly on the students as a whole. The Honourable Deputy Speaker had shown in his speech that the then Director of Public Instruction had admitted that this evil was rampant and immediate action was needed. This is certified by Inspectors of Schools like Mr. Shiv Dayal, M.A. and Mr. Khurshid Ahmed. The scourge is really on the increase. From my enquiries I find that it is not on the decrease but is on the increase. Therefore, pointed attention of honourable members has to be drawn towards the points that were mentioned by our present Deputy Speaker in that speech of his. He said that these thirteen points should help in the matter and that, therefore, immediate action ought to be taken. I want to know from the Honourable Minister whether they did take action on the lines suggested by the Honourable Deputy Speaker now sitting in the chair. The following thirteen points were mentioned by him :—

- (1) That no unmarried man be appointed as Hostel Superintendent or as a teacher in primary schools.
- (2) Provision for the instruction in sex hygiene to all the student teachers in our training colleges and schools.
- (3) Forbidding teachers to call students to their houses or detaining them before and after school hours under any pretext whatever.
- (4) Devising means to reduce to a minimum the 'usually fatal delay in' instituting legal proceedings or conducting departmental enquiries.

The Director of Public Instruction then issued a circular ordering that early action should be taken.

- (5) Preventing the hushing up of enquiries on the receipt of a complaint.
- (6) Suspending teachers charged with immoral conduct before starting a departmental enquiry.
- (7) Requiring all inspectors to make a regular private enquiry on the occasion of their visits as to the moral condition of schools and to enter the results thereof in a separate column to be provided in the log book for the purpose.

And here comes the remark of Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang that if the inspecting staff is corrupt, what will happen then? I say that the next superior of the staff should take immediate action.

- (8) Keeping a permanent register for all students in regard to their misconduct and the misconduct of teachers and submitting a return of the same annually to the department.
- (9) Seeking the co-operation of the Police with a view to immediate action on their part in the case of molestation of school children by *goondas*, hawkers and booksellers.
- (10) Enforcing strictly in schools the Juvenile Smoking Act of 1915.
- (11) Introducing some such step as the University has already introduced in colleges in the form of proctorial system.
- (12) Arranging measures for the prevention of hushing up or nominal punishment of such offenders in recognised non-Government schools managed by local bodies.
- (13) Enforcing recruitment of drawing masters and drill masters, who form the majority of such offenders, from amongst higher classes of persons with superior cultural equipment.

These thirteen points are very important and if the Honourable Minister had paid the least attention, great improvement would have been affected by now, but instead of improvements, we do not see any decrease in the evils. Only a few days ago, Mr. Sita Ram brought many complaints to my notice of which Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang has mentioned some. I hope in future the Honourable Minister will pay proper attention to this matter.

I must now take up another point and that is that our education should be based on the latest educational methods and it should not be divorced from what

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we have to do in the world later on after we are educated properly. The present system produces young men who shun labour. Instead of shunning labour, they should learn labour. It is labour that produces wealth and it is wealth that gives education and it is education that raises one economically, socially and industrially. If any reforms are to be immediately affected, reforms on the type of those countries, which are industrially advanced, should be taken in hand. A portion of boys' time must be allotted for work in some industry where they should work with their own hands. There should be coaching and development not only of the brain but coaching and development of the hand as well. Brain and hand should work hand in hand and it is only then that we will be able to remove this evil that our young men shun labour. Educated people should love labour.

Another point that I want to press on the Honourable Minister is that education should be as cheap as possible. It is not so in our province. Only this morning, when I got hold of a small book from the library relating to All-India matters, I noted down that in most of the provinces the cost per head was much cheaper. It was something like Rs. 17 in Bombay and Rs. 28 in the Punjab. We should try to teach our children to live in a very simple way. Simple living and high thinking should be our motto. But that is not so here. I am told that in this province fashions are laid by the girls and students of colleges and they are the fore-runners of fashion. They, instead of improving their own thoughts and instead of being an example for future students, waste most of the money of their parents. The parents are ruined and the boy is plucked and then runs towards canal to drown himself or goes towards a railway line to see that the engine passes over his head. That is very bad. They should be an example for our future generation and this motto of simple living and high thinking should be inculcated in all the students. Has the Honourable Minister, in these days of ordinances, ever tried to regulate the dress of school and college students and to have a uniform for them and to see that instead of spending money on their shoes, shirts, suits and ties, they should live modestly and in a simple way and should use simple clothes that will suit this country? He should see that their parents are saved from ruin and that they are better equipped for the service of the country. Has he affected any reforms in this direction? I will draw his attention to the fact that in future he should make an experiment and should start somewhere, and spend money lavishly. In the beginning you will have to incur costs, but at the end the result will be useful. It may not be useful to you, but that will be useful for the country. You will improve the whole race and save it from deterioration. Students spend so much money that the parents and guardians cannot afford to send them to colleges and schools. The same old thing continues. Instead of having more arts colleges we should try to educate the boys in technical and industrial education and allow only very capable boys to proceed with higher education. But instead of having been able to help them, we go on pushing them in the same old rut and go on spending more money on these arts colleges, instead of having technical colleges, industrial institutions or any other type of education which should inculcate love of labour and which will make us more honourable in the eyes of the world. We are just pushing them in the same old rut of education which has been in existence for the last 100 years. With these remarks, I hope the Honourable Minister will take a few clues and try to spend money and time and will try to affect necessary reforms in this direction, so that when next year we come here we may be able to congratulate him on some reforms and on some development in this direction. With these words I beg to move my cut motion.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker :** Demand under consideration, motion moved is—  
That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100.

**Chaudhri Sumer Singh** (South-East Gurgaon, General, Rural) (Urdu) :  
Sir, the first point to which I want to draw the attention of the House concerns the teaching of Hindi and Gurmukhi in the District Board schools. Last year a sum of Rs. 10,000 was provided in the budget estimates for the teaching of these languages. But I regret to point out that arrangements have not been made for the teaching of Hindi and Gurmukhi in schools and consequently this sum has not been utilized at all. If you turn to page 167 of the New Expenditure, you will find that a sum of Rs. 20,000 has been provided in the budget for the teaching of Gurmukhi and the other scriptural languages. The honourable members should mark the words 'and the other scriptural languages'. I have learnt through a very reliable source that 'other scriptural languages' mean only Arabic. So it comes to this that arrangements will be made for the teaching of Gurmukhi and Arabic languages only. I am not opposed to the teaching of Arabic at all. On the contrary, if Government want to incur any expenditure for teaching Arabic in schools I for one will have no objection at all. But what I want to urge is that provision made for Hindi and Gurmukhi be expended for the teaching of these languages only. The provision that was made last year for the purpose has not been utilized at all. It can be made use of this year. The Honourable Minister may set apart whatever amount of money he likes for the teaching of Arabic. We do not object to that. What we want is that the provision made for the teaching of Hindi and Gurmukhi be incurred for that purpose only. The words 'and other scriptural languages' have created doubts in my mind whether this money will be utilized for the teaching of these languages. The honourable members are aware of the fact that languages are divided into two groups. One group comprises of Hindi, Gurmukhi and Urdu and the other group consists of Persian, Sanskrit and Arabic. These languages should be kept in separate groups. It has come to my knowledge that Government is contemplating to place Arabic along with Gurmukhi. As I have pointed out Arabic, Persian and Sanskrit form a separate group and there is absolutely no justification for placing Arabic along with Gurmukhi. We, as you all know, had been making efforts for the last two or three years for getting some provision made for the teaching of Hindi and Gurmukhi in schools. It was only last year that our efforts succeeded and Government made a provision of Rs. 10,000 for this purpose. But this money has not been spent for reasons best known to Government. I for one think that if the Inspectors had made some efforts they could have selected areas for starting the teaching of Hindi and Gurmukhi as an experimental measure. The fact of the matter is that letters are not issued to head masters from the Department of Education in time to make arrangements for the teaching of Hindi and Gurmukhi. Such letters are generally issued in September and October when it is too late to make arrangements for the teaching of these languages in schools. If such letters are issued in the beginning of the year instead of in September and October as is usually done now, then the head masters of schools would be in a position to make arrangements for the teaching of these languages. Anyway my submission is that the sum that has been allotted for the teaching of Hindi and Gurmukhi be used for that specific purpose only. I do not say that funds should not be made available for the teaching of Arabic. By all means do so. We do not object to that. But we only want that the provision made for the teaching of Hindi and Gurmukhi be expended for the teaching of these languages only. I do not say that students should be forced to learn these languages, but what I want is that obstacles may not be placed in the way of those who want to learn Hindi and Gurmukhi.

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Now I come to the system of education. My honourable friend Mian Muhammad Nurullah has dealt with this matter at length. He has pointed out many defects of the present system of education. If these defects are removed much progress can be made. Now under the present system of education ten years of our boys, the best part of their life, are wasted, and after passing their Matriculation Examination what do they become? Clerks at Rs. 20 or Rs. 25 per month which sum is not even sufficient for their bare living. After all what is the use of producing an army of clerks every year? Has not the time arrived for making a change in our system of education? The present system of education has become out of date. I would, therefore, request the Honourable Minister to see that such a system of education is introduced here which would lead to increasing the wealth of the province. Now the highest job that a boy after passing his Matriculation Examination can look up to is a clerkship of Rs. 25 or at the most of Rs. 35, which sum is not even sufficient for meeting his bare needs. Consequently he is always heard complaining about his meagre salary and so on. If such schools are opened where handicrafts are taught to them I think that will be much better. In that case they will be in a position to earn their living. So long as that is not done, our province cannot make any progress at all. We should start making plans from now. I may add that at present on account of rise in prices zamindars are well off. But after two or four years when this war is over, zamindars will again become poor. Then many difficulties will arise which Government will not be in a position to cope with. It is, therefore, meet and proper that the present system of education be changed and our young men be taught industries and handicrafts. My honourable friend Mian Muhammad Nurullah has stated that our young men shun labour. That is due to the present system of education which makes them ease-loving. They do not like to do any work involving labour. They rather hate labour.

The result of this type of education is that our young men begin to hate hard work and instead of striving for the freedom of their country content themselves with their lot as a slave nation. Their greatest ambition, after getting their degrees, is to become poorly paid clerks in some Government office. Unless the present system of education is overhauled, the universities will go on turning out graduates of hopelessly slavish mentality with the result that the country will never be able to attain its freedom. Moreover the educational system should be such as to prove helpful to our young men in solving the problem of making their living.

Then, Sir, I would invite the attention of the Government to the matter of primary education under the District Boards. It is the fundamental duty of the Government to impart primary education to the children in the Province, which has all along been neglected by them. Since 1937 when this Government came into office, nothing has been done by them to encourage education in the primary stage. It is just possible that the Honourable Minister will say that primary schools for girls have been started, but I would beg to submit that this scheme is a great burden for the rural population as they are asked to provide funds for the building before their request for establishing a primary school is granted. While the Government should spend large sums of money liberally on encouraging education among the rural masses, they are rather discouraging them by requiring them to construct buildings for primary schools. So long as the people in the rural areas are not educated, the country cannot reach that point of advancement where we can stand shoulder to shoulder with other nations. The Government should give sufficient grants to the district boards, so that they

may carry on the scheme of primary education properly. It is now four years that the Primary Education Bill was passed, but so far it has not been enforced and no practical shape has been given to the scheme of making primary education free and compulsory. If there are any obstacles in the way of enforcing that law at present, the Government should at least turn their attention to the educationally backward districts, such as Muzaffargarh, Dera Ghazi Khan, Kangra and Gurgaon. These districts should be given more than the other districts, so that the people of these districts may have the same facilities as the other districts are enjoying at present. When the Primary Education Act was passed we had made it clear to the Government that the financial condition of the district boards was not such as to enable them to spend money on imparting primary education to the people. They were not in a position to levy more taxes. At this we were told that the Government will also give some help to these boards to enable them to carry out this scheme. The position of the district boards is still the same and it is up to the Government to help them liberally in the matter of education. In Gurgaon, the Mewati ilaqa is the most backward in respect of education in the whole of the province. The Government should, therefore, pay more attention and give more money to the local bodies there for educational purposes.

Again, Sir, Rs. 50,000 have been allotted for the expansion of compulsory education in rural areas. This is too little a sum for that purpose because if we divide it among the 29 districts in the province it hardly amounts to Rs. 2,000 per district and with that amount the work of education in even one zail cannot be undertaken. Unless money granted for education is sufficiently increased, our province cannot make any progress in education.

There is still another matter, by no means less important than the others, to which I would like to draw the attention of the Honourable Minister for Education. Since 1931 the district boards have not been given any grant for the construction of new buildings. On page 398 of the budget we find that under this head not a single pie has been granted during all these 11 or 12 years. I would beg to submit that it is not possible for the district boards to raise new buildings themselves as there has not been any increase in their income though their expenditure is increasing day by day. Not to speak of new buildings the condition of the existing buildings is far from satisfactory. There are neither proper buildings for housing schools, nor is there any equipment for those schools. This item of expenditure has for long been neglected. The Honourable Minister will say that this grant is being increased this year, but I would remind him that if the grant for the purchase of equipment has been increased the rates have also correspondingly increased and this increased grant will not prove as useful as the Honourable Minister expects it to be. Again a paltry sum of Rs. 5,000 is granted for the carrying out of repairs to these buildings per district board excluding the District Board, Simla. But this sum is not enough even for the repair of ten school buildings under one district board, not to speak of all the district boards in the province. To me this amount is not sufficient for even the white-washing of these buildings. In short the village schools both on account of their buildings as well as equipment are in a very miserable condition.

I tender my heartiest congratulations to the Honourable Minister of Education for his benevolence towards the Punjab University. The Government has granted the University Rs. 20,000 for the extension of the play grounds. Although the village schools do not get money for their buildings yet Rs. 20,000 have been spared for the playgrounds. I again congratulate him for this act of kindness.

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Rupees 75,000 are provided as a repair fund for the District Board schools. If we exclude Simla, then there remain 28 districts and thus each district does not get more than Rs. 3,000 per annum. How can they meet their needs out of this meagre sum which is allotted to each district board? Moreover, the Government does not permit them to spend any thing more than what is originally sanctioned. If they ever happen to spend something from their own fund, no grant is allowed for expenditure over and above the fixed quota. There exist such an abnormal number of obstacles of the type in their way that it has become impossible for them to work properly. I suggest that all expenditure by the district board under this head may be made approved expenditure for grant-in-aid purposes.

Sir, now I want to bring to the notice of the Honourable Minister concerned that the major portion of the Gurgaon District Board funds is spent over activities outside the district board. For instance, the district board starts a school in a village but later on that village itself is converted into a small-town committee or a notified area. Then arises the question of financing the school. At that time neither does the Government force that newly formed body to defray all the expenses nor does it permit the district board to close down that institution. Thus fabulous amounts of district board funds are being wasted without any direct gain to the district board. These bodies must be relieved of such standing liabilities and the Government should either finance these institutions itself or it should entrust them to the care of the local bodies. District boards must be freed from these standing liabilities. The district board started a girls' school in Gurgaon Cantonment. Now it is possible for the Government to relieve the board of the burden and to leave the school to the care of the authorities now concerned.

Sir, some time ago I moved for the starting of a college in Gurgaon. I do not question the existing number of colleges or their proportion in each division. In Ambala city there is an Intermediate College. The Degree College of Rohtak cannot alone feed the entire division. Formerly students used to go over to Delhi, but now the University of Delhi have changed their syllabus. Delhi University's school-leaving certificate course is now of 11 years and the degree takes three more years. The Intermediate stage has been totally abolished. Last year they started a preparatory class and our matriculates after joining that could be admitted to the university, but now that class too has been abolished. Thus our matriculates cannot seek admission there. Now you may think for yourself how a single degree college can meet the needs of the entire division. I stand for the extension of education. Education must be made less expensive and more effective. In normal days when the rates for agricultural produce are normal, it becomes very difficult for parents to send their children to far away districts and to undergo the expenditure of 40 or 50 rupees every month. Education at such times will become a luxury to be indulged in only by the rich and an impossibility for the poor.

**Sayed Amjad Ali Shah :** Is it a fact that a matriculate from the Punjab University cannot seek admission to the Delhi University?

**Chaudhri Sumer Singh :** Yes, Sir. In the present circumstances one cannot do so. I recommend that in Hissar, Karnal, Gurgaon, or at any other place, wherever it is necessary, colleges may be started.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker :** The honourable member will please wind up his speech.

**Chaudhri Sumar Singh :** The next point to which I wish to draw the attention of the House in general and the Honourable Minister of Education in particular is regarding the Normal Training Schools. Some ten years back students undergoing training in Normal Training Schools were afforded various facilities in the form of stipends, scholarships, etc., but for the last five years no such facilities have been afforded to poor students, as a result of which no such scholarships and stipends are brought on the list of approved expenditure of the District Board. Under the present conditions the poor students find it very difficult to acquire any further education in Normal Schools. It is doubtful whether the Honourable Minister of Education is always prepared to help the poor, for when the actual time comes he takes sides with the rich. Previously the course for acquiring training in Normal Schools was one year but now the course has been fixed for two years. Not only this, but the stipends and scholarships have been stopped. In the circumstances the poor students are handicapped in the absence of any encouragement, as a result of which they give up the idea of acquiring any training in Normal Schools as they cannot afford to spend Rs. 1,000 for two years.

It will not be out of place to mention here that various educational facilities in the form of scholarships for foreign training, etc., are afforded to the untouchables, while no facilities whatsoever are afforded to students belonging to backward areas. I would like to request the Honourable Minister of Education to provide some money from district boards for affording suitable facilities to students belonging to backward areas desirous of acquiring further education and the expenditure by district boards may be approved for grant-in-aid purpose. In the end I would once again request the Honourable Minister of Education to do something substantial in further accelerating the educational advancement in backward areas and provide suitable facilities to students belonging to those areas. With these words, Sir, I close my speech and resume my seat.

**Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh (Western Towns, Sikh, Urban) :** The future of every nation depends on the extent and quality of education given to its children. In fact we can only build the superstructure of a strong and healthy nation on the firm foundations of a sound system of education. The first requisite for this purpose is that every child should be given enough opportunity to receive education. Unless you make the children literate it will not be possible for them to take advantage of any educational system. Literacy by itself is not education. It is only a means to further education. Therefore unless you introduce compulsion, unless you provide opportunities, free opportunities for every child to receive that elementary system of education, you will not be advancing the cause of your country. The second requisite is the type of education that you impart, so that by receiving that education young men may become patriotic, simple-minded and good citizens. Judged by these standards, I would offer some suggestions to my honourable friend the Education Minister. Take the primary education. Has the Government made ample provision for giving elementary education to the children of the Punjab ? I would quote certain figures from the progress report. From 1936-37 to 1941-42, that is, in those five years, the number of children in primary schools taking the four classes together increased by 33,764 only, that is, roughly 6,500 a year. In the progress report it has been mentioned as a great achievement of the department. But if you take into consideration the increase in population, you will find that instead of taking any credit on this account the department should have regretted the poor achievement in this respect. The population of this province during these five years has increased by 25 lakhs, that is, five lakhs a year whereas the number of



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scholars in the primary stage has gone up by only 6,500 a year. Again, in the same report it is given that in the first primary class the number of scholars has fallen by 26,000 in five years. Is that the system of compulsion or opportunities that you are providing for elementary education? Taking these facts into consideration, I do not know how many centuries it will take for all children of school-going age to be receiving education.

Again the question of wastage arises. I do admit that some progress has been made in that direction; that from the first primary to the fourth primary whereas previously the percentage reached was 28, now it has gone up to 42. But even this wastage of 58 per cent is colossal. You do not give any benefit to the child who does not stay till the fourth primary stage. The entire money, to my mind is wasted. The first thing that the department ought to do is to compel the children who join voluntarily to stay on in the school up to the fourth primary stage.

*(At this stage attention of the Chair being drawn to want of quorum, division bell was rung and on a count being taken the House was found to be in quorum.)*

I was submitting that the first thing that the Department should do is to compel children to stay on till the 4th primary stage, so that

2 p.m.

the amount that the Department is spending on the education of children should be well spent. Government passed a Compulsory Primary Education Bill which is now an Act. A previous Act was amended, but I do not see any advance made in this direction, and no advance can be made unless funds are forthcoming. The local bodies are very poor. Their funds do not permit any further expenditure on education. Unless the provincial Government gives better help or provides special grants for primary education, we will not be making any headway in that direction. Even in these two or three years when the budget has been showing such huge surpluses, the Honourable Minister for Education has not thought it advisable to give more generous grants to the local bodies for introducing compulsion in the primary schools. A paltry sum of Rs. 50,000 will not help the least in this matter. I would, therefore, request my honourable friend that he must take this question very seriously. He must look to other countries. Russia in 25 years increased its literacy to 99 per cent. So far as education is concerned the provinces are sovereign bodies. There is provincial autonomy. Even if you had to levy a tax for introducing compulsory primary education, you should have done so. I remember as far back as ten years ago a committee was appointed to consider ways and means for introducing compulsion, but in those days our total revenue receipts were 10 crores and they have now gone up to 20 crores. And still we are where we were. We have not advanced a single inch if we have not gone back because our population has increased and the number has not kept pace with the increase in population.

In every backward country such as ours, steps have been taken simultaneously for making the adults literate. This is a very desirable method of liquidating illiteracy. The Honourable Minister took steps five years back in that direction. He spent about a lakh of rupees, but then the expenditure on this side was reduced to Rs. 40,000. Even in this year's budget it is Rs. 40,000 only. Does he seriously believe that he is going to achieve much with this sum of Rs. 40,000? If you want to see the illiterate adults educated, you must have a regular inspectorate and regular organizers, whole time organizers and experts who should make it their job to see that proper education is given to adults. They should devise means and they should have proper text-books prepared for those adults. As a matter of fact we should have trained teachers who should be trained in our

normal schools specially suited for that purpose, because the training or education of young children is different from the education of adults. In the meanwhile we should give allowances to teachers, so that they may in their spare hours at night give some time to the education of adults. Unless you provide liberal funds, you will not be able to do much in that direction, and, as I have submitted, you should have supervisors, inspectors and organizers for this purpose paid by Government who should devote their whole time to this subject.

The next point to which I wish to draw the attention of my honourable friend is the health of children in schools. I was astonished to read in a report of a committee appointed by the Central Advisory Board of Education regarding the health of children. I never thought that this province, the Punjab, would be so backward in that direction and that the children of our schools would be suffering from so many diseases. I wish to point out that in 1940 that committee reported and the diseases from which children were suffering were given in that report. In the Punjab it was pointed out that 10 per cent of the children were suffering from defective vision, 26·6 per cent from enlarged tonsils, 2·4 per cent from enlarged spleen and 18·8 per cent from mal-nutrition. As compared with the malnutrition percentage of the Punjab of 18·8, the percentage of Bengal is 6·9, the percentage of Delhi is 6·9, that of Madras is 13·7, of Baroda it is 11 per cent, of the United Provinces 14 per cent, Bihar 13 per cent and of Orissa 19 per cent. Barring Orissa, which is well-known as a very poor province, the percentage of mal-nutrition is the highest in the Punjab. In regard to the disease of enlarged tonsils we lead the other provinces having a percentage of 26·6. Next comes Madras with 13 per cent. It is a matter for great regret that this province which provides such fine soldiers for the Army and which is considered as and is the granary of India, should have such poor physique of children who are receiving education in schools. There is something seriously wrong. Yet no attention has been paid to the eradication of this serious defect. In this connection, my honourable friend must have read many reports of other countries. In England by the Act of 1921, inspection and treatment of children were made compulsory and to many of the school children free milk is given. Similarly in other countries special care is taken for the health of children. In how many schools has my honourable friend provided medical inspection and if medical inspection is carried out, how many children are treated? This is a very serious matter. We cannot build a strong nation if 26 per cent of our children are suffering from some disease or another. I would, therefore, request that regular medical inspection of school going children should be made periodically and treatment given to them wherever necessary.

The other point to which I would like to invite the attention of my honourable friend is the system of education. We have been reading during the last 8 or 10 years that in all countries educationists have been devoting their energy and attention on various reforms. There was the Fisher Committee's report in England after the last war and in other countries also several reforms were introduced in the system of education. But have we made any progress in that direction? Have we ever thought, ever planned, have we set out any ideals for our children? In education you should have an ideal towards which you must strive. Hitler has made the German nation of his pattern and mainly through the system of education based on his ideas. Not that I favour that type of education, but I am only stating this point to impress that a nation is made on the lines of education that you impart to your children and if you have certain ideals you can have your education based on those ideals. Has my honourable friend got any plan in hand for the educational system? Has he done anything with regard to the

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modern system of elementary education through a craft? Other provinces I know have made some progress on those lines. Although some sort of rural bias is given in village primary schools in our province, that does not take us any far. You should have the modern system by which children can learn through a craft. That is considered to be the best system. Have you done anything to provide greater facilities for technical education? The future of India lies in industrialisation and unless we have a large number of technicians, engineers, electricians and captains of industry we will lag behind. Has our system provided any sort of technical education? You have done something in that direction, I know. But that is not enough. That is not going to meet the needs of this country, far less the future needs of this country. I would, therefore, strongly request my honourable friend to give more attention towards this side of education, towards reforming the educational system, towards the health of the children and towards the expansion of primary education rather than towards minor matters such as providing jobs here and there which are not going to help anybody. How many jobs after all can a man provide for any community? I would, therefore, strongly and earnestly urge on the honourable Minister now that he has got a great opportunity and has an important subject in his hands, to devote his attention to this side. If he were to do so he would be doing a real service to this province.

There are only one or two small matters to which I would briefly refer; I would only draw the attention of my honourable friend to those points. In reply to the Assembly questions he stated that he was considering the question of giving grant-in-aid for dearness allowances paid to teachers in private schools. I do not know why he should take long to consider this matter. When he has decided in the case of local bodies where is the hitch in deciding the matter in the case of private schools? The principle is the same.

**Minister of Education :** Finance Department.

**Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh :** I was going to ask whether it was financial stringency?

**Minister of Education :** The papers are with the Finance Department.

**Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh :** I would only submit that with these good finances in this province, there should be no hitch in providing extra amount for the private schools, which will go into the pockets of low salaried staff.

**Minister of Education :** We have sent these papers to the Finance Department a second time.

**Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh :** Another point is the provision of Rs. 20,000 for Gurmukhi and Hindi. I do not wish to say much on this matter. But I hope that that amount will be spent unlike the provision of Rs. 10,000 last year out of which not a pie was spent. Sir, I conclude my remarks with the hope that my honourable friend will pay attention to what I have stated on the different problems.

**Khan Sahib Chaudhri Ahmad Yar Khan** (North-West Gujrat, Muhammadan, Rural) (*Urdu*) : Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Honourable Minister for Education to the constituency which I represent here. So far as education is concerned, tehsil Phalia, especially its western part, is one of the most neglected and backward areas of the province. Sir, in that backward area with our own efforts we opened an Islamia High School at Wara Alam Shah. So far as the imparting of education to the inhabitants of that ilaqa is

concerned, this school is doing very well. It has been showing cent per cent results in the Matriculation Examinations. But its financial position is far from satisfactory. I have often seen the Honourable Minister for Education in this connection. He, too, has been pleased to promise a special grant for that school every time I have seen him. Six years have passed and yet we stand where we were before. That promise is still a promise. When we approach the District Board for that purpose they refuse to give us any help on the plea of having no money.

Apart from that, Sir, the number of primary schools in that *ilaga* is very small, and you will be astonished to learn that most of these schools do not possess any buildings at all. As a result of that the poor children suffer a lot on account of sun and rain. My request is that the Government should grant money for the building of schools in that area and make the primary education compulsory there. Now the Government has reserved a sum of Rs. 6,51,000 for areas which are educationally backward. As I have already stated ours is the most backward *ilaga* in this respect. Therefore we must be given at least half of that sum. Moreover the local authorities should be asked to give help to the schools by erecting buildings for them. When we approach the Chairman of the District Board he refuses on the pretext that the District Board has no money. Government especially should give money to the District Board.

I am sorry to say that the Honourable Minister is not present. Mir Maqbool Mahmood, Parliamentary Secretary, has promised to take notes of my speech and has assured me that he will draw the attention of the Honourable Minister to the requirements in my constituency in respect of education. I hope the Parliamentary Secretary would leave no stone unturned in this connection. With these few words I resume my seat.

**Mrs. Duni Chand** (Lahore City Woman, General) (*Urdu*): Sir, I have risen to voice the grievances of women in the matter of education. Many hopes and promises have been held out to us in this House that great efforts would be made to spread education among women and that many schools would be opened and thus much progress would be made. But as the old maxim goes "the mountain in labour has produced the proverbial rat". After all what has been done? It has been provided in the Budget now before the House that one more high and six more vernacular middle schools for girls would be opened throughout the length and breadth of the province. What an achievement! I have not studied the Budget myself and these facts and figures have been supplied to me by my brother here and I, therefore, speak subject to correction. I ask, is this provision sufficient for the education of women who are already backward in that respect? How regretful it is that even now it is not realised that as long as our womenfolk are not educated our country cannot make any headway nor can its conditions improve. Besides if at present any school is opened the Department of Education has laid down a condition that only trained teachers should be employed in it. Because of this condition a good many difficulties arise, for trained women teachers are not easily available. Government have not opened a sufficient number of training schools in which the required training can be imparted to girls. What is desired is that Government should open such training schools in all parts of the province. If they cannot open separate training schools, let them start training classes in every high school so that the difficulties which we have to face at present on account of lack of trained teachers may be removed.

Then there is another matter to which I want to draw the attention of the House. That is that the system of education for girls is not serving any useful purpose at all. As the girls have to manage their household affairs, it is essential

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that they should be taught those sciences which may help and assist them in their household work. I understand a school has been opened at Sharazpur for the teaching of home science to girls. I do not know how far that school is meeting the needs of the girls in that respect. But what I want is that such schools should be opened in large numbers, so that our girls may get sufficient training in household work as well.

Besides, my submission is that no arrangements have been made for female education in the rural areas. If honourable members go to a village they will certainly find, though in a very bad condition, a boys' school there. But nowhere will they find any school for girls. I regret to say that the attitude of the Government is communal and that is the reason why no arrangements have been made for the teaching of Hindi and Gurmukhi in schools in rural areas. My Hindu and Sikh sisters want to learn Hindi and Gurmukhi languages. Why? Because all the Granths and the sacred books of the Hindus are generally written in Hindi. Similarly all the Granths and other sacred books of the Sikhs are written in Gurmukhi and consequently my Sikh sisters deem it essential to learn Gurmukhi. I go further and say that if my Muslim sisters want to get education in Urdu, Persian and Arabic, arrangements should be made for the teaching of these languages to them as well, so that they may also be in a position to read their religious and sacred books. I have no intention of criticising any religion at all. Rather I think that it is the duty of every sane individual to respect the religious books of other communities as he respects his own. Anybody who lacks in this is in my opinion not a man. Such a person has no religion at all. I say no religion teaches us that the sacred books of other communities should not be respected. It ill-becomes the Government to deprive the Hindus and Sikhs from reading their sacred books by refusing to provide facilities for the learning of these languages. As my brother has suggested that although the honourable members over there profess to be the great helpers of the poor, in fact they are helping the rich and the capitalistic classes. We are at a loss to understand as to what is their policy. Is it the policy of the Government that capitalist classes should be helped or that they want to ameliorate the condition of the poor? We do not know what it exactly is. Similarly I say to them that although they loudly profess that there should be unity, amity and concord between all communities and they form unity committees for that purpose and ask the people to shake off their communalism, in fact every action of theirs tends to create disunity and enmity between different classes and thus it strengthens the chains of our slavery, and does not benefit the country at all. I say, whoever, irrespective of the fact whether he is a Muslim, a Sikh or a Hindu, creates disunity, he commits an unpardonable sin, rather treachery towards his country. In these circumstances I think due regard should be shown to the susceptibilities of other communities and injustice should not be done to them. I regret to say that during the last two or four years the grants-in-aid of many schools, in which Hindi was taught, have been stopped. Literally these schools have been strangled. Now the circumstances have changed. Government should not think that they can benefit the country by harming the interests of other communities. We all are sailing in the same boat. We will swim or sink together. Anyway I am at a loss to understand the policy of the Government. They loudly say that all communities should live peacefully and amicably and they ask them to form unity committees for that purpose but every action of theirs is brimming with the virus of disunity. An Industrial School known as the Sikandar Industrial School for girls was opened a few years ago. Strictly speaking it has nothing to do

with the motion now before the House, but I am quoting this instance in order to show how the Government themselves are acting in a communal manner. Anyway this school was opened and in its prospectus a condition was laid down that only Muslim girls could be admitted into it and its doors were shut against girls belonging to other communities. It is a veritable blot on the name of Government that in a Government institution such a condition is laid down. Government do not want that we should unite. I may tell them that Muslim, Hindu and Sikh women are one and their object is the same. We do not want that any seed of disruption should be sown amongst us. A wide gulf is separating men of different communities and now Government want that in some way or the other women should also be rent asunder. I say to Government that they should not take undue advantage of their power and create disunity among the women of different communities. We Hindu, Sikh and Muslim women want to live together and we want to learn together. At present we see that there are denominational institutions existing in our province. There are Hindu schools, Muslim schools and Sikh schools. I do not like such labels. What I want is that all schools should be of the same type in which students of all communities should study together and read the same books. If this is done then we can expect that in our future generations spirit of goodwill and amity will prevail. As long as we do not get education according to one system and read the same books, we cannot get rid of our bonds of slavery. If I had power I would surely have burnt all books in which it is written that Hindus committed atrocities on Muslims, or Muslims perpetrated cruelties on Hindus or Sikhs harshly treated the Muslims or Muslims dealt with Sikhs in a high-handed manner. These very books lead us to slavery and they do not bring us nearer unity. If Government really want to create unity among all communities it is their first duty to hunt out such books from the courses of studies and burn them. They should provide such education to people which should make them good citizens and good human beings. Such education should be imparted to them which should create new spirit and new aspirations in our coming generations, as a result of which unity and concord should prevail amongst them. The present attitude of the Government reminds me of the famous story of *shutar-muragh* (ostrich). Literally *shutar* means a camel and *muragh* a cock. Somebody asked the *shutar-muragh* to carry some load as he was a camel. He replied that he was not a camel but only a cock and it was difficult for him to carry any load. At this the man said that if he was a cock let him fly. The *shutar-muragh* blurted out that he was a camel and therefore he could not fly. This example aptly applies to the Government I am at a loss to understand to what category our Ministers belong. Be that as it may, I would request them to at least carry out the commandments of God, and act upon the tenets of Islam. My Muslim brethren will recall this incident from the life of their holy prophet Mohammad. He chanced one day to camp near a church and as the time for prayers approached, his companions suggested that the prayers might be offered in the nearby church. But the holy prophet refused to do so on the ground that if he said his prayers in the church, his followers would claim it as a mosque. Consequently he conducted the prayers in the church compound where his followers later on constructed a mosque. It does not, therefore, behove the followers of such a considerate and tolerant leader to meddle with the religious affairs of other communities. Even if this Government have treated human beings with scant respect, they should at least show some regard for the word of God and desist from breaking His commandments. They should not interfere with the holy books of other religions. This Government have refused permission to our patriotic young men, whom they have thrown into prisons, to get themselves medically treated.

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What can I say to them for according such inhuman treatment to our youth? After all the Government is composed of our own brethren and I cannot even pray for their perdition. I would pray to God to show them light so that they may tread the path of righteousness wherein lies their salvation. I would, therefore, submit that they should not overlook the claims of Hindi and Gurmukhi for which an adequate sum has not been allotted in the Budget. The Government should not deliberately harm the interest of these languages. I also humbly request the Honourable Minister of Education to provide as much money for the teaching of these two languages as is necessary for their advancement and to do all in his power for the encouragement of female education.

The second point which I wish to bring to his notice is about the expensiveness of education. The present day education has become a very costly undertaking. The expenses have gone so high that the poorer classes find it very difficult to educate their children. He should therefore try to make it as inexpensive as possible. May I ask him what has become of his much boasted programme of making primary education free and compulsory in the province? When is that Bill going to be enforced? I would draw his attention to the progress made by other countries like Japan, Russia and even China—which was as backward educationally as our own country—in this sphere. But in India absolutely no effort has been made in this direction and we still are where we were decades ago. The Government have shown a great apathy towards the education of the people of this province. Sir, through you, I wish to make it known to the Government that if the present system of education, which is responsible for the disunity prevailing in this country, is not done away with, there can be very little hope of India's making any progress. So far the Government have done nothing creditable or worthy of mention but if they accomplish even this much we will deem it a great achievement on their part. Better late than never.

**Mian Sultan Mahmud Hotiana :** May I ask one question from the honourable lady member? She is laying great stress on unity, but may I know what does she think of such books as the Satyarath Prakash? Does it not spread hatred among the different communities and should it not also be suppressed?

**Mrs. Duni Chand :** Well, my honourable brother should know that the Government does not belong to single community. It is composed of Hindus, Muslims and Sikhs all taken together. Moreover such questions should better be addressed to those who are competent to make a suitable reply. I have neither read the Satyarath Prakash nor am I in a position to give a reply. The Honourable member should not have asked this unfortunate question which tends to make the position of the Government rather awkward.

**Mian Sultan Mahmud Hotiana :** I have not put the Government in any awkward position. I merely want to know from the honourable lady member who is asking the Government to suppress such books as are infusing the poison of hatred in the minds of our children, if she is also in favour of the same step being taken against Satyarath Prakash?

**Mr. Deputy Speaker :** Order, Order. No interruptions please.

**Mrs. Duni Chand :** I have already stated that not having perused this book I am not in a position to make any reply.

Sir, I was submitting that it was the foremost duty of a Government to afford equal protection to each and every faith and not to enter in religious polemic. They should leave it to the people to compose their religious differences as best as they can. Again it is the bounden duty of every person to respect other religions and not to hinder their preaching activities. Even the British made a solemn declaration, that they will not interfere in the religions prevailing in India, when they established their rule in this country. I would, therefore, submit to my honourable brother that asking questions regarding religious books of other communities is not a very proper thing to do.

Now I turn to another matter. Barring the private institutions which have started training classes for girls, the Education Department have not made adequate arrangements for this purpose. In Ambala the Education Department started a training class in a local girls' school some time back, but it has now been withdrawn for reasons best known to the authorities. I beg to request the Honourable Minister that it should be restarted so that the girls who cannot afford to go far from their home towns may be able to take advantage of this class.

Sir, now I draw the attention of the House towards men's education. The present education has failed to produce anything but clerks. It makes them neither good citizens nor does it enable them to earn their living. Instead of becoming good citizens they learn to hate each other. The real purpose of education is to sow the seeds of universal brotherhood but here the case is otherwise. The fault lies neither with my honourable brother nor with anybody else. Our education is fundamentally wrong. We have high expectation from our young generation. The country needs the sinewy arms of the young lads for the freedom of our country, but our institutions only promote slavish mentality and enslave their hearts. We want that these stalwarts, after the completion of their education, with patriotic inspiration, should raise the head of the nation but unfortunately the case is otherwise. The responsibility falls on our current prescribed courses and the wrong system of education.

Our first and primary duty is to better the current prescribed syllabus and we must do away with those books which mar our path to progress. The impression once made on the minds of the children cannot be removed easily. I at present, cannot say much on this subject because I had come prepared for an adjournment motion, but because I was not present in my seat it was not accepted. I will have my say, when the next adjournment motion against my name is taken up.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker :** The honourable member will please speak to the motion.

**Mrs. Duni Chand :** Sir, I was talking about the motion that compulsory education in the villages should be enforced at once and besides, every language should be given equal importance, individually. This Urdu-Punjabi controversy is nothing but a fuss to create disharmony between the different sections. There is more need of education in this country than the additional police. The money which is being uselessly wasted should be accumulated and spent on women's education. Women are still backward and attention should be drawn in this direction, so that they may prove useful to the country. With these words I conclude my speech.

**Mir Maqbool Mahmood (Parliamentary Secretary) :** Sir, I have listened with very careful attention to the speeches that have been made on this cut motion from both sides of the House, and I hope I will be forgiven if I submit that



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90 per cent of the suggestions that have been made are such as have already been carried out or are in the course of being implemented by the Education Department. As such the criticism or the contempt for the activities of the Education Department in respect of these items is born of ignorance and not of reality. I am sorry to find that among others my distinguished friend Sardar Ujjal Singh with whom I have always associated remarks born of a careful study of the problems, even he, should have made certain statements which are not born of facts but of a desire to criticise the Education Department. I shall deal with these points one by one.

At the outset I have to submit that there seems to be an impression that the Education Department is not in favour of immediate introduction of free compulsory primary education, that the Education Department is not in favour of giving all the money that is required for making female education of the desired type, that the Education Department does not want the medical inspection of health of the school children. I may assure you, Sir, and on this point no assurance should be needed, that the policy of the Education Department and their resolve to act within its limitations is a guarantee that whatever has not been done is not because of lack of efforts but because of lack of money. I take it that the suggestions made by my friends opposite and on this side were intended to induce the Government, the Premier, the Finance Minister and other Ministers to give still more money to the Education Department so that all our visions regarding the educational regeneration of the province may come true quickly. Now what are the main criticisms cited against the Education Department. The first item is that no substantial improvement has been made in the primary education. I am surprised to find that my friend Chaudhri Sumer Singh went so far as to say that no additional money was given for primary education. Let us take that item first. If my friend opposite had cared to look into the report of the Department, he would have found that the number of students in the primary classes has increased from 360,000 to 410,000, that there is an increase of 33,952 and an average increase in attendance of 78,000. Apart from that fact there is a substantial increase in the primary education. I am sure that my friend Sardar Ujjal Singh will be the first to recognize that in the matter of primary education it is not merely the question of the number of students who join, but the problem which the educationists in this province and outside have had to face and must face is to ensure that the number of students who join the first primary class go up to the 4th primary class. What is our experience in the past? The figures for 1936-37 show that out of the number of boys who enrolled in the first primary class only 28 per cent went to the 5th class: in other words there were only 28 per cent who really happened to benefit from the primary education. This is a loss both to the province and the Education Department. What is the position to-day? The figure for the last year is 43.7 per cent of the number of students who went from the 1st to the 4th class, an almost 60 per cent increase. I am sure it is a matter on which those who criticise the Education Department should have the fairness and justice to compliment them on the substantial improvement that has been made in this direction.

**Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh :** May I know if this increase is due to any deliberate efforts that might have been made by the Education Department?

**Mir Maqbool Mahmood :** I may assure my honourable friend that if it is not due to the efforts of the Education Department it could not be due to any other conceivable formula. I remember that in the Old Legislative Council the

Leader of the Opposition, who is not here, condemned the Education Department and said: you are not taking sufficient interest to improve the material and encourage the boys to study in the primary schools. My honourable friend opposite asked as to what efforts were being made by the Education Department in this direction. First of all take the system of education. The whole system of training for the teachers is being revised and already the training that is given to the teachers is such that education becomes interesting and particularly so for small boys and girls. If honourable members care to go through the work of the Syllabus Committee, they will find that the whole basis of education is being revised and the curriculum of education of the primary classes has undergone a complete change. On the medical side also, you will find that no less than 98,000 boys were examined medically and it was found that at least one-third of that number of boys were suffering from some disease or another and they were treated and cured.

**Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan :** Urban boys.

**Mir Maqbool Mahmood :** Urban and rural both. My honourable friend has been the chairman of his town committee and it seems that he has not felt inclined to discharge his duties as such.

**Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan :** I challenge the statement of my honourable friend. No boys in the rural areas are examined by the doctors.

**Mir Maqbool Mahmood :** I happen to be a member of the District Board of my district and I know that school boys are examined. I myself was present at one of those inspections. I submit to the honourable members who have criticised and condemned this Department by pointing out what this department has done and what it has not done and by saying that there is not enough money and that they have not gone as fast as they ought to have and so on—

**Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh :** We have not condemned; we have given suggestions.

**Mir Maqbool Mahmood :** I am glad to know that those remarks were made as helpful suggestions and not as condemnation and this I submit implies that my honourable friends fully recognise that much useful work has already been done by the Education Department and is entitled to credit.

My honourable sister opposite raised the question of female education. I can assure her that female education is a subject which is very near to my heart and being a father of four daughters I have always stood for providing the best education to the girls of our province. I also share her view that the education that our girls get should not make them ultra modern and I want to retain what is best in our own culture—the inspiration of home life—and I am glad to find that our Education Department has not lost sight of this aspect of the question. In the whole basis of the training of female teachers they have taken steps to see that emphasis is laid on imparting domestic education and on teaching hygienic principles. My sister also said that only four or five schools have been added. There I would like to inform her that the number of primary schools which increased during the last five years is not 10 or 15 but stands as high as 386. The scholars in the primary girls' schools have increased not by 50, 100 or 1,000 but the increase in the number of scholars in such institutions has been 30,923. In regard to secondary education the number of schools which increased during the last five years is not six but 69 and the number of scholars that increased is 20,908. I am not giving the total number of schools or scholars but the increase

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only for these years. Coming to the high schools for girls I am glad to inform the House that now every district can be proud of a high school and the number of colleges has increased by two and I understand that the policy of Government is to have at least one college for women in every division. Similarly with regard to the training of female teachers my honourable friends opposite and from these benches also emphasised the necessity of having the right type of teachers. Ten new institutions have been set up on the anglo-vernacular side and we have 80 vernacular schools exclusively for female teachers.

Reference was also made with regard to the expenditure and it was stated that no substantial increase has been made with regard to it for female education. I want the honourable members to know that in the year 1936-37 the expenditure on female education was Rs. 40,95,000 and in the year 1942-43 it was Rs. 56,87,000—an increase of Rs. 15,41,000. That being the position, Sir, I am sure that honourable members will agree that substantial improvement has been made in this direction within the funds available.

There are one or two other aspects of the criticism with which I would like to deal. It was stated that the policy of the Government and that of the Education Department in particular should be such as to encourage nationalism and that the attitude taken by the Government is such that that hope has not been fulfilled. I beg of my honourable sister to appreciate that there is no greater harm done to national unity and to inter-national relations than by making misleading statements. I beg of her again to appreciate facts and figures that I am giving. It is her duty and that of everyone in this House to see that such misleading statements are not made. Those of my friends who know what the department has done in revising the syllabus will recognise that in the curriculum such passages that excite Hindus against Muslims and Muslims against Hindus have been eliminated. The Department have also eliminated passages which made every Indian bend his head in shame. I am sorry to see that the efforts of this Department in this direction have not been fully recognised.

Now, Sir, I come to the question of grants to various institutions. I am sorry that the Honourable Minister for Education is not here. I beg of him to consider this question so far as the Muslim community is concerned. In this connection I would like to impress upon the honourable members that I am not speaking from any communal point of view at all but I am speaking on behalf of my constituents. Many honourable friends here have brought this fact to the notice of the Minister that the share of Muslim institutions in the matter of grants has not been adequate. Even our friends, the Sikhs, get much better grants than the Muslims. I do not see that there is anything communal in my submission. I can quote facts and figures to show and prove the truth of my statement.

**Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh :** Are grants given to schools or are they given to communities ?

**Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan :** Schools belonging to different communities.

**Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh :** Do schools get the grants or are the funds divided between various communities ?

**Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan :** Communities, unfortunately.

**Mir Maqbool Mahmood :** I shall be very glad if my honourable friend brings forward a Bill to abolish denominational institutions in the Punjab.

(At this stage Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair.)

**Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh :** If denominational institutions are abolished, two-thirds of the source from where boys receive their education will be sapped.

3 p.m.

**Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan :** Do not abolish them, but convert them into national institutions.

**Mir Maqbool Mahmood :** I repeat that unfortunately much as I would like myself to see that these differences disappear and that there should be a real unity of heart, but facts are facts. To-day these institutions represent not only various communities but they are the cultural vehicles of those communities and we cannot ignore that fact.

I understand that Raja Ghazanfar Ali or somebody else had said that Muslims are not getting due share in their educational grant because of the legacy of the past. I would have understood that, but for a non-Muslim gentleman to get up and say that Muslims are getting more than their share, I submit it cannot be described in parliamentary language. What is the actual position? Let us take last year. You will be glad to know that the Education Department is trying to help all communities. There is a certain element of discretion allowed to them in regard to special grants. And what is the position there? You will find that in 1936-37 Hindus got Rs. 5,267 under this special head; last year they got Rs. 20,647—as much as four times. Last time Sikhs got Rs. 3,409; last year they got Rs. 25,518—seven times as much. Christians got Rs. 6,374 in 1936-37 and Rs. 12,600 last year. I am glad to find that Muslims too are getting their share. They got Rs. 6,800 in 1936-37 and Rs. 56,492 last year. This is a step in the right direction. I do not want that Muslims should get any grant at the expense of Hindus and Sikhs, but it should be a matter for satisfaction to all true friends of educational development in the province that the distribution of the grants is being set right. While I am on this subject, I deem it my duty to invite the attention of the Education Minister to two institutions in my district which deserve encouragement. They are the M. A. O. College, Amritsar and the Sikander Memorial School at Majitha.

Then it has been a matter of real disappointment that not one member of the Opposition who spoke on this cut has complimented Government on the substantial work that has been done in the campaign for adult literacy. Within the last three years no less than 3 lakhs of the Punjabis have been taught to read and write. I suppose that is an achievement on which all friends of education in the province should feel happy.

Then my friend Sardar Ujjal Singh emphasised the need of technical education in the province. I am at one with him. I entirely agree with him that there is great need for technical education in the province. But when he mentioned that, I wish he had already recognised what has been done by Government in that direction. Is he not aware that within the last two or three years this Department has been able to put forth no less than 7,000 Punjabis for training of the technical type? You will be glad to find that this contribution of the Punjab is more than 50 per cent of the contribution of all the provinces put together. Not a mean war effort!

Then I refer to the next point regarding the grant for Hindi and Gurmukhi education. I do not want to say much about it, as it will be dealt with by the Education Minister. But there are two or three points which I wish to emphasise. The first is that I can understand my Hindu friends and my Sikh friends claiming

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that all possible grants may be given for the encouragement of Gurmukhi or Punjabi as a secondary language. But I cannot understand why they should feel unhappy about encouraging Arabic also which is a scriptural language of the Punjab. If my friends opposite will refer to the wording of the Sikander-Baldev Pact, they will find that throughout the word used was "scriptural". It was not intended that while our friends the Hindus and the Sikhs should get money for their own scriptural language, the Muslims should be denied for theirs. Money should be given for the scriptural development of all the communities, and therefore if my sister pleads that money should be given only to two communities she is doing the reverse of what she has been pleading that we should work for unity amongst all communities.

Then much was made of the fact as to why it is that Rs. 10,000 budgeted last year has not been spent. In all fairness give the Department its due. When a certain grant is sanctioned my friends will realise that it cannot at once be passed on to certain institutions. A scheme has to be drafted; various questions of principle have to be settled, whether it is going to be given to local bodies or to private institutions, whether it is going to be given on a contributory basis or on wholesale basis and so on and so forth. All these things take time and if the Department had slept over it, we would have said that they have been trying to avoid it. But all these preliminary details have been carried out. What is more, even against the unanimously recorded opinion of educational experts against the teaching of two languages at the primary stage, because it confuses the mental equipment of children, in spite of that unanimous opinion of experts the Government has been working out the scheme, with the result that the whole thing is now complete and we have made a grant of Rs. 20,000 in the present year's budget.

I do not wish to detain the House any longer. All that I have to submit is that in examining the educational policy of this province let us by all means make suggestions to accelerate the speed, let us by all means strengthen the hands of the Education Minister, so that we can speed up literacy in the province, but the way to do is by supporting the Ministry and not by putting forward destructive criticism.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma** (Kangra West, General Rural): Sir, I had no mind to make any speech during the present Budget session, because the present Ministry, I mean the Ministry of Malik Khizar Hayat, does not represent the people of this province. Yes, I repeat once more that the present Ministry does not represent the province, and I have constitutional grounds for saying that. Sir, at the time when this Ministry was appointed by His Excellency the Governor of this Province, no less than twenty members of this august House were confined in jails. Even now when ten out of those twenty are released, some of whom are in this very city of Lahore, they are not allowed to come here and vote. All this leads to only one conclusion, namely, the present Government is afraid of them. They do not allow them to come here lest they should throw the Ministry out. If that is not true, let the Government remove those restrictions from them and allow them to come here, if only for a single day. I challenge them. If they had any courage left in them, let them accept it. As the present Ministry is not the true representative of the Province, therefore the gentleman who prepared this Budget and the one who presented it had no authority to do that. (Laughter.) They laugh, Sir, although I have proved by facts that the present Cabinet does not represent the Province. Had those twenty

members been present here the Government would not have succeeded in getting passed a single demand. In these circumstances Sir, I am constrained to remark, that my offering any criticism or putting forth any suggestion will be futile, as they will fall on deaf ears. The members of this House are being deprived of their fundamental right of attending its meetings. When we ask questions about them on the floor of this House, the Honourable Premier adds insult to injury by saying that attending the Assembly would create a bad effect on their health.

**Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan :** Mr. Speaker, is the honourable member relevant ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Mir Maqbool Mahmood) :** On a point of order. The honourable member has raised this question on more than one occasion and he is free to do it as many times as he likes at the proper occasion but on a question of grant for Education to raise the question of the release of or restrictions on these detained M. L. A.s is not relevant to the debate. The time of the House should not be wasted.

**Mr. Speaker :** An able lawyer can easily make an irrelevant statement relevant.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Now, Sir, I would say a few words about the claim of this Government that they have done a lot for the benefit of the province and that they are leading all other provinces in that respect. The total income during 1937-38 was Rs. 11,68,00,000 and now after seven years it has amounted to Rs. 19,64,00,000. The Expenditure during the year 1937-38 was Rs. 11,36,00,000 while in the present year, that is 1944-45 it is Rs. 15,78,00,000. Now I come to the Beneficent Departments and what has been spent on them. First I shall quote facts and figures from the Budget of 1937-38. In 1937-38 the amount budgeted for Beneficent Departments was 3,09 lakhs. As against that the budget for 1944-45 stands at 4,64 lakhs. In 1937-38 the amount budgeted for Education was 1,60 lakhs. As against that the budget for 1944-45 stands at 2,08 lakhs, i.e., an increase of 48 lakhs since the first budget was introduced after the inauguration of provincial autonomy. Now I draw the attention of my friends to the budgets for 1929-30 and 1930-31. In 1929-30 and 1930-31 the expenditure under Education stood at Rs. 172 lakhs. Now we will see what provision has been made by this autonomous Government, which day in and day out harp on the same old tune that they have done this thing and that thing for the zamindars. The provision made for Education for the year 1944-45 is only 36 lakhs more than the budgeted figure of 1,72 lakhs for 1929-30. This is the achievement of my friends which they feel proud of. Coming to the receipts we find that in 1930-31 the income of the Government amounted to Rs. 10 crores only. At the time the Government spent Rs. 1,72 lakhs on Education. The same amount was budgeted for Education in the next year when the revenue of Government had gone down to Rs. 9,61 lakhs. These figures are given in the graph appended to the Memorandum. As against the revenue receipts for the years 1930-31 and 1931-32 the estimate of revenue receipts for the next financial year is double. If the present Government had allotted money for Education proportionately to the increase in its revenue receipts then it should have been double the amount of Rs. 1,72 lakhs. But that has not been done. So far the Punjab Government has been only balancing its budgets. What I mean to say is that it has been adjusting expenditure according to its receipts. In fact the balancing of budget does not mean this. If we take this meaning even then we find that it has not increased the share

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of the Beneficent Departments proportionately to the increase in its income. Any way so far as expenditure on Education is concerned the budgeted amount for the next financial year is not double the amount budgeted for Education in 1930-31. It is definitely much less than that. (Sardar Santokh Singh: This comes to 30 per cent increase in 8 years). Under these circumstances it can be very easily said that the Government has not given as much attention to Beneficent departments as it should have done.

Now Sir, I want to make a few submissions in respect of my own district. The honourable members are fully aware of the fact that the plight of persons employed under this Government is indeed very pitiable. I have neither words nor sufficient strength to speak at length about this matter. The teachers employed in primary schools in my district are very low paid. Their salaries range from Rs. 15 to Rs. 20 per month. With this it is expected of such people to impart education to our children. Not only that. Even in these days of high prices cuts are imposed on the salaries of these teachers, and so far they have not been restored even, though the prices of food grains have soared up for the last two or three years. In fact it has become next to impossible for these unfortunate people to make both ends meet. When we urge the Government to grant a dearness allowance to these teachers we are asked to refer such matters to the district board concerned under which those teachers are employed.

**Minister of Education :** Dearness allowance has been sanctioned for teachers working in schools conducted by district boards.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Does the Honourable Minister know what amount of dearness allowance has been sanctioned for a teacher getting Rs. 15 only ?

**Minister of Education :** Rs. 11.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** That means that his income comes to Rs. 15 plus Rs. 11, i.e., Rs. 26 in all. Now I ask the Honourable Minister to prepare the budget of a family consisting of three individuals, i.e., the teacher, his wife and his child. Will he kindly tell me as to what amount, in his opinion, the teacher should spend on the purchase of flour, ghee, sugar, etc., etc.

**Minister of Education :** The pay of such teachers is Rs. 25 and not Rs. 15 as has been pointed out by my honourable friend.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Does the Honourable Minister mean to say that all teachers employed in district board schools are paid Rs. 25 and not Rs. 15 ?

**Minister of Education :** Very few are paid Rs. 15.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** It is the reverse of it. The salaries of most of them range between Rs. 15 and Rs. 25. I am not in a position to give facts and figures at present but this much I can say that a large number of teachers are paid Rs. 15 to Rs. 25 per month. There are very few who get Rs. 25 p. m. This is what is actually the case in my district. I do not know anything about the affluent district of my friend. Any way the teachers working in my district do not get even a bare living. Yet we expect them to carry on the work of educating our children efficiently. In a way these teachers do not get even bread to fill their bellies and we expect them to carry on the work of nation-building, i.e., imparting education to our children. Sir, through you I want to point out to my honourable friends that if they want that their children should get regular and good education they should also see that the teachers

who impart education to them should be given such salaries as are sufficient for their bare needs. When questions are asked how much money the Honourable Premier, or the Honourable Minister for Education or any other Minister, has received by way of travelling allowances, the necessary information is withheld from us on the plea that figures have not been collected. In other words it means that that sum is so very big that Government is afraid of disclosing it lest any honourable member should say that the Honourable Minister has spent so much money on tours while the teachers working under him are suffering untold miseries on account of high prices. Let me point out that the teachers working in primary schools are doing a very important work inasmuch as they are laying the foundation of education. It is very regrettable that they are not being given sufficient salaries to get their necessary requirements. Now when there is plenty of money in the hands of Government it is only fair that they should spend a part of it on the welfare of the teachers working in the primary schools conducted by district boards.

Now Sir, I would, with your permission, like to make a reference here to one of the most reprehensible acts on the part of the present Ministry. For the past few years they have been systematically selling off the best lands in the Punjab. These lands were the assets of the province which should have been made use of only in the time of dire need or a period of great stress. Yet the Government have the cheek to boast about a Budget which includes the price of these lands running into crores of rupees. God forbid that the Punjab were faced with a real crisis; in such an eventuality this Government is sure to mortgage or sell the whole of the province.

Again, Sir, the Unionist Government has promised to give two or three squares of land to each member of their party and in order to do this unhampered they are preventing the Congress members from coming to the House. This is how this Government is being run.

**Mr. Speaker :** The honourable member is not relevant.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Sir, I was submitting that the educational policy of the Government was very unsound.

Then, I would invite the attention of the Honourable Minister to another matter. I have received a representation from a number of teachers in the Education Department to the effect that many teachers were drawing maximum salaries in the old grade of Rs. 110—5—135 for the last so many years, but a new grade has been created in which new men have been appointed, thus overlooking the claims of men in the old grade. This is the result of the avowed fairness of the Honourable Minister of Education.

**Minister of Education :** Make sure of your ground first, then speak.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** The ground is here. It is in my hands and it is as sure as anything, but it is for the Honourable Minister to say whether the allegation is true or false. The ground is there; there is no doubt about it. The allegation made in this representation is this. Some men were recruited to the Education Department in the grade of Rs. 110—5—135. They marked their time in the department hoping that when they had gained more experience, they would be eligible for promotion to higher grades. But when the new grade of Rs. 150—8—190 was created the men already in the department were overlooked and men from outside were directly recruited. No consideration whatever was given to merits, or to experience or length of service of the older men and new persons were recruited direct in the higher grade.



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With these words I support the cut motion moved by my honourable friend Mian Muhammad Nurullah.

**Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan** (Parliamentary Secretary) (*Urdu*): Sir, I was astonished to find this sentence in the Honourable Finance Minister's Budget speech that the expected surplus was forecast after accounting for the sums of money demanded by the various Beneficent departments. I can assure you Sir, that I have, during a not very long parliamentary life, never heard a bolder statement uttered by any Finance Minister. I cannot even dream of a Finance Minister of any province in India envisaging a surplus after allocating as much as they need to the Beneficent departments.

Sir, the department of Education which is under discussion to-day is unfortunately a department on the working of which the view-points of the honourable members of the Opposition as well as those on this side of the House do not for once differ. The main concern of the members on both sides of the House is as to how best the educational position of the province can be improved. So far as the percentage of educated persons in the Punjab is concerned, we see that in the past seven years there has not been any appreciable increase. Literacy has not increased even by one per cent. If to-day the income of the province has doubled itself, we should not lose sight of the fact that there has been a corresponding increase in the population as well. When this income is seen from that perspective, I do not think there remains any justification for a Government to feel satisfied with or proud of an increase in provincial revenues. I am not one of those who on political considerations juggle with facts and figures in order to defend the Government. It is a patent fact—and there is no denying it—that in the Punjab the education is in a very bad way. In the rural areas very few children are receiving education and those that do go to schools do not get proper education. The system of education which was prevalent twenty years ago is still being adhered to in this country. If the Honourable Minister of Education was to be asked on the point he would certainly say that some improvement is being made but when it is judged according to a proper educational standard it will have to be admitted that the educational position of the province can in no way be described as good. I am one of those who believe that if a Government has to turn its attention to Beneficent Departments, the first in the order of consideration must necessarily be the Education Department.

The salvation of our province lies in education. We must educate our electorate. While voting they must be in a position to decide the worth of the person whom they intend to give their vote. If we want to work out democracy, then our primary duty is to educate the electors as well as the elected. Without proper education, democracy is useless. I would recommend to the Honourable Minister for Education that if the Government can spare even as much as eighty or ninety lakhs of rupees more, he should not refuse it. He must insist on and should get as much money as possible. The Government, in its turn should not be miserly. The future generations will not see as to how long a party remained in power, but they will take into account its achievements. It will be the contribution made by a political body at a particular time that will glorify its name in the future annals of the national history. Government should leave no stone unturned to promote the cause of education.

Sir, I do not believe in idealism. I know that the present system of education was thrust upon us by a Government which could not decide honestly what was really useful for us. But as long as we cannot fix a suitable syllabus you may carry on the existing system. Education is not a greater evil than

illiteracy. We must not waste our time but should make use of the opportunity that we get. Sir, I would like to make this announcement that if any new tax or surcharge is levied on agriculturists, with the purpose of helping the education department, I will have no objection to that (*Hear, Hear*). I deem it necessary that there should be left no district without a degree College and no tehsil without a girls' high school. There is no need for compulsion, you should afford them the facilities and the people will themselves make use of them. Last year I was touring in my constituency in a very backward village I came to know that a girl's school had been started and I was further told that about 400 girls were studying there at that time. No discrimination should be permitted. Urbanites and ruralites should be treated alike. I believe in excellent standard of education. It must be open to every Indian child.

One of my honourable friends has just now criticised the Government because they have spent Rs. 20,000 over the construction of a compound round the University ground. The University ground is situated at Lahore. I can without any consideration say that 90 per cent of the students studying at Lahore belong to mufasil areas. Can I ask one question, Sir? If the University ground is situated at Lahore, should the compound be constructed at Gurgaon? My honourable friend believe that whether boys study at Gurgaon or not, the compound must be constructed there.

**Chaudhri Sumer Singh :** Sir, I said that we do not get sufficient money for our school buildings while here Rs. 20,000 have been spent over the compound.

**Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan :** It is a strange thing, Sir, that our colleges and other academic institutions are situated at Lahore and he makes a demand for buildings in the villages! The right form of demand will be for colleges and schools and not for buildings. You should extend the benefits of good education to remotest corners. Aid to district boards should be increased and spent over education.

The income from the Sales Tax and the Property Tax is not enough. I am not mistaken if I say that the Finance Department has been guilty of serious neglect. Either the Finance department did not intimate the beneficent departments in time about the surplus or the departments themselves had been dosing under the effects of chloroform. Our conditions are the same as existed 100 years ago. We need more hospitals, roads, better sanitation and other such improvements. I would request the Honourable Minister for Education to attach extraordinary importance to female education. In my past experience, although it is a brief one, I have gathered that when facts and figures are quoted, they exist on paper only. The reality is very different. Same is the fate of adult education scheme. The Minister concerned has said with great pride that 4½ lakhs of people have benefited by this scheme. I doubt whether the number actually exceeds 4½ thousands. All facts and figures are generally bogus. In the first year this scheme flourished, but now it has slowed down. The inspection staff requires lot of improvement and teachers need stricter control by higher authorities. There are training schools for Patwaris but no school for these teachers. The Anglo-Vernacular grade has been modified and now respectable men can work there. The grade of primary teachers too requires revision.

Whenever any proposal for further accelerating the educational advancement in the province is sent to the Government, it takes more than two or three years in sending these papers from one office to another. During the last settlement in district Jhelum; Government had promised to remit or postpone the

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imposition of land revenue in the Chakwal tehsil till after the war, but instead of that the residents of Chakwal tehsil approached the Government with the request that an Intermediate college be opened in the Chakwal tehsil. But so far no action has been taken by the Government in this direction. During the regime of the late Sir Fazl-i-Husain it was proposed to establish a degree college at Chakwal. I wish to point out that the district of Jhelum is at par with those districts in India, which have rendered meritorious services in the successful prosecution of the present war. I would like to bring this point home to the honourable members in general and the Honourable Minister of Education in particular that in spite of the fact that the residents of Chakwal repeatedly requested the Government to set up an Intermediate College in their tehsil, no action so far seems to have been taken by the Government in this direction. In this connection I would request the Honourable Minister of Education to open an Intermediate college in Chakwal tehsil, so that students belonging to Gujar Khan (the constituency of my honourable friend Raja Farman Ali Khan) and Campbellpur may also be benefited by this college.

It is a matter of gratification that the Honourable Minister of Education was kind enough to establish a high school in Buchal at his own expense. Now the Government has also been pleased to sanction the grant of the school. In fact the Government has taken the responsibility of defraying all the expenses of the school in future. One more high school has been opened in the village of Basharat. So far as this village is concerned, I wish to submit that the average holding of the inhabitants of this village is  $8\frac{1}{2}$  acres. I would like to request the Honourable Minister of Education to pay more attention towards the poor inhabitants of this village and devise ways and means to afford various educational facilities to them.

**Subedar Major Raja Farman Ali Khan** (Gujar Khan, Muhammadan, Rural (Urdu) : Sir, I had no intention to participate in the discussion, but for the arguments advanced by my honourable friend Chaudhri Sumer Singh, I deem it necessary to throw some light on them. My honourable friend Chaudhri Sumer Singh in the course of his speech said that the Arabic script should not be introduced side by side with Hindi and Gurmukhi scripts. In this connection I wish to submit that both of these scripts are non-Muslim scripts—Gurmukhi being the script of the Sikhs and Hindi of the Hindus. I am constrained to remark that Hindus want to crush the Muslims from linguistic point of view by using the weapon of Hindi and Gurmukhi. My respectful submission is that in this province Muslims form more than half the population. The language of the Holy Quran, the holy book of the Muslims, is Arabic, so much so that almost all the Islamic books on morals, etc., are written in that language. I make bold to submit that so far Government have done nothing substantial with a view to encouraging the Muslims to take keen interest in studying religious and moral books written in Arabic. As far as my own district is concerned, I wish to submit that so far Government have made no satisfactory arrangement in connection with the education of Muslim girls. In fact there is no school in the district where Arabic can be taught to Muslim girls. If you doubt the correctness of my statement, may I take the liberty of asking the Honourable Minister of Education to kindly let me know as to how many schools have so far been opened in the district of Rawalpindi for imparting Arabic education to Muslim girls. Once again I say it on the floor of the House that no such school exists at present in this district. There is no doubt that there are one or two schools in this district but these schools

have been opened for Hindus only because it is they who take full advantage of these schools. I feel sorry to remark that education is being imparted to banias at our expense. The rights of Muslims are being trampled over. In this connection I would request the Honourable Minister of Education to devise ways and means for teaching Arabic to Muslims in general and Muslim girls in particular, and open as many schools as possible for this purpose. I am sorry to remark that at present no body can understand the Holy Quran. If I put certain questions to some able lawyers, Barristers and even the Honourable Minister of Education regarding the themes mentioned in the Holy Quran I am sure they will not be able to give satisfactory replies regarding them. Therefore I urge upon the Honourable Minister of Education to make satisfactory arrangements for imparting education in Arabic to Muslims.

My respectful submission is this that the major portion of land in the district of Rawalpindi is a *barani* ilaqa. I wish to bring this point home to the Honourable Minister of Education in particular, that my district is a Muslim district. It will not be out of place to mention here that now-a-days a majority of people recruited are from my district. In fact the people of the district are taking great part in the successful prosecution of the present War. The Hindu and Muslim inhabitants of this district are both zamindars and warriors.

Sir, after all the Government has taken this budget of 19 or 20 crores from our pockets. We have, therefore, a right to ask from the Government as to how much of this money has been spent on our education and health.

I will now take the question of Urdu. Even in the days of Raja Ranjit Singh, our court and office language was Persian or Urdu. All administrative work was done in Urdu. Let us for a while consider seriously as to who invented this language. Birbal and Raja Todar Mal were both Hindus. But having regard to the exigencies of the times, they patronised Urdu. Nay, it were they who brought this language into existence. Abul Fazal and Faizi, too, were great scholars of Sanskrit and were deeply interested in the Hindu culture and education. They had also patronised Urdu. I would, therefore, assert with confidence that it were the Hindus who had brought this language into being. How can they now turn round and oppose its further progress? As the language of the Muslim Rulers of India could not be understood by the natives, the Hindus had after co-operation with the Muslims evolved a new and common language which made their intercourse possible. It is commonly said in our country that after a distance of every 12 miles, one comes across a different language altogether. If a person travels 3 or 4 hundred miles in India, he can claim to have traversed ten different kingdoms. The fact of the matter is that there was no education or literacy which could make it possible for a traveller to have an intercourse with other people. Thus the people of the same country regarded their country folk as foreigners. Urdu was brought into being for the specific purpose of removing the feelings of being a stranger in one's own country. Urdu was evolved to be the *lingua franca* of the Hindus and Muslims in India. I am myself a Rajput but I look upon Urdu with pride and honour. It is no wisdom to leave this eloquent, sweet and vast language for the sake of learning Hindi, Gurmukhi and Lande scripts. People cry out for freedom. But let me tell them that liberty will not come until they have all learnt Urdu. The knowledge of Urdu should be spread far and wide. If any one were to convince me that freedom will come through our learning Hindi, I will be the first to learn Hindi. Let any one tell me that beautiful turn of Hindi wherein the goddess of freedom is lying hidden. All these are baseless assertions. In fact those who learn the table of "eeri erra"

[Raja Farman Ali Khan]

(the Hindi script), are labouring under a misunderstanding. They want us to leave Urdu and learn a script in which if "Sher Singh" is written, it is to be read as "Chher Singh." These are only the contrivances of sowing the seeds of discord among the people. Why should we not hold fast to Urdu which is a sweet and decent language and which is already the common medium of expression the *lingua franca* of India? I would, therefore, urge that Urdu should be learnt with a view to strengthening the ties of unity as well as progress of the country.

Besides, the gentlemen who are uttering the name of Chakwal are doing so at the cost of Gujar Khan which deserves to be mentioned first in connection with the opening of a college. I clearly remember that on a particular day during the year 1924-25, a deputation waited upon the late Sir Fazl-i-Husain and he promised to open a new college at Gujar Khan in the Rawalpindi Division. I still remember the promise of Sir Fazl-i-Husain as of his very words of 1924-25 are still ringing in my ears. When the late Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain visited our district, we poor people could not offer a better entertainment than *sag* which he accepted with pleasure and he also promised to establish a new college at Gujar Khan. After some interval our Honourable Minister Baru Ram came to Gujar Khan—I call Chhotu Ram as Baru Ram because I have a great respect for him. He is too great to be called Chhotu Ram. I therefore call him Baru Ram. He has done a lot to improve the lot of Hindus, Muslims and Sikhs. I would rather call him a common saint of the poor among the Hindus and Muslims. He is not a mere Minister. He has infused a new life and new spirit in the community that was lifeless before. (*Cheers*). I am sorry that when he went to Gujar Khan, I was not there. He asked the people to establish a high school first. We tried hard for this purpose and now we have an Islamia High School. But let it not be understood that it was due to the kindness of the Government. I had to send representations to the noble rulers of Bhopal, Bahawalpur and Rampur who were gracious enough to grant us some money with the help of which we have established this high school at Gujar Khan. The school owes its existence to our begging money from the Muslim rulers. Our Government can get no credit for this.

I will now proceed to throw some light on the need of education with regard to the success of our army. I was in the Army for 32 years. During this long term of 32 years our regiment never retreated from where it had once set its foot. It was always victorious. However, now our forces have hopelessly retreated from Malaya, Singhapur, Jawa, Samatra and Burma. The real cause of this defeat was that the Education Department had not enabled our young men to become high officers in the Army, having ignored their education. The consequence was that educated young men belonging to other non-martial classes were made officers in the Army. All the discredit goes to the Education Department. If young men belonging to our martial classes had been given high education and if our soldiers had been placed under officers belonging to martial classes, Burma, Malaya, Jawa, Somatra and Singhapur would have never gone from our hands (*Cheers*).

Now I shall tell you why we lost Burma. That is not due to any fault on the part of soldiers. The soldiers are as brave as ever. The blame rests with those new officers who have been appointed over their heads. These officers are, generally, educated urban people, who possess no military traditions and who are neither brave nor soldier-like. If sufficient schools and colleges had been

opened in our district of Rawalpindi, the Government could have got officers also from that area, who would have been as brave as the soldiers of that *ilaga* are.

A short while ago, I invited all the Honourable Ministers to come to my *ilaga*. I do not know why the Honourable Minister for Education did not go there. On that occasion I promised to give six divisions from Rawalpindi district alone—one lakh recruits, who would go and fight in the front lines, not such men who remain in this country, weaving cloth or making shoes, and say that they are in war-service. Look to what extent we are prepared to go in serving the Government faithfully and also compare with it the attitude of the Government towards us inasmuch as they have not been able to facilitate English education in our *ilaga*. The present war is the war of science and only those soldiers can prove successful in it who know English as well as science. Otherwise, our soldiers are physically as good as any other soldier. The case is not yet hopeless. The Government can, even now, open an intermediate college in Gujar Khan and high schools in the area around it. Although our soldiers are only half-educated they have learnt the little Urdu or English that they know in the Military—still they feel that in spite of the fact that the Rajputs and Awans are in a majority in the Army, none of these tribes are represented in the Ministry. (An honourable member: The Honourable Minister for Education is an Awan). I am thinking of agitating in the Army that a soldier Minister should be included in the Cabinet. (An Honourable Member: The Honourable Captain Shaukat Hyat is already there). Yes, Shaukat Hyat is there but he is a mere child. Of course the Honourable Premier does belong to a family with military traditions.

I would request the Honourable Minister for Education to pay at least one visit to our district. Some of that area is hilly. There are no wells there nor is it possible to make canals there. The monsoon benefits only the area near the Himalayas. So we do not get rains even. Sir, is not such an area a backward one? In the opinion of the Government the backward area is that where canals are many, where the production is more than sufficient and where trade amounts to about 40 thousand. In my opinion the poorest area in the whole of the Province is that of Lahore, where every year new buildings worth 3 or 4 crores are erected. The Government does not spend a single pice on our *ilaga* as compared with what it spends on Lahore. We people, who live in that area take barley and gram and never complain. There are so many hospitals, shops and medical halls in Lahore, while in our district there is none.

When I joined the Army, I used to lift quite easily a sack 2 maunds in weight. Our soldiers' chest measured as much as 48 inches. My chest was 46 inches. It measures 36 inches even now. But the soldiers of to-day are neither tall nor broad. It is all due to a bad system of education. I am the tallest man in my *ilaga*. In spite of our best efforts we have not been able to find out a graduate whom we might send to the Assembly. (A voice: What about Raja Ghazanfar Ali?) He belongs to Pind Dadan Khan proper, not to the area outside it. I am talking of that area from where soldiers come. Sir, I shall be glad if a college is opened in Chakwal even, because that area also belongs to soldiers and ex-soldiers. To-day there is the desire of leadership on every side. This movement was originally started by us. We and our fore-fathers used to wield the sword and lead other people. But to-day those who see the officers become everything and we have neither power nor wealth.

**Sardar Teja Singh Swatantar** (Lahore West, Sikh, Rural) (*Punjabi*): Mr. Speaker, so far much has been said about our system of education but no one

[S. Teja Singh Swatantra]

has pointed out as to what it really means and how far Government has anything to do with it. In fact education system is a system within another superstructure, i.e., socio-economic system which has a direct connection with the Government of the day. While discussing our education system the honourable members are ignoring these things and are trying to hit the point from a distance with the result that they do not succeed in achieving their object. To explain the matter still further I may tell them that while dealing with a problem like the one now before the House we have to take into consideration the social and economic structure of the society. What are the classes that go to form it? Then the question as to what is the constitution of the Government and how far it influences the social conditions of the country? If we keep in view all such things, then we will be in a position to deal with our system of education properly. On the contrary, if we do not keep in view the socio-economic and political conditions of the country we will not be able to solve the problem of our system of education for which nearly two crores of rupees are being provided in the Budget. Before dealing with this problem it is necessary for us to know as to what were the social, economic and political conditions under which this system of education was introduced in the Punjab.

Taking the political condition first we find that the Punjab was upto recently being governed by a foreign imperialist capitalist Government. It has been succeeded by the so called democratic Government which is governing the province at present. Anyway the foreign imperialist Government set up this university and made it obligatory on the students to get education in a particular language. It prepared a particular type of syllabus for them. The imperialist Government did this with a view to supplying its own. The Government wanted clerks for running the machinery of its departments such as post offices, railways, etc., etc., men who should know the language of their masters as well as of the people of the country and thus help Government in administering the country. It was with this end in view that the present system of education was established in the country.

Now I take up the economic condition of the Punjab. Besides the interests of the imperialist Government there were other vested interests in the Punjab particularly the interests of the landed aristocracy who helped the foreign imperialist Government in setting up this new system. Then there was another class of traders and capitalists who in order to line their own feathers helped the foreign Government to establish this system of education in the country. Now Sir, on the top were the interests of the imperialist Government. Then there were the interests of the landed aristocracy and of the trading classes. All these classes combined together and established this system of education in the country with a particular end in view to which I have referred above. (*A voice : What is a system?*) System means a set of connected things. Anyway this system of education was established. Now the system of education includes three things in it. In the first place there is the staff right from the primary stage up to the Chancellor of the University. Secondly ideas, i.e., whatever is taught. Thirdly, the building material. All these three things combined together is termed as the education system.

*At this stage the Assembly adjourned till 12 noon on Thursday, 16th March 1944.*

# PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

## ELEVENTH SESSION OF THE FIRST PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Thursday, 16th March 1944

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

### STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

#### PEASANTS WELFARE FUND

**\*9178. Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether the tentative proposals made recently by the Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram with regard to the Peasants Welfare Fund have been considered by the Government ; if so, with what result ;

(b) whether the Government contemplate collecting  $1\frac{1}{2}$  crores of rupees for this Fund from the peasants and zamindars ; if so, in what manner ;

(c) the manner in which this Fund will be administered ?

**The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram :** (a) Yes. The proposals have been accepted by Government in principle.

(b) *First part :* No.

*Second part :* Does not arise.

(c) The matter is under consideration.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** What proposals have been acted upon by the Government so far ?

**Minister :** Nothing has been acted upon so far.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** With regard to part (b), may I know whether the Honourable Minister made any speech with regard to collecting from the peasants  $1\frac{1}{2}$  crores for adding to this fund ?

**Minister :** There is no question of collecting. Rupees 55 lakhs will be put each year into the fund in future in normal years. So far, we have already placed during the last three years 150 lakhs in the fund : 80 lakhs in 1941, 60 in 1942 and 60 in 1943.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Have any changes been made in the proposals since they were first put in ?

**Minister :** I do not think any material change has been made. If any change has been made, it must be one of a minor kind.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** How many persons and societies have been consulted so far as these proposals are concerned ?

**Minister :** There was a very large committee consisting of about 25 members of this House which considered the proposals. I have been consulting officials and other non-officials also. Further, I have been addressing meetings very frequently on the subject in various districts.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** Are some of the proposals such as require immediate action by the Government ?



**Minister :** There are certain proposals with regard to which action can be taken almost immediately, for instance, the grant of scholarships.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** May I know how long it will take for the Government to decide the whole thing concretely? Will it be four months or one year or two years? The honourable member knows that he has already taken a very long time.

**Minister :** I do not think I have taken a very long time. I am not in a position to give any definite date by which the whole programme will be in operation, but there are certain parts of it to which effect can be given within the course of the next year easily.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** When were these proposals last discussed by the Cabinet or by Members of the Government?

**Minister :** The proceedings of the Cabinet are supposed to be confidential.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** It is a question of date. I am not asking anything else.

**Minister :** I do not remember the date.

#### CONGRESS DETENUS AND INTERNEES

**\*9179. Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) the number and names of the Congress detenues released during the months of November and December, 1943, and January and February, 1944;

(b) the number and names of those who have been interned in a particular area or whose movements have been restricted in a particular manner as also the reasons; if any, for such internments and restrictions;

(c) the names of Congress women upon whom any restrictions have been imposed after their release?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Mir Maqbool Mahmood) :** (a) 108. The time and labour involved in compiling a list of names would be incommensurate with the result to be obtained.

(b) 95, since November 1943. Their movements have been restricted for reasons connected with the maintenance of public order.

(c) Shrimati Sita Devi, Begum Ghulam Fatima, Shrimati Shanno Devi and Shrimati Puran Devi.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** May I know who gave the orders for the restrictions on these released persons?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** They were released under the orders of the Punjab Government.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Has the Punjab Government got its headquarters here or somewhere else?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** The Punjab Government has only one headquarters. It is not like certain institutions which take inspiration from somewhere else.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** May I know what stood in the way of the Government collecting this information which is readily available in the headquarters?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I have already given you the number and with regard to the names I have said that the time and labour involved will not be commensurate with the results.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** What is the reason for restricting so many persons after their release ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** The number of persons restricted is not very large.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** What are the reasons for restricting them in municipal areas ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** Public interest.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** Is the Government going to put the material in a court of law ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** Government is satisfied with the material available.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** Does not Government think it necessary to place the material before it in a court of law ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** It is a request for action and on supplementary questions this is not in order.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** I am asking whether the Government intend to place before a court of law the material against these internees.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** With regard to (a), may I know whether the restrictions put on these Congress women are the same in all cases or different in each case ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I would like to have notice of that question.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** What are the restrictions put on these women ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** The honourable member had asked only the names of Congress women. If he had asked about restrictions, I would have obtained them.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Is it one of the restrictions that they should go and report themselves to the police ?

**Premier :** This has been thrice denied here. What is the object of repeating a question on wrong premises every day ?

ABID KHAN

**\*9181. Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that one Abid Khan of Peshawar who was detained for 3 months in the Lahore Fort is now detained in the Lahore Central Jail ;

(b) whether the above-named detenu has been allowed any interviews since his detention ; if so, how many ; and if not, the reasons therefor ;

(c) whether the Government intend to transfer the above-named detenu to a jail in his native province ; if not, the reasons therefor ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Mir Maqbool Mahmood): This prisoner is detained under the orders of the Central Government. Questions about him cannot be asked on the floor of this House but should be addressed to the Government of India.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh**: Can the Parliamentary Secretary supply us this much information whether he is detained in Lahore Central Jail or not?

**Premier**: That is for the Central Government to let him know.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh**: Who grants the interviews here? Is it the Central Government or the Punjab Government?

**Premier**: Whatever is done here is done on behalf of the Central Government and, therefore, the honourable member should address them.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh**: Has the Honourable Premier any information with regard to this prisoner?

**Premier**: We have every information on behalf of the Central Government, but the proper place for the honourable member to get the information from is the Central Assembly.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan**: Has the Honourable Premier no record to show the number of interviews that were allowed during a month?

**Premier**: The honourable member can understand anything that he likes. We act on behalf of the Government of India and if he wants to get information he should have a question put in the Central Assembly.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan**: Has the Honourable Premier no record to show whether interviews were allowed to this prisoner or not?

**Premier**: We have every record but we will reveal that before the Government on whose behalf we are detaining these people. We have no intention of giving that information here. The honourable member can get it from there.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan**: Part (b) of the question asks for the number of interviews that have been allowed.

**Premier**: The honourable member should ask the Government of India and they will give him the information.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan**: The Punjab Government is responsible for the detention of this gentleman in jail here.

**Premier**: We act on behalf of the Government of India. We are not responsible to the honourable member in any case.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh**: May I know whether it is one of the conditions of the Government of India imposed upon the Punjab Government that no question with regard to the Central Government prisoners should be answered here?

**Premier**: Why is the honourable member adopting a wrong course? Why does he not address the right quarter? Tomorrow he will ask me about Moscow and I cannot give that information. He will have to go to Stalin for that.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh**: If the Honourable Premier knows anything about Moscow, I will be glad to hear.

## TRAVELLING ALLOWANCE DRAWN BY MAGISTRATES IN LUDHIANA DISTRICT

**\*9195. Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) the amount of travelling allowance drawn by each of the magistrates in the Ludhiana district every month from 1st April, 1943, to 1st March, 1944 ;

(b) the amount of travelling allowance drawn by the district magistrate during November and December, 1943, and during January, February, 1944 ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Mir Maqbool Mahmood) :** The time and trouble involved in collecting the information will not be commensurate with any possible benefit to be obtained.

## DECLARATION OF RAI SIKHS AS MEMBERS OF CRIMINAL TRIBES

**\*9193. Sardar Teja Singh Swatantar :** Will the Honourable Finance Minister be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that all the inhabitants of the nine villages of the Rai Sikhs in the jurisdiction of the Attari Police Station (Montgomery district) have been declared members of the criminal tribes ; if so, since when they have been so declared and the reasons therefor ;

(b) whether the cases of the above-mentioned Rai Sikhs are reviewed periodically ; if not, the reasons therefor ;

(c) when were the cases of the Rai Sikhs mentioned above reviewed last and with what result ?

**The Honourable Sir Manohar Lal :** (a) Yes, they were declared as members of the criminal tribes in 1918 on account of their being addicted to the systematic commission of non-bailable offences.

(b) Yes.

(c) The last review of the cases of these Mahtams was held in February last, but orders thereon have not yet been passed as the matter is still under consideration.

**Sardar Teja Singh Swatantar :** May I know if investigation had been made in the village and if it was found that some crime had really been committed there ?

**Minister :** That hardly arises out of this question.

**Sardar Teja Singh Swatantar :** Are the Government aware of the fact that this crime has not been committed in this village for the last so many years ?

**Minister :** The only thing that the honourable member is doing at the moment is that he is prejudicing the consideration that is now proceeding. Their cases were reviewed only last month and orders have not so far been passed.

**Sardar Teja Singh Swatantar :** Have the Government got no record from 1918 to February 1944 according to which these restrictions may be removed ?

**Minister :** Obviously no.

**Sardar Teja Singh Swatantar :** Are the Government aware that even now the police sub-inspectors call all the inhabitants of these villages today to one village, tomorrow to another and so on throughout the week, and thus do not let them work for their living ?

**Minister :** I am not aware of that.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** What non-bailable offences were committed by these tribes?

**Minister :** If the honourable member wishes to go into the details, he will have to take the trouble of giving a definite notice.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** How many times, since the year 1918, have their cases been reviewed?

**Minister :** There again a notice will be necessary.

#### UNNATURAL OFFENCE COMMITTED

**\*3933. Lala Bhagat Ram Choda :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that about three months ago during his 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;

(b) whether it is a fact that the matter was reported by the Government Panchayat of Kot Fatohi, 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 Department;

(e) if so, what action has been taken on the report;

(f) if no report has been received or no action taken so far, whether he would be pleased to consider the desirability of prompt and immediate action?

**The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye :** (a) Yes, but in November 1942.

(b) Yes.

(c) Yes. The District Inspector of Schools, Hoshiarpur, held the enquiry under the orders of the Deputy Commissioner, Hoshiarpur. The enquiry report submitted by the former was reviewed by the latter.

(d) Yes.

(e) After considering the report of the District Inspector of Schools and the review of the Deputy Commissioner, Hoshiarpur, and in agreement with their views it was found that the allegations against the Assistant District Inspector of Schools concerned were not established. He has, however, been transferred to Gurgaon in the interest of public service and his conduct will be watched carefully in future.

(f) Does not arise.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** If the charges were not proved against the Assistant District Inspector, why was he transferred to another place?

**Minister :** It was in his own interest.

**Rai Bahadur Lala Gopal Das :** Is it a fact that a Professor of the Government College, who is an Englishman and who was in England and was alleged to have been charged with a similar offence, was dismissed from service from this place?

**Minister :** Yes.

**Rai Bahadur Lala Gopal Das :** Then, why different treatment here? Why make an exception? Why not ask him to go?

**Minister :** That officer was not confirmed.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** May I know whether the staff also corroborated the charge against him?

**Minister :** It is not in public interest to supply these details.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** May I know why the Honourable Minister is keeping mum over this question?

#### RESERVATION OF A ROOM IN THE MAYO HOSPITAL FOR CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE DETENUS AND CONVICTS

**\*9079. Lala Bhagat Ram Choda :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that no separate room has been reserved in the Mayo Hospital, Lahore, for keeping detenues and Civil Disobedience Movement convicts as indoor patients and the presence of police guards all the twenty-four hours causes great inconvenience to other patients;

(b) whether Government propose to take early steps to reserve a separate room in the Mayo Hospital for the patients mentioned in part (a); if not, why not?

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

(ii) So far as Government is aware, there has been no such complaint.

(b) No. In view of the very limited accommodation available in the Mayo hospital, for indoor patients, it is impossible to reserve a separate room or rooms for such prisoners.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** Does not the Government realise that the presence of police in the Mayo Hospital causes inconvenience and discomfort to the other indoor patients there?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I have already stated that the Government has not received any such complaint so far.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** Has not the Government realised that the posting of police guard there is not proper?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** It depends on circumstances.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** How many indoor patients were present along with the patient on whom the police guard was posted?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I would like to have notice of that question.

#### SODOMY CASE IN KOT FATOHI

**\*9192. Sardar Ajit Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that a report was submitted to the Government by Sardar Tara Singh, President, Village Panchayat, Kot Fatohi, in the Hoshiarpur

[S. Ajit Singh]

district, against an officer of the Education Department, in respect of a case of sodomy and the matter was also brought to the notice of the Deputy Commissioner, Hoshiarpur; if so, when;

(b) when the report mentioned in (a) was also submitted by the village panchayat to the Government and whether any action has been taken in the matter; if so, what?

**The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye :** (a) Yes, a report was made to the Deputy Commissioner, Hoshiarpur, in December 1942.

(b) No report was received by Government direct from the Panchayat. The report from the Panchayat was received by the Deputy Commissioner, Hoshiarpur, who ordered an enquiry by the District Inspector of Schools, Hoshiarpur. Government received the report of the Enquiry Officer along with the views of the Deputy Commissioner and in agreement with their views found the allegations not established against the Assistant District Inspector of School concerned. The Officer concerned has, however, been transferred to another district and his future conduct will be carefully watched.

#### CATTLE FARM, HISSAR

**\*8991. Lala Bhagat Ram Choda :** Will the Honourable Minister of Development be pleased to state whether the answer to question No. 1572<sup>1</sup> asked by Khan Sahib Chaudhri Sahib Dad Khan, on the 10th November 1942, is ready; if so, will he lay it on the table?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Chaudhri Tikka Ram) :** Yes. A copy is laid on the table.

*Answer to question No. 1572.*

**The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh :** (a) There are no rules on this matter.

(b) No. If the affected glands and organs of the diseased animals are taken out and destroyed under expert supervision their cooked meat is not considered injurious to the health of the public.

(c) The animals sold out from the Farm are slaughtered within a few days and the danger of infection is negligible.

#### SUGAR PERMITS IN JHELUM CITY

**\*9022. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Will the Honourable Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the residents of the Jhelum City are granted sugar permits on religious occasions;

(b) whether it is a fact that sugar permits were issued on the occasion of the anniversary of Guru Arjan Dev and on other occasions as well; if so, to how many persons;

(c) whether it is a fact that sugar permits were refused to the muslims for Iftari in a mosque at Jhelum during the month of Ramzan last; if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) if the answer to part (c) above be in the affirmative the action that Government intends to take against the person or persons concerned, if not, the reasons therefor ;

(e) whether the quantity of sugar fixed for an adult in the Jhelum district is less than the quantity fixed in other districts of the province ; if so, the reasons therefor ;

(f) whether it is a fact that permits for the import of sugar into Jhelum were refused to all other importers except the present ones ; if so, the reasons therefor ;

(g) whether Government have received any complaints from the public of Jhelum against the staff appointed for distribution of sugar ; if so, the action taken on these complaints ; if no action has been taken, the reasons therefor ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Chaudhri Tikka Ram) :** (a) Sugar permits were granted on religious occasions when the stocks of sugar allowed it but were refused when there was an apprehension of shortage.

(b) Yes. Four sugar permits were issued to Gurdwaras on the anniversary of Guru Arjan Dev. Similarly four sugar permits were issued to religious institutions of other communities.

(c) No. There was only one such application from a pleader and two local clerks which was refused, as the demand was made by them in their individual capacity and not for any religious institution. Extra demands made by individuals in their individual capacity are refused since their entertainment would leave very little sugar for public in general and can have no place in a system of card rationing, in force in Jhelum town from 1st September, 1943. This principle is applied to the members of other communities as well. Sugar ration during September was, however, increased by 50 per cent for the Muslims during the Ramzan and they were further allowed to draw their October quota of sugar on account of Id.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) No. The ration for an adult in Jhelum is the same as in Rawalpindi. (The district got its due quota like other districts.)

(f) Yes. Only licensed persons could import sugar from the factories. (Any other person, not holding such a licence could not import.)

(g) The answer is in the negative.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** May I know whether the quota of sugar per head in Jhelum is the same as permitted in the Amritsar district ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I require notice.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** May I know the quota per head fixed in Jhelum ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I require notice.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** May I know whether different quotas are fixed for different districts or the quotas are the same or is it fixed on the population basis or any other basis is taken into consideration ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I require notice.

#### FINANCIAL ADVISER, CO-OPERATIVE DEPARTMENT

**\*9035. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Will the Honourable Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(a) the date on which the present Financial Adviser, Co-operative Department, will retire ;



[K. S. Khawaja Ghulam Samad]

(b) whether any successor to the above-named Financial Adviser is under training; if so, since when and the names of the places where he has had his training;

(c) the pay which the proposed successor to the Financial Adviser is getting during his training and the salary that he will draw on his appointment as Financial Adviser?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Chaudhri Tikka Ram): —

(a) 26th November, 1944.

(b) *First part*—Yes.

*Second part*—1st August, 1942.

*Third part*—Lahore. He is now at Bombay.

(c) *First part*—His grade pay, viz., Rs. 675 per mensem in the Punjab Co-operative Service Class II (250—25—550/25—750), plus Rs. 200 per mensem as compensatory allowance during the period of his training at Bombay.

*Second part*.—The pay admissible to him under the rules in Punjab Co-operative Service Class I (650—25—700/30—1,000).

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad**: May I know the name of the person selected for this job?

**Parliamentary Secretary**: Chaudhri Ram Sarup.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad**: To which district does he belong?

**Parliamentary Secretary**: He belongs to the Rohtak District.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad**: Does he possess any special qualifications for being appointed to this post?

**Parliamentary Secretary**: Obviously yes.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad**: Did he supersede any senior person while he was selected as a candidate for being appointed as the Financial Adviser?

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

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh**: May I know when he was appointed to this post?

**Parliamentary Secretary**: He has not yet been appointed, he is receiving training.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad**: May I know when the training of this officer expires in Bombay?

**Parliamentary Secretary**: 26th November 1944.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad**: Will he again receive his training in any other town?

**Parliamentary Secretary**: No.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad**: May I know the period of his training?

**Parliamentary Secretary**: It is two years.

SARDAR GOPAL SINGH, ASSISTANT REGISTRAR, CO-OPERATIVE DEPARTMENT

**\*9036. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Will the Honourable Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that S. Gopal Singh, Assistant Registrar, Co-operative Department, has been appointed Deputy Registrar, against the recommendations of the Registrar, Co-operative Societies ; if so, the reasons therefor ;

(b) whether Government intends to take any action in the matter ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Chaudhri Tikka Ram) : (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

(Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan and K. S. Khawaja Ghulam Samad rose to ask supplementary questions).

**Mr. Speaker :** Opportunity to ask supplementary questions is given first to the member who puts the main question and after he has finished his questions, other members are allowed to ask supplementary questions.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** May I know whether Sardar Gopal Singh was recommended by the Registrar for being appointed as Deputy Registrar ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** My honourable friend has got this reply in part (a) where I have said 'No'.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** That is quite a different question.

**Parliamentary Secretary :** My honourable friend has asked whether Sardar Gopal Singh has been appointed Deputy Registrar against the recommendations of the Registrar, Co-operative Societies and I have told him 'No'.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** By whom was he appointed ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** By the authorities.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Did he possess special qualifications for being selected as Deputy Registrar ?

**Minister for Development :** He was considered fit for the job and that is why he was appointed.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** May I know whether the Government had seen his record of service and character roll when he was appointed ?

**Minister :** Everything was taken into consideration and then the appointment was made.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** May I know whether the Government found any adverse remark against him on his personnel file and character roll ?

**Minister :** Everything was taken into consideration and he was appointed after due consideration.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** May I know whether the Registrar made any protest, when he was appointed as Deputy Registrar, saying that there were adverse remarks in his personal file and character roll and so he should not be appointed ?

**Minister :** My honourable friend is referring to the remarks of the officers of the department. As they are confidential they cannot be disclosed on the floor of the House.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan:** Is it within the knowledge of the Government that against this officer an enquiry was made in 1939 and he was found unfit for the post of Deputy Registrar?

**Minister:** Not to my knowledge.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan:** Is it a fact that the Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram, the then Minister in charge of this department, went to Ludhiana and ordered an enquiry against the conduct of this officer?

**Minister:** If my honourable friend wants me to supply more information, then I would ask him to give me notice.

#### SUPPLY OF SUGAR IN LUDHIANA DISTRICT

**\*9194. Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan:** Will the Honourable Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(a) the firms of Ludhiana whose names have been forwarded by the District Magistrate of Ludhiana to Sugar factories to be appointed as agents for supplying sugar in the district;

(b) the period for which each nominee has been a sugar dealer in the Ludhiana district;

(c) whether the district magistrate has taken into consideration the fact of the length of time for which each nominee of the district has done sugar business?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Chaudhri Tikka Ram):** (a) There are 18 Sugar nominees in the district.

(b) and (c) The information is being collected.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan:** Is it a fact that out of these 18 firms, one firm never dealt in sugar at all, but it has been recommended by the Deputy Commissioner, Ludhiana?

**Minister of Development:** That may be true. This is one of the firms, but there are altogether 18 firms.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan:** Is it within the knowledge of the Honourable Minister that this firm gets 70 per cent of the sugar quota imported in Ludhiana?

**Minister:** I have no information, but I know that all these 18 firms are getting their full quota.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan:** Has the Honourable Minister called for a report from the Director, Civil Supplies, in order to find out how the distribution at Ludhiana takes place?

**Minister:** I have not called for that information.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan:** Is he prepared to do so now? Does he know that one firm is getting 70 per cent quota of sugar?

**Minister:** I want notice.

#### UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

##### CO-OPERATIVE DEPARTMENT

**1706. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad:** Will the Honourable Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(a) the names and number of the Deputy Registrars in the Co-operative Department, community-wise, in charge of the Divisions in the province;

(b) the names and communities of the permanent and the officiating Personal Assistants to the Registrar Co-operative Societies, respectively ;

(c) the name of the I. C. S. Deputy Registrar, Co-operative Societies ;

(d) the action that Government intend to take to give adequate representation to the under-represented community in the Co-operative Department ?

**The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh :** (a) *First part*—It is not the practice to give names.

<i>Second part</i> —Indian Christian .. ..				1
Muslim .. ..	..	..	..	1
Sikhs .. ..	..	..	..	4
Hindu .. ..	..	..	..	1
Total .. ..				<hr/> 7 <hr/>

(b) *First part*—As at 1st part of (a) above.

*Second part*—The post of Personal Assistant to the Registrar is included in Provincial Co-operative Service, Class II, and is at present held by a Sikh officer.

(c) As at 1st part of (a) above.

(d) Recruitment to the posts of Deputy Registrar is made by promotion from among Assistant Registrars and communal proportions are not observed in the case of appointments made by promotions.

#### DEPUTY REGISTRARS, CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES

**1707. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Will the Honourable Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(a) the names and number of Deputy Registrars, Co-operative Societies, in charge of five divisions in the province together with the pay that each one of them is drawing ;

(b) the action that the Government intends to take to give adequate representation among the Deputy Registrars named above to the under-represented community ?

**The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh :** (a) *First part*—It is not the practice to give names.

*Second part*—7 (including one post of Deputy Registrar for Delhi Province and one for Wheat Purchase Scheme).

				Rs.
1 Muslim .. ..	..	..	..	Pay 850
1 Indian Christian .. ..	..	..	..	.. 1,500
4 Sikhs .. ..	..	..	..	..three 1,000 each and one 875
1 Hindu .. ..	..	..	..	875

The honourable member is referred to the answer given to part (d) of his question No. 1706 (unstarred) (above).

SARJIT SINGH BHATIA

**1721. Sardar Lal Singh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that one Sarjit Singh Bhatia, son of Kartar Singh, was released from jail on 18th May 1943 ;

(b) whether it is a fact that he has again been arrested and is being detained in jail ; if so, under what law or rule he is being detained in jail and the reasons therefor ?

**The Honourable Malik Khizar Hayat :** (a) Yes.

(b) *First part*—No.

*Second part*—Does not arise.

### SUPPLEMENTARY STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURE (1ST INSTALMENT, 1943-44, AUTHENTICATED BY GOVERNOR

**Minister of Finance :** Sir, as required by section 81 of the Government of India Act, 1935, I lay on the table the supplementary statement of expenditure (1st instalment) for the year 1943-44 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 1943-44, which specifies :—

(a) the supplementary grants (first instalment) made by the Punjab Legislative Assembly in its session held in November, 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 .. ..	33,500	..	33,500
4	10—Forest .. ..	25,91,100	..	25,91,100
5	11—Registration .. ..	60,000	..	60,000
6	12—Charges on account of Motor Vehicles Acts. ..	40,000	17,790	57,790
10	25—General Administration ..	72,800	..	72,800
12	28—Jails and Convict Settlements ..	31,290	..	31,290
17	38—Medical .. ..	10,000	..	10,000
24	Buildings and Roads Establishment Charges. ..	25,320	..	25,320
26	52-A—Other Revenue Expenditure connected with Electricity Schemes. ..	43,100	..	43,100
31	56—Stationery and Printing .. ..	5,25,000	..	5,25,000
38	Advances Repayable .. ..	70,00,000	..	70,00,000
	GRAND TOTAL ..	1,04,32,110	17,790	1,04,49,900

LAHORE :

B. J. GLANCY

The 9th November, 1943

Governor of the Punjab "

## STATEMENT OF EXCESS EXPENDITURE, 1940-41 AUTHENTICATED BY GOVERNOR

**Minister of Finance :** Sir, as required by section 81 of the Government of India Act, 1935, I lay on the table the statement of excess expenditure for the year 1940-41 authenticated by His Excellency the Governor.

"As required by section 81 of the Government of India Act, 1935, I hereby authenticate the following statement of excess expenditure for the financial year 1940-41, which specifies the excess grant made by the Punjab Legislative Assembly in its session held in November 1943.

### Statement

Grant No.	Major head of account	Excess grant made by the Punjab Legislative Assembly
		Rs.
12	Jails and Convict Settlements .. .. .	2,06,864

LAHORE :

The 11th November, 1943

B. J. GLANCY

Governor of the Punjab "

## SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES (THIRD INSTALMENT) 1943-44

**Minister of Finance :** Sir, I present the Supplementary Estimates (Third Instalment) 1943-44.

## DEMANDS FOR GRANTS

### EDUCATION

#### *Educational Policy*

**Mr. Speaker :** The Assembly will now resume discussion on the demand for grant for Education.

**Sardar Teja Singh Swatantar** (Lahore West, Sikh Rural] (*Punjabi*) : The other day I was saying something about the educational system, that it could not be separated from the social, economic and political conditions of a country, but on the other hand, depended on them and as a matter of fact, was only their reflection. For example, formerly there was an Imperialist Government in the Punjab. They needed persons knowing English and vernaculars who might prove good translators and who might help the officers of that Government by enforcing their orders faithfully. Moreover, English-knowing clerks were needed for running banks, telegraph offices, post offices and railways as well. So they introduced here a system of education which could produce such persons for them. The products of that system were youngmen with no technical knowledge, who could not earn their bread even and who were of no use to themselves or to society. That brought in its wake problems such as unemployment, etc., which had been a cause of great worry to the Government for some time. That was not education in its real sense. Under that system schools and colleges

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were reduced to clerk-producing machines. For real education one had to go to foreign countries or to join the few chosen schools here. That required a good deal of money. So, during that period only the boys of rich landlords and capitalists could get real education, and it were they only who got the benefit of awakening, which is the fruit of real education. But unfortunately these very classes were the backbone of the foreign imperialist Government here.

After that, we got the reforms of 1935, and a so-called Punjabi Government came in power here and got the education in its hands. Everybody knows that the Unionist Party consists of big landlords and capitalists of this province who, as I have already said, are the backbone of the foreign Government here. So this Government too did not make any vital change in the educational system because their needs were also of a similar kind. They had no intention of bringing about any reforms in any sphere of life. No problem of nation-building or industrialization or mechanisation of agriculture was before them. They had no plan for the social and economic uplift of the province. In fact they were incapable of thinking in such terms. They have not dared to change the medium of instruction, nor have they considered it necessary to bring about any change whatsoever in the educational staff.

Now, let us have a look at the Budget. In 1930, the former Imperialist Government spent one crore and seventy-two lakhs on education. To-day, in 1944, our Unionist Government is spending one crore and 98 lakhs for this purpose. That comes to an increase of ninety-eight lakhs during 14 years. But we should not forget the present inflation; the value of a rupee is not more than four annas nowadays. Moreover, all this sum is not going to be spent on pure education. We shall have to pay a considerable amount out of it for dearness allowances and buildings as well. So it is clear that there has been no increase in the money to be spent on education, possibly there is some decrease. And still this is our own Government, the Government of Panjabis and zamindars. They never get tired of boasting that they have done a lot for the benefit of this province. They say they have opened 300 new primary schools. During 7 years in the whole of the Punjab, which consists of 29 districts, 300 new schools have been opened, that is, 2 primary schools per district per year. What an achievement!

This zamindara Government have no other object before them except to get 'jagirs', squares of land and if possible to have a bungalow of their own in some city. To come to this Assembly has become another hobby for them. They talk of democracy, but the truth is that they do not come here because the people consider them their true representatives, but because they can buy votes by their wealth. And after getting a seat in the legislature by such means they become masters of the fate of the province. How can they feel for the province or its true sons? That is why no schemes are forthcoming from this Government. As they have no new schemes for the uplift of the province before them, therefore they do not need chemists, scientists, engineers, etc. Hence there is no change in the system of education. The Government is spending 10 lakhs on tours only. A sum of about two and a half crores of rupees is shown as surplus in the budget; as if they have done everything possible for the uplift of the province and now they do not know what to do with the surplus money. It has been pointed out by honourable members sitting on this side of the House as well as on that side that education is very costly in this province. What does it mean? Although it is said that the doors of colleges and schools are open to all irrespective of caste and creed, whether they are *Acc'uts* or other people whom we term as *kamins*, still in practice it is only the rich who can

afford to send their children to high schools and colleges. Some of the poor people go up to the primary stage only. Others pursue their studies up to the middle class standard only. And after that the poor parents cannot afford to send their children to high schools and colleges. It is the rich who send their children to high schools and colleges and it is from these sons of the rich that some become vakils, doctors, barristers, engineers, etc. etc. That is what is meant by the remark that education has become very costly in the province. If we want to understand this problem we must know the class basis in the Punjab. The population of the Punjab mostly consists of poor people. Although my friends claim to represent the poor people here in this House still they do not know what is their economic condition and how they are making their both ends meet. These facts are given in the Government records but my friends do not care to look at and ponder over them. It is stated in the Revenue Report issued by the Government in 1938 that 85 per cent zamindars own less than 15 acres of land each. If we take the rate of land revenue at Rs. 2 per acre it means that each one of them is paying less than Rs. 30 as land revenue to the Government. The number of zamindars who pay less than Rs. 5 as land revenue, as given in that report, is 1,758,000. The total number of zamindars who pay land revenue to the Government is 3,470,000. Out of that 1,758,000 pay less than Rs. 5 as land revenue. Are the doors of colleges and schools open for these people as is claimed by my friends opposite? The number of those who pay more than Rs. 5 as land revenue but less than Rs. 10 comes to 650,000. The number of those who pay more than Rs. 10 but less than Rs. 20 comes to 500,000. The number of those who pay more than Rs. 20 but less than Rs. 30 comes to 200,000. Now the total number of zamindars who pay land revenue up to Rs. 30 comes to 3,108,000. It means that out of 3,470,000 land revenue payers 3,108,000 pay less than Rs. 30 as land revenue to Government. Now I ask how can the people who pay Rs. 5, Rs. 10, Rs. 15, Rs. 20 or even Rs. 30 as land revenue afford to send their children to high schools and colleges. May I know the name of the college the doors of which are open to the boys belonging to this strata of society? Nowadays education has become very costly inasmuch as one has to spend Rs. 75, Rs. 60 or Rs. 40 for pursuing one's studies in B.A., F.A., or Matric as the case may be. Not only that. One has to incur a good deal of expenses for getting education up to the middle class standard. As I have pointed out 85 per cent of the zamindars own less than 15 acres of land each. Now my friends can think for themselves as to what they would be earning and what would they be spending on getting their children educated. In fact the poor peasant is unable to send his children to school because he is unable to pay for his education. The economic system is such that the poor people are left with nothing to educate their children. The number of zamindars who pay land revenue between Rs. 30 and Rs. 100 comes to 250,000. It is these zamindars who can afford to send their children to middle schools for education. Even they cannot afford to send their children for high school or college education. The zamindars who pay even Rs. 100 as land revenue are unable to send their children to the Medical College or the Law College and pay their expenses for five or six years. The number of zamindars who pay land revenue between Rs. 100 and Rs. 10,000 comes to 50,000. It is this class of zamindars who can afford to send their children for college education. Besides them nobody is in a position to do that. The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram has stated more than once that 40,000 people are engaged in *sahukara* business in the Punjab. In addition to that there are 50,000 big *beoparies* who can be termed as rich. The total number of these two classes comes to nearly a lakh. If we add 50,000 big landlords in it we find that in the whole of the Punjab there are 1,50,000 persons whose economic condition is such



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that they can afford to send their children for higher education in schools and colleges. They can afford to pay the heavy expenses incurred in connection with the attainment of education. They are the people who can pay Rs. 75, Rs. 60, or Rs. 40 to the children for pursuing their studies in B.A., F.A., or Matric as the case may be. Out of this affluent class come vakils, doctors, clerks, tabasildars, thanadars, etc. etc. and 97 per cent of the honourable members of this House also come from this class. In fact it is this class which is continuing to hold and occupy places of vantage. It is the members of this class who are on the top, in the Government departments, in the economic sphere, in the army and in fact in every branch of life. As against this those who pay Rs. 5 or Rs. 10 as land revenue can at the most send their children to the middle class standard. In the first place the sons of these people do not get any services at all. If they do manage to get any service what else can it be than that of a *chaprasi* or a *munshi* on Rs. 15 a month? If they are poor economically they are poor or low placed in services as well. When the socio-economic structure of the society is such how can this system of education benefit the masses? The result is, as I have already pointed out, that the capitalist class and the big zamindars are continuing to hold and occupy places of vantage. The old system is being continued. The people who used to send their children to schools and colleges are doing so even now. Education has not been brought within the reach of the poor with the result that rich parents' sons occupy higher ladders in services as well; while the poor only get appointed as *chaprases* and *munshies*. Is this the achievement of which my friends feel proud and for which they want nearly two crores of rupees?

It has been stated that great efforts are being made to spread literacy in the province. What are those efforts? Three hundred primary schools have been opened in the province in one of which a milk bar has been provided and milk is supplied to students. Probably my friends have tried to copy Russia in this matter. They do not know that 99 per cent people in Russia are literates. There the students are supplied milk. Let the Premier send a mission to Russia consisting of two or three members of the Unionist party and one or two other members to study the methods of popularising and spreading education. If he is afraid of sending such a mission to Russia let him send one to Turkey. I assure him nobody will do any harm to them. Anyway due to the courtesy of a philanthropist some milch buffaloes were provided to a certain school and milk was supplied to students. The Government provided six acres of land to that school and promised to supply water for the maintenance of those buffaloes. But for the last two years no water has been supplied to that land at all. From all these things to which I have referred it can be safely concluded that under the present system of education the poor and even the middle class zamindars cannot get their children educated. So long as this system is not thoroughly overhauled it cannot serve any useful purpose at all.

Now let us see how many students are being educated in the primary, middle and high schools and colleges in the province. In the primary schools the number of students on rolls is 410,000. The number of students studying in middle schools comes to 427,000. In high schools the students on rolls are 186,000. The number of students on the rolls of colleges comes to 17,000.

In spite of the number of schools and colleges existing in the province the children of poor parents do not have enough facilities to receive higher education. The high school standard, which is the highest that they can attain, qualifies them only for the humbler jobs of clerks, etc. This type of education makes them fit enough for the capitalists to exploit.

Generally speaking if we look at the census figures we will find that the total population of the province excluding that of the Indian States comes to 28,600,000. Now the children of school-going age can be classified as falling between the ages of five and twenty years. Again taking into consideration the fact that the average age in the Punjab (owing to its comparatively colder climate and the use of butter, milk, etc.) is about sixty, we come to the conclusion that the period of 15 years during which a boy remains in school is one fourth of the average age. Calculating on this basis one-fourth of the total population comes to 59 lakhs. If a deduction of 9 lakhs is made for the blind, maimed and insane children we are left with fifty lakhs which should be the number of children of school going age actually on the rolls of schools and colleges in this province. Well, if that is not the case, we here in the Punjab have a right to know from the Unionist Ministry as to what they have done during these seven years that the provincial autonomy has been functioning under them. I am prepared to concede that seven years is not a very long time. Still with two five year plans and one two year's plan, i.e., in 12 years Russia almost worked a miracle. Let it not be overlooked that the Russians were in a much more inferior position educationally than we are here in India. The percentage of literacy there was only 7 per cent at the beginning of these plans as compared to 12 or 13 per cent of our own as it stands at present. Yet the percentage of literacy in Soviet Union is cent per cent to-day. On the other hand what is our educational position after seven years of provincial autonomy? It is only reasonable to expect that we should have had at least four times the number of schools that we have to-day; we ought to have had four times more boys on the rolls of the schools than is the case at present, and the budget of the Education Department should naturally have been four times the figure at which it stands now. The educational position ought to have been greatly improved even if the Government had to compel municipalities or other local bodies to share the cost of education. When a demand for more funds for the Education Department was made by the honourable members they were asked by the Honourable Premier if they were prepared to pay more taxes. May I know if his Government has ever consulted people before imposing a tax on them? It is the duty of the Government to inspire so much confidence in the masses that they should readily consent to any amount of sacrifice on their part for the sake of schemes undertaken by them. That is exactly what happened in Turkey. The Government must make definite plans for carrying out nation building projects. In order to universalize education specific schemes should be devised. The people should be made to realise that it is for their own good. Let the Government do it once and they will find that people will flock in their thousands to receive education. Merely copying out a phrase from the statute book of another country where compulsory primary education is being carried out will not do. It might at first temporarily delude the people of other countries into believing that compulsory primary education exists in India but when they read that the percentage of literate persons there is only 13 they will easily see through the camouflage. Absolutely nothing has been done by the Government of this province for the general literacy of the people. Naturally enough an ass whatever be its pretensions cannot compete against a race-horse. Its best performance will at best be a jog-trot. So is the case with the present Government which even after the inauguration of provincial autonomy move with as sluggish a speed as heretofore. They had bargained for autonomy not for bothering their heads about spreading education or encouraging literacy but for getting power. That is why a couple of primary schools in a year is the utmost they can do in this direction. They have granted such meagre dearness allowances to the teachers that they cannot be expected to remain in the schools much longer.

[ S. Teja Singh Swatanter ]

Again the literacy drive undertaken by this Government for adult education has proved a fiasco. A whole year of the campaign has left no imprint on the Punjab. I remember that while I was in jail, a teacher was put to work on spreading literacy among the prisoners. All that he did was to find out which of the convicts could read the alphabets, and then he entered their names in the list of those who were supposed to have been made literate through his efforts. This is only one of scores of such cases and if the Government cared to make investigations in the matter they would find that this literacy drive has proved a huge farce. It will not be out of place to mention here the impressions of my stay in Turkey during the most eventful period of its reconstruction. It was in November 1923 that Mustafa Kamal formed the first Government of the Turkish Republic. I arrived in Turkey in December 1924 and remained there for six years to complete my higher education. Those were the days of feverish nation-building activity in that country. The speed with which industries were established, military academies founded and education spread by the Turkish Government was amazing. In the carrying out of the reforms the people of that country co-operated wonderfully. In the matter of compulsory primary education and adult literacy the people formed themselves into voluntary corps. The newspaper editors, administrative officers, college students were all forced under the plan to impart education to 10 or 20 persons in their spare hours. The result was that in a matter of months children from the age of five to men and women in their forties were taught to read and write. That was not all. These people who were newly educated, were made to read newspapers in order to show that they had really learnt to read and those who failed to do so were punished. This is what is meant by literacy drive. Unlike the Unionist Government, which got a primary reader written by some teacher and by publishing it thought that they had done their duty, the Turks earnestly set about carrying out reforms and educated the whole nation over night. Moreover the way they solved their language problem evoked the admiration of the world. They did not spend money on various languages as we do here but right away devised a basic language from the cumbersome Turkish burdened with Arabic words.

In Turkey everybody speaks the Turkish language. They gave up all the Arabic words and coined new words for their expression. They adopted French or Latin words for which there were no suitable substitutes. New dictionaries were compiled and the editors were forced to co-operate with the Government and every order of the Government was fully obeyed. Turks did not stop here even. In the mosques sermons used to be in Arabic, which were replaced by the native language. Their script was Arabic. It gave way to Roman and for those alphabets which could not be changed, they coined new ones. Nation building is the primary duty of a Government. But our Government is an imperialist Government. I can narrate my own story which will show, how bankrupt is our existing system of education. I was taught Gurmukhi by my parents in the early days of my childhood. I had hardly advanced in it when they changed their minds and sent me to a primary school nearby where I started Urdu. In my fourth class Persian, which was, a new subject for me was introduced and in the fifth class English was added to it. This heterogeneous system of education proved no good for me. And this is the reason why if you get an opportunity to converse with an Indian student in a train, he would not be able to express his thoughts fully and completely in any of the languages taught to him. This imperialistic way of education completely spoils our children and our present ministry has utterly

I P. M.

failed to make any radical change in it. Their maximum contribution is this that Persian has been shifted to two classes upwards, our courses are totally devoid of any reasonable selections. It is a pity that in the matter of books only material gains are in view while the academic utility is completely neglected. They are published by very unworthy people with a commercial point of view. Personality plays a great part in imparting real education. The entire cadre and staff is constituted on the imperialistic class lines. On the top is the Chancellor who is the direct agent of imperialism. Very senior and important professors even preach imperialistic ideologies. You may have a look into History and this subject, too, is through and through Imperialistic. Its underlying idea is to preach these imperialistic ideas and nothing else. The honourable Premier every time taunts us with Moscow. I want to tell him that this very Moscow has infused life into a tardy and most backward nation of the world. They have educated their youth on new and better lines and the net result of their efforts is this that Germany, which was bent upon destroying and trampling over the whole of Europe, has been fought bravely and its surge has been totally checked.

I find one new thing introduced and that is, vocational training. They have introduced vocational training by adding lessons in agriculture to the high schools. If you want to work on these lines, copy Russia or America. In our country if there exists any vocational training, it exists in the medical profession only, where hospitals are attached to medical colleges. I ask, how many metallurgical classes are now at work? How many training centres have been opened and are working, linked together with railway workshops? The economic aspect of the question is given ample consideration in Russia. There workshops and colleges work in co-ordination and there is no college in the city of Leningrad. Colleges are connected with the workshops and mills in the vicinity of the city. Boys study there and automatically are absorbed there. No unemployment question arises. They choose their professions just after their elementary education. They are educated in such a manner that the dignity of labour is established in their minds, and no dislike for labour is sown in their minds. Their minds develop intellectually as well as practically and thus they find themselves fit enough to face and solve the burning problems of the day. I will attribute every trouble to our existing rotten system of education. Teachers have been given more dearness allowances and in the budget estimates provision is made for agricultural scholarships for the scheduled castes. But I will submit, Sir, that the fault lies with the Government which itself is the author of this system.

While the Government has made a demand of Rs. 1.98 crores for education no efforts are being made to educate the masses. So far as literacy campaign in the jails in our province is concerned, I wish to submit that Government does not take any keen interest in giving systematic education. I am sorry to remark that the education supervisors in the jails while away most of their time in sitting idle. These supervisors appointed for imparting education to illiterate prisoners waste their time in idle gossip.

There is one point to which I wish to draw the attention of the house and that is concerning the cultural script of our province. At present the population of Turkey is 14 millions. Out of this population of 14 millions 12½ million Turks speak the Turkish language. In Turkey all the books on medicine, law, railway engineering, chemistry, physics, etc., are available in Turkish script. While our province, whose population is double as compared with the population of Turkey does not possess any script of its own. In Turkey almost all the books

[ S. Teja Singh Swatantar ]

prescribed for students are being published in Turkish script. The Turkish Government with a view to afford suitable facilities to students in understanding their courses of study easily have with the help of scholars got all the books published in Turkish script. It may be argued by the other side of the House that Turkey being situated in Europe, might be copying the neighbouring nations in getting their books published in their own national script. But I wish to inform my honourable friends that it is not so. The fact is this that the Government of Turkey have employed experts and specialists in industry, literature and other arts for helping them in getting their books written, translated and published systematically on all the subjects. Apart from this the Government of that country has established a special fund to defray the charges falling under this item. But what is being done here in our province is quite contrary to that. So far as our province is concerned, I wish to submit that we find almost all the books written in a foreign language so much so that the courses of textbooks meant for school boys are also written in the same language. In this connection I wish to point out that it is not possible for school boys to grasp the subjects written in a foreign language. Instances in this connection are not wanting. Let us take the subject of geography. It is beyond the power of a 9th or 10th class student to grasp the subject of geography in a foreign language. He cannot understand the geographical terms in a foreign language, that is, English. By publishing the courses of school textbooks in a foreign language we are deteriorating their intellectual faculty. The question then arises as to what should be the script of our language. Whether it should be Hindi, Gurmukhi or Arabic, 'Hir Ranja' which is nowadays available in persian script is not in Urdu language but in pure Punjabi. In the same way the 'Mursia' of Shias written in Punjabi language were made impressive. No attention is paid to the Punjabi language which reigns supreme in the hearts of the Punjabis. In this connection I wish to suggest that the Punjabi language can only flourish if we succeed in publishing the courses of textbooks up to tenth class in Punjabi. I may assure my honourable friends that if this is done, the standard of education will be raised to a great extent. In this way we shall be able to improve the compulsory primary and middle education in the province.

Now I wish to make a few observations in regard to examinations. I have already submitted that the language of the textbooks prescribed for tenth class students should be written in Punjabi language. So far as the system of examinations is concerned, I wish to submit that some changes are needed to be introduced in the methods of examinations. Government has lowered the standard of education in the province. Intermediate students are put to examination after two years' period as a result of which they are unable to do full justice to the courses of their study as a whole. In this connection I wish to suggest that education should be imparted in schools and colleges according to the "unit system" as introduced in America. For instance let us take the subject of physics. If this subject is divided into different units and an extensive study is made by the student and if examinations on these different units are held from time to time, I am sure, students will acquire intelligence and efficiency. But on the contrary what is being done in the province is that the students are made to prepare different subjects within a period of two years and at the end of these two years they are examined in all the subjects. If students are put to test in one subject at a time, I am sure, much benefit will accrue and the students will feel themselves perfect in that particular subject. In this way students will be in a position to make wider studies in each subject and they will acquire vast

information. I know Government will have to face many difficulties by introducing this system because the students after they have acquired vast knowledge would be in a position to demand services and the Government at that time would be unable to absorb them. I hope Government would see for itself the defects that are found in the present educational system of the province, and would make all out efforts to remove them. Government should take note of the lines on which the system of education is working in other countries. By doing so, Government would be able to remove the defects in the present system of education.

Further, I wish to invite the attention of the Government to the fact that the prices of books have risen to unconscionable levels. In order to stop the sale of books at abnormal rates Government should open a special department. If Government wants to enter into a contract with any foreign firm then it should make it a point to fix up exchange prices so that books may be made easily available to students. I am sorry to remark that nowadays the position is such that no textbooks are available in the market. For instance 20-One Act Plays prescribed for degree classes is not available in the market at all. Government should either make necessary arrangements to make this book available in the market or this book should be struck off from the curriculum of studies. Once again I would say that this old type Government cannot introduce any radical changes in the present system of education. We shall have to change the Government in order to make some fundamental change in the educational system. But I wish to submit that they should move in the matter and make radical changes wherever they can. With these words, Sir, I strongly support the cut motion now before the House.

**Rao Mohar Singh** (North-West Gurgaon-General, Rural) (*Urdu*): Sir, I would like to make certain submissions with regard to education. First of all I wish to draw your attention to the memorandum accompanying the Budget of 1944-45 which shows that in 1937-38 a sum of 160 lakhs of rupees was spent on the Education Department. Now if we read carefully the statement with the explanatory diagram, showing progress of expenditure in certain departments since the year 1921-22 as given in the Memorandum, we come to know that the figure of 160 lakhs of rupees as it stood in 1937-38 has gradually risen and in 1944-45 it is 209 lakhs of rupees. In other words it may be said that since the Unionist Government came into power the expenditure on the Education Department has increased to the extent of about half a crore of rupees. It is really a marked achievement and we are glad to know from the Report of the Education Department that the number of educational institutions has enormously increased and even the number of students from 2nd to 4th primary classes has doubled. Besides, much has been done in connection with adult education and the Government have also made serious efforts for the education of girls. But despite all this I am sorry to remark that the efforts of the Government in this respect have not achieved much and I would say that the proverbial phrase aptly applies to the present position. I may point out that there are yet many devices to be adopted by the Government for spreading education among the people of the province. There was every hope to the effect that the Unionist Government would take pains to spread education among ignorant and uneducated communities of the province to ameliorate the condition of the backward classes lagging behind in every respect, by imparting education to them. Really it was the first and foremost duty of the Government to bring the backward classes to the level of advanced people. But it is a great pity that nothing substantial has yet been done for educating the rural people,

[ Rao Mohar Singh ]

who are 90 per cent of the population, backbone of the province and who are providing food to us at home as well as to the fighting forces abroad by the sweat of their hard labour. But as far as the question of education is concerned they are being totally ignored. No heed is paid to their education. I, therefore, feel it necessary to draw the attention of the Government to this important point. Now, first of all, let me put before the House the position of the Ambala division and let us see what has been done there by the Government in respect of education.

Four types of grants have been sanctioned to various divisions in the province and as I have got facts and figures with me I would point out the treatment meted out to each and every division in this respect. grants sanctioned for aided Indian schools during 1937-38 to 1941-42, come to Rs. 6,19,620. Let me read out the figures division-wise :—

					Rs.
Ambala division	..	..	..	..	98,780
Jullundur division	..	..	..	..	1,19,474
Lahore division	..	..	..	..	2,14,870
Rawalpindi division	..	..	..	..	1,07,620
Multan division	..	..	..	..	79,376

It will be observed that Ambala gets the 4th place in this list. Now I would read out the grants sanctioned for aided girls schools :—

					Rs.
Ambala	..	..	..	..	2,732
Jullundur	..	..	..	..	11,481
Lahore	..	..	..	..	17,228
Rawalpindi	..	..	..	..	1,302

The second type of grants is the special grants for unaided schools or departments of school during 1941-42. These are Rs. 54,211 as mentioned on pages 18 to 15. and division-wise they are as follows :—

					Rs.
Ambala	..	..	..	..	7,680
Jullundur	..	..	..	..	6,945
Lahore	..	..	..	..	12,838
Multan	..	..	..	..	2,592
Rawalpindi	..	..	..	..	9,750

Now grants sanctioned to girls schools are as follows :—

					Rs.
Lahore	..	..	..	..	7,745
Amabala	..	..	..	..	5,400
Multan	..	..	..	..	1,179

In regard to the third type of grants I would like to read out the " statement showing maintenance grant sanctioned for the Board, Anglo-Vernacular Secondary schools" during the year 1937-38 to 1941-42 as mentioned on pages 16—24 which in the year 1941-42 come to Rs. 2,64,187 :—

					Rs.
Ambala	..	..	..	..	13,227
Jullundur	..	..	..	..	68,735
Lahore	..	..	..	..	58,154
Multan	..	..	..	..	61,203
Rawalpindi	..	..	..	..	62,868

I would like to draw the attention of the House to the "special grants sanctioned for unaided schools or department of schools" during 1941-42 as mentioned on pages 25-26. These grants are to the tune of Rs. 49,961 and division-wise they are as follows :—

					Rs.
Ambala	..	..	..	..	8,100
Jullundur	..	..	..	..	4,800
Rawalpindi	..	..	..	..	6,600
Lahore	..	..	..	..	10,950
Multan	..	..	..	..	19,511

If all these four types of grants as sanctioned to the various divisions are worked out the result will be like this :—

					Rs.
Lahore	..	..	..	..	3,21,285
Jullundur	..	..	..	..	2,11,385
Rawalpindi	..	..	..	..	1,88,140
Multan	..	..	..	..	1,68,861
Ambala	..	..	..	..	1,35,439

Have you marked, Sir, that the Ambala division has got the least grant as compared with those of other divisions? The grant sanctioned to Lahore division is practically three times greater than that of Ambala division while Jullundur has got about two times more. Rawalpindi gets half a lakh more than the Ambala division and similarly Multan division also gets nearly 28 thousand more than Ambala division. I fail to understand why this step-motherly treatment is meted out to the Ambala Division.

My next submission is that both Hindu and Muslim statutory agriculturists of Ambala division are under-represented in the education department. I, therefore, submit that the Government should take immediate steps to remove this under-representation of the agriculturist classes in the said department. Another point to which I would like to draw your attention is that the number of high schools in the Ambala division is very small as shown in the statement given below :—

					Rs.
Lahore	..	..	..	..	110
Jullundur	..	..	..	..	87
Rawalpindi	..	..	..	..	72
Multan	..	..	..	..	59
Ambala	..	..	..	..	54

If you look at the statement showing the number of schools in the Ambala division, you would be surprised to know that there are only 6 schools in Gurgaon and this is the minimum number as given in the following list :—

					Rs.
Ambala	..	..	..	..	16
Rohtak	..	..	..	..	13
Karnal	..	..	..	..	7
Simla	..	..	..	..	6
Hissar	..	..	..	..	6
Gurgaon	..	..	..	..	6

Is it not surprising that only 6 schools have been opened in each of the big districts like Hissar and Gurgaon?



[ Rao Mohar Singh ]

Now, I turn to Ambala Division and to the distribution of educational budget within its boundaries. The district of Ambala gets Rs. 59,992, Rohtak Rs. 84,056, Karnal Rs. 16,402, Simla Rs. 10,573, Gurgaon Rs. 9,512 and Hissar gets Rs. 5,904. From these figures it is clear that out of the total budget for the Ambala Division, about three-fourths are given to the two districts, Ambala and Rohtak, while the remaining one-fourth is distributed among the rest of the four districts, Karnal, Simla, Gurgaon and Hissar. These four districts include among them the two districts of Gurgaon and Hissar, which are the biggest districts of the province. Such a distribution, therefore, can hardly be called fair. Thus my district is really accorded a step-motherly treatment by the Government. My district gets Rs. 9,512 only during the course of the whole year. The House can very well imagine the revolution which this meagre grant can effect in the educational progress of this backward area. There are two high schools in this ilaga, one Brayne Ahir High School and the other Jubilee Brayne Ahir High School at Rewari and so the Government cannot turn round and say that there is no institution worth helping. May I quote here an Urdu couplet which aptly applies to the occasion? It runs

مرد وفا کو ناز نہیں اُس چراغ پر  
کساں جو طاق دیر و حرم میں نہ جل سکے

The pity is that there is no high school even at the tehsil headquarters of the district of Gurgaon. The people of the *ilaga* are extremely poor. They cannot make their both ends meet. How can they educate their children when they cannot even feed them and clothe them? From the sandy soil of the Rewari they earn hardly enough from agriculture to pay the Government demands of land revenue. But an important matter in which they excell others, is that they offer their youngmen in the army to fight for liberating the world. The Ahirs have produced more than half the number of recruits, which Gurgaon district could produce. It is indeed a sad commentary on their sacrifices that their homes are worse than the 'poor houses' and they themselves are steeped in illiteracy and ignorance.

In 1941-42 the Government had given a grant of Rs. 400 only to the Brayne Ahir High School and Rs. 700 to the Jubilee Brayne Ahir High School. It is noteworthy that the S A. Jain Middle School, Ambala, got Rs. 1,500 in the same year while our schools which are 15 or 16 years old, which are the schools of the people who are the strong supporters of the Government, who offer their very lives for the king and the country, and who never flinch whenever the call for duty comes, these schools got only Rs. 400 and Rs. 700 respectively. I agree that the grants are not distributed district-wise. But there ought to be some fairness nonetheless.

Now I turn to another important matter and it is this. The Delhi University, where we used to educate our boys, has now reduced the Degree course from 4 years to 3 year and Matriculation course is raised from 10 years to 11 years, it has, therefore, become impossible for us to educate our children there. At the same time we are too poor to bear the additional expenditure. The Government should therefore, open, a degree college in our district or the Ahir community should be helped by the Government to build their college, which they have decided to build. They have a good building and have also collected 40 thousand rupees. Even if the Government want to levy a fresh cess for education, we are prepared to pay our quota. But do provide us with education facilities. If any community or caste apply for the realisation of a cess for their education, the Government should help in collecting the amount. We are educationally the most backward people in the province and some special effort must be made in this behalf by the Government to bring this *ilaga* out of

darkness into the light of literacy. I hope the Government will shoulder its duty manfully and come to the rescue of this backward area. It is the bounden duty of the Government to provide education to the backward people of this district.

With these few words, Sir, I beg to close my speech.

**Begum Rashida Latif Baji** (Inner Lahore, Muhammadan Women) (Urdu): Sir, I shall avoid introductory remarks and proceed straight to make to the Honourable Minister of Education, a few constructive suggestions. I had in 1937 submitted a proposal to the Government during the Simla session of the Punjab Legislative Assembly that the Lahore College for Women should be shifted to a new and better building. I also repeated that suggestion in the subsequent Budget session of the Assembly. I am now glad to learn that the Public Works Department (Buildings and Roads Branch) of the Government has acquired a spacious site in a suitable locality for this purpose but no building has yet been constructed thereon. The Educational Committee of Inspection had also referred to this matter in the following words:—

The locality of the present building of the Lahore College for Women is absolutely unsuitable for girls and the building is defective. A new building, therefore, should be erected as soon as possible for this college.

Sir, the object of this Educational Committee of Inspection was this that it should suggest improvement after due inspection of the institutions. The Government should carry into effect what this committee has suggested. But I am sorry indeed that the Government has not so far given a practical shape to the recommendation of the said committee.

You are probably aware, Sir, that the Forman Christian College has been shifted to a new building of its own on the bank of the canal near Ichhra, and the Dyal Singh College too has arranged for its new building away from the city near the Forman Christian College, Lahore. The authorities of the Islamia College are also trying to arrange for the construction of a new building for its college far from the crowded city of Lahore. The Government should similarly hand over the building of the Government College to the Lahore College for Women and shift the Government College to a new place at some distance from the city. A Training Centre for women may be housed in the site which has been acquired for the Lahore College for Women. Moreover, the present building of the Lahore College for Women may be given to the Girls Industrial School. The buildings of the University including the surrounding buildings should also be given to girls schools while new buildings for the University may be erected where the new Government College will be housed outside the crowded city. The budget of the Government has continued to be a surplus budget for the last 5 years. These surplus sums of money should be liberally spent on educational reforms in the province and my constructive suggestions should be carried into practice.

While physical training is being introduced in the girls schools by the Government, the work of domestic science is not being carried on proper lines. An institution on the lines of the Lady Irwin Institute at Delhi, ought to be established at Lahore as well so that training and education in domestic science should be given to girls. After all the girls of to-day are destined to be in charge of their households sooner or later. The education of domestic science is, therefore, very essential for girls. Most of the girl students who are anxious to learn domestic science have to proceed to Delhi for prosecuting their study of domestic science. But there are certain difficulties in their way. Firstly, Delhi is at a great distance from here and secondly most people cannot afford the expenses of that place. My request is that a similar college for girls should be opened here where in

[ Begum Rashida Latif ]

arrangement for teaching domestic science can be made. There is no arrangement for post-graduate classes in Geography in the Punjab University. I know that arrangements are being made for boys' colleges from next year, but no arrangement is going to be made in the colleges for women. The girls have a natural aptitude for this subject. My own girl stood first in that subject. She was very anxious to continue her studies in that subject, but there was no arrangement for that here. I could have sent her to Aligarh but I did not want to send her to such a far off place. The result was a bitter disappointment for her. I strongly request the Government to make arrangements for this subject in colleges for women also. One lesson that we learn from this war is that there should be arrangements for military training for both boys and girls. So far as boys are concerned there is the U. T. C. but there is no such arrangement for girls. The Government should make arrangements for the training of nurses in the colleges for women because women are in need of such training.

Next I would like to draw the attention of the Honourable Minister for Education to the Government College, Lahore. The number of Muslim students both in Post-graduate classes and M.Sc. in that college is 10 per cent each. I neither complain nor is there any occasion for complaint. What I say is this that the Government does not encourage the Muslim students. It is the duty of the Government to grant stipends to the boys of that community which is backward educationally and economically. Generally students coming from outside cannot bear the expenses of college fees and hostel charges. I shall say one thing more in this connection. Where the Government takes care of the health of the students in schools and colleges, it is also its duty to see whether the teachers there possess such a health as to be able to discharge their duties properly. There is a Professor for Physics in the Government College, Lahore. Formerly his eyesight was weak. But now he is totally blind. How can a blind man teach? I have no prejudice against that gentleman. He was very able. If the Government appreciates his services let it grant him some sort of *wazifa* which he may get without any work. But why should poor students suffer on his account? So my request is that he should be replaced by a new Professor.

Then I come to the question of Vice-Chancellor. The province of Delhi has amended its University Act so that there may be a whole-time Vice-chancellor there now. But the Punjab University has done something quite the opposite of it. It has appointed an Honorary Vice-Chancellor in place of a man with five years' experience. The new Vice-Chancellor is a judge of the High Court. No doubt he is an able man, but he shall have to hear cases and write judgments and can hardly have time to attend to University affairs. It would have been better if a whole-time Vice-Chancellor had been appointed. But there is no limit to the short-sighted policy of the present Government. It spends money where it should not, and does not spend where it should. It has earmarked a sum of so many lakhs for the unity movement, which is utterly useless. Has anybody ever brought about unity with the help of money alone? Of course they have provided for the refreshment of some people. Sometime ago I, too, was invited to preside over a unity meeting of women and children. When I asked as to what would be done there, they told me that iced-mangoes and such other things would be served there. I asked them to excuse me from such meetings. Unity cannot be brought about by enjoying together and eating together. It can be brought about by following a policy so that the rights of no community are trampled and everybody is treated humanely. Moreover the Government should not

adhere to the policy of high-handedness and injustice. One can rule only by winning over the hearts of the public. No body can rule with sword. If unity can be brought about by eating together then why is there hatred for each other in the hearts of these big men who are always eating together day and night? All the money that the Government is spending on this movement is being altogether wasted. It would have been better if a paid Vice-Chancellor had been appointed and this money had been spent for that purpose.

Now I come to the Law College. In former days only the sons of the rich used to join that College. But nowadays the rich send their children to England for study of law and only the sons of the poor, who are left with no recommendation after graduating for getting employment join this college. As a result of that the standard of the college has been lowered. Nowadays the law graduates are also treated as clerks and munshis. To make matters worse the Government, too, does not care for them. For example, a short while ago the Government needed Panchayat officers. The law-graduates should have been preferred for those posts. But nobody cared for them. I came across two or three boys whom I knew beforehand. They told me that they were Panchayat officers. I asked them how they got those jobs when they knew nothing of law, they said, "Baji sahib, there is no need of law there. Any body who possesses might has a right on those posts. We were recommended and thus we got appointed." Sir, it is an open injustice to the law graduates. Law graduates approach me and request me to get them ordinary jobs of clerkship in the railway. If matters are reduced to such a position, the Government should close this college so that no new law-graduates may come out, or, it should prefer them for jobs where knowledge of law is needed.

Now I want to say a few words in respect of compulsory primary education. In this connection two things should be specially borne in mind. The first is as to how the co-operation of the public can be secured and the second is the problem of training of teachers. In the matter of compulsory primary education or higher education Government can get the co-operation of the public by liberal grants-in-aid to all the privately managed institutions. Yesterday an honourable member pointed out that as the Muslims do not open schools therefore they get less grants-in-aid as compared with other people. I may tell him that leaving alone other cities there are something like 80 schools in old and greater Lahore which are being run by my Muslim sisters who are neither getting any grants from Government nor from District Board nor from the local body. When grants-in-aid are demanded for them we are told that during the war they cannot be granted to any newly opened school or schools. Sir, in these schools education is imparted for primary, middle, matric, munshi fazil, moulvi fazil and high proficiency in Urdu examinations. Everybody knows that it is the duty of the Government to educate the people. But this duty is mostly being performed by those people who have set up private institutions. Consequently it is the duty of the Government to sanction grants for these institutions. But so far they have not taken any such step. Not only are these institutions not given any grants-in-aid, but they are not even recognised. If Government decide to give grants to all these schools to which I have referred honourable members will find that their number will go up from 30 to 60. And after some time their number will increase still further. In fact they will spring up like dragons teeth. Government should thank these institutions that they are doing their work. So, the only way in which Government can secure the co-operation of the people is to sanction grants-in-aid for all such institutions. It is through the public that education will spread in the province.

[ Begum Rashida Latif ]

*(At this stage Mr. Speaker left the Chair and it was occupied by Mr. Deputy speaker)*

At present people are very much inclined towards opening of institutions of public benefit. If Government encourage such people and give some pecuniary help to them they can open large number of schools.

There is another problem before us and that is the problem of trained teachers. At present people want to study, but teachers, I mean trained teachers especially women, are not available. The House may be aware that as soon as girls studying in training classes finish taking their tests and long before their results are declared they get employments. Not only that. Even those girls, who fail in any subject for which they have to appear afterwards, get employment. Honourable members will be surprised to know that although the population of women in Lahore is above 3 lakhs still Government provided only one school for the training of women teachers, and that is the Lady MacLagan Training School where training is imparted for B.T. and J.A.-V. classes. There are many private institutions opened for the purpose but Government have imposed a condition on them that they cannot train more than say 20, or 25 girls. Honourable members can imagine for themselves how many girls, in this way, can be trained every year. Again, no arrangements have been made for the training of J. A.-V. and S. V. teachers here in Lahore. For this purpose the girls of Lahore have to go to outside places for getting the requisite training. As admission is made district-wise in these schools so very few students of Lahore are admitted in them. Just imagine hundreds of girls sitting idle after passing their Middle School and Matriculation Examinations because no arrangements exist for their training. If Government open training schools they can join them. Honourable members are also aware that it is essential that trained women teachers should be made available for teaching our boys and girls up till, at least, the primary stage. It is generally understood that up to the primary stage women teach and can teach better than men. In all the European countries women are appointed to teach boys and girls in the primary classes. In all European schools in the Punjab and in other provinces also women teachers impart education to boys and girls in the primary stages. I therefore request that training schools for girls should be opened in large numbers. I am not prepared to agree to the opening of only one or two such schools but I want that hundreds of such schools should be opened where arrangements should be made for imparting training of J. V., S. V. and J. A.-V. classes. If Government give the required training to girls they will not sit idle. If any trained woman teacher does not get employment she starts her own school. When educated women from rural areas come to see me I advise them to open schools in their ilaqas and realize some fees from the students and get some financial assistance from their community and some from Government. It is the duty of the Government to render financial assistance to such institutions whether they be for boys or girls and whether they are managed by one community or the other. It is the first duty of a Government to make arrangements for educating the people. Such institutions are doing the work of the Government and it is therefore all the more essential for them to help and render financial assistance to such institutions.

Next, I come to the problem of training of teachers. I agree with Government that in every school, whether it is Government or private trained teachers should be employed. But I do not see eye to eye with them that the salaries of trained teachers should be reduced. Honourable members will be surprised to hear that Government have reduced substantially the grades of J. A., S. V., J. A. V. and B. T. trained teachers. For instance, the old grade of S. V. was Rs. 55. Now it has been reduced to Rs. 35. No doubt dearness allowance is given to

teachers working in Government schools but in spite of this allowance their pays do not come up to the old grade. It is well known that teachers, whether they are men or women have to undergo different kinds of expenses. Nowadays even a labourer can earn Rs. 2 as daily wages. As against that the wages of the teachers range from annas twelve to Re. 1-4-0 per day. As I have stated they have to incur a good deal of expenses in connection with their services. They have to keep good houses. They have to keep their dresses clean and have to incur lot of expenses for educating their children. It is very difficult for them to pull on with their meagre salaries. Without education no nation has ever made any progress at all. If any nation or country has made any progress in the first place it has taken steps to remove illiteracy from its nation or country as the case may be. And it is after educating its masses that it stepped on the road of progress and prosperity. When the state of teachers is such that they have not money for purchasing bare *ata*, what teaching work can they do? I think as compared with other Government servants they should be given dearness allowance at an increased rate. Moreover old grades should be given to all teachers whether they are working in Government, district boards' or local bodies' schools.

I would like to say a few words in regard to adult education. It is a very useful scheme. Like other honourable members I do not say that this experiment has not succeeded. Some people have been educated through this campaign. The fact of the matter is that enough money has not been spent in this behalf. Rather a sort of bigar has been taken from the teachers. Some students were given to them and they were required to teach them by giving extra time, in addition to school hours, to them. The result was the same as is usual in the case of bigar work. After all who will teach whole-heartedly in this manner? I agree with honourable members that whenever any Inspector went to inspect the work in connection with adult literacy campaign the teachers gathered to gather some literate men and showed them to the Inspector that they were being educated by them. So did women teachers also. Before getting admission to training classes they were required to append a certificate to their admission forms testifying to the fact that they had taken part in the adult literacy campaign. If they had educated two or three adult women then they were admitted, otherwise not. The result was that such girls went to their neighbouring women educated up to the primary stage and made requests to them in some such words: "You give us your names and put down your signatures on this form showing that we have taken part in adult literacy campaign. It will benefit us and will not harm your interests at all." Accordingly those women put down their signatures on their admission forms, and in this way those girls got admitted in the training schools. If we want that the adults should be educated we should make honest efforts in this behalf and not be content with the payment of two rupees to some person here and four rupees to another person there and so on and then ask them to educate the adults of the province. In this way this scheme cannot succeed. Apparently the teachers seem to have plenty of extra time at their disposal but in reality that is not the case. After their teaching hours are over they get so much tired that they cannot do any other work at all. I have a personal experience of this. I have acted as a teacher for 17 years and I can well understand how much study they have to do and how hard a mental work they have to perform. They have to patter the whole day long with school children. Teaching is not an easy thing to do but on the contrary it is a pretty hard task. Probably no honourable member in this House has ever done this work otherwise he would realize how hard it is to impart education to children. The lot of the teachers is very hard indeed.

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On the one hand justice is not being done to them and on the other they are forced to work in connection with the adult literacy campaign. Teachers in every school have been ordered to teach adults as well, without any extra remuneration. I do not understand how this Government can reconcile their policy of prohibiting forced labour with their present order to the teachers forcing them to work over and above their own duties without any extra remuneration whatsoever. If they are really in earnest about adult education they ought to get it done by giving extra allowance to these teachers.

I would next make a few submissions in regard to the curriculum about which quite a number of honourable members have expressed different views. Some have stressed the ethical aspect of education while others have suggested the closing down of all privately managed educational institutions and retaining only Government schools and colleges. But I do not agree with these suggestions. I want to impress upon the House that without religious education we cannot hope to improve the moral fibre of our children nor can we expect to make good citizens of them. Religion is such a guiding light that if our children study it properly and follow it faithfully they can keep their lives austere and always maintain their self-respect. Moreover by becoming conversant with the tenets of their religion they imbibe a spirit of toleration such as can never be imbued by them otherwise. Look at Europe, for instance. The Europeans have forgotten the teachings of Jesus Christ and have gone astray from the path of righteousness as a result of which they are to-day locked in a death struggle among themselves. Christianity preached humility and the Christians were enjoined to turn their left cheek to the person who struck them on the right, but instead they are using the deadliest of weapons of destruction against each other. I have seen it in a paper to-day that phosphorus bombs are being dropped by the belligerents on cities which set fire to whole streets at a time and raze buildings to the ground. Such are the results of abnegation from one's faith. This is the reason why I lay so much stress on religious education being imparted to our children along with their general education. The Honourable Minister might object to it on the ground that its inclusion in the curriculum would not be practicable, as the students in almost all Government schools belong to different communities. But may I offer a suggestion? I would submit that a start be made with private institutions and those that are managed by the local bodies. The addressing of such an order to them would not in any way constitute an impropriety as the Government is wont to ordering them to discontinue that course and to start another. If they are given a grant and asked to teach religious subjects as best as they can I am sure that the private institutions will be able to make a good start. Similarly religious education can easily be introduced in the schools managed by local bodies, because such schools are generally denominational. That is, there are separate schools for Muslims and non-Muslims. As the Muslim students take up Urdu, their teachers are most often Muslims, and because the medium of instruction in non-Muslim schools is Hindi their teachers naturally are all Hindus. The introduction of religious education would therefore present no problem in such schools. Likewise in schools under the district boards there would not be any difficulty in imparting instruction in religious affairs. I do not think the Government can have any objection to it when it can easily be made a part of the curriculum in schools run by the local bodies. Dr. Sir Muhammad Iqbal, in one of his poems says :—

مذہب نہیں سیکھتا آؤں میں بیز رکھتا

Truly no religion has ever preached hatred or animosity against the followers of others religions.

Again Sir, an honourable member on that side of the House just said that Punjabi should be the medium of instruction in the Punjab. May I ask him what particular form of Punjabi he is referring to? Does he refer to the Punjabi as it is spoken in Multan and Dera Ghazi Khan districts or the Punjabi known to the people of Hoshiarpur and Jullundur districts (the Doaba) that he wants to introduce in the schools? For here in the Punjab the form of language is changed within a distance of 100 miles. How can any progress be made if such language is to be used in the text-books? My honourable brother has himself read Persian. He knows English, Turkish and has a smattering of Russian too. May I know why he learnt all these languages? When he has himself learnt various languages, how can he convince others about Punjabi being the only medium of instruction. Punjabi cannot be classed as a language. It is only a dialect which we undoubtedly make use of in our conversation but we find it very difficult to put what we say in writing. Whenever I attempt to read Punjabi speeches printed in the Assembly Debates, I give it up after making an effort. It would, therefore, be better if these speeches were printed in Urdu for the benefit of Urdu knowing members. Dr. Sir Gokal Chand Narang is a linguist of note, knowing many languages, and is a scholar of Persian. Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram excels others in his knowledge of Persian. When all these gentlemen know more than one language I do not see any reason why others should not learn more languages. When I first came to this House I was surprised to find that if an honourable member once used English as a vehicle for expressing his thoughts he was not permitted to use any other language for his speeches afterwards. It was very hard on those members who did not understand English as also for those speakers who were not well versed in that language. Feeling the pinch of the rule I raised my voice against it in 1937 and demanded that honourable members should be permitted to use any language for making speeches so that every member of the House may be able to understand the proceedings. It is a matter of great satisfaction that we are to-day allowed to do so. Even the Honourable Premier and other Honourable Ministers deliver speeches in Urdu. The Assembly debates should either be in English or in Urdu. If, however, my honourable brother opposite wants them to be printed in Gurmukhi he is welcome to do that but I personally think that they should better be printed in one language only. I cannot agree with my honourable brother who wants Punjabi to be introduced as the medium of instruction in the Punjab, because Punjabi is primarily a dialect and not a language. It is spoken and is not capable of being reduced to writing. To me it appears that as he has passed much of his time outside India and has recently returned from Russia he is not aware of the position. Urdu occupies in and outside India. Nor does he probably know that it is understood by millions in this country and that the majority of the newspapers prefer it to any other language.

Now I wish to make a few remarks by way of reply to my honourable sister, Mrs. Duni Chand, who yesterday alleged that Hindu girls are not admitted in the Sikander Technical School. I wanted to give a reply there and then, so that such unfounded rumours may not find their way to the Press, as pressmen do not always know how far the information of an honourable member is based on facts. But unfortunately I could not get an opportunity of doing so. Anyhow I wish to take this opportunity of dispelling any misunderstanding that might have been created in the minds of those who read my honourable sister's speech. However, before I do so I wish to request the members of the Press gallery that as they are responsible for the peace of the province they should not give publicity to such rumours in their respective papers. If, now, my reply is not given in



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the papers it would have a very bad effect on the public. Having seen the allegation that non-muslim girls are not admitted to that school they must have come to believe in the veracity of that unfounded statement.

I am on the committee of this school which was handed over to the Government by the Anjuman-i-Himayat-i-Islam. At the time when this school was taken over by the Government a committee consisting of Nawab Muzaffar Khan, Mian Firoz-ud-Din, Shaikh Akbar Ali, Dr. Hassan Mahmood, Miss Siraj-ud-Din and myself was set up. While handing over this school the Anjuman wrote a letter to the Government purporting to say that they would have no objection if non-Muslim girls were also admitted into the school. A circular was also issued, with the same object, in which it was stated that girls belonging to all communities can secure admission to that school. In the face of all these, I really wonder how my sister could say that Hindu girls are not admitted there.

This attitude of ours was highly appreciated by the Government. They issued a circular about this subject to the other institutions. But I am constrained to say, that even now Muslims cannot be admitted in the Maynard-Gangaram School. The individual outlook of the staff of the institution is highly praiseworthy. They are helpless, because, it is one of the conditions of the Trust that no Muslim student can be admitted in any one of the institutions run by the Trust and unfortunately Sir, it is observed to the extent of fault. Now I ask my honourable sister, Mrs. Duni Chand, whether she has ever met with any difficulty in getting admission for a non-Muslim student in any one of our institutions. Even at this time, two non-Muslim students are studying in our school and it is not the first instance. Last year too, non-Muslim students studied there and the same was the case in the years preceding the last one. A true Muslim believes in God, the Almighty, and His True Prophet and always relies upon the grace and blessings of God. He is given a clear cut notion about the legitimate rights of other fellow beings and by faith he believes in toleration. Being self-respecting, he very well knows how to respect the rights of others. I openly condemn this foolish and idiotic attitude adopted by some bigotted persons and I am grieved to say that it simply displays their shallowness of mind and nothing else. Intolerance in broad subjects like education is highly undesirable.

**Shrimati Raghbir Kaur :** Can I enquire from my honourable sister whether she is speaking for herself or on behalf of the Honourable Minister ?

**Begum Rashida Latif Baji :** I am speaking in my own individual capacity. I have made such demands that nobody else can dream of them even.

**An honourable member :** Does the Honourable Minister satisfy those demands ?

**Begum Rashida Latif Baji :** He does accept them. Recently he has purchased the old building of the National Bank of India for 10 lakhs of rupees and I think that it will shortly be converted into an institution for girls. Comparatively, he spends much more on women's education than he does upon boys' education.

I shall now draw the attention of the house to the question of dearness allowance. The Punjab Government issued a circular on the subject and was interpreted it to mean that the allowance would eventually be paid by the Government itself. We granted dearness allowances after the scale of the Government of India. It comes to Rs. 40,000 per mensem. In 15 months we have paid 60 thousands of rupees. The Government in its turn refused to make any payment towards this expense of ours. Our financial position did not permit us to bear that burden from our own pocket. So we were forced to stop the payment of the allowance altogether. Our employees went on strike and this caused great hindrance to our educational activities. Ultimately we were compelled to restart making payments as usual. Now I draw the attention of the House in general and the Government in particular to this fact and I request that the payment of the allowance made by us be reimbursed by the Government.

I draw the attention of the Government to local bodies and the absence of women representative there. District boards' schools are said to be in a very bad condition. Its sole cause is the absence of the women members on the boards. I deem it a great hardship to deny the right of representation to such a big portion of the population in modern days. (*hear, hear*). The Government should waste no time and the right of representation to women members should be granted at once.

Sir, I want to thank the Minister of Education for the keen interest that he takes in female education. I fully realize the helplessness of an individual Minister in the whole cabinet. I know how a proposal is made and simply refused by the cabinet. Sir, I would like to advise the Minister concerned that he should make an all-out effort for the entire surplus to be spent on education.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Abdul Rahman Khan** (Jullundur North, Muhammadan, Rural) (*Urdu*): Sir, the cut motion relating to Education has been under discussion for the last two days and I am sorry to remark that none of the honourable members has paid any attention to the real object underlying this item. There is no doubt that in our province education is as much needed as light for seeing things clearly. In the absence of the outer light nothing is visible to a human-being and as a consequence there is every possibility of breaking ones' head by colliding with the stones, etc., that come in one's way. Similarly the light of education is needed for the human wisdom. If sufficient light is provided to human wisdom or in other words if good moral education is imparted to a human being, then human mind gets sharpened. Hence it works well as a well-oiled engine. If no education is imparted or in other words if the modern system of education is allowed to remain as it is then it is equivalent to keeping the human being in the darkness as a result of which he will not be in a position to see anything. This reminds me of a couplet from Akbar Allahabadi which aptly portrays the present system of education. It runs as follows:—

مدہ چمکی نہ تھی انگلش سے جب بے گانہ تھی

اب ہے شمع انجمن پہلے چراغ خانہ تھی

My honourable friends are very well aware as to what is being done nowadays in colleges where co-education has been introduced. The boys have unfortunately acquired female tastes in certain matters. For instance, they get their finger nails painted with Cutex. May I ask from the Government whether this was their object in introducing co-education in educational institutions? In fact the students of these institutions seem to have ignored the real object of

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education and they, as I have already submitted, make pursuits of petty things of no value at all. I would further invite the attention of the House to this point that even my honourable friends sitting on the treasury benches are so much intoxicated with their high education and vanity that they do not know what they should do for the province. Sometimes they look frightfully nervous and mad as if their vanity has made them run amuck.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker :** The honourable member will please speak to the motion.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Abdul Rahman Khan :** Very well, Sir, I will not go any further in this respect. It is a pity that the Government of our province have kept behind the bars well educated persons who could have given them constructive suggestions regarding the improvement in the present system of education. I wish to point out that the modern system of education has been a source of our intellectual and moral degradation. Instances are not wanting in this connection. Nowadays prayers are being sung early in the morning in the schools and I may quote one line from these prayers which runs as follows :—

سلامت رہے یا رب شہنشاہ ہمارا

In this way this idea is being implanted in the minds of the school boys that he is our Emperor, while in fact he is Emperor of the English people. I am sorry to remark that the present system of education is rotten from the very beginning. What we see to-day is this that co-education is in full swing in the colleges. I may assert with full force that to-day the modern girls and boys have no fear of God and they do whatever they like. Sir, I may further point out that as far as co-education is concerned, I have asked certain responsible boy students whether these girls who intermingle with the other sex both in the class room as well as outside, are immune from immorality. He said in reply to my question, "Emphatically" no. I therefore submit that co-education is nothing but a farce.

The next point to which I wish to draw the attention of the House is this that education is not improving side by side with the gradual rise in the population of our province. The people of our province are so poor that they find it beyond their means to give education to their children. Government have not done anything substantial to afford educational facilities to the children of the poor and downtrodden. It will not be out of place to mention here that neither the previous Legislative Council did anything to educate the masses nor has the present ministry taken any step in this direction. I wish to point out that I happen to be a member of the district board of my district. I have witnessed with my own eyes that an ordinary clerk of this board drawing Rs. 15 or Rs. 16 per month finds it very difficult even to make his both ends meet, not to speak of his spending on the education of his children. Very recently I went to pay a visit to a school along with the District Inspector of Schools. There I found a teacher wearing one wornout shirt and a langota. I asked him the reason as to why he was not wearing trousers and the poor teacher in reply said that he possessed one trouser which was already worn-out, and that he could not prepare a new one on account of abnormal rise in the prices of articles. He also said that the present amount of dearness allowance was already inadequate to meet his necessary demands and that he found it very difficult to pull on with his day to day life. In this connection I wish to submit that honourable members sitting on the treasury benches who draw Rs. 5,000 per month as their pay excluding the travelling expenses, etc., have never thought as to how a poor clerk

drawing Rs. 15 or Rs. 16 must be keeping the wolf away from his doors. In spite of getting this heavy amount from the Government treasury these Honourable Ministers have never cared to ameliorate the condition of the poor and afford free educational facilities to their children. I would request the Honourable Minister-in-charge to come to the rescue of these poor teachers by granting an adequate amount of dearness allowance in their favour. It seems to me that Government do not take any pains to impart education to the people in the true sense of the word. They are carrying on their duty as a matter of course, only. I am once again constrained to remark that people of ordinary means are so poor that they cannot afford purchasing ordinary necessary clothes to cover their naked bodies not to speak of giving ordinary education to their children. This evil could only be eradicated if Government made all out efforts to provide free education and free kitchens for the poor children.

The next point to which I wish to draw the attention of the House is this. Government are getting books published on contract basis from the contractors, who are also entitled to sell them. In this connection I wish to submit that these contractors sell these books at very high rates. I would request the Honourable Minister of Education in particular to allow the publishers to publish and sell the books on the condition that these books are made available to students at very cheap rates.

So far as our province is concerned, I would say without any fear of contradiction that the civilisation of our province is as old as that of India. I am of the opinion that there should be no co-education in the colleges of our province. It is a matter of regret that drama and dance are being taught to the girl students in these colleges. Education of this type can never be of any use for the girls. It will prove dangerous to their morals. I, therefore, submit that the best course is to resort to the Islamic education which strictly prohibits the Muslim women from exhibiting their beauty to the other sex. In this respect the religion of Islam has gone so far as to consider it a sinful act for Muslim women to expose their beauty to the public gaze. It can well be imagined what impression young girls adorned from head to foot will leave upon the minds of young men. I, therefore, think that the best course is that the girls ought to be educated on Islamic lines. But I am sorry to say that instead of that, dancing and music are being taught to them. My point is that the present system of education in our province is very defective from a moral point of view. It is, therefore, necessary for the Government to see that good moral education is imparted to the girls. But the case is quite the reverse. I do not think it will be out of place to mention here that six ghumaon of land situated in a hereditary village was granted to the agricultural department by Sir Garbett with a view to impart agricultural education to the local children and also to provide them with sufficient quantity of milk. But immediately after the retirement of Sir Garbett things were absolutely changed. There was neither agricultural education to be found nor the children could have milk from the farm. The very object of the grant given by Sir Garbett was thus lost. A local man Chaudhri Hassan Muhammad was very much interested in this farm. So he tried his best to get it revived but all in vain. He saw the district officers in this connection, laid all the facts before them. But no heed was paid to him. When educational facilities are taken away like this from the youngmen, how can education spread in the province? When this is the state of affairs what other object of education remains behind except this that by getting the present education we should either make ourselves fit to work in offices or we should break our good old traditions and conventions contemptuously. It is all due to the present rotten machinery of education.

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The modern education does not make a person capable of earning even his livelihood. May I, therefore, submit that along with primary education about 9 per cent of agricultural education should also be given to the children. Not even this but the new methods of agriculture and new chemicals used in cultivation should also be made known to the students so that they may in the long run add to the income of the province. I feel sure that, if agricultural education had been introduced from the very beginning we would not be facing the scarcity of wheat to-day.

My second point is in regard to the military education. I am one of those who strongly support it. As soon as a boy enters his 14th year the military education should be started and by the time he is 18 or 20 years old he should be fully equipped with it. In this way military service will become necessary for him. But it is a matter of regret that no training of this type is being given to the Indians who are, instead of this, provided with foot-balls and hockeys to play with. Is it not ridiculous? Let me also point out, that the present Government are now facing difficulties on account of lack of military training for the educated class of the people. I am sure if all the children of the 40 crores of the population were educated and well-equipped with the military training we would not be undergoing the present crisis. So, I would like to urge upon the Government that they should attach primary importance to military training in the province. But, the Government can also justify themselves to some extent for not doing so. In fact they are helpless as they are afraid of having a blow from within the country itself. (An honourable member: But wherefrom?) They have a constant fear that the Indians may not achieve their object of freedom by the mass mobilisation and then they would have to vacate these seats. But I may point out to the Government that they need not worry about it as the germs of loyalty and slavishness have gone so deep into our hearts that we can never be able to look after our rights. Therefore, I for one feel strong on this point that the only remedy for eradicating all the evils from the country lies in the education of the masses and hence I submit that the Government should make it compulsory for them. But it is a pity that in our province most of the people are illiterate while in other countries 8 or at the most 10 per cent of the whole population is illiterate. The Government should look into this matter and give a sympathetic consideration to it. Another drawback found in the present system of education in this. Corruption which is so rampant in the province is due to the present system of education. The present system of education raises the standard of one's life so high that one stands badly in need of a well-furnished bungalow, as well as carpets and a motor-car and thus by neglecting the rights of others for his own benefit he falls a victim to corruption and does not care a fig for the interests of the public.

One point more I would like to lay before the House and that is in regard to the present controversy relating to Hindi, Gurmukhi and Urdu languages. I am of the opinion that moral education should be imparted to every class taking part in this controversy, may they be the supporters of Hindi or Gurmukhi or the well wishers of Urdu. In my opinion the only remedy for them is moral education. I feel confident that if moral education is imparted to the people, may it be in any script or language, the benefit will be universal. I am sure it will benefit everybody. I think every honourable member must have read in his childhood *Chirean choon choon karti hen M'an bache ko god men lea bethi he* and "*Sahukar ke bahli*" etc., mentioned in the first book of Urdu language. I do not understand that *Chirean choon choon karti hen* can be of any use to any

person. Instead of this there is a story regarding a man who used to help the poor and crush the cruel and it can be decidedly more useful to the students. My point is that as a human body cannot live without food, similarly we have to feed the soul whose food is fear of God, worship and good morals. And if this food is not made available to the human soul it perishes, as I have already submitted, the Government are not making serious efforts for improving the modern education and it is due to the lack of good education that we are feeling ourselves unable to find out solutions for certain important problems which are now facing us. The modern education could have been useful to us if it had been introduced on proper lines. My submission, therefore, is that the present system of education should be abolished forthwith and a better system adopted in its place. Now let me draw your attention to another benefit of a better education. I feel strongly on this point that if flawless and better education is imparted to the people the evil of litigation which has really ruined the prosperity of the zamindars, can be eradicated from the province. If better education is made available to the masses then nobody would ever think of usurping the rights of others. This is a very important benefit which can only accrue from a better system of education. I, therefore, submit that immediate steps should be taken by the Government to improve the present education. Besides, teachers of high cultural standard and bearing good moral character should be appointed. I may further submit that private schools should also be given adequate grants by the Government and that co-education must be removed forthwith from the educational institutions as it is proving a drawback in bringing the moral of the students to a high level.

With these few remarks, I strongly support the cut motion now before the House.

**Khan Bahadur Mian Mushtaq Ahmad Gurmani** (Muzahargarh North, Muhammadan, Rural): There can be no two opinions that "Education" is the basis of all progress. In any plan of National Development, education must have a foremost place as without it all other measures of improvement will ultimately fritter away. For want of education the unexampled prosperity which followed the last Great War left the peasant in this province little better than he was before and in a large number of cases demoralised him and made his condition worse. Crores of rupees slipped through his fingers into the pockets of others with little to show for him but an increase of children and debt. It was because prosperity and education did not go hand in hand. I am sorry to say that we have derived little benefit from the experience of the past. Now let us take stock of our educational position! Have we advanced educationally? Are we static or has our position deteriorated during the period of provincial autonomy? The figures reveal that in the matter of education we are rolling downwards. Figures are more convincing than words and I shall quote some figures in support of my contention.

In 1921-22, the opening year of the Montague-Chelmsford Reforms, expenditure on education was 88 lakhs, about 9.5 per cent of the revenues for that year. (*Minister of Education*: 80 lakhs). I have taken the figures from the memorandum prepared by the Finance Department. In the year 1930-31 the expenditure on education increased to 172 lakhs—or 17.2 per cent of the revenues. In the year 1937-38, the opening year of the provincial autonomy, the expenditure on education was 160 lakhs being 18.7 per cent of the revenue. (*Minister of Education*: It was 154 lakhs) I am quoting the figures from the memorandum of the budget. (*Minister of Education*: It includes European education). I am taking education as a whole. During 1943-44 we will spend

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on education 198·7 lakhs or 9·9 per cent of our revenues. And in the present budget the provision for education is 208 lakhs or 10·6 per cent of the estimated revenues. These figures give some idea as to the importance attached by the various Governments of the province to education during their administration.

We should also see whether the increase in expenditure on education has been commensurate with the increase in population. In 1929-30, the peak year of prosperity in the pre-autonomy period which records highest expenditure on beneficent departments, the expenditure on education was 172 lakhs. During the current year, i.e., 1943-44 according to revised estimates the expenditure on Education will be 198·7 lakhs. If we deduct 28·4 lakhs, the amount of dearness allowance included in this figure the net expenditure comes to 170 lakhs or 2 lakhs less than the amount spent in 1929-30, while the population has increased by nearly 25 per cent during this period. Our *per capita* expenditure on education, therefore, is much less than what it was 15 years ago.

Let us now take the period of provincial autonomy itself. In 1937-38 the population of the province according to the census of 1931 was 285·8 millions and the expenditure on education was 160 lakhs. Since 1937-38 the population is estimated to have increased by 3·7 millions—an increase of 14 per cent. The provision for education in the Budget is 208·3 lakhs and if we deduct the amount of dearness allowance included in this figure the net amount to be spent on education comes to 180 lakhs—an increase of 20 lakhs or 12·5 per cent over the figure for 1937-38. While the population has increased by 14 per cent during this period, the increase in expenditure is only 12·5 per cent. It clearly shows that our *per capita* expenditure on education is less today in the year of our unparalleled prosperity and surplus than it was at the introduction of provincial autonomy. This deterioration in the position of education in this province is very serious, and if things are not improved, the consequences will be very grave indeed. The Government is spending a much larger sum on police than on education. It seems we are still living in medieval times. We demand a change in Government policy in this respect. I would say 'Educate your people and you will have to spend less on the police'. It is always better and wiser to increase your educated population than to increase your jail population.

The Honourable Finance Minister said in his budget speech that all schemes submitted by the beneficent departments were passed by the Finance Department. He has shifted the responsibility for the large surplus to his unimaginative colleagues in charge of beneficent departments and who had no plans or schemes for the betterment of the province. But I find the position is a little different. The Honourable Minister for Finance did not tell us that he had imposed certain restrictions on all Government departments including the beneficent departments that no schemes should be submitted to the Finance Department for consideration unless they satisfy two important conditions, namely—

(i) That the scheme should have a direct bearing on the preservation of law and order, that is, the expenditure on police or schemes relating to matters connected with the prosecution of the war.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** Has my honourable friend seen those conditions himself ?

**Khan Bahadur Mian Mushtaq Ahmad Gurmani :** Yes ;

(ii) that the schemes must be appreciably and immediately remunerative.

**Minister of Education :** There were two other conditions besides that.

**Khan Bahadur Mian Mushtaq Ahmad Gurmani :** Then good luck for the Punjab. These restrictions imposed by the Finance Department are to say the least, most reactionary and short-sighted. Does the Finance Department want beneficent Departments to sit tight and do nothing? Does it aim at showing surplus budgets by retarding the development of the province? Are its functions confined only to putting a spoke in the wheel of progress? I make bold to say that surplus budget at the cost of progress is not a virtue but an unmixed evil and bad finance. It is no satisfaction to the province that its Finance Department specialises in hoarding at the cost of future development.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** What were the other two conditions?

**Khan Bahadur Mian Mushtaq Ahmad Gurmani :** It is for the Finance Minister to say what other restrictions were imposed.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** You say you have seen them.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker :** No interruptions please.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** It is very important. The honourable member said that he had seen them. I wanted to know whether he had seen the document in which those conditions appeared.

**Khan Bahadur Mian Mushtaq Ahmad Gurmani :** It is a public document. It is not a confidential document.

I fully agree that winning the war should be our first and foremost task and schemes connected with the prosecution of war should have priority over all other items of expenditure. But let us not forget that winning the war is not an end in itself. It is a means to an end. By winning the war we will succeed in removing the obstacles which stand between us and our ultimate object. Winning the war will be of no avail if we do not win the peace and the structure of peace will be shaky indeed if it is not built on sound, just and solid foundations. The United Nations have declared their peace aims which are based on four freedoms—freedom from want, freedom from disease, freedom from fear and freedom of conscience. The basis of all these freedoms and the fountain head of all freedoms is the freedom from ignorance and we can win this freedom through education alone. Let us lose no time to win this great freedom which will bring in its wake all the other freedoms on which the future peace of the world is to be based. If the source of this great freedom is allowed to get choked, there will be no freedom for us and no peace for the world. We can take legitimate pride in the war effort of this province, but let us prepare for making an equally great contribution in winning the peace. And all of us who are contributing towards war effort should see that those of our kith and kin who are fighting to win this war in snows and in jungles, when they return, should get comfortable homes, better amenities, improved sources of employment and higher standard of living. It will be a day of great happiness when victory is won. But it will also be a day of great tribulation and trial. For these lakhs of our brave soldiers who will return victorious to their homes will sit in judgment upon us. And it will not be easy for us to face their cold stare if we are found wanting. These men will return more experienced, better disciplined, with higher standard of living and *used to fighting for the cause of democracy*. As I, have already said, education is the basis of all progress. It should, therefore, have a foremost place in our plan of National Development. We can have some



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idea of our educational needs from the Sargent report which has been recently published. Mr. Sargent has done a great service to this country and to the cause of education by presenting a vivid picture of the educational needs of India. One can now have a clear idea of the magnitude of this problem. Mr. Sargent's scheme of national education is not a Utopian dream. It is a realisable ideal. Countries like Russia, Turkey and China, leave alone Britain, America and other European countries, have all accepted the necessity for providing education for their peoples and have already embarked on the task of doing so. There seems to be no reason why India should not do, and do it in a better way, having learned wisdom from the experiments of others, what others have already done. Mr. Sargent has rightly pointed out that "the goal which other countries have reached or are rapidly approaching cannot be regarded as unattainable so far as India is concerned. The expenditure involved is admittedly heavy but the experience of war suggests that when a paramount necessity can be established, the money required can and will be found. It is for India to decide whether the time has arrived when a national system of education is a paramount necessity". The recurring annual cost of the system of national education in the Punjab is estimated at nearly thirty crores of rupees per annum. It may appear to be prohibitive and frightening but if we are to attain a respectable place in the comity of civilised nations, we will have to devise ways and means to meet this paramount necessity. Education is a necessity and not a luxury. Its importance is all the greater for backward and poor countries, as it is one of the most effective means to eradicate poverty and backwardness. Poverty and ignorance are a vicious circle, and unless it is broken, it will continue. I would like to quote the instance of Russia to show how education helped in developing the national prosperity of that country. In 1922-23, the income of that country was 6,934 million. In 1931, it rose to 21,425 million and in 1935 it stood at 65,900 million roubles. The income of United States of America rose from 2,121 million dollars in 1932 to 6,890 million dollars in the year 1934. These figures relate to prewar period marked by continued industrial depression which gives little chance for the expansion of national revenues anywhere. In spite of these handicaps, the national Governments broke new grounds in social and economic development which enabled them to augment their revenues and production. During the period of depression, the cost of education per student in Britain was raised to three times the pre-war, i.e., 1913-14 level. In 1925 United States of America was spending much more on national education than on her defence services. United States of America spends over 20 per cent of her revenues on education. There is no reason why it should not be possible to increase the revenues of this province if its potential resources are fully exploited and education

will make such an exploitation easier. Expenditure on education should, therefore, be looked upon as an investment. We should treat the period of war as a period of preparation. It is gratifying that the Education Department of this province is treating it as such. I hope the Honourable Minister for Education will before long place before this House a consolidated plan for educational reconstruction in this province after the war.

The aim of our future educational plan should be to secure for the people freedom from ignorance, freedom from want, freedom from disease, freedom from fear and freedom of conscience. Our education should be correlated with the life and needs of our society. It should meet the agricultural, industrial, commercial, social, economic and political needs of the country.

One serious defect in our educational system in the past has been the lack of co-ordination between the different branches of education due to divided control. Without a close co-ordination and uniform control over all branches of education planning would be extremely difficult. I would, therefore, suggest to the Government to examine the desirability of having one co-ordinating and controlling head for all branches of education.

I have a word to say in regard to grants-in-aid. The present system of grants-in-aid is not only unfavourable to backward and poor communities and classes, but is also unjust and inequitable. It aims at providing greater help and financial assistance to those who can afford to spend more and gives less to economically and educationally backward classes. This system, therefore, perpetuates the backwardness of backward classes and thus defeats its own object. The object of any Government aid should be to uplift and help those who need it most, and who cannot spend enough on education because they cannot afford it. Financial aid should not be given according to capacity. It should be given according to needs. It is in the national interest that backward sections of the population should be uplifted and brought on a level with other advanced sections of the population so that they may not be a drag on national progress. I would, therefore, urge that the position in regard to grants-in-aid be carefully reviewed with a view not only to removing the existing inequities, but to giving greater financial assistance to educationally and economically backward classes and areas.

During the last economic depression building grants for educational institutions were discontinued. It is a great pity that they have not been restored in spite of surplus budgets and I would urge that these grants may be revived.

I would also suggest that a substantial amount should be ear-marked for scholarships to brilliant but poor students right from the middle to the higher stages of education. Similar scholarships should be given for post-graduate studies and research in India and abroad in all branches of education. This will enable us to mobilise the best talent of the country for the service of the country which under existing conditions is crushed and frustrated by the cruel hands of poverty.

Before I conclude, I would like to express my deep sense of gratitude for the most willing co-operation and unstinted help that I have received from the Punjab Education Department in the advancement of Technical Training Scheme. The Education Department has an enviable record of war effort of which the province can be rightly proud. In the matter of technical training, an important branch of war effort, this Department has given a lead to the rest of India and its example has been a source of inspiration and guidance to other provinces. It is hardly necessary for me to dilate upon the immediate advantages of technical training scheme and its post-war value. I am glad to say that, thanks to the able guidance of the Honourable Education Minister and untiring and self-less efforts of the Director of Public Instruction, Punjab, and his staff, we will have after the war an army of technically trained, skilled and experienced workers who will play an important role in the economic and industrial development of this province. I hope the Government will make the fullest possible use of their talent and skill in exploiting and developing the potential resources of this province to the maximum not in the interests of a few individuals but for the common good of the people of the Punjab.

**Sayed Amjad Ali Shah** (Parliamentary Private Secretary): Speaking as I have to do immediately after my honourable friend Mian Mushtaq Ahmad

[Sayed Amjad Ali Shah.]

Gurmani, I feel at a disadvantage. Not only is he a polished speaker but is a very industrious and hard working politician who weighs his words before he utters them. I am, however, happy to say that the speeches delivered by honourable members both day before yesterday and to-day have created a landmark in the progress of this province. We have heard from every section of the House that the present expenditure on education is not only inadequate but very very meagre. Every speaker, whether on this side of the House or the other, whether he belongs to the rich landlord class or to the communist class, whether he represents agricultural interests or the urban interests, whether he comes from the famous tract of the Southern Punjab or from the martial Pindi district, every one has told us that the present education in the Punjab should be advanced considerably. All of us want a radical change from the slow progress which we are maintaining to-day. There can be no two opinions on this point. We all realise that education is important and very necessary for the progress of this province and for the progress of mankind as a whole. I need not say much on this point except to supplement a little what my learned friend, Mian Mushtaq Ahmad Gurmani, has just said by giving one or two instances in which education can materially advance the progress of the province. We all know that the scientists of today are discovering various compounds of substances to substitute materials which are not readily available in their countries. Our problem in the Punjab is that we have very little iron. Discoveries have not yet been made of substitutes of iron, but researches are being made and we may be told, if not in a year, at least after a number of years that we can have substitutes for iron.

As I stated in the beginning I am very happy to hear the speeches made so far, because it has evidently brought out the point that the elected representatives of the Punjab realise the necessity for education. This realisation is of very great value because when we know what we want, we can always find ways and means to achieve our wants. That may not be possible in a year or in a few years or even in a score of years, but if we have that goal in front of us, we will be able to achieve it some day, perhaps the sooner the better. To my mind the position is very clear. We can educate our entire population. It may look a gigantic task and it may even look an impossible task because the population of our province is two crores and eighty-four lakhs; and to educate this vast mass of humanity is not easy. A large population is a liability in certain circumstances, but in others it is a source of great prosperity. If our concepts remain as they are to-day, then it will be an impossibility to educate our masses, but if those concepts change as they have changed in other countries, then we will not only be able to educate our masses, but even raise the poor educated Punjabi from an illiterate, ignorant and poverty-stricken person to an educated, well-fed, well-clothed and thinking human being. I will not take up the time of the House in showing how this can be achieved, because it mainly relates to the economic side of the question; but if I have time at some other stage on some other day, I may be able to develop this point. I may, however, say one thing in this respect. We have food enough in this province to feed our population and we have cotton in our province to clothe them. With these two necessities available to us we can achieve many other things. We are all agreed that the present expenditure on education is not enough. But there are two points to be considered in regard to this. The first is whether our present resources can give us more money for education and the second point is whether the money allotted to the Education Department is spent so as to derive the maximum

benefit from it. (*An honourable member* : Yes, it is well spent.) These are the two points which we must look into. We have heard speeches of my honourable friends telling us what is happening in Russia, what is happening in the United States of America and what is happening in the advanced and prosperous countries of Europe. Ours is a very backward country. Our province, however, is fortunately in a better position than many provinces in India. As I have just said we are fortunate to have the first necessity of life, namely, food. Our sister province Bengal had very bad luck in that respect last year, losing something like 80 lakhs of its population due to want of food.

**Khan Bahadur Mian Mushtaq Ahmad Gurmani** : Because the land there was not being fully used for meeting the food needs of the people. They were growing jute and making profits instead of growing more food.

**Sayed Amjad Ali Shah** : As I was just saying we have this great advantage and it will be necessary to look into the system of education when we can raise money to spend according to the suggestions of my honourable friends opposite. I will merely confine myself for the present to the money which we have received and what the Education Department has done with that money.

The record of the Education Department, if I may make bold to say, is very remarkable in that respect because with that limited amount of money we have done a great deal in educating the people of this province.

**An honourable member** : All the more reason that you give them more money.

**Sayed Amjad Ali Shah** : I may be allowed to quote a few statistics which will illustrate what I am saying. The number of institutions of all types has increased from 18,406 in 1937 to 19,847 in 1948 and the number of scholars therein from 1,285,682 to 1,436,371. My honourable friends on the opposite side day before yesterday quoted figures comparing the expenditure on education in the year 1936-37 to that of expenditure in the year 1942-43, and the case they were making out was that the amount spent on education was less in the year 1942-43 than it was in the year 1936-37. With that amount of money the achievement of the Department of Education is very remarkable, because with very little increase in money they have been able to achieve this progress.

Take the question of primary education. The comparative figures of enrolment in the four classes of the primary department for boys show a decrease of 80,732 in class I, and a welcome increase of 68,578 in the next three classes and a net increase of 32,841 in all the four classes. The other day Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh referred to the wastage that at the 4th class stage the number of students decreases and in support of it he quoted certain figures. I will give figures to show that Sardar Bahadur's contention was not quite correct. The enrolment in class IV is now 26 per cent more than in 1936-37 which is a clear sign of the marked progress in literacy in the province. The percentage of pupils reaching class IV is 48.7 in the year 1942-43 as against 28.1 in 1936-37. These percentages are based on the total enrolment of the 1st class, but if allowance is made for that number which joins the 1st class in the second period of admission and which is obviously unable to secure promotion to the next higher class within three months, the percentage comes to 54.6. The ideal percentage laid down by educational standard is 67 and compared with that ideal the percentage of 54.6 is very gratifying.

**Khan Bahadur Mian Mushtaq Ahmad Gurmani** : May I ask a question? The honourable member has said that there has been a decrease in

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the figures of boys in the 1st class. That means that in spite of the increase in the population a smaller number of boys are now reading in the 1st class. This indicates the deterioration which has set in due to lack of adequate funds.

**Sayed Amjad Ali Shah :** At the very outset I admitted that the Education Department has no funds at its disposal to meet the needs of education of the province.

Now coming to the progress made in female education, I may be allowed to state certain figures. The position of primary education is as follows : Number of schools in 1936-37 was 1,830 and in 1942-43 the number was 2,216—an increase of 386. The number of scholars in 1936-37 was 108,431 and in 1942-43 it was 139,354—an increase of 30,923. In the secondary education, the number of schools in 1936-37 was 237 and in 1942-43 it was 306—an increase of 69. The number of scholars in the first period was 55,671 and in the second period 76,574—an increase of 20,903.

**Mian Abdul Aziz :** I would like to know what the honourable gentleman is trying to say. Is he contradicting Mr. Gurmani or is he supporting the Honourable Education Minister or is he defending the Finance Department? I have not been able to make out.

**Sayed Amjad Ali Shah :** Perhaps my honourable friend did not listen to what I said at the very beginning. I said that I have no quarrel with the contention that the expenditure on education is not enough. As a matter of fact I support that remark whole-heartedly. The second point is that with the money at the disposal of the Education Department, the department has been deriving full benefit.

**Mian Abdul Aziz :** My point was entirely different. The question was whether the honourable member was contradicting Mr. Gurmani, whether he was contradicting or criticising the Minister for Education or whether he was defending the Finance Department. That is a simple question.

**Sayed Amjad Ali Shah :** It is for Mian Sahib to draw his own inference whether I am defending the Education Department or the Finance Department or speaking against or for Mr. Gurmani.

**Mian Abdul Aziz :** It is not for me to draw any inference. It is for the honourable member to say what he means.

**Sayed Amjad Ali Shah :** I am defending the Education Department inasmuch as the money at their disposal is being spent to derive the maximum amount of benefit. Is that clear now?

**Mian Abdul Aziz :** Now I understand the honourable member's position.

**Sayed Amjad Ali Shah :** With regard to collegiate education of females the position is this —

	1936-37	1942-43
Number of colleges	4	6
Number of students	648	1,225

The number is almost double during this short period. With regard to the training of teachers, the number of institutions for Anglo-Vernacular training in 1936-37 is 3 and in 1942-43, it is 10. The number has increased by three times. The number of students in 1936-37 was 150 and in 1942-43 it is 450, again an

increase of 3 times. In vernacular training, the number of training classes in 1936-37 was 22 and in 1942-43, it is 80 and the number of scholars in 1936-37 is 590 and in 1942-43, it is 700.

Now coming to the Inspectorate of women's education, the position is as follows :—

	1936-37	1943-44
Circle Inspectresses .. .. .	3	4
District Inspectresses .. .. .	18	28
Assistant District Inspectresses .. .. .	..	4
Inspectresses of Domestic Science .. .. .	1	8

A point was raised the other day in regard to the money spent by district boards on schools in notified areas and small town committees. Chaudhri Sumer Singh mentioned that the district boards have very little funds at their disposal and they are spending some money out of those funds on notified area and small town committee schools. If the Education Department had more funds at their disposal they would of course increase the aid to the district boards or give aid to the notified area and small town committee schools. But the funds at their disposal being limited, I am afraid that the district boards will have to bear this burden until such time as funds are available. These schools benefit not only the residents of the small town area or notified committee area but also those of the neighbouring villages and it is only fair that the cost should be borne by all the parties concerned. But since the finances of these small town committees and notified areas is even more limited, they are not in a position to meet the expenditure.

I will now place a very important point before the House for consideration both by the House and by the Government, and that is with regard to the decrease of Muslim students in higher classes. If we compare the figures of 1936-37 and those of 1942-43 we find that the number of Muslim students in the higher classes has gradually decreased. As I have not got much time at my disposal I will only give you the figures for 1942-43. The percentage of Muslim students in that year in the 4th class is 46·3; in the 8th class 36·3; 10th class 29·8; Intermediate stage, 28·7; degree 26·3; Post-graduate 24·6; Law College 26·9; Training College 37; Engineering 33·5; Agricultural College 51·1; Commercial Colleges 7·6; Veterinary College 46·7. It will, therefore, be seen that the percentage in the higher classes has decreased. (*Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan*: What is the reason?) The reason, so far as I know, is that they are not in a position financially to prosecute their studies. (*Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan*: Therefore the Education Department should help them most). I have already said that the Education Department can only help to the extent that funds are available. I am putting this problem before the Government and the House so that some measures may be adopted to redress this evil. Otherwise one half of the population of this province will remain backward whilst the other half of the population will go on progressing steadily.

**Sardar Santokh Singh**: Does the honourable friend realise that the privileged treatment meted out to his community in the province is responsible for this?

**Sayed Amjad Ali Shah**: What I have said relates to the Muslim community and I am giving figures of what is happening in spite of the privileged treatment. The number of Muslim students in the higher classes is gradually decreasing whilst in the primary stage their percentage is as much as 46. If my honourable friend compares these percentages of other communities he will find that the so-called privileged treatment has led them nowhere.

[Sayed Amjad Ali Shah.]

Lastly, I should like to thank the Honourable Minister of Education for giving my constituency, Zira, a girls' school and I would further request him—as other honourable members have done—for a college for Ferozepore which is long overdue and I hope when he is planning more colleges in various districts, he will not forget Ferozepore.

**Minister of Education** (The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye): Sir, I have listened with great interest the various criticisms that have been levelled against the Education Department and our educational policy. There are certain criticisms which have been made out of ignorance and lack of information. The budget figures of the current year, as correctly represented, are 2,01,69,000 and not 8 or 9 lakhs as my friend, Mian Mushtaq Ahmad Gurmani, described. It has been pointed out that in 1930-31 the budget estimate of the Education Department was 1,75 lakhs and it has gradually come down. My honourable friend who has referred to it seems to forget that this was the peak which was reached in 1930-31 and we have it on record that the next year the figures came down to 1,68 lakhs and in the following year to 1,44 lakhs. When the present Government came into office—1937-38—the figures stood at 1,54 lakhs and 52 thousands. They have now leapt up to 2 crores, one lakh and odd. This is the peak that has been reached. This is a figure which has never been provided in any budget before.

My friend, Mian Mushtaq Ahmed Gurmani while criticising the Government, said that the Finance Department had sent a circular letter to the various departments asking them not to send in their demands except on two grounds; (i) that they were connected with law and order and or with the immediate prosecution of war; and (ii) that they were remunerative. I am surprised from where the honourable member has got this information which is certainly misleading. There are two other conditions of which, it appears, he is not aware. Besides the condition referred to by him, viz., connected with the preservation of law and order or War and secondly the schemes being immediately remunerative the other two conditions not mentioned by him are, "the schemes are of essential nature and are continuing from year to year". And further "are of such a nature as make it inevitable for the Government to undertake them". If there were only two conditions, as suggested by my honourable friend, the Schedule of New Expenditure, which honourable members have before them, would not be there because in the Education Department there is no such scheme which is either connected with the preservation of law and order or War or is directly and immediately remunerative.

**Mian Abdul Aziz:** But what was it intended for?

**Minister of Education:** The intention was that no new demand should be made except that which is covered by this letter and it was within the four corners of this letter that we put forward a scheme of 38 thousands which is now before the House.

**Mian Abdul Aziz:** Very strange.

**Minister of Education:** One of the honourable members—perhaps this was Mian Nurullah—while criticising the Government said, "Why have you postponed the new courses of study?" I wish to point out for the information of the House that these courses were approved by Government some years ago and the authors and publishers were required to submit the books to Government. It has, however, been postponed and the reason for the postponement is that paper is not available. The price of paper too has gone up enormously

and it was under these circumstances that Government was obliged last year to postpone the scheme for the present. The University of the Punjab also decided last year not to change any books and it was also on these grounds that the Government of India sent us a letter that there should be no change of books during War and so long as paper and printing material were scarce.

One of the honourable members said day before yesterday that there has been no improvement in figures of literacy and he was, unfortunately, a Parliamentary Secretary. He said there has not been an increase of even one per cent in literacy. I am sorry to observe he was ignorant of the facts of the case.

**Khan Bahadur Shaikh Karamat Ali :** Was it in connection with increase of literacy or was it with regard to the grant which was made twelve years ago ?

**Minister of Education :** It was in connection with literacy and if the honourable member will remember, there were bold headlines in the vernacular press to the effect that there was not an increase of even one per cent during all these years. What he said was that if there has been an increase, there has been a simultaneous increase in the population and the figure of literacy has stood where it was in 1927 or thereabout. My honourable friends would be interested to know the exact figures of literacy for the period under review.

According to the Indian Census Report, the percentage of literacy in the Punjab has increased from 5.4 per cent in 1931 to 13 per cent in 1941 (Hear, hear) indicating an increase of 110 per cent in the education of boys and an increase of 890 per cent in the education of women. This percentage would be still higher if figures for the last three years were available.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** Probably there seems to be some difference of opinion between the Honourable Minister and the Parliamentary Secretary.

**Premier :** Between him and the Parliamentary Secretary for Revenue.

**Minister of Education :** Then, Sir, one honourable member referred to the question of Gurmukhi, Hindi and Arabic, the script languages and that Rs. 10,000 were provided for their teaching in the budget last year and it has not been done now. This is true.

As regards Gurmukhi, the House will permit me to read from what is called the "Sikander-Baldev Pact". It is—

As regards teaching of Gurmukhi in primary and middle classes, I am aware that there is a feeling among the Sikhs that facilities should be provided for teaching Gurmukhi to their children as it is their cultural language. You are no doubt aware that there is a feeling among all communities that provision should be made for teaching children the language in which their respective scriptures are written. The reasons for not meeting this demand so far are, in the first place, the financial implications of the proposal and secondly, the dearth of teachers who may be conversant with all these languages. This latter difficulty becomes even more formidable in the case of one-teacher schools and can be surmounted only by making a large addition to the number of existing teachers or by replacing teachers who know only one language by those who know at least two vernacular languages. For these reasons neither of these alternatives can be put into practice immediately. You, however, suggested that Gurmukhi might be introduced as a second language in schools and that every effort should be made to provide this facility where an adequate number of students ask for it. It was, however, understood that in asking for the acceptance of this suggestion there was no desire or intention of affecting in any way the present position with regard to the medium of instruction and the court language. As I have said above, it will not be possible to give effect to this suggestion forthwith ; but I agree with you that there should be no objection in adopting and giving effect to it as soon as may be possible. Any formula in this connection will, of course, apply to all communities alike. So far as the Sikhs are concerned the suggestion made by you, viz., "that where an adequate number of students ask for provision of facilities for teaching Gurmukhi, Government should try to arrange it as a second language" can be adopted at the same time.

With respect to the teaching of Gurmukhi, Hindi and Arabic, as the honourable members are aware, all eminent educationalists were opposed to the idea.



[Education Minister.]

They do wish to burden the small children with more than one language. According to the present practice, second language is taught in the 7th class. If I remember aright, my honourable friend Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh, who was a member of the Syllabus Committee, suggested that the second language should commence from the 4th class. This pact was, however, made without the previous consultation of the Department. The proposal was not initiated by the Education Department. It was after providing Rs. 10,000 that the Director was asked to make the necessary arrangements. Evidently he could not spend that money. It is also forgotten that primary education is primarily the concern of district boards and municipalities. It is they who should spend money on these things and then next year the Government would give them a grant. But anyhow, since last year, in April, a certain honourable member of this House said that a sum of Rs. 10,000 was meagre, we have now made arrangements for another Rs. 20,000, which means that in all we have got Rs. 30,000 for teaching Gurmukhi, Hindi and Arabic. The Education Department has been busy several months in examining this problem much against their will and they have now decided that teaching of these three languages should commence at the 3rd class stage, one stage earlier than the stage suggested by Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh and others of his way of thinking. It shall be subject to the usual communal formula. 50, 30 and 20. The orders of the Government have been passed and letters are now being issued to Inspectors of Schools to choose the schools in various localities where teaching of these three languages could be started. The Government is providing this sum of Rs. 30,000. I have also suggested that various local bodies may be required to contribute and if they contribute they will get double the amount and if they will not contribute they will get the single share. So, as my honourable friends will realise, nothing could be done last year.

**Sardar Santokh Singh :** Do I understand that Sikhs will get only Rs. 6,000 out of this fund?

**Minister of Education :** They will get according to the proportion of 20 per cent.

**Sardar Lal Singh :** If there is a school in which children read Punjabi, would the Government be prepared to give it some grant so that it may be helpful for teaching Gurmukhi?

**Minister of Education :** It is not a grant-in-aid proposal. It is a substantial proposal of the Government for teaching all these three languages. I cannot afford to give a grant out of it.

**Sardar Lal Singh :** Does the Honourable Minister make no distinction between Gurmukhi, Hindi and Arabic? Gurmukhi is a script and not a language whereas Arabic is a foreign language.

**Minister of Education :** I have already read to the honourable member the portion of the Sikander-Baldev Pact relating to languages. There it was said that all the communities want to learn their script languages at an early stage. Now, we shall try to accommodate them and it is being done under an experimental measure.

**Chaudhri Sumer Singh :** What about teaching of Sanskrit and Persian languages?

**Minister of Education :** Persian is not a script language.

Now, Sir, I will give a brief resume of the progress that has been made by the Education Department in planning and reconstruction of future policy on sound lines. I have very short time at my disposal and, therefore, I shall be as brief as possible.

(1) The syllabus of the Primary and Middle Departments, which had remained unchanged for 25 years, has been completely overhauled.

(2) Training schools and training colleges for Anglo-Vernacular Education have been radically reorganised and their syllabus suitably revised.

(3) Model schools have been established in almost all the taluks of the province.

(4) Divisional refresher courses for Vernacular teachers have been instituted with marked success.

(5) Anti-illiteracy drive has been continued with vigour.

(6) A large number of well-planned school buildings have been erected despite financial stringency.

(7) Government grants to institutions and associations have been liberally enhanced.

(8) Generous financial assistance in the form of scholarships and stipends has been extended to sons of soldiers and backward communities.

(9) Measures have been adopted to improve the health of students reading in schools.

(10) Claims of backward communities particularly Muslims and depressed classes for special grants have been given best consideration.

Now, Sir, I will briefly touch upon these contributions. Some of the outstanding recommendations of the committee which dealt with the scheme of revision of courses of study for primary and middle classes, are as follows :—

(a) A clear cut definition of the aims of instruction in the primary and middle stages ;

(b) Simplification of the content of education of the subjects taught in classes I to VIII ;

(c) Introduction of every day science, civics, sanitation, arts, handicrafts and improved methods of physical training ;

(d) Curtailment of the subject-matter in certain subjects of study in the middle class to avoid duplication in high classes.

(e) To give a more practical bias to the aims and methods of instruction. This is the scheme which earlier in my speech I said has been postponed because of the scarcity of paper.

*Complete reorganisation of training of vernacular teachers*.—The syllabi of Junior Vernacular and Senior Vernacular in May 1939-40 was reorganised and the scheme of revised syllabi has been enforced. The recommendations of the Reorganisation Committee were (i) that the Senior Vernacular course should be reduced to one year from two years and the Junior Vernacular be extended to two years from one year ; (ii) vernacular final pass may continue as the minimum qualification for admission but men with higher qualifications should receive

[Education Minister.]

preference; (iii) a special grant for three years be awarded to all Government normal schools for the improvement of their libraries and the introduction of arts and handicrafts. As a result of the Syllabus Committee's recommendations, the Senior Vernacular and Junior Vernacular courses have been raised. The interesting features are that now greater importance is attached to practical teaching and more intimate and practical study of child psychology, and extensive study of the Urdu language; wider acquaintance with methods of teaching children and adults, the learning of practical arts and handicrafts during the course of training. The same has been done in the case of women teachers: the Senior Vernacular has been one year and Junior Vernacular two years, and the minimum qualification also has been laid down as middle pass.

*Training of Anglo-Vernacular teachers:* A committee was appointed in 1941 with Principal Chatterji as chairman to go over the question. It was proposed to abolish the Senior Vernacular Examination and amalgamate it with the B.T. Degree, and open a new junior model school under the supervision and control of the Principal of the Central Training College, designed to give training in problems of management and inspection. Training handicrafts, and arts and crafts teacher's training class has been started at the Central Training College. The course covers a period of two years, and the minimum qualifications prescribed for admission is 1st or 2nd class matric and S. V. matric, preference being given to those who have learnt science. This course has been instituted to train teacher's for drawing, hobbies and handicrafts, who should be able to take the new subject of practical art introduced under the revised syllabi.

Another outstanding feature of the Education Department is the establishment of model schools in almost every tahsil of the province. One hundred and thirty-one schools of this nature have been opened.

The special features of these schools are that they have a high enrollment; a good average attendance and possess up-to-date equipment and educational appliances. They teach agriculture and have farms attached; they give definite rural bias to all instructions by means of hobbies, handicrafts and small industries. They have milk bars; they have medical officers who hold regular inspections followed up by suitable treatment. They have radio sets.

I would like to mention another important point and that is refresher courses. In order to improve the efficiency of comparatively older teachers and to initiate them into modern methods of teaching a special class of refresher course has been started since 1939-40. So far four courses have been held and about 2,000 teachers have been trained. Each course lasts for about a month with a well-planned programme providing for every phase of teachers' interest and activities, that is, physical exercise, recreative games, demonstration of class teaching, lectures and methods of teaching and discourses on subjects connected with beneficent departments, extensive study of literature, news from the radio, dramatic performances, concerts and debates, handicrafts and hobbies, discussion of problems of rural education—such as adult education, nursery classes and playway devices. In order to give a better type of instruction playway devices have been introduced to make the school work more congenial and interesting to school pupils. Hobbies and handicrafts have been introduced to give special emphasis to the training of hands and eyes. Provision has also been made for medical inspections and supply of milk.

I will now come, Sir, to the subject of adult literacy. As many as 306,789 illiterate adults have been made literate in the province. In order to save them

from relapsing into illiteracy 20 libraries have been set up in the districts with 76,780 books costing Rs. 12,755. As many as 528,000 adult primers and 241,250 copies of follow up literature have been prepared. Literary leagues numbering 2,777 have been set up with 7,418 literary centres.

War effort of the Education Department is another important subject which I would like to deal with. We have the following figures in connection with War loans :—

	Rs.
(1) Loans from the Pupils' fund .. ..	1,22,446
(2) Loans from the Teachers' Provident Fund (Local bodies schools) .. ..	85,51,296
(3) Loans from the Teachers' Provident Fund (Privately managed schools) .. ..	5,01,977
(4) Contribution to the Defence Provident Fund .. ..	4,25,608
Total .. ..	96,01,322

Then there are contributions and free gifts :—

	Rs.
(1) From Pupils' Fund .. ..	3,54,106
(2) From teachers .. ..	3,55,451
(3) Contributions from students .. ..	94,551
(4) Contributions from incomes from concerts .. ..	1,80,062
Total .. ..	9,85,062

As regards recruitment the figures are—

(1) From amongst boys .. ..	27,771
(2) From teachers .. ..	4,181
Total .. ..	81,902

The figures regarding civic guards, A.R.P. work and other War propaganda are :—

(1) Number of teachers enrolled in civic guards .. ..	4,038
(2) Number trained for A.R.P. work .. ..	15,151
(3) Number trained in First Aid .. ..	49,388
(4) Number trained in St. John's Ambulance work .. ..	7,503
(5) Number of lectures delivered for War propaganda .. ..	261,523
(6) Number of posters and leaflets for War purposes .. ..	468,747

I also wish to refer to the Technical Training Scheme which has been started under the Government of India. Early in 1948 a scheme was worked out in the Punjab in consultation with the Government of India through my honourable friend Mian Mushtaq Ahmad Gurmani, Director of Publicity and Recruitment, Labour Department. It was proposed to organise publicity popularising technical careers available in the Defence Services. The Government of India approved of the scheme and agreed to meet the entire cost which involved the creation of a post of officer on special duty attached to the Education Department, Rai Bahadur Man Mohan was appointed in the first instance and as he got an employment in an Indian State another officer was appointed on special duty.

[Education Minister.]

Some other posts were also created. These included five additional Assistants to Divisional Inspectors of Schools in the cadre of P.E.S. Class II and other necessary staff. The Officer on Special Duty was required to work under the general supervision of the Director of Public Instruction and the five Assistants were attached to the Divisional Inspectors to relieve them of as much routine and inspection work as possible. The entire inspecting staff were expected to devote part of their time and energy to the work of organising publicity under the Scheme without detriment to their normal duties. Information Bureaus were set up and they were supplied with necessary literature. Selected members of the staff were entrusted with the duty of supplying information about the available technical careers to the present and past students and their parents. The results have been very encouraging. The number of trainees enrolled into the Indian Air Force from 1st July 1943 to the end of January 1944 is 458 and in the Royal Indian Navy 358. Contribution of the Punjab Education Department to the technical training scheme of the Government of India has been very noteworthy. Of the eligible past and present boys in our school 7,491 have been selected for training. The share of the Punjab Education Department stands at 50 per cent of the total contribution.

These, Sir, are the achievement of the Punjab Education Department and I hope I have done justice to the subject. (*Hear, hear and applause*).

**Mr. Deputy Speaker :** The question is—

*That the demand be reduced by Rs. 100.*

*The motion was lost.*

**Mr. Deputy Speaker :** The question is—

*That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,00,61,100 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March 1945, in respect of Education (Excluding European and Anglo-Indian Education).*

*The motion was carried.*

*The Assembly then adjourned till 10 a.m. on Friday, 17th March 1944.*

# PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

## ELEVENTH SESSION OF THE FIRST PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Friday, 17th March 1944

*The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber at 10 a.m. of the clock. Mr. Speaker in the Chair.*

### STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

MIAN IFTIKHAR-UD-DIN

**\*9182. Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state :—

(a) whether Mian Iftikhar-ud-Din, M.L.A., President of the Provincial Congress Committee, has recently been served with a notice giving the reasons for his detention in jail ;

(b) whether Mian Iftikhar-ud-Din, has given any reply to the aforesaid notice ; if so, the nature of the reply ;

(c) whether Mian Iftikhar-ud-Din is suffering from any disease or diseases and if so what and the nature of the medical treatment he is receiving in the jail ;

(d) whether the use of certain books has been disallowed to him, if so, the nature of those books ;

(e) whether the Government intends to release Mian Iftikhar-ud-Din if so, when ; and if not, the reasons therefor ;

(f) the names of the jails in which Mian Iftikhar-ud-Din has been kept from time to time and the name of the jail in which he is detained at present ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Mir Maqbool Mahmood) :**

(a) Yes.

(b) No.

(c) Yes. His main ailment is dental trouble for which he is being treated at the Punjab Dental Hospital, Lahore.

(d) So far as Government is aware, this is not a fact.

(e) Government's intentions cannot be disclosed.

(f) (i) Camp Jail, Shahpur, (ii) District Jail, Mianwali, (iii) Central Jail, Rawalpindi and Central Jail, Lahore.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** Has notice been served on Mian Iftikhar-ud-Din with a view to prosecute him ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I have nothing to add to the answer I have already given.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** What are the contents of the notice ? Is the Parliamentary Secretary prepared to give that information ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** The notice has been communicated to the gentleman concerned but I am not prepared to lay it on the table.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** Has the Parliamentary Secretary got a copy of the notice with him ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** Not in my head nor in my pocket.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** Is it a confidential document ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I have already stated that I am not prepared to lay it on the table.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** My question is whether it is a confidential document ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** It is not merely a question of whether it is confidential or not. There may be documents which are not confidential and yet they cannot be laid on the table in public interest.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** Was the notice sent through the Superintendent of the Jail ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I presume it was sent through the usual channels.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** Was it considered in public interest that this document should be sent through so many channels ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I have already stated that I have nothing to add to the answer already given.

#### FUND FOR JAT MAHASABHA

**\*9196. Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state :—

(a) whether it is a fact that Sardar Avtar Singh, a Tehsildar in the Amritsar district, informed the zamindars of his ilaqa who pay more than Rs. 85 as land revenue to come to Chabbal thana, district Amritsar, on November 21, 1943, for getting their sugar ration cards from him ;

(b) whether any fund for the Jat Mahasabha was collected from the zamindars who came to get their sugar ration cards, if so, the amount thus collected by him ;

(c) the number of zamindars who contributed to the fund ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Mir Maqbool Mahmood) :**

(a) Yes.

(b) No.

(c) Does not arise.

#### MURDER CASES

**\*9206. Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state :—

(a) the number of murder cases in each Thana of the Ludhiana district which were registered by the Police from June to December, 1943, and during January and February 1944 ;

(b) how many out of the above cases ended in convictions and how many ended in acquittals ;

(c) whether any appeals against acquittals were filed by the crown ; if so, with what result ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Mir Maqbool Mahmood):** I regret that the information cannot be collected as the time and trouble involved would be incommensurate with any possible result to be obtained.

**CHAUDHRI MUHAMMAD HASAN, ADVOCATE, LUDHIANA**

**\*9207. Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state :—

(a) the number and nature of the cases in Ludhiana District in which appeals against acquittals were filed by the Government in the year 1941, 1942 and 1943, the expenditure incurred in connexion with each case and the name of the counsel or counsels engaged in each case ;

(b) the amount of expenditure incurred by Government in prosecuting Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan, Advocate, Ludhiana, in the Canal Act Case ;

(d) the name of the counsel conducting the prosecution in the above case, the result of the case and the maximum sentence that could be awarded by the court in the case ?

**The Honourable Sir Manohar Lal :** (a) (b), and (c) It is not in the public interest to collect the information asked for and the time and labour involved in collecting it will be incommensurate with the results likely to be achieved.

**RABI CROP**

**\*9169. Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Will the Honourable Minister of Development be pleased to state :—

(a) whether it is a fact that the rabi crop is below the normal this year ; if so, the reasons therefor ;

(b) whether the canal water provided this year to the zamindars for the rabi crop was normal or below the normal ;

(c) whether the area under the rabi crop this year in the province is more or less than the said area under the rabi crop last year ;

(d) the final forecast regarding the above-named crop ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Chaudhri Tikka Ram) :**

(a) *First Part :* Yes, but the crop in the irrigated areas is good.

*Second Part*—The weather was dry during October, November and December 1943, and consequently moisture in barani areas was very scanty and therefore restricted sowings could be made. The crop in such areas has remained in a precarious condition but rains in January and February have improved their condition and they are now expected to ripen fairly well.

(b) It was generally normal.

(c) Less, under the principal crops.

(d) Final forecast for *masar* will be available in April 1944, and for other ops in May 1944.



## IRRIGATION THROUGH WELLS IN BARANI AREAS

**\*9198. Khan Sahib Sayed Badr Mohy-ud-Din Qadri :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state :—

(a) whether the Government have under consideration any scheme to encourage irrigation through wells in Barani areas of the Province ;

(b) how many acres of land in the Batala Tehsil of the Gurdaspur district belong to the barani class ;

(c) whether Government intend to help the owners of barani lands in the Batala Tehsil in the construction of wells, under the scheme if any referred to in (a), if not, the reasons therefor ?

**The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram :** No specific scheme is yet under consideration, but Government have every intention of tapping all sources of fresh irrigation wherever and whenever practicable.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** Are takkavi grants made to zamindars for irrigating their barani lands ?

**Minister :** That requires fresh notice, although I have a recollection that takkavi is being advanced more freely for the sinking of wells.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** Is it a fact that since this Government came into power takkavi loans have been stopped ?

**Minister :** No.

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ADDITIONAL REVENUE OFFICERS FOR MUTATIONS IN LUDHIANA DISTRICT

**\*9205. Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state —

(a) whether Government intends to appoint additional revenue officers for the work of mutations in each tehsil in the Ludhiana district, if so, the reasons therefor ;

(b) the names of the extra revenue officers the Government intend to appoint in each tehsil of the Ludhiana district ;

(c) why the permanent revenue officers were not able to cope with their ordinary revenue work in each tehsil ?

**The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram :**

(a) No. But an additional Naib-Tahsildar has been appointed in each district in order to relieve Tahsildars of some of their ordinary duties.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The permanent revenue officers are not only coping with their ordinary work but also with extraordinary work connected with civil supplies and military petitions. These extraordinary duties have reduced the time available for ordinary duties.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** Have the Government ever considered the question of relieving these revenue officers from the civil supply work and getting only revenue work from them ?

**Minister :** This requires fresh notice and that too to my honourable friend on my right.

## GOVERNMENT CATTLE FARM, HISSAR

**\*3992. Lala Bhagat Ram Choda :** Will the Honourable Minister of Development be pleased to state :—

(a) whether it is a fact that the cattle at Government Cattle Farm, Hissar, suffered from Tuberculosis ; if so, when did the disease actually break out, what was done by the Government to save the cattle from this disease and with what results and at what cost ;

(b) the number of cows, bullocks, heifers and young stocks who suffered from the abovenamed disease from 1931 to 1942 ; how many of the diseased cattle were saved and how many were auctioned or killed ; how many were sold and how many were killed in the Farm itself and what was the income from the skin and fat of the diseased animals ;

(c) how many cattle, cows, bullocks, heifers and young stocks were sold in each year by the Government Cattle Farm, Hissar, from the year 1931 to 1942 ; the prices at which they were sold and the reasons for which they were sold ;

(d) how many cows, bullocks, heifers and young stocks were sold from the Government Cattle Farm, Hissar, from 1st July 1938 to 1st July 1943, to the agriculturists of the Hissar and other districts during the abovenamed period every year ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Chaudhri Tikka Ram) :** (a) Yes. A number of cattle have been suffering from tuberculosis for many years. A few died from this disease every year till 1939, but the heavy infection was noticed in 1940. The infected animals have since been segregated in 2 blocks of the Farm and the herd subjected to periodical tuberculin tests. The progeny of infected cows are weaned at 3 months old instead of 8 months and tested with tuberculin. Open cases of tuberculosis or those showing extreme emaciation are destroyed and a number of infected animals are sold for slaughter under expert supervision. There is no cure known so far for this disease. An experiment to try out a recently discovered method of vaccination is, however, in progress on the Farm now. These measures have resulted in considerable decrease in the incidents of disease. The first test showed that 20.25 per cent of animals were infected, but in the 6th and last one held in June 1943 it was 2.46 per cent only.

The cost so far incurred on these measures amounts to Rs. 32,414.

(b) Since Tuberculosis tests commenced in 1940, the statistics of the affected cattle prior to that year are not available. The following animals were declared to be suffering from Tuberculosis from 1940—42 :—

Cows	1,340
Bulls	2
Bullocks	367
Young stock	750

In most cases Tuberculosis lesions found in diseased animals are confined to a gland or two in the body, and this does not interfere with the working capacity or breeding performance of the animals. In accordance with a well-known system of eradication of Tuberculosis from herds practised in other countries, the following animals are being retained for work or for breeding at the Farm

[Ch. Tikka Ram]

under strict segregation, and only those animals which are old or otherwise unsuitable for breeding are being gradually disposed of :—

Cows	..	..	..	707
Bulls	..	..	..	2
Young stock	..	..	..	800
Bullocks	..	..	..	394
Total				1,403

Besides, the reactors which are being retained for breeding or for work, the clean herd now present on the Farm as detailed below has also virtually been saved from Tuberculosis by prompt action taken :—

Cows and Bulls	..	..	..	1,619
Bullocks	..	..	..	288
Male and female young stock	..	..	..	2,510
Total				4,412

The number of reactors auctioned or killed (destroyed) is as under :—

*Auctioned*

*Destroyed being*

*\*6th October 1942 to 31st December 1942*

*emaciated or open cases*

Cows	..	..	89	290
Bullocks	..	..	88	21
Young stock	..	..	25	59

\*Before this no animal was auctioned for slaughter for merely being a reactor.

None of the reactors were sold for any other purpose and all animals destroyed were destroyed on the Farm itself.

Rs.

Income from animals auctioned was .. 3,820

Income from skins, etc., of animals destroyed on the Farm was .. 2,027

(c) The required information is in the attached statement.

(d) Following is the number of cattle sold to agriculturists (*bona fide* breeders) in Hissar and other districts from 1st July 1938 to 1st July 1943.

Period	Cows		BULLOCKS		HEIFERS		YOUNGSTOCK	
	Hissar district	Other districts	Hissar district	Other districts	Hissar district	Other districts	Hissar district	Other districts
1st July 1938 to 30th June 1939	..	6	..	1	1	145	..	..
1st July 1939 to 30th June 1940	9	102	..	5	..	241	..	..
1st July 1940 to 30th June 1941	6	54	1	7	1	60	..	..
1st July 1941 to 30th June 1942	56	10	..	13	1	23	..	..
1st July 1942 to 30th June 1943	90	12	3	2	57	111	..	..

STATEMENT SHOWING THE ANIMALS SOLD FROM 1931-32 TO 1942-43

Year	Bulls				Cows				Hens	
	Animals sold for breeding purposes		Animals sold being unfit for breeding		Animals sold for breeding purposes		Animals sold being unfit for breeding		Animals sold for breeding purposes	
	Number	Price	Number	Price	Number	Price	Number	Price	Number	Price
	Ra.	Ra.	Ra. A. P.	Ra. A. P.	Ra.	Ra.	Ra. A. P.	Ra. A. P.	Ra.	Ra.
1931-32	377	81,800	2	26 8 0	143	5,110	210	3,131 12 0	192	2,312
1932-33	489	83,700	1	31 0 0	28	1,050	95	774 0 0	41	400
1933-34	431	29,930	..	..	102	3,360	100	1,771 12 0	45	360
1934-35	731	57,215	1	5 0 0	37	810	132	2,217 12 0	13	1,320
1935-36	616	46,705	2	37 0 0	232	6,820	163	2,903 4 0	107	4,367
1936-37	711	84,676	..	..	53	1,770	111	1,367 13 0	368	4,863
1937-38	775	82,630	..	..	136	4,360	99	1,446 8 0	453	5,057
1938-39	831	63,545	3	23 0 0	6	530	99	860 7 0	145	1,773
1939-40	849	74,350	3	25 0 0	33	780	457	5,255 6 0	241	3,239
1940-41	647	68,120	..	..	137	2,343	305	3,300 2 0	63	693
1941-42	268	29,320	4	54 8 0	76	1,530	93	1,012 4 0	24	225
1942-43	494	49,435	7	199 0 0	71	1,130	214	5,631 3 0	153	2,329

## STATEMENT SHOWING THE ANIMALS SOLD FROM 1931-32 TO 1942-43—CONCLD.

Year	HEIFERS—COWS		YOUNG STOCK (MALE)				(BULLOCKS)			
	Animals sold being unfit for breeding		Animals sold for breeding purposes		Animals sold being unfit for breeding		Bullocks sold for draught purposes		Bullocks sold being unfit for work	
	Number	Price	Number	Price	Number	Price	Number	Price	Number	Price
1931-32	53	Rs. 240 0 0	..	Rs. ..	20	Rs. 95 12 0	6	Rs. 970 0 0	44	Rs. 775 8 0
1932-33	39	85 2 0	4	850	4	23 0 0	41	6,566 8 0	37	374 4 0
1933-34	27	99 4 0	1	270	15	62 4 0	53	8,667 0 0	29	618 8 0
1934-35	51	219 6 0	..	..	13	35 6 0	34	5,948 0 0	19	203 0 0
1935-36	40	117 6 0	1	..	16	54 8 0	8	1,424 0 0	24	280 12 0
1936-37	14	60 8 0	..	..	17	83 14 0	2	328 0 0	28	498 9 0
1937-38	9	33 2 0	..	..	7	28 6 0	2	328 0 0	51	608 6 0
1938-39	18	88 4 0	..	..	13	46 8 0	1	175 0 0	35	567 2 0
1939-40	22	51 9 0	..	..	39	254 5 0	3	500 0 0	110	2,886 15 0
1940-41	52	102 8 0	..	..	50	504 0 0	10	1,800 0 0	60	1,459 6 0
1941-42	31	132 0 0	..	..	23	192 4 0	13	2,276 0 0	61	1,496 4 0
1942-43	81	532 12 0	..	..	24	177 15 0	5	1,100 0 0	130	2,511 0 0

**Lala Bhagat Ram Choda :** Is it a fact that cows and bullocks which previously used to be sold at very high rates are at present being sold at very cheap rates? For instance, is it a fact that the bullocks which are not available at present even on payment of Rs. 200 per head have been sold at Rs. 7 per head? Have these been sold to their kiths and kins?

## SUGAR SUPPLY

**\*9066. Lala Bhagat Ram Choda :** Will the Honourable Minister of Development be pleased to state :—

(a) whether he is aware of the fact that there is no arrangement for the supply of sugar to villages Dholanwal, Pakki Thathi, Saidpur, Jhugian Nagra, Kot Kanjri, Sodbiwal, and Qadirpura, which are situated in the Lahore Corporation area within a radius of about 4 miles from Lahore proper ;

(b) whether he is aware of the fact that the inhabitants of the above-named villages have sent several representations to the authorities concerned including the City Magistrate during the last three months, but no action has so far been taken in that connection ; if so, the reason therefor ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Chaudhri Tikka Ram) :** (a) and (b). The Agency originally selected for sugar distribution was found unsatisfactory and sugar stocks were, therefore, afterwards given to a group of persons having the confidence of villagers for distribution. Ration cards have been distributed in the villages in question, and a Sugar Depot is functioning at Dholanwal, which is reported to be working satisfactorily.

## WHEAT AND TAHSILDAR, TALAGANG

**\*9074. Lala Bhagat Ram Choda :** Will the Honourable Minister of Development be pleased to state :—

(a) whether it is a fact that from 29th January 1948 to 31st January 1948, a large number of wheat bags were requisitioned by the Tahsildar, Talagang, and notice was served on the merchants forbidding them to sell their stocks ;

(b) whether the ban was not lifted even on 24th February when control of wheat prices had ceased to exist and the bags were handed over to the depôt for sale at control prices ;

(c) whether it is a fact that three persons were arrested for exporting wheat which it was stated by the Tahsildar, was still banned ;

(d) whether the depot wheat was exported to an adjoining district and was sold at double the control prices ;

(e) whether the Talagang Police proceeded against the virtual owner of the depôt or some other persons for exporting the depôt wheat which was held by the depôt as a trust and the Tahsildar intervening asked the Police to drop the proceeding as the ban no longer existed and the misunderstanding was due to an incorrect interpretation of the district magistrate's orders ;

(f) if the reply be in the affirmative what action he proposes to take against the Tahsildar for causing undue trouble and financial loss to the merchants ;

(g) whether it is a fact that aggrieved persons have submitted a petition to the Commissioner, Rawalpindi Division, for redress and, if so, what action, has been taken on their representation ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Chaudhri Tikka Ram): (a) Some wheat was requisitioned by the Sub-Divisional Officer, Pindigheb, under the orders of the Deputy Commissioner, on the 22nd January 1943. Arrangements were made with the merchants there and then for purchase of their stocks.

(b) Arrangements were made with the original owners on the 27th January 1943 regarding payment and a sum of Rs. 6,700 was actually paid as advance to them on that day, and they were paid the balance as and when their wheat was weighed; there was therefore no question of a ban being not lifted until the 24th of February 1943. The merchants agreed to sell at the old prescribed rate existing at the time when the wheat was requisitioned and their written agreements to this effect are on record.

(c) No.

(d) Out of the requisitioned stock, part was transported to Jhelum district as it was found to have been purchased for labour employed on Defence Projects prior to the date of requisition. The price at which it was sold outside the Attock district is not known.

(e) Prosecutions had been launched against a person who had been engaged to assist in running one of the depots and two others, on a misunderstanding of an order passed by the District Magistrate. When the true facts came to light the proceedings were dropped.

(f) The matter is under the consideration of Government.

(g) (*First part*)—A representation was made to the Commissioner, Rawalpindi. (*Second part*)—In view of the reply given under item (f) above, in connection with action against the Tahsildar, this does not arise.

**Lala Bhagat Ram Choda**: Is it a fact that the Tahsildar of Talagang made some embezzlements while making collections in connection with the War Fund? Has the Government instituted any inquiry in this connection? Is it a fact that eight persons submitted a petition to the Deputy Commissioner to the effect that transactions were made through black-market? Has the Government made any inquiry in this connection? Has not the Tahsildar made lakhs of rupees in the transaction of sugar through black market? Is it a fact that allegations of corruption and dishonesty in connection with the distribution of sugar were made against the said Tahsildar?

**Minister**: I have no information about it.

## DEMANDS FOR GRANTS

### AGRICULTURE

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

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 75,26,400 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March 1945, in respect of Agriculture.

**Mr. Speaker**: Motion moved—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 75,26,400 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March 1945, in respect of Agriculture.

*General Policy of Agriculture Department*

**Chaudhri Sumer Singh** (South-East Gurgaon, General, Rural) (Urdu):  
I beg to move—

That the demand be reduced by Rs. 100.

First of all I wish to make a few observations in regard to Agricultural Assistants. At present there is a dire necessity of Agricultural Assistants in the province. So far as these Agricultural Assistants are concerned, I wish to submit that Government have appointed one Agricultural Assistant in each tehsil. About 200 villages fall under his jurisdiction. He is expected to deliver lectures in every village and show how to make the land fertile by scientific methods. At present Agricultural Assistants and Mukadams find it very difficult to visit every village as a result of which their valuable instructions are made available only to a few villages. In this connection I wish to bring this point home to the Honourable Minister of Development that it would be of no use to continue the employment of the present staff of Agricultural Assistants and Mukadams unless their number is increased to a great extent with a view to benefit the agriculturists. I would like to suggest that tehsils should be divided into subdivisions. The Agricultural Assistants should be given a limited area so that the agriculturists living in that area may be benefited by the experiments and demonstrations performed by them. If this is not done, I am afraid, agriculture of the province will not improve in the least. At present Agricultural Assistants in particular and the agricultural officers in general do not undertake tours in the areas under their jurisdiction. In this connection I wish to suggest that a visitors' book should be maintained in every village and entries regarding useful instructions of the Agricultural Assistants and Mukadams should be made in these books every now and then, and also the fact that these men actually visited the village. This will improve and make village touring regular. Again I would suggest that in every village where the scheme is in force at least four or five Bighas of land should be reserved for maintaining demonstration parks, and farms in which agricultural produce, that is, turmeric, groundnuts, potatoes and other valuable crops should be cultivated for demonstration purposes. I may assure my honourable friends that if Government take necessary steps in this direction zamindars would be benefited to a great extent. I wish to submit that agriculturists do not like cultivating vegetables. Unless agriculturists are made to understand the importance and benefits of cultivating vegetables, they would not take any interest in this direction. Government should devise ways and means to encourage agriculturists to cultivate vegetables, etc.

There is one point to which I wish to draw the attention of the honourable members and that is regarding the Agricultural College, Lyallpur. It will not be out of place to mention here that the present Ministry is a zamindar Ministry and that it claims to safeguard the interests of poor zamindars. So far as this college is concerned, I wish to submit that though it had been founded to help and serve the poor it is actually serving the capitalists and big landlords who are the favourites of the Government. This is the reason why the poor and average zamindars cannot afford to pay for the education of their sons at the college which is very expensive. Students have no better prospects after completing their training in the college and the monthly salary of Rs. 55 that they get is not commensurate with the expenses incurred by them during their training period. Under the circumstances it is not possible for the trained Agricultural Assistants to maintain their position on a meagre monthly salary of Rs. 55 or Rs. 80 (which



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has now been fixed by the Government). I would request the Honourable Minister-in-charge to consider the pay of Agricultural Assistants and to do something substantial to enhance their pay. Further I wish to submit that the students undergoing training in this college should be trained purely on agricultural lines. After completing their training they have to live amongst the zamindars and they must be taught to maintain the agricultural standard of life based on simplicity. At present they live a luxurious life in the college.

Besides, students coming out from the Agricultural College, Lyallpur, have not been found well qualified on the practical side. This is a general complaint and the Government should see that practical training is imparted to all the students on a large scale because it is most essential for the advancement of agriculture. I have come across certain students of that college myself and on asking them some questions on practical knowledge I was greatly disappointed to find out that they were quite blank on practical side and what they knew was only theory. I wonder how such graduates who do not know even the art of ploughing can be successful in impressing the rural people. On the contrary, they will make themselves a laughing stock for the zamindars who know much more than those graduates who are a disgrace for the College and the Government as well. Need demands that the College should produce graduates who should be conversant with village life and also be intelligent and capable enough to convince zamindars on their side. I mean to say that they should have sufficient practical knowledge so that they may be able to suggest some beneficial methods of cultivation. If the Government is unable to manage things like this then this institution is absolutely useless. Let me again repeat that the College, though it had been founded to help and serve the poor, is actually serving the capitalists and big landlords who are Government's favourites. And it is so because the poor and average zamindar cannot afford to pay for the education of his son at the College which is very expensive. In fact the College was founded for the help of the poor, may they be agriculturists or non-agriculturists, but as I have pointed out it has become difficult for the poor to send their children for education at the College.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** But non-agriculturists are not admitted in the College.

**Chaudhri Sumer Singh :** My honourable friend is not correct in saying this. He must know that the majority of Government employees in the Department consists of non-agriculturists. Even in the Agriculture Department there is a majority of non-agriculturists and it is only due to this that improvements have not been effected according to our expectations. You will be surprised to know that the people who are incharge of growth scheme are taking no interest at all in their work. They have no knowledge of agriculture whatsoever. When this is the state of affairs, how can we hope for an improvement in this department? It is really hoping against hope. That is the reason why no progress has been made in improving seeds of Bajra and Jowar in Ferozpur during a period of 5 or 6 years. My contention is that the best remedy for all these defects in the department is that the training in the Agriculture College should be overhauled. It may be asked, how far is it correct that it is the rich and capitalists who are deriving benefit out of this institution? I may tell my honourable friends that since the College is very expensive it is out of the question for the poor zamindars to get their children educated in this institution. On an average, it costs a student about Rs. 70 a month, while he can earn very little on leaving the College. I, therefore, submit that the College

expense should also be cut down because it is possible only for a son of a rich parent to spend Rs. 70 a month in the College. It will not be out of place to suggest here that instead of giving preference to the rich it will be better if intelligent youngsters of poor parents are admitted in the College. In this way the Government would be able to earn the gratitude of the poor zamindars. Apart from this the Government should also see to it that keen interest is created in the minds of the students getting training in the College. The students must be aware of the troubles and hardships which a zamindar has to face in connection with agriculture, and they must also very well know the experiences of a village life and over and above that they should have a good knowledge about cultivation and growth of vegetables as well. And if such graduates are not produced in the College, I am constrained to remark that the lofty motive for which this institution is founded will receive a death blow.

I would like to make another submission and that is this. Previously the course of Mukadam class lasted 6 months and after finishing the course a Mukadam used to draw a pay of Rs. 20. But now whereas the period of Mukadam class has been increased to one year no increase has been made in his pay. The same problem of expense crops up here as well. This class costs a student about Rs. 30 to 40 a month while he can earn only Rs. 20 a month after the training. In these hard days can you imagine a poor candidate being able to spend Rs. 30 to 40 a month for training? A poor zamindar cannot afford to pay Rs. 40 for educating his son in the Mukadam class for one complete year. If the Government have increased the course of training on the one hand they should also increase the pay on the other, otherwise it will be considered an injustice for the poor. If the Government is really keen to create love in the hearts of people for agriculture they should make it a point to afford facilities and protection to the poor zamindars with a view to improve their art of cultivation. A part from this such changes should be introduced in the college as would benefit the zamindar. What I want to suggest in this connection is that the method of training must be overhauled in such a way that the students coming out of this institution should be imbued with the spirit of serving the people and not of governing.

Now another point which I wish to make is this. The post of the Principal of the Agriculture College is going to fall vacant and in this connection, my information is that the Government are proposing to get some 'Whiteman' from outside. If it is true, it will be the worst condemnation of the Government. May I ask the Government, has not the time come when we should find Indians to preside over such institutions? When competent and able people are available in the present staff of the College I wonder why a whiteman should be thrust on them. If you do not consider an Indian fit for this job how can you possibly achieve the far higher goal of swaraj? I have no doubt about it that a competent Indian will be available. But it seems to me that the Government want to favour the Britisher.

**Lala Bhagat Ram Choda :** They are here with the help of 'Whitemen', then why should they not favour the whitemen?

**Chaudhri Sumer Singh :** No, they are here not because of the Britisher, but because of the Unionist Party.

I would like to say something in respect of the Fruit Growers Association of which you, Mr. Speaker, are the worthy president. It is a well-known fact that this Association was established with a view to improve the fruit growth so that horticulture may flourish in the province and the poor zamindar should have facilities to have a small garden to make additional income. But what has been

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done in this respect is this. The Government have afforded facilities to the big landlords who have laid gardens and not the small landholders. I tell you how. The water is made available to those zamindars only who possess gardens on 80 bighas of land. But in fact there are 90 per cent people who possess less than 80 bighas of land. My suggestion in this connection is that if the Government want to help the petty zamindars the condition of helping only those who make a garden of 80 bighas or above be reduced to the extent of 5 bighas, otherwise a petty zamindar cannot have such a big garden and it will be considered that the Government do not want to help the poor. According to the present conditions, a zamindar who grows a garden in one acre of land cannot get water for doing so. Only the big landlords can obtain water supply from the Punjab Irrigation Department. The rules should be radically changed so as to allow water supply to these petty landholders who can only grow a garden in one acre of land (*Minister of Development*: The rules have been changed) They must have been changed on paper only. Else I would be glad to know facts and figures showing the number and names of petty holders of land who have thus been granted water for their small gardens. In short whatever concessions are granted, have been granted to big landlords and practically nothing has been done to encourage gardening among the poor agriculturists who are in direct need of developing the industry of gardening to supplement their income. Next to nothing has been done in this connection. As the rules stand, no person who grows a garden in less than 80 or 90 bighas, can hope to obtain water for the purpose of gardening. Does not the Honourable Minister know that Punjab is the land of small holders of land? How can the small holders grow gardens in 80 bighas? That is impossible. A man who does not own 80 bighas, cannot grow gardens in that much area. Only the big landowners have obtained some concessions. But that does not improve the lot of the poor. The wealth of a few individuals might have increased but not the wealth of the many.

I know that the Departments of Irrigation and Agriculture are not under a single Minister and it may be urged against me that the question of water supply is not relevant to the discussion of Agriculture. But the two are inseparably connected and I cannot help discussing the question of water supply. On the other hand the two departments ought to be placed under a single head. In the absence of this unified command, several important schemes cannot mature. The wealth of the province will grow more and more if a unified charge is given to one Minister for both of these departments. I would, therefore, make bold to suggest here a proposal which primarily concerns the Irrigation Department but which is not irrelevant to the discussion of Agriculture of the Punjab. We all know that war is on and it will some day end. The temporary prosperity will disappear with the war. The Government should, therefore, tackle problems of irrigation right now otherwise the time will be lost. New irrigation projects ought to be developed from now on so that in the days of slump and depression, the new canals will run to fill our coffers with money and make the province wealthier and more prosperous by bringing under irrigation larger areas than before. The depression that followed the last Great War will not visit the province again after the termination of the present war if we take time by the forelock and dig out new canals to irrigate newer and larger areas than at present; the wealth of the poor zamindars may be increased in these days and they may take full advantage of the rise in prices since after the war the earnings of the zamindar will not be commensurate with the amount spent on cultivation.

Therefore this is the proper time for constructing new canals. If the Government really wants to avert the catastrophe of the last Great War; it is its bounden duty to plan just now for affording greater irrigation facilities to the agriculturists. The Punjab is a province of small proprietors of land and its main industry is agriculture. The future prosperity, therefore, depends on the progress of agriculture. The grant for Agriculture in 1921 used to be Rs. 32 lakhs only and now it is one crore and 22 lakhs. That is a great improvement, I admit. But most of the money is spent on the fat salaries of the officers and nothing on really useful schemes which will revolutionise the system of agriculture in the province. After all, the department was not opened to grant stipends and salaries to a certain number of people. If the benefit of the poor is at heart, then such schemes as would increase the wealth of the common agriculturist must be undertaken forthwith. Government has done nothing for intensive cultivation. Intensive cultivation will not result from fat salaries. It will be the result of solid and hard work and practical schemes for developing land, irrigation and disease fighting machinery. Rightly handled the Department of Agriculture can make the province self-sufficient. A zamindar can supply all his needs except perhaps salt. Even salt can be made in certain areas. The prices of agricultural commodities should be kept at a level that does not adversely affect the zamindars. Moreover, the cultivation of such crops should be encouraged as would increase the wealth of the people. Crops that fetch more prices than ordinary crops should be sown under the direction of the Government. For instance, potatoes, ground-nuts and "haldi" should be cultivated. In short Government should take every step to increase the income of the zamindars. Thus they will be able to pay their Government dues easily and also save some money for better living and education of their children.

Another important matter in this connection is the price level of the agricultural commodities at different times of the year. If statistics are taken, it will become clear that generally prices fall at the harvest time and rise when the zamindars have sold away their produce. Government should take steps to prevent the recurrence of this pernicious habit of the traders. Why cannot the Government purchase the commodities to keep the level at a reasonable standard or open shops where business can be carried on at reasonable rates? This will greatly benefit the zamindars.

We suffer a lot on account of diseased harvests. In spite of the fact that the Government has set up a special department to make research work in this matter, and in spite of the fact that the officers there get fat salaries, nothing substantial has been done in this respect up till now. The reason is that the staff in this department do not take real interest in their work and take no pains. If zamindars suffer lakhs and lakhs of rupees on that account what do they care? They are getting their salaries all right. If the Government want something substantial to be done in this direction, let them declare a special prize of say one or two lakhs for anybody who discovers an effective remedy for any such disease. Only such a temptation can bring about the desired results. The zamindars are losing hundreds of thousands on this account, so it is worth while spending a few lakhs on these experiments.

Now I come to the control. The Punjab Government from the very beginning stood for the policy of either no control or control on all the necessities. It was a good card and the Punjab, as well as the Central Government made most of it. So far as the passing of such orders is concerned, it is quite all right. But is any zamindar, I mean a poor agriculturist, or any other poor man, getting these things at the controlled rates, or, as a matter of fact, getting

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these things at all? All the articles when they are controlled disappear from the market. The year when the wheat was controlled at Rs. 5 per maund, Rao Pohap Singh and I had to live upon maize, while staying at Lahore in connection with the Assembly session, because we could not get the wheat flour, inspite of the fact that we could approach the officers as well. You can imagine, Sir, the plight of the poor under such control. If the Government are serious about it, let them so control that everybody gets these articles from the market at controlled rates. Now-a-days the poor are left to their fate while the rich can get everything. I say, why do they pretend to control when in reality there is no control? Let me make it clear for their benefit that no control can be successful unless the public co-operates with the Government in enforcing it. To-day 90 per cent of the population of the province, that is the people living in villages, are not in favour of control, and still the Government insists on thrusting it on them. The Government know that they have not got enough police to keep a watch over the house of each and every man of the province. In practice so many other difficulties crop up. For example the rich, even when they violate control orders escape conviction. It is the fate of the poor only to suffer on both sides. Needle is a very ordinary thing. Before the war we used to get 25 needles for one pice. Now we get one for three pice. We zamindars need all such things in our villages. The Government promised to provide us all our necessities at controlled rates. The other day when I drew the attention of the Honourable Minister to the difficulty we were experiencing on account of the scarcity of paper, he informed me that it was a central subject and that he was unable to do anything in that matter. We need paper as well for our children who go to schools. Now, it is the duty of the Government to provide us all such things at the controlled rates.

There are one or two other essential requirements of the zamindars the prices of which neither the Government can control nor should they make any attempt to control them. In the first place there is the labour which zamindars require for sowing as well as for harvesting their crops. As the honourable members are aware the wages of agricultural labourers have increased and they need must be so. The zamindars are getting very good returns for their produce and they should not grudge higher wages to the labourers whom they employ to assist them in their work. If an attempt is made to control the wages of agricultural labourers like other articles they would also disappear from the field. If that happens where will the Government bring labourers from? Therefore, the Government will be well advised not to control the wages of agricultural labour. The zamindars can afford to pay increased wages to them. Secondly, no attempt should be made to control the prices of bullocks, cows and buffaloes. Otherwise they would also disappear from the market. The honourable members are aware of the fact that a bullock which could be had for Rs. 50, 60 or 75; now fetches as high a price as Rs. 600. If, on the imposition of price control these animals disappear from the market, Government would not be in a position to supply them to zamindars even at such high prices. The Government were not correct when they said they would control the prices of all articles required by agriculturists for their use. In fact they cannot supply the essential requirements of the zamindars at controlled prices. I would therefore humbly request that the wages of agricultural labourers should not be controlled; lest the zamindars should find it difficult to get necessary labour when they require. I would also request the zamindars not to place any obstacles in the way of their getting

higher wages especially at a time when they themselves are getting very good returns for their produce. I may add that Government cannot force these labourers to work at controlled wages. Therefore, what is the use of doing a thing which they cannot do effectively? Again, as I have pointed out the prices of bullocks, cows and buffaloes should not be controlled. The Government cannot control their prices effectively and therefore they should not make any attempt to do so. My submission is that it was not at all proper for the Punjab Government to have agreed to impose price control in the province on the condition that the prices of essential requirements of the zamindars would be controlled. Experience has shown that Government cannot get the requirements of the zamindars supplied at pre-war or at even reasonable prices. Nor will they ever be successful in doing so in future. I think control cannot be made effective even if the whole surplus budget is expended for the purpose. If inspite of that, control is imposed, things will go to black market and my friends are fully aware how that market operates. There are many articles which are essential for the zamindars but Government have failed to supply those articles to them. It is therefore required that control should not be imposed. If, however, Government cannot do without controlling the prices of food-grains then efforts should be made to see that prices in different provinces do not vary very much. Recently the price of gram was Rs. 8 in the Punjab and the price of the same article in Calcutta was Rs. 18 per maund. This is very unreasonable. The middleman should not be allowed to have so much profit. If Government want to put an end to corruption, it is its primary duty to see that the middleman gets the minimum of profit. At present the amount of profit allowed to middlemen is very great and that is the reason why large bribes are offered to Government officers by traders to get permits for exporting food-grains from the Punjab to deficit areas corruption cannot stop so long as the difference between prices prevailing at different places is not substantially reduced and the profits of middlemen after making allowances for transit charges are not cut down to the minimum. Rather it will become rampant. Consequently the control will not prove effective at all. If the profit of middlemen is reduced and the prices of foodstuffs in surplus and deficit areas are so fixed that they are not allowed to differ very much it will not only benefit the people but also it would lead to the putting down of corruption to the extent of 75 per cent. So long as middlemen get profits at the rate at which they are getting now, corruption will remain rampant. At present it is the order of the day. I do not want to say anything against any particular officer. But this much I must submit that on account of imposition of price control and because of restrictions on the movement of grains from one place to another bribery has become very common. Traders in order to get permits for the export of food grains to deficit areas do not hesitate to give even such a big sum as Rs. 500 to the officer incharge of issuing such permits. A trader will not, for the life of him, give Rs. 500 to anybody if he is not sure that he would get ten times more profit than that. When a trader pays Rs. 500 for getting a permit he knows that he stands to gain a lot in the bargain. Thus the beoparies offer large sums of money to Government officers as illegal gratification for getting these permits. It is therefore my suggestion that the Punjab Government should impress on the Government of India that traders who export foodstuffs to other provinces should not be allowed to have more profit than say, one pice, two pice or at the most one anna in a rupee. If that is done then the traders would have less temptation to offer bribes to Government officers. The greater the profit allowed the greater will be the temptation to the traders to offer bribes for getting such permits. If the prices

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of foodstuffs do not vary very much in different provinces not only will bribery be reduced but also public at large would stand to gain. If my suggestion is adopted it would help in putting an end to corruption. It is a matter of great regret that there are not very many representatives of the zamindars in the central Assembly. Those of them who are there should have urged upon the Government of India not to impose price control. If, however, they could not do without price control, then this point should have been stressed that the zamindars should be allowed fair returns for their produce and also their essential requirement be supplied at reasonable prices. The Punjab Government has agreed to impose price control here on this condition. But what is actually the case? The zamindars are not getting their requirements at all, let alone getting them at reasonable prices. It is the duty of the Punjab

11 a.m.

Government to move the Government of India and to procure cement, iron and other articles needed by the zamindars in sufficient quantities and thus make good the promise made by them in their notification. In spite of their promise these articles have not made their appearance in the market, and this has caused great hardship to the agriculturists. The sooner these articles are procured for them the better it will be for the Government or else the people would lose all confidence in them. Every Government must gain the confidence of the masses if they do not want to jeopardise their very existence. The present Government must fulfil the promises they make with the people if they wish to remain in office. The practice of the Central Government in disregarding its own promises, as has been the case with regard to the control on wheat, should not be followed here. The zamindar is no doubt very simple minded and can be easily deceived by false promises but it will not be possible to deceive him for long. If the present Government wish to keep his allegiance they would be well advised to procure for him his essential requirements. In case that is not done the day is not far off when he would have lost all confidence in this Government.

I would now like to say a few words in respect of the control on oilseeds. The Punjab Government have recently imposed restrictions on the export of oilseeds which has caused a sharp fall in their prices. At a time when the next crop is expected the institution of control on oilseeds by a Government which claims to be the well-wisher of the zamindar is on the face of it very reprehensible. Before the restriction was placed, on the 14th of February the price of *sarson* and *toria* stood at about Rs. 14 per maund but now, when the crop is coming shortly, the price has come down to Rs. 10 per maund. I fail to understand the necessity or the motive which actuated the imposition of restriction on oilseeds unless it was an order from the Central Government which was obediently given effect to by the Punjab Government. Of all the classes of people in the country the zamindars from the most important section which is making an all out effort for the successful prosecution of the war. They are in the fore in making contributions to the various war funds; they are second to none in furnishing recruits for the army. Yet they are the hardest hit as far as the high handedness of the Government is concerned. It passes all comprehension that the Government should even go to the length of losing face in the treatment of other sections of the population but mete out a step-motherly treatment to the zamindars whose cause they claim to espouse. With regard to the control on cloth three extensions have been given to the cloth dealers for the disposal of their stocks. This was done in spite of the fact that as compared to the prices of agricultural produce the prices of cloth had risen sky high. The

commercial community, being the most vocal section of the population, will certainly be able to get the prices of cloth fixed at a satisfactory level while the case of the zamindars will go by default. The Punjab Government have done a great harm to the cause of the zamindars. They held out a definite promise to the zamindars that they would oppose the imposition of any control at all costs, but eventually they succumbed to the guiles of the Central Government.

**Mian Muhammad Nurullah :** Government or a Minister of Government?

**Chaudhri Sumer Singh :** The Government as a whole or a single minister is one and the same thing because the principle of joint responsibility applies. A greater harm could never have been done to the zamindars and to condone it or to compensate the zamindars for the loss suffered by them is well nigh impossible. If, in the matter of control on wheat the Government had to agree in the end why did they not inform the agriculturists of this province accordingly so that they could release their stocks? The effect of withholding wheat from the market was even felt by the Government at the time of sowing the next crops. Instead of purchasing approved seed from the Government farms they were obliged to make use of the stocks lying with them and thereby the Government suffered a loss of Rs. 8 per maund. All this is due to that policy of the Central Government which has been thrust upon us with the consent of our own Government. If the Government are unable to afford protection to the zamindars they would do well to relinquish office and let Mian Abdul Aziz and his friends occupy those benches. When they cannot benefit the zamindars there is no point in their hugging those seats. (*An honourable member :* Why does not the honourable member cross over to this side of the House?) As very little time remains I would humbly request the Government that if they must impose control on wheat they should at least see that the requirements of the peasants in the Punjab are made available to them. If they cannot do that they should better have nothing to do with any control at all.

Now I come to the most recent prank of the Government with which the people of this province are going to be afflicted. I speak of food rationing which has found a zealous advocate in the person of my honourable friend Sardar Sohan Singh Josh. I beg to submit that the Punjab is a surplus province in so far as food grains go and, therefore, there does not seem to be any justification for the inauguration of this scheme here. Do the Government intend to make a second Bengal of this province where 35 lakhs of lives were lost recently? For this terrible catastrophe the policy of the Bengal Government was responsible and if the Punjab Government pursue their policy of rationing here; conditions very similar to those in Bengal may have to be faced in this province as well. If rationing is started here all the labourers that come from rural areas to work in Lahore would find it practically impossible to live on a ration of 8 *chhatanks* of wheat flour which is proposed to be given daily. Those who devised this scheme eat enough fruits and pastries in the course of the 4 meals and they do not know that this ration of 8 *chhattanks* per day does not suffice for a person whose only diet is the single meal that he takes during the day.

**Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh :** But food rationing is meant for urban areas only.

**Chaudhri Sumer Singh :** Sir, I know that the Government intends to start rationing in cities, but can you imagine for a moment what will be the lot of poor labourers in the cities? I can without any hesitation declare that they will have to face hundred and one difficulties. They will not be able to get



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their required food as easily as it is desired. They will have to move over to villages. Picture to yourself, Sir, for a moment that they will have to work in the cities and will have to look for their rations in the villages. The Government should ask the Government of India to take our surplus only. How miserable is our plight that we grow and produce everything but are not permitted to consume it to our satisfaction! Rationing will be equal to a forced famine in our province. Its working will require a heavy machinery which means again corruption and bribery. Government can utilise this money which it intends to spend over rationing in suppression of corruption. You can contribute the money to many other beneficent schemes which will directly improve the lot of poor people. Rationing should not be adopted at all.

**Mian Abdul Aziz :** Exports should be made after providing enough for our domestic consumption.

**Chaudhri Sumer Singh :** Control and rationing should not be accepted at all. Control and restrictions over the export of oil-seeds to Delhi have worsened the situation in the Ambala Division. We used to export oil-seeds to Delhi and it was a nice market for our produce. Now the Government has prohibited the export to Delhi. Before these restrictions were imposed, bullock-carts and camel-carts used to carry load at the rate of six annas per maund and now it has come down to two annas per maund. Restrictions are imposed in those areas where wagons are needed for official needs. I am sure that there is no need for any restriction in that area. It has affected sarsoon and toria enormously. I fail to understand why Delhi is considered part and parcel of the Punjab for all purposes except this. I recommend that these restrictions be immediately withdrawn and Delhi be given the same consideration as in other matters.

I hear that the prices are going to be controlled and rationing is going to be adopted. If the Government seriously takes up these schemes then, believe me, Sir, our Grow More Food Campaign will be directly hindered. Prices give great impetus to the agriculturists and in the face of these restrictions, they will grow such crops which will fetch them handsome returns. Food crops will lose every commercial interest and its production will fall enormously. I know that the Ordinance is there to come to the rescue, but who can guarantee its practicability? Can the Government requisition every field and manage it successfully? The Government should not under or over-value things. Realities should be faced seriously. Rationing is liable to cause much inconvenience to the families of those soldiers who are serving in the army abroad. Their families will write to them about the hardships and their minds will be much affected. Thus it will slacken down their spirits.

**Mian Abdul Aziz :** Letters are censored and such letters will be stopped.

**Chaudhri Sumer Singh :** If no letter reaches them, that too will cause anxiety in their minds.

Now I want to say something about the consolidation of holdings. Consolidation of holdings is very essential for the progress of agriculture. Generally our zamindars possess 40 or 30 bighas of land and a majority do not possess more than 10 to 20 bighas of land. If one happens to possess a piece of land in a consolidated form, he will be in a position to build his hut there, keep cattle and be in a position to put maximum of labour and care and be able to get the best of results.

Boring of wells too needs our direct attention. Owing to war conditions pipes are not available. This big department is doing nothing and getting its pay all right. The Government should either make arrangements for pipes or should see that money is not wasted over this department. The services of these men may be utilized for some other purpose. So far as boring of tube-wells is concerned, I wish to point out that boring charges are demanded from the department at the outset. I really fail to understand why boring charges should be demanded by the department when it fails to construct any well. The first and foremost thing which the Government claims to be the well-wisher of the poor zamindars, is this that payments in connection with the boring charges should be demanded after the complete construction of the wells. (*An honourable member*: Payments should be made subject to the satisfactory work done.) Now-a-days the policy of the department is to charge people for boring tube-wells even though it may fail to set up a tube-well. I would request the Honourable Minister-in-charge to come to the rescue of the people and thus save them from making any payment whatsoever before the completion of the well boring. Further the Honourable Minister should see for himself that no boring charges are made in case the department fails to construct the wells due to some unavoidable circumstances.

Further, I wish to make a few submissions in regard to services in the department, where agriculturist and non-agriculturist Hindus are under-represented. There are six posts of Extra Assistant Directors vacant in the department. (*An honourable member*: Is it not a communal question?) It is for the House to decide whether this question is a communal question. I wish to submit that there are at present six posts vacant in the department. These vacancies should be filled by Hindus whether they be agriculturists or non-agriculturists. It has been the policy of the Government to make appointments according to the Block system that is, 50—30—20. What I wish to submit is this that vacancies should not be filled by making appointments from one community alone, but all the communities should be given their due share.

Then I wish to make some observations in regard to B class Agricultural Assistants. It is a matter of gratification that the salary of the Agricultural Assistants has been enhanced from Rs. 55 per month to Rs. 80 per month. I wish to submit that nothing has been done in the case of Agricultural Assistants who have passed the leaving certificate examination class from Lyallpur and are serving the department for the last fifteen or twenty years. So far as these qualified people are concerned, I wish to submit that some of them are efficient and experienced officers. In fact they are better than the graduates who have studied for four years to get B. Sc. degree. So far their grades have not been revised and they are lingering on their old grade for the last fifteen years. I wish to suggest that in view of their efficiency and experience their grades should be revised. If the Government feels that they really deserve enhanced pay, then it should not hesitate to do something substantial for them. In the end I would request the Government not to make any distinction whatsoever while making appointments. With these words, Sir, I move the cut motion for the consideration of the house.

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

That the demand be reduced by Rs. 100.

**Mian Muhammad Nurullah** (Lyallpur, Muhammadan, Rural) (*Urdu*): The honourable mover of the cut motion, now before the House, has dealt with ten or fifteen points at length. I also wanted to give expression to my thoughts

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at length, but due to short time at my disposal I will try to be very brief in laying before the House some three or four points.

First of all, I wish to make a few observations in regard to the pending appointment of the Principal of the Agricultural College at Lyallpur. In this connection I wish to submit that a resolution appended with the signature of my honourable friends sitting on this side of the House was forwarded to the Government to the effect that the Principal of the Agricultural College, a unique institute of its kind of Northern India, should be an Indian and that no 'white man' should be brought from outside. I wish to urge upon the Government to fill this vacancy from amongst the present staff of the College. There is no doubt about it that among the present staff of the College there are highly qualified, efficient and experienced professors belonging to all the communities. At present there are five highly qualified departmental heads in the College controlling five sections including a Hindu, a Muslim and a Sikh. I really fail to understand why any of these should not be made the Principal especially when they are highly qualified and competent. In this connection I wish to submit that these highly qualified and competent professors also agreed amongst themselves that any one of them be appointed and he will have the full co-operation and confidence of the others. They only wished that the vacancy be filled by appointing some one from amongst them and no outsider be thrust upon them. I would like to submit that in no case should a person be called from outside when qualified and experienced men are already there. I have been given to understand that none of these would be appointed on the ground that the three senior officers of the College (one Hindu, one Muslim and one Sikh) though fully qualified and competent are all specialists in their lines, and as such not fit to be raised to the post of the Principal of the College. This is a thing to which I take strong objection. It really illbehoves the Government to advance an argument to the effect that no selection would be made from amongst these three qualified professors because of their being specialists in their respective subjects. I wish to bring this point home to my honourable friends that in an institution of this kind all are specialists in their subjects which are technical but they are fully qualified as teachers. For instance, let us take Engineering or Fruit preservation. So far as these technical subjects are concerned, I wish to submit that Government had made the experiment of appointing a wholetime Principal. In spite of his being a respectable oldhand he proved a failure. He had a very uncomfortable time indeed and made a mess of the affairs of the institution. The argument advanced by the Government that no appointment would be made from amongst the competent professors cannot be commended. Most respectfully I request the Minister incharge that he should give a careful consideration to this important matter and must not disappoint the present staff by bringing a 'whiteman' from outside. I have no doubt that among the present staff of the College there are competent men belonging to all communities. The three heads of the various sections, a Hindu, a Muslim and a Sikh are available and there is no reason why anyone of them should not be raised to be a Principal. And if they come to know that none of them would ever become Principal they will never take pains in performing their duties. Naturally their work will get slack. I ask, if Indians can be Ministers and run the administration of the province why cannot an Indian be appointed as Principal of the College? If the Government are really going to appoint some whiteman, I say, it will be nothing but self-condemnation. Do they think that a Britisher will be an all-rounder and he will be better able to look after the boys and the staff? Is it

possible that a non-expert will ever be able to control the College? Having failed in the experiment Government should desist from it. Encouragement should be given to those who deserve it. I am confident that a man appointed as principal from the College staff will prove more successful than any one appointed from outside. In America and England specialists are preferably appointed to such posts and they are right in doing so. The only honourable course to maintain the efficiency of the institution is to appoint an Indian from amongst the present staff.

Since the inauguration of reforms of 1920-21 the expenditure of agriculture has risen from 82 lakhs to 125 lakhs and this expenditure is being incurred out of the realised amount of land revenue. Now the question arises—Do the Zamindars get full return from this expenditure? Let us see what work has been done by this department in the presence of such huge expenditure?

**Sayad Amjad Ali Shah :** This is not the expenditure of one department only but of three departments collectively.

**Mian Muhammad Nurullah :** I am sorry. I stand corrected. In the Memorandum to the Budget these Rs. 125 lakhs are shown as the expenditure of the three departments; Agriculture, Veterinary and Co-operation. Anyhow this expenditure has risen by four times.

**Sayad Amjad Ali Shah :** Now it is Rs. 75,26,000.

**Mian Muhammad Nurullah :** Yes. This is what I am saying. It has reached the tune of  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a crore. The benefit is incommensurate with the expenditure. That is why I am going to suggest to the Minister incharge that such experiments should be made as will really benefit the zamindars. Apart from this, certain five or seven years schemes should also be started so as to make the zamindars feel that the Government is really their wellwisher and only then they will not grudge this expenditure incurred. As the House is aware, in certain villages holdings have become very uneconomical. Something must be done in respect to them. If the Government were to make experiments say on a particular Rajbah so that all the lands be tilled collectively by machinery and the zamindars work and labour as partners in the business, great reforms will be carried out to the benefit of all concerned. All this is possible provided collective farms are established by the Government and I am sure that with the help of collective farms a zamindar making Rs. 100 per acre will be able to raise his income up to Rs. 250 per acre. Only then this heavy expenditure may be considered justifiable by the zamindars.

Then, Sir, another difficulty has cropped up. Zamindars are in a fix at present as there is plenty of cotton lying at their disposal and they do not know at what rate they should dispose it off. Even they have not made up their minds as yet as to whether it should be sold or not. The Government knows this difficulty very well but is sleeping over it. No expert agency whatsoever has been established by the Government so far with a view to giving a proper and timely advice to the zamindars who are anxiously waiting for it. I am confident if such an agency comes to the rescue of the zamindars at the present moment and tell them the proper time for disposing off their commodity the zamindars will stand to gain. It may be argued from the other side that there is no need of such agency since the Minister incharge tells people on his tour while addressing his meetings that at such and such rate they should dispose off their commodities. But may I stress my point by saying that this is not a scientific way of managing things. A Minister can say these things with individual or

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joint responsibility, but so far as scientific adjustment of prices is concerned it is simply side-tracking. Need demands that there should be set up a permanent expert agency to advise the zamindars to sell their produce at the right moment and to make the best of it: A Minister has been the cause of loss to many by giving wrong advice. It is regrettable that no such agency has come into existence so far. Of course, one thing of this type is existing which I do not think it is worth while mentioning. The prices are announced on the All-India Radio. This is nothing but an eye wash as the rates announced are generally of two markets; Amritsar and Lyallpur. But in this respect we do not get information based on well balanced opinion of some experts. There is nothing of the sort although we do feel that there must be an expert agency to enlighten the people in time in respect of future rate of prices of various commodities in hand. But, as most of us are well aware of the fact that the factories are going to close and the price of cotton has fallen down from Rs. 23 to Rs. 20, zamindars are in a fix.

(An honourable member. It is due to loading difficulties.) My point is that the Government which boast to be the wellwishers of the zamindars ought to see that the troubles and hardships which a zamindar has to face are removed, may they be due to loading difficulties or otherwise. As far as we sitting on these benches are concerned, we have been continuously asking and suggesting different ways and means to the Minister incharge with a view to accelerate the further advancement of Agricultural industry in the province. We have also been dinning into the ears of the Government that by giving impetus to agricultural industry they could greatly add to the wealth of the province. There are villages where zamindars own more than 400 buffaloes. These zamindars are making profit by only one way that is by making ghee out of this large quantity of milk and selling it at the nearest town. They have never been told as to what else could be made out of milk, except ghee. It will not be out of place to mention here that even cream, butter, ghee and cheese are by-products of milk and you will be surprised to know that even from *seperata* lakhs of rupees can be earned. By a certain manufacturing process we can get very expensive things like casein and lactos (sugar of milk) which is selling at the rate of Rs. 12 a lb. I am sorry to say that the Government by avoiding an expenditure of a few thousand rupees is wasting very expensive by-products of milk. This has always been my contention that industry and agriculture should go hand in hand and the Government should always keep it in view that zamindars can only prosper by agricultural industry. (An honourable member: There is one factory of this kind at Ahmadabad.) This is what I am driving at. It is a pity that we do not find such factories for producing casein and lactos in our province. Our Government is ready to spend 75 lakhs on agriculture but would hesitate to invest 15 thousand rupees in setting up a factory in the province which would add to the agricultural wealth of the province. This is simply as the maxim goes—penny wise and pound foolish.

But here matters of altogether different nature are raised and encouraged by the Government. Instead of tackling the problems of high importance, the questions discussed here are, as my honourable friend, Chaudhri Sumer Singh was discussing just now, that in a particular branch of Government service there were two Hindus and seven Muslims. We ignore that actually in matters of promotions, the fixed ratio of 50 per cent cannot be maintained. But we go on

discussing such flimsy cases. Why? Because higher and broader problems of development are never placed by the Government before the public.

I have tried to lay before the House as well as the Government some of the suggestions that can lead to the development of our agricultural wealth in the province. My view, as I have already pointed out in the course of my speech is that agriculture and industry should go hand in hand. I hope the Government will try to carefully consider and put into practice what I have said in this connection. With these words, Sir, I beg to close my speech.

**Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh** (Western Towns, Sikh, Urban) : Sir, let me say at the outset that the Agriculture Department is the department in which the achievements of the Punjab Government stand out very prominently. The research work carried out at the Lyallpur Agricultural College, of which the Punjab is proud, in evolving new and improved varieties of cotton, sugarcane, rice, wheat and fodder crops, has, at a modest calculation, added nearly 5 crores annually to the wealth of the province. We have now improved varieties of cotton, such as, L. S. S., 124F, K25 and 199F and similarly in sugarcane we have Coimbatore, 812, 421, and in wheat 591 and 518. In cotton, I think the Punjab is producing the finest quality ever produced anywhere in India. Nearly 75 per cent of the area under cotton, sugarcane and different varieties of wheat is now under improved varieties. I must say that this is a marked achievement. But with all that, the yield per acre has not appreciably gone up. I will prove this contention of mine by quoting some figures with regard to the yield in this province as compared with the yield in other countries. In 1936-37, the average yield of wheat per acre was 9.8 maunds and in 1940-41, the average yield was 9.2 maunds. *Kapas*—the average yield per acre in 1936-37 was 7.2 maunds and in 1940-41 it was 6.6 maunds; then sugarcane—in 1936-37, the yield was 22.8 maunds of *gur* and in 1940-41 it was 23.3 maunds of *gur* as against an average of 40 maunds per acre in the whole of India. (*Sayed Amjad Ali Shah* : It is a good case for fertilisers.) That is what I am going to say. Now, if we take the case of some other countries, we will see that in the case of wheat, the average yield in United States of America is 10.2 maunds per acre, in Russia 11.6 maunds, in Argentine 11.7, not a very appreciable increase, but anyway higher than what we have in the Punjab including all the canal colonies. But the increase is very much more marked in the case of cotton and sugarcane. In the case of unginned cotton the average yield in United States of America is 9.6 maunds per acre, in Egypt it is 18.3 maunds per acre, in Peru it is 16.8 maunds per acre. In the case of sugarcane, in Hawaii, the average is 177.3 maunds of *gur* per acre, in Java it is 125 to 150 maunds of *gur* per acre. What is the reason of this deterioration, in the average yield per acre in our province, in spite of improved varieties? To my mind there are two principal reasons. One is that sufficient attention has not been paid to fighting crop diseases and secondly, that practically nothing has been done and no effort whatsoever has been made towards increasing the fertility of the soil. Taking number one, all the zamindars know that cotton crop suffers almost every year from a number of diseases. It suffers in one year by an attack of Jassid or whitefly, in another year there is *tirak*. I fully realise that something is being done in this direction, but the only remedy suggested so far has been that of late sowing of cotton crops. Late sowing of cotton crop has certain advantages in certain areas, but it has at the same time got certain disadvantages. It has, undoubtedly proved beneficial, for example, in Multan district. But this does not solve our problem. My honourable friends know that this year the lint percentage of cotton has gone down by 8 to 10 per cent

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throughout the province. I have experience of practically all the colony districts and I know that lint percentage is less by one seer and a quarter per maund of *kapas*. What does that mean? It means a loss of about one lakh bales of cotton, or 8 annas per maund of *kappas*. If you calculate that, it will come to nearly 2 crores of rupees. Nobody has tried to find out the reasons. It is the business of the Agriculture Department to find out the reasons and remove the defects. I know that in certain types of cotton the lint percentage has considerably increased. Unless you establish certain factors that determine the lint percentage, you will not be able to help the zamindars very appreciably. This is one side of the problem. Now, coming to the fertility of the soil as I have already shown, the average yield per acre has not increased during the last 4 or 5 years. The chief reason is that no attention has been paid to fertilizers and manures of different kinds. I have in my hand some of the experiments that were carried on by the Agricultural Department. They remained only experiments as they were not carried on in the fields on a commercial scale but they clearly show the extent of the good work that lies before the Government in this direction. By applying small doses of ammonium sulphate, and Sodium nitrates say 3 or 4 maunds per acre, the increase in sugarcane in one case was 11 maunds per acre, in another case it was 13 maunds, and in yet another case 18 maunds. In the case of cotton the increase was 7 maunds of *kappas* in one case and 10·8 maunds of *kappas* in another case, giving a net extra profit of Rs. 56 per acre.

**Minister of Development :** What is the cost of ammonium sulphate ?

**Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh :** Ammonium sulphate was Rs. 5 per maund before the war.

**Sayed Amjad Ali Shah :** The prewar cost of cotton ?

**Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh :** The price of cotton was taken at Rs. 8 per maund, a fairly low price. This definitely indicates great scope for the work in the Agricultural Department. If we can by applying say 3 or 4 maunds of ammonium sulphate increase the yield of cotton by 7 or 10 maunds, a net extra profit of Rs. 56 per acre, you can imagine the total amount of wealth you will be adding to the province. I should like to lay great emphasis on this point and draw the attention of my honourable friend the Development Minister to the immense scope of useful work in this direction. I realize that ammonium sulphate is not the only kind of fertiliser. I know that in some parts of the country they are using oil cakes in heavy doses. In these experiments the Agricultural Chemist, Punjab, has only tried small doses of sulphate. He has not gone beyond that. Now, if you go beyond that you will find that by applying heavy doses of fertiliser you might get even better results. I know what at Nalchandnagar they have done in the case of sugarcane; they have spent Rs. 250 per acre on fertilisers and have gained about Rs. 500 extra profit per acre: their yield of sugarcane has gone up by 26 to 30 tons. Besides this artificial fertiliser, you must explore the possibility of using the oil cakes, cotton seed cakes or toria cakes. There is another form of manure which is obtained from the green manuring crops like Guara and hemp. This is the cheapest form of manure. Those zamindars who take any interest in farming know that in spite of best efforts they are confronted with the great difficulty in the way of remission from the Irrigation Department. The subordinate officials of the Irrigation Department are very reluctant in granting the sanctioned remission on the green manuring crops. This question has been brought to the notice of the Director of

Agriculture many a time and I hope this will be taken up by the Agricultural Department, because on a large scale it is the only form of fertiliser that the zamindars can adopt.

With regard to cotton cakes and oil seed cakes, experiments should be carried on. While I am on this subject, I am very sorry to say that the Government is not encouraging the use of oil cakes. I think they should not only encourage the use of oil cakes but try to encourage the oil industry. I know of cases in which the Government has stopped the export of oil to any province even the neighbouring province of North-West Frontier Province. I do not see any reason why the export of oil should be prohibited or banned. I am extremely sorry to say that when this complaint was brought to the notice of the authorities instead of paying any attention to it they treated the gentleman who saw them in that connection in a most insulting manner. This is a matter to which the Minister of Development should pay special attention.

Now I come to another important subject. As some of my honourable friends know, in 1928 a comparatively small area was under fruit gardens: it was about 50,000 acres. In 1944 it stands at about a lakh of acres, but from the way in which the Punjabis have taken to fruit culture I feel certain that in the next few years the area will be doubled if not trebled. This increase in the area under fruit gardening is a very welcome sign, but at the same time it creates certain problems, the problem of marketing, the problem of disposal of inferior fruits and the problem of bye-products. If you have surplus fruit, unless you are in a position to utilize the bye-products, the industry will not be a success. Apart from it the fruit industry and fruit culture have problems entirely different from those of ordinary agriculture particularly in the matter of fruit diseases which are entirely different from the diseases of ordinary crops. Then there is the question of budding. The new method of budding of mangoes is of very great importance and I think it will bring a lot of area under mango fruit. All these problems can be successfully tackled by specialists. I know that the Agricultural Department is doing a good deal in this respect, but unless the fruit section is strengthened and unless you provide more men, who are trained in fruit culture, you will not be able to help the zamindar to any great extent. Personally I think the time has come when a separate horticulture department should be established, separate from the Agriculture Department, because horticulture in itself is a big subject, and with the increase of area under fruit and the different fruit industries that are likely to be established, there should be a separate department to deal with the whole matter. So far as I know in certain countries, for example Egypt, California and the advanced state of Mysore in India, they have got a separate department of horticulture quite separate from the Agriculture Department. I hope that the Development Minister will consider this problem in a sympathetic manner. If for certain reasons, on financial grounds or some other administrative grounds, it may not be considered feasible to have a separate horticulture department, at any rate the fruit section should be considerably strengthened so that the zamindars may be able to get full and free advice from the fruit specialists.

The next matter to which I would like to invite the attention of my honourable friend is the appointment of the Principal of the Agricultural College, Lyallpur. As I have already stated the Punjab takes legitimate pride in this research institution of the Agricultural Department. It is, I think, the best equipped agricultural institution in the whole of India. I am fully conscious of the fact that the head of such an institution should be a competent and a suitable person who may do credit to



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the institution. Having said all that, may I ask whether any effort has been made to find a competent man from amongst the staff of the college or is it that it has been decided to import an outsider? Why is it that a rumour is afloat that the Government is considering the appointment of a European who does not belong to the Punjab service at all, as the Principal of this institution? I am told that one of the reasons for this is that the Government is anxious that an all-rounder and not a specialist should be the Principal of this College. In my opinion, jack of all trades is master of none and if a person is an all-rounder he will be no good as a research scholar or as a teacher and if he is not a good research scholar and a teacher, I am sure honourable members will agree with me that he will have practically nothing to do in the College and will be getting two thousand rupees a month for nothing. If you look to the previous history of the Principal of this College you will find that eminent scientists who were specialists were appointed. Sir William Roberts was a botanist, Mian Afzal Hussain who proved to be a great success was an entomologist and the present Principal is a botanist. How can you say that because a person is a specialist he will not prove a good Principal. In any case I strongly stress this point that in no case should a man be imported from outside and some one from the College staff should be appointed. You have on the staff men who have earned great reputation as research scholars and as teachers and there is no reason why an opportunity should not be given to them.

Now I come to the subject which was referred to by my friend, Mian Nurullah and Chaudhri Sumer Singh, that is, the subject of prices. That is a very delicate subject. I know that in so far as food grains are concerned the requirements of the poor must be taken into consideration because after all every poor man, whatever his condition takes the same amount of food, if not more, as a well-to-do man does. For that reason the prices of food grains should be on a level which should enable the poor to buy their requirements. On the other hand it should also be taken into consideration that the prices should not be so low as to discourage the grower to grow them. If you were to lower the prices considerably, the result will be that the grower will switch on to some other crop which would give him better return. The prices should be such as to give him a reasonable profit and steps should also be taken so as to assure him those prices for a certain number of years. It is well known that while the price of wheat in the Punjab declined to Re. 1-8-0 a maund, in no other country of the world the price of that commodity was allowed to go so low. The Government in other countries at once came to the rescue of the growers and gave subsidies. They gave subsidies in Australia, in Canada in England and every where but in this country nothing was done. If the Government wants that the Grow More Food campaign should be a success they must assure a reasonable price to the zamindars for a certain number of years. I remember when the Sukkur Barrage Scheme was introduced I had an occasion to talk to Mr. Boyd who was then the Financial Commissioner. He said that he was very much apprehensive about the wheat crop of the Punjab and was of the opinion that we would not be able to dispose of our wheat, and so it happened. Some of us had to burn wheat in our boilers.

Now, I come to cotton prices. I do not see any reason why the price of cotton should be deliberately depressed by the Government. Honourable members might be knowing that the price of Jarila cotton went as high as Rs. 660 per candy last year and the Government brought it down to Rs. 550. At that time it was thought that Rs. 550 would be fixed as the minimum price.

On that basis the Government negotiated with millowners for the price of cloth. Having done that, the Government, to the surprise of cotton growers, fixed Rs. 400 as the minimum price and Rs. 550 as the maximum. I would like to invite the attention of the House to what was done in the United States of America in this respect. In America the price fixed at which the Government was prepared to buy cotton on loan was 106 per cent of the 1939 price—the pre-war price whereas here the Government fixed Rs. 400 which represented an increase of 67 per cent over the August 1939 price. In other words the Government here fixed a much lower price of cotton than was done in the United States of America. In Egypt the price fixed in 1942-43 was 50 per cent higher than that fixed in 1940-41 while here having fixed a much lower price the Government took another step; they allowed shipping facilities for the import of foreign cotton. They sent a delegation to Egypt for buying cotton from there; they afforded facilities for the import of cotton from East Africa and from other countries. Mill owners here are the only buyers of Indian cotton. We have lost all foreign markets. There is no export, practically none whatsoever. In spite of this the grower has to face other difficulties.

**Minister of Development :** Has the honourable member got definite information that cotton has been imported into India ?

**Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh :** My honourable friend should know that Mr. Ram Chandra led a delegation for buying cotton in Egypt.

**Minister of Development :** My information is that this was denied in the Central Assembly.

**Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh :** As a member of the Central Cotton Committee I am in possession of correct information. I shall communicate it to the Honourable Minister.

Another factor intervened. Loading facilities were denied practically for about a month in the Punjab and I am sure my honourable friends here will bear me out that in the market towns not a bale of cotton was allowed to be transported for over a month. This created further slump with the result that cotton came down by about Rs. 100 a candy. The greatest fall was in the long staple cotton. It was selling at Rs. 25 a maund of *kapas* before and then came down to Rs. 19 or Rs. 20. I understand it is now selling at a still lower rate. On the one hand the Government is trying to encourage long staple cotton and on the other by certain manipulations Government is trying to depress the price of cotton. That is a matter to which I wish to draw pointed attention of the Honourable Minister. (*Sayed Amjad Ali Shah :* Which Government ?) The Development Minister can take up this matter with the Government of India. He must look to the prosperity of the people of this province. It is his business to see that the grower gets a fair price. He must therefore make strong representations to the Government of India. There is another matter to which I wish to draw attention. If the Government is trying to depress prices in one way or another by stopping the export of seeds and oil or by not providing facilities of transport of cotton and food grains, it must at the same time provide those facilities to the zamindars by which they can reduce their cost of cultivation. I know very well that the Punjab Government has been pressing this point on the Government of India. I also know that the Government of India promised a big quantity of steel for the manufacture of agricultural implements. But may I ask the Honourable Minister whether he has been able to procure that quantity of steel from the Government of India ? If so, when is he going to place these implements in the market at a lower rate ? (*Interruption*) May be after two years,

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I do not know. He has got a very good case to press upon the Government of India. If the Government of India wants to control prices of food grains it must also make good the promise of providing adequate quantity of steel for the manufacture of implements so that the zamindar may also get his requirements at a low rate.

I know that the trend of the Government is to depress prices as much as possible; and the public in general and the urban public in particular is also very much favourably inclined. But we must also see that while we may secure low prices we do not forget the results of depression of 1930 and 1931. I am sure that the problems of depression and low prices will be far more serious and more complicated than the problems of inflation. It must also be remembered that the present prosperity of the trader, the businessman and the manufacturer is due to the prosperity of the agricultural masses who have now got greater purchasing power. By all means have the prices at a reasonable level, but if once the prices fall, we do not know to what depths they will go. The consequence will be unemployment and poverty. In order to save this province from that sort of catastrophe there must be some sort of plan. We must plan ahead for ten years as to what crops to go, to what extent and what alternative crops to go. For instance, wheat and groundnut can be alternative rabi crops. Experiments on different soil must be carried on on a fairly large scale. Unless this is done we will be faced with a very serious problem after the war.

Then again, markets must be provided for our raw produce. The present big demand for agricultural produce due to war will disappear after the war and we will have to face the problems of peace. Unless market facilities are provided for agricultural goods, there will be a slump. We cannot depend on foreign markets. Unless markets are created in this country itself it may not be possible to dispose of all the raw materials that we may produce with fertilisers and extensive irrigation. For that purpose we must try to set up small industries, cottage industries and subsidiary industries and also large scale industries so that all our raw materials may be consumed in this country, not entirely in this province but in the whole of India. The purchasing power of the people must also be raised; and this can be done only by producing more wealth from land and industries. Unless industrial and agricultural development go hand in hand we will be faced with such problems as will be difficult of solution. I would therefore stress this point to my honourable friend the Minister that he must think ahead, chalk out a plan for about ten years, have a different plan for different crops. It will be only thus that he will be able to promote the prosperity of this province.

**Khan Sahib Chaudhri Pir Muhammad** (South-East Gujrat, Muhammadan, Rural) (*Urdu*): Sir, at the outset I want to acknowledge the meritorious and distinguished services of the Department of Agriculture. If I do not do so I will not be doing my duty. I will not be mistaken if I admit that this department has revolutionised agriculture in our province. The method of improved seeds have added crores of rupees to our provincial wealth. I can easily say that income earned by these improved methods of agriculture is many times more than what we pay in the form of land revenue. Last night a friend of mine asked me, what is the use of this department? I explained to him how different were the returns from Indian cotton, L-Es type and American cotton. Many ignorant people really believe that these officers do nothing more than touring about here or there. My assertion is this that if we increase the

existing staff by ten times more, even then it will be useful and it will not be useless burden to our coffers. I know for certain that the present propaganda is absolutely insufficient. The demonstration staff must be strengthened. One Mukdam in each district is appointed and he is totally incapable of doing as much good as is desired. I demand that in each tahsil one Agricultural Assistant and in each Zail one Mukdam should be appointed. The deficiency in the staff keeps the zamindars quite unaware of the latest improvements in agriculture. On my retirement when I reached my village I came to know that people knew nothing about this department. I invited the attention of this department and now they visit it regularly and due to their efforts new varieties of sugarcane like 312 type are grown. Demonstration parties have introduced new methods and every zamindar in my village can produce *shakkar* or *gur* himself without anybody's aid. Now we are producing wheat of 591 and 518 type. An honourable friend has just now reminded me that our forefathers too used to be zamindars and they too cultivated land in their times and produced crops all right. I will ask him, Sir, with all my respect for him to make a comparative study of income at different times. Then he himself will be in a position to decide for himself whether any difference does exist or not.

The size of our holdings is a great hindrance to progress. The Government has remedied it by starting consolidation of holdings. In previous days it was done without any compensation but now 8 annas per acre are charged. Our peasants are not well advanced and they deem this payment too heavy, therefore, I ask the Honourable Minister to abolish it and to continue the work on free of charge basis.

Recently a conference was held at Gujrat where the Deputy Director of Agriculture too was present and everybody present there laid stress on the increase of the agricultural staff. Until and unless we give publicity to the latest methods of agriculture with full vigour and gusto, the existing conditions cannot be improved at all. Demonstration farms are also needed badly. The Gujrat Demonstration Farm has been closed down and handed over to the Zamindara College. Although it was situated in a very poor soil yet it improved the lot of the crops. I personally think that a farm cannot work without the supervision of an Agricultural Assistant. A friend of mine said that these farms prove very expensive. He comes from Rawalpindi. Whenever I go to Murree or Rawalpindi I pay a visit to it. If the residents of Rawalpindi follow it, then I have no doubt that within a year or two their fortunes will be totally changed. I deem it a sin to speak against the Agriculture Department or its farms and I can, without any hesitation, declare that a visit to the Agricultural College of Lyallpur is a sort of pilgrimage. If zamindars go there annually at their own expense, they would find that the Principal and the staff take a keen interest in the agricultural research work and they would be glad to give useful information to them. Although at the present moment we do not realize that the research work, carried out at the Agriculture College, Lyallpur and the Government farm there, can be of much use to the zamindar, but as the zamindars come to know more of it they would find that it is of the greatest use to the agriculture of the province.

The next point to which I wish to draw the attention of the honourable members in general and the Honourable Minister of Development in particular is this, that the zamindars are not so prosperous as they are said to be. There is no doubt that wheat at present is being sold in the market at the rate of Rs. 10½ per maund. The House is aware of the fact that price control is going to be imposed on the coming harvest. In this connection I wish to point out that if

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the price of wheat is fixed at a rate below Rs. 10 per maund, I am afraid zamindars would not be able to make any profit by selling their wheat at lower rates. In fact zamindars are eagerly awaiting the decision of the Government in regard to the fixation of the price of wheat. In this connection I wish to point out that if the price of wheat is fixed at a rate below Rs. 10 per maund, I am afraid it would have very bad effect upon the agriculturists and there would be an agitation amongst the zamindars. I would like to request the Honourable Minister of Development to consider the point before arriving at some decision regarding the fixation of the price of wheat. There is a rumour afloat in the province to the effect that the price of rice would also be controlled by the Government and that the rumoured price would be Rs. 11 per maund. In this connection I wish to point out that I belong to that illaqa where rice is cultivated in a large scale. I wish to bring this point home to the Honourable Minister of Development that the rumoured price of rice, that is, Rs. 11 should be the price of unhusked rice. In fact the price of the superior quality of rice was never at such a low rate as Rs. 11 per maund. I wish to submit that in my district basmati is sold at the rate of  $1\frac{1}{2}$  seers per rupee and if against this the price of rice is fixed at Rs. 11 per maund zamindars would suffer to a great extent. I am given to understand that the price of coarse rice in the deficit provinces of Bengal and Assam where most of the commodities are imported from our province, is Rs. 16 per maund. And if the price of the same rice is fixed at the rate of Rs. 11 per maund in our province, I wish to submit that it will have very bad effect upon the zamindars and the kisans. So far as the cultivation of rice is concerned, I wish to submit that cultivation of rice is a very tough job. Usually those areas where rice is cultivated, are malarial-ridden areas. Every now and then the cultivators fall a prey to malaria. It is with great difficulty that they look after the growth of this crops. Not only this but these poor cultivators fall prey to other diseases as well. Under the circumstances the price of rice should be fixed much higher than the rumoured price of Rs. 11 per maund.

**Minister of Development :** Then what should be the price of rice ?

**Khan Sahib Chaudhri Pir Muhammad :** I think the price of large sized rice should be about Rs. 16 or Rs. 15.

The next point to which I wish to draw the attention of the House is concerning the agricultural implements. In this connection I wish to submit that I asked the Deputy Director of Agriculture, Rawalpindi, whether iron was made available in the market and in reply he said that iron might have come in the market. But I am sorry to hear from my honourable friends that no arrangements have so far been made in this direction. I would like to request the Government to make iron in general and the agricultural implements in particular available in the market.

Further I wish to make a few submissions in regard to the introduction of rationing in the Lahore city. Lahore is such a place where people from all over the province come to stay. Government proposes to fix 15 seers of wheat-atta for adults and  $7\frac{1}{2}$  seers for minors. In this connection I wish to submit that Lahore being the capital of the Punjab, large number of people from all over the province come and stay with their relatives or friends as guests for a long time. It will not be out of place to mention here that only a few stay in hotels. Under the circumstances it would be very difficult for the host to maintain a large number of guests in his house. In fact it would be very difficult for the host in Lahore to keep up their old and well established traditional hospitality. Moreover

honourable members of the House who often come to Lahore bring servants with them. Under the circumstances I really fail to understand how a person can afford maintaining a large number of guests with a monthly quota of 15 seers. I would suggest that every individual should be supplied 6 seers of wheat per week, that is, about 24 seers a month. I submit that there should be at least some margin for guests. I am given to understand that in the province of Sind 4 seers of wheat-atta have been fixed for every individual. According to the proposal regarding rationing in Lahore it is not possible to feed servants at the rate of 8 chhataks per day. My respectful submission is this that a labourer of the Punjab takes more quantity of wheat-atta than the labourer of Sind. Moreover the climate of Sind is not healthy like that of the Punjab and the people of Sind are not so healthy as the Punjabis are. Hence it is not in the fitness of things that Government should fix the same quota of wheat per head in the Punjab as has been done in the province of Sind. It is a well established fact that people in the Punjab consume a good quantity of wheat-atta at a time. Instances in this connection are not wanting. I have my own servant who consumes more than a seer at one time and such servants are found everywhere in the province. Under the circumstances I would request the Government to amend the proposed rationing scheme which fixes 15 seers a month of wheat-atta for an adult. So far as I am concerned, I wish to suggest that at least 24 seers of wheat-atta should be fixed per head per month.

There is one point to which I wish to draw the attention of the Government and that is concerning horticulture. There is some land surrounding Bura Walla Mundi. This land is very useful for gardening purposes. Government has already allotted plots of nine acres each to people. So far as these plots which have been allotted by the Government are concerned, I wish to submit that inferior kind of trees have been planted in these gardens. The result would be that these very trees would in due course of time bear fruits of inferior quality. In this connection I wish to submit that the land surrounding Bura Walla Mandi is very fertile. I also possess some land there. I wish to request the Government to establish demonstration farm in this area. Previously one Agricultural Assistant used to stay here but now no such assistant has been appointed who can offer suitable advice in the form of instruction, etc., to the people in connection with the planting of gardens. It is a matter of gratification that the Government has in comparison to the expenditure of last year enhanced its expenditure this year. Nowadays nursery plants are not made available to people and if at all they succeed in getting some plants from the nursery they are of inferior quality. Hence inferior fruits. So far as the nursery plants are concerned I wish to submit that I have a bitter experience about it. I have always been getting nursery plants from Agricultural Farms. But once I took a few lemon plants from Lahore, and I was much surprised and disappointed to find out that they were not lemon plants. By referring to this instance I mean to say that the Government should start a nursery in each and every district so that people interested in horticulture may not be cheated like this. It has been made clear that by getting nurseryplants from distant places no improvement can possibly be made in horticulture. However I have every hope that the Government who have been taking keen interest and spending more money on Agriculture Department than before, will also make serious efforts to comply with my wishes. Before I resume my seat, I would like to congratulate the Government once again for their praiseworthy efforts made in regard to agriculture and its improvement and I am also glad to remark that the amount earmarked for Agriculture Department in the Budget is very satisfactory.

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With these few remarks, Sir, I strongly oppose the cut motion.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan** (Ludhiana, Muhammadan, Rural) (Urdu) :

We have continuously been hearing from the Government benches that the present Government is a zamindara government. This boast has become a very old one and they have also been claiming themselves to be the well-wisher of the poor peasantry. My honourable friend Chaudhri Pir Muhammad has just now finished his speech in which he has congratulated the Government for the good deeds and satisfactory work done by the Agriculture Department for the poor peasants. But I am sorry to remark that the record of the Government on the agriculture side is very much disappointing and I can confidently say that the people who have kept a keen eye on the so-called good deeds of the Government would never say that the Government deserve congratulations of any kind. I would like to draw your attention to a provision made in the budget in respect of the Special Development Programme. An enormous amount of money to the extent of 8 lakhs of rupees has been provided for this item only. Now the question arises. Will it be useful and beneficial for the zamindars? In the light of previous experiences my reply must be in the negative. I say it can never be beneficial for the zamindars, because those who have benefited by what the Agriculture Department has done, are only a few big landlords on whose support the Ministry depends. But, as a matter of fact, this is a province where small landholders are in a majority and I would make bold to say that the Honourable Minister of Development has absolutely no interest in the Agriculture Department and he is being led astray by 'shopkeeper zamindars' like Sayed Amjad Ali Shah. I think my honourable friends are well aware of the fact that generally a shopkeeper zamindar is looked down upon by the public because a shopkeeper never leaves an opportunity to lay hands on the rights of *bona fide* zamindars. I may also submit, that the people of the mentality of Sayed Amjad Ali Shah would go on placing matters before the Minister in charge which would go a long way to benefit the big landlords and not the small landholders. This is what has been going on. The big landlords have been deriving benefit at the cost of petty zamindars while in fact it is the petty zamindars who suffer loss of every kind, may be due to hailstorm or some other catastrophe. Besides, a petty zamindar has to undergo other hardships like begar and bribing the officials for getting water and other facilities for agricultural purposes. To make false promises to zamindars and then to forget them has been the practice of the Government. Now I ask, with such a huge expenditure what work has been done by this department for the small landholders? The Government have not reduced the land revenue. Crops were damaged and the Government did not move a bit. Now what they have done is this. They say that it is on account of their efforts that zamindars are getting themselves recruited in the army. What a clean record they are showing us of the good work done by the Minister in charge. I say it is a thousand pities that on the one hand a huge amount of Rs. 10,000 have been spent on the construction of an Open-air Theatre in the Lawrence Gardens but on the other Agricultural Farms are conspicuous by their absence in the districts and no heed is being paid to our repeated requests. Is it not disgraceful for the Government who provide luxuries to the urbanites but do not afford protection to the suffering class of small landholders? I wonder, the Government is willing to spend more and more on Police and jails but not so much on Agriculture Department. I for one think that if the Government had known the hardships and troubles which zamindars are facing they would not have yielded to the strong fist of Lord Wavell. But they would have stuck

to their contention and pressed upon the Government of India to enforce price control on all the necessities of the zamindars such as iron, bricks, cement, etc., which are daily needed by them. (*An honourable member*: We have a price control on cement). In fact, the Government have never looked after the interests of small landholders but have done everything for the benefit of a few big landlords by whose votes they have occupied these seats. In this connection I wish to tell the House how differential treatment is meted out even in distribution of sugar in towns and villages. In towns one seer of sugar is given per head but in villages one seer of sugar is given to one family. Why this injustice? Why is this stepmotherly treatment meted out to this class? I have put several questions to the Government to get some information on these matters but all in vain. Now let me say something with regard to corruption in the matter of distribution of sugar of which so many stories are well known in Lahore and Ludhiana. There is a firm which is authorised to import in Ludhiana 70 per cent of the total quantity of sugar whereas the remaining 30 per cent is allowed to 12 other firms.

**Minister of Development**: Will you please give me the name of the firm?

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan**: Hukmi Mal-Sham Lal. I may also tell the Minister in charge that since the authorities of Civil Supplies Department have gone into the hands of District Magistrates things have become worse. The matter was put before the officials of district civil supplies. But they said they have got nothing to do with it as it lies with the discretion of the District Magistrate. This is the state of affairs, Sir, and let me therefore ask the Minister in charge—Has he abdicated in favour of the District Magistrate in the matter of distribution of sugar? If it is so, it will prove detrimental to the interests of the province. If an inquiry is made about the working of the Department of Civil Supplies here in Lahore, several complaints will come to the notice of the Government. The Director of Civil Supplies is not quite as vigilant as he ought to be. Let the Honourable Minister of Development find out for himself the various corrupt practices that are being carried on under the Director of Civil Supplies. He will be surprised to find that honest work is not being done under his very nose in the Department of Civil Supplies.

The Government of the Punjab has done nothing in the realm of agriculture which may entitle it to the praise or congratulations of the people. I for one notice nothing of that sort in the actual working of the Department of Agriculture. Particularly in Ludhiana the cultivators are put to great trouble with respect to water supply. We get water only for one crop while in the neighbouring district of Ferozepore water is supplied for two crops. I fail to understand why full water supply should not be given to us in the Ludhiana district. It is populated by Muslims, Sikhs and Hindus. They can equally benefit from an improved arrangement of water supply. But the Government is not doing its duty in this behalf.

I am really surprised to hear from a retired Revenue Assistant that the Agricultural Department has done a good deal to help the agriculturists in his district of Gujrat. He has observed that since his retirement, the Department of Agriculture has made rapid progress in his district. It is really a matter of surprise that during the long years of service of this retired Revenue officer the Agricultural Department had done nothing but as soon as he got pension, the department grew efficient and did wonderful work in his ilaqa. Such flattery may very well be reserved for private talk if the honourable member really wanted to please the



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Minister. But the House is not meant for such mutual compliments and flattery. Here we ought to ventilate the grievances of the public and say to the face of the Honourable Ministers what they have failed to do for the good of the people. I fail to understand how a department which could do nothing during the past 88 years, must have been able to do excellent work in the last 5 years when my honourable friend the retired Revenue Assistant went home after getting his pension. We ought to offer our honest criticism against the Government on the floor of the House without fear or favour. That is our clear duty under the constitutional law.

I will not hesitate to say that the Government has failed in its duty in not having imposed control over the prices of cement, iron and other commodities which the zamindars have to purchase for their daily need. If the control has been imposed, it has not been working well.

Coming to the consolidation of holdings, I would submit that in a village in our district the Sub-Inspector of the Co-operative Department had taken about one lakh of rupees as bribe in connection with the work of consolidation of holdings. Obviously the official was consolidating his own financial position. I am saying these words with the fullest responsibility and on the basis of magisterial inquiry. (*Minister of Development*: What is the name of that village?) The name of that village is Muallampur. The zamindars have been complaining against that corrupt official for the last three years. (*Minister of Development*: But action has now been taken against the erring official). No suitable action has been taken. Only after an incessant and successive propaganda for the last three years, he has only been suspended. It is no punishment. Justice delayed is justice denied. In this case, he was allowed to amass wealth freely for a long time so that even if he is punished, he must have made enough money to defend himself or pass the rest of his life in comfort without Government service. That shows the efficiency of the Government which goes on shielding and protecting its corrupt officials for such a long time against the cries of the public.

The Department of Co-operation was started with the object of helping the zamindars to save them from the clutches of the banias by employing their disunited efforts in a unified and co-operative manner so that the surplus money of the zamindars could be diverted to salutary purposes. But nothing of the kind has been achieved by this department during the last so many years. We have had a very bitter experience of this department. An Assistant Registrar who had been found to be very corrupt in our district and against whom the Deputy Commissioner had reported and even the Honourable Minister Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram had gone to make an inquiry against him, has now after 6 or 7 years been promoted to be Deputy Registrar although previously he had been transferred from our district on charges of corruption. Now what confidence can such an officer inspire in the public and what confidence can the public have in this Government which promotes its corrupt officers like this? This Assistant Registrar was censured for corruption and was reported to have been debarred from promotion. But now he has been promoted. I bear him no grudge. But there must be some sound principle on which officers should be promoted. An admittedly corrupt officer should in no circumstance be promoted like this. It undermines the confidence of the people in the public services and in the Government. There is untold favouritism, nepotism and corruption going on in this department. If an inquiry is held properly, startling facts will come to light. The Government is not punishing the corrupt officers. Instead of punishment, promotions are offered to corrupt officers. No one listens to the cries of the

public who are put to great troubles by corrupt officers. Favouritism, nepotism and corruption are rampant and the zamindars are the prey of all evils. They are helpless under this regime. I would like to draw the attention of the Honour-

able Minister for Development to the fact that persons employed in the Civil Supplies Department, do not care to hear our complaints even. The Honourable Minister should please see to it that these gentlemen co-operate with the public. It is their duty to encourage people in bringing their complaints to them and to remove them. They should understand that they are not for fat salaries and doing nothing. They must cultivate the spirit of public service. If they want to be officers in the old sense of the word, let them be transferred to the executive posts. This department is not fit for them. Here we need public servants, who do not consider it below their dignity to mix with ordinary men.

The second thing I want to lay stress upon is, as my friend Chaudhri Sumer Singh said, the vital need of attaching one agriculture farm for every primary school, so that the sense of agriculture is cultivated in them from the very beginning and they begin to understand the ways and means of increasing their income. The zamindar helps the Government in all its difficulties—in War fund, in receiving and arranging for the officials like thanedars and tahsildars, and yet they are the most neglected class of the province. Our Honourable Ministers say a lot in their public utterances as to how they feel for the zamindars, but when they come here they forget all their promises. The Honourable Ministers should at least take into consideration the trouble that these zamindars take in coming from far off places in the sun, bare-footed, with shoes in their hands to welcome them. The Ministers should not reward them by forgetting them when they come here. The Honourable Minister should not follow the advice of Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram. He is a very clever person. He has of late developed a habit of saying something here and another thing at another place. Our Honourable Ministers cannot realize the hardships that a zamindar suffers because neither have they any experience of zamindari themselves nor do they mix with the zamindars. The Honourable Finance Minister has said in his budget speech that Providence had been beneficent to the zamindar this year. No doubt the Providence is kind towards us but so far as the kindness of the Honourable Ministers is concerned they have reduced us, zamindars, from bad to worse. The honourable gentleman said those words simply because he is not aware of all the aspects of a zamindar's life. I do not deny that lawyers also get money out of the zamindars, but I shall say only one thing in this respect. The cleverer the lawyer, the more is the money that he extracts. A man like myself who is not so clever cannot get much money out of their pockets.

I have another very serious complaint against the Government. Anybody who dares to expose them here is involved in some sort of a case. Suppose I relate certain facts about the zamindars here. Naturally the Government does not like it. So, what is done? The Deputy Commissioner of my district is directed to involve me in some case. If the police are always on the look out for an excuse to involve me in a case, well I am no angel. They can find out occasions. Many members here do not say what they feel, because they know that the authorities of their respective districts shall be turned against them and that shall cause them a good deal of trouble. From what the Government is spending on the Agriculture Department and the results they are getting, we arrive at the conclusion that this Government has no genuine feeling for the betterment of the agriculturists.

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I next come to control. The Government had made it clear in unequivocal terms that they are against control and that they are not going to allow it to be enforced in this province. We learnt from the Press that at least two of the Honourable Ministers were prepared to resign on that issue. But it is clear that that was a mere idle talk. It was a mere threat, and they did not mean it. Because when Lord Wavell came here they all bowed their heads before him, although they are all rich enough and can do without their salaries. The fact is that they do not have the moral strength to take a firm stand. Nobody asks them to resign. Neither do we aspire to their places. We only ask them to take a firm stand on what they say.

As an honourable member pointed out, most of the zamindars are in the army in connection with the war services while their families are here in the Punjab. The Government has done practically nothing to remove their difficulties. I hope my honourable friend Raja Farman Ali will supply you with the details in this connection. Not to say of other difficulties, the family of a soldier-zamindar, gets only one bottle of kerosine oil per month. The Government have not been able to help the soldier-zamindar, how can we expect them to help the zamindars? The depots of sugar and kerosine oil have been entrusted to lambardars, consolidation committees or the co-operative committees. As I have already pointed out all these agencies are incapable of working honestly. The Government should entrust this task to some honest persons.

Then, Sir, as has been pointed out by Sardar Ujjal Singh, Government should start cottage industries in villages for the benefit of zamindars. I can say with a fair amount of certainty that there is not a single village in the province where any cottage industry has been established by Government for bettering the hard lot of the poor zamindars. It comes to this that during the seven years regime of my friends not a single cottage industry has been established anywhere in the province. Do I take it that so far the Government did not know that cottage industries if established would lead to increasing the income of the zamindars? If the Government has come to know of the fact for the first time then it is very much to be regretted. My honourable friend the Minister of Development is an industrialist. In fact he is considered as a business magnate. He knows the value of industries. He is also aware of the fact that the resources of the province can be developed. Cottage industries can be set up in the villages, which will prove very useful for the agriculturists.

Though the Honourable Minister of Development has not told us how much money he has drawn by way of travelling allowances still I think that he tours the country less as compared with his other colleagues. Anyway if he were to go out in the countryside and meet the zamindars he would come to know of their difficulties. At present he is not aware of the real conditions. I know that he does not stand in need of money and probably he does not undertake tours on account of the discomfort which they involve. Anyway if he goes out in the countryside he will find that the Agricultural Department is not doing its work properly. What is needed is that he should impress upon the officials working under him to do their work efficiently.

Now I take up another matter. Honourable members are aware of the fact that if a zamindar after harvesting his main crop sows any other crop for his benefit he is called upon to pay *abiana* for it. This in the terminology of the Canal Department is called *bad ratar*. (An honourable member: It does not concern agriculture). I know that. I am a lawyer and my honourable

friend is a retired Revenue Assistant. Anyway if any zamindar wants to grow more food he is taxed for that. The result is that the grow more food campaign is suffering.

I should like to say a word or two in respect of fruit gardens. It is a well known fact that generally zamindars in the Punjab do not own more than 80 bighas of land. Rather it is much less. A condition has been laid down by Government that only those zamindars can grow fruit gardens who own more than 80 bighas of land. This amounts to a great hardship on the poor zamindars. Instead of discouraging the zamindars they should be encouraged to grow more fruit gardens. In fact plants should be supplied free to them so that they may by planting a little garden round their wells be in a position to increase their income as well as provide fruits for their children.

A little while ago my honourable friend Mian Mohammad Nurullah suggested the establishment of dairy farms in the Punjab. This is a very good suggestion. If dairy farms are established they will help the zamindars to increase their income. Zamindars keep milch animals such as cows and buffaloes. They can supply milk to such farms where butter and other milk preparations can be made and sold to the public. This suggestion if accepted will go to increase the resources of the zamindars.

Then, Sir, I may point out that there are many low paid servants in this department who deserve better treatment. For instance the salaries of Makdams are very small. Do my friends think that on such low salaries a family man can live? It is the duty of the Honourable Minister to see that those servants of the department who are engaged in bettering the conditions of the zamindars should have no anxiety on that score.

In the end my submission is that at present there is plenty of surplus money with Government and they would be well advised to spend it for the welfare of the poor zamindars. If the condition of zamindar is improved it will benefit the country as a whole. I hope the Honourable Minister will take steps in this behalf and thus show to the zamindars that he is really their well-wisher. With these words I support the cut motion moved by my honourable friend over there.

**Chaudhri Mohammad Abdul Rahman Khan** (Jullundur North Muhammadan, Rural) (Urdu): Sir, I think of all the departments this is the most important department and it deserves a good deal of attention, for, agriculture is the mainstay of the zamindars of this province. I am reminded of a verse of the late Dr. Sir Muhammad Iqbal which contains the whole purport of my speech. It is as follows:

جس کھیت سے دھقان کو پیسہ نہ ہو روزی  
اُس کھیت کے ہر گوشہ گندم کو جلا دو

So far I have been under the impression that all our troubles were due to the Government and that it was responsible for all our afflictions. But this year I happened to read a book which has entirely changed my outlook. It is stated in it that "as we sow so we shall have to reap". If our actions and deeds are commendable we will get reward for that. If on the contrary our deeds are bad we will be punished for that. It is also laid down in the Holy Quran that if men committed sins God will send tyrants to rule over them, who would give them the severest of punishments. Naturally we also think that we are being punished for our misdeeds. We daily see that although the honourable members sitting over there criticise the work of their Ministers and themselves admit that

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their Ministry has done nothing, still they go on supporting it. From this we conclude that this Ministry has been set by Almighty over us merely to punish us for our misdeeds. There used to be a Governor of Basra Hajjaj-bin-Eusaf by name. He was a great tyrant. He was notorious for awarding the severest of punishments. Somebody in anger wrote the following words on the door of his lodging.

**Mr. Speaker :** The honourable member is irrelevant.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Abdul Rahman Khan :** I am only citing an instance. Anyway somebody wrote the following words "خانه عالم برباد شد" on the door of his house. When he saw those words he got it announced that if the writer of these words himself came forward and admitted his guilt then he would not be punished. But on the contrary if nobody came forward and admitted his guilt he would on finding out the man, award the severest of punishments to him.

Now this man was a plucky fellow. He thought that after all he had to die one day and it was better to make a clean breast of the whole affair. So he went before Hajjaj-ben-Yusuf and confessed that he was the person responsible for writing that hemistich on his door. On this Hajjaj enquired of him whether he did not think of this own sins or misdeeds while describing him (Hajjaj) as 'cruel'. He added that he had been specifically appointed by God to take cognizance of the wrong doings of the people and to mete out punishment to them. Similarly Mr. Speaker, our Government has been appointed to office in order to punish us for our misdeeds.

So far as the Department of Agriculture is concerned it is undoubtedly a very useful department and has done some good work. It has, for instance, produced improved varieties of seeds and has caused improved agricultural implements to be manufactured. Nevertheless it has not done what should really have been done, that is, it has not tried to introduce those implements among the agriculturists. They may have some knowledge of the improved seeds but they are absolutely unacquainted with the ploughs and other agricultural implements improvised by the Department. It is the duty of the department to make these improved articles known to the zamindars, and it has not been done so far.

Secondly, this department does not get as much money as is required by it in order to do more useful work for the zamindars of the Punjab. In view of the care taken of the farmers in the independent countries of the world, we can justly say that almost nothing has been done here. In those countries there are farms widely spread in the countryside which are reached by pucca roads and railways. Again about 88 per cent of the total income is spent on the welfare of the farmers. But here even if a little more attention had been paid by the Agriculture Department to the betterment of the zamindars before the War, we will not have to face scarcity of foodgrains to-day. In 1932, Diwan Chaman Lal advised the Government to set apart a crore of rupees and start State owned industries with it. Had that counsel been taken then we would have been able to tide over this difficult period and there would have been prosperity in the province. The original sum of one crore would have become forty crores by now. A professor of Economics, whom I do not want to name here, has told us that in foreign countries lecturers from outside are sent for on payment of thousands of pounds to deliver lectures on agricultural and industrial subjects so that the people may take advantage of their suggestions and improve their

prospects. But here although we say that we are prepared to lecture without asking for any remuneration, permission is not granted to us by the Government. From this it appears that this Government does not wish that the people of this province may become prosperous.

Again this Government enacts new laws every now and then without consulting the agriculturists. If it were to invite their suggestions I am sure there would not be any uneasiness among them on the enactment of such legislation. Now there was already an unnecessarily heavy duty on tobacco which has been enhanced by five annas her maund. Moreover, apart from the increase in taxation the method for the assessment of the duty causes a lot of trouble to the zamindars. Additional staff has to be appointed which indulges in unbridled bribe taking and thus causes more harm to the zamindars than the tax itself. If the tax must be levied the Government should better fix it on the basis of so much per *kanal* so that no additional staff may have to be employed nor may the farmers be tempted to conceal the commodity in order to save themselves from the payment of the tax. Another drawback of such taxation is that the quality of the commodity suffers on account of the neglect shown to it by the zamindars. Then a majority of the zamindars is unaware of the new taxes and is, therefore, easily victimised by the officials of the Excise Department who come upon them suddenly and tell them that such and such commodity has been declared taxable by the Government. I can assist the Government in bringing hundreds of such corrupt officials to book if it is so minded.

Next I want to make a few submissions in respect of another calamity which has befallen the people of this province in the shape of food rationing proposed to be introduced by the Government in a couple of months. The weekly ration of wheat flour per head has been fixed at  $8\frac{1}{2}$  seers and no family can store more than 25 maunds of wheat for a year's requirements. This quota will cause great hardship to the zamindars who individually consume as much wheat flour as is being fixed for a whole family for one week. You are perfectly aware of the fact, Mr. Speaker, that zamindars of your size and stature and mine can consume five seers of radish each at a single sitting. (*Laughter.*) I, therefore, beg to submit that the present weekly ration is quite insufficient and should be increased. The zamindars, who are the backbone of the fighting forces, must of necessity be given more to eat in order to keep them in proper trim for the battlefield. Those responsible for fixing this quota are rich people who eat five times during the day. They have their breakfasts and teas over and above their principal meals, and they do not know that people like me who have to depend upon two meals consume as much as two seers of wheat flour in a day. Again considering the number of guests every zamindar has to entertain off and on the quantity of wheat allowed to him, that is, 25 maunds per year is far short of his yearly requirements. I take my own case as an illustration in this connection. I am a petty zamindar and have to feed between 30 to 35 farm hands daily. But bigger landlords have many times the number I have and it is not unusual to find that about one bag of wheat flour is used in their kitchen every day. Sometimes when there are other guests one and a half bags of wheat are consumed daily. From this you will note, Sir, that the quantity allowed to be stored for the year's requirements is absolutely insufficient and it is unfair to keep it at that figure in so far as the zamindars are concerned. Their requirements must be taken into consideration before a quota is finally fixed. There should not be any restriction whatsoever on the zamindars and they should be at liberty to sell or stock their agricultural produce. After all there are his own needs and if he does not sell his wheat, how is he to satisfy them? Besides his

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daily requirements he has to stock quite a large quantity of wheat for the purposes of sowing his next crop. If he does not keep wheat of better quality for his seed requirements he will have to buy seed of inferior quality at the end of the year and that too at higher price. If the Government were to encourage agriculture through the Agriculture Department I am sure that besides bringing in enough income to pay for the department's expenses the increased prosperity of the province would relieve them from the unpleasant necessity of imposing fresh taxes. This very department can be usefully employed in turning thousands of acres of private and Government lands lying waste at present into well irrigated lands. This is another way in which agriculture can make further progress. On the one hand it will increase the value of those lands and on the other Government will have added to its revenues considerably. Unfortunately no attention is ever paid by the Government to this matter in spite of the fact that while the revenue on waste land is 12 annas per *kanal* the lands irrigated by wells are assessed at Rs. 2½ or 3 per *kanal*. If well irrigation is made available to such lands they will become productive and will thus benefit the zamindars and the Government alike.

*At this stage the Assembly adjourned till 12 Noon on Monday, 20th March 1944.*

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# PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

## ELEVENTH SESSION OF THE FIRST PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

*Monday, 20th March 1944*

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

### STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

**HARBANS SINGH, WORKER OF GENERAL ENGINEERING SECTION 501,  
COMMAND WORKSHOP, CHAKLALA**

**\*9203. Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state whether he and the Deputy Commissioner, Rawalpindi received any representation from Comrade Fazal Ilahi Qurban, President of the Punjab Sooba Mazdoor Committee, requesting that one Harbans Singh, Worker of the General Engineering Section 501, Command Workshop, Chaklala, Rawalpindi, discharged and arrested under section 129, Defence of India Rules, for organising a signature campaign for the revision of the rates of pay of the workers in the 1st week of March, be released ;

(b) whether the Government is prepared to take any action in this matter ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) :** (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

### PERMISSION TO CERTAIN M. L. A.'S TO ATTEND THE ASSEMBLY SESSION

**\*9204. Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) the number of M.L.A.'s restricted in the Lahore city ;

(b) the number of M.L.A.'s restricted in villages or cities other than the city of Lahore ;

(c) the reasons for imposing restrictions on the above M.L.A.'s in respect of attending the current session of the Punjab Legislative Assembly ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) :** (a) Five.

(b) Five in the Punjab and one in an Indian State.

(c) The attention of the honourable member is invited to the answer given to part (b) of question No. 9149.<sup>1</sup>

**Sardar Santokh Singh :** Are these restrictions imposed as a general policy of the Government of India in the matter of attending the meetings of the Assembly ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** The honourable member's attention is invited to the answer given to part (b) of Question 9149.<sup>1</sup>

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** May I know how their coming to the Assembly puts them in a position which will stand against the public interest ?



**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** As I have already stated several times before, they cannot take part in political activities under the terms of their restriction order.

MASTER GAURI LAL

**\*9211. Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that Master Gauri Lal, B.A., B.T., President of the Congress Committee, Sargodha, was released from the Old Central Jail, Multan, on 4th February, 1944, and interned within the municipal limits of Sargodha ;

(b) whether he is aware of the fact that the above-named person is a commission agent and an organiser of an insurance company for the districts of Shahpur and Mianwali ;

(c) whether Master Gauri Lal has been asked to report himself to the police once a week ;

(d) the reasons for interning the said Master Gauri Lal in a place where he cannot earn his livelihood ;

(e) whether the Government intend to give him any allowance ; if not, the reasons therefor ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) :** (a) Yes.

(b) He has been working as a Commission Agent at Sargodha. Government have no information that he is also an organiser of an insurance company.

(c) Yes.

(d) He has been restricted to a place where he has been doing business and can earn his livelihood.

(e) No. It is not the policy of Government to give such allowances.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** Why is he required to report himself to the police station ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** To facilitate surveillance.

**Lala Bhagat Ram Choda :** May I know if any arrangements have been made by the Government for his maintenance ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** It was mentioned in the question that Master Gauri Lal was a commission agent. That is the reason why he has been interned in Sargodha so that he may be able to carry on his business there.

**Lala Bhagat Ram Choda :** Is the Parliamentary Private Secretary sure that he can make his living by confining his activities to one place alone ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** I am sorry I cannot say anything in this matter. He used to carry on his business at Sargodha before his arrest and I presume he can do the same now that he has been interned in Sargodha.

**Lala Bhagat Ram Choda :** Previously he used to do his business throughout the district whereas now he has been interned within the limits of the Sargodha municipality. May I know if he will be permitted to carry on his business throughout the district ?

PROFESSORINDER PRAKASH ANAND

**\*9212. Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government received any representation from Mrs. Vimla Anand, wife of Professor Inder Prakash Anand, about six months ago praying that she may be informed of the whereabouts of her husband who was arrested in the Punjab some time in September, 1948; if so, whether her request was complied with;

(b) under what rule the said Professor Inder Prakash has been detained, in case he is detained by the orders of the Punjab Government;

(c) where the said Professor Inder Prakash is detained, if he is detained, in the Punjab and the general state of his health;

(d) whether the said professor is given any family allowance;

(e) whether the Government intend to try him in an open court of law if not, the reasons therefor?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah):** (a) No; but in December Mrs. Vimla Anand enquired about the whereabouts of her husband and was informed (within three days) of the place of his detention.

(b) Under rule 26, Defence of India Rules, by order of the Punjab Government.

(c) In Lahore; his health is good.

(d) No.

(e) Governments' intentions cannot be disclosed.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** Was he ever confined in the Lahore Fort for some time before he was taken to Calcutta?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** I want notice.

**Lala Bhagat Ram Choda :** Is the Parliamentary Private Secretary aware that he was given no food for 12 days in the Fort?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** I want notice for that question.

**Lala Bhagat Ram Choda :** Does the Parliamentary Private Secretary also know that he carries on his forehead scars of bayonet wounds inflicted on him during his detention in the Lahore Fort?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** I am not aware of any such injuries on his person.

**Lala Bhagat Ram Choda :** Is the Parliamentary Private Secretary aware of the fact that the said professor was secured to a chair in a state of nudity and a snake was let loose into the cell in which he was confined?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** I know nothing about it.

**Lala Bhagat Ram Choda :** Is the Government prepared to institute an inquiry into the matter?

**Chaudhri Muhammad Adbul Rahman Khan :** If these allegations be true, is the Government prepared to take steps for putting a stop to such cruel practices on the part of the police?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** How do these questions arise from the reply given by me? If, however, the honourable member wants information he should give fresh notice.

**Lala Bhagat Ram Choda :** How did those scars appear on his forehead ? Did he try to strike his head against the walls ?

MR. NAND AHUJA

**\*9213. Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that Mr. Nand Ahuja of Dharampura (Lahore) has been interned at Bhakkar, district Mianwali, after his recent release from jail ;

(b) whether he is aware of the fact that the above-named person has been interned at a place where he has no relation, no home and no business for earning his livelihood ;

(c) whether it is a fact that before the above-named person was arrested he was carrying on his business at Dharampura for the last 25 years ;

(d) the reasons for interning the above-named person at a place where he is unable to earn his livelihood ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) : (a) to (d). After his release from jail, Nand Lal Ahuja was restricted to the Mianwali district of which he was originally a resident. He has recently submitted a representation requesting that he may be allowed to reside in Lahore ; in view, however, of his age which is reported to be about 27, it is not clear how he can be carrying on business at Dharampura for 25 years. The matter is under consideration.

#### COMMUNAL HARMONY

**\*9222. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) the steps taken so far to promote communal harmony in the Punjab ;

(b) whether it is a fact that a large sum is provided every year in the budget for this purpose ;

(c) whether any amount was spent by the Government in 1941-42 and 1943 for the furtherance of this object ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) : (a) A Communal Harmony Advisory Board has been set up and is working. A Report will be published in due course.

(b) One lakh in 1941-42 increased to 2½ lakhs in 1944-45.

(c) Rs. 4,922 in 1942-43 : the figures for 1943-44 are not yet available.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** May I know the names of the members of the Communal Board ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** I want notice.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** May I know what kind of activities this Board has been indulging in ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** Promoting communal harmony.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Were any meetings held, or any processions taken out or any placards published ? What was the nature of the activities ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** All activities in connection with communal harmony.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** How many tea parties were given out of this Communal Harmony Fund ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** I would like to have notice of this question.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** How many persons were engaged in carrying out this project ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** I have no information here. If the honourable member gives notice of a fresh question, it will be answered.

**Mian Abdul Aziz :** Did the Parliamentary Private Secretary or the Premier ever join in any of these activities ?

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** May I know what steps have been taken by Government so far to promote communal harmony in the province ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** My answer to that question is that a Communal Harmony Advisory Board has been set up and is working. That is the step which Government has taken to promote communal harmony in the province.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** During the last year what steps have been taken by the Government to promote communal harmony ? Was no other step taken by Government besides constituting the Communal Harmony Board ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** Government has constituted the Board which will take all effective steps to see that communal harmony in the province is achieved.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** I want to know the details of the work done.

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** In that case my honourable friend should have worded his question in such a way as to elicit what he wanted. My friend knows that the Communal Harmony Advisory Board has been holding public meetings in Lahore and elsewhere and speakers from all communities have participated in them.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Were any of the activities mentioned by my honourable friend, Sardar Sohan Singh Josh, taken by that Board ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** I have already stated that public meetings have been held. If my honourable friend wants to know specifically whether any tea parties were held or not, I am not in possession of those facts just at present. If my friend gives fresh notice I shall make further enquiries.

**Sardar Santokh Singh :** May I know whether any contributions were made to any newspaper out of this fund ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** I want notice.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** Is the Parliamentary Private Secretary a member of that Advisory Board ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** I am not on the Advisory Board but on a branch of it.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** How much money was spent on renting halls for the purpose of holding public meetings ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** Notice.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Is any Honourable Minister or Parliamentary Secretary a member of that Board ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** Yes, a local board.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** What is the name of the Minister ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** Honourable Minister of Development and Honourable Minister of Public Works.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Were any dramas or concerts or dances held for the purpose of communal harmony ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** I have not got the details here as I have already stated. If my honourable friend gives notice I shall get the information required.

#### PERSONS CONVICTED UNDER THE DEFENCE OF INDIA RULES

**\*9223. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Will the Honourable Minister of Development be pleased to state—

(a) the total number of persons in the Punjab up to date convicted under the Defence of India Rules for breach of orders regarding control of various commodities ;

(b) the number of persons among them who have been sentenced to imprisonment ;

(c) the number of those among them who were fined and the amount of the heaviest fine imposed on an individual so far ?

**The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh :** So far as prosecutions and convictions under the Foodgrains Control Order are concerned the information is as follows :—

(a) Total number of persons convicted during the months of December 1943 and January 1944—293

(b) The number of persons sentenced to imprisonment during these two months, 251

(c) The number of persons fined during the two months, 42  
The heaviest fine imposed on any individual was Rs. 1,000.

(NOTE.—Of the persons sentenced to imprisonment a large majority were imprisoned till the rising of the court.)

2. Figures of prosecutions and convictions under other Control Orders are not available, and the time and labour involved in collecting the figures of all prosecutions up to date would not be commensurate with the advantage to be derived from getting the information.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** How many of the arrested persons were acquitted without receiving any punishment whatsoever ?

**Minister :** I have already stated in reply to (a) that the total number of persons convicted during the months of December 1943 and January 1944 is 293.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** How many were arrested in all ?

**Minister :** I have not got that information.

#### DEARNESS ALLOWANCE TO GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

**\*9227. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state—

(a) the amount of dearness allowance granted to Government employees in the Punjab ;

(b) whether the Government have under consideration any proposal to increase the dearness allowance ;

(c) the scale of dearness allowance granted by the Government during the 1st Great War ?

**The Honourable Sir Manohar Lal :** (a) Attention is invited to the orders contained in Punjab Government letter No. 3074-1133-SF-43/61890 (Fin.-Genl.), dated the 30th September 1943, a copy of which is placed on the table of the House.

(b) Yes the Government have several proposals pending for consideration.

(c) Temporary allowance on the following scale was sanctioned for non-gazetted Government servants during the last Great War :—

<i>Pay</i>	<i>Allowance sanctioned</i>
From Rs. 6 to Rs. 19	.. Rs. 4 per mensem
„ Rs. 20 to Rs. 23	.. Rs. 7 „ „
„ Rs. 24 to Rs. 35	.. Rs. 10 „ „
„ Rs. 36 to Rs. 60	.. Rs. 11 „ „
„ Rs. 61 to Rs. 70	.. Rs. 13 „ „
„ Rs. 71 to Rs. 75	.. Rs. 15 „ „
Above Rs. 75	.. 20 % of pay.

I may add that the dearness allowance now given to Government servants with further small additions in travelling allowance comes to nearly a crore and a half of rupees, whereas the previous allowances granted during the last war came to only about 40 lakhs or less.

*Punjab Government's letter No. 3074-1133-SF-43/61890 (Fin.-Genl.), dated 30th September 1943.*

**Subject :—SCHEME FOR THE GRANT OF DEARNESS ALLOWANCE TO GOVERNMENT SERVANTS**

I am directed to invite a reference to Punjab Government letter No. 1468 F-43/27624 (Fin.-Genl.), dated the 20th April, 1943, on the subject noted above and to state that, with a view to alleviate distress among low paid Government servants caused by abnormally high prices, the Governor of the Punjab is pleased

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to sanction the further revision of the rates of dearness allowance as indicated below :—

	Rate of dearness allowance per mensem.
	Rs. A. P.
Government servants on pay up to Rs. 20 .. ..	8 8 0
Government servants on pay exceeding Rs. 20 but not exceeding Rs. 30 .. ..	9 8 0
Government servants on pay exceeding Rs. 30 but not exceeding Rs. 40 .. ..	11 0 0
Government servants on pay exceeding Rs. 40 but not exceeding Rs. 60 .. ..	12 0 0
Government servants on pay exceeding Rs. 60 but not exceeding Rs. 100 .. ..	14 0 0
Government servants on pay exceeding Rs. 100 but not exceeding Rs. 150 .. ..	10 per cent of pay or Rs. 14 per mensem whichever is greater.
Government servants on pay exceeding Rs. 150 but not exceeding Rs. 250 .. ..	10 per cent of pay
Government servants in receipt of pay exceeding Rs. 250 but not exceeding Rs. 275 per mensem will draw dearness allowance at such rates as will raise their total emoluments to Rs. 275 per mensem.	

2. In calculating the allowance at 10 per cent of pay where admissible the fraction of a rupee will be ignored.

3. Gazetted officers whose pay falls within the limits prescribed in paragraph 1 above will also be entitled to the grant of dearness allowance.

4. The revised rates of dearness allowance will have effect from the 1st of June, 1943, that is, in respect of salaries that were due for payment on the 1st July 1943.

5. Every effort should be made to meet the extra expenditure involved from within the sanctioned grant at your disposal.

MR. AMIR CHAND GUPTA

\*9244. **Sardar Ajit Singh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that one Mr. Amir Chand Gupta of Amritsar was arrested in August 1942 and is interned in Sialkot Jail as a security prisoner ;

(b) whether it is a fact that he has been suffering from Lumbago since his arrest ;

(c) if the answers to (a) and (b) be in the affirmative, what steps were taken or contemplated to be taken for the treatment of his disease ;

(d) whether the Government has any intention of releasing him on parole for his medical treatment, if not, why not ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** (Sayad Amjad Ali Shah) : (a) Yes ; but he is a civil disobedience detenu and not a security prisoner.

(b) Not so far as Government is aware.

(c) He was reported to be suffering from dental trouble for which he has been allowed to visit the clinic of a local dental surgeon for treatment.

(d) Government's intentions cannot be disclosed.

**Sardar Santokh Singh :** May I enquire whether the case for the release of this gentleman was ever considered and reviewed by the Government and, if so, when was it last done?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** I want notice.

#### NAULAKHA MURDER CASE

**\*9252. Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether in the Naulakha murder case of Ludhiana Mehta Dewan Chand, Deputy Superintendent of Police, who appeared as a prosecution witness in the case stated that as the city Police was said to have been bribed, he took the investigation himself;

(b) who was the city Inspector of Police at Ludhiana at the time when the murder of a maid servant of the Naulakha was committed;

(c) whether any enquiries were made into the allegations of acceptance of bribe by the city police in the murder case mentioned above;

(d) whether it is a fact that the accused in the above-mentioned murder case was acquitted by the Sessions Judge of Ludhiana;

(e) whether it is a fact that the then city Inspector of Police who was on leave at the time when the murder was reported to the police came from his leave three days before the expiry of his leave and took up the investigation of the murder case himself, if so, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether Government intend to make enquiries about the conduct of the police officers concerned in the investigation of the murder case?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Jagjit Singh Man) :** (a) No. The Superintendent of Police deputed Mehta Dewan Chand, Deputy Superintendent of Police, to personally investigate this case as it was of a sensational nature and no definite clue about the culprits was forthcoming till then.

(b) Mir Iqbal Hussain.

(c) Yes. The Superintendent of Police made thorough enquiries into the matter himself as well as through his Deputy Superintendent of Police and was satisfied that the allegations of bribery against the city police were false and frivolous.

(d) Yes. The accused were acquitted on 18th August 1948.

(e) On the day the murder was committed, the City Inspector was on casual leave. He did not return till the expiry of his leave.

(f) No.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** Has the Parliamentary Secretary or the Government seen the statement of Mehta Dewan Chand, to the effect that the city police was bribed?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** No.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** Who was the Deputy Superintendent deputed to make enquiry into the allegation that the city police was bribed?



**Parliamentary Secretary :** Mehta Dewan Chand.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** Was it the same man who stated in the court that the city police was bribed ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I cannot say what statement he made in the court.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** Has the Parliamentary Secretary called for a report from the Superintendent of Police along with the statement made by Mehta Dewan Chand in court ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** No.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** Then how does the Parliamentary Secretary know whether he stated it or not ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I have already replied there was no question of bribery for which the Deputy Superintendent of Police had to be deputed.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** That is not the point. The question is whether Mehta Dewan Chand, who appeared as a prosecution witness, stated that the city police was bribed. Kindly refer to that part of the question.

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I do not know what statement was made before the court.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** Did the Parliamentary Secretary enquire through the Superintendent of Police about the statement of Mehta Dewan Chand ?

**Mian Abdul Aziz :** Will the Parliamentary Secretary please read part (a) of the question ? There it is clearly stated that Mehta Dewan Chand appeared as a prosecution witness and said that as the city police was said to have been bribed, therefore, he took the investigation himself.

**Parliamentary Secretary :** Quite right.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** Did he state it before the Sessions Court or not ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** It was said that the city police was bribed but it was not proved.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** Is it admitted that he stated before the Sessions Judge that the city police was bribed ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** The words are, "said to have been bribed."

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** Has the Parliamentary Secretary seen the statement ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I have said already that I have not seen the statement. The honourable member's question contains the words "said to have been bribed."

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** When the Parliamentary Secretary got the information from the Ludhiana district, did the Superintendent of Police inform him that Mehta Dewan Chand stated this fact in the court ?

**Sardar Santokh Singh :** In view of part (a) of the question, was it necessary or not for the Parliamentary Secretary to see the statement referred to before replying ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** It was not considered desirable to see that statement.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** Why was it not considered desirable to see it ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** That cannot be disclosed on the floor of the House.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** Is it in public interest not to disclose it ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** Yes.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Public interest is becoming a smokescreen, for hiding the skeleton in the Unionist cupboard.

#### ACQUISITION OF LAND FOR BUILDING RESERVOIR AND DAM TO CHECK THE FLOODS IN THE BEAS

**\*9183. Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Punjab Government has acquired all the land in the vicinity of nearly 20 villages in Tehsil Dasuha, district Hoshiarpur, for the purpose of building a reservoir and a dam in order to check the floods in the Beas ;

(b) whether any land or compensation, in lieu of the above-mentioned acquisition, has been given to the villages concerned ;

(c) whether the Honourable Minister for Revenue went to Dasuha in the third week of February in this connection and whether he has made any report to the Government regarding this matter in this respect ;

(d) the decision arrived at by the Government in connection with the matter in question ;

(e) whether the construction of a canal as a result of the building of the above-mentioned reservoir and dam and with a view to serving the Doaba area has been under the consideration of the Punjab Government, if so, with what result ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan) :** (a) Government have not acquired the land of these villages for the purpose of building a dam. They are however compelled to have a dam built for the purpose of controlling floods on the Beas and preventing the main stream of that river from flowing into the Bein. As the result of the construction of the bund villages upstream will be flooded out at periods of high flood. Government therefore are taking steps to help the owners of those villages to acquire new sites for their abadis and are paying compensation for the expense of moving these abadis and for any damage done to the land.

(b) Compensation is being paid in cash as Government have reason to hope that the area above the bund will in time silt up to the great benefit of the land owners, who have for very many years suffered great distress from the floods caused by the set of the river Beas towards the Bein nallah.

(c) The Honourable Minister visited Dasuya on the 19th February. The visit was undertaken mainly with the object of explaining to the zamindar community the general outline of the tentative scheme proposed for spending the money in the Peasant Welfare Fund to the best advantage of the present class. In an address presented on behalf of the zamindars of Dasuya a reference was made to the construction of this bund. The Honourable Minister explained the

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circumstances which led up to the project of its construction. He also suggested to the zamindars affected to make in writing any further representations which they desired to make to the special officer. This officer is himself a zamindar and has had recent experience of the work of acquisition and assessing compensation. This officer was directed to forward the representations of the zamindars to Government with his own comments thereon. The Honourable Minister made no report of any kind to Government.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The scheme for the construction of a canal by building a dam and a reservoir on the Beas river is different from that of building a dam for protection against floods referred to in part (a). This scheme is still in the project stage.

**Sardar Bahadur Sardar Gurbachan Singh :** With regard to part (e) of the question, has the Government under consideration the construction of a dam near about that area so as to serve the Doaba people with a canal?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I have already stated that there is a scheme for constructing a canal and that is in the project stage. Therefore, I am afraid I cannot give any details now.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** May I know since how long this scheme of constructing a canal in the Doaba has been in the project stage?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** It is very difficult to give the dates but let me assure my honourable friend that the Government are much more anxious to see this scheme through than any member of the House.

#### TRAVELLING ALLOWANCE DRAWN BY REVENUE ASSISTANT, LUDHIANA

**\*9208. Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state the amount of travelling allowance drawn by the Revenue Assistant, Ludhiana, from 1st January 1943 to 1st January 1944?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan) :** The two incumbents of the post of Revenue Assistant, Ludhiana, drew Rs. 772-8-0 as travelling allowance during 1943 as detailed below:—

*Previous incumbent—*

9th January 1943 to 20th April 1943	Rs. 287	9	0	(including Rs. 150 as advance T. A.)
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*Present incumbent—*

20th April 1943 to 30th December 1943	Rs. 484	15	0
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Total	Rs. 772	8	0
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#### LUDHIANA DISTRICT BOARD

**\*9199. Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Teachers Union, Ludhiana, made any representations to him, the Director, Public Instruction and the Inspector of Schools, Jullundur Division, complaining against the present gradation of Municipal Board teachers in the Ludhiana district, if so, what action, if any, he proposes to take or has taken in the matter;

(b) whether any other district board in the Punjab has got the same grades as those in force in the Education Department of District Board, Ludhiana ;

(c) the annual grant given by the Government to the Ludhiana District Board for the purposes of Vernacular Education in the year 1942-43 ;

(d) the number of new schools opened by the Ludhiana District Board in the year 1942-43 ;

(e) whether it is a fact that some village schools have in the Ludhiana District opened English classes at their own expense ;

(f) whether it is a fact that the district board in its general meeting postponed the consideration of the question of giving grants-in-aid to the schools mentioned in (e) to its next meeting ; if so, why ?

**The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye :** (a) Yes. It was not considered advisable to interfere in the matter as the revised scales of salary were introduced by the District Board with the previous approval of Government.

(b) The scales of salary of district board teachers vary from district to district and are according to the financial means of each Board.

(c) A sum of Rs. 2,50,390

(d) No new school was opened by the District Board, Ludhiana, in 1942-43.

(e) No.

(f) No such resolution was passed by the District Board, Ludhiana.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** Has it come to the notice of the Honourable Minister that the present grade has not been increased but reduced ?

**Minister :** It has not come to my notice.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** Was it mentioned in the representation of the Teachers' Union that their grade has been standing still for the last 5 years ?

**Minister :** What representation ?

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** The representation that the Honourable Minister or the Inspector of Schools might have received on behalf of the Teachers Union, Ludhiana. Was it mentioned in that representation that the present grade has been standing still for the last 5 years ?

**Minister :** I have no knowledge.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** Did he receive any representation or not ?

**Minister :** It did come, but I have at present no recollection.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** Has the Honourable Minister got a copy of it ?

**Minister :** No.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** Did he call for a report from the District Board or the Inspector of Schools, Jullundur division ?

**Minister :** Yes.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** Did they say that one of the grievances of the Teachers Union, Ludhiana, was that they have not been given any promotion for the last five years ?

**Minister :** They have not said so.

ENQUIRY INTO THE CONDUCT OF A TEACHER OF DISTRICT BOARD HIGH SCHOOL,  
CHAK JHUMRA

**9209. Sardar Kapoor Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that complaints were received by the authorities of the Education Department in October 1942, that a Junior teacher of English attached to the District Board High School, Chak Jhumra, had been guilty of writing seductive letters to his pupils ;

(b) whether the Government ordered any sifting inquiry to be made into the matter, if so, the findings thereof ;

(c) whether it is also a fact that no action has so far been taken against the above-mentioned teacher, if so, the reasons therefor ?

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

(b) An enquiry was ordered and has been held, and the report is under consideration of the Department.

(c) Attention is invited to the concluding portion of reply to (b) above.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** May I know when the matter was brought to the Honourable Minister's notice ?

**Minister :** During the last session.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** Is it a fact that certain letters were brought to the notice of the officer who made the enquiry ?

**Minister :** I have already said "yes".

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** Is the Honourable Minister prepared to repeat here what the contents of those letters were ?

**Minister :** They were love letters and I would not repeat them on the floor of the House.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** Is the Honourable Minister prepared to punish that man on this very ground ?

**Minister :** I have already said that the matter is under consideration.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** Since how long ?

**Minister :** Since about a week or so.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** When did the Secretary of the Youth Welfare Association, Punjab, Lahore, bring this matter to the notice of the Honourable Minister ?

**Minister :** I have not got the date in my head. I will give a reply if the question is put on paper.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** Did the Honourable Minister ask the Divisional Officer or the District Inspector to make an enquiry against that teacher ?

**Minister :** It was made.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** What is the finding of the Divisional Officer or the District Inspector ?

**Minister :** The finding is that the letters were written.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** May I know whether the matter was brought to the notice of the Honourable Minister in October 1943 ?

**Minister :** May be so.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Why has it taken so long to decide this matter ?

**Minister :** The matter was brought to my notice in one of the sessions of the Assembly and since then the enquiry has been held.

## UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

### SIKH PROCESSION AT QADIAN

**1722. Pir Akbar Ali :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that on the 1st January 1944, the Sikhs of Qadian and neighbouring villages gathered together in large numbers in a Gurdawara situated towards the west of the old abadi of Qadian and formed themselves into a procession ;

(b) whether it is a fact that a number of the processionists were armed with naked swords, spears, hatchets, and other deadly weapons ;

(c) whether it is a fact that the aforesaid procession starting from the above-mentioned Gurdwara wended its way to that part of the town of Qadian which is mostly inhabited by the Ahmadis and that when it reached the Chowk, a display of arms and Gatkabazi was made there for a considerable time during which period the traffic was completely suspended ;

(d) whether he is aware of the fact that on the 1st of January 1944, a large number of Ahmadis from all parts of India had come to Qadian to attend the annual gathering of the community, and there was a fear of a communal clash ;

(e) whether it is a fact that the local police prohibited the taking of photographs of the aforesaid procession ;

(f) whether a procession of this type has ever been allowed before in Qadian, if not, the reasons for allowing the above-mentioned procession to parade through the streets of the town early this year ;

(g) whether it is a fact that on a previous occasion the then District Magistrate of Gurdaspur (Mr. Eustace, I.C.S.) had declined to allow a procession of the Sikhs to pass through that part of the town of Qadian which is inhabited by the Ahmadis ; if so, the reasons for allowing the above-mentioned procession to pass through the aforesaid part of the town this time ?

**The Honourable Malik Khizar Hayat :** (a) About 200 Sikh residents of Qadian and the neighbouring villages gathered in Gurdwara Gobindgarh at Qadian on 1st January 1944, in connection with the Birth day of Guru Gobind Singh and marched in a procession towards Gurdwara Akalgarh.

(b) The five "Panj Piaras" carried naked kirpans and 4 or 5 Nihangs carried "Nishan Sahibs", no other deadly weapon was carried by anybody.

(c) First part, yes.

Second part, No.

[ Premier ]

(d) Most of the Ahmadis who had come to Qadian to attend the annual gathering from the 26th to 28th December 1943, had dispersed by the 1st January 1944 ; there was no particular likelihood of a communal clash.

(e) The local police requested two Ahmadis, with cameras on the roofs of houses not to take photos, as the Sikhs considered that they were trying to take the photographs of some Sikh ladies (about 50 in number) who accompanied the procession. The cameramen persisted in doing so and then left the spot hurriedly.

(f) The procession in connection with the birthday of Guru Gobind Singh has been a customary procession in Qadian for a long time, and no objection has been raised to it in the past by the authorities.

(g) The Ahmadis objected to a Sikh procession passing through Qadian on the occasion of the Akal Conference at Bohari Sahib Gurdwara on 17th November 1940 ; this was not a customary procession such as that referred to in part (f) and the District Magistrate, Gurdaspur (Mr. Eustace) was able to arrange an informal agreement whereby the procession was to pass through a part of Qadian but was to avoid the Ahmadi quarters on that particular occasion.

#### JAN AMUSEMENT PARK

**1723. Mr. K. L. Rallia Ram :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) the number of times the Jan Amusement Park, situated on Meleod Road, Lahore, has been raided by the police for keeping a gambling booth, and with what results ;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Jan Amusement Park is still carrying on its business ; if so, what action does the Government propose to take in the matter ?

**The Honourable Malik Khizar Hayat :** (a) The Jan Amusement Park has been raided 20 times.

The raid carried out on 21st October 1941 led to the registration of a case F. I. R. 419 under section 13 of the Gambling Act in which three accused were prosecuted and acquitted on the 28th February 1943.

In one of the raids conducted by the Additional Superintendent of Police in January, 1944, five persons were arrested under sections 3/4 of Act No. III of 1867 and the case is pending in court.

The Sub-Inspector in charge of Charing Cross Police Station succeeded in launching a prosecution against the Proprietors, Managers and some of the employees of the Park under section 221 of the City of Lahore Corporation Act for running the show without a licence on the 29th February 1944. Both this case and a case under section 29 of the Telegraph Act against the legal adviser of the proprietors for sending a false telegram regarding a raid by the Additional Superintendent of Police are pending in court.

(b) The Jan Amusement Park has been closed.

#### VETERINARY ASSISTANTS AND VETERINARY SURGEONS IN THE AMBALA DIVISION

**1724. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Will the Honourable Minister of Development be pleased to state the number of Veterinary Assistants

and Veterinary Surgeons in the Ambala Division community-wise and district wise ?

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

Districts	Hindu	Muslim	Sikh	Other	Total
Hissar .. ..	4	5	4	..	13
Rohtak .. ..	12	3	2	..	17
Gurgaon .. ..	11	5	..	..	16
Ambala .. ..	2	..	8	..	10
Karnal .. ..	5	6	4	..	15
Simla .. ..	2	..	1	..	3
Total .. ..	36	19	19	..	74

#### DEPUTY DIRECTORS AND EXTRA ASSISTANT DIRECTORS OF AGRICULTURE

**1725. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Will the Honourable Minister of Development be pleased to state community-wise and district-wise in respect of the Ambala Division :—

(a) the number of Deputy Directors of Agriculture and Extra Assistant Directors of Agriculture ;

(b) the number of agricultural assistants ;

(c) the number of muqaddams ?

**The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh :** The time and labour involved in collecting the required information will not be commensurate with any possible benefit to be achieved but if the honourable member has any definite point in view that will be examined.

#### DEPUTY REGISTRAR AND ASSISTANT REGISTRARS OF CO-OPERATIVE DEPARTMENT

**1726. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Will the Honourable Minister of Development be pleased to state community-wise and district-wise in respect of the Ambala Division :—

(a) the names and number of Deputy Registrar and Assistant Registrars of Co-operative Department ;

(b) the names and number of Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors of Co-operative Department ?

**The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh :** A statement giving the requisite information is enclosed. It is not the practice to give names.



## COMMUNITY-WISE NUMBER OF

Name of district	(A)									(B)					
	DEPUTY REGISTRAR			ASSISTANT REGISTRARS			INSPECTORS			SUB-INSPECTORS					
										Government paid			Punjab Co-operative Union paid		
	Hindus	Muslims	Sikhs	Hindus	Muslims	Sikhs	Hindus	Muslims	Sikhs	Hindus	Muslims	Sikhs	Hindus	Muslims	Sikhs
Hissar ..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	4	3	..	..	..	6	12	3
Rohtak ..	..	..	..	..	1	..	3	..	2	..	..	..	16	..	..
Gurgaon ..	..	..	..	1	..	..	3	3	1	..	..	..	15	9	2
Karnal ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	1	1	8	4	..	9	2	2
Ambala ..	..	..	1*	..	..	2	5	6	2	16	20	14	4	7	11
Simla ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..

\*For Ambala Division and Delhi Province with Headquarters at Delhi.

#### CONSOLIDATION OF HOLDINGS IN AMBALA DIVISION

**1727. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad:** Will the Honourable Minister of Development be pleased to state community-wise and district-wise the names and number of Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors deputed to the Ambala Division on consolidation work noting against each, the number of holdings consolidated and the villages in which consolidation work is being carried on by them?

**The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh:** It is not usual to give names in answers. The collection of the other material will involve labour out of all proportion to any possible benefit to be obtained.

#### COMMUNAL REPRESENTATION AMONG CIVIL SURGEONS, ETC. IN AMBALA DIVISION

**1728. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad:** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state community-wise and district-wise in respect of the Ambala Division:—

- the number of Civil Surgeons;
- Assistant Surgeons;
- Sub-Assistant Surgeons;
- the names of hospitals held in charge by each one of them?

**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.

#### PUNJAB CIVIL SECRETARIAT

**1729. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) the number of Superintendents, Head Assistants, Senior Clerks and Junior Clerks, community-wise on the establishment of the Punjab Civil Secretariat ;

(b) the number community-wise of Secretaries, Deputy Secretaries and Under-Secretaries to the Punjab Government ;

(c) the steps that Government intend to take to make up the deficiency of the under-represented community in the cadres mentioned in (a) and the appointments mentioned in (b) ?

**The Honourable Malik Khizar Hayat :** (a) and (b) This information is available in various Government publications.

(c) Direct recruitment is made on the communal block system and any disparities that exist will gradually be removed in course of time. Appointments to posts mentioned in part (b) of the question however are not direct recruitments and are not made with regard to communal considerations but on merit and as a result of the exigencies of the service.

#### COMMUNAL REPRESENTATION AMONGST CLERKS IN THE OFFICES OF THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE AND THE EXTRA ASSISTANT DIRECTORS OF AGRICULTURE OF THE AMBALA DIVISION

**1730. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Will the Honourable Minister of Development be pleased to state—

(a) the number of clerks, community-wise, in the offices of the Deputy Director of Agriculture and the Extra Assistant Directors of Agriculture of the Ambala Division, year-wise, in the years 1937 to 1943 ;

(b) the total number of men community-wise, and year-wise recruited from 1937 to 1943 to the subordinate services in the offices mentioned above and also that of those recruited to the inferior service and menial staff of the said establishment ?

**The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh :** The time and labour involved in collecting the required information will not be commensurate with any possible benefit to be achieved, but if the honourable member has any definite point in view that will be examined.

#### DEPOTS OF CONTROLLED COMMODITIES

**1731. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Will the Honourable Minister of Development be pleased to state—

(a) the number of depôts of controlled commodities opened in the province district-wise and the number of these in charge of the depôts, community-wise ;

(b) the stations where such depôts have been opened ;

(c) the names of the articles for the sale of which the depôts have been opened ;

(d) the names of the officers who supervise these depôts ?

**The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh :** The collection of details will involve an expenditure of time and labour out of all proportion to the results likely to be obtained.

1732—*Cancelled.*

### LEAVE OF ABSENCE OF AN M. L. A.

**Mr. Speaker :** I have received the following application from Chaudhri Sahib Ram, Member of the Assembly for permission to be absent from the meetings thereof :

As I am restricted to keep myself within the Municipal limits of Hissar town under Ordinance No. 3 of 1944, I regret that I am unable to attend the present Session of the Assembly.

Please note and kindly excuse my absence from the House.

The question is—

That the permission asked for be granted.

*The motion was carried.*

### PAPER LAID ON THE TABLE

#### SUPPLEMENTARY STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURE (2ND INSTALMENT) 1943-44 AUTHENTICATED BY GOVERNOR

**Minster of Finance** (The honourable 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 (Second Instalment) for the year 1943-44 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 1943-44, which specifies :—

(a) the supplementary grants (second instalment) made by the Punjab Legislative Assembly in its Session held in March, 1944, and

(b) the sum 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 ..	3,13,440	13,500	3,26,940
4	10—Forests .. ..	24,33,430	..	24,33,430
5	11—Registration ..	2,410	..	2,410
7	XVII—Irrigation, Navigation, etc., Working Expenses and 18—Other Revenue Expenditure financed from Ordinary Revenues .. ..	27,12,400	..	27,12,400

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.
8	Charges on Irrigation Establishment .. ..	6,22,400	..	6,22,400
10	25—General Administration ..	8,29,720	1,66,480	9,96,200
11	27—Administration of Justice ..	..	12,730	12,730
12	28—Jails and Convict Settlements .. ..	17,53,700	700	17,54,400
13	29—Police .. ..	8,17,490	..	8,17,490
16	37—Education (excluding European and Anglo-Indian Education) .. ..	22,15,590	..	22,15,590
17	38—Medical .. ..	3,11,990	9,470	3,21,460
18	39—Public Health .. ..	22,110	..	22,110
19	40—Agriculture .. ..	21,45,220	..	21,45,220
20	41—Veterinary .. ..	85,200	530	85,730
21	42—Co-operation .. ..	..	3,520	3,520
22	43—Industries .. ..	94,260	70	94,330
23	50—Civil Works .. ..	21,89,750	..	21,89,750
25	52—Interest on Capital Outlay on Electricity Schemes ..	..	1,400	1,400
25	XLI—Receipts from Electricity Schemes— Deduct—Working Expenses other than Establishment ..	15,700	..	15,700
29	54—Famine .. ..	9,55,450	..	9,55,450
31	56—Stationery and Printing ..	4,260	..	4,260
32	57—Miscellaneous .. ..	73,58,280	..	73,58,280
9	68—Construction of Irrigation Works—Open Canals ..	10	..	10
14	47—Miscellaneous Departments ..	10	..	10
24	Charges on Public Works Department, Buildings and Roads Establishment .. ..	10	9,800	9,810
27	81—Capital Account of Civil Works (outside the Revenue Account) .. ..	10	..	10
28	81—A—Capital Outlay on Electricity Schemes (outside the Revenue Account) ..	10	..	10
	GRAND TOTAL ..	2,48,82,850	2,18,200	2,51,01,050

LAHORE :

B. J. GLANCY,

The 15th March 1944

Governor of the Punjab.

## DEMANDS FOR GRANTS

## AGRICULTURE

*General Policy of Agriculture Department*

**Mr. Speaker :** The Assembly will now resume discussion on the demand for grant for Agriculture.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Abdul Rahman Khan** (Jullundur North, Muslim Rural) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, before I resume discussion on the subject now before the House I would like to refer to a couplet from Dr. Iqbal, the philosopher of the East. He says :—

کب دہے گا سرمایہ پرستی کا سفینہ  
دنیا ہے تیری منتظر روز مکافات

Yesterday I was discussing the rationing scheme and was drawing the attention of the Government to the fact that all the rationing systems introduced so far had resulted in failure. It must not be ignored that a zamindar working day and night on his fields should at least get sufficient wheat after a full year's toil so that he may easily maintain his family. Now under the proposed rationing scheme a zamindar would get 3 seers of atta per head per week. Imagine if he has guests, what he will eat himself and what he will give to his guests. I say this rationing scheme will put him in a very embarrassing position. The previous control systems had not succeeded as is well-known. They had utterly failed. Not only that, but corruption also had cropped up on that account. I can give several instances where officers working the sugar control system have been taking bribes. It is an open secret that sugar was sold at the rate of Rs. 90 per maund. Very recently a case of dishonesty has been started against a tahsildar. The tahsildar used to deceive the Government. If a person applied for two maunds of sugar he would sanction 30 seers only. The applicant used to get 30 seers of sugar from the depots. Now the man working at the depot would go to the tahsildar and get 30 seers of sugar that has already been issued, changed into two maunds. In this way the extra sugar was used to be sold in the black market at the rate of Rs. 100 per maund. There are many other instances of dishonesty committed in the depots. Now the trouble is this. Government wants us to praise the authorities appointed at the rationing depots. But when the officers are dishonest how can we open our lips in praise of them? We shall never conceal facts. Truth is our motto. Well, Sir, I was speaking about the dishonesty of the tahsildar. Fortunately, the Deputy Commissioner of the district was a strong man. On receiving all the available information to make sure about this matter, things were managed and he asked a person to apply to the tahsildar for two maunds of sugar. That person did so and the same trick was played. The ration coupon was changed as I have stated. One bag of sugar, that is the surplus sugar, was sold in the black market for Rs. 90. Notes were already marked by the Deputy Commissioner. A raid was made at the depot and about a hundred false permits were found in the possession of the man working at the depot. It was also found on making sifting enquiry that hundreds of rupees had been embezzled.

The same is the case with other controlling officers. They have amassed wealth up to 50,000 and even one lakh of rupees per head by way of illegal gratification. The officers and the shopkeepers have pooled their resources and made enormous amounts of money while the public has been robbed of its wealth in the broad day-light.

What is the justification for introducing control when there is abundance of wheat in the Punjab? The administration of control system is so bad that women are dishonoured thereby and even men are put to great hardship.

Let us take the case of cement; the price of which is controlled at Rs. 3 per bag. But it is selling at Rs. 7½ and even at Rs. 12 per maund. I can undertake to procure as much cement as may be required at this rate.

The most outstanding point, in this connection, is that a wrong, absolutely wrong view of the wealth of the zamindars is being taken. It is said on all sides that they have grown rich but in reality zamindars have become poorer than before. The fact of the matter is that if agricultural produce has become dear, the other consumable goods which the zamindars have to purchase have also become dear and ever more so than the agricultural produce. Take for example the case of a pair of bullocks which used to cost about Rs. 150 in the past. Now it costs about Rs. 1,000 or 1,200. So it is clear that whereas the cost of things which the zamindar has to buy has been risen eight times, the price of wheat has become twice as much as it was before. Thus, the zamindar stands to lose. If unfortunately his pair of bullocks die, he will have to sell more maunds of wheat for purchasing bullocks than before. It is, therefore, wrong to say that the zamindars have grown rich. Now-a-days a zamindar will have to sell 150 maunds of wheat to purchase one pair of bullocks because at the rate of Rs. 10 per maund of wheat one can get Rs. 1,500 to buy one pair of bullocks. Previously a pair of bullocks could be purchased for seventy or eighty maunds of wheat. Far from having grown rich, the zamindars have become destitute and insolvent. Similarly, iron, wood, cloth, cement and bricks have all become extremely expensive and the dearness of these articles is several times more than the dearness of agricultural produce. The method of supplying articles made of iron to the zamindars which the Government is contemplating, is very defective. If the Persian wheel is got prepared by Government on contract system, it will be defective and useless. It will wear out very soon. Our blacksmiths in the villages prepare such articles at a cheap rate and even free because they are engaged for the year on "sep" system. The best thing would be to supply iron to zamindars at control rates and they will get Persian wheels constructed through their village blacksmiths. Similarly bricks and cement should also become cheap. Due to their dearness, it has become difficult to dig wells in the district of Jullundur. The Government should control the prices of these articles also.

I will now turn to the Department of Agriculture. In this country 99 per cent of the population lives on agriculture. But due to foreign rule all agriculturists are almost starving. If our Ministers try, they can improve the Agriculture Department a great deal and make it immensely useful. This department has already done some useful work, especially in the matter of well-boring. The Boring Department has provided the zamindars with wells giving abundant supply of water at a low cost where previously even an expenditure of Rs. 50,000 would not get them sufficient water from their wells.

*At this stage, as guillotine was to be applied at 3 o'clock, the House agreed to a time limit of 10 minutes for speeches in order to enable several members to participate in the debate.*

Similarly, the Department of Agriculture has helped the zamindars by supplying them with good seeds. But much more ought to be done by this department than this. More *mukaddams* should be appointed. Every zamindar commanding 4 ploughs, should be given one *mukaddam* who may be paid by the Government. Thus agriculture will make rapid progress on right lines. Moreover, one agricultural farm should be established in every village. This

[Ch. Md. Abdul Rahman Khan]

farm will inspire the agriculturists with the ideal of attaining that very standard in their agriculture as is put before them by these farms.

A grievance in this respect is that the machinery of killing rats is not quite efficient. Rats destroy crops to an unimaginable degree. Other crop diseases also call for proper remedies. In this connection the diseases of tobacco and sweet melons (*kharboosa*) call for special attention and remedy.

Steps should be taken to aid the profession of agriculture through the Department of Co-operative Societies. The more progress the industry of agriculture makes, the more will it facilitate the realisation of the land revenue of the Government. The people will also become prosperous thereby. It will be very useful if those crops are encouraged which fetch better prices. In addition to this, mills for producing *maida* should be installed so as to swell the income of the zamindars.

The pressure on land in the district of Jullundur is very great. The land is small and tillers are numerous. The agriculturists of Jullundur should be given land in the colony areas. That will mean a real help to them. It is the bounden duty of the Government to allot squares of land to the poor but industrious people of this backward district. With these words I resume my seat.

**Mian Abdul Aziz** (Outer Lahore Muslim, Urban) (*Urdu*): Sir, the Agriculture Department is a great necessity, especially in a province like ours, and in the regime of a Government which takes pride in being a zamindar Government. Fortunately many members belonging to the Unionist Party itself have criticised the Government very ably and have made some practical and important suggestions. That has made my task simple. Otherwise even two hours' time would have been insufficient to discuss this matter in detail. I would request the Honourable Minister to pay every attention to what my honourable friends have said. They have not criticised the Government for the sake of criticism only. They actually come across those difficulties and they want the officers concerned to remove them. I do not say that the Honourable Minister should accomplish these reforms in a day or two. I know that is practically impossible. Let him take time and affect those reforms during the ensuing year.

I came across the Agriculture Report, 1940, the other day. I would like to bring to your notice some of the points given in it. First of all our system of agriculture is very old. Our implements are also old-fashioned. We have not been able to improve the quality of our produce as yet. A little progress is made no doubt, but that is very meagre. The parties arranged by this department to go into the villages are very few. But before I come to that point, let me draw your attention to another very important thing. We have got only one Agricultural College in the whole of the province and our province is an agricultural one. One college is not sufficient. Now that we have surplus budget the Government should open at least one Agricultural College in each division. These new colleges may be on the lines of the Lyallpur college or on some different lines. The Government should not mind the expenses. That shall ultimately increase the produce of the province, which shall in its turn, increase the land revenue of the Government. If this is not possible at present let the Government open such colleges at least in three divisions such as Multan, Ambala and Rawalpindi.

I do not say, as was suggested by my friends the other day, that an Indian should be appointed as Principal of the Lyallpur College merely because he is an Indian. My point is that highly qualified Indians, who are experts in agriculture or research work, are at present

1 p.m.

working in the Lyallpur Agricultural College and one of them can be very easily appointed as the Principal of the said institution. I am not making a case for an individual of any particular community. Let anybody, whether he is a Hindu, Sikh or a Muslim be appointed to the said post. I cannot tolerate any non-Indian, being appointed as the Principal of this college particularly when we know that Indians are available who know the conditions of this country better than any European who would be imported for the job. I perfectly remember that in 1937 a similar situation arose here in Lahore. At the time the claims of many Indians were ignored and Dr. Fabri was appointed as the Curator of Lahore Museum for preparing new lists. The Honourable Minister of Education gave us an assurance that he would prefer an Indian to a European. But what happened? In spite of that assurance Dr. Fabri was appointed in the Lahore Museum. I fear a similar thing may happen this time. At present a Punjabi Jat is available who can discharge the duties of a curator of the museum very efficiently. When I say Jat I do not mean that I want to make any difference between jats and others, but my point is that an experienced hand is available. His claims are being ignored and the same Dr. Fabri is going to be appointed as the curator of the Lahore museum. Lyallpur College is a zamindara college and highly qualified persons are working at present in it. One of them can be appointed as the principal of the College.

The model nurseries which have been established in the Punjab are not meeting the needs of the people. The existing nurseries, whether they are of ordinary trees or of fruit trees are not sufficient and they are not meeting even one-tenth demand of the people. I, therefore, suggest that in every big village or groups of villages or at least in every tahsil or district, plant nurseries should be established from where fruit trees should be supplied to people. At present the zamindars are very much inclined towards plantation of fruit gardens. But they do not get the necessary fruit trees. The department of agriculture cannot meet their demands in this behalf. I think it would be much better if horticulture is separated from agriculture. Both the departments may be placed in the charge of a single Minister but what I want is that they should be separated from each other. Honourable members are aware that all sorts of fruit trees can be planted in the Punjab. The climate is suitable for the growing of all kinds of fruit trees. There are mountains, plains and sandy tracts in the Punjab where different kinds of plants can be grown and in abundance. It is therefore suggested that a separate department of horticulture be established which should advise the people about the planting of fruit trees suitable for particular climates.

**Mr. Speaker :** The honourable member's time is up.

**Mian Abdul Aziz :** Very well Sir. With your permission I will only state my points and then sit down. In the first place Government should supply fertilizers to zamindars so that they may increase the production of their fruit gardens. Secondly, zamindars should be encouraged to start bee-keeping industries. If the Agricultural Department encourages the zamindars to take to bee-keeping it will prove very useful for them. Thirdly, the department should see that high quality seeds whether they be of food grains or of vegetables be supplied to the zamindars. In every school or in the headquarters of every district farms should be established from where zamindars may be in a position to get good quality vegetable seeds. At present there are good many difficulties in getting high quality vegetable seeds. I know that good vegetable seeds can be had from Gurdaspur. But that farm cannot meet the demands of the whole of the Punjab. The supplies are limited. So steps should be taken to make more and more.



[M. Abdul Aziz.]

quantities of good vegetable seeds available to the zamindars. Similarly seeds of other food stuffs such as pulses, maize, etc., should be made available to the growers and at the lowest price. Fourthly I draw the attention of the Government to the consolidation of holdings. So far it has been ignored. Lastly the zamindars should be encouraged to set up poultry farms. These are four or five points which I have brought to the notice of Government and I hope they would give their careful consideration to them.

**Mr. K. L. Rallia Ram** (West Central Punjab, Indian Christian): It might be considered somewhat presumptuous on my part to speak on a subject with which I am not directly concerned, as my life work has been that of education, but it might interest some people to know that for some time past I have acquired some land and I might call myself a petty zamindar, specially in the district in which poor Christians are given the right of being called zamindars. Therefore I have had occasion to study the conditions of the zamindars, and as all my constituents are zamindars I have had occasions to go and study the conditions in places remote from Lahore. There is no doubt that some of the needs have already been brought to the notice of the House by my friends, but there are lots of things to be done. A very vast proportion of the population of the Punjab, quite 90 per cent of it, live in the villages whose interests are intertwined with the people living in the cities, and though we regret the cleavage which has been brought about between the people living in the villages and those who live in the cities, my humble view is that the prosperity of the one is the prosperity of the other and the adversity of the one is the adversity of the other. The city people cannot do without the co-operation of the villagers, nor can they prosper. Their problems are very great. In the first place, I find that most of the villages are disconnected. There are no pucca roads and the kutchra roads are a great handicap. The villagers cannot bring their products to the markets easily. Government is spending money on the betterment of zamindars and the foremost of their needs is the need for good roads. It takes a long time to go to a village which has a kutchra road, besides the jolts that one gets on tongas and 'ekkas'. Therefore I stress the need for having a programme for linking up the villages with pucca roads throughout the length and breadth of the province. Our province is famous for having a network of canals, but we would like to have a network of pucca roads which would bring all the amenities of life to those poor villages. *(At this stage Mr. Speaker left the chair and Mr. Deputy Speaker occupied it.)* Secondly, I notice that in many villages there are no wells for drinking water. The people have to depend upon simple water, which is a gift of nature from canals. Sometimes they dig pools where they collect water during the rainy season and drink it during the winter months when the season is dry. This is very unfortunate, because, as compared with city life, you find that the simple villagers are denied drinking water even. Therefore, the money which you are spending out of the Peasants Welfare Fund should be spent in sinking wells. There should be no village in my opinion which should be left without one well at least.

Then we want to have more schools for these village people. We talk of the improvements which have taken place in education, but as compared with places which have schools the number of places which are without education is far greater. There are many places where there is only one teacher for four or five classes. They cannot be called schools. Those people have a right to be

educated and educated on right lines. Most of the revenue comes from them and a good deal of that should be spent on their betterment.

As for the Agricultural Department, it has been criticised but judging from the little I have known of the working of the various departments, in my opinion if there is a department which has done good work it is the Agricultural Department. That I say without prejudice. Take the matter of growing orchards. About 90 years ago maltas and oranges were very rare in the Punjab, and though on account of the war their prices have gone up there is no dearth of them. There are plenty of them in the market. I think that the work done at Lyallpur, specially by Sardar Lal Singh, is very commendable. He has gone round and has given advice to the people wherever needed and the Department have always been very helpful. It is true that the problem is vast. You cannot expect any one department to deal with all the complaints but the Department has done very good work. Any piece of work started by the Government becomes artificial because people want to exploit it. All the same on the whole it has done a lot of good in giving a new life to the people and making them more conscious of their needs.

Similarly, as the Government has given land to the lambardars, why not give a square of land to the deserving poor school master? But for the work of the school masters honourable member would not be sitting here. We teachers have produced Ministers and Premiers, we have produced all these people and yet very little is being done for these teachers. There are teachers who are getting Rs. 13-8-0; there are others who are getting Rs. 16. What can be expected from these teachers who are getting Rs. 16 plus dearness allowance and have to maintain a large family? How can the future of these boys be entrusted to the care of these poor teachers who have to struggle for their very existence?

**Mr. Deputy Speaker :** Please return to the Agriculture Department.

**Mr. K. L. Rallia Ram :** I am talking of agricultural schools. I am talking of those schools in the villages which would have a special bias for agriculture. We want schools where boys are taught how to work on farms. We do not want merely literary education. We want something practical. If Government were to start schools on these sound lines where agriculture will be taught and where teachers will be required to work with the boys for two hours every day on the farms, I think it will do a lot of good. That was recommended by the Agricultural Commission, but nothing seems to have come out of the proposals which have been made from time to time. The future of this country, specially the Punjab, lies in agricultural prosperity. However much is done for them, I think is too little, and I do hope this House will pay greater attention to the needs of these poor villages in every direction, by giving them good roads, by giving them wells, by giving them advice, by spending money on them on philanthropic lines. This department, in my opinion, is the one department which has done very good work on the whole. This at least is the one department which is free from corruption so far as I know. That is a feather in their cap. There is very little corruption in the Agricultural Department. I hope they will see to the needs of the people. I am sorry I have not been able to take part in the earlier debate, especially on the demand for Education, as I have been unwell. I shall look for another opportunity. I thank the House for listening to me so patiently and well.

**Sardar Santokh Singh** (Eastern Towns, Sikh, Urban): Sir, members from this side of the House have had their say in the matter of the appointment of the Principal of the Agricultural College, Lyallpur. I fully share the sentiments to which they have given expression and I feel sure that Government

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will not dare to pass over the claims of the deserving Punjabis in this matter and if they do so I may warn them that that action of theirs will be resented not only by all sections of this House but also by the public outside. I might even go further and say that by doing that, they will be simply digging their own grave.

The second point to which I want to make a reference is about *desi* cotton. I raised that point by means of a question on the floor of this House and was most disagreeably surprised to find that the information which the Government had at their disposal was not only hopelessly out of date but absolutely incorrect and unreliable. I joined issue there and then and said that *desi* cotton was selling in the markets of the Punjab at Rs. 13 a maund and now I am in a position to say that the price has gone down further and has reached the figure of Rs. 12 a maund. The Honourable Minister of Development, if he cares to make enquiries, will fully bear me out. And what is Rs. 12 per maund in these days of inflation? It has been agreed on all hands that the value of a rupee is not more than five annas. So, it comes to this that the price which a zamindar is getting for a maund of *desi* cotton is actually no more than Rs. 4 a maund and yet this Government had the audacity to say, without making any enquiry worth the name, that *desi* cotton was selling at the moment at double the pre-war price. I should like to know where the Honourable Minister got his information from. If this condition had been brought about by normal course of events, one would not have much to say, but this decline in price has been brought about by artificial means. Most of us in this House are aware that the Government of India passed an order by which all forward contracts were brought to a close and stopped for the future. As a result of that prohibitive order the prices of *desi* cotton were fixed for all outstanding transactions all over the Punjab for the purpose of calculating losses and profits, at about Rs. 28 per maund. In Amritsar it was fixed at Rs. 28 a maund and in Okara and Lyallpur it was between Rs. 27 and Rs. 28. The result was that all outstanding transactions were scratched and trade in "futures" was absolutely stopped by that prohibitive order of the Government of India to which this provincial Government yielded, I believe, without any demur. They did not protest, they did not say a word as to how the province will suffer by such an order. What has been the result? The price of cotton has come down from Rs. 28 to Rs. 12 a maund, 40 per cent of the original price and not only have this Government not done anything in the matter, but when a question is raised on the floor of the House, they simply tell us, without knowing anything, that the rate ruling at the moment is double the pre-war price. I still am waiting enlightenment from the Honourable Minister for Development as to how and wherefrom he got that precious information. Is it or is it not a fact—I do repeat it with all the emphasis at my command—that the rate for *desi* cotton is no more than Rs. 12 or 13 per maund for the crop of 1942-43? Outstanding contracts were settled at Rs. 28 a maund not because the zamindars or traders desired it but by a prohibitive order passed by the Government of India. The Honourable Minister for Development may take it from me that people have lost their fortunes in this affair. It is very clear from the fact, that a thing which was settled for no fault of theirs at Rs. 28 a maund is being sold at Rs. 12 a maund and there are no buyers even at that rate. Even for the new crop which began coming afterwards the price in the bazar today is not more than Rs. 15 or 16 a maund.

**Minister of Development:** What is the remedy the honourable member would suggest?

**Sardar Santokh Singh :** The remedy is the one which the Minister has himself suggested for the other provinces. He took pride in telling us the other day that he had succeeded in having the "futures" trade in Karachi resumed. A thing which he did for other provinces, he has not been able to do for his own province. Before he considered it necessary to do anything for the province of Sindh, he should have taken steps to see that equal opportunities were given for the resumption of trade in "futures" in this province. I am glad that after having given that reply on the floor of this House, the Punjab Government has at long last moved in the matter and has written a letter to the Government of India on this subject. The Honourable the Minister of Development was pleased to write to me a letter saying that he has approached the Government of India for the resumption of "futures" trading in the Punjab. I do not know what the result of that representation of the Punjab Government will be, but I do hope that the Punjab Government will not sit at that and if the Government of India do not see their way to allow them permission that they have asked for, they would pursue the matter further and will not take rest until facilities similar to those given to other provinces are given to the Punjab. It is no consolation to know that "futures" trading has been allowed to be resumed in the provinces of Sindh and Bombay. We want that something ought to be done for our own province. As a matter of fact when the Government of India passed that prohibitive order I do not know whether the Punjab Government was consulted or not, but even if they were not consulted, I think it was their bounden duty to represent to the Government of India, without being asked by trade interests or other people, that it was not a fair thing for the Punjab to be subjected to such an order. The result has been that there are lakhs of bales of *desi* cotton lying in the mandis awaiting sales and considerable quantity of *kapas* is still in the hands of the zamindars. Curiously enough what this Government had further done was to disallow import of that cotton into Lyallpur, Montgomery and some other districts causing a further slump in the market. It might be that they did not want this crop to be grown any longer. I have no quarrel with that policy but the Government had no business to cause impediments in the way of sales of the crop that had been already produced, especially when prices were declining like anything.

**Minister of Development :** It was withdrawn.

**Sardar Santokh Singh :** Yes, but after the season was over, after five months, when 14 annas of the crop had already been marketed. The Honourable Minister of Development takes pride by telling us that that Ordinance or order was withdrawn, but only when there was only annas 2 of the crop not to be marketed. This is the way in which the Government proceeds in an important matter like this and this is how they are mindful of the interests of the zamindars for whom they announce from housetops day in and day out that they are doing their best.

There is another matter to which I would like to make a brief reference. It is in regard to the price control of rice. I may tell my friend the Honourable Minister of Development that about thirteen annas out of a rupee of rice crop has already been brought into the mandis and at the most only three or four annas of it remains out in the villages. The best time for imposing this rice control was in the beginning and not at this late stage. Moreover, unless this price control is first enforced rigidly in the recipient provinces, there is no sense in bringing about that control in the Punjab. Moreover, this rice crop is not a substantial crop of ours. The Central Government must first take steps to enforce control in those provinces where rice is the principal food crop and where

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those provinces principally depend upon it. In this province it will be absolutely a senseless affair to impose price control, especially at this stage when about 13 annas of the crop has already been imported into the mandis and has been disposed of. At the same time, rice is not our staple food. Our staple food is wheat. Let us first control the price of wheat and see the results before we launch on other schemes of fixing prices. Let us hope that our Government will not be taken unawares, that they will not be found napping and that they will take steps in time to represent the view point of the traders as also of the zamindars to the Central Government before any harm is done.

**Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Riasat Ali** (Hafizabad, Muhammadan, Rural): Sir, I must say that I am at a great disadvantage for the simple reason that I have not been able to follow the trend of the debate on the discussion of the budget in general and this grant in particular. I am myself going to act to-day on a practice which I have always deprecated, which is, that it is not fair for the Government as well as for the Opposition to single out a particular item of the budget and make it a target of criticism even from a point blank range; but as I have explained, I am myself guilty of this practice at the moment but, of course, that is for to-day only. The importance of the Department of Agriculture cannot be over-emphasised, as everybody knows, on account of the fact that agriculture is the only industry known to the major portion of the population of this country. It relates to the interests of no less than 95 per cent of the people of this land of five rivers, as the name denotes, people who are known for their general rural outlook. We have been hearing in season and out of season, day in and day out as the Honourable Leader of the Opposition has said, that there should be a second string to the bow but I must confess that that string I have not been able to see with my weak eyes at least up to this time. That dream has not been realised so far and I am sorry to repeat it on the floor of the House not on account of the fact that the Government has lagged behind but on account of the fact that there might be practical difficulties in the way of the Government itself and very sincere efforts might have been hampered on account of certain factors over which the Government could not have any control. I think it will be too late in the day for me to criticise at this hour the factum of price control, rationing and hoarding. The head of the Government himself has said that if this would not suit our constituents, he will raise his voice and fight it tooth and nail. The same are the professions of other members of the Government in open meetings, mass meetings and other meetings which have been held in rural areas. The professions are there but the mischief has already been done. Staff for this purpose has been appointed. Army of people have been brought in to drain out money out of the provincial exchequer to be spent on the employees who are absolutely useless just as the Public Health Department, which consists of an army of supervisors with nothing to supervise at all. We are told that great advance has been made by the Beneficent Departments. Their budget in 1936-37 was 287 lakhs, in the current year it is 422 lakhs and their budget estimate for the next year is 464 lakhs. But mere figures will not do. I make bold to say that no advance worth the name has been made in ear-marking sufficient funds for the Department of Agriculture. I should not refer to personalities but I should say at this stage that it is high time that we should flush them and we should take up the matter in such a way that the stream is flooded with water. Out of this amount the major portion again goes for the purpose of provincialisation of services of lady health visitors, for a corps to fight epidemics. This corps, I say from the

core of my heart, is altogether useless. The department is given no less than 17½ lakhs. It is a department which exists on paper and does not in any way appear in reality. But I may inform you that I am not discussing that department. It was just by way of comparison with the department of Agriculture. There are five items in this magna charta or the famous document or whatever you may call it, with regard to the subject of Agriculture. Any right man at the right place—a statutory agriculturist—with a first hand knowledge of his industry—would be handicapped with such funds. I think he will prove himself a right man at the right place if he is equipped with sufficient outlook and sufficient funds. There is no time for me to go into the details. I was speaking of rationing. I want to say this much that one can imagine of self-imposed starvation by people behind the bars, whether they are security prisoners, whether they are detenus, whether they are offenders I do not know, but a statutory starvation is unheard of and our Government is forcing that statutory starvation on us and what is it? That thou shalt not eat more than eight chhatanks of *atta* a day. There is no question of 'thou shalt' 'but thou shalt not'. This will undermine the vitality, the strength, the potentiality, the vigour and manhood, I should say, of the Punjabi stalwart. I can speak on that subject for hours but the difficulty is that the time at my disposal is very limited. As I have already submitted, mischief has already been done and now it is useless to spend more money on this venture. I even now say that there is no need for rationing. So far as this subject is concerned, you know the hospitable nature of the Punjabi. If a guest comes to the house of somebody, should he run to the bungalow of the City Magistrate with drum-beating because the City Magistrate will not wake up and in the intervening period the guest should die of starvation as people die of gas poisoning without knowing what has happened? Even the Province of Sind has four seers of cereals or grain, whatever you may call it, for one week. Wheat is our staple food and can we be deprived of it? Unit is being fixed at a rate which is much lower than that fixed in Sind to whom we are definitely superior in strength, vim and vigour. Rationing will, as I have said, undermine the mentality of the people of our province. There is another thing and that is the price control of wheat. I am not concerned with the question whether there should be a statutory price control or a selling price should be fixed. I have just said that our leaders and chiefs have said in so many words, have broadcast in rural areas that that will not be done and if it is going to be enforced, then it will be enforced with care because I tell them that they are playing with fire. 'Grow more food' campaign, like the department of Public Health, will be on paper only and there will not be growth of more food unless there is incentive to grow.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker :** The Honourable member's time is up.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh** (Amritsar North, Sikh, Rural) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, I have to say so many things on this demand but it is a pity that there is very short time at my disposal and therefore it will not be possible for me to express myself in detail. I fear if I take up one point only I would not be able to do justice to that point, even if I go skipping over it. As you are aware, Sir, much has been said from the Government's side in praise of the research work done by the Agriculture Department resulting in benefit to the Agriculturists. For instance, they have said that the place of *desi* cotton is being taken by the new American cotton and apart from that so many improved varieties of sugarcane have also been introduced by the Agriculture Department resulting in great benefit to the zamindars. Fodder has also been made available to the zamindars for the whole of the year. Over and above that research work is being done to

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eradicate the troubles cropping up on account of *tela*, *kungi* and *'kiri'* by which the cotton, wheat and cane crops are damaged respectively. It is quite true and I am one with the honourable members who have referred to the improvements made in the Agriculture Department. I also admit that the Government have taken steps towards improvement of the Agriculture Department which is now aspiring for the co-operation of laboratory and field work. This aim of the agriculture department is praiseworthy indeed and I fully appreciate it. We are quite happy that some good has been done by the Government for the benefit of agriculturists and that the good efforts made by the Agriculture Department have also greatly added to the income of the latter. But what we object to is this that the Government ought to have spent the maximum amount of money which was possible for them to spend. Unfortunately they have not spent even the minimum amount in this respect. It is a pity that in spite of our repeated requests the Government have never cared to improve the lot of those people who are the source of all wealth, i.e., the tenantry. Although we find in the budget a few lines written in regard to the condition of cultivators, under the Head of Agriculture Department we do not find there any remedy found out by the Government for improving the conditions of the tenants who are hard hit at every step by the landlords. I may also point out that they are badly, rather disgracefully, treated by their masters and the atrocities perpetrated on them by the landlords are such as to make our hair stand on end. It is regrettable that the Government have not made efforts to put an end to the untold miseries of the tenants. They have not even adopted a sympathetic attitude towards them. But I understand that if any one has benefited by what the Agriculture Department has done it is a few big landlords whose interests are protected by the Government and to whom most of the agricultural facilities are afforded. Looking at the record of the Government as to what they have done up to the present moment for the benefit of tenants we find it replete with acts of tyranny committed over them by the jagirdars. I may also say that this tyranny reminds us of the wretched conditions prevailing in England in the 16th and 17th Century.

(At this stage Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair.)

Now, Sir, as I have to tell you a lot about the condition of the tenantry. I would like to draw your attention, in the first place, to battai system, which, as I understand, varies at different places. There are places where tenants are given a small share by this system and there are places also where a tenant is not given his due at all according to this system. (Interruptions.) At certain places the share given to the tenants according to this system is one-half and there are also places where it is one-third. All that I can say in this connection is that this system should be clear cut and uniform and must not vary at different places as I have mentioned. Particularly the poor tenants in Muzaffargarh, Multan, Campbellpore and Mianwali districts are facing such untold miseries that it is not possible to describe them at length. The first objectionable thing to which I would like to draw your attention is this. The tenants are considered to be the '*ryats*' of the landlords who are generally the masters of their lives and belongings. (An honourable member from the Government Benches: Toba Toba). Do not say Toba Toba. It is just the beginning and I am sure my honourable friends sitting opposite would hang their heads in shame on hearing the hard facts which I have got in my possession. Let me, therefore, suggest them not to ask me the names of the persons because by doing so I will be exposing their tyrannies and they will find themselves in a very embarrassing position.

I was submitting, that the landlords are considered to be solely and wholly their masters who can turn them out of the villages for no fault of theirs. In most of the cases the tenants are deprived of even their meagre belongings at the sweet will of their landlords who do not feel a sense of shame to keep the young girls of their tenants by force. (*'Shame, shame' from the Opposition.*) My honourable friend Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh sits beside me and he has—

**Mr. Speaker :** The Honourable member should not be personal.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Very well Sir. I shall not take up this point. My next submission is in regard to 'Watai'. When commodities like gur and cotton are brought from the fields they are kept in the house of the landlord until they are sold by the landlord. Now the question arises, on what percentage a share is given to a tenant? You will be surprised to know that no percentage at all is kept in view at the time of dividing the harvest and that the share given to a tenant mainly depends on the sweet will of the landlord, who may deduct the amount to any extent. Now I wish to draw your attention to another trouble of the tenantry and this trouble is with regard to the burden of expenditure which this class has to bear. There are hundred and one kinds of expenses borne by the poor tenants. Some of them are as follows :

The first expenditure is the expenditure of *dera*. A guest comes and stays in the guest house and feels grateful to the landlord for all the comforts and entertainments given at the expense of the poor tenants as all the expenses incurred on account of the guest's visit are defrayed by the tenants only. The second expenditure is known as *dharrat*. The third is an expenditure concerning *kamins*. Fourth is *Munshiana* and the fifth is an expenditure concerning Miscellaneous for which one seer is deducted from each maund of the commodity. Besides, bearing the brunt of all these expenses the poor tenants have to undergo various kinds of *begars*. Now let me refer to some of the *begars* in existence. First of all there is *sarkari* begar, then there is *kiara ki begar*. The land owned by a landlord is known as *kiara* and is given to a tenant for cultivation for which no compensation is awarded to him, and this begar is included in other begars. Then comes *dere ki begar*. The tenants, under this begar, have to go to the landlord turn by turn, pay him respects and the latter tells them to bring fodder and water for the animals and they have to attend to such other numerous begars as well. Then, there is *Thana ki brear*. The poor tenants in spite of all these begars done just to please their master have to serve the *policewalas* also. They have to carry fuel for the police officers and have also to maintain their gardens. I feel it will be all the more interesting to note that certain landlords happen to be of a delicate nature and they employ some of their tenants to press and massage them not for hours together but for days and nights. (*Laughter*).

**Mr. Speaker :** The honourable member is irrelevant.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** I am not irrelevant, Sir, I am telling you how it affects the poor tenants whose main work is to plough the fields and not to massage. Then, the landlords have formed such a clique that if once a tenant incurs the displeasure of one landlord and is consequently turned out of the village no landlord would ever get him employed in his jagir. It means if a tenant is turned out once he is doomed for ever. It means a complete ruin to him. I am surprised to hear the Government saying that they have employed large number of tenants on the work of cultivation under the grow more food campaign while in reality most of them have been rendered homeless by the landlords. I can cite hundred and one glaring instances where the tenants have



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been spared no tyranny by the landlords. For instance during the last election they were cultivating 110 *joges* that is, 55 squares of land which have now been grabbed from them and they have been deprived of even their meagre belongings.

**Mr. Speaker :** The Honourable Member's time is up.

**Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan** (Pind Dadan Khan, Muhammadan, Rural) (Urdu) : Of all the beneficent departments, education comes first and agriculture takes the second place in importance. Education is the cause of our spiritual development while agriculture is the mainstay of our bodily well-being. It goes without saying that the Punjab is an agricultural province and its prosperity depends on agriculture alone. I would, therefore, lay before the House a few constructive suggestions which if carried into effect will lead to the amelioration of the conditions of the peasants and agriculturists of the province. But before submitting my proposals for the consideration of the Honourable Minister-in-charge of Agriculture, I would also like to congratulate him for the excellent work he has done by appointing an Indian as Director of Agriculture. It is my considered opinion that the Heads of all the Beneficent Departments should be Indians. I would consequently hope that some Indian will be selected to fill the post of the Principal, Punjab Agricultural College, Lyallpur. If these things are not done during the days of the provincial autonomy, they can never be done. Now is the time to take action on these lines.

But a word of caution is also needed. No amount of expenditure on beneficent departments can yield the desired result unless a strict watch is kept over their working. What is happening at present? We have appointed a large staff in connection with the beneficent departments. In the districts they are put under the Deputy Commissioners. But Deputy Commissioners are already overworked. Moreover, the primary duties of the Deputy Commissioners are thought to be restricted to maintaining law and order. A Deputy Commissioner can hardly find any time to devote to the working of the beneficent departments. Law and order occupy his attention to the exclusion of all other matters, so much so that even if one were to ask a Deputy Commissioner the names of the Agricultural Assistants, or Sub-Inspectors of Co-operative Societies or the names of the Panchayat Officers working in his district, he would not be able to tell their names. The result is obvious. No strict watch is kept over the activities of the beneficent departments. As a matter of fact the Deputy Commissioners generally are not interested in them. Even if they are interested, they will not be able to find time enough to examine the working of these departments. That is the main reason why the maximum advantage cannot be expected from the beneficent departments. They have not proved as useful and beneficial as they were expected to be. We should try to make them really beneficial. The method of increasing their utility would be this that the Government should provide for the co-ordination of all the beneficent department by appointing District Welfare Officers in the various districts. It should be the duty of these officers to see to the proper working of these departments. Their status should be the same as that of a Deputy Commissioner in a district. Public Health, Panchayats, Agriculture and the allied departments should be placed under the charge of these District Welfare Officers. (*Rai Bahadur Lala Gopal Das* : They should be selected from among the M. L. As.) Yes, but, they should be selected from among those M. L. As. who are in the Opposition but whose hearts are ever here in the Ministerial benches. (*Laughter.*)

We have already a vast system of civil service. But the officers generally grant certificates to those who have rendered some help to the police or to

Government in political matters. I submit that equally valuable certificate ought to be granted for assistance in matters relating to Public Health, Panchayats, Agriculture and others. But hitherto this has not been done. The District Welfare Officers will give a fresh impetus to these departments and their workings will be co-ordinated.

I admit that the Agriculture Department has done some good work by supplying improved seeds and various varieties of certain crops, particularly those of cotton. But that is the way in which the blessings of British Rule in India used to be praised. I believe that even in the absence of the British Rule in India, the modern improved means of communications would have found their way. Are not railways and telephones working in other countries where the British are not ruling? Such cheap reputation should be abhorred by the Government. A more substantial work is wanted. I would, therefore, request the Honourable Minister of Development to get his staff increased in the Agricultural Department and establish more model farms in every village so that the zamindars may actually see with their own eyes the benefits of the improved methods of cultivation. The result of ploughing with old ploughs should be contrasted with the result of modern ploughs. That would awaken and quicken the interest of the zamindars in the improved methods of cultivation. This will go a long way to increase the prosperity of the cultivators.

With these few words, Sir, I close my speech.

**Sardar Jagjit Singh Man** (Central, Punjab Landholders): Sir, I rise to appreciate the good work which the Agriculture Department under the leadership of Sardar Baldev Singh, the Minister-in-charge, has done. This department has served the Punjabis very well. Although it has done a lot for the zamindars I dare say that there are still many things yet to be done by it. I would like to make a few suggestions about this department. I would first take up the consolidation of holdings. The consolidation of holdings is of immense benefit to the people of this province. Those who had small holdings could hardly pay their land revenue, but after their holdings have been consolidated they are now very well off and are prosperous and flourishing.

I have got to make one complaint in regard to this matter and that is that the speed of work is very slow. There are about 30 million acres of land in this province half of which is situated in those districts where consolidation has yet to be done and at the speed at which the consolidation is being done at present it will take a hundred years to complete the work. I would therefore urge upon the Government the desirability of accelerating this work. They can employ more staff to do this work speedily.

The next point which I would like to refer to is *Pohli*. Although it looks to be a very minor matter as a matter of fact it is of great importance inasmuch as it eats up 10 to 12 per cent of the crops. I fail to understand why the Government does not pay any attention to this problem especially in these days of grow-more-food campaign. This problem has difficulties peculiar to itself. If, for example, I feel that it is a great evil and try to eradicate it, my neighbour may be careless and his *Pohli* will be crossing into my lands and the position will become still worse. In my opinion, the best way of eradicating this evil is that there should be some sort of enactment or other some equally effective step to combat this evil.

Now I come to agricultural implements. Owing to the scarcity of implements in this province zamindars are experiencing great difficulties and the campaign of grow-more-food is being impeded. For instance, take canecrusher.

[S. Jagjit Singh Mann.]

Last year the price of each mill stood something between Rs. 200 to 300 and now it has shot up to Rs. 600 to 700 and still we are not able to obtain it. I know of certain lands where the cane is still standing owing to the lack of these mills and now the season for sowing sugarcane for the next year is coming.

**Begum Rashida Latif Baji :** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. The honourable member is a Parliamentary Secretary and can have his say in party meetings and his time can be utilised by other members of the House.

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

**Sardar Jagjit Singh Mann :** I was referring to the lack of crushing mills in the province. Now that the season for the next crop has come and the preparation of land for cotton has also to be taken in hand and the weather is also becoming warmer and warmer the condition of the poor zamindars who have to crush their canes under these adverse circumstances, can well be imagined. I would therefore request the Government to look into this matter of making implements in this province and making them available to the zamindars.

The next important point to which I would refer is that of manure. The matter is a very important one and I would request the Government to pay their serious attention to it.

**Mr. Speaker :** The honourable member should avoid repetition.

**Sardar Jagjit Singh Mann :** I am going to say something new in this respect and that is that I would request the Government to follow the example of Hunzara State in the North-West corner of India. These people it is stated collect everything that once had life, heap it together, submit it to natural fermentation and return it to the soil. Thus we are told—

“Every egg shell, every flock of wool, every pellet of sheep and goat, every leaf that is unfit for an animal to eat, the ash of their fires, unused vegetable matter, the night soil, worn out leather, worn out clothes—all go to the composite heap.

So we must learn to obey nature's rule of return and conserve the fertility of the soil on the lines followed by the people of Hunzara.

I would also like to draw the attention of the Honourable Minister of Development to the betterment of live stock. In this connection I will quote a few figures to show where we stand as compared to foreign countries so far as this important point is concerned. I would like to add that most of the work is being done by machinery in those countries and we here depend only on live stock and in spite of that our figures are very low. The figures are—

	Per hundred		
Denmark ..	..	..	74
America .. ..	..	..	79
Canada .. ..	..	..	80
Cape Colony ..	..	..	120
New Zealand ..	..	..	180
Australia .. ..	..	..	259
Argentina .. ..	..	..	323
India .. ..	..	..	61

It will be seen from the above figures that we stand at the bottom as regards live-stock. I would request the Government to pay special attention to this important problem. The points to be considered are—there should be more grazing

grounds ; more veterinary hospitals should be opened for looking after the health of our cattle and special attention should be paid to the provision of fodder.

Before I sit down I wholeheartedly associate myself with the remarks that have been made by the various honourable members of this House with regard to the appointment of the Principal of the Agricultural College, Lyallpur. I must say that it would be most improper on the part of the Government to import an outsider. I know that there are very capable persons on the staff of the College who can be appointed.

In conclusion, I would request the Government to launch a scheme in this province to bring this province on sound economic basis and to make the people of this province prosperous by co-operation, by consolidating their lands, by collective farming and things of that type.

**Mian Sultan Mahmud Hotiana** (Pakpattan, Muhammadan, Rural) (Urdu): Sir, the demand now before the House relates to agriculture on which 90 per cent of our people depend for their livelihood. My honourable friend Raja Gazanfar Ali Khan has been pleased to remark that on merit education occupies first place while agriculture is a close second. I differ from him. I think agriculture occupies the first place and education comes second. So long as there is poverty people cannot get their children educated. That is the reason why we are backward in education. The poor cannot afford to send their children to schools or colleges. If agriculture is improved ; zamindars would become well-off and then they can afford to educate their children. I admit that to some extent the Department of Agriculture has done useful work. But whatever it has done or is doing is *in camera*. If it is doing any research work that is being done *in camera*. If any education is being given to students that is also *in camera*. But the field work which would prove more useful to the zamindars than the work *in camera* is practically nil. I do not blame the officers of the Agriculture Department for that. They have not the necessary staff to get that work done. For instance, usually one mukadam is posted in every tahsil. How can he be expected to go round 500 or 600 villages in that tahsil and instruct the agriculturists to adopt improved methods of agriculture? (An honourable member: In which tahsil are there 500 or 600 villages?) In my own tahsil Pakpattan there are 500 or 600 villages. My submission is that if Government want to do any work they should do it according to some plan. Unless the number of mukaddams is increased we cannot hope for any better results.

Next I come to the supply of fruit plants to the public. If this department had met the needs of the people in this respect even then I would have said that the money incurred on it is well-spent. But even in that respect the department has failed to do its duty. If this department had met the needs of the people in respect of fruit plants that would have constituted a great public service. But what do we find? This year those who applied for 100 plants have been given only 10. What gardening can a person do who gets only 10 plants? If the department had incurred some expenditure and produced sufficient number of plants for supply to the needy zamindars that would have proved very useful. I am constrained to remark that at present this department is not doing any useful work at all in this direction.

Then I come to control. In the first place there was no necessity for the imposition of price control in the province because this is a producer province. It must be well-known that Government purchased wheat from the zamindars at the rate of Rs. 9 or 10 a maund and it sold to the Government of India at the rate of Rs. 13 a maund. The Central Government sold it to the deficit province

[Mian Sultan Mahmud Hotiana.]

at Rs. 15 or Rs. 17 a maund, where it was sold to the public at Rs. 25 to Rs. 27 a maund. This is the blessing of control. If there had been no control everybody in the deficit provinces would have got wheat at the most at Rs. 13 to 14 a maund. As I have stated in the first place there is absolutely no need for its introduction here. Anyway as it is being forced upon us by the Government of India I would request the Honourable Minister for Development to see that the introduction of price control does not inaugurate an era of repression in the Punjab. Besides, no restriction should be imposed on the zamindars that they can keep with them only so much food-grains and no more. The zamindars, unlike our sister Baji Sahiba, who neither entertains any guests nor extends her hospitality to any one, are very hospitable. Sometimes 500 to 600 people arrive and dine at our *deras* in one day. If any restriction is imposed on the zamindars in this behalf it will cause great unrest among them. I therefore suggest that any such restriction should not be placed on them.

**Begum Rashida Latif Baji :** The honourable member referred to me. May I know what he has said ?

**Mian Sultan Mahmud Hotiana :** I only compared the hospitality of the urbanites with that of the ruralites. Beyond that I meant nothing.

**Begum Rashida Latif Baji :** Why did the honourable member particularly refer to me ? Unlike other members of the Unionist party I am vigilant and I know how I can protect myself.

**Mian Sultan Mahmud Hotiana :** I only made a comparison between the city-dwellers and the country-folk. I did not mean to offend my sister in any way. If my remarks have given her any offence I apologize and withdraw my remarks. Anyway my submission is that the quantity of ration allowed is also very small. For instance, it has been decided that an individual would be allowed  $3\frac{1}{2}$  seers of *ata* per week. This is too small. I once read in a paper that you, Mr. Speaker, when you were in a college used to take 77 loaves of bread at a single meal. (*Laughter.*) Now you have advanced in years and accordingly the quantity of your diet must have decreased. There are thousands of persons in the Punjab who take 100 loaves of bread at a time. (*Laughter.*) The limit of  $3\frac{1}{2}$  seers ration allowed per week is very small. This is much less than what has been allowed in Sind and Bengal. Just compare our physique with the physique of the people of Sind and Bengal. Our one man can very easily equal four of them. But how strange that we are allowed less ration than they ! This is a thing which we cannot tolerate. It will result in starvation. The quantity of ration should therefore be increased. The Punjab, as my friends are aware, is known for its hospitality. If any guest comes, nobody can argue with him that as he gets only limited ration so he cannot provide him meals. It is only fair that while fixing quotas of rations necessary allowance should be made for guests as well. As the time is very short and many other honourable members want to speak I resume my seat.

**Sardar Ajit Singh** (South-West Punjab, Sikh, Rural) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, I perfectly agree with my honourable friend Mian Sultan Mahmud Hotiana that among all the beneficent departments agriculture occupies the first place as it has a direct concern with the agriculturists. The Department of Education is doing nothing except giving wrong type of education to our youngmen and educates slavery. On the contrary the Department of Agriculture has benefited the zamindars by providing good seeds and by telling them improved methods of agriculture. It has introduced Coimbatore variety of sugarcane and 124-F

cotton in the Punjab and has provided other good seeds to the zamindars which have benefited them a lot. In this connection I may point out that the field staff kept for the purpose is very small. The present staff cannot go round all the villages under their charge and tell the zamindars as to how they should cultivate their lands and what quantity of seeds they should sow in a particular area in order to get the maximum yield. For instance, zamindars do not know how much seed they should sow for growing sugarcane in a particular area. I am a zamindar myself and I can say on the basis of my personal experience that zamindars sow sugarcane seeds of 7 or 8 marlas in an acre of land. But with this quantity of seed the sugarcane crop cannot be thickly grown. Its yield also falls down. If sugarcane seeds spread in 15 or 16 marlas are grown in an acre at close quarters the yield of the crop goes up to 100 to 150 maunds. But this is not being told to the zamindars, because the staff employed at present is not sufficient to do this work. My submission is that zamindars do not know improved methods of agriculture and what particular quantity of seed should be grown in a particular area. They do not know that if sufficient quantity of seeds is not sown it results in bringing down the yield of their crops. I think the Department of Agriculture should increase the strength of the field staff three times more than what it is at present, so that the officials may instruct the zamindars on the modern methods of cultivation. If this is done the zamindars would be in a position to sow improved varieties of seeds which are discovered by the experts of the department, and thus they would get the maximum yield out of their crops.

Next I want to say a few words in respect of the control of food-grains in the Punjab. Every order issued by the Government in this connection last year has gone against the interests of the zamindars and they have been made to suffer considerable losses on that account. If the Government cannot decide by themselves matters of such vital importance to the zamindars they should get their experts like the Director of Agriculture to advise them upon these matters. Left to themselves they sometimes impose restrictions and control on one commodity and then remove the same and control another commodity. The same thing happened in the case of *desi* cotton whose movements were first brought under control and then released. During the period of control different rates ruled in different districts. In Ferozpur it sold at Rs. 9 or Rs. 9-8-0 while in Montgomery and Multan, adjoining districts, the prices prevailed at Rs. 17 and Rs. 18 per maund. This difference in prices gave fillip to smuggling and other corrupt practices by which people sold thousands of maunds of cotton and made lakhs of rupees. The police likewise derived considerable profit from this racket. I would, therefore, submit that the Government would be well advised if they took the counsel of their Director of Agriculture before imposing a control on any agricultural commodity. Nevertheless I wish to express my gratitude to the Government for having lifted the control on *desi* cotton.

After cotton the Government have now turned their attention to oil seeds. They have imposed control and prohibited its export. (*Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh*): They have prohibited the export of oil as well. Yes, they have imposed restriction on both. I would request the Government to lift this restriction as it has already caused a great loss to the zamindars.

Next I come to the rationing of food-grains. The limit of 25 maunds of wheat (which is going to be the quota) for the zamindars as the permissible quantity of grain that they can stock for the whole year is too inadequate. While fixing this quota the requirements of large families and the stocking of grain to be

[Sardar Ajit Singh.]

used as seed have been overlooked. Last year a friend of mine required 700 maunds of wheat for the purposes of seed. I cannot understand how a person with much requirements can feed his family as well as find wheat for seed purposes with the quota fixed by the Government. The limit if it has to be fixed at all should be in accordance with the size of the family and the land of the zamindar. I do not agree with the quantity that is 300 maunds which has been suggested by some honourable members to be fixed as the maximum. It should be for every one according to his needs, which can be for 100, 200 or 500 maunds. If the Government are bent upon fixing this limit they should also issue an order that henceforward the guests should bring along with them the quantity of wheat required during their stay with their hosts.

With these words I resume my seat.

**Shrimati Raghubir Kaur** (Amritsar, Sikh Women) (*Punjabi*) : While the Department of Agriculture received full measure of praise from some honourable members it has also been subjected to scathing criticism at the hands of others. In the course of my speech I propose to show the extent to which the Agriculture Department has progressed and benefited the people of this province. It is not the small holders owning 10 or 20 bighas of land but big landlords possessing hundreds of acres or squares of land who have derived real benefit from this department. The small holder has not received any instruction or advantages from the department which presumably was never intended by the Government to benefit him. The fact is that the present Government does not want the masses to make any progress nor does it wish to take any steps whereby the small holders may be benefited. All the advantages go to the big landlords. Every department of the Government caters to their needs. Their children receive education whereas the children of poor zamindars remain without the light of education.

There are three stratas of rural society. First comes the big landlord. The second place goes to the tenant and lastly, comes the small holders. This small holder has not at all benefited by the Department of Agriculture. An honourable member said that although the province had made no progress in the sphere of education yet there has been some improvement in agriculture through the efforts of the Agriculture Department. In my opinion there has not been any progress in any department whatsoever. Neither the Education nor the Agriculture Department has made any progress worth the name.

Although we criticise and speak ill of the activities of the Government for which the Honourable Ministers must feel vexed with us, yet we know their limitations as well. In fact they are bound up in a frame, as it were, and cannot break through that framework and take progressive strides like the Congress Governments. They cannot say anything disparaging against or act contrary to the requirements of that framework for fear of imprisonment. Our Honourable Ministers are in reality under the Government of India. They can be likened to the Watch and Ward or clerical staff of the Punjab Legislative Assembly who cannot voice the grievances of the people in this House even if they are asked to do so. Similarly, this Government is under the Central Government and cannot effectively represent the people of this province. The Honourable Ministers are our brethren and I do not want to utter the word which describes their real position lest they should take offence. I cannot say that they are subject to the authority of the Government of India and are virtually their servants. They are compelled to remain within the limits of the framework and cannot look at things from a broader perspective. The agricultural methods so successfully adopted by other

countries do not seem to appeal to them. They do not like the good things of other countries. This case is that of the frog in the well which does not know that there are bigger things like oceans and seas. They say 'Do not talk to us about America and Russia, but speak to us of the Punjab'. But let me remind them that we should not be like that frog in the well. The incredible progress made by science has drastically changed our conception of time and space. We are now connected with all other countries of the world. We cannot remain unaffected by the advancement and progress of those countries. We can take advantage of their successful experiments. It is high time we realized that we have not yet learnt to toddle while other countries have taken great strides and made immense progress. All the departments of our Government and their activities are meant to benefit the big landlords. If improved seeds are being evolved they are expressly for the bigger fry. If the Education Department is of any good it is for educating the children of the big zamindars. Nothing is being done for the poorer classes.

I beg to submit that the Honourable Ministers should turn their attention to the masses as well. Those who help to fill the coffers of the province deserve at least some consideration at the hands of the Government. It is not enough to spend two or three lakhs of rupees on education and a like amount on the Agriculture Department. Such small amounts will not help to put this province on the map of progressive countries. No progress can be made unless this Government extricates itself from the framework in which it has got itself enmeshed.

With these words, Sir, I conclude my remarks.

**Khan Sahib Chaudhri Ahmad Yar Khan** (North-West Gujrat, Muhammadan, Rural) (*Urdu*): Sir, I will not be mistaken if I take the liberty of submitting that the Department of Agriculture is the only department which is doing useful service to the zamindars. Those of my honourable friends who hold contrary opinions are totally wrong. The Government have done a great favour to the zamindars by allotting six lakhs more than usual for this department in the current budget. From the Memorandum we learn that the number of Mukadams in the department have been increased by 29 and the Agricultural Assistant by 18. Although the zamindars are highly grateful to the Government for this benevolence on its part, yet I think that any further increase in their number will never prove useless or unnecessary. I personally attach much more value to mukadams than to the Agricultural Assistants. I will always recommend that their number should be increased in greater proportion than the latter. My honourable friend Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan in his speech declared that as far as the question of nation building is concerned education tops the list and the department of agriculture comes next. I fully agree with him. The existing number of demonstration farms is also very small. It must exist in each zail. The number of nurseries too needs our serious attention. The improved varieties of seeds and other things have improved the lot of the poor zamindars enormously.

I want to express our thanks to the Government for the selection of the present Director of Agriculture. He himself is a zamindar and a zamindar very well knows the real troubles of this down trodden community. I can safely hope that in the near future he will purge out all the existing troubles of this community and there is no reason why this community may not one day become a care-free community.

In the end I would like to ask the Government to leave sufficient margin for the guests when rationing is enforced. The hospitality of the citizens of Lahore



[K. S. Ch. Ahmad Yar Khan.]

is already well-known and by ignoring this important aspect of the question, the Government should not convert that tale into a reality.

**Sardar Sher Singh** (Montgomery East, Sikh, Rural) (*Urdu*): Sir, I want to discuss an order of the Government. Honourable Ministers have repeatedly announced on the floor of the House as well as in the public that the forced contributions towards the war-fund from zamindars and their tenants will not be extracted. But here is an order from the Naib-Tahsildar of Shirkpore demanding forced loans. I ask the Government, what is the position? Are their orders not obeyed or they themselves do not want their prosecution?

Under the orders of the Naib-Tahsildar, Shirkpore.

*Subject* :—War-Loans.

Munshi Ra'm, Tulsi Ram and Kartar Singh and their tenants Munshi Kartar Singh and Munshi Faqir Singh. Hereby you are ordered to present yourself along with your tenants and Kamins at Burj Atari at 10 a.m. No delay should occur otherwise no excuse will be acceptable.

Dated 15-3-45.

Sir, I beg the liberty of asking, what is this? The Government should take up this matter seriously and after proper investigation should see that nothing of the sort happens again.

Control and Rationing has become the talk of the town. But the past experience shows that so far all the control have failed miserably. In the past Government used to adopt a policy and used to leave its working in the hands of such people who were totally incapable of doing that. If the Government of India thrust this policy then our Government should appoint an advisory board consisting of traders as well as zamindars. They will be in a position to tender genuine advice to the Government.

In the Punjab there are 37,131 villages and at present 101 Agricultural Assistants are working. If we distribute these villages between the different Assistants, each one gets 370 villages. Moreover every Assistant is expected to work his office for twenty days in a month. I am sure that these 10 days in a month are altogether insufficient for this difficult job which requires far greater assistance. I ask the Government to increase the staff as much as possible.

**Minister of Development** (The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh): Sir, for the last two days we have been discussing this demand and I must say that I have not been able to follow the discussion and the speeches which the honourable members have made on this cut motion. The main subject under discussion was agriculture and the honourable members from all sides of the House have brought into the discussion several other subjects which really do not concern this particular department. But we agreed to give some latitude to the members to discuss the scheme of rationing and the ban imposed by the Government of India on the export of food grains from this province and I propose to reply to these criticisms at the end of my speech.

To start with, I will deal with the improvements that have been made by the Agriculture Department since 1925. I would not like to take the time of the House in stating all that has been done by this department, as whatever has been done is well-known to the honourable members and the public outside. My honourable friend, Chaudhri Sumer Singh, who opened the discussion, raised an objection that the educational expenses at the Agricultural College, Lyallpur, were very high. I entirely agree with him and I myself feel that the expenses in the college are high and I am considering this matter and trying to find out ways by which we can reduce the expenses there. For the information of this

House I would say that we have provided facilities by way of stipends and 85 such stipends are given to the students in the Agriculture College. Eight scholarships of the value of Rs. 12 per mensem tenable for two years are given to students in their first year of study. Seven scholarships of the value of Rs. 12 per month tenable for one year only are given to students in the second year. Seven scholarships of the value of Rs. 1 per mensem and ten of the value of Rs. 15 per month tenable for one year are awarded to students in the third year. Seventeen scholarships of the same value are given to students of the fourth year class. This shows that we are doing whatever is possible to assist the students who are studying in the Agriculture College, Lyallpur. It is very difficult for us to go beyond this. As I have said before it is our desire that the expenses in this college should be reduced to the minimum possible.

**Mian Abdul Aziz :** The scholarships are totally insufficient.

**Minister of Development :** I quite agree with Mian Sahib that these scholarships are not sufficient but he will realise that financial difficulties stand in our way. In addition to these, the district boards are also giving certain scholarships which are reserved for agriculturists and a certain number of these scholarships is reserved for non-agriculturists as well.

Next, I would like to reply to the questions raised by my honourable friend, Mian Abdul Aziz. With regard to bee-keeping we have, for the last few years, undertaken to encourage bee-keeping and there are at present five farms in the province for this purpose. Improved bee-hives are now being supplied. Only recently a meeting of the All-India Bee-Keepers Association was held at Lyallpur and it is the desire of the Government to do whatever we possibly can to encourage this industry. Next, Mian Sahib raised the question of supplying improved seeds for vegetables. The vegetable section in the Lyallpur Agriculture College has been developed. The department is now in a position to supply all kinds of seeds of Indian and European varieties of vegetables. European vegetable seeds are being produced but the main difficulty at present is that due to War we cannot get better selection of seeds from outside.

**Mian Abdul Aziz :** From Kashmir if you please.

**Minister of Development :** We are tapping all possible sources in this country and recently some stocks of improved seeds from abroad were received and they are being distributed. The third point to which Mian Sahib drew the attention of the Government was about poultry farming. There is one farm at Gurdaspur, a small farm exists at Lyallpur and there is one each at Rawalpindi, Multan, Montgomery and Jullundur. A scheme has been drawn up to multiply the number of selected types of birds and these will be supplied to the villagers. A Poultry Specialist has recently been appointed to look after this department.

**Mian Abdul Aziz :** Thank you.

**Minister of Development :** Another honourable member of the House raised a point that we should have more farms in the districts. At present we have got eight experimental farms, six large seed farms and eleven district demonstration farms. We hope to open new farms in those districts where no farms exist at present. The post-war scheme is to reduce the Deputy Director of Agriculture's circles to three districts only with one seed farm for each district and one demonstration farm with more subordinate staff, that is, Agricultural Assistants, mukadams, etc. At present we have got difficulties in our way but I can assure the House that the Government is fully aware of the requirements and it is our desire to open more seed farms and experimental farms in as many districts as we possibly can under the present circumstances but after the War

[Minister of Development.]

we hope that when more funds are available, we will be able to open more seed farms in the districts and if possible in some of the tahsils. It was also pointed out that we should have in our province one agricultural college in each division instead of only one college at Lyallpur. I may frankly say that it will be very difficult, if not impossible, to fulfil this desire of some of the members. In my opinion one college at Lyallpur is quite enough and the experiments that are carried out at Lyallpur will be again carried to the districts and to the public through the district experimental farms that we propose to start. If, later on, we find that there is a desire or there is need for another agricultural college, I am sure that those who will then be here, will give it a careful consideration and if the necessity for a second college arises, I hope people will give their necessary support for it.

Another point about the damage that the rats are doing in this province was raised. I may inform this House that we have set apart nine thousand rupees for anti-rat campaign in the Punjab. The main difficulty is that, unfortunately, the poison which is necessary to kill rats, is not available in sufficient quantities in this country. In addition to the use of poison, flooding of the burrows and killing rats on emergence from the burrows is being done but, as I have said, it is difficult for us to get the necessary poison and whatever is possible is being done under the present circumstances.

Another important point was raised by some of the speakers. That was about the appointment of the Principal, Agricultural College, Lyallpur. The Government is fully aware of and we recognise the services rendered by our staff in the Lyallpur College. We have got men of great experience, of great knowledge and this province is grateful for the excellent work they have done to improve the seed and the condition of the agriculturists in this province. It is the desire of the Government not to ignore the rights of our staff that is at present working in the Agriculture College at Lyallpur. Some members said that we desire to employ a European as the Principal but I may inform the House that nothing has been decided so far. There may be some apprehension in the minds of some members on this score but all I can say is that the claim of our Indian staff who have done such valuable work in the Agriculture College, Lyallpur, will not be ignored and will receive the greatest possible consideration by the Government (*Cheers*). Speaking purely from a personal point of view, I may say that I am one of those who believe that we should get the services of the best men available; they may be from India or may be from any other country. Our main desire should be to improve the agriculture of this province and if we can achieve that end by entrusting the job to Indians, I see no reason why we should hesitate to do so.

I need not go into the details of the immense good that has been done to the province by the improved varieties of seeds that have been supplied by our different experimental farms. Some of the members, particularly from the Opposition side, criticised that the Government has done nothing. I can frankly say that I do not boast of having done everything, and I am prepared to receive suggestions from all sections of the House and as far as I am concerned I am anxious to improve the condition of agriculture. Whether the suggestion comes from the opposition side or it comes from the ministerial benches, I am prepared to accept it. (*Hear, hear*). But some members levelled criticism simply for the sake of criticism and no suggestions of any kind came from my friends opposite. They were merely criticising what the Government had done and they also accused us of carelessness and asked us to be very cautious. I can only say that

caution is always good for the Department of Agriculture or any other department. We have to be cautious and this we are doing.

Another important point from the point of view of our province is the supply of manure. My honourable friend Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh stressed the necessity of supplying ammonium sulphate and other fertilisers. I may inform the House that this question was discussed at the last food conference held in Delhi. The Government of India is trying its best to supply manures and fertilisers as far as possible. But the difficulty is that on account of War, they are not in a position to do all that they want to do. A question was raised at the last food conference to put up big industrial plants here and to manufacture ammonium sulphate. But from my experience I can say that unless the Government is very serious in supplying these chemicals to the agriculturist, it will be very difficult to achieve the object. It will be necessary for the Government to take a very active interest in putting up these plants so that bye-products from these big chemical plants can be supplied at a cheap rate to agriculturists. Unless we put up big plants we will not be able to supply them at cheap rates. We should encourage those industries which will make money from their main products and supply their bye-products of artificial manures to the agriculturists at a very cheap price. As far as the question of supply is concerned, I am at one with my honourable friend Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh.

**Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh :** May I ask a question ? Is it a fact that the Government of India is proposing to set up one or two ammonium sulphate factories and are securing machinery under the lease-lend basis ?

**Minister of Development :** So far as my information goes, the Government have not moved as yet in this matter.

**Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh :** Have the Government of India not yet decided ?

**Minister of Development :** They do realise the need of fertilisers but they have not taken any practical step so far.

**Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh :** Supposing the Government of India were to decide it, will the Honourable Minister try to have one factory here in the Punjab ?

**Minister of Development :** As far as putting up of factories in the Punjab is concerned, my honourable colleague, Sir Manohar Lal, made it clear—and I repeat it again—that it is the desire of the Punjab Government to put up as many factories as it possibly can in this province.

Now, Sir, after dealing with this problem, I would like to reply to my honourable friend, Sardar Santokh Singh, who raised the question of the price of *desi* cotton. I quite agree that the growers of this province have suffered heavily on account of the fall in the price of *desi* cotton, but there is nothing in the power of this Government that we can do. There were restrictions on the movement of *desi* cotton but as soon as it was brought to our notice that those restrictions were also standing in the way of the movement of *desi* cotton, the order was withdrawn. My honourable friend, Sardar Santokh Singh also mentioned about fixing of price at Rs. 28. The only thing of which I can assure the House is that the Punjab Government is anxious to get as reasonable a price as possible for cotton that is grown in this province.

[Minister of Development.]

Now, Sir, I will touch briefly one or two points that were raised by other honourable members. The first is about control and the second is about rationing. There is no denying the fact that the Punjab Government was opposed to control. Our condition was that unless the price of other articles is controlled, we would not agree to the control of foodgrains prices. I am glad, and the honourable members must have seen, that the Government of India have taken steps in this direction, but I have no hesitation in saying that I myself am not satisfied with what has been done so far. Although they have controlled the prices, up till now the benefit is not very much and what is worse is that the goods are not available. Unless arrangements are made to supply consumers goods in sufficient quantities, I am afraid no real benefit can come to the growers. As regards control of the price of foodgrains, there should be no doubt in the mind of the people that the price of wheat and other foodgrains is bound to be controlled. The maximum price of wheat has been settled but I cannot disclose it on the floor of the House as I am not authorised to do so. But the House and the province will know what that price is, I think, before the end of this month. The only thing I want to say in this connection is that when price is made public, this House will have the opportunity of discussing whether the steps taken by the Punjab Government are right or not. We are subject to the vote of the House and when that price is known, we will have an opportunity of discussing it and if the House decides that the Punjab Government has betrayed the interests of the growers, I can frankly say, we will gladly submit to the vote of the House.

Some honourable members have raised objection about rationing and they particularly laid stress that the unit of  $3\frac{1}{2}$  seers a week that has been fixed is not enough for a Punjabi. I wish to make it known for the information of the House that this is not our final decision. We are setting up a Food Advisory Board for the whole of the province and this matter will come before it and if the Board thinks that the ration of  $3\frac{1}{2}$  seers per week is not enough, it will be at liberty to make whatever addition it likes. But I may lay stress on one point and it is this that it is no use introducing rationing, unless we are prepared to save some foodgrains. The whole idea is to save as much as possible and if we cannot achieve that object, in my opinion, there is no use of any rationing in our towns. With regard to fixing the figure of  $3\frac{1}{2}$  seers just now, I may say, that our calculations are based on the figures that we have got from the towns where rationing has been introduced. For instance, in Bombay, they allow one pound of wheat or rice per head per day; of course, labourers, who are working in mills, are given a little bit more. But as I have said before, this figure is not final and the Food Advisory Board that is being set up for this purpose will be at liberty to make any suitable changes it desires.

My honourable friend, Sardar Sohan Singh Josh, raised another point in this very connection and he accused the Government of insincerity. I frankly say that we are as sincere as can be and we hope to make the rationing scheme a success. We were opposed to it till the end and until we were convinced that it was in the interest of the province, we had no desire to make a fuss about it. We do not want to make the scheme a failure, but the desire of the Government is to make it a success. We have undertaken it after very careful consideration

and I can assure the House that we are anxious to make it  
3 p.m. as successful as possible.

**Mr. Speaker :** 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. 75,26,400 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March 1945, in respect of Agriculture.

*The motion was carried.*

*The following motions were then put from the Chair and adopted :—*

#### LAND REVENUE

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 55,54,600 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March 1945, in respect of Land Revenue.

#### PROVINCIAL EXCISE

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 12,32,000 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March 1945, in respect of Provincial Excise.

#### STAMPS

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,32,300 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March 1945, in respect of Stamps.

#### FORESTS

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 66,71,400 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March 1945, in respect of Forests.

#### REGISTRATION

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,26,200 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March 1945, in respect of Registration.

#### TAXES AND DUTIES

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 11,84,700 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March 1945, in respect of Charges on account of Motor Vehicles' Acts and Other Taxes and Duties.

#### IRRIGATION (WORKS)

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,02,81,400 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March 1945, in respect of Irrigation (Works).

#### IRRIGATION (ESTABLISHMENT)

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,38,84,500 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March 1945, in respect of Charges on Irrigation (Establishment).

#### IRRIGATION (CAPITAL)

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 75,97,200 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March 1945, in respect of Irrigation (Capital).

#### ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 41,66,200 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March 1945, in respect of Administration of Justice.

#### JAILS AND CONVICT SETTLEMENTS

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 53,28,700 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March 1945, in respect of Jails and Convict Settlements.

#### POLICE

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,24,06,100 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March 1945, in respect of Police

**SCIENTIFIC AND MISCELLANEOUS DEPARTMENTS**

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 7,07,400 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March 1945, in respect of Scientific and Miscellaneous Departments.

**EDUCATION, EUROPEAN, ETC.**

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 6,51,000 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March 1945, in respect of Education (European and Anglo-Indian Education and Education in backward tracts).

**MEDICAL**

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 60,18,700 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March 1945, in respect of Medical.

**PUBLIC HEALTH**

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 36,27,100 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March 1945, in respect of Public Health.

**VETERINARY**

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 19,52,100 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March 1945, in respect of Veterinary.

**CO-OPERATION**

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 28,61,100 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March 1945, in respect of Co-operation.

**INDUSTRIES**

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 31,36,100 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March 1945, in respect of Industries.

**CIVIL WORKS**

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,20,93,100 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March 1945, in respect of Civil Works.

**BUILDINGS AND ROADS—ESTABLISHMENT CHARGES**

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 21,21,100 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March 1945, in respect of Buildings and Roads—Establishment Charges.

**ELECTRICITY SCHEMES—WORKING EXPENSES**

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 16,36,800 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March 1945, in respect of Electricity Schemes—Working Expenses.

**ELECTRICITY SCHEMES**

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 14,22,800 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March 1945, in respect of Other Revenue Expenditure connected with Electricity Schemes.

**CIVIL WORKS (CAPITAL)**

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 5,74,300 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March 1945, in respect of Civil Works (Capital).

**ELECTRICITY SCHEMES—CAPITAL EXPENDITURE.**

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,40,400 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March 1945, in respect of Electricity Schemes—Capital Expenditure.

**FAMINE**

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,00,000 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March 1945, in respect of Famine.

**SUPERANNUATION ALLOWANCES AND PENSIONS**

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 66,28,000 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March 1945, in respect of Superannuation Allowances and Pensions.

**STATIONERY AND PRINTING**

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 18,77,800 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March 1945, in respect of Stationery and Printing.

**MISCELLANEOUS AND EXTRAORDINARY CHARGES**

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 34,00,700 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March 1945, in respect of Miscellaneous and Extraordinary Charges.

**ADVANCES NOT BEARING INTEREST**

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 4,19,400 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March 1945, in respect of Advances not bearing interest.

**LOANS AND ADVANCES BEARING INTEREST**

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 18,22,900 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March 1945, in respect of Loans and Advances bearing interest.

*The Assembly then adjourned till 12 noon on Tuesday, 21st March 1944.*



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# PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

## ELEVENTH SESSION OF THE FIRST PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

*Tuesday, 21st March 1944.*

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

### STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

MRS. SAROJINI NAIDU

**\*9214. Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that a prohibitory order was served by the Punjab Government on Mrs. Sarojini Naidu, a member of the Congress Working Committee, on January 26, just after her arrival in Lahore on a private visit to her ailing sister Miss Chatopadhyaya, Principal of the Sir Ganga Ram College for Women ;

(b) if so, what were the reasons that led the Punjab Government to issue this order ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) :** The attention of the honourable member is invited to the answer to Assembly Question No. \*9086.<sup>1</sup>

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** May I know whether the Government was in possession of facts as to why she was visiting Lahore ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** If my honourable friend will see the reply to Question No. \*9086<sup>1</sup>, he will find that "the Government are not aware of the purpose of her visit".

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** May I know whether she was served with a prohibitory order on the 26th of January ? I want a reply to that specific question.

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** Yes, Sir. She was served with a notice.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** Did the Government appoint any official to know the object of her visit to Lahore ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** Why should the Government put any official to find that out ?

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** How did the Government know that she was going to take part in any subversive movement ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** The Government wanted to prevent her from taking part in any activity prejudicial to the order of the province.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** Without any material in their possession how did the Government know that she was going to act in any prejudicial manner ?

**Mr. Speaker :** That is an argument.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Does the Government know that on the date on which that order was served on her, her sister, the Headmistress of Sir Ganga Ram School was actually ailing in Lahore ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** I am not aware of that.

**Sardar Kapoor Singh :** Is the Government aware that Mrs. Naidu said when she was coming to Lahore that she was coming to see her ailing sister and not for any other reason ? Was this the reason which made the Government issue that order of restriction ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** No, Sir.

**Sardar Kapoor Singh :** In the course of conversation with a fellow-passenger, Mrs. Naidu was reported to have told him about the tragic circumstances in which Mahadev Desai died. Was that the reason of the prohibitory order.

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** This question does not arise out of the answer given.

**Sardar Kapoor Singh :** I want to know whether it was that talk with a fellow passenger which made the Government decide to issue that order ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** The Government is the best judge to decide and issue an order to a person preventing him from taking part in any activity which might cause disorder.

**Sardar Kapoor Singh :** She was reported to have said that the Congress Working Committee is anti-Japanese and anti-Axis. Were these the remarks that made the Government issue that order ?

**Mr. Speaker :** These are arguments.

**Sardar Kapoor Singh :** May I know whether that statement of Mrs. Naidu was considered an act prejudicial to the peace of the province ? I expect a reply to that part of the question.

**Sardar Kapoor Singh :** May I know whether that order was passed simply for the reason that the Government did not want that she should expose the Government regarding their propaganda against the Congress ?

**Sardar Kapoor Singh :** May I know whether the Punjab Government was directed by the Central Government to issue that order ?

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Part (b) of the question has not been replied to. The question is "if so, what were the reasons that led the Punjab Government to issue this order ?"

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** If my honourable friend will look up the reply, he will find that part (b) has also been replied to. The reply was "with a view to prevent her from acting in any manner prejudicial to the public order."

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Is the Parliamentary Private Secretary aware of the fact that Mrs. Naidu's sister is serving in Lahore as Principal of Sir Ganga Ram School ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** I am not aware of this.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Did the Parliamentary Private Secretary collect any information with respect to that ?

**Sardar Kapoor Singh :** Does the Parliamentary Private Secretary read newspapers ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** I do read papers but I am not supposed to remember everything that appears in them.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** May I know whether the Government is aware that on the 26th January when this prohibitory order was served on Mrs. Naidu, her sister Miss Chattopadhyaya, the Principal of Sir Ganga Ram School was actually ailing at Lahore ?

**Premier :** How is it possible to say whether a sister of some eminent personality was ailing or not on a particular date ?

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** The notice is there.

**Premier :** How is it relevant to the issue ?

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** The position of the Government is that notice was served on her just to prevent her from taking part in any subversive movement. My submission is that she came to see her ailing sister and not for any political purpose.

**Premier :** If that was the case the honourable member should be happy. But the question indicates that there was something over and above that. If she came to see her sister why should the honourable member worry about the prohibitory order ?

**Sardar Kapoor Singh :** Was this the prejudicial act for which the Government issued that order ?

**Premier :** We do not know why she came to Lahore, but I am willing to concede that she came to Lahore to see her ailing sister. There was every possibility of gentlemen opposite being over-anxious to draw her into politics and subversive activity, and in order to provide her with a legitimate excuse to resist their efforts we passed that order. The honourable member can take it in that light.

#### OFFICE OF THE PUNJAB ASSEMBLY CONGRESS PARTY IN LAJPAT RAI HALL

**\*9215. Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the building known as the Lajpat Rai Hall, was notified under the Criminal Law Amendment Act on the 23rd August 1942 and this order was withdrawn on the 15th December 1943, and the said building was requisitioned under section 75-A of the Defence of India Rules ;

(b) whether it is a fact that the office of the Punjab Assembly Congress party situated in the said building was broken into and the records of the party and the furniture in the office were removed by the orders of the Punjab Government without informing the Secretary of the party who was present in Lahore ;

(c) whether it is a fact that no list was prepared of the records and furniture lying in the office of the Punjab Assembly Congress party ;

(d) whether the Government has received any representation praying for the release of the records of the Congress party, if so, with what result ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) :** (a) (i) The building was notified on the 29th August 1942 and not on the 23rd August 1942.

[Sayed Amjad Ali Shah]

(ii) Yes.

(iii) Yes.

(b) The records of the Punjab Assembly Congress Party were removed from its office to the second floor of the building in the presence of a clerk of the Punjab Assembly Congress Party and other respectable non-officials and Government officials.

(c) Yes.

(d) Yes. The matter is under consideration.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** May I ask the Parliamentary Private Secretary, if the list of the property was prepared, in whose possession it was put?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** The honourable member's question was "whether it is a fact that no list was prepared", and the answer is, "yes".

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** May I know whether he has kept any record of the property which was put in possession of Government or in possession of a third party?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** As I have stated a clerk of the Congress Party was present when these things were removed to the upper storey and if he wanted to make a list he could have done so.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** May I know the name of the clerk who was present at the time?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** I do not carry all these details in my head. If my honourable friend gives notice, I will find out.

**Mr. Speaker :** Supplementary questions are asked to elucidate answers given to questions and are not meant to supplement questions already put.

**Sardar Kapoor Singh :** May I know if the clerk of the Congress Party was allowed to prepare a list of the records and the furniture?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** There was no restriction imposed on him that he could not make it.

**Sardar Kapoor Singh :** Is the Parliamentary Private Secretary aware that when he tried to prepare a list, he was not allowed to do so?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** I am not aware of it.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Is it not the procedure that when a house is broken into, a list is prepared of articles and handed in to the occupant?

**Lala Bhagat Ram Chola :** Is the Parliamentary Private Secretary aware that there was a pocket watch lying on the mantle-piece and it is nowhere to be found now?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** My honourable friend should ask the clerk in whose presence the furniture was removed from the lower to the upper storey.

**Sardar Kapoor Singh :** May I know the reason for not answering the representation made on the 18th February asking for the release of the records of the Congress Party?

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** May I know whether the property of the Congress Assembly Party is still in possession of Government?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** It is still lying in the upper storey of the building.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** In whose possession is it ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** All those books and furniture are mixed up with the property of others, all heaped up in one room. I suppose my honourable friend knows that in this building there are various offices and therefore the belongings of all are stored up in that storey.

4 **Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** With regard to part (d) of the question, what has Government done about the representation ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** The matter is under consideration.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** May I know whether certain postage stamps and cash lying in the office have been stolen and not accounted for by the officers ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** My honourable friend says that they were not accounted for. Why does he then say that no list was prepared ?

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** I want to know whether the cash is there or whether it has been stolen by some one.

**Lala Bhagat Ram Choda :** Will the Parliamentary Private Secretary make enquiries and find out if the stamp, cash and the pocket watch are there or not, so that the poor clerk may not have to replace them from his own pocket ?

#### GRANT OF MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE TO MRS. RAM RUP SHARMA

\*9216. **Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that Mrs. Ram Rup Sharma of Lahore applied last year for maintenance allowance during the period of the detention of her husband who is now confined in the Gujrat Sub-Jail ;

(b) whether it is a fact that Mrs. Ram Rup Sharma wrote to the Punjab Government in December 1948 that either some maintenance allowance be given to her or she with her children be sent to the jail where her husband was being detained, if so, the action taken by the Government in the matter ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) :** (a) Yes.

(b) Yes. The application was considered and rejected.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** What were the grounds for rejecting the application ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** They had plenty of means at their disposal.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** What other sources of income did Mrs. Ram Rup Sharma have at the time she made the application ?

**Sardar Kapoor Singh :** Is Government prepared to accept the alternative suggestion made in the representation that she with her children be sent to the jail ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** I have already replied to that—that the application was considered and rejected.

**Sardar Kapoor Singh :** Does that apply to the second suggestion also ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** Yes.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** What sources of income did she have at the time she made the application ? Was it enquired into ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** Yes.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** What were they ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** If my honourable friend gives me notice, I shall try to answer that question.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** May I know the reason why she is not given any subsistence allowance ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** As I have already stated, Government considered the question and as she had other means, Government rejected the application.

#### DEARNESS ALLOWANCE TO GOVERNMENT PENSIONERS

\*9228. **Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Will the Honourable Finance Minister be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have granted any dearness allowance to Government pensioners in the province, if so, what is the scale of this allowance ;

(b) whether his attention has been drawn to a resolution passed by the Punjab Pensioners' Association to the effect that the dearness allowance is inadequate ;

(c) the action the Government have taken or intend to take on this resolution ?

**The Honourable Sir Manohar Lal :** (a) Yes. A copy of the orders on the subject is placed on the table.

(b) No such resolution has come to the notice of Government.

(c) Does not arise.

#### ORDER OF THE GOVERNOR OF THE PUNJAB, DATED 31st DECEMBER 1943

THE Punjab Government have had under consideration the question of affording some measure of relief to pensioners in receipt of small pensions on account of the increased cost of living due to war. After carefully considering the question the Governor of the Punjab is pleased to decide that all pensioners whose pensions are debitable to the revenues of the Punjab Government shall be granted a temporary increase in their pensions on the following scale :—

	Per mensem
	Rs.
Pensions not exceeding Rs. 20 per mensem .. .. .	3
Pensions exceeding Rs. 20 per mensem but not exceeding Rs. 40 per mensem .. .. .	4
Pensioners in receipt of pensions exceeding Rs. 40 per mensem but not exceeding Rs. 44 per mensem shall receive such an amount as would bring their pension to Rs. 44 per mensem.	

Pensions for this purpose shall include the commuted portion also, if any.

2. This increase is sanctioned for a period of one year with effect from the 1st November 1943, and will be drawn on pensions due in December 1943.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** May I know if the Government have formulated any rule under which such a negligible increase has been made in the pensions and dearness allowance granted only to those pensioners who receive a pension of not more than Rs. 40 ?

**Minister :** The rates are as given in the Government order placed on the table and these are considered adequate by the Government.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad:** Why is distinction made between Government servants and Government pensioners?

**Minister:** I think there is an obvious difference between a person actually in Government service and one in receipt of pension.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad:** May I enquire from the Honourable Minister whether these pensioners did not also serve the Government loyally and faithfully just as the present Government servants are doing?

**Minister:** I do not think that that question arises. No one has, however, suggested that they did not serve loyally and faithfully.

#### COMMUNAL REPRESENTATION IN GOVERNMENT SERVICES

**\*9229. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad:** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether Government orders fixing the communal proportion for Government services are fully complied with in all the departments;

(b) whether he has received any complaints, oral or written, to the effect that the above orders are ignored by officers in many Government departments;

(c) whether the above orders also apply to the temporary posts created due to war emergency;

(d) whether he is aware of the fact that some officers of the Government do not strictly observe the above instructions while filling temporary vacancies, if so, the action Government intend to take in the matter;

(e) whether the Government have framed any rules for going periodically into the question of communal proportion in Government services in all the departments, if not, the reasons therefor?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah):** (a) Deviations from the rules are extremely rare and have to be referred to Government.

(b) Allegations are occasionally made, usually based on incomplete information, but whenever made are looked into.

(c) Yes, as a general rule.

(d) Government have no information that there is any disobedience of the instructions by any of their officers.

(e) Annual returns are submitted by all departments and they are carefully examined by the Chief Secretary. In due course it is hoped to have a Special Officer and an Establishment Branch to deal with questions of this kind.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad:** May I enquire from the Parliamentary Private Secretary whether the Chief Secretary goes into the lists of all officers of Government, irrespective of whether they are inferior, subordinate or superior servants?

**Premier:** The honourable member should know that the Chief Secretary cannot go into every minor detail. He has his office and it is for the office to point out any deviations from the rule laid down and in case there is any deviation, he goes into the matter.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad:** May I know whether any case has been brought to the notice of the Honourable Premier in which the communal proportion has not been observed?



**Premier :** One or two instances have been brought to my notice and I made enquiries and so far as my recollection goes, there was a deviation of the rule in one case and the matter was set right at once.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** May I enquire whether it is not a general complaint of the Muslims that due representation in services is not given to them according to the communal rule ?

**Premier :** It is the endeavour of the Government to give due share of the services to every community and class living in the Punjab and if there is any deviation from this principle, it is up to the honourable members to bring the facts to the notice of the Government.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Is the Government prepared to appoint an official permanently to go into this question periodically ?

**Premier :** I have stated already that when one case was brought to my notice where there was a deviation, it was set right. If such deviations from the rule are more frequent, we will consider the appointment of an officer whose duty it will be to see that every community gets its due share in Government service.

**Mr. P. H. Guest.** May I enquire from the Honourable Premier as to which community this officer will belong ?

**Premier :** I cannot anticipate the community of an officer that I have yet to decide on and to appoint. But I hope he will be able to command the confidence of all.

#### SUPPLY OF NECESSARIES OF LIFE TO GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES AT REDUCED RATES

\*9231. **Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state whether he is aware of the fact that the Government of India and the Railway authorities are supplying foodgrains and other necessities of life to their employees at low rates in addition to the dearness allowance granted to them ; if so, whether the Punjab Government has ever considered the advisability of introducing the same system in its Departments, if not, the reasons therefor ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) :** Yes. Government is aware of the fact that the Government of India and the Railway authorities are supplying food grains to their low paid employees at concession rates. The question of introducing a similar scheme for low paid employees of the Punjab Government is at present under the consideration of Government.

#### SLIDING-SCALE SYSTEM OF LAND REVENUE

\*9197. **Sardar Sohan Singh Josh** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state whether sliding-scale system of collecting land revenue has been introduced in any district of the province since 1943, if so, in which districts and the reasons for introducing the above system there ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan) :** The sliding scale system of assessment has not been introduced in any of the districts of the province since 1943.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Was it introduced previous to the year 1943 ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I cannot say off hand anything with regard to the period before 1943.

## IRRIGATED AREA ON RAJBAB PUL

**\*9201. Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the irrigated area on the Rajbah Pul near Bhattewid, Amritsar-Lahore Branch, Majitha Division, between Burji 2 and 7 has considerably decreased; if so, the extent of the area decreased and the reasons therefor;

(b) what action the Government intend to take for restoring irrigation to the area in question?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan):** (a) No. The irrigated area of Bhattewid village has been and is more than permissible.

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

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** What was the area that was being irrigated previously and what is the area irrigated now? Is the area irrigated now less or more than the area irrigated before?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I am sorry I cannot tell off hand, but if the honourable member wants it, I shall be glad to collect the information to-day or to-morrow.

## RAJBAB FATEHGARH

**\*9202. Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Will the Honourable Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) the period for which canal water runs in the Rajbah Fatehgarh (Gurdaspur-Amritsar);

(b) whether wadh-wattar is charged on this rajbah, if so, why; and whether the Government intends to discontinue this charge if not, why not?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan):** (a) Rajbaha Fatehgarh runs from 1st April to 15th October.

(b) No wadh-wattar rate is charged on this Rajbaha. The latter portion of this part of the question therefore does not arise.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** May I know whether any complaints have been made by people from that ilaqa that wadh-wattar is charged from them?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I have not come across such complaints.

## DILAPIDATED CONDITION OF ROADS IN LUDHIANA DISTRICT BOARD

**\*9200. Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** Will the Honourable Minister of Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) when the repairs to miles 1 to 7 of the Dakha-Raikot district board road were last carried out;

(b) whether it is a fact that from Raikot to Halwara, the road is impassable on account of its being in need of repairs, if so, the action the District Board, Ludhiana, has taken or intends to take in the matter;

(c) the annual grant given by the Government to the District Board of Ludhiana in the year 1942-43 towards the maintenance of roads within the jurisdiction of the board;

[Ch. Muhammad Hasan].

(d) which of the district board roads in the Ludhiana district have been recently repaired ;

(e) whether any permanent engineer has been employed by the Ludhiana District Board, if so, what are his qualifications ;

(f) in what other capacity either in the district board or any other local body has the said engineer served ;

(g) what is the present pay and the travelling allowance drawn by him during the year 1943 ?

**The Honourable Sardar Shaukat Hyat Khan :** (a) In 1941-42. The road has since been transferred to the Public Works Department.

(b) The Raikot-Halwara road is not impassable. A gang of 8 men is kept on this road for maintenance purposes and a contract for the scarification of the road has already been given.

(c) Rs. 14,326 were given by Government as grant-in-aid to the District Board, Ludhiana, during the year 1942-43, for the maintenance of roads.

(d) (1) Mullanpur Railway Station approach road.

(2) Halwara Raikot Road.

(3) Civil Lines Road.

(4) Raipur approach road.

(5) Malaud Road.

(6) Ludhiana-Malerkotla Road.

(e) The permanent engineer retired in 1941 and since then on account of the paucity of properly qualified men, it has not been possible for the Board to make a permanent appointment. Recently, however, Sardar Balbir Singh, Overseer of the Board, has been appointed District Engineer as a special case for the duration of the war only, on one year's probation.

(f) The immediate predecessor of the present District Engineer Sardar Balbir Singh was Sardar Badan Singh Gill, who has served for 26 years in the Public Works Department, Buildings and Roads Branch, Central Provinces.

(g) He was drawing Rs. 214 per mensem as pay and during the year 1943, he drew Rs. 748-4-0 as travelling allowance.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** Do the Government consider the question whether at the time the grants-in-aid are given the district boards apply the money given for the maintenance and repairs of roads properly ?

**Minister :** The Public Works Department always keeps an eye on the district boards and when the district boards apply for a certain grant, the Government feels certain that that is required and is given straightaway.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** Has the Government appointed no officer to do the work of supervision ?

**Minister :** There is the Superintending Engineer, Roads.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** Did the Superintending Engineer bring to the notice of the Government that roads like the Dattah-Raikot District Board Road has not been repaired for the past several years ?

**Minister :** I have answered that part of the question. It was repaired in 1941-42 since when it was been taken over by the Public Works Department.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** Is the Honourable minister aware of the fact that some part has been taken over by the Public Works Department and not miles 1 to 7 ?

**Minister :** I will look into that part of the question.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** The notice is there.

**Minister :** I will answer that part later.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** Is the Honourable Minister sure that miles 1 to 7 have been transferred to the Public Works Department ?

**Minister :** To the best of my information, yes.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** Has he collected that information from the District Board, Ludhiana ?

**Minister :** I have collected that information from proper sources.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** I asked the Honourable Minister whether repairs to miles 1 to 7 of the Datar-Raikot District Board Road were ever carried out.

**Minister :** We enquired from the district board and we were told that the road was repaired in 1941-42. Since then the road has been taken over by the Public Works Department.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** Did the district board inform the Honourable Minister that miles 1 to 7 of the road have been taken over by the Public Works Department ?

#### GOVERNMENT BUSINESS ON THURSDAY

**Premier :** Sir, I beg to move—

That Rule 13 of the Punjab Legislative Assembly Rules be suspended and that Government business be transacted on Thursday, the 23rd March 1944.

**Mr. Speaker :** Motion moved is—

That Rule 13 of the Punjab Legislative Assembly Rules be suspended and that Government business be transacted on Thursday, the 23rd March 1944.

**Sardar Santokh Singh (Eastern Towns, Sikh, Urban) :** I rise to record my protest at the manner in which non-official days are being snatched by this Government for official work. In a session which is likely to last for four weeks there has not been even one non-official day. In the first place, the Secretary circularised amongst the members that ballot will be drawn for resolutions and Bills that will be taken up on Thursday the 30th March. That circular has also been cancelled, which means that in a session lasting for four weeks, there will not be even one non-official day for the members to put up their resolutions and Bills and discuss them. If really it is the intention of the Government to appropriate non-official days in this manner, then I think it will be much better if they do away altogether with the non-official business. Why should they try to make a farce of it ? The Honourable Premier should tell us why he thought it necessary to take all the non-official days. This is a practice which is followed by this Government from rather a long time. We have protested, but our protests have been of no avail. We know that we are numerically small—we may not count—but we do want that Thursday should be employed only for non-official business as is provided in the rules. Why should the Government every now and then make attempts to take away Thursdays for their own business ?

**Premier :** I would like to explain that there is no intention whatsoever on our part to take over non-official days when it is not necessary to do so. The Honourable Leader of the Opposition would remember that we have just been dealing with the Budget session and anything that is ever possible for any member to say has been said all these days and, therefore, there is hardly anything left over.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** We have a lot to say.

**Premier :** I know my honourable friend has an inexhaustible store of views to draw upon from here to Moscow, but we cannot go on providing days in that proportion. The Government business has to take preference. We did provide for non-official days during the last session. Take the House of Commons. There the days are even rarer when non-official business is discussed, because they generally have pressing official business to take up and official business has to take precedence. We had a non-official day some time ago when non-official matters were discussed. That is the reason for this motion. There are some Bills pending which we must pass and I would, therefore, request the Honourable Leader of the Opposition to understand my point of view. This is not the first time that we have moved this motion. It is a customary motion and it is moved when pressing Government business is there. There is no urgent need for this day being allotted to non-official business unless my honourable friend has anything to say on a matter which has cropped up overnight. They have been discussing everything all this time during the Budget discussion. I do not recollect anything under the sun which has not been said.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Nothing has been said about the tenantry over whom they are tyrannising.

**Premier :** My honourable friend and his neighbour had nothing to say about it during the Budget discussion.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Yes, Sir. We have noticed that so far as the non-official day is concerned, there has been a universal practice on the part of the Government to take away one day in a week allotted for non-official business. The Honourable Premier has just remarked that it is the practice. I say, why not then delete the particular rule—I am referring to rule 13—permanently? Why do they maintain a bogus thing on paper. In practice we see that every day a move comes on behalf of the party in power that a non-official day be done away with. It is done by them every week. Why are they undergoing the trouble of regularly bringing such a motion every now and then? Why not delete that rule altogether from the Rules of Procedure because we will then know where the opposition is? What is the use of having it on paper when we are not given any non-official day?

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh** (Amritsar North, Sikh, Rural) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, I rise to oppose the motion moved by the Honourable Premier to the effect that Thursday should be an official day. I beg to differ with him on the ground that it is nothing but a denial of the privileges of the Opposition. As a non-official day is being taken away from us for transacting Government business, I do not stand in agreement with the Honourable Premier in seeing this proposal through. I would, therefore, insist upon the Honourable Premier not to effect any change in the rules of the Punjab Legislative Assembly. Since we have given notices of some resolutions regarding some of the most important matters namely, the present political situation in India, the Government's present policy of not releasing M. L. As. and other Congress detenus and the present political deadlock, and while these resolutions have also been accepted I see no reason

why we should not be allowed a single day to discuss them threadbare on the floor of the House. Besides, we have certain non-official Bills regarding the tenantry and other such matters to be placed before the House. I, therefore, submit, Sir, that we must be given one non-official day, so that we may be able to bring forward our Bills and resolutions which are kept pending since long. In this way, Sir, the electorates would also be in a position to know as to what the non-official members are doing for them in the legislature. And as to official business I would say it is nothing less than a farce, as the Government is highly praised by the honourable members sitting opposite while the Opposition is absolutely gagged by the Government. It is very unfair on the part of the Government that we are not being allowed a single day by them to give vent to our feelings and raise the voice of our electorates in this House. Does it not mean that the Government want to suppress the voice of the non-official members by taking away the non-official day from them?

With these words, Sir, I strongly oppose the motion moved by the Honourable Premier.

**Mian Abdul Aziz** (Outer Lahore, Muhammadan, Urban) (*Urdu*): Sir, the word 'customary' uttered by the Honourable Premier has amazed me very much. I understand that as in the Punjab custom is generally followed, it will also now prevail in the Legislative Assembly. I fear it may be so one day and if the Honourable Premier wants to do so I would suggest him to codify it and place it before the House in a book form. It is no use rising on every occasion and moving a motion for the suspension of Rule 13 of the Punjab Legislative Assembly Rules which were drafted carefully in special committees under the presidentship of the Honourable Speaker and the Honourable Finance Minister in 1937, at Simla. Sir, the Government ought to have honoured these rules. But the case is quite the reverse. They are dishonouring them by breaking them almost on every occasion for no obvious reason. May I further ask that if the rules are found to be defective, why does not Government amend them? As you are aware, Sir, in 1937, special meetings were held for drafting these rules under your presidentship. But in your absence Honourable Sir Manohar Lal had been presiding over the meetings of the sub-committees in which these rules were drafted after careful and deliberate considerations. If now they are not practicable, it is simply a reflection on the sub-committees and the presidents as well. It is ridiculous indeed to see that almost every day the time of the meetings of the Assembly is changed. Some time ago for Fridays 2 p. m. was the time fixed then it was changed to 2-30 p. m. and now it has been further changed to 10 o'clock in the morning. I ask if the Government is not bound to follow the rules, then where is the need of them? Why not break them for good?

Moreover, as my honourable friend Sardar Sohan Singh Josh has remarked in the course of his speech, notices of resolutions regarding some most important matters have been sent in by the Opposition and we are anxiously waiting for their discussion in the House. As you are aware, Sir, if we put starred and supplementary questions in regard to the release of the M. L. As. and other Congress detenus, we are told by the Government to put these matters before them in the form of resolutions. Now when we have done this, our non-official day is being taken away from us for Government business. I am afraid if this nefarious practice is carried out always and the Government business is given preference over non-official business, then we will never be able to have even a single day at our disposal for discussing resolutions in the House. Now it is quite obvious to you, Sir, as to what will become of the resolutions we have given

[M. Abdul Aziz]

notice of and about which Sardar Sohan Singh Josh has pointed out that a day for ballot was fixed and now in spite of all that they are being thrown to the wind at the cost of the Opposition which is being gagged by the Government. Are we here to make laws and honour them or are we here to break them like pie crusts made to be broken. Sir, we do not see any reason for which the Honourable Premier is not going to allow us a single day for non-official business. My submission, therefore, is that Thursday should be a non-official day and in case Government have some pressing business to transact, the session may be extended by one day. I think Government could have waited for another day. There was no harm in it. I as one will never appreciate the practice adopted by the Honourable Premier that almost every day he comes forward with a motion to suspend Rule 13 of the Punjab Legislative Assembly Rules. He is simply abusing his powers in doing so, since we sitting on the Opposition neither know when our resolutions are going to be put before the House nor are we aware as to how long they will be kept pending by the Government. We are not here to waste our time and labour. The Honourable Premier gets up and moves this motion by which our time and labour involved in drafting the resolutions are put to naught in one minute. Now, Sir, we have no alternative except this that we should look upon you as the protector of the privileges of the Opposition and it is up to you to decide for yourself as to where lies the fault of all this trouble.

With these few remarks, Sir, I strongly oppose the motion now before the House.

**Premier :** Are we discussing the advisability or otherwise of this motion? The honourable members opposite have already put forward their points of view and if you permit me to say I would like to point out that this is not the first time that we have come forward with this motion. All that I meant by the word 'customary' was that it is the practice of this House that Government business gets precedence over other matters. I did not mean any codified custom by the use of the word 'customary'. This was our practice and we are following it. An honourable member quoted the rule about time and said that that rule is being abrogated every time. It is abrogated by the decision of the House. We have that rule but there is another rule under which we can abrogate it. That has become—I do not use the word "customary"—the practice. Then it was said that the ballot had already been fixed. No date for ballot has been fixed for 23rd. Therefore, under the circumstances no further discussion is necessary. It is my privilege to move that Government business should take precedence over the rest.

**Mian Muhammad Nurullah :** If it is the privilege of that side, then it is our privilege to oppose it.

**Mr. Speaker :** I think no further discussion is necessary.

**Mian Muhammad Nurullah :** Sir, I will be very brief. My reasons for opposing this motion are that this year we passed the budget during the shortest possible time, starting on the 3rd and finishing on the 20th, a record time and that is why we specially want some day for discussing matters which could not be discussed during the budget. Legislation is different from mere discussion. We want days for bills and resolutions. For instance, yesterday an honourable member of this House was pleased to point out that a bill with regard to *Shariat*, which is against the custom of this province, could not be brought up because there was no opportunity given to do so. How is it possible to discuss such matters if you do not allow us a single day for non-official resolutions and bills.

Another thing which I might say is that the so-called Muslim League Ministry is afraid, firstly, of the *Shariat* bill and, secondly, of the resolution on Pakistan that might be brought up. If they are sincere to the Muslim League they should allow us to discuss that resolution. But they are afraid of any such resolution and do not allot any Thursday which by one rule is fixed for non-official work. That is why the 30th was cancelled. It was a day meant for non-official business, but as soon as news of a great luminary the Qaid-i-Azam's visit came apprehending notice of some resolution on Pakistan, the notice of 30th March being a non-official day was cancelled.

**Mr. Speaker :** Order, order.

**Mian Muhammad Nurullah :** That is my belief and the feeling all round. You are afraid of discussing Pakistan resolution and the Bill about *Shariat* that you always want to take away the non-official day. I therefore feel that we must always be given non-official days.

**Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh :** Sir, a day for transacting non-official business must be allotted as there is a lot of non-official work to be done. For instance, the Gurdwara Amendment Bill is also to be put before the House.

**Premier :** The Sikh Gurdwaras Amendment Bill itself has been fixed for the 23rd March. The honourable member should have looked up the agenda at least. (*Laughter*).

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang** (West Lahore Division, General Rural) Sir, it seems from the noise here as if we were in a '*daira*' in a village; it is the Assembly Chamber and not a '*daira*' in Shahpur! I would like to say a word to the Premier. He said there is pressing Government business and therefore the 23rd, which was fixed for non-official business, is being taken away for Government business. This is the reason that he has given. He has the power to make this motion which he has done; there is no doubt about that. He has also quoted practice in support of his proposition. This has been the practice and therefore, he says, it has not been done against the practice. Well, in the first place, I would submit that the practice is bad and it should not be followed. In the second place—and this is more important—he should see that if there is actually some pressing Government business, it does not mean that this Government business can only be done on the 23rd and after that there is going to be dooms day and this Assembly will come to an end. I do not think anything is going to happen to abolish the Punjab Legislative Assembly after the 23rd. Therefore even the pressing Government business could have waited for another day.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Something may happen behind the scenes

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** We cannot penetrate behind the scenes; we have to do our duty here. In the first place, his argument that there is pressing Government business does not really justify the taking away of the non-official day because Government business cannot be so pressing that if it is not done on the 23rd something was going to happen to the Punjab which would be irretrievable and it would mean ruin to the Punjab. I cannot conceive of any Government measure so urgent that 23rd was the only day on which it could be done. There is no '*mahurat*', I know that the Premier does not believe in '*mahurat*' that if that particular Government business is not done on a particular day it would end in some inauspicious event. I would go further. Let us concede that the Government business is so pressing that it must be done on the 23rd, then what is there to prevent the Government from giving another day during this



[Dr. Sir G. C. Narang].

session for non-official business? The whole thing would have been settled if he had said that as there was some pressing Government business which should be done on the 23rd we wish to give another day for non-official business. Why does he not say that? He means to take away the 23rd and thereafter close the Assembly session on the 24th or so. You will see that the life of this session is cut short. There too there is a precedent in support of the Premier. On a previous occasion also the session of the Assembly was cut short by many days for reasons which the Ministry knows very well. That may happen again, which means that there would be no non-official day during the whole of this session. May I ask, Sir, if it is not a denial of the privileges of the members of this Assembly? Is our business here only to discuss what is placed before us by the Government? Have we not our constituents with some grievances which they expect us to ventilate here? Haven't they got something which they want to be brought before the government by a non-official resolution? Do you suppose that the members here, whether belonging to this side or that side, are only here to say yes or no to whatever the Government may propose and that they have absolutely no other duty as members of this House? Sir, that would be the denial of all liberty and it would be nullifying the constitution because even the Premier cannot say that this is the be all and end all of it that the members who come here should only say yes or no to whatever the Government puts before them as legislators and that they have no other duty. Even the most absurd Cabinet cannot be guilty of it. Sir, we look upon you as the guardian of the rights and privileges of this House. If it has been the practice it is still worse. Instead of abandoning the nefarious practice the Premier wants to continue it and wants to take advantage of it. It is nothing but the abuse of his privilege. He said that it was his privilege to move that motion. Nobody denies it. This privilege has been abused many a time on previous occasions but we expected that with the coming in of the new Premier this nefarious practice would be put an end to and this abuse of power and privilege would not be continued. I would ask him that if really he has got the Gurdwara Bill or any other Bill he is welcome to take that day, but let him fix another day for the non-official business and the life of the Assembly should not be cut short in order to avoid non-official business. When most of the members go back their constituents would ask, 'Have you ventilated our feelings and our views before the Assembly?' Should they say, 'We did not get any opportunity to do that'. How discreditable and disgraceful it would be for anybody to have to say that. I would therefore request the Premier not to press this motion. If he wants his motion to be accepted he should announce another day for non-official business.

**Premier :** Sir, may I say a few words in reply to Doctor Sahib? He would concede that during the discussion on the budget, members are at full liberty to say whatever they like and give vent to their feelings. Now we have had discussions on the budget for so many days. As to our past practice I would say that last year no non-official day was given—I am speaking from memory—and for the last four years during the budget session no non-official day was allotted except once when it was done for some special reasons. I do not say whether it is a credit or discredit. What I maintain is that the Government business must take precedence over other business. We have other things to do and we cannot sit here for ever. I have no intention of choking honourable members and, as I said, they have had their full say during the Budget discussion.

1 p.m.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** Are you giving a day for non-official business or not ? That is the point.

**Mr. Speaker :** Question is—

That Rule 13 of the Punjab Legislative Assembly Rules be suspended and that Government business be transacted on Thursday, the 23rd March 1944.

*The Assembly divided.*

*(While the division was going on)*

**Rai Bahadur Lala Gopal Das :** May I enquire, Sir, whether Pandit Muni Lal Kalia who is now in the lobby, can exercise his right to vote ? He cannot come into this Chamber under the orders of the Government ; but can he be in the lobby ?

**Premier :** I do not think there is any bar. It is his own affair.

**Mr. Speaker :** If the honourable member is in the Chamber, so far as the rules of the Assembly are concerned he is free to vote.

*The Assembly divided Ayes 53 ; Noes 18.*

#### AYES

Abdul Hamid Khan, Sufi.  
Abdul Haye, The Honourable Mian.  
Abdul Rab, Mian.  
Abdul Rahim, Chaudhri (Gurdaspur).  
Allah Bakhsh Khan, Khan Bahadur Nawab Malik Sir.  
Allah Yar Khan Daulatana, K. B. Mian.  
Amjad Ali Shah, Sayed.  
Anant Ram, Rai Sahib Chaudhri.  
Baldev Singh, The Honourable Sardar.  
Brijraj Saran, Kanwar.  
Chhotu Ram, The Honourable Chaudhri Sir.  
Faiz Muhammad, Khan Bahadur Shaikh.  
Faqir Chand, Chaudhri.  
Faqir Hussain Khan, Khan Bahadur Chaudhri.  
Farman Ali Khan, Subedar-Major Raja.  
Fateh Khan, Khan Sahib Raja.  
Fateh Muhammad, Captain Mian.  
Fazal Din, Khan Sahib Chaudhri.  
Fazal Karim Bakhsh, Khan Sahib Mian.  
Few, Mr. E.  
Ghazanfar Ali Khan, Raja.  
Ghulam Qadir Khan, Khan Bahadur.  
Ghulam Samad, Khan Sahib Khawaja.  
Gopal Singh (American), Sardar.  
Gurbachan Singh, Sardar Bahadur Sardar.  
Gurbakhsh Singh, Sardar.

Hans Raj, Bhagat.  
Harnam Das, Lala.  
Het Ram, Rai Bahadur Chaudhri.  
Jagjit Singh Man, Sardar.  
Manohar Lal, The Honourable Dr. Sir.  
Mohar Singh, Rao.  
Muhammad Akram Khan, Khan Bahadur Raja.  
Muhammad Ashraf, Chaudhri.  
Muhammad Azam Khan, Sardar.  
Muhammad Saadat Ali Khan, Khan Bahadur Khan.  
Muhammad Sarfraz Khan, Chaudhri.  
Muhammad Yasin Khan, Khan Sahib Chaudhri.  
Muhammad Yusuf Khan, Khan.  
Mula Singh, Sardar.  
Mumtaz Muhammad Khan Daulatana, Mian.  
Nasir-ud-Din, Khan Bahadur Chaudhri.  
Nawazish Ali Shah, Sayed.  
Pir Muhammad, Khan Sahib Chaudhri.  
Prem Singh, Mahant.  
Ranpat Singh, Chaudhri.  
Ripudaman Singh, Rai Sahib Thakur.  
Sadiq Hassan, Shaikh.  
Sahib Dad Khan, Khan Sahib Chaudhri.  
Shahadat Khan, Khan Sahib Rai.  
Shaukat Hyat-Khan, The Honourable Sardar.  
Sultan Mahmood Hotiana, Mian.  
Suraj Mal, Rao Bahadur Chaudhri.

## NOES

Abdul Aziz, Mian.  
 Bhagat Ram Choda, Lala.  
 Bhagat Ram Sharma, Pandit.  
 Duni Chand, Mrs.  
 Girdhari Das, Mahant.  
 Gokul Chand Narang, Dr. Sir.  
 Gopal Das, Rai Bahadur Lala.  
 Kapoor Singh, Sardar.  
 Muhammad Abdul Rahman Khan,  
 Chaudhri.

Muhammad Hasan, Chaudhri.  
 Muhammad Nurullah, Mian.  
 Raghbir Kaur, Shrimati.  
 Santokh Singh, Sardar.  
 Sita Ram, Lala.  
 Sohan Singh Josh, Sardar.  
 Teja Singh, Sardar.  
 Ujjal Singh, Sardar Bahadur Sardar.  
 Uttam Singh Dugal, Sardar.

## ALIENATION OF LAND (AMENDMENT) BILL

**Minister of Revenue** (The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram): I beg to present the report of the select committee on the Punjab Alienation of Land (Amendment) Bill.

## SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS

## STAMPS

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

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,21,570 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.

*The motion was carried.*

## GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

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

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 23,000 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 General Administration.

**Mr. Speaker**: Motion moved—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 23,000 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 General Administration.

## Civil Supplies Department

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

That the item of Rs. 3,200 on account of Secretariat and Head quarters Establishment—Civil Secretariat—Pay of Officers be reduced by Rs. 100.

I have moved this out motion to discuss the Civil Supplies department. At present the problem of supplies has become very important. What happened in Bengal is known to every one. The tale of woe of Bengal is an instance of its own kind. Neither has such a thing happened in the past, nor will it happen in the future. In view of this I want to make a few observations for the consideration of the House.

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

to far as the working of the Civil Supplies Department in this province is concerned it is highly unsatisfactory. It has not met the needs of the people.

**Minister of Finance :** I rise to a point of order. The sole question before the House is whether the sum of Rs. 3,200 be granted as special pay to the two particular officers or not. That is the only matter before the House. We are not concerned with the questions of food supply, or rationing or control or any of these larger issues which have been discussed at great length in this House before.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** I think I am perfectly within my right to point out the working of the department with respect to which the special pay is being asked for.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker :** Only with regard to these two officers whose pay is under discussion.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** That is what I am doing. I am pointing out that these officers have not done their duty. They have not managed the department in such a way, so that everybody should get what he needs.

**Minister of Finance :** Their pay stands already fixed in the P. C. S. The question now is only of special pay at a particular rate. That is all.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** The Chair has already ruled that I have a right to discuss it. I was submitting that on account of the failure of supply system in Bengal the people suffered enormously. Their tale is so very woeful that I lack words to recount it over again here. In fact, on hearing the facts of Bengal famine and the miserable plight of the people one's hairs stand on end. In these days when the system of transport is highly developed, this catastrophe occurred in Bengal. One cannot imagine why such a thing happened at a time of awakening like this. What is the reason for all this? Though the reasons given are many, but the main reason for this famine was that the Bengal Government was highly inefficient and it failed to make proper arrangements for the supply of foodstuffs to the people. I think if the same state of affairs were to come about in this province, the Punjab Government will not be able to do better. At present due to abundant crops the zamindars are in affluent circumstances. In war times conditions change very quickly. At any time our province may be called upon to face conditions which the Bengal Government had to face. To me it seems that the Punjab Government has not considered this matter in the manner in which they should have done. It is the duty of the Civil Supplies Department to see that the people are supplied whatever they need. The officers at present in charge of this department are not discharging their duties properly. Rather they think that they have got certain powers and it is for them to see whether articles of food should be supplied to anybody or not. I have a personal experience of the working of this department. There is one Civil Supplies Officer in the Kangra district. I went to get some sugar in connection with ceremonies to be performed after the death of my relative who was the head of the Sanskrit Department of the Punjab University. He told me that only four seers of sugar could be given and that would be sufficient for the occasion. I said that it was not for him to say whether any amount of sugar was sufficient for me or not. He should supply what I want. But he insisted on his point. Such is the working of the Civil Supply Department, which will be exercising great powers in the matter of supplying food-stuffs to the people of this province. The officers of this department will have full powers to supply quantities of articles of food less than or in excess of the fixed ration. They can even refuse to supply any such article at their own sweet will.

[Pt. B. R. Sharma]

In this connection I would like the Government to formulate certain rules of procedure for the guidance of the department, if they want to make a success of their rationing scheme. The second thing to which they should pay their attention is the personnel of the department. The officers should be those who combine in themselves the qualities of head and heart and are capable of executing their duties in a sympathetic frame of mind. They should have the essential qualification of being sympathetically inclined towards the public. It is a matter of great regret that the Government refuse to enlist the co-operation and assistance of those non-official individuals who enjoy the confidence of the public. The help rendered by such people, who are popular among the masses can prove invaluable to the organisation entrusted with the working of the scheme. This refusal is motivated by political considerations. The Government is afraid that these persons, who do not belong to the Unionist party, will by their sympathetic attitude towards the public and by virtue of their unselfish public service enhance their prestige in the eyes of the masses. This is the reason why this Government is anxious to keep public spirited men at arm's length from the organisation set up for carrying out the work of rationing.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker :** May I again remind the honourable member that he cannot discuss the general policy under this demand ?

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** I am only pointing out the inefficiency of the officers.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker :** It is only the special pay of officers that is under discussion and not the general policy. The honourable member has already discussed that.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** I was submitting that these officers who are going to get this special pay do not propose to accept the voluntary services of those who can help to make this most important problem of food supply a signal success. They suspect that the people who do not see eye to eye with them in political matters may take advantage of the popularity that they will gain with the masses by their public service and bring about the former's downfall.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker :** I have already explained that food supply cannot be discussed under this demand. It is the special pay of officers which is under discussion.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Very well, Sir. With these words I conclude my speech and move my cut motion.

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

That the item of Rs. 3,200 on account of Secretariat and Headquarters Establishment—Civil Secretariat—Pay of Officers be reduced by Rs. 100.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh (Amritsar North, Sikh, Rural) (Punjabi) :** Sir, with the passage of time the economic condition of the people of this province has been gradually deteriorating. The necessities of life are one by one passing into the hands of the officers of the Civil Supply Department. By this growing province of their sphere of activities they are coming more to deal with the very lives of the people. The object of the cut, which is being moved in respect of the demand for special pay of the officers, is to place the grievances of the public against the Civil Supply Department before the House. If that is not done at the present juncture it is feared that the grievances which can easily be dealt with now will never be redressed.

Take the case of Lahore, for instance. Let us see what is being done by the officers of the Civil Supply Department, so that we may gain an insight into the working of the department as well as know the attitude of its officers towards the people with whom they have been called upon to deal. The very first commodity entrusted to them is sugar. The quality of sugar being supplied to the people of Lahore is very inferior. It is wetted in order to increase its weight; it is dirty and to top it all, the quantity sold is less than what it should be.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker :** I have already stated that it is only the special pay of the officer that can be discussed. The honourable member cannot discuss the whole department of Civil Supply.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** I am discussing what the province of these officers is and what they are doing in their province. That is what I have been discussing. I am not going beyond that.

I was saying that sugar is supplied to the public in a dirty and wet condition, and moreover there being no scales or balances kept by the depot holders the quantity is generally less than what it ought to be. The corruption in the Lahore sugar depôts has become a scandal. Hundreds of families have not yet received their sugar ration cards. When those who have not got them go to get new cards issued in their names they are harassed by being asked to call again and again. Another method adopted for harassing the public is of changing the dates which have been fixed for the distribution of sugar. The work was handed over to the A. R. P. staff which has miserably failed to serve the people. The depôts now have been granted to retired officers or big men known to the officers of the Civil Supply Department. Instead of entrusting the work of distributing sugar to public spirited men who would have considered it a social service, without any idea of making profits, it has been given to self-seeking persons desiring to line their own pockets at the cost of the people. They have absolutely no sympathy for them. Corruption is rife and bags of sugar are being sold in the black market at Rs. 100 each. This lack of sympathy on the part of the depot holders has created uneasiness in the minds of the public. If, as the Honourable Minister of Development gave us to understand yesterday, the Government is really in earnest about starting rationing, there are reasonable grounds for apprehending that there will be a repetition of the conditions prevailing at present. People will be subjected to the same treatment as has been meted out to them in respect of sugar. Rationing of wheat and wheat flour is quite a different thing from the rationing of sugar, because the latter is a necessity of secondary importance. No misery was caused to the people last month when sugar was not available for distribution. But if the same thing happens in the case of wheat or wheat flour, the misery of the public can be well imagined. People will die of starvation. God forbid that the conditions recently experienced by the unhappy population of Bengal be repeated in our own province. So far as the preliminary arrangements for food rationing are concerned the following story will furnish an illustration on the point. An officer of the Civil Supplies Department wanted to collect reliable statistics as to the number of persons going to be served by his department. He asked for paper from the Government but received the reply that paper could not be issued before the commencement of the next financial year.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker :** How is that relevant to the matter before the House?

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** For the purposes of food rationing the collection of necessary data is one of the most essential pre-requisites. Unless

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paper is supplied how can the information be collected? If the Government refuse this demand put forth by the department, the result will be that the efficiency of the department will suffer and when the scheme is worked the administration will be deluged with complaints against them. This attitude on the part of the Government will add to the misery of the people. If they are serious about rationing they should first take steps to bring those persons to book who are responsible for misappropriating the stocks and selling them in the black market. The scheme of food rationing should be embarked upon only when adequate preventive measures have been adopted by the Government.

With these words I support the amendment.

**Chaudhri Sumer Singh** (South-east Gurgaon, General, Rural) (*Urdu*): Sir, many years ago a Retrenchment and Resources Committee was appointed. As far as its recommendations are concerned the Government is offering them strange reception. As far as the question of resources is concerned, the Government is paying full attention to it. The revenue are being ruthlessly increased but the expenditure has not been reduced at all. The committee opposed the system of special pays. What we find to-day is that instead of their abolition more and more special pays are being recommended and paid. I do not find any justification for allowing any special pay to these Rationing Officers. It goes without saying that the lot of the petty Government employees, like peons, etc., is undoubtedly miserable and the times are very hard. But as far as these big guns are concerned who draw high salaries like Rs. 800 or Rs. 900 per mensem, they deserve no sympathy at all. Their pays are already abnormally high and they are being granted special pays. I am at a loss to understand the strange acts of our Government.

The Government should pay greater attention to the internal organisation of these departments. Public money is being wasted uselessly over ordinary things like telegrams and many other such trifles. These expenses are incurred because the Government has failed to establish an efficient machinery so far. I make an earnest appeal, Sir, that immediate steps may be taken towards economy and things should be set in such an order that no wastage may be permitted. If the Department is not put in the proper order then, Sir, I am extremely doubtful about the future working and success of this newly created Department. The Government must take care of everything, because very hard and responsible task is lying ahead.

At the end, Sir, I again record my opposition to this demand for special pays. The Government should now come forward and lay down definite rules which in future may be applied to these special pays.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan** (Ludhiana, Muhammadan, Rural): Sir, this demand relates to the appointment of two Assistant Directors of Food Supplies. You will be pleased to find from the instances that I related yesterday or the day before—and the Honourable Minister of Development was present then—that since the creation of these two posts, things have not improved but things have rather gone worse. I know of instances where people have informed me that permits have been given by these officers on receipt of certain money. Therefore I suggested that an enquiry committee should be appointed, whether official or non-official, to enquire into the conduct of these officers, so that we can decide whether there has been any improvement or not. You will be pleased to find that these two officers draw more than Rs. 700 as their pay in their substantive posts and I know for certain that one of them was an additional district

magistrate drawing Rs. 850 per mensem. Therefore I do not think that the Honourable Minister is justified in paying him Rs. 200 as special pay on account of the work that he is now asked to do. As a judicial officer or as a magistrate this officer had to perform various duties and the work he is now put on is not heavier than the work he used to do in his previous capacity. I therefore oppose this demand on the ground that things have not improved, things have deteriorated to an extent that it is simply scandalous. You will find, if you go to the office of the Director of Civil Supplies, as I related the other day, that it is not possible for anybody to bring their complaints and personally see the officer for the redress of grievances. I do not know why the Honourable Minister has thought it fit to burden the people of this province with this special pay of Rs. 200. On the other hand, he should have reduced the expenditure in this Department. He ought to have compared the results achieved and the expenditure incurred on this Department. You will find that the expenditure is disproportionately higher when compared with the results achieved on account of the creation of these two posts. Both of these gentlemen do nothing except sign permits and do miscellaneous work. These magistrates who have got so much work to do in these days might be deputed to do this particular work without being paid any special allowance for that purpose. Special allowance should be paid only in case they have got some special or additional work to do. You will find, and I invite the attention of the Honourable Minister of Development to the fact, that their work has not increased in any way. They have been transferred from one work to another. On the other hand, work has diminished to a certain extent. As additional district magistrate, he is responsible for the law and order of the district in which he is posted and he is also entrusted with certain criminal cases and with certain executive duties, such as local bodies' work. Therefore I think there is absolutely no justification whatsoever for giving to these gentlemen a special allowance of Rs. 200 a month. I entirely agree with Chaudhri Sumar Singh that the Government should rather try to improve the lot of the officials who are low paid. What is being done by the Honourable Minister of Development and by this Government is that they give more money to the people who are already highly paid. The high salaried gentlemen do not require to be paid more from out of the funds of the provincial exchequer than the persons who are ill-paid and who have a greater claim on the Government than these highly paid officers. If this Rs. 400 is distributed among the chaprasis and the ill-paid servants of the Department, their lot would be improved and they will pray for the long life of the Honourable Minister and the prosperity of his department. I therefore feel that the demand moved is unjustified and I support the cut motion.

**Shrimati Raghbir Kaur** (Amritsar, Sikh, Women) (*Punjabi*): Sir, I rise to oppose the cut motion now before the House. I wish to submit that people of our province are most disgusted with the Government and it is only for this reason that they are crying hoarse. I make bold to submit and say that this is all due to the mismanagement of the inefficient and inexperienced officers working in the Supply Department. So far as this department is concerned, I wish to submit that it does not adopt a sympathetic attitude towards the needy people in the province. Honourable members in the House will bear me out to the effect that in spite of deliberate arrangements made by the department concerned in the city of Lahore, even the smallest quantity of sugar is not available to the people. I am constrained to remark that the officers of the Supply Department do not seem to have any sympathy whatsoever with the public. There is no doubt that big sugar depots in different corners of the city have been



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opened by the department for women, and the honourable members sitting on the treasury benches shout from their housetops that sugar is made available to women-folk from these depots without any difficulty. But I wish to submit that these sugar depots exist in name only and that even the smallest quantity of sugar is not made available to women-folk. My honourable brother Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma in the course of his speech gave a note of warning to the officers of the Supply Department that they should have learnt a lesson from the calamity which befell the people of Bengal. In this connection I wish to suggest that Government should make some adequate arrangements in order to save the province from any such catastrophe as that of Bengal. Honourable members adorning the ministerial benches are under the impression that by voicing the grievances of the public in this House we would be winning the sympathies of the masses which would ultimately result in their defeat. In fact these Honourable Ministers are afraid of vacating their seats.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker :** Please speak to the motion.

**Shrimati Raghbir Kaur :** Very well, Sir. I wish to lay stress upon this point that only those persons should be given a chance in the administration of the province who are ready to serve the masses in the true sense of the word. So far as the machinery of the present ministry is concerned, I wish to submit that the present ministry, after being broken and overhauled, should be so arranged as to benefit the poor people of the province.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker :** May I request the lady member to speak to the motion? She is absolutely irrelevant.

**Shrimati Raghbir Kaur :** Very well, Sir. I was submitting that the officers of the Supply Department do not sympathise with the poor people. Things are being sold in the black market at exorbitant rates and people are profiteering with both hands. It is but meet and proper on the part of the Government to take stock of the situation and put an end to profiteering and hoarding. If this is done I am sure we can very well save our province from a catastrophe such as befell Bengal.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker :** The lady member is not speaking to the motion under discussion.

**Shrimati Raghbir Kaur :** Very well, Sir. I have to say a word or two and I have done. In the end I wish to submit that these special pays should be given to those poor Government servants who are serving the masses in the true sense of the word. Besides this, Government should make it a point to appoint checkers whose duty it would be to look to the interests of the public.

With these words, sir, I strongly support the cut motion now before the House.

**Lala Bhagat Ram Choda (Jullundur, General, Rural) (Urdu) :** Sir, I rise to support the cut motion now before the House. I wish to submit that the daily income of these officers to whom the Government is anxious to give Rs. 200 per month as special pay, is already Rs. 200. I am constrained to remark that these officers take more than Rs. 200 daily as bribes from the people.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker :** Please speak to the motion.

**Lala Bhagat Ram Choda :** Very well, Sir. What I wish to submit is this that the proposed special pays should be given to those Government servants who draw meagre pays. In this connection I wish to submit that these

Government servants are bent upon resigning from their jobs on account of their meagre pays. It is but meet and proper on the part of the Government to give these special pays to poor Government servants instead of these officers whose daily income is more than Rs. 200.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker :** The honourable member has said that a certain officer is making Rs. 200 a day. I would like to have the name of that officer.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Not one officer but there are several.

**Minister of Revenue :** What use is it making an insinuation? If the honourable member is right he should be bold enough to disclose the name of the officer.

**Minister of Development :** Unless there is definite information, how can we make enquiries?

**Mian Abdul Aziz :** Has not the Honourable Minister heard before of any name?

**Lala Bhagat Ram Choda :** Sir, I wish to submit that Government propose to give special pays to those officers who resort to bribery and corruption. Instead of giving special pays to these officers, Government should make it a point to enhance the pays of poor Government servants such as policemen, chaprasis, etc.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker :** Is the honourable member prepared to give the name?

**Lala Bhagat Ram Choda :** Sir, if you like I am prepared to give the names of those officers. What I wish to submit is this that Government should keep in view the condition of the poor and do something substantial with a view to ameliorating their hard lot. With these words, Sir, I support the cut motion now before the House.

**Khan Bahadur Maulvi Ghulam Mohy-ud-Din (Sheikhupura, Muhammadan, Rural) :** We would have been glad if our honourable friends opposite had given certain concrete cases of corruption or of other complaints which the Government would have been in a position to rectify or to attend to. Making general complaints without there being any basis for them would, I submit, be of no use either to them, or to the Government or to the public. So far as our experience goes, the rationing of sugar and the working out of the rationing scheme of sugar has been very successful at least in Lahore.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker :** The honourable member will please discuss the subject under discussion, namely, the special pay of these two officers.

**Khan Bahadur Maulvi Ghulam Mohy-ud-Din :** To say that these two officers should not be paid, is ignoring the fact that they have to do the work for which they have been appointed. If my honourable friend on the other side had shown that the work they have been put to is not sufficient for them and is not one for which an allowance is asked for, it would have been some argument. But so far as I know, the work allotted to them is so heavy which no ordinary officer would have been able to do. With your permission, Sir, I beg to draw, under this head, the attention of the Government and specially the Honourable Minister of Development to the *Punjab Gazette*, dated the 3rd March, and by that I wish to draw his attention to the difficulties to which the sugar trader specially would be put.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker :** That is not relevant to the matter under discussion.

**Khan Bahadur Maulvi Ghulam Mohy-ud-Din :** You are right there. Strictly speaking not, but it comes—

**Mr. Deputy Speaker :** If I cannot allow one member, I cannot allow the honourable member as well to discuss that matter.

**Chaudhri Ram Sarup** (Rohtak Central, General, Rural) (Urdu) : Sir, I rise to oppose the cut motion now before the House. On principle I am against payment of Special pay of Rs. 200 to P. C. S. and I. C. S. officers in general. But since this demand concerns two persons in particular who have really to cope with the work of the most difficult nature regarding food supplies, I stand in support of this demand. In this connection I wish to submit that last year it was agreed upon by the Retrenchment Committee that Government should try to curtail the expenditure falling under the item of special pays. I am not in agreement with those of my honourable friends who oppose this demand on the ground that it concerns Mr. Bhandari and the other gentleman. So far as the nature of the work of the abovementioned officers is concerned, I wish to submit that they should be allowed to draw the special pay amounting to Rs. 200 per month in view of their tough jobs.

Further I wish to submit that some of my honourable friends sitting on the opposite benches said that the Civil Supply Officers resorted to bribery but they failed to give any specific instances. In this connection, I would request the honourable members sitting on the Treasury benches not to institute any inquiry in this direction. Government by instituting inquiries would lose importance and at the same time the so-called corrupt officers would get used to corruption. I do not think there would be any honourable member in this House who would support an officer who accepts bribe. In the circumstances it would be of no use on the part of the Government to set up enquiries in the absence of specific instances. Since this demand is meant for particular persons, I do not see any reason for rejecting it. With these words, sir, I oppose the cut motion now before the House.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker :** Question is—

That the item of Rs. 3,200 on account of Secretariat and Head Quarters Establishment—Civil Secretariat—Pay of Officers be reduced by Rs. 100.

*The motion was lost.*

**Mr. Deputy Speaker :** The question is—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 23,000 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 General Administration.

*The motion was carried.*

#### SUPERANNUATION ALLOWANCES AND PENSIONS

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

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,59,750 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.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker :** Motion moved—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,59,750 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.

*Temporary increase in pensions*

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh** (Amritsar North, Sikh, Rural) (Punjabi) :

I beg to move—

That the item of Rs. 1,53,550 on account of Superannuation and Retired Allowances—Additional Pensions to low-paid pensioners be reduced to Rs. 100.

Sir, the object of my cut motion is very simple. In fact the pensions are not easily earned as the pensioners get them after putting in a long service and I know some of the pensioners who have earned their pensions at the risk of their lives. Anyhow I appreciate the increase made by the Government in respect of the pensions as they were already very low. But my point is that the increase in the pensions has not been sufficient. Under the present conditions when prices are shooting high and we are facing an unprecedented economic crisis it has become very difficult for the pensioners to maintain themselves with the small amount of their pensions. Not even this but they have attained a particular standard of life from which it is simply impossible for them to come down. I understand that pensions are being increased temporarily by the Government. I take objection to it and I would, therefore, submit that the increase in pay of pensioners should be further increased and increment made permanent enabling them to meet the increased cost of living due to war.

With these few remarks, Sir, I commend my cut motion for the acceptance of the House.

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

That the item of Rs. 1,53,550 on account of Superannuation and Retired Allowances—Additional Pensions to low-paid pensioners be reduced by Rs. 100.

**Chaudhri Ram Sarup** (Rohtak Central, General, Rural) (Urdu) : Sir, I rise to support the cut motion moved by my honourable friend Sardar Sohan Singh Josh. I would not take much time of the House in giving reasons in support of the cut motion now before the House. My reasons are obvious and simple. In the first place, I do not see any reason why the Government have departed from the rules made for giving dearness allowance to the employees so far as pensioners are concerned. Dearness allowance should be considered a dearness allowance in both the cases and the same scale should have been sanctioned in the case of pensioners as well. Therefore what I want to point out is that the rate at which dearness allowance is given should be the same in both the cases, whether Government employees are in service or on pension. Now my objection is why differential treatment has been meted out to the pensioners who are already low-paid. As you are aware, Sir, dearness allowance to the extent of Rs. 8 is paid to a person drawing Rs. 20 pay. But in the case of pensioners a person getting Rs. 20 pension is eligible to have Rs. 3 only as dearness allowance. Why this departure from the rules? My submission is that even in the case of a pensioner who is getting Rs. 20 as pay the rate of dearness allowance should be the same, namely, Rs. 8 as given to a Government employee in service. If we accept the reason advanced by the Government for the sake of argument only, even then it seems to be most unreasonable that a pensioner getting Rs. 20 per mensem should be granted an allowance of Rs. 3 only, while the rate of allowance is far higher in the case of employees in service. I, therefore, feel, Sir, that this ought to have been at least Rs. 4 as the rate of allowance granted to an employee in service is no less than Rs. 14. I speak subject to corruption. In view of these facts the low-paid pensioners ought to have been granted an increase at the rate of at least half the amount given to

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Government servants getting pay between Rs. 20 and Rs. 40. It may be argued by the Government that they have a large number of petty Government servants and if a small amount of money is granted to them it will amount to a very large sum of money. Quite true. But may I ask whether we are not working under the provincial autonomy which stands for the greatest good of the greatest number. I, therefore, in the end, once again plead the cause of the low-paid pensioners and submit most respectfully to the Government that the pay of the pensioners should be further increased.

**Sardar Kapoor Singh** (Ludhiana East, Sikh, Rural) (*Punjabi*): Sir I rise to support the cut motion moved by my honourable friend Sardar Sohan Singh Josh. The last speaker Chaudhri Ram Sarup has also put forth certain reasons in support of this cut motion. All that I can say in this respect is that by working out the calculation we have come to know that a person getting Rs. 20 per mensem will be granted 6 pice a day by the Government as an allowance amounting to Rs. 3 which is to be granted to him. Now let me ask the Government how an increase of 6 pice a day in someone's pay can give relief to anyone? This would not be enough for a coolie to carry a bundle from a rationing shop to the pensioner's house. I, therefore, submit that the Government should afford at least adequate relief to the pensioners who are getting a pay of Rs. 20 only. I plead for their cause and request the Government to increase it further, so that they may be able to meet the increased cost of living due to war.

I, therefore, insist upon the Government making this relief a substantial one by making a further increase in it.

**Chaudhri Sumer Singh** (South-East Gurgaon, General, Rural) (*Urdu*): Sir, I rise to support the cut motion now before the House. My point is that as the dearness allowance granted to the pensioners is very small, it should be fixed on the same scale as that granted to employees. To further elucidate my point I may submit that the rates of dearness allowance fixed for employees should also be applicable to the pensioners. There should be no departure from the scale of dearness allowance which is already in existence. For instance, if dearness allowance to the extent of Rs. 8 is given to a person drawing Rs. 20 pay, it should also be adhered to in the case of a pensioner. I do not think it proper that there should be any differential treatment between the employees and the pensioners, as equally both the classes have to meet the increased cost of living due to war. If the Government do not agree to this proposal, I would like to put forth another suggestion and that is this. Supposing a pensioner receives Rs. 56 per mensem. It means he was drawing about double the amount, namely, Rs. 112 while in service. My submission is that dearness allowance should be given to him according to his pay and not the pension. It means that dearness allowance should be granted to him on the basis of his pay. So a pensioner whose pension is Rs. 56 at present should be granted dearness allowance on the basis of his pay as already calculated.

(At this stage Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair).

Sir, if the low-paid Government servants cannot make their both ends meet, it must be still more difficult for the low-paid pensioners to keep their bodies and souls together in these days of dearness. The limit of Rs. 40 fixed in the case of pensioners cannot be justified on any principle whatsoever. The principle of pension is that it is equal to one half of the salary. Now dearness allowance is being granted to all those Government employees whose pay is upto Rs. 250 per month. By the parity of reasoning all those pensioners who are drawing Rs. 125 per mensem should be

granted dearness allowance because if they had been in service their salary would have been Rs. 250 per mensem. This is the principle on which their amount of pension is based, and, even the dearness allowance should be given according to this principle. All pensioners getting upto Rs. 125 per mensem should be granted dearness allowance.

The second point is that the rate of dearness allowance is also unjustifiably low in the case of pensioners. It is only Rs. 3 and Rs. 4 in the case of pensioners. It should be raised and made equal to the rate of dearness allowance granted to Government servants or at least to one half of that rate. If servants get 20 or 30 per cent, of their salary the pensioners may be given 20 or 30 per cent of their pension, i.e., at the same rate of percentage. But mere Rs. 3 or Rs. 4 is not sufficient in any case. We do not know how this meagre sum was sanctioned and calculated by the Government. The sum of Rs. 3 per month comes to 3 pice per day but that cannot buy a person even a match-box, or common salt or oil. It is wholly insufficient. This rate must be raised.

With these few words, Sir, I support the cut motion now before the House.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad** (Southern Towns, Muslim, Urban) (*Urdu*): Sir, the honourable member who just preceded me has covered almost the whole field which I had in view. He has left little scope for me to say anything now. But I must say something nonetheless as this subject is very near to my heart and I have given some thought to it. Even during the general discussion of the budget I had asked the Honourable Minister of Finance certain questions with regard to this subject, but no satisfactory reply was given to me as to why the low limit of Rs. 40 was fixed in the case of pensioners. I must repeat here that the pensioners are those loyal servants of the government who after having spent the better part of their lives in the service of the Government have earned the small pensions. Now that they are in trouble and cannot make both ends meet, it is the duty of the Government to come to their rescue in this hour of great peril. They are too old to be able to earn their living and educate their children. Government should not desert their old, loyal and tried servants in their hour of need. But the Government has fixed the limit of Rs. 40 only upto which a pensioner can get any dearness allowance. And what is the rate of dearness allowance? It is only Rs. 3 or Rs. 4. But against this what are the rates of the dearness allowance granted to Government servants? Here is the schedule which shows the rate of dearness allowance:—

<i>Salary</i>	<i>Dearness-Allowance</i>
	Rs.
Upto Rs. 20 per mensem	.. 8½
From 20 to 30	.. 9½
From 30 to 40	.. 11
From 40 to 60	.. 12
From 60 to 100	.. 14
From 100 to 149	.. 14
From 150 to 250	.. 10 per cent of the total pay.

But the poor pensioners can only get dearness allowance if their pension does not exceed Rs. 40 per mensem. I fail to understand the principle on which this limit of Rs. 40 has been fixed. If the Government servants getting Rs. 250 per mensem are regarded poor enough to deserve the aid of dearness allowance, how is it that poor pensioners getting Rs. 41 are regarded to be too rich to

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deserve any help in the shape of dearness allowance? Have not the pensioners also the same needs as the Government servants? Do the pensioners get their supplies cheaper? After all what is the principle on which this calculation is based? They too have been loyally and faithfully serving the benign government like the present servants of the Government. Why should any invidious distinction be made in their cases? The Pensioners' Association passed resolutions and sent them to the Government but I am sorry to find that the honourable Minister of Finance has not paid proper attention to them. The grant of Rs. 3 to Rs. 4 as dearness allowance to those pensioners who are getting upto Rs. 40 only is very meagre and insufficient. Even this meagre sum has been granted very late this year while the Government servants have been getting dearness allowances for the last 2 or 3 years. Pensioners should also be given the same rate as is being given to the Government servants and even the limit of pension should be same as the limit of the salary fixed or equal to one half. Government servants getting Rs. 250 as pay, are given an additional dearness allowance at the rate of 10 per cent of their salary. Similarly the pensioners should be given this allowance upto the pension of Rs. 125, that is, one half of their salary of Rs. 250 per mensem. That will bring them on the same level. This will be justice and fairness. The Government should not act otherwise. The two jat members from Rohtak and Gurgaon have suggested that the pensioners have retired on half the salary they were receiving when they were in service, they should therefore be given half of dearness allowance sanctioned for Government servants. This suggestion does not stand to reason. The pensioners who are getting half of their salary as pension should be given double dearness allowance to what the Government servants are allowed. This will meet the ends of justice and equity.

With these few words, Sir, I support the cut motion that is now before the House.

**Diwan Bahadur S. P. Singha** (East Central Punjab, Indian Christian) : Mr. Speaker, I thank you for letting your eye catch me because it has become easier for a silken thread to catch the eye of a needle, than for a member to catch the eye of the chair, unless he happens to be a Parliamentary Secretary or a member of the Opposition. From day to day, the Parliamentary Secretaries have been usurping our rights; and therefore before I say anything I want to mention my gratitude to you.

As I have missed opportunities to speak on some of the things I wished to speak upon I now through you, wish to propose that instead of increasing the pensions, the Government may consider the alternative of giving additional jobs to the pensioners. My proposal is that a pensioner be appointed to look into the grievance of the minorities like the scheduled castes and the Indian Christians. For the last 5 years I have been pressing upon the Government that they should appoint a committee to investigate and report on the grievances of the humbler minorities. I propose that a pensioner be appointed for this purpose. I had proposed that a Parliamentary Secretary be detailed at least to do this much, that he should attend to those letters and complaints that are sent to Government by representatives of the minorities and he should report to the Minister about their disposal. Since that has not been done, I presume that the Government is too busy to spare time for the setting up of such committees. I also presume that Parliamentary Secretaries are over-burdened with Parliamentary work. The pensioners at least will not be over-burdened. They will be persons who have had practical experience and they will have time also.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** What about the Parliamentary Private Secretaries? They have got no work.

**Diwan Bahadur S. P. Singha :** Everybody has got work here on this side. Otherwise how can it be that our grievances remain unredressed? Speaking of pensions I think the Honourable Premier should also get a pension when he retires. For he made history when in a speech in this session he gave an assurance that every speech that is delivered will be read by the Government. I am sure so far the speeches have never been read. If they were I feel sure some effect would have been given to the points raised in them. I have been urging at least for the last 5 years, that the Ministers should pay heed to the grievances expressed in our speeches. I cannot believe that the Government has become so hard-hearted that they have not looked into the grievances of the poor people. I would again say, Sir, that our speeches are not read, and if they are and still no action is taken to look into the grievances of the poor people then they are not fit to be the Government of this province. (*Hear, hear from the Opposition Benches.*) Those who claim to be friends of the poor should show by their actions that they are so.

**Mr. Speaker :** The honourable member is not relevant.

**Diwan Bahadur S. P. Singha :** My point, Sir, is that if a pensioner is appointed to make a report of these grievances, the Government can take some action on that report.

**Mr. Speaker :** The honourable member is discussing the recruitment of certain persons. That matter is not before the House.

**Diwan Bahadur S. P. Singha :** Then, Sir, allowances of some of the pensioners should be increased for the purpose of looking into the grievances of the poor. I know I am forcing irrelevancy into the matter. But what else can I do? We do not get any opportunity to say anything about our grievances. I got up twenty times in this session, but without any success.

**Mr. Speaker :** The honourable member should speak to the motion.

**Diwan Bahadur S. P. Singha :** Sir even if you make me sit down what I am saying, Sir, will at least be read along with the subject of increase in pensions. The poor people of my community in the villages cannot draw out water from the wells and yet no provision is made in the Budget for giving grants towards wells. There are so many other things. To be relevant Sir, I shall say if their pensions are increased they can make arrangements for having water carried from the wells.

**Mr. Speaker :** That is irrelevant.

**Diwan Bahadur S. P. Singha :** There may be many pensioners in the village G. B. 2, Montgomery district—pensioners from the Army and from the civil—who cannot make their both ends meet. The grantees in this village have only half a rectangle, while Government has increased other grants to a full rectangle. Their case should be considered. In the meanwhile their pensions should be increased and if that cannot be done, arrangements should be made to give them certain facilities. Government can easily find out what facilities we require if they will take the trouble of reading my speeches on cut motions year after year.

**Mr. Speaker :** If the honourable member persists in irrelevancy, I shall be obliged to ask him to resume his seat.

**Diwan Bahadur S. P. Singha :** In that case, I shall sit down. I have done what I wanted to—to draw attention to the fact that we have many



[D. B. S. P. Singha]

grievances which remain unredressed. To give us a place in the block-system is not enough. Our other needs should also be studied.

**Khan Sahib Chaudhri Pir Muhammad** (South-East Gujrat, Muslim, Rural) (*Urdu*): Sir, there is no denying the fact that the condition of the pensioners is indeed very pitiable, especially of those with small pensions. I myself am a pensioner, but I am not going to plead my own cause. My request is that those who are getting pension up to Rs. 100 per month should be granted dearness allowance according to the rates at which such allowance is given to the persons who are actually in Government service to-day. Uptil now the dearness allowance has been granted to persons getting pension upto Rs. 40 per month and that too to the extent of 3 or 4 rupees only. No doubt that is a kindness on the part of the Government, but I must say that the poor pensioners deserve more. Moreover the rate according to which dearness allowance is granted to the pensioners is not equal to that granted in case of persons in actual Government service. My request is that dearness allowance should be granted to all the pensioners getting pensions upto Rs. 100 at the rates at which such an allowance is granted to the persons who are in actual Government service to-day. With these few words, Sir, I resume my seat.

**Mr. K. L. Rallia Ram** (West Central Punjab, Indian Christian): Sir, the question of pensions is before the House and it has been discussed from many points of view. I rise to make a few suggestions for the consideration of the Government. The question no doubt is a very difficult one. For my part I would like to see people getting Rs. 100 to get something more, the days are so hard. In my opinion, Sir, the pensions should be given on a sliding scale, i.e., a man who retires at the age of 55 should get pension for 20 years and after that it should be cut down. Some people, it seems, do not die at all (*laughter*); they go on getting their pensions for 30 or 40 years. There are others who die within 6 months after their retirement and I do suggest that some sort of allowance should be given to their widows and children for 5 years or more. Such cases are really very hard. I would request the Government to appoint a committee to look into the question of pensions in general and suggest such alterations and adjustments as to do something for these persons who die within 5 years after their retirements. I hope the honourable Minister will look into this question and do something in the matter.

**Mr. Speaker:** The question is—

That the item of Rs. 1,53,550 on account of Superannuation and Retired Allowances—Additional pensions to low-paid pensioners be reduced by Rs. 100.

*The motion was lost.*

#### *War Service Inams*

**Sardar Kapoor Singh** (Ludhiana East, Sikh, Rural) (*Punjabi*): Sir, I beg to move:

That the item of Rs. 6,200 on account of War Service Inams be omitted.

I rise to oppose this item. But before I do so I want to make it clear that I am not opposed to any inams being given to those people who are fighting for freedom or who are fighting the battle of their own country. Rather I want that such people should be helped in whatever manner it is possible to do so. But the question now before us is that Government want to grant war services inam of the value of Rs. 100 to civilians for recruiting services. These inams will

continue for two lives. That is what I am opposed to. Sir, you are aware of the fact that some pensions and military jagirs exist in our province even now. They were granted to people for services rendered during the Mutiny. You also know as to what effect they have made on our country. If these military pensions and jagirs had been granted by our Government, then there would have been no harm at all. But they were given by a foreign Government which wanted to rule over this country, to exploit it and to keep it in bondage for all times to come. The result of these pensions and jagirs has been that a special class of the yes-men of Government has come into being. Not only that. Government by granting such jagirs have made even the future generations of the recipients as slaves. It is no secret, Mr. Speaker, that all those who got those pensions and jagirs have always sided with Government. In fact pensions and jagirs which were granted after the Mutiny and the last Great War by Sir Michael O'Dwyer have created a class of Indians who want the British to continue as the ruler of this country. Now the present Government has also made a provision for these inams to be given for war services. It is said that these inams are war service inams. But if we carefully read the note regarding this item in the Supplementary Estimates we find that these inams will be given to civilians for recruiting services for two lives, i.e., to those who have done some work and also to their next generation for not doing any work at all. I think these inams should not be given to such people at all. They will simply produce a class of yes-men of the Government. Their future generations will also inherit their mentality which we want to avoid. That is one reason why I am opposed to the granting of these war inams.

If our Government really want that people should help in the work of recruitment, then I say that these inams are not at all required. I can point out many other ways in which recruitment work can be intensified. I assure the Government that if they adopt the methods suggested by me they would not have to give these inams for getting this work done. If these methods are adopted not only lakhs but crores of people would come forward for enlisting themselves in the armed forces. What are those methods? Our Government is crying hoarse that it is a war for freedom, it is a war for democracy, it is a war of weak nations against the aggressors. (*An honourable member*: These inams are being given for war services). Not at all. These are being given for recruiting services. We are opposed to these inams because they tend to make the future generations of such recipients slaves as well. That is what pinches us. We do not want to see the sons and grandsons of these people follow the footsteps of their fathers. Had these inams been given by our Government, I would have urged them to double the amount. But with what view these inams are being given and to whom are they being granted? They will be granted to those civilians who have helped in the work of recruitment and who like the foreign Government to continue to dominate over us. The British Government want to rule over this country for all times to come. Neither this war is being waged for the freedom of India nor, I hope my Communist friends will forgive me, is it a people's war. This war is being waged with a view to help the British Government to continue to dominate over this country. These inams are being given in order to make the people of India slaves. Their spirit of freedom is being crushed. Anyway, I was telling as to how more and more recruits could be enlisted in the armed forces.

**Mr. Speaker**: The honourable member is irrelevant in discussing generally the whole system of inams throughout India by the so-called foreign Government.

**Sardar Kapoor Singh :** I am simply showing that these *inams* are meant only for those who help in recruitment.

**Mr. Speaker :** The Honourable member will please discuss only the *inams* that are now before the House.

**Sardar Kapoor Singh :** My contention is that not a single pie of these *inams* should be given to people who do recruiting work, because even without them there are other means by which recruitment can be made.

**Captain Sardar Naunihal Singh Mann :** Can the honourable member tell me what those other means are ?

**Sardar Kapoor Singh :** I am going to tell them presently.

**Captain Sardar Naunihal Singh Mann :** Will the honourable member come into the recruiting staff in order to work out those means ?

**Sardar Kapoor Singh :** I beg to submit Sir, that this method of granting *inams* is not the only method whereby recruits can be obtained for the Army. There are many other ways of carrying out the recruiting campaign successfully. Those who believe that a larger number of men will offer themselves for enlistment if they are tempted with money are frightfully mistaken. The best method of securing recruits for the army is to make them realise that it is their own war which they have been called upon to fight. They will need no *inam* better than the realisation that they are going to defend their own liberty. By giving a few thousand rupees to the recruiting agencies the Government can at the most get a few thousand men, but if they act upon my suggestion millions will rally round their flag of their own accord. Let the Government hold fast to the stand they took in the beginning of this war that it was being waged for preserving the liberty of the smaller nations, and they will find that such allurements and temptations which they have to hold out now will no longer be necessary.

**Mr. Speaker :** The honourable member can discuss only those *inams* which are included in the demand under discussion. He should not go beyond this particular item.

**Sardar Kapoor Singh :** I will not go beyond this particular item. I am opposing this demand. I say that these *inams* should not be given because the purpose for which they are meant can be served by giving any reward to the civilians too. I am going to suggest those very methods.

If the Government want the Indians to come forward and defend their country they should first make India Indian in the real sense. I mean they should hand over India to Indians.

**Mr. Speaker :** The honourable member can discuss only the item of Rs. 6,200.

**Sardar Kapoor Singh :** I am suggesting this simply because that is one of the ways.

**Mr. Speaker :** The honourable member is not relevant.

**Sardar Kapoor Singh :** I will bow to your ruling, but I am not irrelevant.

**Mr. Speaker :** This is a supplementary estimate, so the honourable member should not go beyond it. The original sums and estimates are not under discussion.

**Sardar Kapoor Singh :** There was no original sum, neither in the last year's budget nor in this year's budget. You will find from the Statement of Objects and Reasons that this item was never provided in the budget. For that reason it is the first time that it has come before the House. I may remind the Honourable Speaker that it was when some bill, I think it was the Jagir Bill, was being discussed that the Honourable Premier expressly said at that time that when any such grant is put before the House they will have perfect right and full time for discussing that demand. This sum was never brought previously in the budget. This is the first time that it has been done.

This sum has not been provided in the budget so far. I will read out from the Supplementary Estimates, 1943-44 :—

No provision for this item was made in the Budget Estimates for 1943-44 and the Schedule of New Expenditure, as the decision to make these awards was not reached till a later date."

So it is quite a new item, and I hope you will allow me to proceed. I assure you I will not be irrelevant in any case. If I am irrelevant you can rule me out.

Mr. Speaker, I was submitting that if the Government want recruits for the Army they cannot get them by throwing temptation of money in their way. This method would not succeed in bringing in many recruits. At the present moment the most essential thing for this Government to do is to hand over India to the Indians and then to appeal to their patriotic sentiments. Instead of buying their lives for a few rupees make them realise that this war is not being fought to perpetuate their bondage. Nor does it aim to keep them under foreign domination. Make them the master of their destinies, thus dispelling their doubts that this war is going to strengthen the bonds of Imperialism.

**Sardar Lal Singh :** Is it a function of the Punjab Government to librate India? It is the function of the Central Government to do so.

**Sardar Kapoor Singh :** Sir, I am glad that my honourable friend has objected. But he must know that it is the function of the Central Government to provide this sum and not that of the Punjab Government to waste money on these matters. When the Jagir Bill was being passed, my honourable friend was the first person who raised the objection that jagirs should not be granted. Now that the rights of the *jagirdars* are being attacked he has come forward to defend them. Should I take it as the honourable member's expression of fidelity?

**Sardar Lal Singh :** I did that on another score.

**Sardar Kapoor Singh :** Sir, before I was interrupted I was submitting that the proper method for obtaining recruits would be to rouse the patriotic sentiments of the people and not to tempt them with money. Sir, as you probably do not often go to the railway station, you may not know what sort of posters are pasted on the boards for attracting recruits. They are invariably worded thus :

Good food, good pay, good prospects. Is it not shameful that these persons should ask us to join the Army on pecuniary considerations and in a mercenary spirit? Every self-respecting person can realise how shameful these publicity slogans are. Whenever I see them I wonder whether we in this country have no shame left in us that we tolerate such insulting posters. It is an insult to our national character that we fight for money in a mercenary spirit.

**Mr. Speaker :** Strictly speaking, the honourable member may not be irrelevant, but he is going too far.

**Sardar Kapoor Singh :** Sir, I am merely suggesting to the Government ways and means by which they can make men enlist in large numbers for the Army. On the one hand, our Premier says that it is a war against Japan, it is a war for the defence of India, but, on the other hand, their publicity department issues such insulting posters. Why do they go on harping on pecuniary advantages which will accrue to the people if they offer themselves for recruitment?

**Minister of Development :** Because Indians are given good pay.

**Sardar Kapoor Singh :** Is it? Does the Honourable Minister think that Rs. 18 can by any stretch of imagination be called good pay. (*Captain Sardar Naunihal Singh:* He gets Rs. 33.) Even so. Does my honourable friend know that an ordinary labourer gets R. 1-8-0 per day in these days.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Abdul Rahman Khan :** I want to know, what the standard of pay of the English or American soldiers is? ✓

**Sardar Kapoor Singh :** It has been said with great pride, that the pay of an Indian soldier is Rs. 30 per mensem. It will not be out of place if I may remind my honourable friends that the pays of cooks and bearers of these foreigners exceed this meagre amount of pay which is paid to our fighting soldiers.

Sir, I want to make it clear that the Government is doing propaganda for recruitment in such a manner as if it is not a war of Indians themselves. If a recruit is questioned, his simple answer will illustrate that he is simply fighting for his living. I would like to draw your attention to the fact, how dishonest this foreign government is in every sphere of activity. Propaganda for recruitment is done in such a manner that nobody thinks this war as our own war. Monetary and material temptations are given and no appeal to the noble sentiments of patriotism is made. In the presence of these circumstances I openly declare that we do not stand at all in need of helping this war. Boasts like "War for Democracies", "Future Hopes" and "Atlantic Charter" are often made, but we know their fidelity also. They waste no time in retracing their steps.

**Mr. Speaker :** The Honourable member may not be irrelevant but he is going too far.

**Sardar Kapoor Singh :** Up to this time our government has not won the war finally. So far they have only hopes for final victory. I may remind my Muslim friends that at the beginning of this war the English declared Palestine as an Arab land and were prepared to accept all Muslim claims, but now they have gone back to their previous stand and openly say that Jews must have a home.

**Mr. Speaker :** Please speak to the motion.

**Sardar Kapoor Singh :** Sir, I am not preaching against the war. If the government gives up its traditional dishonest policy and declares this war a war of Indians, I will be the first person to extend my whole-hearted support to it. But unfortunately, sir, government does things intentionally and tries to shift the blame upon others under the pretext of hinderance in the war effort. I can say with confidence that every Indian today stands against Japan and if this war is a war against Japan, everybody will gladly join it. But our government is bent upon fighting this war as their own concern. They are waging this war with imperialistic notions. Therefore, I openly condemn it. With these words, sir, I conclude my speech.

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

That the item of Rs. 6,200 on account of War Service Inams be omitted.

**Sardar Lal Singh** (Ludhiana Central, Sikh, Rural) (*Punjabi*): Sir, I did not want to take part in this discussion but arguments have been advanced by one honourable friend which according to my humble judgment, are totally wrong and baseless.

**Mr. Speaker**: The honourable member should speak to the motion.

**Sardar Lal Singh**: Sardar Kapur Singh's submission is this that amount of Rs. 6,200 will be wasted and should not be granted. According to him the recruits should offer themselves for patriotic reasons alone. He has tried his utmost to prove that our soldiers are mercenaries. Sir, I lodge a protest against this false propaganda. My honourable friend on the one hand, admits that there is no dearth of employment at this time in our country. I put one pure and simple question to my friend. How can it be that people choose army service for the meagre amount of Rs. 30 a month when there is no dearth of employment and the spirits are mercenary? How unkind it is on our part, sir, if we call these young men mercenaries who being owners of 300 bighas of land, offer themselves for Rs. 80 per mensem. Does he fix Rs. 30 per mensem for a Punjabi youth? I know for certain that these very mercenaries will reconquer Burma at the cost of their blood and then my friends will be at liberty to go over there and sell silk worth Rs. 1-8-0 for Rs. 10 as they did in Africa. I quite agree that some people are simply tempted by the hopes of future prospects. Some are attracted by the uniform. In no way does that entitle us to call them mercenaries. It is neither the fault of Indian soldiers that India has not attained independence so far, nor can the Punjab Government be held responsible for it.

May I ask my honourable friends who have taken objection to my views whether a Punjabi soldier is to be blamed for the failure of India in achieving the freedom or whether it is the fault of the Punjab Government that self-Government has not been awarded to India? (*Interruption*). What I wish to submit is that this sum of Rs. 6,200 is meant for those who have left their business at home and are busy in the successful prosecution of the War abroad. It is meant for those who are fighting bravely and striving their every nerve to keep the enemy away from the country. It really ill-behoves my honourable friends opposing this demand to attribute mercenary motives to these brave men. My honourable friend Sardar Kapur Singh said that by providing the demand of Rs. 6,200, Government desires that the people could be tempted by this provision and would come in large numbers to get themselves recruited in the army. But I may inform my honourable friend that it is not so. This demand has been put forward by the Government with a view to recognising the services of the civilians for recruiting services. I take strong objection to the statement made by my honourable friend Sardar Kapur Singh that a Punjabi soldier is mercenary. He also mentioned that a labourer in the provinces earns Rs. 1½ per day, while a Punjabi soldier who is recruited in the army gets Rs. 20 or Rs. 22 per month. In this connection I wish to submit that the argument advanced by my honourable friend is quite baseless and unfounded. Once again, I wish to bring this point home to my honourable friend that Punjabi soldiers offer their services of their own accord and that no temptation whatsoever is given to them. With these words, sir, with all the emphasis at my command, I oppose the cut motion now before the House.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan** (Ludhiana, Muhammadan, Rural) (*Urdu*): Sir, I rise to make a few observations in support of the cut motion now before the House. First of all, I would like to quote a couplet which runs as follows:—

مفتی و شیخ و حامی و قاضی و محتسب  
چون نیک بنگری همه تفریر سے کنند

[Ch. Mohd. Hasan]

It seems to me that my honourable friend Sardar Lal Singh has not been able to understand the objections which were raised by my honourable friend Sardar Kapur Singh in the course of his speech. I wish to submit that my honourable friend Sardar Kapur Singh did not attribute any mercenary motive to the soldiers of the Punjab. He strongly opposed the "*dalals*" and go-betweens who in my opinion are no less than hirelings. If there is some truth in it that people of martial spirit volunteer themselves for the war service of their own accord and are not tempted by good rations and good pay generally given in advertisements, I do not see any reason for providing this amount of Rs. 6,200 for *inams* in connection with war services. I wish to submit that Government by allotting very petty and ordinary ten *inams* of the value of Rs. 100 per annum to each district is disgracing the province. It is a matter of shame on the part of the Government to allot such amount of Rs. 100 for recruits among whom this amount will be divided and hence they would receive very small amount nearly Rs. 7 or Rs. 8 in connection with the recognition of their services. It is all the more ridiculous that this amount will not be paid to them but it will be paid to the second generation. My honourable friend Sardar Lal Singh in the course of his speech pointed out that the Punjabi soldiers have not been purchased for a small sum of Rs. 20 or Rs. 22 and that these recruits offered their services for war voluntarily. In this connection what I wish to point out is this that my honourable friend Sardar Kapur Singh did not utter even a single word against the interests of the Punjabi soldier. He was throughout criticising the "*dalals*" who were acting as hirelings. May I ask my honourable friend Sardar Lal Singh whether he considers it undesirable that such "*dalals*" and hirelings should be created in the province in order to play a second fiddle to the present ministry? But I make bold to submit and say that the Unionist Ministry has put forth this demand now before the House for ulterior motives. By this demand they will be winning the sympathies of the masses and consequently it will help them greatly in winning the future elections. If Government really wished to grant *jagirs* to civilians in connection with the recognition of their war services it was but meet and proper on its part to award *inams* of at least Rs. 1,000 yearly to each district. So far as the demand now before the House is concerned, I wish to submit that it is an insult to those civilians for whom the Government intends to allot such petty *jagirs* worth Rs. 100 yearly. I wish to point out that no civilian would ever be prepared to accept this meagre *inam* in recognition of his services in the war, and if there is any civilian prepared to accept this petty *jagir*, I am afraid, he will be a henchman of the Government. Again, this amount of Rs. 6,200 would go in the pockets of only those civilians who would be the favourites of the Honourable Ministers, who are always out to help them. Under these circumstances I am constrained to remark that it is a matter of shame on the part of the Government to say that its intention in granting *inams* is to recognise the services of the recruits in connection with the War (*Interruption*). Sir, I wish to read a few lines uttered by my honourable friend Sardar Lal Singh from the proceedings of the Assembly Session. At that time my honourable friend Sardar Lal Singh was a member of the Opposition. The following lines were spoken by him against giving any *jagirs* :—

Why should the reward come from the Zamindars of this province? Why should not the reward come from the Central Revenues?

This is what my honourable friend said when he was a member of the opposition. It is not long since he has changed his creed.

**Sardar Lal Singh :** Just as the honourable member has changed his creed from yesterday.

**Mr. Speaker :** Please do not be personal.

**Sardar Teja Singh Swatantar :** That is a statement of fact. It is not personal. It is a fact that Sardar Lal Singh has changed his creed.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** It was really unjust on the part of my honourable friend Sardar Kapur Singh to attribute mercenary motive to the Punjabi soldiers. It seems that my honourable friend Sardar Lal Singh has failed to understand the speech of Sardar Kapur Singh and as a consequence he is labouring under a misapprehension. Sardar Lal Singh in the course of his speech pointed out that we may earn money by doing business in Burma when it is retaken by the British Forces. Perhaps he said this because he has been over there and he is very fond of that place. Moreover he has done meritorious service in Burma on account of which he is getting some pension. In the end I wish to submit that the demand now before the House is all absurd. I would request the Government not to bring forward such demands by which the whole province is put to ridicule. With all the emphasis at my command, I wish to urge upon the Government to eliminate this demand. With these words, sir, I support the cut motion now before the House.

**Captain Sardar Naunihal Singh Mann** (Sheikhupura West, Sikh, Rural) (Urdu) : Sir, I have listened with rapt attention to the speeches made by the honourable members sitting on the opposite benches and I am sorry to have concluded that they are labouring under a misapprehension. The

3 p.m.

fact of the matter is that these war service *inams* will be granted to those middle class people who are sending their kith and kin to the war fronts for winning freedom for their country. Some of my honourable friends from the opposite benches have remarked in the course of their speeches that this demand has been put forth only for helping some of the henchmen of the Government and then it has been further said that this is a trick played by the Government on the people under the cover of helping the war efforts but in reality it is nothing more than a propaganda for the future Assembly elections. I can strongly say that this is not the motive underlying this demand. One honourable member from the opposite has suggested that each *inam* instead of being Rs. 110 should have been of the value of one thousand rupees. I may tell him that if it had been so, the arguments that this is a question for the Central Government to decide and it is for them to allot *inams* for the war services and the provincial government has nothing to do with it, would have been advanced more strongly by the Opposition. Hence there is not very much difference if the *inam* is of the value of Rs. 100 or of one thousand rupees. It is all the same, so far as these arguments of the Opposition are concerned.

Then it has been said, sir, that the Government want to help some of their favourites by providing them money in the shape of war service *inams*. As a matter of fact it is a humble way of recognition of war services of the people who have offered their relatives to serve their country. I do not see any reason as to why my honourable friends sitting opposite should grudge those people who really deserve to take advantage of their war services. It will not be out of place to mention here that I am also one of those who are of the opinion that this amount should be further increased. But I take objection to them who say that this demand should be eliminated. I think my honourable friends sitting opposite would bear me out when I say that Punjabi soldiers are not getting into the army with mercenary motives. I can assert that they have no mercenary motives. It



[Capt. S. Naunihal Singh]

is noble instinct and martial traditions behind our province and that is why it has been always recognised by the world that the Punjab is the Sword Arm of India. You will be pleased to know that out of the 20 lakhs men serving in the Indian army 10 lakhs are Panjabies employed on both the technical and non-technical side of the Army. We should be proud that our province stands out very high in the whole of India in giving recruits to the Army. We should also see that the Sword Arm of India is living up to its traditions and would continue to do so in future. There is no doubt that the Opposition is here to criticise the Government. But, sir, I feel very much disappointed to find that the criticism levelled against the demand was not a healthy criticism. The opposition has pressed upon the Government to withdraw this demand of Rs. 6,200. But I wish to request the honourable members sitting opposite to withdraw their arguments advanced against the demand now before the House. I may add here that I would be too glad to know if the Honourable Finance Minister were to double or treble the amount.

With these few remarks, sir, I strongly oppose the cut motion.

**Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan** (Pind Dadan Khan, Muhammadan, Rural): Sir,

I am surprised that there should have been prolonged discussion on this small item in the budget. The question is not why the Government have put this demand in the budget, but the real question is one of principle whether this House has decided to help in the war effort or not. Although technically it may not be a reflection on the decision of this House, but I dare say that any member, who opposes this demand, really reflects on the decision of the House. As you are aware, sir, this House by an overwhelming majority decided that this province will put all its resources at the disposal of the Government for winning this war which is being fought to save democracy and civilisation. (*An honourable member*: Question). After this House having decided this, there will be a microscopic minority who will go on questioning it, because the principle of their party and their creed is frustration in action and doing nothing. But, Sir, the great majority of us in this House believe that to win freedom for India, it is essential that this war should be won and won at an early date. Therefore, sir, the House having decided that question, I now ask the honourable member to consider seriously whether this small amount of 62 hundred rupees, which has been provided in the budget just as a very humble way of recognition of the war services, is too much, is this amount preposterous, is this amount very large? I personally think that all the members sitting on this side and even some of those sitting on the opposite benches would appreciate that the Punjab Government is carrying out loyally, honestly and conscientiously the decision of this House, namely, to take every possible step to help in the war effort. I have the honour to belong to a district which stands very high on the list of those districts, which have supplied a large number of recruits during the war. I know there are number of families where 6 or 7 members or 5 or 6 real brothers have joined the army and are serving on different fronts overseas. I know several people, who to a considerable extent, are helping in recruitment. I know people who are spending hundreds of rupees from their own pockets to help the war effort. Do you think for a moment, that this small amount, which is being paid in the shape of *jagirs*, is any compensation for all the energy spent, for all the money spent in helping the recruiting campaign? That is not so. It is merely an appreciation, it is merely an expression of goodwill, so far as the Government is concerned, it is just for the sake of publicity that everybody should know that the present Government constituted as it is, is in favour of war effort. I am surprised that an advantage

should be taken of this occasion to talk of international politics in action and political deadlock. I would not like to go into details at this stage. But so far as political deadlock is concerned, we all know who is responsible for this. (Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan: Is this relevant?) I would suggest that the members sitting on the opposite benches should not try to indirectly torpedo this little war effort. I can quite understand the persons who are opposed to war effort to get up and say "we are opposed to war effort and Government should not help in that matter." But those, who believe that they are for war effort, should not try to find fault with such proposals. The amount is a very small one, but I am not one of those who want to suggest that the Government should increase the amount, because we are not mercenaries. We are not helping in the war effort for the sake of money we are not helping for the sake of rewards, because I think, human life cannot be rewarded in cash or money. Those people, who send their young children to the front, do not do so because probably one of them will get *inam* of 20 or 10 rupees monthly. It is the noble incentive, it is military traditions and it is high principle of defending democracy at the cost of their lives that they are fighting for. I congratulate the Government for having brought forward this proposal and I do hope that the House will pass it unanimously.

**Mian Sultan Mahmud Hotiana** (Pakpattan, Muhammadan, Rural) (Urdu): Sir, although several objections of the Opposition have already been replied to and repudiated by some of my colleagues, still I would like to say a word or two with respect to the important subject which is being discussed in the House at the present moment. Some honourable members of the Opposition have said that the sum of Rs. 6,200 earmarked for rewarding those who are helping in the recruitment campaign is against the self-respect of those respectable persons who are helping the Government. This is not so. My honourable friends are labouring under a misconception. These rewards will not be given to rich people. Only the poor persons will be given these rewards and not the rich. No body should suppose that all those who are helping in the recruitment are necessarily very rich.

Even the second objection does not hold good. It was pointed out that by rewards the people will get corrupt and encouraged to remain slaves of the Government. I strongly repudiate the insinuation. This is the most uncharitable view of those persons who are going to war for defending their own country against aggression. They are fighting to save us from slavery. How can they become slaves themselves? By fighting at the frontiers of the country and the gateways of the Empire, they are actually saving us from the horrors of war. They deserve, therefore, the unanimous praise of all of us here because if today no bombs are falling on us, it is due to the efforts of sacrifice of our own soldiers who are fighting in far-flung battle fronts. As to slavery, it is the direct result of our own narrow-mindedness. If our brethren become a little broad-minded and unite, no power on earth can hold back freedom and liberty from us. Even the British cannot withhold freedom from us provided we all unite. Let the Congress and the Muslim League come to terms and put forward a united demand. I am sure the British will not have the courage to resist this common demand. But let us not blame others for our own misdeeds and narrow-mindedness. Let not those who live in glass houses throw stone on others. Our soldiers are fighting for freedom and liberty. They are trying to liberate the whole world. How can they become slaves by this meagre grant of 6,200 rupees?

The third objection against the service in the army was also unjustified. It does not hold water at all. Let us examine it in detail. An honourable member had said that the Army was getting lives of our young men very cheap. He

[M. Sultan Mahmud Hotiana]

was referring to the salary of Rs. 20 or Rs. 30 per mensem of a soldier. But obviously he was ignoring the vast prospects which military career opens before young men. In the Army a soldier of today is the captain of tomorrow. I can assure the honourable member that several persons who were granted land in my ilaqa of Nili Bar Colony, are living like princes. They went to war as soldiers but retired as Captains and Subedars and Majors. Their houses in the Nili Bar must be seen by the honourable member who had objected to the military career. They are living in palatial houses on handsome income. Other people are living in *Chhappars*, while the ex-military men are living happily in beautiful buildings. The proposed grant is not to allure young men. It is just a recognition of their chivalry and bravery. It is nothing as compared with their great services. It will only serve to encourage them a little bit. In short it is only a token of our affection and respect for them. But for these patriots, Japan would have bombed us out of existence. We are safe here because some of our brethren are fighting and giving their lives in the far-flung fields of battle. They are guarding against slavery. Our slavery is due to our own narrow-mindedness. If once that is gone, no power on earth will hold back from us the prize of freedom. Our different communities should unite together if they want liberty. That is my message to all the leaders of communities. Till we do that, freedom cannot come.

With these words, Sir, I oppose the cut motion.

**Mrs. Duni Chand :** (Lahore City, Women, General) (*Urdu*) : Mr. Speaker, I have risen to support the cut motion moved by my honourable brother Sardar Kapoor Singh. I am, in this connection reminded of a Persian couplet of Hazrat Sheikh Sa'di which runs as under :—

ترسم نرسی بعبه اے اعرابی—کہن را کہ تو مے روی بہ ترکستان است !

Translated into prose it means "I am afraid, O Arab, you will not be able to reach Ka'ba because the path you tread leads to the country of Turkistan."

Similarly our Government and its supporters claim to be furthering the cause of war, but in reality the method of their work is calculated to lead, not to the successful prosecution of war but to slavery which is contrary to their real aim. Our Government and its supporters are enslaving the people by dangling before their eyes the monetary rewards. I pity the persons who will receive the Rs. 6,200 as rewards. I wish they were saved from this temptation, else the poison of slavery will go deep into their veins. When I see that some people are trying to throw our young men into the fire of war, I am reminded of the story of that deceitful old lady who sat on the back of a poisonous spring and called the wayfarers in a sweet loving voice, "Come, my dear children why feel tired. Rest a while and drink this cold sweet water." But whosever drank of that spring water, died of poison. Similarly our Government and its supporters are extending kind invitations to our young men to join the Army by holding false promises of freedom. I sympathise with all those young men who will receive rewards out of this sum of 6,200 rupees, because the temptation of money is poisonous indeed. I pray to God that he may save them from this temptation. The Government wants to rob these people of their conscience, their voice and their thinking power. The Government wants them to dance to its tune. Such things are happening before us every day. I want to save those people from this poison who have not tasted it as yet. Those who have tasted this poison

have left these benches and gone over to the Government benches. I sincerely feel for these people and therefore it is my desire that they are saved from this poison.

This sum of Rs. 6,200, or such like methods, cannot enhance the cause of the war, neither a change can be brought about in the thoughts of the public by such methods, nor do they contribute to the peace of the country. This is just to deceive the people. Before, too, has this Government made so many people its heir by giving them *jagirs* and squares of land in order to achieve its own purpose and in order to keep India slave. But when its purpose was achieved it turned those very people out and disgraced them and kicked them. When the Government gets its object fulfilled by these people, it will treat them likewise. Therefore I want to save them from that. It is a curse and an undesirable thing. Therefore this sum should not be accepted, so that the people who have so far been safe from this poison remain saved from it.

Ordinarily the Government gives thought to each and every matter, but can I ask these people who are day and night talking about war effort, if it is not a fact that those very people whom they Government wants to deceive with that sum of Rs. 6,200 have sent their elected representatives in the Assembly, some of whom are in the Opposition as well? Moreover has the Government not ignored the feelings of the people by preventing most of the members of the Opposition from attending the Assembly? Is it not a fact that 11 members of the Opposition are in jail now, and the remaining representatives of these very people are interned by the order of the Government? The Government says that the health of these members will suffer if they attend the meetings of this House. I do not know, Sir, about their health but about this I am sure that by their coming here the health of the Government does suffer. You know, Sir, how they are put to trouble during the question hour. The fact is that it is very difficult to conceal the fire of 'zulm' behind the cover of justice.

**Mr. Speaker :** Please speak to the motion.

**Mrs. Duni Chand :** I was submitting, sir, that in order to help the cause of war it is necessary to win the confidence of the public. Some of the members who are outside the jail are not allowed to come here. The Government is afraid that when they are asked questions about the high-handedness of their policy under which so many people are suffering and the fire of 'zulm' in which so many are burning, what will they answer? When the sparks of that fire of 'zulm' rise, some Honourable Minister comes forward and tries to cover them by putting its *achkin* on them, some Parliamentary Secretary tries to put his coat on them and some other well-wisher of the Government tries to conceal them by putting his turban on them. But the fire is so great that it cannot be concealed. And the old hag, i.e., the British Government which is sitting above them asks them to put more people in jails. She asks them to cover the eyes of the people so that they may not see the sparks of 'zulm'. She asks them to put restrictions on their speeches, so that they may not utter a word about them. She asks them to take away from the people the things bestowed upon them by Providence even. When the Government has taken away from us those things which are given to everybody by Providence, how can we expect that they will give us something really good?

**Mr. Speaker :** The honourable member is irrelevant.

**Mrs. Duni Chand :** Sir, I was saying that help in the cause of war can only be given by winning the confidence of the public. According to the Act of 1935, the Opposition is also a part of the Government, because the members of

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the Opposition are also representatives of the people. But the present Government has put the members of the Opposition in jails. In other words this Government has kept one part which is useful to them, and has torn the other part. Therefore this Government is incomplete and is not a Government in the real sense of the word. We are not allowed to say even about the injustice that is being done towards us and how we are being crushed. These members who are interned are not allowed to go from the Cantonment to the City of Lahore or from the City to the Cantonment.

**Mr. Speaker :** The honourable member is extremely irrelevant.

**Mrs. Duni Chand :** Sir, the Congress has so often declared that it is prepared to help the Government in connection with the war effort, provided India is handed over to the Indians. On one side from Mr. Churchill to our Honourable Premier and even his Parliamentary Secretaries say that they are prepared to give freedom to India but the Indians are to blame themselves because they do not demand it unitedly. And on the other side, on the 26th of March, the Independence day, the Hindus, Sikhs, Muslims and Christians read together the declaration of Independence and are arrested. After all this how can we feel that the Government is sincere in their declarations? All these things are just to deceive us. And when the Government saw that they have not been able to strangle the public opinion by such methods even, they issued Ordinance 3 of 1944, which is a joke and is the worst possible thing in the world.

**Mr. Speaker :** The Honourable member is again irrelevant.

**Mrs. Duni Chand :** Sir, I was only saying that if the Government really desires to help the war cause, it should free the Congress leaders first, because they are the real representatives of the people.

**Mr. Speaker :** The honourable member is again irrelevant.

**Mrs. Duni Chand :** Sir, I too say, as our Honourable Ministers claim, that the people do not join the Army for the sake of money, but they do so of their own accord. If it is really so, then to offer these people a small sum as bribe is to insult them. If they are doing all this for their country and its freedom let them prove it by their actions here. If they treat those who demand freedom like human beings, then their other claims can also be admitted. But the fact is that they are not doing anything for the freedom of their country but are doing everything to put more chains round it. I am sorry to say this, but the Congressmen will bear all these difficulties

غم کو سہتا ہی رہوں ہمت نہ ہو فریاد کی  
کہتے کے مر جاؤں یہ مرضی ہے میرے صیاد کی

If that is the thing we do not voice our grievances. But the fact remains that Government by internment people are separating them from their wives and children and thus are perpetrating great cruelties on the latter. The Government may continue to intern them but they should remember that their voice one day will certainly be heard and answered. They can be interned but they cannot be gagged.

**Mr. Speaker :** The honourable member is not relevant.

**Mrs. Duni Chand :** We do not want that any foreign power should come and rule over us. I say if Japan and Germany invade India, we will offer as much opposition to them as my brethern over there would. We, in fact, want

that all our countrymen should become free. We regard it as our primary duty to make the maximum possible efforts for obtaining the freedom of India. It is our honest opinion that these rewards for which a provision is being made in the Supplementary Estimates, instead of leading India to freedom would lead it to slavery. I may tell the honourable members that whoever helps and assists in keeping my country as a slave country he commits a sin against the whole community. I, for my part, think that those who have staked their lives for freeing their country have, so to say, won both the worlds. They are true to their people and to their God as well. As against them those who were tempted to accept the money offered to them by the proverbial deceitful woman and have tried to keep the country in bondage and maintain the hold of foreigners here have, in my opinion, lost this world as well as their God. At least my Punjabi brethren should have followed the example set by the Central Legislative Assembly. Only a few days ago during voting on cut motions the Indians combined together and gave defeat after defeat to the Government. But the Punjab is so very notorious in this respect that its people cannot offer any united front on any issue. I request them to at least unite at this occasion and thus wash this stain off their face.

**Mr. Speaker :** The honourable member is not relevant.

**Mrs. Duni Chand :** It is said that words do not produce any effect on stones. But I think a time may come when my words will make the desired effect on stones. Anyway we are doing our duty. But the honourable members over there are merely for getting some pecuniary benefit, dancing to the tune of the deceitful Government. When questions about the release and sufferings of the patriots are asked in this House we are told that the Central Government is responsible for that. When such issues are raised on the floor of the Central Legislature it is pointed out that the Punjab Government is responsible for that. We are as the old English proverb goes, between the devil and the deep sea. In these circumstances, I think, it is impossible to maintain law and order in the country for intensifying war effort and to secure the co-operation of the public, as the honourable members opposite want. In this way they cannot maintain peace and tranquillity in the province, nor can they help the cause of the war. I wish instead of giving a false lead to the country they should lead the province on to the right path. It is a matter of great regret that wrong type of leaders have sprung up in our country, who at the instance of a foreign Government, are leading the country to ruin and servitude. A poet has well said :

ہو کر ملکر اس سے جب انسان کیفیت ہو گیا  
 پونس کے خود غرضی میں جب ناپاب سیفہ ہو گیا  
 لیڈری کے بیس میں بس لوگوں کو بھڑکا دیا  
 بھائی کے ہاتھوں سے بھائی کا گلا گھرا دیا

At present there are leaders in our country who are poisoning the atmosphere of the country by raising communal questions. It is due to them that we are often told that as the Indians do not unite, therefore they do not get freedom and that the responsibility for that lies on them alone. That is not at all correct. The fact is that it is these adopted sons of the Government who do not want the Indians to unite. If Government stop this system of adopting sons by refusing to give *inams* they will see that unity will come about in no time. So long as this system continued Indians cannot unite at all. All these people are enmeshed in the net thrown out by the deceitful Government. No doubt my

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words are not palatable to the honourable members. They know that I am not in the habit of indulging in hard words. But I say when a person gets an attack of malaria, the doctor administers quinine to him. Similarly I am saying these words for the good of my brethren. We do not want that our countrymen should always remain slaves by accepting some *inams* and lands and thus help in strengthening the hold of the foreigners on this country. Sir, on the Judgment Day when all the dead will rise and go in the presence of the Almighty God, He will ask them as to what they had been doing in the world. The Congressmen will at once say that they made so many sacrifices for freeing their country, but what will these honourable members say to him? What answer will they give to him for throwing so many innocent people into jails?

**Mr. Speaker :** The honourable member is not speaking to the motion.

**Mrs. Duni Chand :** Sir, we do not get any other opportunity for voicing our grievances. This is an occasion when we can do so but you do not allow us to do that. Any way for helping the cause of the war it is essential that fair and just treatment should be meted out to all, and the rights of the Opposition be not trampled under foot. Opportunities should be afforded to the members of the Opposition to express their feelings in regard to matters concerning their own country.

**Chaudhri Ram Sarup** (Rohtak Central, General, Rural) (*Urdu*): Sir, I have not been able to understand so far as to what my honourable friends opposite have been trying to say. They are speaking about something which has nothing to do with the motion under consideration. The question at present before the House is whether or not the Government is justified in granting these *inams*. Now my honourable friends are neither here nor there. Some of them say that this system of *inams* is going to perpetuate the slavery of India. Others remark that this Government is buying slaves for fighting the wars of others. All that I have been able to gather from their utterances is that what we on these benches do goes to strengthen the bonds of India's slavery and what my honourable friends on the opposite side do takes us a step further in the direction of our liberation. Whatever the matter under discussion may be, my honourable friends make it an occasion for their boasts that they are striving for the freedom of this country. I will not say anything in the course of my speech which is not borne out by facts or which is not relevant, as our friends opposite are in the habit of doing. For instance, some of my friends opposite have been advocating that the people should go to jails in order to enable us to throw off the yoke of foreign domination, but my honourable friend Pt. Bhagat Ram Sharma has complained against the incarceration of his friends in jails and wants them to be released. Now, I am at a loss to understand this apparent contradiction in their arguments. If they believe that they can attain *swarjya* by going into jails, then why should they be so anxious to get out of them? If on the other hand they feel that India's cause can better be served by their remaining out, why do they get themselves put behind the bars? Do they wish to earn martyrdom by once getting into the jails and then securing their release by causing questions to be asked in this House?

**Mr. Speaker :** The honourable member is irrelevant.

**Chaudhri Ram Sarup :** Sir, if you think I am irrelevant, I will not say anything more about it. But I should be permitted to say that neither speeches

nor imprisonment in jails is going to liberate India. If India is going to get its freedom, it will be because of the valour of our brave soldiers who are laying down their lives for the sake of their country. If my honourable friends think that they want the pay of the Indian soldiers to be enhanced they should bring certain tentative proposals and press the Government to accept them. Independence will only be granted as a result of the sacrifices made during this war by our soldiers.

**Sardar Kapoor Singh :** Why was not India granted independence after the last war?

**Chaudhri Ram Sarup :** Whatever was granted to India was due to the services rendered by our fighting men and not for anything done by my honourable friends opposite. (*Honourable members :* Has the honourable member forgotten Jallianwala Bagh and the Rowlett Act?) If as my honourable friends give us to understand they are for fairplay and justice, why do they not admit that the real battle for India's freedom is being waged by those who are shedding their blood on the far-flung battle fields. Let my friends bring definite proposals for the increase of the soldiers' pay and we will lend them our whole hearted support in pressing the Government to agree to them.

**Mr. Speaker :** Question is—

That the demand of Rs. 6,200 on account of War Services Inams be omitted.

*The motion was lost.*

**Mr. Speaker :** The question is—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,59,750 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.

*The motion was carried.*

#### COMMUTED VALUE OF PENSIONS

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

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 41,740 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 Payments of Commuted Value of Pensions.

*The motion was carried.*

#### STATIONERY AND PRINTING

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

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 93,970 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.

*The motion was carried.*

#### MISCELLANEOUS AND EXTRAORDINARY CHARGES

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

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 22,53,880 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.

*The motion was carried.*

#### FORESTS

**Minister of Finance :** 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 1944, in respect of Forests.

*The motion was carried.*



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MEDICAL

**Minister of Finance :** 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 1944, in respect of Medical.

*The motion was carried.*

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VETERINARY

**Minister of Finance :** 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 1944, in respect of Veterinary.

*The motion was carried*

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CO-OPERATION

**Minister of Finance :** 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 1944, in respect of Co-operation.

*The motion was carried*

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ELECTRICITY SCHEMES

**Minister of Finance :** 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 1944, in respect of Capital Outlay on Electricity Schemes (outside the Revenue Account).

*The motion was carried.*

*The House then adjourned till 12 noon on Thursday, 28rd March 1944.*

# PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

## ELEVENTH SESSION OF THE FIRST PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Thursday, 23rd March 1944

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

### STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

SARDAR CHANAN SINGH, M.L.A.

**\*9210. Sardar Kapoor Singh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state :—

(a) whether it is a fact that Sardar Chanan Singh, M. L. A., who was released on parole on 26th February 1944, on account of his ill-health, was sent back to jail on 12th March 1944, and the parole period of two months already granted to him was cancelled, if so, the reasons therefor ;

(b) whether he has since received any communication from the said Sardar Chanan Singh after he was sent back to jail regarding the serious state of his health, if so what action was taken in the matter ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) :** (a) Yes. He obtained his release on medical grounds but his condition of health, as shown by his actions after his release, did not justify his release.

(b) Yes. The matter is under consideration.

**Sardar Kapoor Singh :** May I know whether in view of the statement made by Sardar Chanan Singh in his representation the report made by the C. I. D. against him was wrong ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** If the honourable member looks at his question he will find that he has asked whether Government has received any communication from Sardar Chanan Singh, after he was sent back to jail, regarding the serious state of his health, and if so, what action was taken in the matter. I have replied to that—Yes, Government has received the communication and the matter is under consideration.

**Sardar Kapoor Singh :** What was the reason for cancelling the period of parole ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** I have already stated that the reasons were that he obtained his release on medical grounds but his condition of health, as shown by his actions after his release, did not justify his release.

**Sardar Kapoor Singh :** But I would like to know those actions, as you say, which were the cause of his re-arrest.

**Premier :** I am sorry, those details cannot be given in the public interest.

**Sardar Kapoor Singh :** Is the Parliamentary Private Secretary aware of the fact that Sardar Chanan Singh never moved out of his house during those three or four days except on two occasions to be examined by the doctor ?

**Premier :** It is not our duty to collect such information.

**Sardar Kapoor Singh :** Is it the Honourable Premier's duty to arrest people who go to attend their religious ceremonies in gurdwaras?

**Premier :** There are genuine *akhand paths*, but there are also other possibilities on the way to an *akhand path* and on the way back.

**Sardar Kapoor Singh :** Will the Honourable Premier inform me what is the distance between Sardar Chanan Singh's house and the gurdwara and how much seed of revolution can be sown in that distance?

**Premier :** I am afraid I cannot give chapter and verse as that is not in the public interest, but as the Parliamentary Private Secretary has said we allowed him to go out because we thought he was very seriously ill. He did not behave and we had perforce against our will to send him back. If there are guarantees that he is prepared to behave, and his health is really bad, the matter will be considered again.

MR. BALDEV MITTER BIJLI

\*9217. **Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state —

(a) the present state of health of Mr. Baldev Mitter Bijli, a congress detenu, confined in the Central Jail, Lahore;

(b) the number of the attacks of angina pectoris, if any which the above-named detenu had last year during his confinement both in the District Jail, Sialkot, and the Central Jail, Lahore;

(c) the pulse beats of the above-named detenu these days;

(d) the weight of the above-named detenu at the time of his admission into the jail and his present weight;

(e) whether the above-named detenu is suffering from fever, if so, the nature and character of the fever that he is suffering from?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) :** (a) Satisfactory. He is only suffering from 'Trachoma' for which he is being properly treated by the Eye Specialist at the Mayo Hospital, Lahore.

(b) So far as Government is aware, he has had no such attacks.

(c) Normal.

(d) I regret that this information is not available.

(e) No.

**Sardar Kapoor Singh :** With regard to his weight, cannot the Parliamentary Private Secretary get the information?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** I cannot throw more light on it. I have stated that the information is not available.

**Sardar Kapoor Singh :** Who is to blame for not getting the information as to his weight when he went to the jail? Is the Parliamentary Private Secretary aware that every prisoner when he enters the jail is weighed?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** Ordinarily.

**Sardar Kapoor Singh :** Is he aware that all the prisoners are weighed every quarter?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** May be.

**Sardar Kapoor Singh :** What is the hitch in giving the weight of the prisoner when he went to the jail and his present weight?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** There is no hitch, but the information is not available.

**Sardar Kapoor Singh :** Will he find out and let me have the information after ten or fifteen days? Sometimes Government members say that we can get the information from them privately.

**Premier :** May I inform the honourable member that under the Jail Rules he can get the information from the Central Jail direct? He can get it on his own enquiry instead of asking the Government agency to do it for him.

MR. BALDEV MITTER BIJLI

**\*9218. Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state —

(a) whether Mr. Baldev Mitter Bijli, a congress detenu confined in the Central Jail, Lahore, was under restriction orders before his arrest in 1943;

(b) if so, the period for which he was under the above-mentioned orders and whether he was ever tried for the violation of those orders?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah):** (a) Yes.

(b) First part—From 1st October 1941 to 21st August 1942,

Second part—No.

SHRIMATI SITA DEVI

**\*9219. Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state —

(a) whether Shrimati Sita Devi, wife of Principal Chhabil Das, has been released and served with an internment and restriction order, if so, the locality or area where Shrimati Sita Devi has been interned;

(b) whether it is a fact that Shrimati Sita Devi was released on parole in 1943 so as to enable her to look after her ailing children and to get them medically treated in Lahore; if so, the reasons for her present internment out of Lahore?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah):** (a) Shrimati Sita Devi has been served with the usual restriction order and is at present in Lahore.

(b) Does not arise.

MISBEHAVIOUR OF TAHSILDAR OF SHAKARGARH

**\*9239. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state whether one Hashmat Ali, Sarpanch of Dinapur, district Gurdaspur, submitted an application before him on 19th January 1944, in which his attention was invited to the misbehaviour of the Tahsildar of Shakargarh;

(b) the action which the Honourable Minister took on that application;

(c) whether he was pleased to order that an enquiry be made into the matter, if so, whether he would be pleased to place the report of the inquiry on the table of the House?

**The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram :** I regret that the answer to this question is not yet ready.

## OBJECTIONABLE ATTITUDE OF TAHSILDAR OF SHAKARGARH

**\*9240. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state whether one Hashmat Ali, Sarpanch of Dinapur, district Gurdaspur, submitted another application before the Premier on 28th January 1944 inviting his attention to the objectionable attitude toward him of the tahsildar of Shakargarh ; if so, the action taken by him on this application and the result of the same ?

**The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram :** I regret that the answer to this question is not yet ready.

## RADIO SETS FOR RURAL AREAS

**\*9255. Khan Muhammad Yusuf Khan :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state —

(a) whether it is a fact that the Punjab Government is spending a certain amount of money on broadcasting programmes for the rural areas from the Lahore Radio Station ;

(b) If the reply to (a) above is in the affirmative, the procedure for chalking out such programmes ;

(c) whether the Government has any figures in its possession to show the number of radio sets that are being used in rural areas by private persons ;

(d) whether the Government has itself managed to supply radio sets to any centres in the rural areas ; if so, what is their number ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) :** (a) Yes.

(b) The programme is prepared by the Director, Information Bureau, Punjab, in consultation with and with the co-operation of the Station Director, All India Radio, Lahore. In pursuance of agreed policies the former collects suitable material from departments and unofficial sources. This material is worked up under his direction into talks, dialogues, plays, etc., which are supplied to the All India Radio Station, Lahore, and are included in broadcasts after the final approval of the Station Director.

(c) Government's information, gathered from the Postal Department's lists of licence-holders of radio sets, is that approximately one thousand radio receiving sets are now working in areas other than municipal towns in the Punjab.

(d) No. Schemes for improving the maintenance and servicing of radio sets owned by local bodies were prepared some time ago but they have been held up owing to the non-availability of necessary equipment on account of the war.

## THAKUR LAJJA RAM

**\*9257. Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state whether he is aware of the fact that one Thakur Lajja Ram, son of Thakur Chajju Ram, a detenu of Karnal, has made an application to the Inspector-General of Prisons, Punjab, through the Superintendent, Central Jail, Lahore, to the effect that he may be transferred to the District Jail, Ambala, so that it may be easier for his wife and children to interview him, if so, what action has been taken in the matter ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah): Yes. The application was rejected, as it is not the policy of Government to transfer Civil Disobedience detenus from one jail to another on such grounds.

**Sardar Kapoor Singh**: Is the Parliamentary Private Secretary aware of the fact that in these days there is heavy congestion in the railways and if this gentleman is transferred to a nearer jail, his relatives would travel less distance instead of travelling long distances by rail and this would, in a way, lessen the congestion in railways as well?

**Mr. Speaker**: The next question.

**HABEAS CORPUS APPLICATION OF LALA FERAZ CHAND AND OTHER CONGRESS DETENUS**

\*9258. **Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan**: Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state —

(a) whether it is a fact that the Chief Secretary to Government, Punjab, in his affidavit, filed recently in the Lahore High Court, in connection with the *habeas corpus* application of Lala Feroz Chand and other Congress detenus, stated that out-door games were not allowed to the Civil Disobedience prisoners as there was not sufficient room available for the purpose in the jails where they were detained;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Security Prisoners kept in some of the jails, for instance, the Central Jail, Lahore, and the Borstal Jail, Lahore, are allowed to play volley-ball and badminton;

(c) whether it is a fact that on a reference being made by the Superintendent, Central Jail, Lahore, at the request of some Congress detenus, to the Inspector-General of Prisons last year to the effect whether the playing of badminton could be allowed to the Congress detenus, the reply was given in the negative, although there was sufficient room available in the said jail, if so, the reasons therefor, and the action Government intend to take to provide facilities to Congress detenus to play out-door games?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah): (a) and (c) Civil Disobedience detenus confined in the Punjab jails have since been allowed the concession of playing outdoor games. The honourable member will appreciate that while the statement made in the affidavit was perfectly correct, it is now possible, with the release up to 1st March 1944 of 353 civil disobedience detenus, to make arrangements where this was impossible previously.

(b) Yes.

**Sardar Kapoor Singh**: When was this application made by these detenus that they should be allowed to have games in the prison compound?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary**: This does not arise out of the question.

**Premier**: They are allowed these games now.

**Sardar Kapoor Singh**: That is all right, but at the time the application was made, there was not so much congestion in the jails. I want to know the reason for disallowing their request at that time.

**Parliamentary Private Secretary**: I have already stated that there was congestion and as 353 detenus have been released up to the 1st of March 1944, it is now possible to allow these detenus to play games.

**Sardar Kapoor Singh :** May I know the number of detenus in the prison when that application was made? Even at that time there was not a large number of detenus.

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** If the honourable member gives notice, I will endeavour to reply.

**Sardar Kapoor Singh :** What is the reason for this discrimination between a security prisoner and ordinary detenus?

#### CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE PRISONERS

**\*9259. Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state whether it is a fact that almost all Civil Disobedience prisoners belonging to the Delhi Province are detained in the Camp Jail, Ferozepore, in tents where sanitary conditions are far from satisfactory and which being about 250 miles away from Delhi causes undue inconvenience to their relatives who have to travel this long distance for interviewing them, if so, the action Government intend to take in the matter?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) :** (a) No. They are confined in the Annexe which is a part of the District Jail, Ferozepore where sanitary conditions are quite satisfactory. No complaint has been received against any difficulty for purposes of interviews due to long distance.

**Sardar Kapoor Singh :** May I know if in these days those detenus are being detained in some part of the jail building or they are still in tents?

**Premier :** What difference does it make if they are in tents? Tents are as pleasant to live in as a building these days and I know that many wealthy men put up tents. I do not see any harm if they are living in tents.

**Sardar Kapoor Singh :** As some out of them have been released, I would like to know whether the remaining are still put up in a tent and are not given the facilities which they could get if they were put up in any part of the prison building?

**Premier :** I said that living in tents is not a hardship. If accommodation is available in a building there is no reason why they should go to a tent.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** The last part of the question is to the effect whether the fact that these people are stationed at a distance of 250 miles from their respective places hinders the interviews by their relatives. What is the answer to that?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** I have already stated in reply to this part of the question that no complaint has been received against there being any difficulty in the way of interviews by them at long distances.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** The question is whether it is a fact that they are stationed at a distance of 250 miles from their respective places?

**Premier :** Supposing it is a fact, what does it mean?

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Is it a fact that they are stationed at a distance of 250 miles and this distance inconveniences interviews?

**Premier :** Does the honourable member mean that the prisoner should be within his village jurisdiction? If this happens then we shall have hundreds of prison camps all over the country. That is not a practicable proposition. I do not think the honourable member should press such a proposition which is impracticable.

**Sardar Kapoor Singh :** There is the Hissar Jail.

**Premier :** I thought the honourable member was advocating the Ludhiana climate!

RELIEF TO SUFFERERS OF HAIL-STORM IN THE AMBALA DIVISION

**\*9236. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue pleased to state :—

(a) the names of the places where crops were recently damaged by the hail-storms in the Ambala Division ; and the extent of the damage so caused ;

(b) the action the Government intend to take to give relief to the sufferers in this respect in these localities in the Ambala Division ?

**The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram :** The requisite information has not yet been received from the districts concerned. As soon as it is received it will be communicated to the honourable member.

SWAMI HANS RAJ

**\*8975. Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Will the Honourable Finance Minister be pleased to state—

(a) whether he is aware of the fact that one Swami Hans Raj at present undergoing life imprisonment in connection with the Suchetgarh Shooting case, has been lying ill for a long time ;

(b) whether Government have received any medical report regarding the said Swami Hans Raj from the jail authorities concerned ; if so, the nature of the report ;

(c) the nature of the last report received about the said Swami Hans Raj and whether it shows any deterioration in his condition ;

(d) the action Government have taken or intend to take in the light of the reports referred to above ?

**The Honourable Sir Manohar Lal :** (a) Yes, he has been ill for some time.

(b) and (c) In January 1943 he was reported to be suffering from chronic constipation, loss of appetite and insomnia with mild headache and occasional giddiness, but there had been no change in his weight. The latest report indicates that he is still suffering from indigestion and general dyspepsia, but his troubles have not affected his weight which is well above the normal.

(d) he is receiving all possible medical attention, but his main trouble chronic dyspepsia has so far resisted treatment.

CRIMINAL TRIBES

**\*9156. Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Will the Honourable Finance Minister be pleased to state :—

(a) the total population of the criminal tribes residing in the Montgomery district, community-wise, in the year 1943 ;

(b) whether the Government reclaimed any people from amongst them during the last year ; if so, how many ; if not, why not ;

(c) whether the Government has under consideration any scheme for quickening the process of reclamation, if not, why not ?



**The Honourable Sir Manohar Lal :** (a) A statement showing tribe-wise the total population of the criminal tribes residing in the Montgomery district during the year 1948 is placed on the table. The required figures are not available community-wise, as the records are maintained tribe-wise.

(b) During the year 1948, 162 members of those criminal tribes were reclaimed and exempted.

(c) Schools have been opened where free and compulsory primary education is given to criminal tribes boys and, as soon as a boy qualifies in the 4th primary class he is exempted.

2. Over a hundred members of the criminal tribes have joined the army and as soon as one does so, he and his dependents (who are, on account of age or otherwise, unfit for enlistment) are exempted.

*Population tribe-wise of members of criminal tribes residing in Montgomery district in 1948*

	Men and boys	Men	Boys
Aherias .. .. .	2	2	..
Bars .. .. .	18	7	11
Barrars .. .. .	52	27	25
Baurias .. .. .	1,581	842	739
Bilochis .. .. .	71	45	26
Bhangalis .. .. .	552	487	65
Bhedkuts .. .. .	101	47	54
Bhuremas .. .. .	632	315	317
Dullus .. .. .	1,011	471	540
Dhes .. .. .	99	61	38
Gedris .. .. .	69	57	12
Harnis .. .. .	165	70	95
Kuchbands .. .. .	94	64	30
Mahtams .. .. .	3,112	1,257	1,855
Nat Sansis .. .. .	200	133	67
Pakhiwaras .. .. .	111	47	64
Parhars .. .. .	1,164	484	680
Rachhbands .. .. .	342	207	135
Sansis .. .. .	1,421	686	735
Tagus .. .. .	3	3	..
Tarhanas .. .. .	8	6	2
Persons restricted as gangs .. .. .	6	6	..
<b>Total ..</b>	<b>10,814</b>	<b>5,324</b>	<b>5,490</b>

## GOVERNMENT PRINTING PRESS, LIAHORE

**\*9251. Maulvi Mazhar Ali Azhar :** Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that men employed in the Government Press work daily for 11 hours ;

(b) whether it is a fact that various vacancies of compositors and distributors have not been filled by the Superintendent, Government Press, if so, the reasons therefor ;

(c) whether it is a fact that a special allowance has been recommended for the co-workers of the General Foreman of the Government Press, if so, the reasons therefor ?

**The Honourable Sir Manohar Lal :** (a) Yes. Technical workers are required to work for about 11 hours daily in order to execute printing work on behalf of the Government of India and are allowed overtime payments.

(b) Yes. The posts have remained unfilled chiefly due to the fact that the members of the particular communities to whom offers had to be made under the Block system were not available. The vacancies have been advertised and will be filled up as soon as possible.

(c) Additional allowances are under consideration for the incumbents of the following posts who are required to work in the Press for longer hours, in connection with the execution of printing work on behalf of the Government of India. As they belong to the category of Supervising Staff they are not entitled to overtime payments like other technical workers under the Factories Act :—

- (i) General Foreman.
- (ii) Assistant General Foreman.
- (iii) Section holder Mono.
- (iv) Press and Machine Foreman.
- (v) Assistant Press and Machine Foreman.
- (vi) Bindery Foreman.

## TEXT BOOKS

**\*8958. Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state, whether he is aware of the fact that the text-books prescribed by the Punjab University are not available at any place in the Province at the fixed rates and as a consequence of this students are put to a great inconvenience ; if so, the action Government propose to take in the matter to ensure the supply of University and the Education Department text-books to students at fixed rates ?

**The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye :** (a) Yes, in so far as the text books prescribed by the University are concerned, but no such complaint has been received about the text books of the Education Department.

(b) The University printed this year the usual number of copies of its publications according to the yearly demand but book-sellers presumably purchased large stocks of books and hoarded the same for profiteering purposes. The University in spite of difficulties in arranging for paper placed orders with firms of printers for printing a sufficiently large number of copies of its 17 publications and notified the facts in the newspapers through the Director of Information Bureau, advising the public not to buy books at higher rates as the

[Education Minister]

same would be available in the market shortly. The printing work is in progress and copies of some books have already been supplied to the University sale agents. Every effort is being made to expedite the work of printing the remaining books.

2. The sale agents have been directed not to sell a large number of copies of the University publications to the same book-seller and to render monthly accounts of their sale of such books giving the names of customers, the date of sale and the number of copies sold to each.

#### SCARCITY OF DRINKING WATER IN TEHSIL NURPUR.

**\*9246. Shrimati Raghbir Kaur :** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state :—

(a) whether it is a fact that people of Tahsil Nurgpur, District Kangra, are suffering from scarcity of drinking water and have to depend for their water supply on the dirty water of unclean ponds, if so, what action the Government proposes to take in the matter ;

(b) whether some scheme or schemes for the supply of drinking water to the people of Nurgpur are under the consideration of the Government, if so, the nature of such scheme or schemes ?

**The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye :** (a) I fear the honourable lady's picture is true of many villages in Nurgpur Tahsil. Since 1938-39 upwards of Rs. 10,000 has, however, been distributed in grants for the provision of hand pumps, the sinking of wells and the improvement of tanks in 18 villages of the tahsil. I am arranging for details of this expenditure to be supplied to the honourable lady separately.

(b) Plans for a water supply for Nurgpur town were prepared shortly before the war at a cost of Rs. 71,000. The Small Town Committee, however, were unable to provide finance and materials are not now available. The improvement of village water-supplies throughout the province forms of course an important part of Government's post-war development schemes.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Is the Honourable Minister in a position to state the names of the villages to which Rs. 10,000 have been distributed ?

**Minister :** I am afraid I cannot give the names.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Does the Honourable Minister know that there is no possibility of sinking hand pumps there ?

**Minister :** I have given money for hand pumps, but I will not be able to give the names of villages.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Does the Honourable Minister think that Rs. 10,000 are sufficient for the purpose ?

**Minister :** Nothing is sufficient for the purpose, it requires a lot of money

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** In how many villages can he improve the water supply with these Rs. 10,000 ?

**Minister :** I cannot tell that.

#### FREE HOSPITALS AND DISPENSARIES IN TEHSIL NURPUR

**\*9247. Shrimati Raghbir Kaur :** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state how many free hospitals and dispensaries are

maintained by the Government for the benefit of the people of Tehsil Nurpur, District Kangra ?

**The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye :** Seven, namely :—

1. Civil Hospital, Nurpur.
2. Civil Dispensary, Indaura.
3. Civil Dispensary, Jawali.
4. Rural Dispensary, Kotla.
5. Rural Dispensary, Gangtha.
6. Rural Dispensary, Re.
7. Subsidised Dispensary, Tika Nagrota.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Does the Honourable Minister think that the present number of dispensaries and hospitals in Nurpur tahsil is sufficient for the need of the population ?

**Minister :** They are not.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** What steps does he propose to take in this matter ?

**Minister :** When the money is available other dispensaries will be opened.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** How many and when ?

**Minister :** I have no proposal just now and I cannot say how many.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Can he give us the approximate time ?

**Minister :** No.

**Rai Bahadur Lala Gopal Das :** When the budget shows a surplus, can the Honourable Minister not demand money to open these things ?

**Minister :** It can be done.

**Rai Bahadur Lala Gopal Das :** Is he prepared to do that ?

**Minister :** Yes, if doctors are available.

#### GIRLS' SCHOOLS IN THE KANGRA DISTRICT

**\*9248. Shrimati Raghbir Kaur :** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state how many girls' schools are maintained by the Government for the benefit of the rural population of the district of Kangra and what proportion they bear to such institutions in the central districts of the Province ?

**The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye :** One at Dharamsala. For the rest of the information the honourable member is referred to the list of Government Educational Institutions in the Punjab corrected up to 1st June 1943, copies of which are available in the Assembly library.

#### COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS.

**\*9253. Mian Abdul Rab :** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state :—

(a) the total number of College Scholarships which were reserved for the children of the "special classes" (mentioned in Article 121 of the Punjab Education Code) for being awarded to them in the intermediate classes on the result of the Matriculation Examination in the year 1942 ;

[M. Abdul Rab]

(b) whether all of the above scholarships have been awarded; if not the reasons therefor?

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

(b) All the above scholarships were awarded.

**HILL ALLOWANCE FOR TEACHERS IN DISTRICT BOARD SERVICE,  
RAWALPINDI**

**\*9256. Khan Muhammad Yusuf Khan :** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state :—

(a) whether it is a fact that teachers in the District Board service in the Rawalpindi district used to get Hill Allowance formerly and this allowance was stopped in 1932 ;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ;

(c) whether Government have now sanctioned any grant to the said district board, for the revival of that allowance?

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

**INDIAN AND EUROPEAN AGENTS FOR BUYING FOODGRAINS**

**\*9254. Sardar Uttam Singh Dugal :** Will the Honourable Minister of Development be pleased to state—

(a) whether any change is contemplated in respect of buying agents of the Government in connection with the procurement scheme for foodgrains ;

(b) whether the Indian and European agents will be treated alike in this matter ;

(c) whether any discrimination is intended between the Indian and European agents, if so, the reasons therefor?

**The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh :** (a) Yes ; for purchases for civil requirements only.

(b) Only Indian firms are engaged on purchases for civil requirements.

(c) Does not arise.

**Sardar Uttam Singh Dugal :** Is it a fact that a European firm was engaged to purchase food-grains for the Supply Department and Indian firms for deficit provinces?

**Minister :** I have said that Indian firms were engaged for buying food-grains and as far as the Punjab Government is concerned, we will see that there is no discrimination between Indian firms and European firms.

**Sardar Uttam Singh Dugal :** My question was whether a European firm was engaged to purchase food-grains for the Supply Department and the Indian firms for deficit provinces.

**Minister :** I think that is true.

**Sardar Uttam Singh Dugal :** Is it true that Indian firms are now being replaced by the Co-operative Societies and British firms are left there.

**Minister :** No, we have set up official agencies for the purpose of purchasing food-grains and as I have already said, there will be no discrimination between Indian and European firms.

**Rai Bahadur Lala Gopal Das :** May I know the proportion of purchases made by the Indian firms collectively and by the British firms ?

**Minister :** I am sorry I am not in a position just now to give these figures, but if my honourable friend is anxious to have that information, I will give it to him sometime to-day.

**Premier :** May I know what my honourable friend means by European firms ?

**Sardar Uttam Singh Dugal :** What I said was that a European firm was engaged to purchase food-grains in this province.

**Premier :** The honourable member should know that the Defence Department are not responsible to this Assembly. The day may come when they will be responsible to us. But at present they are only responsible to the Central Government. My honourable friend is, perhaps, carried away by some name of the firm. That is the crux of the whole matter. As the Honourable Minister has said, we do not stand for any discrimination.

**Rai Bahadur Lala Gopal Das :** Is it a fact that in provinces where Governors are in charge the firms or agencies that have been engaged to purchase food-grains are all Indian firms, manned by Indians and capitalised by Indians ?

**Premier :** My honourable friend is giving information. He travels about a lot and may know all these things, we do not know. My honourable friend may know this from his visits to the Central Provinces and the United Provinces in connection with *shikar*.

**Shaikh Sadiq Hassan :** Is this state brought about in the matter of food-grains under the orders from the Central Government ?

**Minister :** We have no direction from the Central Government.

**Rai Bahadur Lala Gopal Das :** Under whose orders then ?

**Premier :** We are buying on behalf of the Central Government. They are the purchasers. This is the policy of the Central Government and we carry out that policy on behalf of the Centre. They want grain for the army and for deficit provinces and we are buying it for them, through Government agencies.

**Rai Bahadur Lala Gopal Das :** The Honourable Premier has been pleased to say that in future purchases are to be made by Government agencies. Do I understand that no firms, but only the Government agencies or the Co-operative Societies would be the purchasers ?

**Premier :** The policy has been stated and the question of details will arise later. The Honourable Minister gave the broad policy. Now, my honourable friend is going into the details. I would like to say that the whole picture is not yet complete.

**Rai Bahadur Lala Gopal Das :** I am asking about the principle. I want to know whether these Government agencies will purchase food-grains for the Defence Department as a whole ?

**Premier :** I have repeatedly said that the Defence Department is the concern of the Centre and that we are not responsible to it. If my honourable friend wants this information he can get it through his venerable father from the Central Government.

## APPROPRIATION AND FINANCE ACCOUNTS 1941-42

### PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE'S REPORT

**Minister of Finance :** 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 1941-42.

### THE PUNJAB PRE-EMPTION (AMENDMENT) BILL

**Minister of Revenue (The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram)** Sir, I beg to introduce the Punjab Pre-emption (Amendment) Bill.

Sir, I beg to move—

That the Punjab Pre-emption (Amendment) Bill be taken into consideration at once.

Before the consideration of the two or three clauses of this Bill commences, I may draw the attention of the honourable members to the necessity which arose for introducing an amending Bill on the subject. Until recently, the position in respect of pre-emption was that no improvement in the status of a vendee-defendant could be made after a suit had been instituted. This position held the field for a very large number of years, but some time ago, the High Court of the Punjab gave a ruling that an improvement in the status of a vendee-defendant could be made even after a suit had been instituted.

The same view prevailed with the Allahabad High Court in 1929. The United Provinces Government, after that ruling had been given by the Allahabad High Court, introduced an amending Bill. The present amending Bill is on the same lines as the Bill which had been introduced by the United Provinces Government. What we seek to do is to restore the original position with regard to the right of pre-emption.

**Mr. Speaker :** The question is—

That the Punjab Pre-emption (Amendment) Bill be taken into consideration at once.

*The motion was carried.*

**Mr. Speaker :** The House will now proceed to discuss the Bill clause by clause. The question is—

That clause 2 stand part of the Bill.

*The motion was carried.*

**Mr. Speaker :** The question is—

That clause 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 Revenue :** I beg to move—

That the Punjab Pre-emption (Amendment) Bill be passed.

*The motion was carried.*

## COURT OF WARDS (AMENDMENT) BILL

**Minister of Development** (The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh) : I beg to present the report of the select committee on the Court of Wards (Amendment) Bill.

I beg to move—

That the Court of Wards (Amendment) Bill as reported by the select committee 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 clauses 2 to 5 stand part of the Bill.

*The motion was carried.*

**Mr. Speaker** : The question is—

That clause 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 Development** : I beg to move—

That the Court of Wards (Amendment) Bill be passed.

*The motion was carried.*

## SIKH GURDWARAS (AMENDMENT) BILL

**Sardar Kartar Singh** : Sir, I beg to move—

**Mian Muhammad Nurullah** : On a point of order. Sardar Kartar Singh, the mover of this Bill is a member of the Opposition belonging to that section which is governed by the 8th August resolution under the Congress regime. The point is, can a member of the Opposition move this Bill on behalf of the Government while many honourable members are not even allowed to attend the Assembly ?

**Mr. Speaker** : He can move any Bill which he is entitled to move under the Government of India Act.

**Premier** : This House is the Punjab Legislative Assembly and not a body governed by the 8th August resolution. This is the first time that I have heard my honourable friend raise such a question. He can ask this question in another place and not in this Assembly.

**Mr. Speaker** : Order, order.

**Sardar Kartar Singh** (Lyallpur East, Sikh, Rural) : Sir, I beg to move—

That the Sikh Gurdwaras (Amendment) Bill be referred to a select committee consisting of the following :—

Minister in charge Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh.

Sardar Jagit Singh Mann

Sardar Lal Singh

Sardar Ajit Singh.

Sardar Dasaundha Singh.



[8. Kartar Singh]

Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh.  
 Captain Sodhi Harnam Singh.  
 Sardar Inder Singh.  
 Sardar Joginder Singh Mann  
 Sardar Kapur Singh.  
 Sardar Naunihal Singh Mann  
 Mahant Prem Singh.  
 Sardar Pritam Singh Sidhu.  
 Sardar Sampuran Singh.  
 Sardar Santokh Singh.  
 Sardar Sher Singh.  
 Sardar Sohan Singh Josh.  
 Sardar Tara Singh.  
 Sardar Teja Singh Swatanter.  
 Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh.  
 Sardar Uttam Singh Dugal.  
 Sardar Bahadur Sardar Gurbachan Singh.  
 Mahant Girdhari Das.  
 Thakur Ripudaman Singh.  
 Sardar Gopal Singh.  
 Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Muhammad Hussain.  
 Chaudhri Muhammad Yasin Khan and the Mover.

**Mr. Speaker :** How many members does the honourable member wish to have on the select committee ?

**Sardar Kartar Singh :** Twenty-nine.

**Mr. Speaker :** It is not in order to propose a select committee that shall consist of twenty-nine members. Proviso to rule 87 of our rules lays down that a select committee shall not, except with the leave of the Assembly, consist of more than fifteen members and in no case of more than twenty-five. The mover may reduce the number of members to twenty-five and then apply for the leave of the House to move his motion.

**Sardar Kartar Singh :** I apply for leave of the House to move that the select committee on the Sikh Gurdwaras (Amendment) Bill shall consist of twenty-five members.

*The leave was granted.*

**Sardar Kartar Singh :** With your permission, Sir, I move—

That the Sikh Gurdwaras (Amendment) Bill be referred to a select committee consisting of—

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh.  
 Sardar Jagjit Singh Mann.  
 Sardar Lal Singh.  
 Sardar Ajit Singh.  
 Sardar Dasaundha Singh.  
 Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh.  
 Captain Sodhi Harnam Singh.  
 Sardar Joginder Singh Mann  
 Sardar Bahadur Sardar Inder Singh.  
 Sardar Kapoor Singh.  
 Sardar Pritam Singh Sidhu.  
 Sardar Sampuran Singh.  
 Sardar Santokh Singh.  
 Sardar Sher Singh.  
 Sardar Sohan Singh Josh.  
 Sardar Tara Singh.  
 Sardar Teja Singh Swatanter.  
 Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh..  
 Sardar Uttam Singh Dugal.  
 Mahant Girdhari Das.  
 Captain Naunihal Singh Mann.

And that the quorum be 11.

Now that I have reduced the number, I hope that my motion is in order.

**Mr. Speaker :** Motion moved is—

That the Sikh Gurdwaras (Amendment) Bill be referred to a select committee consisting of—

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh.  
Sardar Jagjit Singh Mann.  
Sardar Lal Singh.  
Sardar Ajit Singh.  
Sardar Dasaundha Singh.  
Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh.  
Captain Sodhi Harnam Singh.  
Sardar Joginder Singh Mann.  
Sardar Bahadur Sardar Inder Singh.  
Sardar Kapoor Singh.  
Sardar Pritam Singh Sidhu.  
Sardar Sampuran Singh.  
Sardar Santokh Singh.  
Sardar Sher Singh.  
Sardar Sohan Singh Josh.  
Sardar Tara Singh.  
Sardar Teja Singh Swatanter.  
Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh.  
Sardar Uttam Singh Dugal.  
Mahant Girdhari Das.  
Captain Nannihal Singh Mann.

And that the quorum be 11.

**Sardar Uttam Singh Dugal :** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. You were pleased to rule that the motion was out of order.

**Mr. Speaker :** With my permission the honourable member has modified his motion and I have allowed him to move the modified motion. If the honourable member has still any doubt I would refer him to page 234 of May's Parliamentary Practice.

**Rai Bahadur Lala Gopal Das :** With your permission, Sir, may I ask a question from the Government? What is the convention that the Government wants to establish with respect to Bills relating to different communities? For instance, this Bill concerns the Sikh community only. Is it the intention that only the Sikh members should take part in the proceedings or members belonging to other communities may also take part?

**Sardar Kapoor Singh :** I want to make a submission, Sir. The mover of the motion has not moved the whole motion; he has deleted the words 'with instructions to report by the 27th March 1944'. This is a very important point and I would like to know what is going on behind the scenes.

**Mr. Speaker :** What does the honourable member want?

**Sardar Kapoor Singh :** I want that the words that have been deleted should be added and the motion as it is on the agenda should be moved.

**Mr. Speaker :** The honourable member can move an amendment to that effect.

**Sardar Kapoor Singh** (Ludhiana East, Sikh, Rural) (*Punjabi*) : I beg to move that the following words be added :—

With instruction to report by the 27th March 1944.

Sir, I wish to tell you that this amendment has been deleted with a particular object. There seems to be a special purpose behind this omission. The fact of the matter is that the Minister for Development is feeling nervous over it and there are some reasons for his being nervous. Now let me point out those reasons. As the House is aware, Sir, the Sikander-Baldev Pact was signed

[S. Kapoor Singh]

about two years back and it was one of the conditions of the Pact that amendments should be made in the Sikh Gurdwaras (Amendment) Bill.

(*An honourable member* : That Pact is finished.) I am glad that Pact is finished.  
(*Another honourable member* : No, no. He is only joking.)

**Premier** : There is Sardar Baldev Singh, a party to the Pact and I also stand by the Pact.

**Sardar Kapoor Singh** : I was submitting, Sir, that it was one of the conditions of the Pact that amendments should be made in the Sikh Gurdwaras (Amendment) Bill. My honourable friend Giani Kartar Singh and Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh, by offering certain concessions to the radical party of the the Akali Dal, wanted them to give up their radical programme. Not only this, but attempts were also made to prolong this matter with a view to win over a certain section of the Akalis to their side. But if the Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh were really interested in the passage of the Bill it ought to have been rushed through by this time as it was also mentioned in the Pact. I may further say that the Punjab Ministry should take a leaf out of the book of the North-Western Frontier Ministry, which has passed the Gurdwaras Act in the shortest possible time.

**Mr. Speaker** : The honourable member is not speaking to the amendment.

**Sardar Kapoor Singh** : Sir, my points are quite relevant to the amendment. My submission is that we should no longer be kept in further suspense as the matter has already been delayed by two years. First of all the Honourable Minister for Development had a mind to pass the Bill without delay but after a short time he thought it improper and so he changed his mind on account of the fact that if the Bill is rushed through he would lose his grip on the Akalis. Hence this delay and it is all the more lamentable that still the Minister of Development is scratching his head on being asked to rush through it. He seems to be reluctant in this matter as is obvious from the fact that the words pressing upon the select committee to report by the 27th March 1944 have been deleted. The Honourable Minister of Development knows it very well that nowadays sessions are held after a very long time on account of war and that if this Bill is delayed to-day it may or may not come in the next autumn session. He is quite aware of it and that is why this Bill is now again being put to a further delay. I take it for granted that if this Bill is not rushed through in the present session it will be delayed for another year and you will find it on the agenda of the next year. The Honourable Minister for Development wants to get the best out of this delay of one year as he would be then a position to understand during this period of one year as to where he and his friends Giani Kartar Singh stand. I wish to know from the Honourable Minister for Development if the delay is to enable the Giani Akalis to hold together their disintegrating forces by dangling the Bill before them. May I bring this point home to the Honourable Minister for Development that he is unnecessarily relying on the companionship of Giani Kartar Singh? (*An honourable member from the Government Benches* : He is sitting with you.) It matters little where he sits. There is my honourable friend Sardar Lal Singh sitting with us but he is paid by the Government. I may also submit that there is no doubt about it that there are certain amendments in the Bill which I am prepared to support wholeheartedly. But my emphasis is on the point that the report of the select committee must be ready by the 27th March 1944.

**Mr. Speaker :** What does the honourable member mean ? Does he propose to fix the maximum or the minimum period for the select committee ?

**Sardar Kapoor Singh :** That is the maximum period.

**Mr. Speaker :** The honourable member's amendment, then, is out of order. This House has no power to fix the maximum period.

**Sardar Kapoor Singh :** Then, take it as the minimum. My point is that the report should be made as early as possible. This Bill must be passed even during the present session.

**Mr. Speaker :** May I invite the attention of the honourable member to Rule 93 which says —

Such report shall be made not sooner than two months from the date of the first publication of the Bill in the Gazette, unless the Assembly orders the report to be made sooner.

The publication of the Bill in the Gazette took place more than two months ago. Therefore the select committee can submit its report even to-morrow without any specific direction, by the House.

**Sardar Kapoor Singh** You may rule me out of order after hearing what I have got to say.

**Mr. Speaker :** If the amendment is out of order, how can I allow it to be discussed ?

**Sardar Uttam Singh Dugal** (North West Punjab, Sikh, Rural) : Sir, I beg to move—

That the Bill be re-circulated for eliciting public opinion.

**Mr. Speaker :** Under which rule is the honourable member moving the motion ?

**Sardar Uttam Singh Dugal :** I want to oppose the motion before the House.

**Mr. Speaker :** The honourable member may do so, but he cannot move an amendment.

**Sardar Uttam Singh Dugal :** I do not move the amendment then.

I oppose the motion before the House. I oppose the motion on these grounds. In the first place, sufficient publicity has not been given to it and, secondly, the Akali Party has so manoeuvred the position that the reports from the so-called diwans which never existed anywhere but in the imagination of the Akali Party have been incorporated amongst the opinions received. Most of the reports that have been received are so worded as to actually show that they are the result of machinations of some interested party. They are word for word identical, and they prove without the shadow of any doubt that some interested person or persons have got them signed and submitted. Even a layman knows that there is a great difference of opinion over this Bill among the Sikh community. The views of the two parties are poles asunder. The party in power, I mean the Akali Party, is trying its best to secure a hold over the gurdwaras by means fair or foul and with the connivance, I make bold to assert, of the Unionist Government. In religious matters Government should have been the last to interfere, and it is setting a very bad precedent in siding with a party in a religious matter which was the exclusive concern of the Sikhs alone. The Akali Party has changed many labels in these days and has lost all its popularity. Instead of working with the Congress

1 p.m.

[S. Uttam Singh Duggal]

which was its creed in 1937 it has changed just the other way and has gone over to the Unionist Government. The Akali Party has lost all its popularity and is trying to do its level best to get hold of the gurdwaras and to misuse the gurdwara funds. The only achievement that this party has to its credit is corruption and embezzlement of gurdwara funds. The centralisation which this party is trying its best to secure will enable it to have a direct hold on the gurdwara funds and there will be no hitch to its use of the gurdwara funds at its sweet will. I would request Government that they should not be a party to the passage of this Bill, and they should leave it to the Sikhs alone to fight their domestic quarrels. Lakhs of Sikh soldiers have gone to the front and this Bill is being rushed through in their absence. Heaven is not going to fall if the passage of the Bill is postponed till after the war. With these words I want to warn the Government that they should not be party to the passage of this Bill, and I would like to draw the particular attention of the Honourable Premier to the several assurances given on the floor of this House and in his public speeches that it is the first duty of his Government to protect the rights of the soldiers who are fighting our battles. May I ask if there is any truth and sincerity in what he has said on the floor of this House? Is this the way he is going to protect the rights of the Sikh soldiers? I do hope that the Honourable Premier will see that this Bill is postponed till after the war.

**Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh** (Western Towns, Sikh, Urban): Sir, if I did not oppose the Gurdwara Amendment Bill at its introduction stage, it was because I thought that the amendments to the various clauses, which amendments I consider very desirable, will be moved in the select committee, and hoped that when this Bill came out of the select committee it would be in such a form as would be acceptable to the community as a whole. The Gurdwara Act and the subsequent amendments to that Act which were passed from time to time had the support of the whole community and I wish that this Amendment Bill also when placed on the statute book should be in a form that will be acceptable to the whole community. I know that some of us desire radical changes in the present Gurdwara Act. There are some of us who think that there should be a change in the method of election, in the qualification of voters, in the qualification of candidates and a stricter control over accounts. There are some other desirable changes required to be made in the present Gurdwara Act and some of those changes are embodied in the present Amendment Bill. There are however some clauses of the Bill to which objection can be taken. I submit that all these points can be considered at the select committee stage. Almost all the Sikh members are members of the select committee and I think we will be able to discuss all these points in the select committee. I know, for example, that clause 9 of this Bill proposes to have the Sikh Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee as the Committee of Management for the gurdwaras under section 85 and it proposes that the Sikh Gurdwaras Parbandhak Committee should act in a general meeting for the management of these gurdwaras. There is a clause which in its present form makes the management of these gurdwaras impossible. The Sikh Gurdwaras Parbandhak Committee as such acting in a general meeting cannot act efficiently as a committee of management of the gurdwaras. We must have some sort of a small committee or a sub-committee to manage these gurdwaras. Then there is the provision for the so-called scheduled castes among the Sikhs for whom representation is sought to be provided on the Sikh Gurdwaras Parbandhak Committee. The method in which this representation is provided is open to objection from the lofty principles of Sikhism. I do want that the backward classes among the Sikhs

should find representation on the Sikh Gurdwaras Parbandhak Committee. But I hope that at the select committee stage a method will be devised by which representation of those classes will be provided without violating the high principles of Sikh religion. There are, also certain other clauses in the Bill which require to be amended. All these matters can be thoroughly discussed in the select committee meetings. I appeal to Sikh members not to display their differences on the floor of the House. We can fight out all those differences so far as this Bill is concerned in the select committee. Our one aim in this regard should be the interest of the gurdwaras and the higher interests of the panth. We should all strive to make the management of the gurdwaras so pure and efficient that they will continue to be as they are meant to be the fountain heads of high principles of Sikh religion, the fountain heads of the spirit of tolerance, service and sacrifice.

**Sardar Teja Singh Swatantar** (Lahore, West, Sikh, Rural): Sir, in my opinion this Bill should again be circulated for eliciting opinion thereon. Most of the opinions received up till now are those of the Municipal Committees and Deputy Commissioners. In other words only official opinions have been collected up till now. The opinions of the real voters, the Sikhs, the people who themselves, or whose forefathers before them, had given over all their properties to the gurdwaras, have not been consulted. The thousands of Sikh soldiers who send money to the gurdwaras from far-off places and who are out of the province at the present time in connection with war, have not been consulted. In short, men by whose real and sincere efforts these funds reached the extent of 22 lacs have not been consulted. Sir, this is not a question of hundreds or thousands even, it is a question of lacs. I do not know any other community in the province who might be possessing such a large fund. It is a question of a large waqf as to how it is to be spent on the social and educational needs of a community. The party in possession of this public money is losing its hold on the Sikh public. But it wants to remain in possession of the public money though the public may not have any confidence in it. So it has come to an understanding with Sardar Baldev Singh to the effect that the Akali Party shall give support to his Ministry and, he should in return get this measure passed. That is why this Bill is being rushed through. The sponsors of the Bill feel shy of public opinion. I say such an important measure should be translated in Gurmukhi and should be circulated by beat of drum in each and every village, so that all the members of the Sikh community may know it. A still better course is to postpone the Bill to the end of war. I am sorry to say, that the Government is interfering in a purely religious affair of the Sikh community just to please the Akalis. I warn the Government that such an action on its part will not be liked by the Sikhs.

The Akali party wants to get hold of the public money so that it may spend it on election campaigns. This party has lowered the standard of politics in this province. On one side they are putting on the Congress label and on the other side they are flirting with the Government. They spend gurdwara funds and employ the Sevadars, etc., for election purposes, but the members who are elected with that money and that support go into the lap of the Ministry. That is no longer to be tolerated. We cannot stand by and see the money given to the gurdwaras by us and our forefathers, spent on an ignoble cause.

**Mr. Speaker:** Such insinuations should not be made in the House.

**Sardar Teja Singh Swatantar:** It is not an insinuation, Sir. Everybody knows about the embezzlement cases in connection with that money. It is undemocratic to force that Bill on us. The Government should not take it lightly. If it insists on passing it, a storm of agitation shall break against the Government.

[S. Teja Singh Swatantar]

The original Gurdwara Act was passed by our efforts and sacrifices. We are the people who underwent large sacrifices for it. Now we cannot see it destroyed in this manner. We shall lay down our lives for this cause. The Government should take the matter very seriously and should circulate the Bill for another period of a few months and should try to obtain the opinion of each and every Sikh in this province.

**Sardar Ajit Singh** (South-West Punjab, Sikh, Rural): Sir, now when the motion before the House is that the Bill be referred to a select committee and when almost all the Sikh members of this House have been appointed on that committee, where is the need of opposing it? Why do they stress that the Bill be again circulated to elicit public opinion thereon? The Bill has already been circulated for 8 or 9 months and the opinions of all the Sikhs have been obtained. It is not correct to say that only official opinions have been collected. So far as I know the opinion of every responsible Sikh is obtained and almost every body has expressed its opinion. We can still discuss the measure fully in the select committee. We can think out the remedies for embezzlements. My communist friend will be able to give full vent to his expression on the subject. Why waste the valuable time of the House now? With these few words I request the honourable members to refer the Bill to the Select Committee.

**Sardar Lal Singh** (Parliamentary Private Secretary): The Sikh Gurdwaras Act has been in force now for the past 19 or 20 years. At the time of passing of this Act it was held that the Act would never meet the needs of the Sikh public. After 20 years when an attempt is being made to improve it by the present Bill objections are raised on the merits of the Bill which I think is not in order. At this stage we are not to discuss the merits of the Bill. A very good procedure has been adopted so that more or less all the people who are directly interested in this amendment Bill have been taken on the select committee and I think that is the best method that could have been devised by which all parties or different sections of the Sikh opinion could be taken on the select committee so that if there were any dirty liners to be washed, it could be washed in the select committee behind closed doors and not here on the floor of the Assembly. My honourable friend from Ludhiana who is sitting over here, started with an amendment and while doing so imputed dozens of motives not only to the Sikh Minister but to the Akali Party and the members sitting here. I am very glad that that part of the work of washing dirty linen was done by a Congress member, I can leave it at that. I hope that there will be no more speeches made except by the mover of this Bill and the Bill will then go to the select committee.

**Sardar Mula Singh** (Hoshiarpur West, General, Reserved Seat, Rural)-*(Punjabi)*: Sir, I support the motion for referring this Bill to a select committee. I am lending my support to this Bill because under its provisions representation would be given to those *acchuts* on the Shiromani Committee who have become converts to the Sikh religion. After the enactment of the Sikh Gurdwaras Act, 1925, although many Sikhs have embraced the Sikh religion still they have not been given any representation on the said committee. It is possible that they may have been given representation on it through nomination but not through election. Now Sardar Kartar Singh has admitted that in the Bill sponsored by him there are backward sections among the Sikhs who have become converts to the Sikh religion from amongst the *acchuts* and under the existing Act they generally go unrepresented. Under the provisions of this Amending Bill representation would be given to them on the Shiromani Committee. That is very good. Besides I request him to see that the *acchut* Sikhs get their political rights according to

their population strength in other fields as well. With these words I support the motion now before the House.

**Shrimati Raghbir Kaur** (Amritsar, Sikh, Woman) (*Punjabi*): Sir, I rise to oppose the motion for referring this Bill to a select committee. As has been pointed out by other honourable members three lakh Sikh soldiers are fighting on the front. In their absence the passing of this Bill into law means that no importance worth the name is being attached to the opinion of the Sikh soldiers about it. In fact their opinion is being disregarded inasmuch as no opportunity is being provided to them to express their opinion in respect to it. As Sardar Teja Singh has pointed out, these gurdwaras are our sacred institutions. They have been constructed by our contributions. As has been pointed out earlier we suffered beatings and lathi charges in order to establish these institutions. The honourable members are fully aware how the Sikh youths suffered in the Guru-ka-Bagh merely for the sake of these gurdwaras. In these circumstances, I think, instead of referring this Bill to a Select Committee it should be circulated for eliciting public opinion thereon. If after eliciting public opinion this is enacted into a law then we will have no objection at all. But at this stage the passage of this Bill into law with the help of the Government would amount to a great *zulam* on the whole community.

**Lala Harnam Das** (Lyallpur and Jhang, Reserved Seat, Rural) (*Punjabi*): Sir, I rise to oppose the reference of this Bill to a select committee. Under the provisions of the Sikh Gurdwaras Act, 1925, only Mazbhi and Ramdasias sections of the *acchuts* were included in the Sikh community. But I am surprised to find that in Schedule V of the Bill now before the House in addition to Mazbhies and Ramdasias many other sections of the *acchuts* have been included among the Sikhs. For instance Ramdasias, Kabirpanthies, Meghs, Chuhras, Chamars, Bazigars, Bawarias, Sichelgars, Dheds, Bhanjras, Surheras, Sansies, Bhedkuts and Odes have been included among the Sikhs. The Government is helping the Akali Party to get this Bill enacted into a law. But so far we have not been asked to express our opinion about it. In fact the object of the Bill is to increase the number of Sikhs by including all sections of the *acchuts* in the Sikh Community. It is generally seen that when census takes place if anybody declares and gets himself entered as a Ramdasia the word Sikh is added against his name. Thus the Sikhs get their number increased by decreasing our number. Besides, if at the time of the census any *acchut* does not get his name entered as a Sikh he is subjected to torture, and is boycotted. In fact he is disgraced and troubled in every possible manner. But in spite of such tortures it is difficult to induce the *acchuts* to get themselves entered in census registers as Sikhs. In Schedule V of the amending Bill all the sections of the *acchuts* have been included among the Sikhs so that at the time of the census the numbers of the Sikhs may be increased. At the time of census the patwaris at the counters are usually their own men and so if any *acchut* declares himself as Ramdasia or Chemar or Bazigar they will, after the said person has left, add the word Sikh against his name, and thus they will include the *acchuts* among the Sikhs. In these circumstances I request that instead of referring this Bill to a select committee it should be circulated for eliciting the opinion of *acchuts* thereon. With these words I oppose the motion moved by Sardar Kartar Singh.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad** (Southern Towns, Muhammadan; Urban) (*Urdu*): Sir, I do not think it is proper for me to say anything in regard to the motion now before the House. But as some of the members of the Opposition party have vehemently opposed it, I think it will not be out of place for me to say a few words in this connection. Sir, you are aware of the fact that in 1925



[K. S. Khawaja Ghulam Samad]

the Sikh Gurdwaras Bill was introduced in the Punjab Legislative Council which afterwards was enacted into a law. Now it is sought to be amended and the amending Bill is now before the House. Anyway the original Sikh Gurdwaras Bill, which is now before us in the form of an Act, was also circulated for eliciting public opinion thereon.

**An honourable member :** On a point of order. Is it not the practice of the House that when a Bill relating to any particular community is discussed members belonging to other communities should refrain from expressing their opinion about it ?

(Voices : No there is no such practice.)

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** I am not expressing my opinion about it. Anyhow when the original Sikh Gurdwaras Bill was introduced it was circulated for eliciting public opinion thereon. At the time it was mostly mahants of the Gurdwaras who expressed their opinions about it and they opposed the enactment of the Bill referred to above because it was going to adversely affect their interests and the overwhelming majority of the Sikhs supported it. All the Hindu members of the Council opposed this Bill. But the Muslim members under the leadership of the late Mian Sir Fazl-i-Hussain *en-bloc* sided with the Sikhs and helped them to get that measure passed into law. Since then it has been enforced in the Punjab. Though the Muslim members helped the Sikhs to get this Bill passed into law, still the latter have not meted out good treatment to the former, who are since then being paid in bad coin. The income derived from these gurdwaras is used by the Sikhs against the muslims. They have meted out a cruel treatment to them which is pretty well known. Now this amending Bill has been brought forward in the House. It was circulated for eliciting public opinion thereon and as result of that, many opinions have been received on it. In 1925 the main opposition came from the mahants because at that time they were in possession of all gurdwaras. But at present very few gurdwaras are in possession of mahants. Still the mahants who are in possession of some gurdwaras have opposed the enactment of this measure as well. Besides them there is one very big party, i.e., Baba Kharak Singh's party which is opposed to its enactment into a law. He is a patriotic and a very popular figure among the Sikhs. His party has opposed this measure. Moreover Khalsa Diwan Amritsar has opposed it vehemently. Many Sikhs, district boards and municipalities have sent their opinions in regard to it. They are conflicting opinions. Some opinions are in favour of the Bill. Some have suggested amendments while there are others in which this Bill has been opposed *in toto*. Anyway a large number of opinions have been received on it. But my submission is that the little representation which the scheduled castes have been given is merely an eyewash. They have not been given due representation in the gurdwaras according to their population strength under the provisions of this amending Bill. What has been provided for them in it is merely an eyewash.

Moreover the opinions expressed by the editors of various newspapers such as Sher-i-Punjab Weekly, Lahore, and the Mauj Weekly, Lahore cannot be lightly set aside. Then the argument advanced by the honourable member from Rawalpindi, that lakh of Sikh soldiers who are at present serving abroad cannot express their opinion on this measure, carries much weight. It will not be proper to legislate upon such an important religious problem in the absence of these brave sons of India. Personally, I think that the consideration of this Bill should be postponed till the conclusion of the war. I have myself carefully gone through

the two volumes of the opinions received from various bodies and individuals. Although I cannot describe them as being in a majority yet the number of those who have opposed this measure is in no way small. Such eminent leaders as Sardar Sant Singh M. L. A. (Central) and Sardar Mangal Singh and Sardar Beant Singh, retired Deputy Registrar, have expressed opinions against this Bill. I would, therefore, suggest that the consideration of the Sikh Gurdwaras (Amendment) Bill be indefinitely postponed.

**Premier** (the Honourable Malik Khizar Hayat) : Sir, I had no intention of taking part in the discussion of this Bill, but certain remarks have been made by some honourable members from the other side. First of all, there have been two points of view put forward. There are honourable members who say "why is the Bill not being expedited?"—and there are others who ask, why it is not being further delayed? The Government has, as usual, to steer a middle course. That is our position. First of all I would remind those who ask why the Bill is being delayed, that the original plan of the mover—and here I am speaking subject to correction—because I do not know his intention was that public opinions were to be received by a certain date. But then there was a motion moved. I think, by Sardar Jagjit Singh, saying that the opinions should not be received earlier than 1st March. That amendment was carried here in this House, the original plan of the mover was delayed, and the opinions were received by the 1st March. Our budget started from the 3rd March and naturally it was not possible for us to refer this Bill to a select committee earlier. To-day, after the budget, is the first day for transacting other Government business, hence this Bill has come up to-day. I do not know why the mover asks for the report of the select committee by the 27th March. He may have his own reasons. But I may tell the House that there were two or three obvious difficulties. One was that a Bill of this nature naturally takes time. The Government at least would like to take the considered views of the *Panth* and of various other sections. That is why we are not in a hurry to rush it through. Even if the members agree to it, there is a rule of the Assembly that the report of the select committee must be in the hands of the members seven days in advance before a Bill can be taken up. So consideration cannot in any case be started during this session. There is the 7 days' period. I think it is not a Bill that can be rushed through. Unanimity must be brought about. We are trying to help the *Panth* to come to a unanimous conclusion in the best interest of their community. Some honourable members wanted to warn the Government. What has the Government done with regard to this Bill? If there is a section of a community that wants to bring about any religious plans, and wants reforms for its community, our lot is to help them just as in the case of the last Gurdwara Bill we helped them. Why do my honourable friends want to warn the Government? What has the Government got to do here? This is a Bill moved by a private member and he has moved a motion that it should be referred to a select committee in which there is a very large number of Sikh members of this House. I believe all shades of opinion are represented on the select committee. For technical reasons, you have been pleased to rule that the membership of that committee should be curtailed to 25. I submit that this House, with your approval, should relax that rule. There are in the House of Commons precedents where the whole House sits in committee, if there is an important Bill. Why should we not help our Sikh brethren if they want our help? What we want is to help them and settle this problem amicably. So, I think, this technical objection should not stand in our way of helping them. Every community, including Muslims and Hindus, should be

[Premier]

prepared to help them in this matter so that the *Panth* may come to the conclusion which is in the best interest of their community. I am told that the committee is free to co-opt any members it likes. If the committee wants to have other members, they are always available. So, should we stand on technicalities and not copy the House of Commons? Let our Sikh brethren, instead of agitating here, put forward various points of view, as they did in the case of the last Gurdwara Bill. Let them sit in a committee and put forward their points of view and come out with a solution which will command the respect of all. That is what we want. We do not want to force anything on any section of the *Panth*. That is our position. Something was also said with regard to the rights of Sikh soldiers and my responsibility in that connection and that of the Government. We were asked why it was that we were enacting this law in the absence of Sikh soldiers. I do not know what the Sikh soldiers want. That is my difficulty. There are people who want immediate reforms and there are others who equally do not want reforms. How am I to find out? I am not supposed to go to each and every individual serving in the army on some front or in the Middle East. I can only get their opinion through their accredited representatives. That is why I am saying that every section of the community should be represented on the select committee, so that different points of view can be put forward and we may come to some solution, and then the Bill will be taken into consideration and we will consider the merits of the Bill after the select committee's report is before us.

**Rai Bahadur Lala Gopal Das :** Why not consider the question of holding a plebiscite?

**Premier :** Then it was said that there will be agitation. On social reforms there is agitation. But I would commend to the House the words, I think, of Sardar Ajit Singh, who said, 'let us go with an open mind and come to a decision'. At least that is what we wish, that better counsel will prevail. I hope Honourable members will go to the select committee with the best interests of the *Panth* at heart, and come out with an agreed solution which will be acceptable to a vast majority. I think there are certain honourable members who will, perhaps, not be keenly interested in reforms of this sort. But I concede that every Sikh has got a right to take interest in his religious institutions, if he wants to, and he is welcome. People should try to educate the public. We had taken up this Bill in the last session and it has been before the public for a very long time and vast publicity has been given to it. We are not rushing it through, as my honourable friend from Ludhiana, would like us. The mover has agreed to take the usual time over the Bill. We are not rushing it through. But my honourable friend from Ludhiana was not very consistent; on the one hand he is opposed to the party that is sponsoring this Bill and on the other hand wants the report of the select committee by the 27th. Why he wants it, I do not know. It is only he who can explain.

**Sardar Kapoor Singh :** So that we may not have to go to a begging to all the members of the House.

**Premier :** The honourable member, I think, is in the sorry plight of an unsuccessful suitor. The Akalis have left the Congress. How am I to blame? It is to the sense of frustration with Congress that they lost his party's support. That is not my fault. This is in the best interests of the Sikh community. The report of the committee will be placed before the House. I would request that you may be pleased to add as many members among the Sikhs as possible and I would say that the House should not have the least reluctance in

sending this Bill to the select committee with our best wishes for an amicable settlement for the reform of the gurdwaras, the future of the *Panth* and the interests of the soldiers.

**Mian Muhammad Nurullah :** I think that it would be a healthy convention that members of one community do not interfere in any religious matter concerning another community. Holding that point of view I differ from Khawaja Sahib that we should poke our nose in a matter like this. I support what my friend Chaudhri Muhammad Yasin Khan has said but as he is on that committee.—

**Honourable members :** He is not on that committee.

**Mian Muhammad Nurullah :** We would like to have the two Muslim members on that committee removed in order to give an opportunity—

*(At this stage the honourable member was told that there was no Muslim member on that committee).*

**Mian Muhammad Nurullah :** I like that idea, and would like to support the suggestion made by the Honourable Premier that all the members of that particular community should be given an opportunity to discuss the matter outside this House, and as was apprehended by Sardar Lal Singh, the honourable member from Ludhiana, there is going to be a good bit of washing of dirty linen. We would like that 'washing' to be done outside this House. The committee should come to some definite conclusion, which should be placed before the House.

Sir, I may refer to another convention and that is that the Government has given an opportunity to a non-official member to move this Bill on a day fixed for Government business. I do hope they would give an opportunity to the Muslim members also to bring up their Aukaf or their Shariat Bill on a day reserved for Government business.

**Sardar Uttam Singh Dugal :** Sir, I want to ask one question of the Premier. Is he prepared to take in the select committee persons from outside bodies such as the Chief Khalsa Diwan and the Central Akali Dal?

**Premier :** My honourable friend cannot bring into operation a new system. There are the Assembly rules, and if I am not wrong the select committee has the right to summon such witnesses as it wants. As to Mian Nurullah's suggestion, I have said that the Hindu and Muslim members should be co-opted if our Sikh brethren want. Nobody can take away the right of the House. As to the convention referred to there is the statement of my predecessor on this subject made in this House. Let us now deal with this Bill. In this Bill we have tried that every point of view of the Sikhs is represented, and a few Muslim and Hindu members could be there to bring about an amicable settlement if there advice is sought.

**Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh (Batala, Sikh, Rural) (Punjab) :** Sir, I am at a loss to understand why some honourable members are criticising this sporting offer made by the mover. All the Sikh members of the Assembly who are the true representatives of the Sikh community in real sense, have been placed on the select committee. As far as the publicity and wide circulation is concerned, I can say with confidence that full justice has been done. It is further argued that 3 lakhs of Sikhs are serving in the army and are ex-India. I will remind my honourable friend that all of them are not posted abroad. Majority of them are posted in India and some of them are in the Punjab. We can have the opinions of those who are at present here.

My friend Sardar Teja Singh Swatantar demanded more publicity. I ask him, were these eight months insufficient? Sufficient time has been

[S. Gurbakhsb Singh.]

dovoted to its publicity and I ask the House not to waste more time in its publicity.

'An *Achhut* friend of mine has said just now on behalf of *Achhuts* that they are forcibly entered as "Mazhabi" Sikhs at the time of census. I want to remind him, Sir, with our permission, that this amendment is meant for the Gurdwara Act and not for the census.

My friend Khawaja Ghulam Samad has just now said that the opinions against the Bill are large in number and must be given due consideration. Very important persons like Sardar Sant Singh and Sardar Mangal Singh have opposed it. The reality behind these opinions is clear and it needs no explanation. At present, we must not waste the precious time of the House in useless discussions. The select committee will give due consideration to every aspect of the question and after that the amendment moved will again be placed before the House and I believe that at that stage we will have ample time to devote to it. With these words I ask the House to vote for the amendment Bill and refer it to the select committee.

**Sardar Kartar Singh** (Lyallpur East, Sikh, Rural) (*Punjabi*): Sir great importance has been attached to the publicity of this amending Bill. I can declare without any hesitation, that ample time has been devoted to it and any further publicity will mean sheer waste of time and nothing else. My friend from Rawalpindi has sent his opinion against the Bill and I dare say, that he cannot make a greater contribution than that. The first instalment of opinions that I have received so far discloses that 17 district boards have sent their opinions. Fifteen have recorded their open support to the Bill, one has opposed it and one has maintained neutrality. The District Board of Jhelum has sent its opinion against the Bill and the credit goes to our friend from Rawalpindi. Twenty-seven Municipal Committees have sent their opinions. Twenty-six of them have welcomed the measure and one has gone against it. Out of 30 Small Towns, 28 Small Towns are in favour of the Bill.

An objection was raised by some of my honourable friends to the effect that Gurdwara Committees consist of selected and chosen members. In this connection I wish to submit that they take objection to this view because of their being turned out of the Gurdwara Committees on account of dishonesty and corruption. Then certain honourable members have said that the funds of Gurdwaras are misused and no proper care is taken to maintain the accounts. But I wish to point out that those of my honourable friends who happened to be the members of Gurdwara Committees from time to time and who now oppose the Sikh Gurdwara (Amendment) Bill tooth and nail, have been turned out of these committees on account of corruption and dishonesty. They are now creating an upheaval in this House against us who wish to amend the Sikh Gurdwara (Amendment) Bill. My communist friend Sardar Teja Singh Swatantar said that the funds are being embezzled in the Gurdwaras. But may I take the liberty of asking him if there is any institution where people do not resort to corruption and dishonesty? In this connection I wish to point out that honesty is the watchword of the members of the Gurdwara Committees working at present. It will not be out of place to mention here that dishonesty is to be found more outside Gurdwara Committees. I am constrained to remark that opposition comes from the employees of the Gurdwaras who had been turned out on account of charges of embezzlement and many of them belong to Rawalpindi group represented by my honourable friend Sardar Uttam Singh Dugal. (*Interruption*), My honourable

friends would be surprised to learn from me that seven Gurdwara Committees with a view to strengthening the Sikh *Panth*, have passed a resolution to the effect that their committees be abolished and their gurdwaras be directed, controlled and supervised by the Shromani Gurdwara Prabandak Committee. Not only this but public meetings were held in almost every corner of the province to this effect that the Bill should be amended forthwith. Out of 500 opinions 450 are in favour of amending this Bill. There can never be a more overwhelming number of opinions than this. There is an immense desire on the part of the Sikhs to amend the present Act in several respects in order to control gurdwara funds more properly and give a more representative character to the Shromani Gurdwara Prabandak Committee. Then my honourable friends advanced an argument to the effect that Government should postpone the Bill till after the war when lakhs of Sikh soldiers fighting abroad would be back and that it would not be in the fitness of things to amend this Bill without eliciting their opinion. I fail to understand the strange logic of those of my honourable friends belonging to this school of thought. So far as those Sikh recruits who are busy with the successful prosecution of the war are concerned, I wish to submit that out of lakhs of Sikh recruits fighting abroad majority of them belong to this province. In this connection I wish to bring this point home to my honourable friends that so far Bills worth crore of rupees have been rushed through in this House in their absence, and that no objection has ever been raised in this direction. To say that this Bill should be postponed till after the war when thousands of Sikh recruits fighting abroad would be back, is nothing but a mere pretext on the part of my honourable friends to create obstacles in the passage of the Bill. I wish to add that the absence of Sikh soldiers is a lame excuse put forward by interested persons. But even if they were here to give their opinion, I make bold to say that 95 per cent of their number would have been in favour of amending this Bill. Then my honourable friends went on saying that Giani Akalis wanted to hold together their disintegrating forces by dangling this Bill in the House. But I make bold to say and submit that Sikh opinion in the province is overwhelmingly in favour of this Bill. Instances are not wanting in this connection. Soon after the circulation of the Bill, election for a Sikh seat was held at Montgomery. My honourable friend Sardar Sher Singh won the polls by the entire support of those Sikh voters who are in favour of this Bill. (An hon'ble member: On what side of the House is that honourable member sitting now?) It does not matter whether the honourable member sits on this side of the House or on the other side. I am sorry to remark that these honourable members are out to oppose any proposal regarding the reformation of gurdwaras because of their having no faith whatsoever in them. This is why they create obstacles in our way of making such amendments as would let gurdwaras continue to be the fountain heads of all the great principles of Sikhism. Under the circumstances I would request the House to refer this Bill to the select committee.

The next point to which I wish to draw the attention of the House is regarding the method of election about which a reference was made by my honourable friend Sardar Lal Singh. So far as the method of holding election is concerned, I may inform my honourable friend that power of framing rules regarding election rests in the Government and it is for the Government to make such amendments therein.

Once again I would like to request the honourable members of the House in general and the Government in particular to refer this Bill to the select committee which should give such a form to it as to make it all the more acceptable. In this connection I may assure my honourable friends that I shall be too glad

[S. Kartar Singh.]

to accept any constructive suggestions from those who wish the *Panth* well. Further I wish to make some submissions in regard to the "Charawas" about which a reference has already been made by my honourable friends in the House. I am again constrained to remark that those of my honourable members who are striving their every nerve to oppose this Bill, have given up attending gurdwaras on account of their having no faith in them. They are holding their seats in this House as nominal representatives of their Sikh constituencies. I do not think there is any need of making further amendments in this Bill. In fact it is the select committee which can enter into these details. I would request the honourable members opposing this Bill that it is no use on their part to wash dirty linen in the open. They should not try to display their differences in the House but should try to give constructive suggestions in the select committee.

In the end I would request the House to give unanimous support to this motion now before the House so that the Amending Bill may meet the wishes of the community.

**Mr. Speaker :** The question is—

That the Sikh Gurdwaras (Amendment) Bill be referred to a select committee consisting of—

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh,  
Sardar Jagjit Singh Mann,  
Sardar Lal Singh,  
Sardar Ajit Singh,  
Sardar Dasaundha Singh,  
Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh,  
Captain Sodhi Harnam Singh.  
Sardar Joginder Singh Mann,  
Sardar Bahadur Sardar Inder Singh,  
Sardar Kapoor Singh,  
Sardar Pritam Singh Sidhu,  
Sardar Sampuran Singh,  
Sardar Santokh Singh,  
Sardar Sher Singh,  
Sardar Sohan Singh Josh,  
Sardar Tara Singh,  
Sardar Teja Singh Swatanter,  
Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh.  
Sardar Uttam Singh Dugai,  
Mahant Girdhari Das,  
Captain Naunihal Singh,  
and that the quorum be 11.

*The motion was carried.*

## EPIDEMIC DISEASES (PUNJAB AMENDMENT) BILL

**Minister of Education** (The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye) : I beg to introduce the Epidemic Diseases (Punjab Amendment) Bill.

I also move—

That the Epidemic Diseases (Punjab Amendment) Bill be taken into consideration at once.

Section 2 of the present Act empowers the local Government to take or require any person to take or make temporary regulations to be observed by the people in the case of epidemics breaking out in the province. It is proposed in the present Bill that these powers should be delegated to Deputy Commissioners. It provides *inter alia* that the provincial Government may by general or special order empower the Deputy Commissioner to exercise all the powers that are conferred on the provincial Government other than those which relate to expenses. These powers however shall be exercised by the Deputy Commissioner subject

to such restrictions, limitations and conditions as may be laid down by the provincial Government from time to time. The exercise of such powers by the Deputy Commissioner is also subject to revision by the local Government. I hope that the Bill will be passed without any opposition.

**Mr. Speaker:** The question is—

That the Epidemic Diseases (Punjab Amendment) Bill be taken into consideration at once.

*The motion was carried.*

**Mr. Speaker :** The question is—

That clauses 1 and 2 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 Education :** I beg to move—

That the Epidemic Diseases (Punjab Amendment) Bill be passed.

*The motion was carried.*

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

#### LAND PRESERVATION (CHOS) (AMENDMENT) BILL

**Minister of Development** (The Honourable Sardar Badev Singh) : I beg to present the report of the select committee on the Punjab Land Preservation (Chos) (Amendment) Bill.

I also move—

That the Bill as reported by the select committee be taken into consideration.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker :** Motion moved—

That the Punjab Land Preservation (Chos) (Amendment) Bill as reported by the select committee be taken into consideration.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma** (Kangra West, General, Rural) : Sir, there can be no two opinions on the point that there should be universal effort to conserve the forests and to conserve the sub-soil. I am not therefore opposed to the principle of the Bill as I have already stated in my note of dissent. We should have plenty of rains and as this question is directly related to the prosperity of the province no sane man will be opposed to the Bill. But my objection is to the giving of certain powers to the Deputy Commissioners to enter upon the lands of people. Where the Deputy Commissioner thinks that it is necessary in the interests of the province to conserve any area he is given power to enter upon that land after giving notice to the owner thereof and to effect improvement or whatever it is. In this connection I want to bring to the notice of the House certain very glaring instances in which the power given to local authorities has proved a failure. The power has been only on paper and nothing has been done so far. I may just point out that in the district of Kangra during 1912—17 settlement certain areas were taken possession of by the Government with the pure object of conserving and protecting the sub-soil. Most of these areas belonged to the people of the villages and in some cases they were shamilat areas belonging to the proprietary bodies of the villages. In 1912 the authorities thought fit to take these areas under their supervision and all the spontaneous growth on these areas was declared and entered into the revenue records to be the property of Government. Since then there has been a clash of interests between Government on the one hand and the proprietary body of the village on the other. These villagers who were the owners of these areas were labouring



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under the impression that they had been deprived of a very valuable right of property in their land, because they were for all intents and purposes the owners. They were paying the land revenue, but in spite of all this the revenue records showed that the growth on these areas belonged to God. On the one hand Government was trying to do away with this law and on the other hand Government wanted to usurp these areas under the provisions of the Indian Forest Act, sections 29 and 30, and the result was that they were prosecuted for acts, which they honestly committed and they were sent to jail and fined in many cases. I have related this particular instance just to point out that where Government has the intention of conserving the soil and it has particular need for the universal prosperity of the province it ought to adopt measures after first securing the co-operation of the zamindars. I want to bring to your notice that this has been tried by Government and the Government reports show that the efforts of Government have not resulted in failure. (*Interruption*). Government did make an effort to secure the co-operation of the people in this matter and the Government reports show that this did not result in failure but that Government had some success in this matter. In this connection I want to point out that Government did not make that much effort which they ought to have made. They ought to have made public the purpose of this law and explained it to the zamindars and on the basis of that with the co-operation of the zamindars, with the co-operation of the proprietary bodies of the villages they ought to have enforced this particular matter. That would have resulted in much better results as far as the conservancy of the province is concerned and the areas where erosion has set in.

I wish to refer to certain other instances in connection with this legislation. The Chos Act which is going to be amended to-day was passed in 1900. The basic idea with which this law was at that time promulgated was to protect the sandy tracts of the district of Hoshiarpur. Any person who has visited that particular area where this law was first enforced will certainly say that this is really valuable. There is a very big tract of land which is very sandy and there is no vegetation on that area. This sand during the rainy season flows into the land of Jullundur district and spoils agriculture there. That was the basis of the law which was passed in 1900. Since the passing of this law vegetation has grown there and the dire necessity for the law has ceased to exist ; there is no such danger to any agricultural enterprise of any part of the province. I can challenge Government to show that the circumstances under which this law was passed in 1900 continue to exist. I would ask the Honourable Minister to point out how much area there is which is going to be rendered useless so far as agriculture is concerned.

Since the advent of provincial autonomy Government does not believe in doing things in a straightforward manner. I will, with your permission, give you the background under which this particular Bill is going to be passed. In 1940 it came to the notice of the Punjab Government that during a certain period of the year, the Uhl River, which is producing the Mandi Hydro-electric power, had not got sufficient water to run the scheme successfully, due to erosion and excessive grazing in a particular area which constitutes the Uhl Valley. The Mandi Hydro-electric Scheme is not a losing concern, it is a commercial concern being run on sound commercial lines. Every person and every industrialist who is using that energy is paying for it and there is no reason why, if Government wants to run that concern, it should not spend. They wanted the catchment area which was giving water to the Uhl River and they wanted that that particular area should be preserved. But the methods Government or those in charge

of the department adopted were disgraceful. The people who constituted the proprietary body of the Uhl Catchment Area were run in for criminal cases and as many as 21 of them were sentenced under the Forest Act and sentenced for obstructing or acting in the exercise of the civil rights which they had in the proprietary holding. Later on these people went to a civil court for the declaration of their rights in that particular area. The Punjab Government considering their position to be shaky in the matter came to this House with an amending Bill so that people who had the legal right, who had the right to graze their cattle in the Catchment Area were deprived of their right under the Chos Act of 1900. In this connection I want to point out that the Uhl Catchment Area is a hilly tract of land and all the population there mainly depends upon sheep and goat rearing. They have no other means of subsistence. They live upon sheep herding and as a result of the amending Act all these people were deprived of their grazing rights. They were practically deprived of agriculture, because no manuring is possible on these tracts where only goat can go up and no other animal can climb those areas.

That amending Act had the effect of depriving those people of their grazing rights in that year and ruining them. That Act had one fundamental defect. The original Act of 1900 related to rivers flowing from or into the Shivaliks. It covered only those chos which flowed from the Shivaliks range within the district of Hoshiarpur. There is no range which is part of the Shivaliks and which is situated in the Kangra district. So their difficulty was that the amended Chos Act could not apply to the Kangra district because the area where they wanted it to apply was part of the Himalayas and not part of the Shivaliks. Therefore the Government found it difficult to apply that Act and they were also aware of this fact that if ultimately the case came to court the law would not come to their rescue. That is why they thought of amending the Act of 1900, that is, just to deprive the people of their rights. If they wanted to do justice to the people, the Land Acquisition Act was there and the Government could have utilised it, but the difficulty was that Government would then have to pay full market price for acquiring the property and there would have been judicial enquiry as to what property had been taken over by the Government, what is the proper assessment and so on. But no. Government merely want to deprive hundreds and thousands of people of their rights in their property. They deprive them of their agriculture. They deprive them of the ordinary means of living and what can the Government expect from them? They can only expect resistance and strong resistance too. The official reports, I am told—I have been in touch with the problem for the last two years and I am told by so many people who have come in hundreds to my place travelling on foot from distances of more than 200 miles to represent their case to me—show that the Government is going to deprive them of their only means of subsistence. The people say that the only remedy open to them is to openly defy the Government. They have no other alternative. Such are the sentiments in the minds of these people who are affected by this legislation which is a back-door method of taking away the rights of the people without any justification whatsoever. *(At this stage it having been brought to the notice of the Deputy Speaker that there was no quorum the division bell was rung and on a count being taken there was found to be quorum.)*

I was submitting that the Government have adopted very undesirable methods to deprive these people of their house and their property. They have given certain powers to the Deputy Commissioner so that he can deal with the people as he liked. They have a majority behind them in this House and they

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can do what they like. I know that they can get the Bill passed in spite of my opposition. But as I have already stated the Land Acquisition Act being there, why should they not utilise that Act instead of adopting this back-door method ? If they are honest in their intentions they have already sufficient powers in their hands. Why should they be anxious to pass this law, unless they want to deprive the people of their houses and property without any justification whatsoever ? The reason for this is simply to avoid paying compensation to these people, the matter being a very complicated one. It is very difficult for the Government to assess the value of the rights of these people. Suppose a man has one thousand goats grazing in this area ; if they are going to deprive him of his rights, how are they to assess the value of his rights ? He is automatically deprived of the right of agriculture, he is automatically deprived of his right of living. Again some people are maintaining the sheep every year on a commercial scale and also having some manufactures. How are they to assess the value of this ? Evidently Government felt that it would be very difficult under the Land Acquisition Act to assess the value of the rights and pay compensation and that is why they have resorted to this method and laid down that if any proprietor at any time does not accede to the request of the Deputy Commissioner, the Deputy Commissioner shall have power to enter on the land, get the work done through some agency and ultimately realise the cost thereof as arrears of land revenue. This is the underlying motive. Otherwise if their idea is merely to conserve the sub-soil and add to the prosperity of the province, I would not have opposed it. I have found that all this is done with the idea of depriving certain people of their very valuable rights.

I will now refer just to one more point. If you just read the history of conservancy of other countries, you will find that there are what are called community forests. These community forests are maintained on the lines of individual conservancy. The village community is in charge of the conservancy of all the waste lands of those areas which are not the property of individuals but which are the property of the village. As a result of that conservancy those forests, which are the direct result of conservancy exercised by the proprietary body of the village concerned, have come to be known as community forests and the income of such forests is the property of the community because it is at the disposal of the community and it can be used for the benefit of the community. This is the principle which is adopted by all those countries which really want to conserve the sub-soil and which really want that their country should not suffer from rains. I would like to point out the practice which is going on. The whole proprietary body is interested in the scheme, they are not only interested, but they put in their practical efforts to make that scheme more successful and they try every nerve to make the community forest a successful proposition. In this way the sub-soil is conserved and the community is benefited. This system is successful in countries where this problem is being faced. But what is the policy of the Punjab Government ? They want the Deputy Commissioner to be armed with powers, they want the Deputy Commissioner to be all powerful so that if any proprietor says that he does not agree to it because it is against his interest, the Deputy Commissioner should have the power to enter upon that land. The Punjab Government wishes that if that proprietor cannot be made agreeable to effect the change or check the erosion, the Deputy Commissioner should have the power to spend money on it or get hold of a contractor to do it for him and the poor proprietor should be made to pay for it. This is the scheme which has appealed to the Honourable Minister in charge in spite of the fact that I brought to his notice

that if he is really particular about this thing, he should try to get the co-operation of the proprietary body of the village and he should try to get into the confidence of the proprietors who have interest in these lands.

*(At this stage Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair.)*

I fail to understand, Mr. Speaker, why the Punjab Government is so nervous about this matter. If I am not an agriculturist, I also have a small holding, I will always like that my holding should be free from erosion, I will always like to conserve my holding. There is no reason why I should not feel interested in conserving my own land, there is no reason why the village community should not feel interested in the proposition of conserving their shamilat where they have hereditary rights of grazing their cattle and so on and so forth. The Punjab Government need not put forward any measure to teach me—a proprietor of a small holding—that I should conserve my property, that I should conserve my native land; because it is to my interest that I should conserve my own property and conserve my native land, the village shamilat. No legislation is required on it. The only question is how to handle the problem. The question is whether it is handled in a way that will secure the co-operation of the public at large, whether it is handled in such a manner that as soon as the exact scheme is enforced, the whole public is at the back. Is it being done in this manner? Or, is it being done in a manner that will prejudice the case and create some bad blood and people will think that no good is being done to them? I shall trace the history of taking possession of shamilat areas in the Kangra district by the Government for the last one decade. About the year 1918 some shamilat areas were taken possession of by the Government inasmuch as the trees of spontaneous growth on those areas were declared the property of the Government. I may tell the House that since the year 1918 there has been no conservancy in my district and village proprietors are hostile towards this scheme and whenever they find an opportunity, they destroy the jungle, set fire to the jungle during the hot weather and try to do away with the forests. This is the direct result of the policy pursued by the Punjab Government. They have antagonised proprietary bodies of the villages by taking possession of these areas which originally belonged to them. The trees belonged to the people but the Government has tried to take undue possession of these trees which were standing upon these lands and the result has been that the proprietors of the villages are antagonised and they do not tolerate any forest in their villages nor do they like to tolerate a forest officer—they do not want to see him. This is the direct result of the policy pursued by the Government. I am sorry to point out on the floor of this House that this thing has not made the Government wiser. When they had worked this scheme unsuccessfully for so many years, when they had not been in a position to secure conservancy in thousands and lakhs of acres of land which are directly under their supervision, where the spontaneous growth of those areas belongs to them, when they have not been, as I have said, able to carry on the scheme of conservancy in that area, I fail to see what areas the Government is going to preserve under this particular law. The whole of the shamilat areas and in many cases proprietary holdings of the people are under the control of the Government. They have control over the vegetation of those areas and they have even deprived the proprietors of their rights to those areas. In spite of having all these powers, they are a failure so far as the conservancy of the province is concerned. I do not think that the Government deserves to be armed with any more power to harass the people and trouble them unnecessarily. I have practically said what I wanted to say on this point. With these remarks I oppose the motion of the Honourable Minister.

**Mr. Speaker :** The question is—

That the Punjab Land Preservation (Chos) (Amendment) Bill, as reported by the select committee, be taken into consideration.

*The motion was carried.*

### Clauses 2—8

**Mr. Speaker :** The House will now proceed to consider the Bill clause by clause. The question is—

That clauses 2 to 8 stand part of the Bill.

*The motion was carried.*

### Clause 9

**Chaudhri Tikka Ram** (Parliamentary Secretary): Sir, I beg to move—

That for the proposed section 7-A, the following be substituted:—

“7-A. (1) When an order has issued under section 5-A, the Deputy Commissioner may by notice require the owner or occupier of the land to execute such works or take such measures as may be specified in the notice.

(2) Every such notice shall state the time within which the works are to be executed or measures are to be taken.

(3) A person aggrieved by an order contained in such a notice as aforesaid may, within thirty days from the service of such notice or within such longer period as the Deputy Commissioner may allow in this behalf, serve a notice of his objections on the Deputy Commissioner in such manner as may be provided by the rules made under this Act.

(4) If and in so far as an objection under this section is based on the ground of some informality, defect or error in or in connection with the notice, the Deputy Commissioner shall dismiss the objection, if he is satisfied that the informality, defect or error was not a material one.

(5) If the objection is brought on all or any of the following grounds, that is to say:—

(a) that the notice might lawfully have been served on the occupier of the land in question instead of on the owner, or on the owner instead of on the occupier, and that it would have been equitable for it to have been so served;

(b) that some other person, being the owner, occupancy tenant, mortgagee with possession or lessee or farm holder or possessing some other right in or over the land to be benefited ought to contribute towards the expenses of executing any works or taking any measures required;

(c) where the work or measure is work or measure for the common benefit of the land in question and other land, that some other person, being the owner or occupier of land to be benefited, ought to contribute towards the expenses of executing any works or taking any measures required; the objector shall serve a copy of his notice of objection on each other person referred to and on the hearing of the objection the Deputy Commissioner may make such order as he thinks fit with respect to the person by whom any work is to be executed or measure is to be taken and the contribution to be made by any other person towards the cost of the work or measure, or as to the proportions in which any expenses which may become recoverable by the Deputy Commissioner under subsection (6) are to be borne by the objector and such other person:

Provided that no such order shall be made unless the person who is likely to be affected thereby has been given a reasonable opportunity of being heard.

In exercising his power under this subsection, the Deputy Commissioner shall have regard—

(a) as between an owner and an occupier, to the terms and conditions, whether contractual or statutory, of the tenancy and to the nature of the works and measures required; and

(b) in any case, to the degree of benefit to be derived by the different persons concerned.

(6) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in any law for the time being in force, no person required by a notice or an order under this section to execute any work or to take any measure shall be required to obtain the consent of any other person before complying with such notice or order.

(7) Subject to such right of objection as aforesaid and the right of appeal under section 18, if the person required by the notice to execute works or to take measures fails to execute the works or to take the measures indicated within the time thereby limited, the Deputy Commissioner may himself or by an agent execute the works or take the measures and recover from that person the expenses reasonably incurred by him in so doing;

(1) provided that it shall not be necessary for the Deputy Commissioner to wait for the decision of any objection other than an objection under clause (a) of subsection (5), or an appeal against any decision on such objection, before taking action under this subsection;

(2) provided further that the maximum amount that shall be recoverable in respect of any land in regard to which the work has been executed or the measure taken shall not exceed—

(a) where the work is required to be executed or the measure to be taken by the owner at ten times the land revenue assessed on all the lands owned by him in the Punjab; and

(b) where the work is required to be executed by the occupier, ten times the land revenue assessed on all the lands occupied by him in the estate in which such land is situated.

(8) If the cost of any work executed or any measure taken by any person remains unpaid by the person from whom it is due after the date specified in a notice issued in this behalf by the Deputy Commissioner or such other date as is fixed by him, such cost shall be recoverable as an arrear of land revenue and a certificate issued by the Deputy Commissioner in this behalf shall be final and conclusive evidence of the sum so recoverable and the person liable for the same.

(9) Every order issued under this section shall be published in such manner as may be prescribed in the rules made under this Act, and upon such publication every person affected thereby shall, unless the contrary be proved, be deemed to have had due notice thereof.

(10) The Deputy Commissioner may by general or special order authorise any revenue officer subordinate to him to enquire into any objection that may be brought under this section :

Provided that no final order on any such objection shall be passed except by the Deputy Commissioner himself.

(11) In making an order on objections brought under this section, the Deputy Commissioner shall be guided by such rules, if any, as the Provincial Government may make in this behalf.

(12) For the purposes of this section, the expression "estate" shall have the meaning assigned thereto in the Punjab Land Revenue Act, 1887".

*The motion was carried.*

**Mr. Speaker :** The question is—

That clause 9 as amended stand part of the Bill.

*The motion was carried.*

*Clauses 10, 11, 12*

**Mr. Speaker :** The question is—

That clauses 10, 11 and 12 stand part of the Bill.

*The motion was carried.*

*Clause 1*

**Mr. Speaker :** The question is—

That clause 1 stand part of the Bill.

*The motion was carried.*

*Title*

**Mr. Speaker :** The question is—

That the title be the title of the Bill.

*The motion was carried.*

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

That the Punjab Land Preservation (Chos) (Amendment) Bill be passed.

*The motion was carried.*

*The Assembly then adjourned till 10 a. m. on Friday, 24th March, 1944.*

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# PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

## ELEVENTH SESSION OF THE FIRST PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Friday, 24th March, 1944

*The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber at 10 a. m. of the clock. Mr. Speaker in the Chair.*

### STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

#### ARREST OF WHEAT MERCHANTS AT TALAGANG

**\*8976. Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Will the Honourable Minister of Development be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that five wheat merchants were arrested at Talagang on 22nd and 27th January 1943, 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 ; if so, what action the Government has taken or intends to take against the officers responsible for his highhandedness ?

**The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh :** The honourable member's attention is invited to the answer given to starred Assembly Question No. 9077.<sup>1</sup>

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** The question referred to by the Minister does not mention the war fund which was obtained by coercion from these people. What has he to say on this point, whether contribution for war fund was actually demanded and the person who did not pay was kept in jail ?

**Minister :** I think I have met the question that the honourable member asked in the reply given to the question to which I have referred.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** That question was with respect to the arrests and the Government position was that they were arrested. My further question is whether any of these people who were arrested were coerced to pay for the war funds to the Government ?

**Minister :** Not according to my information.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** May I know whether one of them, who refused to pay, pleading that he had already paid, was kept in jail and the others were let out ?

**Minister :** Those who paid for the war fund paid of their own will ; there was no coercion.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Is the Honourable Minister aware that these men were actually in the police custody ?

**Minister :** I have no such information.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** May I know what information the Minister has got with respect to the payment for the war fund ?



**Minister :** They did pay for the war fund but not when in jail.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** When did they pay ? Did they pay before or after their arrest ?

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** When they were arrested money was demanded and they were actually coerced to pay ; is it true ?

**Minister :** As far as my information goes they paid for the war fund before they were taken into custody : all of them paid before their arrest.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Who got the war fund contribution from them ?

**Minister :** May be some local official ; I have no information.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Wherefrom did the Minister get the information that they paid before their arrest ?

**Minister :** The information was received from the local officials.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Who is that local official ?

**Minister :** The honourable member knows very well.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** How many did pay for the war fund before their arrest ?

MR. E. P. MOON

**\*8977. Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether it was a fact that Mr. E. P. Moon, I.C.S., former Deputy Commissioner, Amritsar, recently resigned his post and if so under what circumstances ;

(b) whether it was a fact that a private letter of Mr. E. P. Moon to Colonel Kanwar Shamsher Singh, I.M.S. (Retd.) was intercepted somewhere and that was the cause of his resignation ;

(c) whether it was a fact that he was approached or influenced by the head of the Executive to continue in office ;

(d) whether any letter or correspondence passed between Mr. E. P. Moon and the Provincial Government relating to circumstances leading to his resignation ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) :** This question is an exact duplicate of Assembly Question No. \*9075<sup>1</sup> in answer to which on 7th March, 1944 I referred the honourable member to the answer previously given to Assembly Question No. \*8875<sup>2</sup> on 4th November 1943. I have nothing further to add.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Is the Parliamentary Private Secretary prepared to state that part (b) of this question is answered in the previous question ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** The first part of this question.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Parts (b) and (c) are not answered ; I think I have a right to demand an answer to those parts on the floor of this House.

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** Has my friend looked up the answer to question No. 8875<sup>2</sup> ?

<sup>1</sup>Pages 371-72 ante.

<sup>2</sup>Pages 72 ante.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** I have read the answer. I want an answer to parts (b) and (c) of this question which are not included in the previous question? If the Parliamentary Private Secretary's position is that these parts have already been answered let him read out that answer. I ask whether a private letter of Mr. Moon to Colonel Kanwar Shamsher Singh, I.M.S. (Retired) was intercepted somewhere and that was the cause of his resignation? What has the Government to say?

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Is it a fact that he was approached or influenced by the head of the executive to continue in office?

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** May I know whether he accepted the request of the executive head of the province and was prepared to continue in office?

#### PRINCIPAL CHHABIL DAS

**\*9220. Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) the present state of health of Principal Chhabil Das, a congress detenu;

(b) the nature of his illness and since how long he has been ill;

(c) the nature of the treatment prescribed for him;

(d) whether it has been decided to release the above-named detenu, if so, when he is going to be released and whether the Government intend to intern him, after his release, if so, where?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) :** (a) Nothing is seriously wrong with him.

(b) He has been having a slight rise of temperature lately. This is due to a "sinus" which he had developed on the site of the old compound fracture of the right leg sustained in a motor car accident in 1935.

(c) Operative treatment in the Mayo Hospital.

(d) Government intentions cannot be disclosed.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** May I know whether he is at present in the Mayo Hospital?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** No.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** May I know whether he has recently been operated upon or is proposed to be operated upon in the Mayo hospital?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** I have already stated 'operative treatment in the Mayo Hospital'.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** May I know as to who was responsible for the news that he was going to be let off?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** I have no knowledge.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** May I know whether when he was in the Mayo hospital the diet which was medically prescribed was not given to him but he was given ordinary diet?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** If my friend wants this information he should give notice.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Is he prepared to supplement his diet while he is in the Mayo hospital?

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

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** May I know whether his wife is allowed to attend on him ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** How does this arise ?

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** The Parliamentary Private Secretary has just said that his illness is due to an accident he met with in 1935 and he is still in hospital : how does he say that he is not seriously ill ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** My honourable friend should know that he has not been in the hospital since 1935 : he has only been in the hospital recently. I said this is due to a " sinus " which he had developed on the site of the old compound fracture of the right leg sustained in a motor car accident in 1935.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Does the Parliamentary Private Secretary deny the fact that he has been ailing since 1935 ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** I said there is nothing seriously wrong with him. His illness is not serious so far.

#### WOMEN DETENUS AND POLITICAL PRISONERS IN PUNJAB JAILS

**\*9249. Shrimati Raghbir Kaur :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) the number and names of women detenues and political prisoners incarcerated in the Punjab jails at present ;

(b) whether the Government intend to release them, if so, when, if not, why not ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) :** (a) One ; Shrimati Parbati Devi.

(b) Government's intentions cannot be disclosed but her case will be reviewed in due course.

#### MR. GOPINATH ' ARMAN '

**\*9260. Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state whether it is a fact that one Mr. Gopinath ' Arman ' editor of the *Daily Tej*, Delhi, is one of the Political Prisoners from Delhi and is now detained in the District Jail, Ferozepore ;

(b) whether it is a fact that he is suffering from pyorrhoea and some other serious dental trouble ; if so whether Government intend to transfer him to the Central Jail, Lahore, to enable him to receive dental treatment in the Government Dental Hospital, Lahore ; if not, the reasons therefor ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) :** (a) Yes.

(b) He is only suffering from slight pyorrhoea for which he is being properly treated. The condition of his teeth is otherwise satisfactory and does not call for any special treatment at the Punjab Dental Hospital, Lahore.

For the honourable member's information, the prisoner has gained 7 lbs. in weight since his incarceration in the District Jail, Ferozepore, on the 10th March 1943.

NEWSPAPERS FOR DELHI CONGRESS PRISONERS

**\*9261. Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Delhi Congress Prisoners detained in the Punjab are not allowed any newspapers published from Delhi, except the *Statesman* ;

(b) whether it is a fact that a representation was made by Mr. Deshbandhu Gupta, M.L.A., to the Inspector-General of Prisons, Punjab, to permit him to get at his own cost *The Hindustan Times*, *The Tej*, and *The National Call* of Delhi which were allowed in the district jail, but his request was turned down; if so, the reasons therefor ;

(c) whether Government intend to remove the restrictions imposed in this respect on the Congress detenus from Delhi ; if not, the reasons therefor ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) : (a) Yes.

(b) No.

(c) No. It is not the policy of Government to supply newspapers which are not borne on the list of newspapers and periodicals approved by them for the use of prisoners, confined in the Punjab Jails.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** May I know whether Lala Deshbandhu Gupta, M.L.A., represented to the Inspector-General, Punjab, that the newspapers mentioned in part (b) of the question be supplied to him ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** I have already said that no representation to this effect was made by him.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** There are two distinct parts of the question ; the first is whether a request was made and the second is whether that request was turned down.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Is the Parliamentary Private Secretary aware that the *Hindustan Times*, the *Tej* and the *National Call* of Delhi are on the approved list of newspapers supplied to the prisoners ?

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

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** The notice is already there. Parliamentary Private Secretary will please see part (b) of the question.

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** The question is whether a representation was made and what the Government decided on that representation.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** The notice also says that these papers are on the approved list.

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** That is a statement and not a question.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** That is a part of the question.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Does the Parliamentary Private Secretary say that this statement is incorrect ?

MR. ONKARNATH, MUNICIPAL COMMISSIONER, DELHI

**\*9262. Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state whether it is a fact that one Mr. Onkarnath, Municipal Commissioner, Delhi, a Civil Disobedience prisoner from Delhi, now detained in the Central Jail, Lahore, has been keeping very indifferent health ever since his transfer to the Punjab jails in September 1942 ;

[ Ch. Mohd. Hasan ]

(b) whether the X-ray of his chest taken at the instance of the medical officer of Ambala, showed that he was suffering from T. B. of the right lung ;

(c) if so, what action, if any, has been taken so far by Government in the matter ;

(d) whether Government have called his latest health report and informed the Chief Commissioner of Delhi about his present state of health, if not, why not ; and whether Government intend to do so now ;

(e) whether Government intend to transfer him to some T. B. sanatorium or some jail at a hill-station ; if not, the reasons therefor ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) : (a) No. He has only had one or two attacks of malaria with occasional rise of temperature for which he was given adequate treatment.

(b) & (c). This was the opinion of the Ambala radiologist but all subsequent similar examinations held both at Ambala and the Mayo Hospital, Lahore, proved that this was not the case. Under instructions of the Mayo Hospital he is being treated at the Punjab Dental Hospital and the jail hospital for all his ailments.

(d) Yes.

(e) There is no such proposal under the consideration of Government, as his health does not warrant it.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma** : May I know who was the medical officer responsible for the statement referred to by the Parliamentary Private Secretary with respect to parts (b) and (c) of the question ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** : Radiologist, Ambala.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma** : What reasons have the Government to disbelieve his statement ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** : In the first instance he was X-Rayed at Ambala and subsequently at Lahore and here it was found out that the opinion of the Radiologist, Ambala, was incorrect.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma** : What led the Government to have him re-examined at Lahore when the report of the first medical officer was there ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** : My honourable friend should know that a second opinion is taken where it is necessary and this was a case of that sort. I may inform the honourable member that Government not only took two opinions but more than two.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma** : Did the Government not like to treat him for Tuberculosis ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** : A patient who is suffering from tuberculosis must be treated for that. Does my honourable friend want him to be treated for tuberculosis when he is not suffering from tuberculosis ? (*Laughter*).

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma** : Was it the statement of the Ambala Medical Officer that it was a doubtful case or was he definitely of the opinion that it was a case of tuberculosis ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** : If my honourable friend has ever been ill he must be knowing that in many cases the opinion of a doctor is doubtful and the patient is either re-examined by the same doctor or by some other doctor and the first opinion is either confirmed or contradicted.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** I want to know definitely whether the Medical Officer, Ambala, was doubtful about the case and whether he advised that the patient should be re-examined by some other doctor ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** Obviously, the Radiologist, Ambala, was in doubt and therefore another examination was considered necessary

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Is the Parliamentary Private Secretary prepared to lay on the table of the House the report of the Radiologist, Ambala ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** I cannot place everything on the table of the House.

#### OBJECTIONABLE BEHAVIOUR OF TAHSILDAR OF SHAKARGARH

**\*9241. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state whether Chaudhri Abdul Rahim, M.L.A., brought to his notice the objectionable behaviour of the present tahsildar of Shakargarh towards the Rozedars of the ilaqa, if so, the action which he was pleased to take in the matter ;

(b) whether this undesirable incident was also brought to his notice by the Honourable Premier ;

(c) whether any personal enquiry was made by him or through his subordinate officers into the matter, if so, the result of that enquiry ;

(d) whether he would be pleased to place the report of the officer making the enquiry on the table of the House ?

**The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram :** I regret that the answer to this question is not yet ready.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Mr. Speaker, I draw your attention to the evasive reply that the Honourable Minister has given to my question. I do not see what enquiry is necessary to reply to this question ? I want your ruling as to whether the reply that has been given is of any value or not.

**Mr. Speaker :** The next question.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** I want your ruling whether the reply that has been given is right or not.

**Mr. Speaker :** I am no judge of the correctness or incorrectness of a reply.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** You are the judge of every thing here. I want your ruling whether this reply is evasive or not.

**Mr. Speaker :** That is not for me to determine.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** What are the points then on which you have authority ? (*Laughter.*) I want to know what are the points regarding which you have to give your decisions ?

**Mr. Speaker :** No questions can be put to the Chair.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** I am not putting any question but I request you to kindly give a ruling on the point of order I have raised.

**Mr. Speaker :** Answer to a question is no concern of mine. If the honourable member is not satisfied with the reply given, he may take action according to rules.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** My question is quite simple. No other question can be more simple than this. It concerns only the Minister.

**Mr. Speaker :** Order, order.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** He says that the reply is not ready. I am requesting you because you are the judge—

**Mr. Speaker :** No, I am not the judge of this matter.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** You are.

**Mr. Speaker :** Order, order. Will the honourable member please ask the next question ?

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** It is not democratic.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY RESOURCES AND RETRENCHMENT COMMITTEE

**\*9221. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state—

(a) whether the recommendations made by the Resources and Retrenchment Committee have been carried out so far, if so, the details of such retrenchment and if not, the reasons therefor ?

**The Honourable Sir Manohar Lal :** 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 war. It is contemplated to lay on the table of the House as soon as possible after the cessation of hostilities a statement showing the action taken on the recommendations of the Committee.

#### HANDICRAFTS AND COTTAGE INDUSTRIES

**\*9225. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state—

(a) the number of applications received in the current financial year for subsidies to encourage handicrafts and cottage industries ;

(b) the number of applications for loans for the purpose during the period mentioned in (a) ;

(c) the number and names of the persons who were awarded (a) subsidies, (b) loans ?

**The Honourable Sir Manohar Lal :** (a) 50.

(b) 20.

(c) A statement showing the names of persons and firms granted subsidies and loans during the current year 1943-44 is placed on the table.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** May I know what are the amounts sanctioned to each of these persons ?

**Minister :** I have not got the information with me at the present moment, but if the honourable member really so desires, it can be made available to him.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** I want it.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Is the Honourable Minister in a position to give us the total amount ?

**Minister :** Not at the present moment.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** But he has already the list before him.

**Minister :** That is because the question asks me for the list.

*Statement showing the names of persons or firms to whom loans and subsidies have been sanctioned under the Punjab State Aid to Industries Act, 1935, during the year 1943-44.*

*Subsidies.*

1. Lala Hans Raj, Sehdeora, Kartarpur, district Jullundur.
2. M. Ali Bakhsh, Rupar, district Ambala.
3. M. Ghazni Khan, village Naushahra, district Shahpur.
4. M. Fazal-ul-Haq, Proprietor, Art Works, Khushab.
5. L. Nand Lall, Weaver, village Haiderabad, district Mianwali.
6. M. Sharif Ahmad, Meeloed Road, Lahore.
7. The Principal, Khalsa College, Amritsar.
8. M. Ghulam Akbar, Talagang, district Attock.
9. H. M. Ishaq Siddiqi, village Boot, district Jullundur.
10. Messrs. The Excelsior Science Apparatus Workshops, Ambala Cantonment.
11. M. Inayat Hussain, Ambala Cantonment.
12. Messrs. The Grinding Wheel Works, Amritsar.
13. Haji Allah Ditta, Yakki Gate, Lahore.
14. L. Mohan Lal Gupta, Proprietor, The Scientific Engineering Works, Lahore.
15. Mr. M. S. Ulvi, Beadon Road, Lahore.
16. M. Iqbal Hussain, Find Dadan Khan, district Jhelum.
17. L. Mohan Lal Aggarwal, Gurdaspur.
18. Messrs. The Royal Plate Works, Lahore.
19. L. Kasturi Lal Jain, Krishna Nagar, Lahore.

*Loans*

1. S. Vir Singh, Chak No. 253-R. B., district Lyallpur.
2. Pt. Sunder Lal, village Nagta, tehsil Palampur, district Kangra.
3. Sh. Ghulam Dastgir, Hoshiarpur.
4. Messrs. Mansa Ram and Bodh Raj, Amritsar.
5. M. Mohd. Ali, Proprietor, Mohd Ali and Sons, Lahore.
6. Messrs. Sehgal Weaving Mills, Amritsar.

**GIRLS' SCHOOLS IN TEHSIL DASUYA**

**\*9250. Shrimati Raghbir Kaur :** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state the number of girls' schools maintained by the Government in Tehsil Dasuya, District Hoshiarpur, for the benefit of the rural population of the Tehsil?

**The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye :** One—Government Vernacular Middle School for Girls, Dasuya.

**GUR PRICES**

**\*9157. Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Will the Honourable Minister of Development be pleased to state—

(a) the rates per maund at which Gur was sold in the Punjab markets in the months of November, December 1943, and January and February 1944 ;

(b) the reasons for the fluctuations in the prices of Gur, if any ;

(c) whether the Government intend to control the price of Gur, if so, at what rates ; if not, why not ?

**The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh :** (a) The most common price of gur in the Punjab markets was Rs. 16-8-0 per maund in November 1943, Rs. 14, in December, 1943, Rs. 11-12-0 in January 1944, and Rs. 9-8-0 in February 1944.

(b) The general downward tendency in gur prices during this period has been due to the arrival of the new crop of gur in the markets and the decision of the Punjab Government that the cheap gur imported from the United Provinces will not be allowed to be sold at a price higher than what would allow only a reasonable margin of profit to the retailer.



[Minister of Development.]

(c) No. There does not seem to be any necessity for taking this action.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** What is the reasonable price of gur, in the Government's opinion, that should be given to the producer ?

**Minister :** I have already stated with reference to (c) that there does not seem to be any necessity for taking this action. Whatever is the market price is considered as reasonable.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** When was it decided by the Government that the price of gur should not be controlled ?

**Minister :** Our policy has been not to control its price.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** May I know whether these fluctuations are due to the policy of the Government.

**Minister :** I am afraid, not.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Has the Honourable Minister consulted any economist on the point ?

#### COAL SHORTAGE IN LAHORE

\*9171. **Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Will the Honourable Minister of Development be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that there was a shortage of coal in Lahore during December 1943 ; if so, the reasons therefor ;

(b) whether any steps have been taken by Government to prevent recurrence of shortage of coal ; if so, the nature of those steps ?

**The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh :** It is correct that during December supplies of coal received in Lahore for both domestic and industrial purposes were considerably less than had been anticipated. This was entirely due to a decrease in coal raisings in the Bengal and Bihar coal fields. The Punjab Government cannot of course do anything to increase coal raisings in Bengal and Bihar but even before the shortage which occurred in December they had impressed upon the Government of India the necessity of sending to the Punjab its fair shares of the supplies of coal which are available. The Government of India have promised to do whatever is possible to ensure adequate supplies to the Punjab. We are doing our utmost to develop the Punjab collieries and a considerable increase in production has already taken place. Most of this coal is unfortunately of an inferior kind but its use does of course make available more coal of a superior grade.

**Mian Abdul Aziz :** May I know whether even now there is a great shortage of coal ?

**Minister :** Yes, there is.

**Chaudhri Sumer Singh :** Has the Punjab Government made a request to the Government of India to ration coal in Bengal ?

**Minister :** According to the information available to us, the Government of India has already taken that step.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Did the Government of the Punjab take any step in order to get more coal ; did it prevail on the Central Government for more coal ?

**Minister :** Yes.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** What are those steps ?

**Minister :** We have written to the Government of India to get us our required supply of coal.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Do the Government feel satisfied with that paper request ?

**Minister :** We are satisfied till now.

#### SUGAR QUOTA

**\*9180. Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Will the Honourable Minister of Development be pleased to state—

(a) the quota of sugar fixed by the Central Government for the Punjab for the year 1944 ;

(b) the methods evolved by the Punjab Government for the distribution of this quota of sugar in the cities and in the countryside respectively ;

(c) the sugar quota fixed by the Punjab Government per head of population for the cities and the villages respectively ;

(d) if there is a difference between the quotas fixed per head of population for the cities and villages, the reasons therefor ?

**The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh :** (a) The total quota of sugar allotted by the Sugar Controller for India, for the sugar year, beginning from the 1st December 1943, was 188,000 tons. Out of this 104,000 tons were to be received from the United Provinces factories and 84,000 tons were to be produced by the Punjab and Kapurthala factories. In case the Punjab factories produced less, the Sugar Controller for India made it clear that the total quota of the Punjab will be reduced correspondingly.

(b) The Punjab Government distributes the available quota after taking into consideration the urban and rural population of the various areas and their respective needs and place them at the disposal of the District Magistrates. The responsibility for distributing the available quota in rural and urban areas and for the needs of *Halvais* and industrial concerns is of the District Magistrate. Instructions have, however, been issued to give due consideration to the needs of the rural areas.

(c) No quota has been fixed by Government per head of population though rationing schemes have been introduced by some District Magistrates with varying ration units. In the cities of Lahore, Amritsar and Rawalpindi, it is intended to start with a ration of 4½ chhataks per head per week when full-scale rationing starts in May 1944.

(d) Does not arise. The per head quota available in the villages would naturally be less than in the towns. The villagers by habit never used to consume the same amount of sugar as people in urban areas ; many consumed none at all. They prefer to buy gur, which has been cheaper than sugar except for a few months in the beginning of the present crushing season. The demand from villages increased when gur prices went high and it is expected to decrease with the falling prices.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** May I know the difference in the quotas allowed per head of the population in the rural areas and in the cities ?

**Minister :** That is contained in the circular issued to the District Magistrates and if my honourable friend will take the trouble of enquiring at my office, I can give him a copy of the instructions issued to the District Magistrates.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** May I know whether the Government is satisfied with the arrangement of the distribution of sugar by the District Magistrates ?

**Minister :** There may be some complaints in some districts. As far as we are concerned, we are trying our best to make an equitable distribution.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Are any instructions issued by the Government to the effect that the District Magistrates should nominate persons or distribution of sugar ?

**Minister :** The matter has been left to the District Magistrates.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Is the Minister aware of the fact that District Magistrates in some places have taken one to three lakhs of rupees from each nominee who has been given kerosine and sugar distribution agency ?

**Minister :** I have no information, but if the honourable member gives me notice I shall enquire.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Is the Honourable Minister prepared to launch an enquiry into the cases in which District Magistrates have realised very big sums ?

**Mr. Speaker :** Disallowed.

**Mian Muhammad Nurullah :** Have the Government made any effort to increase the production of sugar in the province ?

**Minister :** We have taken steps to increase the production of sugar in the Punjab and have also requested the States to take similar steps.

#### AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE MARKETS (AMENDMENT) BILL.

**Minister of Development** (The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh) : Sir I request that the consideration of the Punjab Agricultural Produce Markets (Amendment) Bill be postponed till Monday.

#### GENERAL SALES TAX (AMENDMENT) BILL

**Minister of Finance** (The Honourable Sir Manohar Lal) : Sir, I beg to introduce the Punjab General Sales Tax (Amendment) Bill. I beg to move—

That the Punjab General Sales Tax (Amendment) Bill be taken into consideration at once.

You will see from the statement of objects and reasons that the amending Bill has been drafted with a view to removing certain minor discrepancies and defects in the text of the Punjab General Sales Tax Act, 1941, which have come to light in the course of its administration. The original Act has not been touched on any point of substance.

**Mr. Speaker :** Question is—

That the Punjab General Sales 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.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** On a point of order. Here is a new procedure adopted by the Government. They introduce the Bill and on the same day they want to hurry it through. We are taken by surprise almost everyday.

**Mr. Speaker :** The honourable member, if he so desired, could have raised his objection when the motion was proposed from the Chair. In any case the rules permit the moving of the motion for the consideration of a Bill on the day on which it is introduced. He should refer to rule 84.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** I want to raise a point of order.

**Mr. Speaker :** I have already ruled out the honourable member's point of order. He has stated that this practice has been recently adopted by the Government. He is wrong there. It is not a new practice.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** I have not stated my point of order yet. Perhaps I have not expressed it well, and that is due to my poor power of expression. But I may be allowed to state it in my own humble way.

**Mr. Speaker :** The honourable member can always speak to what is before the House. The House has already carried the motion that the Bill be taken into consideration. The stage now is that the Bill be considered clause by clause.

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*Clauses 2—5*

**Mr. Speaker :** The question is—

That clauses 2 to 5 stand part of the Bill.

*The motion was carried.*

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*Clause 6*

**Begum Rashida Latif Baji** (Inner Lahore, Muhammadan, Women Urban) (*Urdu*) : I beg to move—

That in part (a) (i), line 2, for the word "ten" the word "twenty" be substituted.

Sir, my real object in bringing forward this amendment is that all the petty shopkeepers, whose total sale does not exceed Rs. 20,000 per annum, may be exempted from this burden. If this amendment is accepted then I can safely say, Sir, that these petty shopkeepers will be relieved of all the miseries and troubles connected with the sales tax. I would like to draw the attention of the house to the difficulties that one has to face in connection with this tax. They are as follows :—

First, the majority of these petty shopkeepers are generally illiterates. Their meagre income does not permit them to employ *muneems* to maintain elaborate accounts but they are forced to do that and thus their meagre income dwindles away considerably. Thus the present conditions prove a great hardship and the businessmen stand in need of immediate relief.

Secondly, those shopkeepers whose sale does not exceed ten thousand rupees and who enjoy exemption under the present rules, are molested and troubled by the officials of the department. They offer every sort of bribe to the officers of the department in order to avoid the departmental inflictions. Bribery is at its height and the Government should pay serious attention to it.

Thirdly, the account sheets are given no consideration and the tax is levied arbitrarily.

Fourthly, the petty shopkeepers' net income seldom exceeds two or three rupees a day. Out of this they have to support their families. They have to meet the expenses like rent, etc., and sometimes they have to pay the interest on the capital as well. Sir, I can say that after making these payments hardly anything is left with them to meet their other necessities.

[Begum Rashida Latif Baji.]

Fifthly, if on a fixed date a shopkeeper cannot appear before the officer-in-charge then he stands nowhere. Arbitrary orders are passed and heavy fines are imposed. No verbal explanation is considered at all. The poor fellow is forced to fix one rupee stamp on a judicial paper worth annas two and then his application is entertained.

Lastly, the businessmen have lost every liberty and independence. Formerly this occupation was considered as the most independent of all lines. But what we find to-day is this that one is to bow down and do every sort of service to the ordinary clerks of the department.

I have mentioned some of the many troubles that this Act causes to this community. For your personal information, Sir, I would like to quote a few lines from the last paragraph of the Sikander-Channana Pact.

As far as the working of this pact is concerned, I need not reassure you that the Minister-in-charge and myself will leave no stone unturned to remove any difficulty that will arise out of its working.

This was signed by Sir Sikander Hyat Khan. But the position is altogether contrary to our expectations. Irregularities are taking place and those promised concessions and facilities are now nothing more than a scrap of paper. In section 2 it was acknowledged that those shopkeepers who did not pay income-tax and could not maintain their accounts as well were expected to furnish a rough estimate of their gross sales. But the department in no way was authorised to fix their sale at more than Rs. 20,000 per annum. Nobody pays any attention to it and sales in such cases are sometimes estimated at above Rs. 50,000 per annum. Our Government is mad after surplus and I ask, Sir, is it justice to show this surplus by making such unjust levies? In this connection may I ask the Government as to what beneficial works they have done for the good of the taxpayers from whom an enormous amount of money is being realised? It has been declared so often from the Government benches that the money realised from the taxes has been spent for ameliorating the condition of the poor. But the fact of the matter is that they are sucking the blood of the poor. In this connection I would like to suggest that the small shopkeepers whose sale is worth Rs. 20,000 should be exempted from the sales tax so that they may be relieved from their difficulties. I think this attitude if adopted by the Government will be the best. I am not pleading the cause of stockholders or factory holders, I am only requesting the Government to adopt the same attitude towards the poor shopkeepers as has been adopted by the Central Legislature which has exempted those shopkeepers from paying any income-tax whose yearly income is Rs. 2,000. I wish to enlighten the House with this fact that by making a sale of Rs. 20,000 a year, the yearly income of a shopkeeper will not be more than Rs. 2,000. If the amount of Rs. 20,000 is exempted from this tax, I am sure the poor shopkeepers will heave a sigh of relief. I wish to bring this point home to the honourable members sitting on the treasury benches who claim to be the well-wishers of the poor that in case my amendment is rejected, they shall have to bring this Bill for the fourth time before the House with the object of incorporating this amendment in it. It reminds me of a couplet which is quite applicable to the Government. It runs as follows :—

ہر چہ دانا کند کند نادار

لیکن بعد از حصول رسوائی

I wish to submit that in the beginning when the Bill was introduced in the House, Government decided to impose sales tax on a net sale of Rs. 3,000

per annum. It is crystal clear from this that an ordinary shopkeeper making a profit of Rs. 0-12-0 a day was also to pay this tax. Government did not exempt even the petty *chabriwalas* from paying this tax. In fact this tax was to be levied on the sale of almost all the eatables, i.e., milk, vegetables, meat, betels and bread. At that time I and the honourable members of this House brought forward certain amendments with a view to saving the poor shopkeepers and other petty sellers from the burden of taxation. But the Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhoutu Ram who was the then minister-in-charge, refused to accept our amendments. Honourable members would be surprised to learn from me that at last the Honourable Minister himself admitted our point and exempted the sale of certain articles from the sales tax according to our amendments.

So far as the sales tax is concerned I wish to submit that the taxable limit has been fluctuating from Rs. 3,000 upwards. But now as the honourable members are aware, it has been fixed at ten thousand rupees or more. It means that there is still great scope for its being raised. I have no hesitation in submitting that had the Government accepted our amendments at the very outset there would have been no hartals, no public agitation and no distrust in the minds of the people with regard to their administrative policy. What I wish to submit is this that Government on account of their short-sightedness are in the habit of rejecting the constructive suggestions made from time to time by the honourable members in the House for the amelioration of the poor. As far as I am concerned I wish to submit that I always sincerely offer them the best advice I can. But I am sorry to remark that they do not accept my amendments on account of their stubbornness. I wish to submit that this is not a matter of *zid*. I have always been trying my level best to bring the Government on the right path. I say it before God and man and without any fear of contradiction that I am in favour of maintaining the dignity of the Party in power. On the one hand I am in favour of maintaining the dignity of the Party in power, while on the other I realise the difficulties of the public and I find myself in duty bound to lay before the House with utmost clarity the difficulties under which public in general and the poor people of my constituency in particular are labouring and to urge upon the Government to take necessary steps to remove their difficulties.

With your permission, Sir, I wish to make a few submissions in regard to the house-tax. At the time when it was proposed by the Government to impose this tax, I repeatedly requested the Government not to impose this tax on the poor house-owners, because they were not in a position to bear the brunt of this tax. I also brought this point to the notice of the Government that the majority of house-owners could not afford to pay this tax and that their condition was so miserable that they could hardly manage to make both ends meet. (*Interruptions.*) I am only citing an instance. In spite of the repeated representations made by the poor house-owners to exempt them from this tax, their grievances were not heard at all. Men and women in large numbers went to the Town Hall to express their grievances before the officers but in vain. Certain amendments were also moved by me in the House with a view to exempt the poor people in general and the poor widows in particular from this tax. But the stone-hearted Government did not take pity on them and my amendments were thrown away. It was with great difficulty that Government decided to exempt those house-owners from this tax who let out their houses on Rs. 5 per month. It will not be out of place to mention here that in a big city like Lahore there are very few houses of five rupees rent per month and if there are any they have not been exempted from this tax. After having imposed this tax Government seem to be quite satisfied with the enormous amount realised by them. They are also feeling

[Begum Rashida Latif Baji.]

happy on account of their so-called good deeds. But I make bold to submit that women-folk come to me day and night and request me to relieve them of the burden of this tax. They are so much dejected and disgusted that they do not know what to do and where to go. They relate to me the stories of their untold miseries which I think are not expressible in the House. Some say that they sell their utensils and pay the tax while others say that they pay this tax by toiling day and night. They want me to approach the Government and get this tax exempted. I would request the Government to appoint a committee to enquire into the condition of these poor tax-payers and devise ways and means to exempt them from this tax. In this connection I wish to suggest that this tax should be levied on those house-owners only who can afford to pay and that it should not be imposed on those poor house-owners who cannot even make their both ends meet. I wish to point out that during these abnormal times when the prices of commodities have risen to unconscionable levels, poor people find it very difficult to make their both ends meet not to speak of paying this tax and thereby filling the coffers of the Government. When the miseries of the poor are laid before the honourable members sitting on the treasury benches they do not move even their little finger. Perhaps they feel that silence is golden. But I am sorry to remark that the people outside the House are nicknaming the Government as *Kafan chor* meaning thereby the meanest thieves.

**Mr. Speaker :** The honourable member will please speak to the motion.

**Begum Rashida Latif Baji :** Sir, I am only expressing the views of the people and am placing the defects of the Government before the House so that they may mend their ways and abstain from harming the poor. It is only for their good that I am making these observations so that they may realise the difficulties of the public.

**Mr. Speaker :** The lady member is absolutely irrelevant.

**Begum Rashida Latif Baji :** Very well, Sir, through you I would once again request the Government to keep in view the hard lot of those poor shopkeepers whose yearly sale amounts to Rs. 20,000 and thus exempt them from this tax. In the end I would request the honourable members in the House, who perform their duties honestly, to give their whole-hearted support to this amendment.

With these words, Sir, I move the amendment for the acceptance of the House.

**Mr. Speaker :** Clause under consideration, amendment moved is—

That in part (a) (i), line 2, for the word "ten", the word "twenty", be substituted.

**Shaikh Sadiq Hasan (Amritsar City, Muhammadan, Urban) (Urdu) :** You will remember, Sir, that in 1941 when this Bill was passed for the first time the limit was five thousand rupees and a suggestion was made by me to the Government to raise it to ten thousand rupees. But it was refused at that time although it was not before long that the Government realised their mistake and raised the limit to ten thousand rupees and now you see, Sir, that in 1944 they are again asking for the permission of the House to make an amendment in the Bill. Now the circumstances are very much different as compared with those of 1941 and this fact has already been admitted by the Honourable Finance Minister who has remarked in the course of his speeches that the expenses have risen by about three times as compared with the pre-war years. I am, therefore, of the opinion that what the honourable lady member has said in support of her amendment is quite correct and true in view of the prevailing

11 a. m.

conditions in the province. But what I would like to submit in this connection is that if this matter is settled by way of compromise and mutual understanding it would certainly be more desirable; as I am one of those who think that much greater objects can be achieved through reconciliation and compromise. However, if the limit of turnover is raised from Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 15,000 by the Government, even through a compromise, we would consider it a great achievement. In Bengal the taxable limit is twenty thousand rupees. I do not see any reason why it should remain ten thousand in the Punjab. I think, now it is high time for the Government to change it into fifteen thousand rupees as I feel sure that a petty shopkeeper who sells goods worth fifteen thousand rupees annually is not making much profit out of it and on the other side we should not be oblivious of the fact that he has to meet the expenses of the family and the shop as well, while the cost of living has enormously risen due to war. Not even this but the overhead charges of a petty shopkeeper are proportionately greater than those of a big shopkeeper. Nobody can deny this fact. I, for one, do not think that a shopkeeper would ever earn a net profit of more than fifty rupees per month by making a sale of goods worth fifteen thousand rupees annually. He has to live respectably, he has to put on clean clothes, and he has to meet several other expenses like those of maintaining his family, etc. May I ask how the poor man would be able to meet all these expenses with a meagre sum of fifty rupees per mensem? Under the present abnormal times the cost of living is so high that even the payment of this tax is an unbearable burden on the petty shopkeepers, not to speak of the new expenditure incurred in connection with the maintenance of an accounts clerk. Hence this is an additional burden on their back.

One thing more I would like to say and that is in regard to corruption and dishonesty. None can deny the fact that corruption is rampant everywhere and I would say without any fear of contradiction that even the political organisations are not immune from it. Unfortunately corruption is present there as well although the political leaders will never feel inclined to agree with me in saying so. However, I may point out that no class, under the sun, can claim themselves to consist of angels. The income of the petty shopkeepers, as I have already submitted, is not much and finding no exit open to them to save their skin, they have no alternative but to grease the palm of the petty officers. Therefore, the petty officers appointed by the Government and the shopkeepers both are guilty of this offence. I, therefore, assert that the Government in view of all these facts and in order to lessen the chances of corruption should raise the limit to the extent of fifteen thousand rupees. Even in this respect it is a fit case. Besides, I know that the first principle of levying taxation is that the income accrued through taxation measures should be big and the troubles and difficulties of the taxpayers should be the minimum. But here the case is quite the reverse. Income is less and the difficulties faced by the taxpayers are great. It may be said by the honourable members representing the zamindars of the province, when the petty zamindars have not been exempted from paying taxes to the Government why should the petty shopkeepers hesitate in paying the taxes to the Government's treasury? I may assure them in this connection that I would be the first man to join hands with them if they come forward with such a demand as to get the taxes remitted by the Government. I would be one with them to stand for the remission of taxes of the petty zamindars. I quite agree with the Government that they are sure to undergo a loss by raising the limit to fifteen thousand rupees. Supposing the limit is raised to fifteen thousand the Government will surely undergo a small loss. Hence a question arises—How to meet this loss incurred by the Government? All that I can say in this respect is



[Sh. Sadiq Hasan.]

that the present war has created far more distinction between the rich and the poor. In fact the poor are getting poorer and the rich are getting richer. The high prices are before you which have worsened the position of the poor. A thing which previously used to be sold at one rupee is at present sold at Rs. 3. In other words it means that a person who was getting Rs. 30 a month is now actually getting Rs. 10; as the value of money has considerably fallen down, and a man who was getting Rs. 60 is getting now Rs. 20. I, therefore, see no reason why the petty shopkeepers should not be given the relief we are asking for. I know very well that there is a lot of money in the market, but smaller shopkeepers are not earning enough. Only those at the top are piling up money. I can say in proof of my contention that in Amritsar alone big shopkeepers at the top have earned about a hundred crores. The result has been that they have bought all the property that belonged to the poor. May I, therefore, suggest that while the tax on the poor should be reduced by raising the taxable limit of turnover from ten thousand to fifteen thousand, the loss thus incurred by the Government should be met by taxing the rich. In this connection I may also point out that if the Government is to hold an enquiry regarding the new properties which some rich men have bought, staggering facts would be revealed. Where has this money come from? It has not fallen from Heaven. It has come from the pockets of the big and small zamindars, poor urbanites and working classes. Big businessmen and important shopkeepers at the top have earned a lot by profiteering. They have made crores on account of the cloth business only. The situation in the cloth market was such as to enable the shopkeepers to have earned with both the hands and it is only now that the Government have taken stock of the situation and have imposed price control on the cloth. Still the Government should do a lot in this respect and I would, therefore, suggest to them not to sit idle as they have to put an end to this ever-growing extreme poverty and extreme wealth in the province. I may assure the Honourable Finance Minister that by raising the limit of ten thousand rupees to fifteen thousand rupees he will be earning the gratitude of the petty shopkeepers by thus affording them a considerable relief. I think the Honourable Minister for Finance must have at least a soft corner in his heart for the very petty shopkeepers who sometimes find it very difficult to keep the wolf away from the door. He may tax the rich people who have gathered great wealth due to war. By doing so, I feel confident, the Government will be in a position to spend the surplus amount of money thus realized from the rich class of the province for the good of those persons who have sent their kith and kin abroad for the high purpose of saving the soil of their country from the barbarous attack of the enemy. A committee appointed for such purpose would devise ways and means to recover money from the rich and spend it on the poor. We will not object if twice as much or ten times as much money is recovered from the rich classes provided it is spent on the poor people.

**Sardar Santokh Singh** (Eastern Towns, Sikh, Urban) : Sir, I rise to support the motion that has been moved by Baji Ji. It will be agreed on all sides of the House that this amendment if accepted will ameliorate the condition of the petty traders. The average daily sale of a trader comes to Rs. 27 only when his annual taxable turnover is fixed at Rs. 10,000. On this he has to pay sales tax; he has to pay rent and his overhead charges out of this, and has also to meet the salary of a clerk for keeping his accounts which he is bound to under the present Act, otherwise he is very much harassed by the sales tax authorities. Assuming that his profit is 2 annas per rupee—it cannot be more—his income amounts to Rs. 3 or 4 per day out of which he has to provide for his family and has to meet,

all other expenses for his shop. I feel the Government must have a soft corner in their heart at least for such poor traders. They may tax the big merchants, but it will be very hard for these poor petty shopkeepers to meet all those expenses and to pay sales tax also. If the exemption limit is raised from ten to twenty thousand rupees I am certain that the Government will not stand to lose much. It will after all be a petty sum. There is yet another aspect of this question. Things which were worth six or seven thousand rupees only two years ago when this Act was passed are worth Rs. 20,000 to-day, so that from that point of view also if a person was charged sales tax on sales amounting then to Rs. 10,000, equity and justice demand that this limit of taxation should now be raised to at least Rs. 20,000. Consider this from whatever point of view you may, I am sure that you will agree with me that the raising of this limit from 10 to 20 thousand rupees will be a very reasonable one. Fortunately for us we in the province have a big surplus budget and the Government can very well afford to make this concession for these petty traders which I am sure will be appreciated by all and not grudged by any. I feel confident that the Honourable Minister of Finance will ungrudgingly grant this relief. The request is so very reasonable that the whole House should stand for it and thus earn the gratitude of these petty traders. I would again request the Government to give this matter their most sympathetic consideration and do something for these poor people, because the Government always say that they are out to help the poor whether urban or rural. The grant of this request will be an acid test of their sincerity. With these words, I strongly support the amendment of Baji Ji.

**Mian Muhammad Nurullah** (Lyallpur, Muhammadan, Rural): I also rise to support the amendment moved by the honourable lady member, Baji Ji. All the facts have been ably gone into by the Leader of the Opposition. He has told the House that Rs. 27 per day would be the sale of a petty shopkeeper whose total sale per year is Rs. 10,000 and that would bring him Rs. 3 or 4 a day as his profit. Out of this he has to meet all the expenses of his shop and has to maintain his family as well and has to pay all the taxes levied by this Government and the Central Government. My point is that the income of such a person would be equal to that of a labourer; because a labourer in these days earns from 3 to 4 rupees a day. The other day I quoted the working class living index number and to illustrate my point I would like to quote it again to the House. The working class living index number has risen from 125 in 1941 to 209 in 1942 and 359 in 1943 and it may now be 825 in view of the control of prices. Now if you compare the rise in prices from 1941 to what it is to-day you will find that prices have risen 3 or 4 times and therefore there is every justification to raise the exemption from 10 to 20 thousand rupees. While discussing this the honourable member for Amritsar remarked that the zamindars paying land revenue up to Rs. 5 should also be exempted. The Government set up a committee and the committee recommended that this exemption should be made. I pointed out at that time that the total amount of land revenue thus collected was only 36 lacs—that was not much, it amounted only to one-tenth of the total surplus of this province. If the Government is not giving this much relief to the poor they are acting exactly in the same way as the miser did in that story which we read in our primers. There were two misers who had a pot of ghee each. While the one only touched his bread with his ghee the other outdid him by simply pointing his morsel of bread towards the ghee pot. He did save all the ghee, but at the cost of his health. Similarly, by showing this miserly spirit the Government are reducing the earning capacity of the poor people. By not giving the proper relief now to the starving people they are reducing them to smithereens and ashes. I

[Mian Mohd. Nurullah.]

assure the Government that if they agree to grant this relief to the poor they will be happy later on.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang** (West Lahore Division, General, Rural) :

This is a very small amendment and I would not have considered it necessary to speak on it particularly after my honourable friend Sardar Santokh Singh had so ably supported it. But during his speech I was reminded of the speech of the Honourable Finance Minister made by him the other day at a meeting of the Federation of Industries in this province. I had an occasion to refer to that speech on a previous occasion also. While addressing that meeting which was attended by a large number of businessmen, merchants and industrialists, he was pleased to show very great sympathy for the poor shopkeepers and he admitted that if he had to carry on the business of a shopkeeper—which he might very well have been doing but for a fortunate accident—he would have found it difficult to carry on his business in the face of the great difficulties which have been imposed upon the business people. He was himself the person who had imposed these hardships on the poor shopkeepers. He shed crocodile tears before the merchants and shopkeepers in order to show them that he had great sympathy for them. If he had real sympathy he must do something for them when an opportunity arises. Here is that opportunity and he can do something in this Bill for them. What has he done to alleviate their misery and sufferings? Instead of making some real and substantial changes in the Act he only proposes mere verbal changes here and there in the Bill. He does not translate his sympathy into action, his sympathy for the people who belong to a class to which he himself belongs. 'Crocodile tears' is the only expression which can be used for his profession of sympathy he evinced at that meeting; otherwise there is no reason why he should not have introduced some real material changes in the present law which is causing such great hardship to the poor shopkeepers. He knows—he cannot deny it—that the price of commodities has increased. He also knows that the petty shopkeepers who are affected by this amendment are not wholesale importers. They are only retailers who cannot sell more than Rs. 25 or Rs. 30 worth of goods per day. They purchase goods from the wholesalers at a very high price and sell them in retail to petty purchasers. That is their business. Their margin of profit is not the same as that of wholesale dealers who might have stocked goods at a very cheap price even before the war. My friend from Amritsar was evidently referring to these people. He could not have referred to retailers. He could have referred only to big people who had large stocks of piece goods, liquors, general merchandise and so on. It is these people that have made huge profits. There is not the slightest doubt about that. Even in their case, if they had made huge profits their income-tax has been increased. As the honourable members may be aware if they made more than Rs. 36,000, the whole of the excess will be taken away in the shape of excess profits tax and if they made up to Rs. 36,000 about Rs. 17,000 was taken away by the central Government in income-tax and supertax, so that even these poor robbers are fallen upon by bigger robbers, the Government of India in the Finance Department. The Government of India rob them to their heart's content. But we are dealing here with the poor retailer. His margin of profit is very small. Suppose he is a cloth merchant. He buys cloth at Rs. 1-4-0 per yard for which formerly he used to pay only four annas. Very few people can afford to buy at more than Rs. 1-4-0 and so the retailer can hardly make one anna per yard at the most. So his margin of profit does not go beyond Rs. 8 or 4 per day. His business has really gone down. If his turnover before the war, or even one or two years ago was Rs. 25 in monetary

value, his present turnover cannot be more than one-third or one-fourth of it in quantity. It must be remembered that the retailer has to pay higher price as compared with what was prevailing before the war. Therefore, his business in quantity having gone down his case has become very pitiable. Therefore, the member-in-charge of this Bill who is in a position to help these poor shopkeepers and who has been expressing sympathy for them outside, should have done something for them. Here is a little amendment moved by the honourable lady member. I am really sorry that the honourable member from Amritsar should have reduced the amount from Rs. 20,000 to Rs. 15,000. (*Shahid Sadiq Hassan*: It is only as a compromise). I can understand that. Otherwise even he will like that the limit should be raised to Rs. 20,000.

Here then is an opportunity for the Honourable Finance Minister to show his sympathy for these poor shopkeepers. If the sympathy he expressed was not mere lip sympathy, if the tears he shed were not crocodile tears, here is the opportunity for him to prove his sympathy for these people whose poverty cannot be denied. There is a surplus of three crores in the budget. The whole of it is going to be spent on one party in this province; and it is going to be spent to deprive these very people of their means of livelihood, as he said in his budget speech that with these three crores shops will be opened by Government or their agents in order to take away the bread from the mouth of the starving shopkeepers. Can he not spend a small bit out of these three crores for the much needed relief of the poor shopkeepers who are finding it difficult to make both ends meet? Here is the Finance Minister boasting of his surplus of three crores as if it was due to some magic of his. Not at all. It was due to the misfortune of the people who had to pay high prices for their bread in this province and elsewhere which enabled the zamindars to pay their revenue not only for the current year but also the old arrears which were due from them. This is how there is a surplus and he cannot, therefore, take any credit for it. However, he is quite welcome to his boast, we do not grudge him his pride or credit for having shown this surplus; but let him use a portion of this surplus for the benefit and relief of these poor people. He cannot deny that these people are really starving and that they are in sore need of some relief. If he can express so much sympathy for them outside, I do not see why it evaporates when he enters the Cabinet room to sit and discuss these matters with his colleagues. (*An honourable member*: He is between the devil and the deep sea). I am not quite sure about it. But in any case he would neither be drowned by the one nor swallowed by the other if he evinces his sympathy in some concrete form. With his eloquence and his knowledge of economics he can persuade his colleagues to allow him to translate his sympathies into action. In conclusion, let me say that it is no use expressing lip sympathy. Here is an opportunity to show real sympathy and I expect that the Finance Minister will not oppose the amendment which the lady member has proposed.

**Rai Bahadur Lala Gopal Das** (Kangra North, General Rural) (*Urdu*): Sir, I rise to support the amendment moved by Baji Sahiba. I do not think I need dilate on it as my honourable friends have dealt with it at length. But I want to draw your attention to one important point. And it is this: if my friends look up the budget, they will find that the estimate of receipts under the Punjab General Sales Tax Act for the year 1944-45 is shown as Rs. 25,54,000. Similarly, the estimate of receipts under the Urban Immovable Property Tax Act is Rs. 22,06,600. As against these receipts, the total collection charges for the immovable property tax and the Punjab general sales tax will amount to Rs. 6,21,160. I take it that the collection charges on the recovery of both the

[R. B. Lala Gopal Das.]

taxes are approximately equal. It means that Government will incur an expenditure of Rs. 8,10,000 for collecting a sum of Rs. 25 lakhs, by way of the sales tax. If this sum is deducted from the estimates of receipts under the sales tax, the remainder will come to about Rs. 22 lakhs. If the amendment moved by Baji Sahiba is accepted, it will mean that Government will have to forego only a sum of Rs. 1,00,000 or Rs. 1,25,000 at the utmost. That is not a loss which Government cannot bear, especially when they have a huge surplus of more than three crores at their disposal. I think when the year ends this surplus will increase to six crores instead of three crores as is the custom with Punjab finances. Till the actual figures are known, I am not in a position to offer constructive suggestions as to how this surplus should be utilized. Possibly, the Honourable Ministers now present in the House, in order to avoid such a situation from arising in the province, may run away with one crore of rupees each! Moreover, if Government accept this amendment and raise the taxable limit from Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 20,000 it will also reduce the collection charges as well. I assure them that they will not have to incur any substantial loss if they accept the motion. I hope the Honourable Minister will kindly accept the amendment moved by Baji Sahiba.

**Lala Bhagat Ram Choda** (Jullundur, General, Rural) (Urdu): Sir, I rise to support the amendment now before the House. Some of my friends have remarked that traders with a turnover of Rs. 27 or Rs. 28 per day earn from Rs. 3 to Rs. 4 as profits daily. That is not the case. On account of the imposition of price control the margin of profits has fallen down. Such traders get at the most a profit of one anna in a rupee. It is only fair that they should be provided some relief, and the taxable limit be raised from Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 20,000. Besides there are smaller traders whose sales do not exceed Rs. 10 or Rs. 20 daily. But they are forced by the tax collectors to keep accounts of their sales and in order to ward them off, they have to grease their palms. If this taxable limit is raised to Rs. 20,000 then those traders who have stocks worth Rs. 200 or Rs. 300 in their shops will not be called upon to keep accounts. Such instances are not lacking where the tax collectors in order to squeeze some money out of the petty shopkeepers have asked them, merely to harass them, to keep accounts of their sales. It is therefore requested that steps be taken to see that the poor shopkeepers are not harassed by the tax collectors.

Now the value of money has fallen enormously. The smaller traders with sales of Rs. 10,000 or over are not earning sufficient to keep their bodies and souls together. The limit of Rs. 10,000 was fixed when the value of money was much greater than what it is to-day. At that time *ata* was selling at 8 or 10 seers a rupee. Now one can get only four seers for a rupee. If a trader gets only Rs. 2 per day as profit that is not even sufficient for his family's bare living. I think this is a God-sent opportunity and fullest advantage should be taken by the Finance Minister to afford some sort of relief to the poor hard hit shopkeepers. In these days they are in a very sorry plight. In fact they have been reduced to the state of grass-cutters though actually they are not doing that work.

Besides, there are dealers whose income is very small but still as their turnover is considered to be large, sales tax is assessed on them. In Ludhiana there are many persons who have set up a machine or two for doing some work. Sales tax is assessed on them because they turn out manufactured things worth Rs. 30 or Rs. 40 though they may not be actually sold out. I request the

Honourable Ministers to exempt such persons from the assessment of the sales tax. Similarly, my submission is that traders with a turnover of Rs. 27 or 28 daily are not at all big traders. They should not be asked to pay sales tax. I think Government will have no objection to this amendment as it has not been sponsored by the Opposition party but by one of their own members.

**Minister of Finance** (The Honourable Sir Manohar Lal): A speaker on the other side has developed the whole of his argument as a personal attack on me. I have been represented as saying that the large surplus in our budget is a matter of particular credit to me. May I remind the House that in a speech extending over more than 20 pages, the word "credit" does not find place anywhere, much less that I was claiming any credit for myself. However, it is a matter of some compliment to me—that whenever any argument is developed here on any issue even remotely economic reference is made to certain statements by me, and it is said on the basis of these when taken with proposed legislation that I am shedding or I shed some crocodile tears. I am accustomed to do no such thing. If I had the art of eloquence, so happily the prerogative of some on the opposite side it would be possible for me to say when and where some one shed any such tears. Far be it from me to attempt it.

An attack was also made that I had not the grit and strength to introduce a Bill of a very different character from what it is. A good deal of argument has been addressed to this House, but may I say in all humility that the honourable members who have spoken in support of this amendment introduced by a lady member, seem to be absolutely unaware of the real nature of the sales tax. The incidence of this tax, as I have on previous occasions pointed out, is not on small shopkeeper. It is on the consumer. No burden except perhaps a very slight one which can be determined under such circumstances, could possibly rest on a shopkeeper. The meaning of the sales tax is a tax attached to a sale to be passed on to a consumer. (*Interruption*). If people would not understand what a sales tax is, nobody can teach them. But the meaning of the sales tax, I stand here to say, is that it is a tax paid by the consumer when he effects a purchase in a shop, and the whole of the argument that the small shopkeeper is the only party hit by this tax in a particular manner is wholly misconceived.

Now may I say this in addition to the real nature of the sales tax? It has been said that now that we have a very large surplus a case naturally arises when the limit of exemption for this sales tax should be enlarged as the additional income we get from sales between Rs. 10,000 and Rs. 20,000 is no longer required by the Punjab finances. Sir, you are aware that surplus in this province is not an exceptional thing. The Government of the United Provinces have had a very large surplus. Madras has had a much bigger surplus and you may not also be unaware of the fact that in more than one province in India during the past few months the sales tax has been increased so as to make it yield a much larger income than they used to have before. In the province of Madras which cannot be said to be a province of averagely rich men even if the argument did apply, the sales tax has been so enlarged as to yield a further income running into crores—a crore and sixty lakhs since October 1, 1948. By this present Bill of ours no effort is made whatsoever to secure for the province any larger income. If the words 'more than ten thousand' occur there, they occur there purely for formal and technical reasons, and cannot be converted into an opportunity to raise the pitch of the tax, to use a technical phrase, from Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 20,000. May I say this further, that when this sum of Rs. 10,000 had been arrived at, it was after very elaborate examination, proper discussion and due care and no

[Minister of Finance]

occasion whatsoever exists at any rate to-day on this Bill to increase the limit from Rs. 10,000 to 20,000 or even 15,000.

References have been made in passing to what an economist might say on a matter of this kind. May I say this? Whatever doubt there may or may not be, certain it is that the weight of this tax does not tend to become heavier the heavier the general level of prices. All would agree on this on even a slight reflexion. If this tax is to be paid by a consumer on his purchase of say Re. 1—suppose he pays 2 pies or whatever it be—the weight and burden of the two pies on him is no more because of any rise in the level of prices, than it was. It cannot be said that because the cost of living index has gone up, say from 100 to 400, therefore the actual burden of this tax has become four-fold.

**Rai Bahadur Lala Gopal Das :** Is it on the value of the thing or on the quantity?

**Minister of Finance :** On the value, not on the quantity. Whatever, one may say to the contrary, you must come to the conclusion that the burden of this tax is not heavier in the measure in which the level of prices has gone up. It is futile to argue that because the price level has become heavier, because the poor man has to pay more for his living on the same standard as before, therefore, the actual burden of this tax has in the same measure increased.

**Rai Bahadur Lala Gopal Das :** May I ask a question? Suppose the price of a commodity was Re. 1 a maund or Re. 1 a yard or whatever it is. Supposing the price rises to Rs. 4. Will the person who is selling that commodity have the same standard of sale which he had when the price was Re. 1?

**Minister of Finance :** This is a matter on which no precise answer can be given. At the same time most of us are aware of the broad fact that the number of transactions of purchase and sale in our markets had not decreased much if at all as a result of the rise in prices. Let any one who cares to study this do so, and having studied it come to controvert the general proposition that the weight of the sales tax does not tend to increase as the level of prices goes up. One has to translate this in any ordinary transaction in which one enters to see that the whole body of this taxation has not become more burdensome.

Another argument was with regard to corruption. That is a standard argument in the House whatever the occasion may be. I do not wish to speak of corruption as it may be prevailing in the Punjab or not prevailing. But I am here to assert—I do not wish to make it a light statement—that the Sales Tax Department is working in a manner where probably there is least corruption prevailing, if any corruption exists here at all. I have had recently occasion to examine this matter. I have gone over the names of the people who are in charge of the working of the sales tax. I have gone over the names of officers whom we have engaged for this purpose and I am free to say—I do not wish again to institute any comparison—that this department is singularly free from any taint of corruption whatsoever.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** You encourage them by these remarks.

**Minister of Finance :** If one would indulge in sheer *ipse dixit* in a strong way there is no answer to that. Argument has been advanced that the disparity between the poor and the rich has enlarged as a result of the war. That may be so. It is very difficult to define the exact measure of this disparity, but as I said before, the matter is totally irrelevant to the question.

as to the pitch where the taxation in the present case should be. I was going to introduce a formal argument. It has nothing to do with this broader question that is really before us now. The whole scope of this Bill was merely to remove certain administrative difficulties that had been felt in the working of this Bill. It was not the object of this Bill to increase the exemption limit or to lower it in any way. The words 'more than Rs. 10,000' occur for a purely technical reason as a matter of draftsmanship. We are not touching at all the question of the exemption limit. To say here to-day that the opportunity should have been taken, because of the lot of the shopkeepers, to raise the exemption limit, is wholly and totally an irrelevant consideration. That really disposes of, if I may say so, completely the amendment that has been moved by the lady member. So far as the heavily developed personal attack on me is concerned, I wish to take no notice of it.

**Chaudhri Ram Sarup** (Rohtak Central, General, Rural) (*Urdu*): Sir, as far as the original measure is concerned, the Finance Minister tries to help his community to the greatest extent. Some honourable members are condemning him, but I personally think that all abuses and cries are useless. You may see for yourself, Sir, that the words "more than 10,000 rupees" are inserted. What does this mean? (*Interruptions*). The Finance Minister is showing full sympathy towards his community and every time, whenever there is an opportunity, he helps them. But in spite of all his efforts he is condemned by his community. (*Interruptions*.)

**Sardar Santokh Singh**: What does the honourable member understand by "more than Rs. 10,000"? Does it actually offer any relief in the real sense?

**Chaudhri Ram Sarup**: If it is so, then there was no need of bringing forward this measure at all. As far as the amendment under consideration is concerned, some concessions are granted to the people. In the face of these circumstances the Opposition is in no way in a position to make personal attacks against the Honourable Minister of Finance. The Honourable Finance Minister in his speech has said that the ultimate burden will fall upon the consumer. If it is so then I protest against it. The Honourable Finance Minister should be kind enough in explaining the point and if he too means what we have understood from him, then, Sir, it is very difficult for me to vote for that. Times are very hard and the consumer is already very much hard-pressed and his burden should be made lighter. Sir, with these words I conclude my speech.

**Mr. P. H. Guest** (Punjab Commerce and Industry): It was not my intention to speak on this amendment but I feel that the speech made by our Honourable Finance Minister has led me to make one or two remarks. The Honourable Finance Minister referred to the speeches dealing with the sales tax as a general proposition and I entirely agree with such an eminent economist when it is considered as a general proposition, but in this particular case I feel that one important fact has been omitted and it is that we are dealing with a very particular case. In the first place the Honourable the Finance Minister referred to the fact that the sales tax is passed on to the consumer. I would like any mathematician of prominence to explain to me how a shopkeeper, who sells his material in one anna and half an anna quantities, is going to deduct 25 per centum of one anna and pass it on to the consumer. That being so, I feel that some allowance should be made for those shop-keepers who do business on a small scale, that is, round about ten to fifteen thousand rupees per annum. It is on behalf of those shopkeepers that I do plead that the Government



[Mr. P. H. Guest]

should have a little more sympathy towards them. I maintain that the sales tax cannot probably be passed on by those shopkeepers selling half an anna, one anna and two annas worth of material. While people of my standing can readily pass the sales tax on, these small shopkeepers will have the greatest difficulty in passing it on. The second point was based on the fact that the tax is lighter as compared with the increase in the cost of the commodities. The Punjab Ministry has, in the interest of the agriculturist—and I am not here to argue that point now—tried to do their best to maintain the price of the staple article of diet not only of the agriculturist but the small shopkeeper. The shopkeeper has to live just as well as anybody else and his cost of living has increased in the same way as that of the police constable whose case I took up recently. The cost of living has gone up so enormously that a small margin of profit is not sufficient. So, mine are two points. First of all, the shopkeeper cannot satisfactorily pass on the sales tax, I mean the small shopkeeper cannot satisfactorily pass on the sales tax and, secondly, the cost of living of the shopkeeper has increased enormously and it is because of these two reasons that I do plead that there should be at least some increase in his minimum figure which will be put on the sales tax. (*Hear, hear*).

**Mian Abdul Aziz** (Outer Lahore, Muhanmadan, Urban) (*Urdu*): Sir,

12 noon.

I wish to make a few submissions in regard to the motion now before the House. The Honourable the Finance Minister was pleased to remark in the course of his speech that the accusation laid upon him of shedding crocodile tears was absolutely baseless and unfounded. In this connection I wish to say a word or two.

**Mr. Speaker**: The honourable member is not speaking to the motion under discussion.

**Mian Abdul Aziz**: Sir, I am coming to that stage soon. I wish to draw the attention of the House to the point that the Honourable Finance Minister was pleased to give a patient and sympathetic hearing to the grievances of the shopkeepers from time to time regarding the sales tax. In this connection I wish to point out that the Honourable Minister did not move his little finger to help the shopkeepers except giving them ready access to place their grievances before him. I would, therefore, say that these nominal concessions given by him were nothing more than an eye-wash. So far as the Amendment Bill is concerned I wish to submit that my honourable friend Chaudhri Ram Sarup subscribed to this view that the brunt of taxation was going to fall upon the petty shopkeepers but on hearing from the Honourable Finance Minister that the brunt of taxation was going to fall upon the consumer, he opposed it tooth and nail. Let us see if the burden of taxation falls on the consumer or the shopkeeper. A shopkeeper by making a sale of Rs. 10,000 a year, would earn a profit of about Rs. 500 or Rs. 600. By deducting the overhead charges, etc., his net profit would come to Rs. 20 or Rs. 25 per month. Besides, the shopkeeper has to maintain his accounts, etc., and the profit that he gets is not commensurate with the hard labour and the huge investment that he puts in. It is clear from this that a shopkeeper is handicapped in many ways.

Then the Honourable Finance Minister was pleased to remark that reference was made by the honourable members to the effect that cases of corruption and dishonesty were of daily occurrence in the Sales Tax Department. I am also in agreement with those honourable members who felt that no steps were taken by the Government to eradicate corruption in the Sales Tax Department. To this the Honourable Finance Minister replied by saying that he saw the list of such

persons, with close attention. I really fail to understand as to what the Honourable Minister means by saying that he saw the list with close attention. Can we deduce from this that the names of the honest persons only were entered in that list? It is really a pity that the Government have done nothing substantial to remove the difficulties of the shopkeepers in this direction. If the Honourable Finance Minister were to go personally into the market and have a face-to-face talk with the shopkeepers without giving them his real identity, he would see for himself the hard conditions under which they are at present labouring. What I wish to point out is that corruption is the order of the day in the province in general and in the Sales Tax Department in particular. In this connection I wish to relate a story which very aptly portrays the habit of those officers in the department who cannot do without resorting to corruption and bribery. Once upon a time there was a relative of a king, who resorted to bribery and corruption. The people got tired of him and went to their king with the complaint that his relative resorted to bribery. The king did not want to award him any severe punishment according to the practice of the land as he was his nearest relative. He wanted to relieve his subjects of this trouble and he at the same time was in favour of providing some work for him. Thereupon he decided to appoint him on a job of counting the waves rippling on the ocean. One day he saw a ship coming from a far off distance. The ship came nearer and caused some disturbance while he was counting the waves. He went to the captain of the ship and took him to task for causing disturbance to him. The captain felt sorry for this and in return greased his palm. Thus the relative of the king continued resorting to bribery even at the sea shore and devised ways and means to get his palm greased. I wish to submit that the Honourable Finance Minister should see for himself the difficulties under which a shopkeeper is labouring at present. He should make all-out efforts to eradicate bribery and corruption and bring such officers to book who resort to these unfair means.

The next point to which I wish to draw the attention of the House is concerning the amendment moved by the honourable lady member, Baji Sahiba. In this connection I wish to point out that on a net sale of Rs. 20,000 a year, a shopkeeper would hardly make a profit of Rs. 100 per month excluding the overhead charges, etc. At the very outset when the Bill was sponsored in the House the attention of the Government was drawn to these necessary amendments. It will not be out of place to mention here that since the advent of the Unionist Ministry five or six Bills of this type have so far been rushed through in this House and each Bill has been amended five or six times. I have been watching from the very beginning and so far no heed has ever been paid to the amendments brought forward by honourable members of the House with a view to make them acceptable to all. So far as the motion now before the House is concerned, I wish to submit that Mr. P. H. Guest also subscribed to the view that the brunt of taxation is going to fall upon the petty shopkeepers on the ground that the prices of essential commodities are shooting to unconscionable levels.

I wish to submit that I have great regard for the Honourable Finance Minister. He was pleased to remark from his economic point of view that the sale is greater when the price of articles is higher. But I wish to point out that the prices of commodities have risen sky-high and as a consequence there is remarkable decrease in the sale. I wish to conduct the Honourable Minister to pre-war days when things were sold at comparatively cheaper rates and a consumer could find every necessary commodity available in the market. But the reverse is the condition prevailing at present in the province. Previously we used to purchase an electric bulb on a payment of annas five or six, but now we hardly succeed

[Mian Abdul Aziz]

in getting the same bulb at the rate of Rs. 8-8-0 and naturally an average person of my means will not be in a position to go in for this bulb. I wish to bring this point home to the Honourable Finance Minister that there is no doubt about it that his income has been enhanced. But may I take the liberty of asking him as to how many new suits and new ties have been purchased by him during the last two years? I am sorry to remark that the Honourable Minister has never thought of the pitiable lot of those shopkeepers who are hard hit by the abnormal conditions prevailing at present in the province.

I fail to understand the theory that the higher the prices, the greater the sale. I wish my honourable friend Sir Manohar Lal had thrown more light on this point as I am unable to understand it.

In the end let me once again appeal to the Minister-in-charge not to persist on the rejection of the amendment but in all fairness he should give this matter his most sympathetic consideration and accept it in the interests of the province. I feel sure that the honourable Minister-in-charge would not consider the acceptance of the amendment an insult for the Government. There is no insult in it and I say he should have no idea of it in his mind as the amendment has not been moved by the Opposition but by a lady member sitting on the Government side and also supported by some of the honourable members of the Unionist Party like Mr. P. H. Guest and Chaudhri Ram Sarup although the latter felt inclined to agree with the amendment only when he realised that the brunt of taxation was going to fall upon the consumers. With these few remarks, Sir, I strongly support the amendment now before the House and request the Honourable Finance Minister to accept it in all fairness.

**Mr. K. L. Rallia Ram** (West Central Punjab, Indian Christian): Sir, I did not wish to speak on this subject, but after hearing the elaborate arguments on both sides I could not resist the temptation of making a few observations. The Honourable the Finance Minister has very ably expounded the law of economics which governs the sales tax, and I am inclined to agree with him. I am very pleased to hear from him that there is no corruption in this department. My own fear is not against the big officers but against the *baboo*s who are appointed by the department and who harass these poor shopkeepers. There may be some understanding between the shopkeeper and the *baboo* which may not be known to anyone. I hope something will be done to guard against it. It is also a law of economics which we are witnessing in the country that the rich are getting richer and the poor are getting poorer. If we go into the city we see both things. We find more wealth being displayed, more silk being sold, and the markets seem to be as full as ever. On the other hand we see dire poverty, we see poor widows struggling just for a loaf of bread. They do not know how to keep the wolf away from the door; they live from day to day. I have never seen such a poverty in Lahore during the last many years that I have been here. I was, through the courtesy of the Deputy Commissioner, put in charge of a sugar and an atta depot. It was visited by thousands of poor people and I can assure you that my heart always melted. I could see poor widows with 4 or 5 children sitting the whole day only to get one rupee worth atta. Some of these widows were wearing only one piece of dirty cloth. When asked as to why they did not put on clean clothes, they replied 'we have not got the money to buy soap'. On the one hand we find this dire poverty of which we have not got any idea whatsoever, because we live in bungalows; we go on the Mall; we go to the Standard Restaurant in the evening where we find people, who have made money during the war, spending hundreds of rupees paying heavy bills for drinking. On the other,

if you go to the slums of Lahore you will see thousands of people who do not know where to get a loaf of bread. A number of people have told me that they take milk as if it was a medicine or a tonic: they cannot afford it. There is great poverty and I humbly believe that unless the Government does something, very fearful results would follow. People cannot go on tolerating all these hardships. There is no question of *aid*. Even if we have got a majority we should do what is reasonable and is acceptable to the people. Of course the Government spends that money for the good of the people, but at the same time we should not inflict hardships on the people. (*An honourable member*: Are you supporting the amendment?) I am not supporting the amendment, but I am telling the Minister to reconsider the question and find out a *via media*, not to stick to his own point but at the same time not to be carried away by the wave of excitement and agitation.

One thing I would like to refer to. I regret very much that since I have joined this Assembly after 20 years—I was a member of the old Council in 1921—24—I have noticed that personal attacks are made on the members and unparliamentary language is being used. I hope that members in future will avoid this. One thing I will say in defence of Sir Manohar Lal, the Finance Minister. The credit goes to him for the services that he has rendered to the Punjab. My opinion is that the Punjab is very lucky in having a man of his scholarship and his integrity. He is a man of genius and culture. I think he is a gentleman of the first water and we are proud of him. He has done his best and I do not think it is right to say that he is not doing his best. He is a very sincere man. We may differ with him, but I consider it sportsmanship on my part to acknowledge his merit. I would appeal to the Minister to examine the argument put forward by Begum Rashida Latif Baji—I do not know how far it is correct—that on a sale of twenty thousand, the income would not be more than two thousand. I have had no time to work it out mathematically. If there is something in her argument we should not reject it simply because there will be a loss in the sales tax. Whatever the Minister may say I am afraid it is the *baboos* who are to blame. God save us from them. I know enough. I do not live in the city, but I daily pass through the busiest part of it. I see things with my eyes open. I see the condition of the shopkeepers. I know what the Corporation servants are doing. I know what the police are doing. I know it is the *baboo* who is to blame and not the big officers. I hope something will be done to guard the interests of the poor shopkeeper and save him from the harassment of these *baboos*.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang**: Sir, may I say a word? The last speaker has probably referred to me. Let me, with your permission, Mr. Speaker, point out to him that to point out the inconsistency of a Minister in public life outside this House and here is not a personal attack. Everyone has the right to expose the inconsistency of a Minister.

**Some Honourable Members**: Question may now be put, Sir.

**Mr. Speaker**: Question is—

That the question be now put.

*The motion was carried.*

**Begum Rashida Latif Baji (Urdu)**: Mr. Speaker, I hoped that the Honourable Minister of Finance would try to meet my arguments by logic but I am sorry to note that he has not given any cogent reason in support of his contention. It goes without saying that he annually prepares the budget very efficiently. But he prepares the budget of the rich while I prepare the budget

[Begum Rashida Latif Baji]

of the poor. I study the condition of the poor shopkeepers in the city and prepare the budget in accordance with their particular needs. (*Cheers*). The visitors of the Minister are wealthy people who are quite aware of the condition of the millionaires. But I am in touch with the destitute and poverty-stricken people and it was on the basis of this actual study of facts concerning the poor that I proposed this amendment. The Honourable Minister has referred to other provinces but he has not mentioned the case of Bengal where sales tax is imposed on stockists and not on the retail sellers. The Punjab Government is imposing an improper burden on the retailers, whose sale is limited and profit meagre. In Bengal gross sale amounting to twenty thousand rupees is exempt from the operation of the sales tax. I really wonder why no reply has been given to the points raised by me. Even now no attempt is being made to meet the objections raised by me. I had in fact enumerated my points numberwise and demanded a reply according to each number, point by point. Sir, I had carefully gone into each and every word of the Bill and studied it minutely. I had proposed the amendment in question after having ascertained the true facts of the case from the poor shopkeepers and after having arrived at proper conclusions. The Honourable Minister had said that the burden of this tax would fall on the shoulders of the consumers and not on those of the shopkeepers. That is not true. The shopkeepers will have to pay this tax after making deductions from their own accounts. This point can only be appreciated by those people who have to run a shop in these days. Other people cannot appreciate their difficulties.

After all, what progress have the industries made in the Punjab under the stewardship of the Honourable Minister of Finance? By going out into the market, we find that articles from the Central Provinces, the United Provinces, Bengal, Bombay and Madras are sold here in the Punjab and our own province does not produce anything to enter into competition with them. Even if some articles are produced in the Punjab, they are sold so dear that no one comes forward to pay the enormous price demanded for them. For example, let us take the case of *durries*. You will not be able to purchase ordinary Punjab *durry* for less than Rs. 8 or Rs. 10. But a better one than that will be available in the market which has been imported from other provinces, like the Central Provinces, Delhi or Bombay. This is the progress which our industries have made under the kind control of the Finance Minister, who holds the portfolio of Industry. Allahabad, Delhi and the cities of the Central Provinces abound in cloth which sells cheaper than that produced in the Punjab. After all what steps has the Punjab Government adopted in this connection? It is unable even to meet its own requirements of cloth in spite of the fact that cotton is produced in this province in abundance. On the other hand, the progress of industries is being hindered in the Punjab by imposing fresh taxes on industry. I had proposed this amendment to save the poor shopkeepers from the catastrophe. My object was that the limit fixed for the levy of income-tax be also taken to be the limit for imposing the sales tax. It goes without saying that no income-tax is charged up to the income of two thousand rupees per annum. If this limit is fixed for the imposition of the sales tax, it will be quite proper. We should not exceed the exemption limit fixed by the Income-tax Department. It is, therefore, sought that no sales tax be imposed up to the sale of twenty thousand rupees.

I wanted my points to be fully answered by the Government. (*An honourable member* : The Government has no reply to give.) Then let the Government

accept my amendment. Sir, the Government needs a staff of employees to collect the sales tax and a sum of Rs. 6 lakhs has been provided in the budget for this purpose. But if my amendment is accepted, there will be no need to employ such a large staff for this purpose. Income-tax is imposed on an income exceeding Rs. 2,000 per annum. Along with that the sales tax shall also be realized. When there are no expenses, then giving trouble to the people for a small sum is unjust. A popular Government spends money realized from the people on the poor. Therefore the better course is not to realise money from the poor petty shopkeepers. Most of them have invested borrowed money on their shops. There are some others who have sold the ornaments of their wives, mothers or sisters in order to get money for their shops. These people have to pay back that money as well, in addition to their own expenses. This sum does not amount to crores. The Government should win their kind feelings by excluding them from the payment of this tax and thus strengthen its foundations.

**Mr. Speaker :** The question is—

That in part (a) (i), line 2, for the word 'ten' the word 'twenty' be substituted.

*The Assembly divided : Ayes 18, Noes 51.*

### AYES

Abdul Aziz, Mian.  
Ajit Singh, Sardar.  
Amar Nath Shah, Lala.  
Bhagat Ram Choda, Lala.  
Bhagat Ram Sharma, Pandit.  
Gokul Chand Narang, Dr. Sir.  
Gopal Das, Rai Bahadur Lala.  
Mazhar Ali Azhar, Maulvi.  
Muhammad Nurullah, Mian.

Raghubir Kaur, Shrimati.  
Rashida Latif Baji, Begum.  
Sadiq Hassan, Shaikh.  
Santokh Singh, Sardar.  
Sher Singh, Sardar.  
Sita Ram, Lala.  
Teja Singh, Sardar.  
Ujjal Singh, Sardar Bahadur Sardar.  
Uttam Singh Dugal, Sardar.

### NOES

Abdul Hamid Khan, Sufi.  
Abdul Haye, The Honourable Mian.  
Abdul Rahim, Chaudhri (Gurdaspur).  
Allah Bakhsh Khan, Khan Bahadur  
Nawab Malik Sir.  
Amjad Ali Shah, Sayed.  
Anant Ram, Rai Sahib Chaudhri.  
Baldev Singh, The Honourable Sardar.  
Balwant Singh, Sardar.  
Chanan Singh, Sardar.  
Faiz Muhammad, Khan Bahadur  
Shaikh.  
Faqir Chand, Chaudhri.  
Faqir Hussain Khan, Khan Bahadur  
Chaudhri.  
Fazal Karim Bakhsh, Khan Sahib  
Mian.  
Ghazanfar Ali Khan, Raja.  
Gopal Singh (American), Sardar.  
Gurbachan Singh, Sardar Bahadur  
Sardar.  
Habib Ullah Khan, Khan Bahadur  
Malik.

Hans Raj, Bhagat.  
Harnam Singh, Captain Sodhi.  
Het Ram, Rai Bahadur Chaudhri.  
Jugal Kishore, Chaudhri.  
Karamat Ali, Khan Bahadur Shaikh.  
Khizar Hayat, The Honourable Malik.  
Manohar Lal, The Honourable Dr. Sir.  
Mohar Singh, Rao.  
Mubarik Ali Shah, Captain Sayed.  
Muhammad Alam, Dr. Shaikh.  
Muhammad Ameen, Khan Sahib  
Shaikh.  
Muhammad Azam Khan, Sardar.  
Muhammad Hassan Khan Gurchani,  
Khan Bahadur Sardar.  
Muhammad Jamal Khan Leghari,  
Khan Bahadur Nawab Sir.  
Muhammad Qasim, Khan Sahib Chau-  
dhri.  
Muhammad Saadat Ali Khan, Khan  
Bahadur Khan.  
Muhammad Sarfraz Khan, Chaudhri.  
Muhammad Shafi Ali Khan, Khan  
Bahadur Chaudhri.

Muhammad Yasin Khan, Khan Sahib Chaudhri.  
 Mula Singh, Sardar.  
 Mumtaz Muhammad Khan Daulatana, Mian.  
 Muzaffar Ali Khan Qizilbash, Sardar.  
 Nasrullah Khan, Rana.  
 Nawazish Ali Shah, Sayed.  
 Ram Sarup, Chaudhri.  
 Ranpat Singh, Chaudhri.

Roberts, Sir William.  
 Sahib Dad Khan, Khan Sahib Chaudhri.  
 Shahadat Khan, Khan Sahib Rai.  
 Shaukat Hyat-Khan, The Honourable Sardar.  
 Sultan Mahmood Hotiana, Mian.  
 Sumer Singh, Chaudhri.  
 Suraj Mal, Rao Bahadur, Chaudhri.  
 Tikka Ram, Chaudhri.

**Mr. Speaker :** The question is—  
 That clause 6 stand part of the Bill.  
*The motion was carried.*

#### Clauses 7—10

**Mr. Speaker :** The question is—  
 That clauses 7 to 10 stand part of the Bill.  
*The motion was carried.*

#### Clause 1

**Mr. Speaker :** The question is—  
 That clause 1 stand part of the Bill.  
*The motion was carried.*

#### Title

**Mr. Speaker :** The question is—  
 That the title be the title of the Bill.  
*The motion was carried.*

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

That the Punjab General Sales Tax (Amendment) Bill be passed.

**Mr. Speaker :** Motion moved—

That the Punjab General Sales Tax (Amendment) Bill be passed.

**Lala Sita Ram (Trade Union Labour) (Urdu) :** Sir, I rise to oppose this Bill. This Bill, as you are aware, has been discussed threadbare by several of my honourable friends here. Our main contention has been, as has been most ably suggested by Begum Rashida Latif Baji in her amendment, that the taxable limit be raised from Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 20,000. But unfortunately the Government has not thought it fit to adopt this suggestion. Sir, a very cogent argument which has been advanced to-day was also advanced when the original Sales Tax Act was under consideration. It was that the sales tax was being imposed on sales of Rs. 80 per day, which in effect meant that the sales tax was being levied on petty shopkeepers. At that time we pointed out that this taxable limit should be raised so that, at least, the petty shopkeepers be exempted from the burden of this tax. But our suggestion was spurned away. When the original Bill, which is now before us in the form of an Act, was on the anvil of the House, I pointed out in my speech that if my friends levied this tax on shopkeepers with a turnover of Rs. 92 or 80 rupees a day, it would amount to great hardship on them. It would mean, as some honourable members have suggested, that Government would be levying a tax on the small-scale traders whose income did not exceed Rs. 40 to Rs. 50 per month and thus they would be made to tolerate a cruelty under the label of a legal Act. I also pointed out to another

danger that the tax, if levied, would ultimately fall on the consumers high or low. I pointed out these things in regard to two other taxes as well. But at the time the Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram was pleased to observe that he would see that the tax was paid only by those on whom it was levied and that it would not be allowed to be shifted on to the consumers. I am glad that to-day the Honourable the Finance Minister, who is an expert economist, has himself admitted that this tax will ultimately fall on the consumers. God knows whether he has made this remark merely to please the traders or whether it is his considered opinion. Anyway, if he really thinks so then I congratulate him that at least he has the courage to admit to-day what he and his colleague, Sir Chhotu Ram, thought an impossibility yesterday. Take it from me, Sir, that this tax will strangle the throat of petty shopkeepers. They will have to increase, though very unwillingly, the prices of their articles and it will adversely affect their sales. At the time of the original Bill, I remember, Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram having stated more than once that he wanted six crores for ameliorating the condition of the poor zamindars, and that so long as that much money was not forthcoming from the urban people, he would continue to levy taxes on them. It plainly meant that he wanted six crores of rupees from the urbanites in the shape of taxes. Now that he has got near about six crores of rupees, it is only fair for him to leave the shopkeepers and traders alone. According to the budget estimates, Sir, there is a surplus of four crores and I think when the year ends it will increase to six crores as is usually the habit with the Punjab Finances. This is a sufficient argument that my friends should now repeal the taxation measures which they have passed recently. If they cannot repeal them, at least, they should accept the amendment moved by Baji Sahiba, which seeks to extend the taxable limit from Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 20,000. Let their lust work no more havoc. I admit, as has been pointed out by the Honourable Finance Minister during his Budget Speech which extends to 20 or 22 pages, that nowhere has he claimed credit for this surplus. But let me tell him that he has used some words in it which indirectly indicate that the credit for this goes to him. Nobody indulges in self-praises. But a clever person uses words which indirectly indicate that the credit for the achievement goes to him. So far as I am concerned I cannot deny that the credit for the surplus budget, whatever may be the real cause of it, does not go to him. The Finance Minister has himself pointed out in his speech that much of the surplus was due to the sale of crown lands. He says :

The revised estimate to-day stands at Rs. 4.83 lakhs. Larger amounts of undeveloped agricultural lands have been sold at most favourable prices. Sales of town sites in colonies are also responsible for a substantial increase.

This is undoubtedly the real cause of the surplus budget. Then God also has been very kind. The present situation in the country has led to the increase in prices and this has enabled the kisans to pay their arrears as well. That has also been another big cause of the surplus budget. However he has used some words in his Speech which indirectly indicate that he has claimed credit for this surplus budget. He says :

These years represent a period of unprecedented prosperity in the history of the Punjab Finances and reveal surely as never before all the leading features of our financial position.

These are the words from the mouth of a person who holds his head high. We do not grudge him that. In fact he is justified in claiming credit for the same because he happens to be the Finance Minister. We are prepared to concede him this much. My contention is that this year a surplus of nearly four crores of rupees has been estimated. But as the honourable members are aware every year the Honourable Finance Minister manages the budget figures in such a magic way that at the end of the year the surplus is nearly doubled. In view of this



[L. Sita Ram]

tradition and habit of our finances I think the surplus this year would go up to 5 or 6 crores of rupees. Last year the Honourable Finance Minister estimated a deficit in the budget which turned out to be a surplus before the year was out. (Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang : A piece of very good budgeting indeed.) Well, I am not concerning myself here with the defects in the budget. My point of view, at present, is altogether different. I say that if an estimated deficit becomes a surplus by the end of the year, it is very probable, nay certain, that the estimated surplus of rupees 3 crores this year may likewise be doubled. I would, therefore, on the basis of this precedent, request the Government to raise the taxable limit from Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 20,000. In so far as the interpretation put upon this amending Bill by my honourable friend Chaudhri Ram Sarup, is concerned, I may be permitted to say that if it is not a deliberate attempt on his part to hoodwink us, he does not seem sufficiently conversant with the English language.

**Mr. Speaker :** The honourable member is not speaking as he should. He is going too far. He can speak only to matters contained in the Bill.

**Lala Sita Ram :** All right, Sir. However I would like to draw the attention of my honourable friend to the words of the amendment—

For the words "ten thousand rupees or more" the words "more than ten thousand rupees" shall be substituted.

Now, he will see that by moving this amendment the Government has not conceded the demand put forward by the traders that the limit should be raised to twenty thousand rupees. This change has been effected merely to improve the language and it does not mean as my honourable friend wants us to believe, that the words "more than ten thousand rupees" mean that the taxable limit has been raised even if it be by only a rupee. That reminds me of an anecdote which aptly applies to his case. A gentleman while returning from the Imperial Bank after receiving his pension fell in with a friend on the Cutchery Road who was going his way. As they reached the spot where the D. A.-V. College charity box stands, the pensioner who had received a pie coin with other small coins from the bank entered into a wager with his friend. The wager was that whoever of the two put the smallest bit in the charity box would be the winner. He thought that because he had a pie, it would not be possible for his friend to produce a smaller coin. Both of them went severally to the box presumably to put something in it. When they had done so, one asked the other as to what he had put in the box. The pensioner triumphantly declared, "I cast a pie, what did you?" "I just cast a glance" replied his friend. (Laughter). Similarly, my honourable friend says that even if this "more than ten thousand" means a single pie, it is something after all. Such is the mentality of our honourable friend. With these words I oppose this Bill.

**Mr. Speaker :** The question is—

That the Punjab General Sales Tax (Amendment) Bill be passed.

*The motion was carried.*

## THE COLONIZATION OF LANDS (AMENDMENT) BILL.

**Minister of Revenue** (The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram) : Sir, I beg to introduce the Colonization of Government Lands (Punjab) (Amendment) Bill.

I beg to move—

That the Colonization of Government Lands (Punjab) (Amendment) Bill be taken into consideration at once.

Before the consideration of the clauses is taken up, I should like to explain briefly the objects of the two clauses which seek to secure certain amendments. The object of the amendment under clause 2 is that certain doubts were raised on the point whether when a breach of condition is made by a particular class of tenants that tenancy can be resumed or not. This amendment will make it clear that so far as the scheduled tenants are concerned resumption will take place on a breach having occurred without reference to the restrictions which have been placed on the resumption of ordinary tenancies under certain sections of the Colonization Act. The object of the amendment under clause 3 of the Amending Bill is this. Widows who acquire proprietary rights are, according to the general trend of the decisions of judicial courts, now in a position to alienate their lands at their own sweet will. When a widow has spent money for the acquisition of proprietary rights courts hold that the property becomes her self-acquired property and the ordinary restrictions imposed on the power of alienation of widows cease to operate. Numerous complaints were received by Government from members of agricultural classes that widows were obtaining proprietary rights at the instance of designing persons and considerable areas which should normally go to the reversioners of those widows, that is, of the male-owners who were the original grantees of those lands were being alienated to these designing persons. After careful consideration of these complaints Government came to a decision that an amending Bill should be introduced so that the original position may be restored. At present money seems to be very plentiful and those people who have plenty of money finance widows in order to acquire proprietary rights. Later, these widows alienate permanently to their creditors the land in respect of which they have acquired proprietary rights. This is the whole object of clause 3 of the amending Bill. It is a very simple amendment and therefore I do not think any objection is likely to be taken to it.

**Mr. Speaker :** The question is—

That the Colonization of Government Lands (Punjab) (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.

#### Clause 2

**Minister of Revenue :** I move—

That for the existing part (a) of the clause, the following be substituted :—

“(a) in subsection (1)—

- (i) to clause (b), the following word shall be added, namely, ‘or’, and
- (ii) after clause (b), the following clause shall be added, namely :—
- (c) any tenancy scheduled under the proviso to section 4, except to such an extent as may be specified in the statement of conditions applicable to such tenancy”.

I may explain why I move this amendment. There is absolutely no change of substance being sought by the amendment which I am now putting forward. I understand that the ordinary practice is not to refer to the omission of full stops and substitution of commas therefor, or to re-numbering, etc. Therefore, it was suggested by our legal

[Minister of Revenue]

experts that the language should be as I have stated in the present amendment. Beyond this there is absolutely no change of substance of any kind. The object of the Bill remains the same, the scope of the Bill remains the same. It is only the language which is being changed by the amendment which I have now proposed.

**Mr. Speaker :** Clause under consideration, amendment moved is—

That for the existing part (a) of the clause, the following be substituted :—

“(a) in subsection (1)—

(i) to clause (b), the following word shall be added, namely, ‘or’, and

(ii) after clause (b), the following clause shall be added, namely :—

“(c) any tenancy scheduled under the proviso to section 4, except to such an extent as may be specified in the statement of conditions applicable to such tenancy.”.

**Sardar Ajit Singh** (South-West Punjab, Sikh, Rural) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, with subsections (1) and (2) in section 27 of the Act great perils are dreaded. Formerly if a tenant happened to commit some breach in the colony conditions he could be punished with the resumption of his grant or fine to the extent of Rs. 100 only. Formerly section 27 included only a certain kind of scheduled tenancies like *darakhtpal*, *ghoripal*, camel breeding, etc., which were exempted from the provisions of sections 24, 25 and 26 of the Act, but according to the present form of amendment of section 27 all kinds of tenancies are included in section 27 and now no tenant will be able to enjoy the safeguards provided for him in sections 24, 25 and 26 of the Act. In other words, if a tenant committed some breach of conditions, the Collector was to serve him with one month's notice under section 24 to rectify his fault and under section 25 the Collector could give him compensation for his standing crops, uncut trees and other developments and under section 26 the Collector was to allow him to remove his residential buildings or to demand compensation for his residential developments. But according to the present amendment these three sections, 24, 25 and 26 are suspended as in the cases of certain scheduled tenancies. In this way these poor tenants will go to dogs. Now no notice will be required by the Collector and he will be able to resume any grant at any time without informing the tenant or allowing him any compensation for the standing crops or residential developments. In the total absence of these saving sections, I dare say that there will be no clause to afford protection against injustice and high-handedness of the Collectors. I will request the Minister concerned to explain the position and the aims and objects of the measure. If mere technical changes are meant, then, I have no objection against the measure. But if the poor tenant is really to be ousted, then we strongly oppose the measure.

**Minister of Revenue** (*Urdu*) : Sir, my Honourable friend Sardar Ajit Singh must be aware of the aims and objects of this amendment. The Government granted land for five garden sites at Burewala, his own place of residence. Those plots of land were very valuable. My own estimate is that their price was in no way less than Rs. 50,000 per piece. The grantees were given a limited time in which they were expected to complete the planting of fruit gardens. A yearly programme was fixed for this planting and they had to work according to that. In the event of their failure a notice was served on them giving them sufficient time to fulfil the conditions of their tenancy and to make up the deficiency. They claimed further extension repeatedly of six months' time for the rectification of the breach of the terms on which garden sites

were granted to them. The idea underlying these grants was to lay gardens within a fixed period of time with a view to beautify the locality. The garden sites were worth Rs. 50,000 each. The conditions on which these sites were granted remained unfulfilled. Grantees claimed extension after extension. In this connection I feel I must enlighten the honourable member sitting opposite on the difficulties of the situation. If a breach is capable of rectification the Collector cannot impose any penalty and Government cannot resume the land. Let me also point out that it is very difficult for the Government to give further extensions to the grantees who have already failed more than once in fulfilling the terms on which these sites were granted. The law at present is not clear. The present amendment will make it clear beyond doubt the precise terms on which these tenancies are being granted and the consequences which will follow on breach of the terms.

**Sardar Ajit Singh :** My point is not only regarding the gardens but regarding all other tenancies as well. What I want to know is whether the Government is prepared to give one month's notice to the tenants who have committed breaches of the colony conditions; because I differ with the Honourable Revenue Minister when he says that one month's notice is nothing. Supposing a tenant is to be punished because he has not built his house and he is served with one month's notice, if he can build his house within this time his tenancy cannot be resumed; but now this concession is being withdrawn.

**Minister of Revenue :** I am explaining the necessity of the present amendment. This land is the property of the whole province. Therefore the grantees of such valuable land cannot be allowed to keep it if they fail to fulfil the terms of their grants either within the original or the extended time. If land is granted on specific conditions and grantees fail in fulfilling those conditions, the Collector should be in a position to resume that land without being subject to a cumbersome procedure. Let me inform the House and the honourable member sitting opposite in particular, who seems to be very anxious to know the actual operation of the law, that in case a grantee demands further extension from the Collector and gives a clear undertaking to fulfil the conditions within a specified period, the Collector, under the present law, has no clear power to resume outright the grant even after the failure of that undertaking. To have to give further concessions to the grantees on each succeeding default on their part as pleaded by the honourable member opposite, will be a travesty of any scheme of colonization. Under the Act Government have provided every sort of liberty and concessions to the grantees if they fulfil the conditions arrived at between them and the Government. Government are still prepared to afford reasonable facilities for the fulfilment of terms, but they cannot tolerate repeated defaults. We are ready to oblige grantees where circumstances justify the course. But if they persist in repeated faults, the officers concerned should have the power, clear and undoubted, of resuming possession of the land granted to them.

**Mr. Speaker :** The question is—

That for the existing part (a) of the clause, the following be substituted :—

“(a) in subsection (1)—

(i) to clause (b), the following words shall be added, namely, ‘or’ and

(ii) after clause (b), the following clause shall be added, namely :—

“(c) any tenancy scheduled under the proviso to section 4, except to such an extent as may be specified in the statement of conditions applicable to such tenancy.”

*The motion was carried.*

**Mr. Speaker :** The question is—

That clause 2 as amended stand part of the Bill.

*The motion was carried.*

*Clause 8*

**Mr. Speaker :** Clause 8.

**Sardar Ajit Singh** (South-West Punjab Sikh, Rural) (*Punjabi*) : Sir I wish to make a few submissions in regard to clause 8 of the Bill now before the House. At present female tenants in general and the widows in particular, who succeed to tenancies under section 21 of the Colony Act or to whom grants have been allotted in recognition of the services of their husbands, acquire proprietary rights and the courts treat the land as their self-acquired property over which they have complete power of disposal. In this connection I wish to give an instance. Very recently in a certain case a widow acquired the proprietary rights over some land given to her by some of her relations. She was a woman of a very loose character and as a consequence she wanted to dispose off the land to the detriment of the reversioners of previous male tenants or of the male persons for whose services the grant was originally made. I am very much thankful to the Honourable Revenue Minister for his having brought forward this clause with a view to restricting the power of alienation or disposal on the part of the widow. So far as this clause 8 of the Bill now before the House is concerned, I wish to make some suggestions with the hope that the Honourable Revenue Minister will be pleased to consider them. The proposed clause 8 of the Bill lays restrictions on the land acquired under section 21 of the Colony Act and no such restriction whatsoever has been imposed on the land bought from the income accrued from the land inherited by a widow from her husband or any other relation. What I mean to point out is this that if a widow has inherited some land and if she earns huge amount of profit, and she purchases some land by selling the proceeds of this land, she is at liberty to dispose off the newly acquired land ; there is no provision to stop her to do so.

**Mr. Speaker :** Please speak to the motion.

**Sardar Ajit Singh :** Sir, I am only making a suggestion. During these days one can easily derive a profit of about Rs. 6,000 by selling the produce of one square of land. If a widow is in possession of one square of land she can easily buy another square of land. So far as this newly purchased square of land is concerned, I wish to submit that the widow is at liberty to sell it and there is no provision to restrict her to do so. As a matter of fact she has no right to dispose off this land because this new area is in fact purchased from the proceeds of her inherited property. My submission is this that the same restrictions should be placed on the newly purchased land so that it may also after the death of the widow go to the previous male tenant or the male person for whose services the grant was originally made or in other words she may not be able to dispose of this land in case she survives.

**Minister of Revenue** (The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram) (*Urdu*): Sir, my honourable friend Sardar Ajit Singh in the course of his speech has made it clear to the House that I am carrying out his wishes very well. He agrees with me on this point. He has also suggested in the course of his speech that the same restrictions should be imposed on the land bought from the income accrued from the land inherited by a widow from her husband or other male relation. Now, I wish to make it clear that this cannot be done under the Colonization

Act because it is obviously a question relating to general law and it has nothing to do with the Colonization Act.

**Mr. Speaker :** The question is—

That clause 3 stand part of the Bill.

*The motion was carried.*

*Clause 1*

**Mr. Speaker :** The question is—

That clause 1 stand part of the Bill.

*The motion was carried.*

*Title*

**Mr. Speaker :** The question is—

That the title be the title of the Bill.

*The motion was carried.*

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

That the Colonization of Government Lands (Punjab) (Amendment) Bill as amended be passed.

*The motion was carried.*

*The Assembly then adjourned till 12 noon on Monday, 27th March, 1944.*

**Acknowledgments**

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# PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

## ELEVENTH SESSION OF THE FIRST PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

*Monday, 27th March 1944*

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

### STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

#### SIKANDER-BALDEV SINGH PACT

**\*8978. Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to lay on the table of the House the correspondence that passed between the late Honourable Premier and Sardar Baldev Singh relating to the Sikander-Baldev Singh Pact along with the statement of the late Premier issued to the Press in the same connection and to state whether this correspondence along with the above-mentioned statement has been circulated to the Ministers and the Heads of the Departments for their guidance and with instructions to act accordingly; if the answer to above be in the negative, the reasons for not doing so; whether it is now intended to circulate this correspondence along with above-mentioned statement?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) :** The honourable member is referred to the answer given to Assembly question No. \*8785, put by Lala Bhagat Ram Choda on 26th March 1943.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** The previous question referred to does not mention anything with respect to the circulation of the correspondence. May I know whether any correspondence passed and whether it was circulated to the Heads of the Departments?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** I have nothing to add to the answer referred to above.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** The previous question to which reference is made in the answer is not exactly the same as the present question. Mr. Speaker, I want to bring to your notice that this time the Government is adopting a very novel method of answering questions.

**Mr. Speaker :** Order, order.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** I want your ruling. The Parliamentary Private Secretary says that the answer to this question is covered by the answer to another question. I assert that that is not so.

**Mr. Speaker :** Can the honourable member show me the authority under which I can compel the Parliamentary Private Secretary to give the answer he requires?

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** May I ask the Parliamentary Private Secretary to read the answer he refers to?



**Mr. Speaker :** If the honourable member will point out the rule or law under which I can help him I shall gladly do so.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** This is a commonsense point of view. A particular question has been put and my friend says that it has already been answered. I challenge that it has never been answered.

**Mr. Speaker :** Commonsense is that the honourable member should take such steps as he may think fit after consulting the law and rules on the subject.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** As the custodian of our rights, will you please suggest what method is open to me ? Should I go to a court of law ?

#### MASTER WAZIR CHAND

**\*8979. Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that Master Wazir Chand, B.A., of Mialwali, was arrested by the police under Defence of India Rules, on the 26th January, 1943, and was kept in the police lock-up for 15 days ;

(b) whether many books from the private school that was being run by the said Master Wazir Chand were removed by the police after search ; if so, for what purpose ;

(c) whether no water for bathing was given to him in the lock-up and whether he was also tortured ; if so, why ;

(d) whether he was treated as a civil disobedience prisoner in the jail ; if not, why ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) :** (a) Wazir Chand was suspected to have been in possession of prejudicial literature. His house was searched and certain books containing alleged prejudicial literature were seized. He was arrested on 25th January 1943 under rule 129, Defence of India Rules, and remanded for 14 days to police custody. He was subsequently sent for trial under rule 99 of the Defence of India Rules for being in possession of alleged prejudicial literature but was finally acquitted.

(b) The only books seized were those alleged to contain prejudicial matter.

(c) He was not tortured, and he did not ask for water for bathing.

(d) As he was being prosecuted for a substantive offence, he was treated as an under-trial prisoner.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** May I know whether any proscribed books were seized from him ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** I should like to have notice for that.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** What is the meaning of ' alleged prejudicial literature ' referred to by the Parliamentary Private Secretary ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** The words are very simple and my honourable friend should be able to interpret them for himself.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** May I know from the Parliamentary Private Secretary whether the charge was based on the books that were found in his possession ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** I have already stated that he was arrested and his house was searched for certain books which contained prejudicial literature and they were seized.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** May I know why he was kept in the police custody for 15 days when the prejudicial literature was found on the first day of the search ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** I am afraid I cannot give the answer to that question off-hand.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** May I know whether the books were restored to him after his acquittal in a court of law ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** It is a new question and if the honourable member gives notice I will reply to this question.

#### MASTER KABUL SINGH

**\*8980. Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state whether he is aware of the fact that Sardar Kapoor Singh, Secretary, Punjab Congress Parliamentary Party, wrote to the Punjab Government recently that owing to the serious illness of Mr. Sukhdev, the only son of Master Kabul Singh, M. L. A. (Security Prisoner) Master Kabul Singh may be released on parole in order to enable him to look after his ailing son ; if so, with what result ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) :** *First part*—A letter, dated 16th October 1948, was received by the Punjab Government from S. Kapoor Singh, M. L. A., on 18th October 1948.

*Second part*—The case had already been taken up on receipt of applications from Master Kabul Singh and he was released on parole for 15 days on 30th October 1948. This period was later extended three times for a further period of 15 days in each case.

**Lala Bhagat Ram Choda :** May I know whether the boy was arrested ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** Not to my knowledge.

#### LATHI CHARGE ON HINDU MAHA-SABHA PROCESSION AT AMRITSAR

**\*9245. Rai Bahadur Lala Gopal Das :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Punjab Government issued a *communiqué* on the 22nd of February, 1944, to the effect that no lathi charge was made by the police on the procession of the All-India Hindu Maha-Sabha in Amritsar in December 1943 ;

(b) whether his attention has been drawn to the statement of Sir Sultan Ahmad, Information Member, Government of India, which he made in reply to a question in the Central Assembly on 22nd February, 1944, to the effect that the camera-man of the Central Government's film publicity organization was badly mauled by the crowd and his camera was damaged in the subsequent lathi charge which was made on the procession of the All-India Hindu Maha-Sabha in Amritsar in December, 1943 ;

(c) the reasons for the disagreement between the statements made in (a) and (b) ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) :** (a) Yes.

[Sayed Amjad Ali Shah.]

(b) Yes.

(c) I cannot say what were the sources of Sir Sultan Ahmad's information ; The Honourable Premier has given a full explanation of the facts in his statement<sup>1</sup> made on 10th March, 1944.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** May I know the reasons for the disagreement ? As far as I remember the Premier did not give any reasons for the disagreement between the Punjab *communiqué* and the version of the Central Government.

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** The honourable member can look up the statement.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** I say no reasons were given for this disagreement.

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** There is no question of reasons. The Premier stated the facts and the honourable member can read those facts.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** The question, as it is, asks for the reasons for the disagreement. The first statement is contained in part (b). Part (c) asks for the reasons for the disagreement. Has the Government any information in its possession to show reasons for the disagreement ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** I have already stated it in part (c) which I will repeat for the benefit of my honourable friend. I said "I cannot say what were the sources of Sir Sultan Ahmad's information. The Premier has given a full explanation of the facts in his statement made on 10th March 1944".

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Does the Parliamentary Private Secretary say that the source of information of Sir Sultan Ahmed was different from the source of my honourable friend ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** I do not know his source of information. How can I answer the question ?

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** May I know whether it is a fact, with regard to part (b) that the camera-man of the Central Government's film publicity organization was badly mauled by the crowd and his camera was damaged in the subsequent lathi charge ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** The answer to part (b) is yes.

MR. BALDEV MITTER BIJLI

\*9263. **Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state whether it is a fact that one Mr. Baldev Mitter Bijli, a Congress prisoner now detained in the Central Jail, Lahore, has had frequent heart attacks ever since he was detained, and was bedridden for over a fortnight owing to fever during the month of February, on account of which he has grown very weak ;

(b) whether Government have made any inquiries about his state of health recently ;

(c) whether Government intend to release him on medical grounds; if not, the reasons therefor ;

(d) whether it is a fact that prior to his arrest on 21st August 1942 under Rule 26 of the Defence of India Rules the said Mr. Baldev Mitter Bijli was under a restraint order for about a year and was forbidden to take part in political activities ; if so, the reasons for his arrest and continued detention ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah):** (a) No.

(b) A report on his health was received in February last stating that he was only suffering from 'Trachoma'. He is being properly treated for this by the Eye Specialist at the Mayo Hospital, Lahore.

(c) Government's intentions cannot be disclosed.

(d) Yes; with a view to preventing him from acting in any manner prejudicial to the public safety and maintenance of public order.

**Lala Bhagat Ram Choda:** Did he commit some mischief when he was in jail previously which justified the apprehension of danger of his acting again in a manner prejudicial to public peace? Before he was released, was not his behaviour in jail properly watched?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary:** The honourable member will kindly read carefully the reply that has been given and try to see what can be relevantly asked in a supplementary question arising out of the reply.

#### MUNSHI AHMAD DIN

**\*9265. Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan:** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether Munshi Ahmad Din, an A class security prisoner, was transferred from the New Jail, Gujrat, to the Sub-Jail, Muzaffargarh, on 30th December, 1948;

(b) whether he was admitted into the Muzaffargarh jail on 31st December, 1948, and was put up in a room along with three other Sikh security prisoners;

(c) whether the Sikh security prisoners objected to his smoking and consequently he was lodged in a chholdari pitched in the camp attached to the Sub-Jail, Muzaffargarh, without any associate under orders of the Inspector-General of Prisons, Punjab;

(d) whether under section 3 of the Security Prisoners Rules of 1942 security prisoners are to be accommodated either in the cells or the association wards preferably the latter and allowed free association;

(e) if the answer to part (d) above be in the affirmative, why orders violating the Security Prisoners Rules were issued by the Inspector-General of Prisons, Punjab;

(f) whether Munshi Ahmad Din mentioned above sent a representation, dated 7th February, 1944, to the Honourable Premier mentioning his grievances and hardships regarding his confinement in the camp; if so, the nature of his grievances, and the action taken by the Government in respect of this representation?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah):** (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) Yes.

(d) Yes.

(e) and (f) He has since been transferred to the District Jail, Jhang.

#### S. SAJJAN SINGH

**\*9266. Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan:** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether S. Sajjan Singh of village Margindpura, Tehsil Kasur, now a security prisoner confined in the Sub-Jail, Muzaffargarh, was arrested under section

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129 of the Defence of India Rules, on 9th June, 1941, and afterwards under rule 26 of the Defence of India Rules at Muzaffargarh ;

(b) whether he was transferred from Muzaffargarh to the Central Jail, Lahore, on 11th October, 1941, for a criminal case pending in the court of the Additional District Magistrate, Lahore ;

(c) whether he remained in the Central Jail, Lahore, from 12th October 1941 to 27th August, 1943, and during this period he was awarded no jail punishment ;

(d) whether he was retransferred from the Central Jail, Lahore, to the Jail Muzaffargarh on 28th August, 1943; if so, the grounds for his transfer from his home district ;

(e) whether S. Sajjan Singh, security prisoner, now confined in the Muzaffargarh Jail submitted a representation on 7th February, 1944, to the Honourable Premier that he be transferred from Muzaffargarh either to his home district or any other jail near his home ; if so, what decision, if any, has been arrived at by the Government in this case ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah): (a)

Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) Yes and no jail punishment was awarded to him.

(d) Yes. He was transferred for administrative reasons.

(e) Yes. It was rejected on administrative grounds.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma** : If he was not punished for any jail offence, may I know the reasons for his transfer to another jail ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** : I have already stated that he was transferred for administrative reasons.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma** : What were those administrative reasons ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** : I regret I cannot enlighten my honourable friend on that point.

STOPPING THE MUSALMANS FROM CALLING AZAN BY SIKHS IN MOUZA NAROR

**\*9276. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad** : Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to an article in a local paper to the effect that the Sikh residents of Mouza Naror, Lahore district, stopped the Musalmans from calling *Azan* in the mosque of the village ;

(b) whether he is aware of the fact that local officers of the district interfered and asked the Muslims to carry on their religious functions freely ;

(c) whether Government is aware that the Sikhs and Muslims of the village are not on amicable terms ; if so, the action Government intend to take in the matter ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah): (a)

Yes.

(b) Yes. The local officers succeeded in bringing about an amicable settlement.

(c) Part (i)—No.

Part (ii)—Does not arise.

## CLASH BETWEEN ODS AND ZAMINDARS

**\*9277. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) the names of the village in the Hissar district where a clash between the Ods and the zamindars took place recently ;

(b) whether it is a fact that the zamindars in question looted the flocks of the Ods mentioned in part (a) ;

(c) whether the zamindars in question were challaned by the police for robbing the Ods of their sheep and goats ;

(d) whether it is a fact that the cases against the said zamindars were withdrawn ; if so, the reasons therefor ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) :** (a) The names of the villages are Bhatol Jatan and Thurana.

(b) Yes.

(c) Yes.

(d) The cases have not been withdrawn and 11 persons are being prosecuted in the court of the residential magistrate, Bhiwani.

## BLOCK SYSTEM OF RECRUITMENT

**\*9282. Rai Bahadur Mukand Lal Puri :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state the departments, services or branches of services, to which block system of recruitment has not been applied so far and also the reasons therefor ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) :** The block system of recruitment is only a method of applying the well-known communal proportions which have been laid down by Government for direct recruitment. All departments have been advised to adopt it, and it is believed that they have done so, except in the case of the police in which such a rigid formula is unsuitable.

## PERCENTAGES OF AGRICULTURISTS, ETC., FIXED FOR RECRUITMENT IN SERVICES

**\*9283. Rai Bahadur Mukand Lal Puri :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state separately, percentages of—

(1) Agriculturists and non-agriculturists and

(2) Zamindars and non-zamindars, fixed for recruitment in different departments and services or branches of services ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) :** I am afraid that the answer to this question, which involves a reference to all departments, is not ready. It will be communicated to the honourable member when ready.

## REPRESENTATIONS AGAINST TEHSILDAR OF SHAKARGARH, DISTRICT GURDASPUR

**\*9279. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the representations made orally and in writing by the Muslims of the Shakargarh tahsil, district Gurdaspur, regarding the misbehaviour of the Tahsildar, who on 23rd of September 1948,

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used very undesirable and provocative language in connection with the application of one Hashmat Ali, Sarpanch, and other members of the Panchayat of Dinapur which they made to him for the supply of sugar for the month of Ramzan ;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Sarpanch submitted an application to the Deputy Commissioner of Gurdaspur inviting his attention to the undesirable behaviour of the Tahsildar in question who deputed the Revenue Assistant to make an enquiry into the matter ;

(c) the number of written statements produced by the witnesses before the Revenue Assistant ;

(d) the number of witnesses who appeared before the Revenue Assistant in support of the application mentioned above ;

(e) whether he would be pleased to place the report of the Revenue Assistant on the table of the House with his relevant papers of the proceedings of the enquiry ?

**The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram :** I regret that the answer to this question is not yet ready.

DINA NATH, CONTRACTOR

**\*9286. Lala Amar Nath Shah :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that one Dina Nath, son of Dhana, Brahman of village Ahmalpur, approved contractor of the Marala Division (Upper Chenab Canal), was allowed to cut timber from the Upper Marginal Bund of the Upper Chenab Canal during the years 1942-48 and 1944 ;

(b) whether it is a fact that the above-named contractor has been allowed to have the timber referred to in (a) free of charge ; if so, the reasons therefor ?

**The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram :** (a) There is no contractor by the name of Dina Nath whose name is borne on the list of contractors working in Marala Division. No man of this name has been given permission to cut timber from the Upper Marginal Bund during 1942-43 and 1944. Neither the above-named person nor any one else has been allowed to have timber free of charge.

(b) Does not arise.

#### SELECTION OF EXCISE INSPECTORS FOR THE POST OF EXTRA ASSISTANT COMMISSIONERS

**\*9281. Mian Abdul Aziz :** Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have revised their policy of selecting Excise Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors for the posts of Extra Assistant Commissioners ;

(b) whether it is a fact that during the last 6-7 years, not a single Excise Inspector or Sub-Inspector has been selected as an Extra Assistant Commissioner, if so, the reasons therefor ;

(c) whether it is a fact that previous to the year 1938, the post of Excise Assistant to the Financial Commissioners was always held by an Extra Assistant Commissioner nominated and selected from the Excise Department, if so, why

the Government has not recruited some suitable men from the Excise Department for this post ;

(d) whether it is a fact that the post of the Deputy Superintendent, Punjab, Excise Bureau, is being held by a Police Officer, if so, why an officer with experience of Excise policy has not been appointed to this post ;

(e) whether it is a fact that there is a proposal for the amalgamation of the Excise and Taxation Departments, if so, when ?

**The Honourable Sir Manohar Lal :** I regret that the answer to this question is not yet ready.

MR. WISHWA NATH KHOSLA

**\*9287. Lala Amar Nath Shah :** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that Mr. Wishwa Nath Khosla, Supervisor, Watchman Store at Rakh Harbanspur, met with a lorry accident on 15th February 1944, at 9.30 a. m. ;

(b) whether it is a fact that the above-named person was admitted into the Mayo Hospital, Lahore, at 11 a. m. on the same day, but he was not attended upon till 6 p. m. that day, if so, the reasons therefor ?

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

(b) No. He arrived in the casualty department of the Mayo Hospital on the 15th February at 1.30 p. m. as a case of multiple injuries and was immediately sent to the operation theatre. There, however, as his condition was found not to be serious he was attended to after the regular operations for the day (which were more urgent) had been performed. His injuries were finally treated by suture at 6 p. m. : they were not sufficiently serious to require his admission to the hospital as an in-patient. The delay of  $4\frac{1}{2}$  hours was of course considerable even for a case which was not serious. I may explain in this connection that the staff of the Mayo Hospital has been known for some time to be now insufficient for the work it has to get through, and that proposals for strengthening it have been received and are under consideration.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Were those proposals received before or after this case ?

**Minister :** They were received independently of this case.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Before or after ?

**Minister :** I cannot give any date.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** When this incident happened were the proposals for additions to the staff of the Mayo Hospital under the consideration of the Government ?

**Minister :** I think so.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** How long will it take to decide about those proposals ?

TONGA FARES IN LAHORE

**\*9170. Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Will the Honourable Minister of Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) the basis on which the tonga fares are fixed by the city of Lahore Corporation ;



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(b) whether the cost of living in Lahore was kept in mind at the time of fixing the present tonga fares ;

(c) the date on which the present tonga fares were fixed ;

(d) the highest amount of fine imposed upon any tonga-driver on a chalan in Lahore so far since the fixing of the present tonga-fares ?

**The Honourable Sardar Shaukat Hayat Khan :** (a) The main factors which are taken into consideration in fixing tonga fares in Lahore are the cost of living, maintenance of tongas and ponies and the probable daily income.

(b) Yes.

(c) December, 1942.

(d) This part of the question is not quite clear as it does not specify the offences as regards which information is sought. No fine, however, exceeding Rs. 20 has so far been imposed on any tonga driver in Lahore for a traffic offence, and this amount has been imposed in rare cases only.

#### HAI SIYAT TAX IN MIANWALI DISTRICT

**\*9280. Lala Sita Ram :** Will the Honourable Minister of Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that according to the Gazette notification No. 30243, dated the 1st October 1929, the Haisiyat Tax in the Mianwali district is leviable only in respect of persons residing in the area within the jurisdiction of the District Board, Mianwali ;

(b) whether it is a fact that persons not living in the District Board area but living in the Colony subject to the authority of the North-Western Railway administration are exempted from the said Haisiyat Tax ;

(c) whether it is a fact that general amenities of civil life such as water, light, roads, sanitation and medical aid are provided by the said District Board to the persons residing in the said Colony which is under the North-Western Railway administration ; if not, the reasons for imposing the abovenamed tax upon those residing in the said Colony ?

**The Honourable Sardar Shaukat Hayat Khan :** (a) Yes.

(b) Persons not living within the District Board area are not liable to pay Haisiyat Tax. The railway colony of Kundian and railway stations in the Mianwali district are however within the jurisdiction of the Board and the railway personnel concerned are subject to the Haisiyat Tax provided they fulfill the condition of (a) residence in the district for at least 180 days in a year, and (b) income exceeding Rs. 400 per annum.

(c) They are of course at liberty to use the schools, rural and civil dispensaries, veterinary hospitals and vaccination staff provided by the District Board.

#### NEW MOTOR TRANSPORT SCHEMES

**\*9284. Sardar Uttam Singh Dugal :** Will the Honourable Minister of Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether Government is aware that all motor vehicles except the Royal Mail and those booked in advance were on strike on Rawalpindi-Murree-Kohala-Srinagar Road as a protest against the introduction of the new motor transport schemes ;

(b) the date from which the new motor transport scheme comes into force ;

(c) whether it is a fact that Government insists on the formation of limited Companies for carrying on motor transport business in the Province ;

(d) whether it is a fact that threats are being held out to the present permit-holders by the Government that unless they form these companies their permits will be cancelled ;

(e) if so, under what section of the Motor Vehicles Act or the rules made thereunder this is being done ?

**The Honourable Sardar Shaukat Hayat Khan :** (a) According to their own statement several of the less important permit holders on the Rawalpindi-Srinagar route suspended operation for half a day. Government have, however, received no intimation of this alleged strike from the local transport authorities at Rawalpindi, nor has there been any complaint from the public to the effect that the bus services were affected.

(b) The process by which it is hoped to carry out the re-organisation of the road transport system of the province will be a gradual one and there is no question of there being a fixed date by which a scheme will come into force.

(c) In order to ensure that better facilities for road travel are offered to the Public, the transport authorities of the province are endeavouring to rationalise the Punjab's system of road transport. It is considered that transport facilities worthy of the province can be given only by concerns which are large enough to enjoy a certain measure of stability and to reap some of the economies of large scale enterprise. For instance, it is only large scale operators who are likely to be able to keep their vehicles in first class order, to run to regular time tables and to provide facilities for proper repair work. Moreover, the concentration of route permits in the hands of a comparatively small number of companies will go far to eliminate much of the wasteful use of vehicles, petrol and charcoal which is at present preventing our transport resources from being used to the best possible advantage. The desired efficiency is unlikely to be achieved by loose combines of individual permit holders and the transport authorities are, therefore, in favour of the formation of regular transport companies. In this connection I should like to point out that it is the desire of the War Transport Department of the Government of India that Lease-Lend vehicles should be issued only to substantial companies or to co-operative societies. It is not, of course, intended that the man who at present runs one or two lorries should be deprived of his livelihood, but it is considered that he should be persuaded to join with other operators to form a transport company of reasonable size.

(d) Naturally when on any route a properly organised transport company has been formed, it would not be in the public interest to permit cut throat competition by individual operators who have declined to join the company. It is likely that in such cases the permits of these operators will be allowed to lapse.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** May I know whether a motor-owner will be compelled to join a particular transport company and not a motor transport company of his own choice ?

**Minister :** If there is only one company on a certain route, he will have to join that company ; he cannot join a company of another route.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Is it not a fact that different transport companies will be brought into being on different routes ?

**Minister :** Yes.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Supposing a motor owner says he wants to ply on another route ?

**Minister :** The honourable member does not seem to understand that only on those routes permit holders can ply for which routes they hold permits. If there is a company formed for a particular route, then it will be to the advantage of the permit holder to join that company. If, however, he wants to leave that route altogether and is interested in some other concern, then he will be at liberty to join that concern.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Is the Honourable Minister aware that motor-owners plying on the Grand Trunk Road from Attari to Amritsar are being asked to join a company that is running from Attari towards Lahore ?

**Minister :** I cannot answer that question off-hand. If the honourable member gives notice, I shall most certainly enquire.

**Lala Bhagat Ram Choda :** Is it the intention of Government to find out a favoured rich man who may control owner-drivers having one or two motor lorries ?

**Minister :** The only intention of Government is to provide the public with better transport facilities.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** What is the answer to part (e) of the question ? Under what law is the Regional Transport Authority authorised to issue instructions to individuals to form themselves into a company ?

**Minister :** Under the Motor Vehicles Act.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Is the Honourable Minister in a position to state whether definite instructions are issued by the Regional Transport Authority that no licences should be issued to those who do not form themselves into limited companies under the control of selected firms or selected men in the province ?

**Minister :** No.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Is the Honourable Minister aware that in some districts the whole traffic is monopolised by one firm, where hundreds were in the business ?

**Minister :** May be, I cannot say.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Is that due to the compulsion adopted by the Regional Transport Authority ?

**Mr. Speaker :** That is an argument.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Is the Honourable Minister aware of the fact that the whole of transport business in the Kangra district has been monopolised by a company which has been favoured by the Transport Authority, Jullundur ?

**Minister :** May be so. I am not an encyclopaedia. If the honourable member gives notice, I shall answer the question.

### SHORT NOTICE QUESTION AND ANSWER

#### MOGHALPURA ENGINEERING COLLEGE

**\*9316. Sufi Abdul Hamid Khan :** Will the Honourable Minister of Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) the total number of students admitted last year for civil engineering and for other branches respectively in the Moghalpura Engineering College ;

(b) whether this number has now been increased, if so, whether it is intended to observe the same proportion in the Civil engineering classes and in the classes for the other branches of engineering?

**The Honourable Sardar Shaukat Hayat Khan:** The information asked for is as follows :—

- |                                   |    |    |              |
|-----------------------------------|----|----|--------------|
| (a) Civil Engineering Class       | .. | .. | 21 students. |
| Mechanical and Electrical classes | .. | .. | 19 students. |

(b) The number of vacancies in the civil engineering class was increased from 14 to 21 with effect from 1st October 1941 and to 22 with effect from 1st October 1943. No further increase is intended to be made.

#### REFERENCES TO LATE GENERAL SIR UMAR HAYAT KHAN

**Minister of Revenue** (The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram): Sir, with your permission I desire to make a reference to the sad death of General Sir Malik Umar Hayat Khan Tiwana which took place on the 24th, and request you to convey an expression of sympathy on behalf of the House to the Honourable Premier.

I came to know the late General in 1905-06 when he was a member of the Old Imperial Legislative Council. Since 1914—18 I came to know him more closely and more intimately. The late General was a fine specimen of a true Punjabi soldier. By his death not only our own province, but the whole of India has suffered a tremendous loss. We mourn his death and I am sure his death will be mourned throughout this province, in fact much beyond this province and even beyond the confines of India. He was a true type of a Punjabi in every way, a true type of a Punjabi zamindar, a true type of a Punjabi soldier and a true type of a Punjabi landlord. He had many qualities of head and heart for which those who knew him closely had great admiration. But what really characterised him most were the fine qualities which he inherited from his forefathers, that is, those fine martial instincts which characterise every Punjabi coming from the martial races. Not only did he inherit a very rich heritage of those qualities but he improved upon them in his life time. In the first decade of the 20th century he served in Somaliland and, later, in Tibet. In the last Great War he served in France, Egypt, Palestine, Mesopotamia and subsequently on the North-West Frontier of India. In every campaign in which he took part he was very frequently mentioned in despatches and distinguished himself on every field of battle where he went. But that is not all. There was another very fine trait of his character which endeared him to one and all. He had very broad sympathies. There again he had a rich heritage of this quality from his forefathers. His sphere of friendship was unusually large. He had many friends in foreign countries, he had many friends in every province and every important State of India. So far as the Punjab is concerned, every tract of this province simply abounded with his friends. His friends were not confined to any particular class or community. They were drawn from every class, every community and every section of society. This vast sphere of his friends gave him that capacity for sympathy which is so rare nowadays. His friendship was extended to every type of man and to every grade of society. This helped him to rise above the level of narrow-minded sympathy. He was absolutely above communalism and absolutely above race. He was similarly above narrow considerations of religion in his dealings with the people. This was a trait of character which extorted admiration from each and all of his friends and foes alike.

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A third trait of his character marked him out as a very generous-hearted landlord. He mixed freely with his tenants and had affection and sympathy for each one of those who worked under him on his estate. He had very cordial relations with all those who lived in or near the vast estate which he owned in the Sargodha district. His charities were very extensive and knew no bounds of either religion or race. All these traits of character combined to endear him to the heart of everybody. The great esteem and affection in which he was held was demonstrated on the occasion of his death. From Sargodha where he died to Kalra where he was buried I saw near every inhabited place which was anywhere near the road along which his body passed, vast crowds coming up to have a glimpse of him. People were in deep mourning, on his death and, in their grief uttered cries which were eloquent testimony to the esteem and affection in which he was held. I remember two of the characteristic cries which men, women and children uttered in their grief—"Our *badshah* is gone, our model of charity is no more". That shows how deeply he was loved and how highly he was esteemed by everybody. He really lived a noble life which should be an example to us. He lived a life which was described by one of the great Persian Poets, I think Shaikh Saadi, in the following couplet :—

آن چنان زی که وقت مردن تو همه گریان بودند و تو خندان

That was literally true in his case.

With these few brief remarks I request you, with the agreement of the House, to convey an expression of sympathy of the House to the Honourable Premier.

**Sardar Santokh Singh** (Eastern Towns, Sikh, Urban): Sir, I associate myself with all that has been said by the Honourable Minister for Revenue. We on this side of the House fully share the sorrow and grief that has been caused to the Honourable Premier by the passing away of his esteemed father, General Malik Sir Umar Hyat Khan Tiwana. General Malik Sir Umar Hayat Khan Tiwana was a great man of his time and a perfect gentleman, who was loved and respected by members of all communities. His military career was of a very high order and he deservedly won many an honour. The passing away of such a gentleman is indeed a great loss, and India in general and this province in particular, are distinctly the poorer by his passing away.

**Minister of Education** (The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye): I associate myself with the sentiments expressed by Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram. General Malik Sir Umar Hayat Khan was a benevolent aristocrat, a great Punjabi and a great soldier. He has had a most distinguished career in the army and rose to the highest position an officer could aspire to. In public life of India, his contributions are equally notable. He was a member of the Imperial Legislature from 1920 where I had an opportunity of meeting him for the first time. Above all he was a man of wide sympathies, generous disposition and princely qualities. He gave his charities to all those who needed them without distinction of caste and creed and this was demonstrated to us at the time of his funeral when hosts of men, women and children paid big homage of tears to the deceased. His life was gentle, his manners captivating, and his big temperament, a dominant feature of his character. He is dead but his memory will ever dwell in the hearts of his people he loved and served. Our deepest sympathies go out to his illustrious son and our leader, in his grave loss which is at once the loss of the Province and of India.

**Begum Rashida Latif Baji** (Inner Lahore, Muhammadan, Women) (Urdu): Sir, I associate myself with other honourable members in expressing

grief over the sad demise of General Sir Umar Hayat Tiwana, *rais* of Kalra. He was a *rais* of the old type. He had in his heart great sympathy for the poor. When my husband, Khan Bahadur Shaikh Abdul Latif, was supervising the construction of Khushab bridge I had an opportunity of residing for two or three years at Shahpur. The women from that place used to come and tell me that the late Sir Umar was very kind to his tenants, men and women both, and in particular he showed great sympathy for widows. He, in fact, had fixed yearly allowances for the widows, inasmuch as they received their yearly quota of wheat according to the number of their children. Besides he rendered them financial help in meeting their other needs. He kept many servants and according to Islamic traditions he maintained friendly relations with them. In fact they shared his company as equals. It is really sad that such a great person has passed away. I express my heartfelt sympathy with the Honourable Premier in his bereavement, and I lend my whole-hearted support to the suggestion made by the Honourable Revenue Minister.

**Sir William Roberts** (European): Sir, on behalf of the European community I have very great pleasure in joining in this tribute to General Malik Sir Umar Hayat Khan. During his life he undoubtedly added to the status of the Punjab. He was a spectacular figure. The mere sight of him produced great effect. In the Central Assembly in Delhi I had seen him on many occasions. No doubt he contributed a very small part to the debate, but he had very great influence owing to the fact that he was absolutely devoted to his work. Indian soldiers, particularly the Punjabi soldiers, will feel the loss of such a great man.

**Mr. K. L. Rallia Ram** (West Central Punjab, Indian Christian): Sir, I beg to associate myself with the sentiments of sorrow and grief which have been so eloquently expressed on the floor of this House at the sad demise of one of the most illustrious men that India has ever produced. He might be called one of the greatest men that the Punjab ever produced and I am sure his name will be put in the galaxy of those who have made such effective contributions to enrich the land in every way. He was a great man and a rich man but he was pink of courtesy and politeness. I had the privilege of meeting him many times and each time I was very well impressed with his simplicity, with his unassuming ways and with his willingness to help those who approached him in any way. Number of speakers have referred to the qualities of his head and heart but his most outstanding quality was, as it has been said, that he was a man who was very liberal in his views. I think he was above communalism. He treated people of all communities alike and whenever he could help anyone, he would not grudge doing so on account of his religion or any limitation. In this hour of gloom, which has befallen the country, our sympathies naturally go towards the Honourable Premier whose loss no doubt is irreparable, but we are so glad to know that he has imbibed already the good qualities of his father and we are sure that he will keep up the traditions of this great house. He was a man of international fame and we are all proud of him and we are thankful to God Almighty for the work and for the service which he has done to this country.

**Mr. Speaker**: I associate myself with all that has been said by speakers before me. The only thing I wish to ask is whether the honourable members wish me to convey their condolence and sympathies to the Honourable Premier.  
(Honourable members: Yes.)

## ADJOURNMENT

**Minister of Revenue** (The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram) :  
Sir, I beg to move—

That the Assembly at its rising today shall stand adjourned *sine die*.

*The motion was carried.*

## ADJOURNMENT MOTIONS

## RESTRICTIONS ON SECURITY PRISONERS

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh** : I beg 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, that the Government have recently imposed unnecessary and teasing restrictions on the security prisoners, restricting them not to write letters consisting of more than 20 lines.

**Mr. Speaker** : Has the honourable member got any proof in support of his allegation ?

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh** : Oh, yes. My saying so is a proof and nobody can rebut it.

**Minister of Revenue** : Restriction has been imposed.

**Sayed Amjad Ali Shah** : No notice of the adjournment motion has been received by us. We do not know what the adjournment motion is about.

**Mr. Speaker** : Adjournment motion can be moved at half an hour's notice. Leave is asked for making a motion for the adjournment of the business of the House to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely, that the Government have recently imposed unnecessary and teasing restrictions on the security prisoners, restricting them not to write letters containing of more than 20 lines.

Have the honourable members any objection to leave being granted ? Those who are in favour of leave being granted should stand in their seats.

*(As less than 35 members rose in their seats, leave was refused.)*

## EXORBITANT PRICE OF LAND

**Mian Muhammad Nurullah** : I beg 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 demand of an exorbitant price at the rate of 150 times the land revenue per acre on  $2\frac{1}{2}$  acres from the lambardars in the districts of Lyallpur and Sheikhpura.

**Mr. Speaker** : The motion is meaningless as it stands.

**Mian Muhammad Nurullah** : The meaning is quite clear. The Government is asking the lambardars to pay 150 times the land revenue as the price per acre and this is very exorbitant. The motion is quite clear. I have got a letter and a representation as well signed by many lambardars and I would like to read them. The letter is from the Honorary Secretary, Zamindars Association, Sheikhpura. If you will kindly allow me to read this letter you will at once realise what the position is. If their grievances are not voiced now they will suffer and before the next session they will have paid a very heavy price. It will be detrimental to their interests.

**Minister of Revenue:** The honourable member can send the representation to me and I will look into it.

**Mian Muhammad Nurullah:** Very well. I can see the Minister of Revenue and discuss it with him.

### SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURE (1944-45) AUTHENTICATED BY THE GOVERNOR

**Minister of Finance** (The Honourable 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 1944-45, authenticated by His Excellency the Governor.

As required by sub-section (1) of section 80 of the Government of India Act, 1935, I hereby authenticate the following schedule in respect of the financial year 1944-45 which specifies—

(a) the grant 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 .. ..	55,54,600	71,400	56,26,000
2	8—Provincial Excise .. ..	12,32,000	..	12,32,000
3	9—Stamps .. ..	2,32,300	..	2,32,300
4	10—Forests .. ..	66,71,400	3,12,300	69,83,700
5	11—Registration .. ..	1,26,200	..	1,26,200
6	12—Charges on account of Motor Vehicles Acts.	11,84,700	45,700	12,30,400
	13—Other Taxes and Duties.. ..			
7	XVII—Irrigation—Working Expenses ..	1,02,81,400	1,59,93,200	2,52,74,600
	17—Interest on Irrigation Works for which Capital Accounts are kept.			
	18—Other Irrigation Expenditure financed from Ordinary Revenues.			
8	Irrigation—Establishment Charges ..	1,38,64,500	14,24,500	1,52,89,000
9	19—Construction of Irrigation Works financed from Ordinary Revenues.	75,97,200	..	75,97,200
	68—Construction of Irrigation Works Capital Expenditure)			



*Schedule of expenditure—concluded*

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.
..	22—Interest on Debt and Other Obligations	..	—59,16,000	—59,16,000
	23—Appropriation for Reduction or Avoidance of Debt.			
10	25—General Administration .. ..	1,21,73,400	22,79,100	1,44,52,500
11	27—Administration of Justice .. ..	41,66,200	17,98,600	59,64,800
12	28—Jails and Convict Settlements .. ..	53,28,700	33,500	53,62,200
13	29—Police .. ..	2,24,06,100	10,45,700	2,34,51,800
14	36—Scientific Departments .. ..	7,07,400	900	7,08,300
	47—Miscellaneous Departments .. ..			
	62—Miscellaneous adjustments between the Central and Provincial Governments			
	37—Education (European and Anglo-Indian Education).	6,51,000	7,400	6,58,400
	37—Education (excluding European and Anglo-Indian Education).	2,00,61,100	1,07,900	2,01,69,000
17	38—Medical .. ..	60,18,700	1,86,600	62,04,300
18	39—Public Health .. ..	36,27,100	39,000	36,66,100
19	40—Agriculture .. ..	75,26,400	75,900	76,02,300
20	41—Veterinary .. ..	19,52,100	52,800	20,04,900
21	42—Co-operation .. ..	28,61,100	51,400	29,12,500
22	43—Industries .. ..	31,38,100	500	31,38,600
23	50—Civil Works .. ..	1,20,93,100	1,34,800	1,22,27,900
24	Buildings and Roads—Establishment charges.	21,21,100	1,85,800	23,06,900
25	52—Interest on Capital Outlay on Electricity Schemes.	16,36,600	29,22,700	45,59,300
	XLI—Electricity Schemes—Working Expenses.			
26	52-A—Other Revenue Expenditure connected with Electricity Schemes.	14,22,800	..	14,22,800
27	50-A—Capital Outlay on Civil Works met out of Extraordinary Receipts.	5,74,300	..	5,74,300
	81—Capital Account of Civil Works outside the Revenue Account.			

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.
28	53—Capital Outlay on Electricity Schemes met out of Revenue.			
	81-A—Capital Outlay on Electricity Schemes (outside the Revenue Account).	3,40,400	..	3,40,400
29	54—Famine .. .. .	1,00,000	..	1,00,000
30	55—Superannuation Allowances and Pensions.	66,23,200	22,81,300	96,09,300
	55-A—Commutation of Pensions financed from Ordinary Revenues			
	83—Payments of Commuted Value of Pensions (Capital Expenditure).	—1,86,500	2,25,100	38,600
31	56—Stationery and Printing ..	18,77,800	..	18,77,800
32	57—Miscellaneous .. ..			
	63—Extraordinary Charges .. ..	34,00,700	24,100	34,24,800
..	85-A—Capital Outlay on Schemes connected with the War, 1939.	—2,68,000	..	—2,68,000
	Advances not bearing interest—			
33	Advances Repayable .. ..	4,19,400	..	4,19,400
	Loans and Advances bearing interest—			
34	Loans to Municipalities, Advances to Cultivators, etc.			
	Loans to Government Servants ..	18,22,900	..	18,22,900
	GRAND TOTAL ..	16,93,42,300	2,40,83,200	19,34,25,500

LAHORE :

The 24th March 1944

B. J. GLANCY

Governor of the Punjab

## SUPPLEMENTARY STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURE (1943-44)

AUTHENTICATED BY THE GOVERNOR

**Minister of Finance** (The Honourable 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 1943-44, 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 1943-44, which specifies :—

(a) the supplementary grants (third instalment) made by the Punjab Legislative Assembly in its Session held in March, 1944, and

(b) the sums required to meet the expenditure charged on the revenue<sup>a</sup> 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.
3	9—Stamps .. .. .	1,21,570	..	1,21,570
10	25—General Administration .. ..	23,000	9,400	32,400
30	55—Superannuation Allowances and Pensions.	1,59,750	..	1,59,750
..	83—Payments of Commuted Value of Pensions.	41,740	..	41,740
31	56—Stationery and Printing .. ..	93,970	..	93,970
32	57—Miscellaneous and 63— Extraordinary Charges.	22,53,880	..	22,53,880
4	10—Forests .. .. .	10	..	10
17	38—Medical .. .. .	10	..	10
20	41—Veterinary .. .. .	10	..	10
21	42—Co-operation .. .. .	10	..	10
28	81-A—Capital Outlay on Electricity Schemes (outside the Revenue Account).	10	..	10
	GRAND TOTAL ..	26,93,960	9,400	27,03,360

LAHORE :

The 24th March 1944

B. J. GLANCY

Governor of the Punjab

**REPORT OF THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE**

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

That the Report of the Public Accounts Committee on the Appropriation Accounts and Finance Accounts of the Punjab Government for the year 1941-42, be taken into consideration and adopted and that the Excess Grants recommended by the Committee be voted.

These demands for excess grants are made on the recommendation of the Governor.

**Mr. Speaker :** Motion moved is—

That the Report of the Public Accounts Committee on the Appropriation Accounts and Finance Accounts of the Punjab Government for the year 1941-42, be taken into consideration and adopted and that the excess grants recommended by the Committee be voted.

**Sardar Santokh Singh** (Eastern Town, Sikh, Urban): Sir, I rise to oppose the adoption of the Report, and in doing so I would bring to the notice of the House some cases of financial irregularities—nay of financial scandal which have been brought to light by the Audit Department. If you will kindly refer to pages 8—11 of the Report on the Appropriation Accounts for the year 1941-42 and the Audit Report for 1943, you will find that serious scandals in regard to the transactions of the Government have been brought to light by the Audit Department. I will go serially into these matters. The first are the bills paid in which the quantities billed for and paid to contractors were higher than those reported as having been received by the fodder Kanungos in their daily statements. This is a very serious allegation, not only an allegation but a statement of fact made by the Audit that bills for more quantity than those actually received were paid by the Fodder Adviser. This is No. 1. In this connection I would like to bring to the notice of the House that the purchases of fodder were made free on rail at the destinations, that is to say, that the contractors had agreed to make the sales at rates that were to be determined at the points of destination; and for that, as every businessman understands, they must have charged higher rates than if the purchases were made free on rail at the loading stations. It appears that no steps were taken by anybody to weigh the fodder that arrived at the destinations; not only that, but the books kept at these dumps were so unreliable, as has been admitted by the Government, that no head or tail could be made out of them. I will come to this aspect of the question however later. The Fodder Adviser, without having any proper certificate as to the correct quantity received at the destinations, was bold enough to make payments to the contractors. The Audit had suggested that the books of the contractors may at least be verified, but even that request of the Audit was turned down by the Government. It is true that wagons were trans-shipped in the way from the metre-gauge to the narrow gauge railway but that must have been taken into consideration by the contractors when making these sales and as no steps had been taken at the destination to weigh the quantity that arrived and was paid for, the contractor must have become bolder in despatching more short weights. If only the consignments were weighed, all this trouble would not have arisen. Now the accounts submitted by the Fodder Adviser himself, as a result of the report of the sub-committee, which was appointed by the Government, go to show that there has been a shortage of 588,000 maunds of fodder in all these fodder transactions made between 1938 and 1940. This involves a loss to the public exchequer of Rs. 4,41,000. How has this important matter been dealt with by the Government? A report is submitted to the Government by the Audit Department laying down fully all these facts which have resulted in the shortage of about 6 lakh maunds of *bhusa* and a loss of Rs. 4,41,000? They appointed a committee and as a result of the recommendations of that committee a sub-committee consisting of two men, one an Accounts Officer and the other a Revenue Officer, was appointed, and you will be surprised to know the terms of reference of that committee. The terms did not require them to fix responsibility on a person or persons for causing this loss of Rs. 4,41,000. There is not a word as to what were the terms of reference of that sub-committee in regard to this aspect of the matter. The enquiry committee meets, goes into the question and simply gives us the total receipts of the *a bhusa* these operation dumps

[S Santokh Singh]

resulting in a loss of 568,000 maunds. There is not a word of explanation as to who was responsible for it. Was it not the responsibility of any person to see that the terms of the contracts were carried out, that the proper quantity of bhussa was received? They simply met, and wrote out their report showing as I have said a considerable loss to the public exchequer. The Government did not take any further action and did not even ask for a serious explanation from the officers responsible for this loss. Probably the Government thinks that because there is a big surplus in the budget, those 4½ lakhs of rupees do not matter. It may not mean anything to them but to the public every pie is of value. I do charge the Government with wilful and deliberate negligence in not making any enquiry and in hushing up the matter.

The second irregularity that was brought to the notice of this Government was that bills were paid in which the rates charged were higher than the contract rates. This is an unheard of thing. Nobody has ever heard that Government paid bills at rates which were higher than the contract rates. We tried to get some explanation of this in the meetings of the public accounts committee, and all we were told was that the Fodder Adviser passed verbal orders that payments should be made at increased rates. Nobody knows the circumstances in which those orders were passed. All we were told was that the Fodder Adviser had in his wisdom thought it necessary to pay at higher rates than the contract rates. Now, shall I be wrong if I call it scandalous? Is it not a scandal of the first magnitude that bills have been paid—not one bill but several bills—at rates higher than the contract rates and is this not an unheard of thing? No businessman at least can tolerate it for a moment. When all these things were brought to the notice of the Government, what did they do? They simply issued a whitewashing statement exonerating every body and holding nobody responsible for it. This is the position that we have drifted to.

The third principal complaint brought to the notice of the Government by the Audit was that some of the acknowledgments given by the fodder kanungos had been altered and payments were made to the contractors for larger quantity of fodder than that initially acknowledged. Acknowledgments were altered and there was a bundle of forgeries and still this Government has not thought it fit to make proper enquiries to find out as to who were responsible for altering those slips and for having made the payments for greater quantities than what the kanungos acknowledged to have received. This is a very serious charge and I only regret to have to say that the Government did not take any proper action in this matter.

The next is a very serious charge that payments were made on the basis of acknowledgments which were not accepted by the fodder kanungos as having been issued by them. I really fail to understand why this case was not handed over to the police. Instead of handing this case over to the police or to the Anti-Corruption Department or any other Department the Government exonerates everybody from the blame. When the late Premier was alive this question was raised from this side of the House by Lala Sahib Ram, if I mistake not, and the reply that the late Premier gave was based only on sentimental grounds that he had more confidence in the gentleman on the spot than he had in himself. If he were alive I would have asked him what became of the 6 lakhs maunds of fodder especially when the purchases were made for delivery at destination. I can not now pursue this matter in the light of the statement made by him. This is however a very important

I P. M.

point and the Honourable Minister of Finance will bear it in mind. The purchases were not made for despatch from the despatching point because in that case any losses in transit or otherwise would have been borne by the Government, but were made at the destination point, and transit losses were to be borne by the contractors. Payments were made on the basis of the chits which were not owned by anybody; they were forged and again payments were made at rates higher than those approved by the Fodder Adviser. The whole thing becomes more scandalous by the fact that nobody cared to have the fodder weighed on arrival at its destination before taking delivery and the payments were made without this weighing. Nobody satisfied himself as to whether the chits that were issued for payments had been issued by proper persons; nobody cared to verify whether the quantity contracted for had been actually received. The Government admits that the registers were not properly maintained. If the dump registers were not properly kept it was all the more the duty of the Government to have made proper enquiries and entrust the matter to the C. I. D. or to the Anti-Corruption Department or to anybody else—we are not so much concerned with the personnel of the investigating agency but the enquiry itself. A sifting enquiry should have been made to find out as to who were responsible for a scandal of this magnitude. But nothing of the kind was done.

Then, Sir, it was suggested that at least the accounts of the contractors should be verified, but the Government did not agree even to that and said that it was not necessary. I do not know what loss the Government would have suffered if they had agreed to examine the accounts of the contractors; we could have at least known who was at fault. It is painful to note that no proper certificates were issued that so much fodder had been duly received. I challenge the Minister of Finance to tell us whether any proper certificates were issued to that effect. If that was done, that would have been at least something. But nothing of the kind was done. It seems as if it was considered to be nobody's concern.

Now, the sub-committee that was formed consisted, as I have already said, of an Accounts Officer and a Revenue Officer. In the terms of reference of that Committee it was nowhere laid down that they were to enquire and fix the responsibility of the matter on the offenders. The Committee was not to make any report to that effect. There may be good reasons for the Government not to allow the Committee to do that and shelve the matter, but what we are concerned with is the loss of 4½ lakhs of rupees and 6 lakhs maunds of fodder. Now, what are the findings of that Committee? In the first place they say—

Fodder was not weighed promptly on arrival at its destination.

Why was that not done, I ask? Was it or was it not the duty of somebody to look to that especially when the purchases were made for the actual delivery at destination. If that was not done why should not the person or persons who were to do this be hauled up and the recoveries made from them? Further the Committee say—

Entries were not made directly in the dump stock registers and they did not show the quantities of fodder actually received and entered in the dump receipt registers but generally contained quantities issued.

Who is to blame for this initial mistake? Why was it not done? Why has the Government not made any enquiry to find this out. These allegations—they are in fact no allegations but statements of facts—made not by any laymen or by the members of the Opposition but by the Audit and I see no reason why the Government should not try to find out the persons who were to blame, and fix the responsibility on them.

[S. Santokh Singh.]

The Committee then say—

The correctness of the quantities shown as received in the dump registers was doubtful. For instance 240 maunds of fodder contained in two broad-gauge wagons transhipped in three meter-gauge wagons was weighed at the destination dump as 82 maunds while the same quantity of fodder transhipped in four meter-gauge wagons was weighed at destination as 85 maunds.

I really fail to see why a properly authorised person was not appointed to see that the things were properly weighed at destination.

Now I come to the observations of the Punjab Government in regard to this matter. They say—

(i) the dump registers are not entirely reliable.

Be that as it may, but what steps have you taken to see that they were properly maintained?

Then they say—

(ii) There is in consequence no really reliable independent record showing the liability of Government for payment to fodder contractors;

If there is no reliable record this is all the more a reason that an enquiry should be made and facts found out. What are your reasons for shirking such an enquiry? For my part I cannot understand why the Government should feel shy of an enquiry and letting the public know all about this scandalous state of affairs. Why should not the Government have a sifting enquiry made into all these statements of facts just to clear their own position if not for anything else? The Government says—

The objection of the Audit Department relating to the alleged overpayments, which are based on the unreliable dump registers, lose much of their force and accordingly it is useless to investigate the accounts of individual contractors.

Can anybody accept the excuse that because the dump registers are not reliable, not having been properly kept, therefore the Government accounts should not be verified with those of the contractors? The Government should have verified their accounts with those of the contractors at least to see what the situation was and how the reported loss was brought about. But nothing of the kind was done. Instead of that the Government says—it is useless to verify the accounts of the contractors. I am not able to understand this logic. If the Government's intentions were honest they should have been the first to appoint an enquiry committee to find out exactly what the situation was and how all this was brought about. Have you, Mr. Speaker, with your vast experience, ever heard of any officer paying higher than the contract rates to contractors by mere verbal orders and without recording any reasons for the increased rates? Contracts are always in writing and not oral. Yet the Minister cannot deny that higher rates were paid to the contractors because of certain so-called verbal orders. Some of us tried to pursue the matter to the best of our ability in the public accounts committee but we were not given any valid reason why it was necessary to pay higher rates by mere verbal orders. I say, that no officer, however high his position, can do that. He cannot give verbal orders to squander away public money and pay to contractors higher rates than what they are entitled to.

No attempt appears to have been made to weigh fodder either at the receiving stations or at the dumps. Is that creditable? The Government should have taken some action against those who had failed in their elementary duty in

this respect and who had allowed public funds to be squandered in this disgraceful manner. The Government instead says—

Excluding the quantity of fodder distributed from contractors' dumps for the loss of which the contractors were responsible, the percentage of loss of fodder from Government dumps will be considerably higher than 9.2 per cent suggested by the Fodder Advisor.

Government takes pride in the fact that this loss was not higher than 9.2 per cent. The Audit Department naturally with all the information at its disposal tells us that this loss is three times higher than the loss in military farms. I will read out the exact words—

It may, however, be observed that the percentage of loss in the present instance of 9.2 is about three times the average actual percentage of loss in Military Grass Farms as worked out from the Production and Purchase Accounts of Grass Farms appearing in Commercial Appendices to the Appropriation Accounts of the Defence Services for the past few years.

That means to say that this loss, the Audit alleges, is three times more than the loss which generally is the case in military farms. Here again I have to point out that the loss should have been very small because the purchases were made on arrival at destination. The Government took delivery of the commodity at destination and I see no reason why there should have been any loss at all. Further, if the loss had been only  $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent or one per cent I should not mind it, but here the loss is as much as 9.2 per cent, three times more than in the Military farms. Nothing whatever has been done by the Government to make an enquiry. This is my greatest complaint. The Government instead of putting itself in the position of the accused and giving all sorts of excuses, good or bad, as it has done; should have been the first to order an enquiry into the whole matter, but they have contented themselves by issuing some white washing documents—

They have further observed that in view of huge quantities of fodder arriving at a number of stations simultaneously, much of it being in loose form and with losses due to thieving, to high winds and other causes at various stages, such as loading and unloading and transferring it from one system of railway to another, a more generous allowance should be made for the difficulties inherent in the system and that loss of fodder to some extent is inevitable in large transactions of this kind.

What is this thieving? (*An honourable member*: It must have been stolen on the way). But Government is not responsible for that. Whatever loss occurs in transit, it is the contractor's loss. The contractor has to deliver goods at destination and he has to be paid for the actual quantity delivered at the destination. Government further says,—

The total unaccounted shortage of 5,88,743 maunds of fodder must be accepted as unavoidable in transactions of this magnitude carried out without proper arrangements for weighment and its actual value to be written off should be determined.

The objections of the Audit Department in regard to individual contractors accounts based on somewhat unreliable dump registers are hereby waived.

Because the registers are unreliable and the accounts were not maintained as they should have been, Government goes out of its way and waives the objections of the Audit Department. What curious findings and what a curious reasoning?

It is understood that the major portion of the staff engaged in connection with fodder operations were temporary hands who have left the service and that such staff as is still in service had little or no experience of the work and had, in any case, to make the best of the difficult conditions under which work was being carried out. The question of fixing responsibility on the various members of the dump staff for not maintaining the dump registers properly and accurately should not, in the circumstances, be pursued.

The question should not be pursued and may be dropped, as if it does not touch anybody's pocket and any person could squander away public money in whatever way he likes! Government is the custodian of that money, and it is for Government to see that proper enquiry is instituted to find out exactly who was responsible for this deliberate waste of public funds, but this I am afraid the Government



[S. Santokh Singh.]

has signally failed to do. My point is that such a huge waste of public funds cannot be allowed to pass without any action being taken on it, and matters should not remain where they were. I should suggest to Government that in their own interest, they should form an independent enquiry committee, consisting of the members of this House to thrash the whole matter or entrust it to the C. I. D., or their Anti-Corruption Department, or if they so desire it to an enquiry committee consisting exclusively of the members sitting on the ministerial benches. There will be only one verdict that Government has seriously bungled in this matter, that the officers who were responsible for these fodder transactions should not remain in Government service a minute longer and that the money so deliberately wasted should be recovered from them. With these words I oppose the adoption of this demand.

**Mian Muhammad Nurullah** (Lyallpur, Muhammadan, Rural): Sir, I also rise to oppose this motion. I was astounded to read the note of dissent recorded by Malik Barkat Ali, a member of the Public Accounts Committee. I was a member of the Public Accounts Committee for a number of years during the last Council, but it had never during those five or six years that I was a member come to our notice that there could be such losses to Government and money of Government could be wasted so mercilessly as it has been done now. I will draw your attention to page 5 of the Report of the Committee of Public Accounts which shows that there were so many irregularities and so many embezzlements committed:—

	Rs.
(1) Misappropriation of Government money by a <i>lambardar</i> .. .. .	1,990
(2) Embezzlement of Government money by a <i>wasil baqi nawis</i> .. .. .	690
(3) Loss in repairing Tower Foundations on the 182-k. v. and 66-k. v. Transmission lines of the Hydro-Electric Scheme .. .. .	13,82,730
(4) Loss by fire at a sub-station of the Electricity Branch .. .. .	63,429
(5) Shortage of material obtained by dismantlement of a Transmission Line in one of the divisions of the Electricity Branch .. .. .	2,445
(6) Financial irregularities and consequent losses arising out of fodder accounts maintained in the famine areas .. .. .	4,41,557
(7) Loss incurred in the disposal of gunny bags purchased for the storage of wheat .. .. .	3,125
Total .. .. .	18,97,966

Some of these require serious consideration. No wonder why the Ministers want so much price from even the lambardars who are their servants. When asking for leave to make an adjournment motion I pointed out that I have received letters from the lambardars who are being asked by Government to pay 150 times the land revenue as the price per acre on  $2\frac{1}{2}$  acres which were given as *atia*. Government should not be strict about this. Price should be reduced and

made reasonable. With your permission I will read out three lines from the Report of the Public Accounts Committee :

It is regrettable to note that the amount of loss during the year under report is the largest since the beginning of Provincial Autonomy. The losses incurred in the previous years beginning from 1937-38 were as under :

Rs.

1937-38                      ..                      ..                      ..                      ..                      1,31,726

Except the year under consideration this was the highest. It is no credit at all to Government and I feel that much of the money of the province of the poor zamindars is being wasted and as many huge dams are going to be constructed shortly, as pointed out by the Honourable Ministers, our Government should be very cautious and not allow any Engineers to make unsound schemes and put them into action. We read in the Public Accounts Committee Report that all the Rs. 13 lakhs or so had to be spent on a single item. Why did the Government allow the Tower Foundations to be built without taking necessary precautions. These are questions that must be put. We cannot afford to give so much money if Government will throw it away like this. I am very much astonished to read the remarks made by Malik Barkat Ali in his minute of dissent. I will quote a few lines on the fodder question, in which case Government has lost nearly 4½ lakhs.

The report no doubt refers to "financial irregularities" involving a loss of Rs. 4,41,557 to Government on account of less supply of fodder than that paid for, but even a cursory examination of the accounts reveals the astounding fact that the so-called "financial irregularities" are but a euphemism for the bundle of forgeries proved to have been committed by some of the staff in order to dishonestly divide the loot between themselves and some of the contractors.

- The next sentence is the sentence to which I want to draw your special attention.

The accounts prepared by the Department have been found to be utterly unreliable, and for that reason, the Government has decided that further action is useless.

By saying this our Government is accepting a very wrong principle. It is all the more serious and as we are entering a new era, we are told that Government have reserved Rs. 1,50 lakhs for starting such schemes that will benefit the zamindars,—if money is going to be wasted as it has been wasted, then God help us ! We do not put money into the coffers of the Exchequer simply to be thrown away.

Give us back the sum of Rs. 150 lakhs to be devoted to the zamindars rather than go into business which you cannot manage. You are laying down traditions which will bring ruin to yourself and to the zamindars of the province. I warn you to be very cautious. Do not go into business. Do not go into business where you cannot properly explain, where you cannot see that every rupee that you spend brings back much more than a rupee. You are wasting here sixteen annas out of every rupee. Malik Sahib further says :

It appears to me that the utter unreliability of the accounts is just the very reason for handing over these augean stables to the detective staff of the Police to clear up.

I say that when such a serious loss occurred there should have been an independent inquiry into the matter to find out how this happened because otherwise in future it will be a great set back. I remember one manager of a co-operative shop in my district who embezzled a few thousand rupees. What was the result ? Everybody was afraid and nobody wanted to put any money in the co-operative society. There is a big embezzlement here and nothing is done. It may or may not be an embezzlement. The question is why is this loss not traced. The reason that the loss could not be traced because of the unreliability of the accounts is very astounding. If tomorrow you give me 5 crores to spend and I cannot produce any accounts or produce unreliable accounts or

[M. Md. Nurullah.]

make fictitious accounts, will you let me free? It is the easiest thing to give some fictitious or unreliable accounts and because of the unreliability of the accounts or the fictitious nature of the accounts, will you not go into the matter and see how this money has been spent? Should unreliability be an excuse? This is an astounding theory. It is very bad. You will be doing the greatest harm to the development of industry in this province, whether public or private. If Government cannot take serious steps in such matters, then it should keep quiet because in future we cannot afford to lose such large amounts. If the Government can properly manage a thing then by all means let it undertake it. Otherwise let it not undertake it. Give us back the money and we will spend it ourselves. We do not want to see such a sympathetic Government wasting our money, handing over huge amounts to others and not being able to do anything. Such a state of affairs cannot be tolerated by the poor zamindars who pay so much revenue to the Government. I therefore support the Leader of the Opposition and oppose the motion.

**Rana Nasrullah Khan** (Hoshiarpur-West, Muslim, Rural (Urdu) : Sir, a my honourable friend Mian Nurullah has pointed out just now, the responsibility of spending public money in a proper manner lies on our shoulders. If according to some the sum of 4 lakhs is spent improperly, the Government should only welcome the idea of an independent enquiry, because that is the only way open to them by which they can clarify their position before the public. If the enquiry committee reports to the effect that the sum was spent properly, then the doubts created in the minds of the public shall be proved to be without any foundation. Apart from that I have no objection to the Report of the Committee.

**Lala Sita Ram** (Trade Union, Labour (Urdu) : Sir, I too was a member of this Public Accounts Committee. The honourable Leader of the Opposition has very ably described the meetings of the said committee just now. I do not propose to take much time. I would like to draw the attention of the House to the objections raised, not by any member of the committee from the Opposition, but by the Accountant-General himself. We were surprised to know these facts. I shall only speak about the few very serious charges levelled against the Government officials in connection with fodder supplied to the famine-stricken area of the south-east Punjab. The first charge is that more fodder was shown received than the original entry indicated.

**Mr. Speaker :** The honourable member is only repeating what has been said already.

**Lala Sita Ram :** I must be allowed to state the charges before the House. After all they are so serious. The second charge is that some of the contractors were paid at a higher rate than the stipulated one and no reason or justification for it was put forth. I do not understand how the Government can say that no further enquiry should be made into that matter in the presence of these two very serious charges, namely, the quantity of the fodder was shown more than that which was actually given, and the rates paid for it were higher than those previously agreed upon. The least thing that the Government could do was to set up an enquiry committee, departmental or independent, to enquire into the matter. If after holding proper enquiry they had told us that the persons held responsible for such grotesque irregularities were innocent, we would have been satisfied. But the point is that the Government is not prepared to enquire into the matter at all. If an ordinary person commits a crime like forgery, etc., the Government considers it its duty to bring him to book, but in the present case it

does not see the advisability of holding an enquiry even, inspite of the remarks of the Accountant-General about it. With these words, Sir, I oppose the motion now before the House.

**Lala Bhagat Ram Choda** (Jullundur, General, Rural) (*Urdu*): Sir, I do not want to take much time of the House as my honourable friends have dealt at length with the motion under consideration. However, I would like to say a word or two in this behalf. After all I ask where did so many lakhs of maunds of fodder go? Did it fly away with the wind? To me it appears that the contractors and the officials incharge of the relief work were in league with each other with the result that six lakhs maunds of fodder flew away nobody knows where. I think this matter cannot be dropped so very easily. Had any ordinary persons been involved in this matter Government would surely have taken action against them. But here high placed officials were involved and that is the reason why Government did not think it fit to take action against them. Besides it is stated in the Audit Report that for some months in the beginning the Fodder Adviser supplied fodder to Deputy Commissioners to be sold to cattle owners. But they did not keep any record of stocks received and issued. This is extraordinary indeed and yet no Deputy Commissioner has been called upon to explain this terrible lapse. In fact our Government is so very weak that it has not the courage to take action against any Deputy Commissioner at all. It is a veritable blot on the fair name of the Punjab. As against that it does not hesitate to throw members of the Congress party in jails and not a pie is spent on their diet by way of increased expenditure. What is more the honourable members belonging to the Congress party, for instance Panda Sant Ram, are not allowed to live in Lahore.

**Mr. Speaker :** The honourable member is irrelevant.

**Lala Bhagat Ram Choda :** Moreover the auditors who went to audit the accounts of the Hissar Famine were not permitted to check the account registers. Many people made this complaint but no action has been taken. It was the duty of the honourable members, who were on the Public Accounts Committee, to have thrashed this matter out. They did not pursue the matter any further. That was weakness on their part. They probably were content with four or five days of cold climate of Simla. They should have carefully considered this matter. I do not want to say much in regard to this matter. I would only submit that my friends on the Public Accounts Committee should have asked the Government as to why so big an expenditure had been incurred in connection with Hydro-Electric Scheme. Sir, Rs. 18 lakhs have been spent for repairing the tower foundations in order to obviate the possibility of their collapse apprehended as a result of corrosion. This is a very big loss and Government have not taken action against those responsible for it. The fact is that nobody cares a jot for Government work. Here appointments are made even though they are not necessary. Rather posts are created for men whom my friends want to oblige. If things continued in this manner I think a day will come when losses will reach crores instead of lakhs as it is at present. In this way the hard earned money of the zamindar is being wasted away. Just imagine, Sir, on lame excuse police posts are set up in rural areas in Jullundur and Hoshiarpur districts and zamindars are tortured and fleeced. But here lakhs of rupees are involved, yet no policeman dares to question my friends.

**Mr. Speaker :** The honourable member is irrelevant.

**Lala Bhagat Ram Choda :** Anyway I am submitting that five or six lakhs maunds of fodder was wasted away by the Deputy Commissioners, Kanungoes and Contractors. If that fodder had been given to the zamindars they would

[Lala Bhagat Ram, Chada]

have fed their animals on it. Consequently so many thousands of cattle would have been saved which otherwise died of lack of fodder. This is a matter in regard to which Government should institute inquiries and bring the culprits to book. The honourable members over there are not doing their duties properly. They support the Government through thick and thin. We cannot expect these "yesmen" to call the Government to account for these matters. These honourable members criticised the Government by way of show only. When voting is taken they always vote for the Government. This attitude of theirs amounts to saying *جی ہاں* and they say *جی ہاں*. With these words I request the Honourable Finance Minister to conduct inquiries into the matter and award suitable punishment to the culprits.

**Chaudhri Ali Akbar** (Gurdaspur East, Muhammudan, Rural) (Urdu): Sir, I am a member of the Unionist Party and as such I should not support motions tabled by my friends over there. However, when a matter passes the bounds of decency it is my duty to see that my party does not get discredit for it. If the attitude of Government remained what it is at present, I am afraid, Government servants will become more and more corrupt and dishonest. The matter under consideration is of such great importance that it requires that immediate inquiries should be held. If, perchance, Government do not institute inquiries into the matter corruption will certainly increase with the result that a great hue and cry will be raised by the public and thus the Unionist Party would get a good deal of discredit for nothing. I have always been under the impression that the members of the opposition table motions for the sake of opposition only. But this matter is such in regard to which, I think, their demand is fair and some sort of inquiry should be held in this connection. After all many lakhs of rupees are involved. One fails to understand how so many lakhs of maunds of *bhusa* flew away which could not be traced by anybody. This is a matter to which the Finance Minister should give his careful attention and it is only fair that inquiries should be held in regard to it. With these words I support the demand of the opposition for an enquiry.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma** (Kangra West, General, Rural): I had not the intention of speaking but I now propose making submissions on two points only. I want to recall the time when this very question was raised on the floor of this House. Certain questions were put and answers elicited from the Honourable Minister in charge. At that time the position of the Government was that it was due to an act of God but later on this thing was discussed at some length and it came to light that the persons who were responsible for this mischief, refused even to give the account books to responsible officers of the Government. This fact came to light and I do not know what action was taken by the Government. I wish to point out that this embezzlement had taken place with respect to the funds which were ear-marked for a very noble cause. This money was ear-marked for the relief of those people who were poverty stricken due to famine in a very important part of the Punjab, I mean the Hissar district. So far as I remember, the exchequer was taxed to the highest limit for giving relief to these poverty stricken people. But what has happened is that embezzlement has taken place out of those funds. This adds to the seriousness of the crime which has been committed by those people who embezzled money out of the funds which were meant to protect human life, for people who were poverty stricken due to famine. This makes the charge all the more serious against those people and in the interest of public finance. In the interest of the province and in the interest

of humanity it is the definite duty of the party in power to launch an independent enquiry into the allegations which are based upon official report namely, the report of the Audit Department of the Government.

If the reports of the Audit Department are to go unheeded there will be no end to corruption in the province. With these remarks I oppose the motion put before the House.

**Minister of Finance** (The Honourable Sir Manohar Lal): Sir, there have been attempted two lines of attack on the transactions of the province during the year 1941-42 for which this Report is before the House, and I shall dispose of first the line which was formulated by Mian Muhammad Nurullah in particular. To begin with, you will see that under Hydro-Electric Scheme, firstly, there is a reference to a sum which is described as a loss, extending over Rs. 13,82,000. Now that is not a loss at all. This expenditure was incurred over certain towers which were built many years ago and which were discovered of inadequate foundations during the year. I am quite sure that the House will never endorse the proposition that if these towers were not of sufficient strength and were liable to corrosion, the Government should not have taken the earliest possible steps to put them on sufficient strength and adequate and satisfactory foundations that is why sum of Rs. 13,82,000 was spent during the year; but there is no loss and no embezzlement, nothing whatsoever. If the honourable member had taken the trouble to read the report of the Public Accounts Committee on this behalf he would have seen on page 6, paragraph (c) the following words—

In the circumstances we consider that no further action on the part of Government is possible.

That is the unanimous opinion of the Public Accounts Committee as regards this expenditure of Rs. 13,82,000. The same argument also applies, if they turn to page 5, with regard to items 4 and 5 of the Hydro-Electric Scheme. I do not think I need take up the time of the House any further than to draw their attention to page 6, item (c) where the Public Accounts Committee after careful study of this matter say—

In reality there is no loss involved to Government, and we consider that no further action in the matter is required.

So, that disposes of the last sum to which reference was made by Mian Muhammad Nurullah.

There are two items of real misappropriation and embezzlement, items 1 and 2 on page 5, one of Rs. 1,990 and the other of Rs. 690. May I refer to page 6 where the action taken by the Government is indicated. It says—

The rents are now recovered direct from the lessees and not through the lambardars and the lessees are now required to furnish security. In these circumstances we consider that no further action is called for.

As regards the embezzlement of Rs. 690 by a Tahsil Wasil Baqi Nawis he was duly prosecuted in a court of law and sentenced. The Tahsildars who were held responsible for laxity of supervision, were punished departmentally. I take it that this disposes of all the items completely and finally.

Now as regards fodder, about which a very heavy indictment was strenuously attempted by the honourable the Leader of the Opposition. Let us face certain broad facts. I think I am within my rights in pointing out that out of the 11 days that the Public Accounts Committee sat, 3 if not 4 days were devoted exclusively to this item. The Public Accounts Committee therefore gave as much attention as was possible to this matter. It was said that the Government did not do anything in the matter. May I point out, probably it is not a matter

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that could be known to the House, that the Government set up at least three committees in one of which four members of the Government sat including our late Premier and my friend the honourable Minister for Revenue (H. M. D. as he then was). I had the privilege, even in the presence of the late Premier, to preside at one of these meetings. We then broke up into several committees realising the possibility of criticism and the question was examined in all its various aspects. There were departmental committees at which an officer of the Audit also sat and certain conclusions were reached. I myself was not directly concerned in the matter: I was only concerned because the matter had financial implications, and I may say that I have never read a longer file than the one that concerned the fodder question. Now, Sir, the Audit objections were framed and they are to be found at page 8 of the Appropriation Accounts and they are reproduced at page 7 of the Public Accounts Committee Report, and the honourable the Leader of the Opposition has read them out *in extenso*. Now may I, with your permission, read out something which the Leader of the Opposition left alone. I am referring to page 7 of the Public Accounts Committee's own report. They say—

The Accountant-General was of the view that there was both a defect in the system as well as want of adequate care on the part of those who administered that system. We examined the Additional Financial Commissioner at length and we are of the opinion that loss of fodder to some extent was inevitable in large transactions of this magnitude which were carried out without proper arrangements for weighment at the fodder dumps. Though the action taken by Government appears to us to be appropriate, we are constrained to observe that the fodder accounts maintained by the Fodder Adviser were far from satisfactory. The Fodder Adviser should have been well advised to record his reasons where he made variations in the rates charged by the contractors in their bills—

Not that he had not the authority to do so but he failed to record in writing why he made these variations. Further—

—though we do not think that any useful purpose will be served now by going into this matter further. With a view, however, to prevent the recurrence of such irregularities in future the following suggestions are made—

**Saradar Santokh Singh :** It is only the majority view.

**Minister of Finance :** Yes, it is the majority view, but it is always the majority view which prevails. It will be within the recollection of this House that this famine came over this province as a grave and sudden disaster almost in the course of a few days, and the Government had hastily to throw up the machinery to meet this terrible cataclysm, almost at a moment's notice. There are business men sitting opposite and if they were to apply their mind to anything serious and sudden that may happen in their own business, they will find how very likely, it is—to use their own words—that mistakes may well happen. Suppose one's house was on fire or suppose one's children were being crushed under a motorcar, who will stop to think of petty economies and say one must not spend an extra pie. The Government had to throw up the machinery very rapidly in order to meet this situations. The whole body of kanungos and others were drawn into service at very short notice and many of those people left service within a short period and it was not possible to pursue them; they were beyond our reach already.

2 p. m.

Honourable members would agree with me that many of the precautions which one would take if one were sitting calmly administering a problem in peace and quiet and without any disturbance cannot possibly be taken to meet an urgent and immediate situation. May I also say this to the honourable Leader of the Opposition that all this was pointed out with due emphasis in the course of our

examination of the matter in the Public Accounts Committee, many of these mistakes—call them mistakes if that would satisfy you—occurred only during the earlier part of the organisation to meet the terrible situation created by the famine. There were certain technical difficulties and it is not necessary for me to go at any length into those difficulties in the House. There was, for instance, difference of opinion regarding the respective positions of those who were to administer the problem such as the Commissioner, Ambala Division and the Financial Commissioners here. There was difference of opinion whether it was not the duty of the Audit immediately to give auditorial support to those who were charged with the administration to see that no mistakes were made even at the earlier stages but the Audit stood on its shall I say, its formal and stiff aloofness. The need was so urgent and the situation so threatening that we had to set aside all petty formal considerations and every one rushed to give as much assistance as one could. Not only that. If honourable members would see the Report of the Public Accounts Committee they will find that the charges cannot be levelled with any such sureness as has been attempted by the Leader of the Opposition. At page 10 of the Appropriation Accounts and the Audit Report the Government in dealing with this matter have observed that "the dump registers are not entirely reliable." They could not be, given the human agency as it existed in the face of the terrible disaster that threatened a large part of the province at that time. If honourable members would just reflect for a while they will realise that under such circumstances good many problems arise. Thousands of tons of bhusa had arrived with no adequate machinery even for weighing in the first instance and had to be forced into large godowns. The process of weighing is not such an easy matter. It is pointed out that out of the total supplies of bhusa extending over 64 lakhs maunds there has been a loss of 5 lakhs and 20 thousand maunds which comes to about one-eleventh of the total. I am not here to express any opinion as to what happens to bhusa at various stages. Some of the honourable members there appear to have specialised in bhusa; I have never dealt in it. The opinion of those who have some authority to speak on the subject was taken. The opinion of the Financial Commissioners who have to observe the ways of the bhusa so often was taken. They were of the opinion—you may reject that opinion if you wish—that at a time like that when bhusa had to be imported without a moment's delay from all parts of the country, because the problem was an immediate one, a loss of 5 lakhs of maunds that is, about 9 per cent of the total is a possible loss. In fact the loss might have been easily greater. I am not competent to express any opinion of mine in the matter, but people who are competent to express an opinion on the subject say that one-eleventh may well be a possible loss. In the face of these facts, I do not think it is up to any member here, even if he belongs to the Opposition, to say what has been said from that side of the House. Rai Bahadur Gopal Das is proposing to say, 'O, no, this is something terrible; this is something inequitable; I do not think you have a right to say so; that the gentleman had no right to vary the rate' and so on. We are all practical men and we know that whatever the contract may be, in a difficult situation you very often are obliged to vary the rate in favour of the contractor. I am not a keen business man myself. But it may well be that the gentleman on the spot had entered into a contract with a merchant of the Central Provinces at a particular rate and he found that he could not get the bhusa in time—and here again I would remind the honourable members that cattle were dying in Hissar for want of fodder—he could not say, "Well, I stand by my contract and will not pay more." You have to view the situation as it then was. It was a very serious responsibility and the gentleman in charge was an officer who later on became the Principal of the Agricultural



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College; he was very near being the Director of Agriculture—I understand that he officiated in that capacity for some time. Having appointed an officer of his standing the responsibility of the Government was lightened. They had to depend upon him.

**Rai Bahadur Lala Gopal Das :** Maulvi Sahib was really an honest person.

**Minister of Finance :** It is not for me to argue that point, I distinctly have the words of the late Premier echoing in my ears in this connection. When the Government had chosen an officer of his administrative ability to administer a department like this, it certainly does not lie in the mouth of any honourable member to say that he grossly erred.

One of my friends whose opinion I greatly value suggested that some enquiry ought to have been made. May I for his satisfaction inform him that papers with regard to some of these persons were actually handed over to the police. It is incorrect to say that Government sat with folded hands disinclined to do anything whatsoever. That is not true. Such mistakes as were made were made only in the initial stage. The Audit Department do not say that the mistakes continued to be made. Government did attempt an enquiry into the matter. At least four Ministers went into these things. As the Public Accounts Committee says, no useful purpose will be served by exhuming these dead matters. I think the House must forget these matters now. Government had to face a situation which was rapidly developing and I think the House would have been the first to say, "why are you calculating pennies and rupees when people and cattle are dying in vast numbers in a certain part of the province?"

I have got one word more to say in answer to what the honourable members have said. The House will do well to read this opinion of the Public Accounts Committee which the Leader of the Opposition will admit was unanimous :—

We are glad to observe that not only the Revenue position of the province, but also the general financial position is very sound.

That indirectly is the answer to some of the eloquence that was developed on the other side.

**Mr. Speaker :** The Question is—

That the Report of the Public Accounts Committee on the Appropriation Accounts and Finance Accounts of the Punjab Government for the year 1941-42, be taken into consideration and adopted and that the Excess Grants recommended by the Committee be voted.

*The motion was carried*

## EXCESS DEMANDS

### JAILS AND CONVICT SETTLEMENTS

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

That an additional sum not exceeding Rs. 1,70,062 be granted to the Governor to meet the Excess expenditure incurred during the year ended 31st March, 1942, in respect of Jails and Convict Settlements.

**Mr. Speaker :** Motion moved—

That an additional sum not exceeding Rs. 1,70,062 be granted to the Governor to meet the Excess expenditure incurred during the year ended 31st March, 1942, in respect of Jails and Convict Settlements.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh (Amritsar North, Sikh, Rural) (Punjabi) :** Sir, I rise to oppose the demand for excess expenditure now before the House.

Previous to this I could not have opportunities to express the grievances of the patriots in regard to their troubles and hardships in the jails. It is now that I have been granted an opportunity by you to give vent to my feelings on this subject.

**Mr. Speaker :** The honourable member should be relevant.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Will you please tell me the limits within which I should confine myself? I wish to make a few observations in regard to the condition of the prisoners in the jails.

**Finance Minister :** That has nothing to do with the matter before the House. This is with reference to 1941-42.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Sir, I wish to draw your attention to the condition of the prisoners arrested in August 1942 and later as well. And now there is a demand before the House for an additional sum with regard to excess expenditure.

**Finance Minister :** This refers only to the period from 1st of April 1941 to 31st of March 1942.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Sir, I was at that time in the jail. What I wish to submit is this that I want to place the hard condition under which the prisoners are labouring at present in the jails.

**Finance Minister :** That is irrelevant.

**Mr. Speaker :** How is that relevant?

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** The point is that a certain policy has resulted in this excess expenditure. If that policy had not been followed this expenditure would not have been necessary.

**Mr. Speaker :** That matter should have been discussed in the annual budget.

**Finance Minister :** The only matter that can now be examined is whether the excess expenditure as such is appropriately framed, that is during the course of the year 1941-42, the amount of money was expended which was not duly brought to the attention of the Assembly in time.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** We were arrested in 1940, and we were sent to Deoli Camp in 1942.

**Mr. Speaker :** The honourable member will have to give up discussion of this extraneous matter.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** If we cannot discuss what is being done in Jails behind bars, if we cannot bring to the notice of Ministers that people inside Jails are being maltreated, that things are being stolen by jail warders, and when these are brought to the notice of authorities nothing is being done, how are we to voice our feelings?

**Mr. Speaker :** This is not the occasion for discussing such matters.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** I want to urge as reasons for throwing out the demand the bad treatment of prisoners in jails, their humiliation at every stage, insults hurled upon them which are all beyond human endurance to stand. So far as jails are concerned, no writing facilities are allowed, books sent to prisoners for reading lie with censors for months together without their caring to read them.

**Mr. Speaker :** The honourable member is irrelevant.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** I will request you to make a line of demarcation so that I can confine myself to those limits. It is difficult for me to understand what you are driving at. I shall confine myself to the exact line you may be pleased to draw.

**Finance Minister :** The line would be this—why did this excess demand arise at all? The matter should have been brought to the notice of the Assembly before expenditure was actually incurred. That must be the sole issue, if, for instance, the Honourable member is able to prove it, he may say that the Government could have anticipated this expenditure and could have placed a supplementary demand before the House in time and that the Government failed to do so. Policies cannot be discussed at this stage.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** What the Honourable Minister for Finance wants me to confine myself to is this that I should only advance my argument on technical grounds without mentioning political grounds. The Audit Department says that so much amount has been spent by the Department concerned, that Government has spent it without getting the sanction of the Assembly, that they ought to have come forward first and foremost and should have appropriated that sum through the proper channel, and that has not been done. He wants me to confine myself only to that, but I think it leads us nowhere unless we advance political arguments.

**Finance Minister :** There is nothing political behind this demand.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** The amount has been spent on a convict settlement. I hope, Sir, you will allow me the latitude to proceed with the arguments that I want to advance.

**Mr. Speaker :** The honourable member is, strictly speaking, irrelevant.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** If you wish me to sit down, I shall bow to your ruling. But I would ask you, Mr. Speaker, to revise your ruling, if that is your ruling, because we cannot advance any argument, so far as this excess demand is concerned. Government is getting sanction from us without getting our opinion and without knowing why we oppose the demand. The policy of Government is to allow the prisoners to die politically, mentally and intellectually, because they do not want the prisoners to read books or have any books which are sent by their relatives as they are withheld by the censors, not for one month or two months but for months together.

So far as this new and the latest order about writing letters is concerned about which I gave notice to move an adjournment motion—

**Finance Minister :** The latest order had nothing to do with it.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** So far as we were concerned in 1942 we were allowed to write as long a letter as we liked. We were given one foolscap paper and we could write on both sides of the paper. But here what do we see? They have issued orders that a lined paper will be given to each prisoner on which there are 20 lines.

**Finance Minister :** When was this done? In the year 1944. The honourable member may criticise my budget only for 1941-42.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Let us talk of the year 1942. All the security prisoners were brought to the Gujrat Jail. At that time Sir Sikander's attention was that all the prisoners would be put in one class only, and that there would be no other class. But after some time Government made two classes,

1st class and 2nd class. The first class prisoners were treated in a better manner. They were given some pocket allowance. They could use that allowance for buying clothes and for buying other necessities of life, and they could help their families out of the allowance. Their conditions were tolerably good. In some cases prisoners were allowed a family allowance also. But so far as the second class prisoners were concerned, they were treated just as the C class prisoners. Their diet was as bad as that of the C class prisoners. Due to bad dieting most of them fell ill and they are still suffering from illness. They have been suffering from many diseases and nothing has been done by the medical staff inside the jail to cure them. Not only that. They are not given any soap. They are not even allowed to buy their own soap. Even when they want to buy soap for themselves out of their own pocket, they are not allowed to buy it. Any complaints that they make remain unheeded. Nobody cares a two pence for their demands. All go unheeded. They are not allowed to sleep outside during the summer season. They are made to sleep inside and during the hot weather they have to undergo many hardships and difficulties and suffer from many diseases. So far as interviews are concerned during that period, the prisoners were put in jails where it was difficult for their relatives to have interviews and it is insulting for relatives to go and have interviews in the presence of the inspector or the C. I. D. sub-inspector, because there they cannot talk even private matters with the prisoners, with whom they are having interviews.

Then so far as games are concerned, the less said the better. The other day a Government member said that they were treating the prisoners just as they were treating the security prisoners. But news has come and I can say with authority that it is all wrong. No games are provided to them. They are not allowed to play Badminton or Volley Ball or anything like that. They are only allowed to play cards or Snakes and ladders or such like indoor games which they can play in their cell.

(Interruption) This information has been supplied to me by Mohan Lal Gupta who has just come out of the Old Central Jail.

I want to draw your attention to one or two cases. On the 19th September 1942 there was flag hoisting in one of the circles of the jail. The Jail authorities fell upon the political prisoners and there was a lathi charge. The pity of it was that though the flag hoisting was done in one circle, the lathi charge was made in another circle and then the police was called who got hold of all the prisoners who had gathered there. They were not put in their own barracks. For instance, a prisoner was put in barrack No. 12 while he belonged actually to barrack No. 11. In his absence the lock of his suits case was broken open and many articles were stolen by the warders from his box.

This complaint was made to Raja Gulnawaz Khan, but he did not heed it. He asked this man to send a representation to the Government. He complied with that order. He begged from door to door and asked many people to return the things stolen from his bag. Nobody cared anything for him. On the 1st December 1943 he wrote to the I. G. but no action was taken. Then on the 18th February Sir Manohar Lal went there and this matter was brought to his notice.

**Finance Minister :** I go and shake hands freely with every one of these prisoners.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Then Amarnath of Ludhiana who was convicted during 1942-43 movement under the Defence of India Rules was made naked by the warder. This complaint was made to Sir Manohar Lal on the 18th

[S. Sohan Singh Josh.]

February during his visit to the Central Jail, Multan. But he did not do anything in the matter. This is how things are going on.

**Mr. Speaker :** The honourable member's time is up.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma** (Kangra West, General Rural) (Urdu) : Sir, I am surprised to learn that the excess demand over and above what we sanctioned in the Budget of 1942, comes to one lakh and seventy thousand rupees. The Government has spent more than what was duly sanctioned by this august House and this excess runs into a large figure. I want to submit a few words in this connection.

What is happening in the country ? The country is in the grip of poverty and famine. Several lakhs of people have died of starvation in Bengal and several people are finding it hard to make their both ends meet in the Punjab even. Stark hunger is staring in the face on the one hand, and huge amounts of money are being wasted by the Government on the other. Money is being allowed by the Government to flow like water, uselessly and purposelessly. No activities of nation building are undertaken. It was the bounden duty of the Government to spread education in the province by increasing the number of schools. But I am sorry to say there are innumerable villages in which there is no school within a radius of ten miles or even 20 miles. There are no medical facilities within a radius of 30 miles. You have to undertake long journeys to reach a hospital. Our people are steeped in ignorance and are facing starvation.

**Chaudhri Sumer Singh :** The honourable member is not relevant.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** I am perfectly relevant, Sir, I am explaining how the Government has neglected its duty on the one hand and wasted money on the other. I am contrasting its acts of commissions with its omissions. The Government has not provided the people with educational facilities and medical relief as it ought to have done. But on the other hand, it has wasted huge sums of money by mistakes and maladministration.

**Khan Sahib Chaudhri Ahmad Yar Khan :** How is it relevant ?

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** I am trying to show that during 1942 when Government had so many things of importance to attend to, a very big sum was spent on a subject and it was anti-national. (*Interruptions*).

**Mr. Speaker :** The term 'relevancy' I think, should be somewhat liberally interpreted. While speaking on one department, a member has, sometimes, to refer to other departments, say by way of comparison or illustration. Such, references, must, however, be brief and the member must try to confine himself as much as possible to the subject under discussion.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Perfectly so, Mr. Speaker. I was submitting that this country was in the grip of poverty and starvation. There are hundred of villages where one cannot find a school within a radius of ten miles. Especially for girls, there is no school within a radius of 20 miles. There are no hospitals for the sick, no food for the hungry, and no clothings for the naked. There are no paths or roads for the wayfarers. We can neither stay in nor go out. Such are the conditions to which we have been reduced. Now these were the primary needs which any Government worth the name would have supplied first or at least striven hard to supply. But our Government has turned its back to the needs of the nation and has, instead passed on to other matters which are not beneficial to the country. The Government has spent huge sums for maintaining the foreign dominations. It has thrown the patriots and freedom loving

persons behind the bars. Those who were ready to lay down their very lives for the liberty of the country, have been imprisoned or detained by the Government. The pretext under which they have been deprived of their freedom of speech and action is that they were a menace to the public peace and tranquility. Defence of India Rules have been abused here in the Punjab. Under these Defence of India Rules there are several provisions which admit of trial by courts. But our Government has not acted upon them.

The Government has not got the courage to try any of them in an open court of law and get him convicted. Whenever it wants to put anybody in jail it does so and tells us that it is not in the public interest to try him in a court of law. It is really a matter of shame for the Government that thousands of persons are rotting in jails, who have never been tried in or convicted by a court of law. At least some hundreds out of them are such about whom the Government itself does not know why they are being punished. If the Government were to inform us truly and sincerely as to the charges against these persons, it shall have to refer us to the D. I. G., Police, C. I. D., because it itself is not aware of that. The C. I. D. are ruling this province practically this so-called popular and representative Government has not the courage to resign as a protest against it. I do not know how the Honourable Ministers feel about that, but so far as I am concerned I hang my head in shame when people outside question me about this matter. Do they not feel that they are being a party to an unparalleled wrong? That is not all. Since they have put the members of the Assembly in jails or have imposed restrictions upon them, they have become very intolerant towards the criticism of the members in this House. Even Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram, who was quite liberal-minded before, is, of late, developing that habit. Let them realize, that that is no fault of ours. They themselves are responsible for providing us with this opportunity of criticising them by their improper and uncalled for actions. Let me ask a question, through you sir, from Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram, who claims to be a liberal-minded person. Is it creditable for the Government to spend 70 lakhs out of the sum collected from the hard-earned money of zamindars on imprisoning at the instance of the English representatives of that very foreign Government those whose only fault is that they demand the independence of their country from the foreign yolk? Is it not the duty of the Government which claims to be a zamindar Government to spend that money for the benefit of poor zamindars? Why do they not show courage and tell that foreign agent that they are not going to act upon that policy as that is detrimental to their own interests as well as the interests of their country?

The two fundamental rights conferred upon us by the democracy are the liberty of press and platform. But under the regime of the present Ministry we have been robbed of both these things. So much so that the members of the Punjab Legislative Assembly, which is a representative body of the province, are put into jails without being tried in a court of law. That is a direct attack on our culture and civilization.

The Government are always repeating that more help is needed in war efforts. They never care to think whether that is in the interest of the country or against it. The present Government is spending such a large sum on a matter which is against the best interests of this country and its people.

**Mr. Speaker :** The question is—

That the question be now put.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** On a point of order—

**Mr. Speaker :** I cannot entertain any point of order when a closure motion is before the house.

The question is—

That the question be now put.

*The motion was carried*

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** On a point of order. I want to know from the Chair whether it is fair for the Government to remain silent in this debate. Only one-sided discussion has taken place.

**Sardar Kapoor Singh :** I wanted to speak and I can assure you, Mr. Speaker, that I am not going to repeat any of these arguments.

**Pir Akbar Ali :** But the closure motion has been carried and nobody can now question it.

**Sardar Kapoor Singh :** I wanted to say that it is the C. I. D. which is incharge of jails and it is not the Minister of Finance.

**Pir Akbar Ali :** It is a speech after the closure motion.

**Mr. Speaker :** Question is—

That an additional sum not exceeding Rs. 1,70,082 be granted to the Governor to meet the excess expenditure incurred during the year ended 31st March, 1942, in respect of Jails and Convict Settlements.

*The motion was carried*

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#### STATIONERY AND PRINTING

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

That an additional sum not exceeding Rs. 6,004 be granted to the Governor to meet the excess expenditure incurred during the year ended 31st March, 1942, in respect of Stationery and Printing.

*The motion was carried*

*The Assembly then adjourned sine die.*

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