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**THE**  
**Punjab Legislative Assembly**  
**Debates.**

**From 4th March to 29th March, 1940.**

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**Vol. XII**

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**OFFICIAL REPORT.**



**Lahore :**

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**1941.**

**PRINCIPAL OFFICERS OF THE PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE  
ASSEMBLY.**

*Speaker.*

The Honourable Chandhri Sir Shahab-ud-Din, Kt., K.B., B.A., LL.B.

*Deputy Speaker.*

Sardar Dasaundha Singh, B.A., LL.B.

*Secretary.*

Sardar Bahadur Sardar Abnasha Singh, Barrister-at-Law.

*Deputy Secretary.*

Khan Bahadur Hakeem Ahmad Shujaa, B.A.

b.

# PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

## LIST OF MEMBERS.

### PREMIER.

The Hon'ble Major Sir Sikander Hyat-Khan, K.B.E. (West Punjab, Land-holders).

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The Hon'ble Dr. Sir Sundar Singh Majithia, Kt., C.I.E., D.O.L., Minister of Revenue (Batala, Sikh, Rural).

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

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

The Hon'ble Nawabzada Major Malik Khizar Hayat Khan Tiwana, Minister of Public Works (Khushab, Muhammadan, Rural).

The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye, B.A., LL.B., Minister of Education (South Eastern Towns, Muhammadan, Urban).

### PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARIES.

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

Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh, M.A., Home (Western Towns, Sikh, Urban).

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

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

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

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

### PARLIAMENTARY PRIVATE SECRETARIES.

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

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

Sardar Jagjit Singh Mann (Central Punjab, Land-holders).

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

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Nawabzada Muhammad Faiyaz Ali Khan (Karnal, Muhammadan, Rural).  
 Khan Bahadur Mian Mushtaq Ahmad Gurmani (Muzaffargarh North, Muhammadan, Rural).  
 Sardar Gopal Singh (American) (Ludhiana and Ferozepore, General—Reserved Seat, Rural).

## MEMBERS.

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 Abdul Rahim, Chaudhri (South-East Gurgaon, Muhammadan, Rural).  
 Afzaalali Hasnie, Syed (Shahdara, Muhammadan, Rural).  
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 Akbar Ali, M.B.E., Pir (Fazilka, Muhammadan, Rural).  
 Ali Akbar, Chaudhri (Gurdaspur East, Muhammadan, Rural).  
 Allah Bakhsh Khan, Khan Bahadur Nawab Malik, M.B.E. (Shahpur, Muhammadan, Rural).  
 Anant Ram, Chaudhri, B.A., LL.B. (Kranla South, General, Rural).  
 Ashiq Hussain, Captain, M.B.E. (Multan; Muhammadan, Rural).  
 Badar Mohy-ud-Din Qadri, Khan Sahib Sayed (Batala, Muhammadan, Rural).  
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 Bhagat Ram Sharma, Pandit (Kangra West, General, Rural).  
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 Bhim Sen Sachar, Lala, B.A., LL.B. (North-Western Towns, General, Urban).  
 Chaman Lall, Diwan, B.A. (Oxon.) (East Punjab, Non-Union Labour).  
 Chanan Singh, Sardar (Kasur, Sikh, Rural).  
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 Dev Raj Sethi, Mr. (Lyallpur and Jhang, General, Rural).  
 Dina Nath, Captain (Kangra South, General, Rural).  
 Duni Chand, Lala (Ambala and Simla, General Rural).  
 Duni Chand, Mrs. (Lahore City, Women, General).



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MEMBERS—CONTINUED.

- Faiz Muhammad Khan, Rai (Kangra and Eastern Hoshiarpur, Muhammadan, Rural).
- Faqir Chand, Chaudhri (Karnal North, General—Reserved Seat, Rural).
- Faqir Hussain Khan, Chaudhri (Tarn Taran, Muhammadan, Rural).
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- Fateh Khan, Khan Sahib Raja (Rawalpindi East, Muhammadan, Rural).
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- Fateh Sher Khan, Malik (Montgomery, Muhammadan, Rural).
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- Ghulam Qadir Khan, Khan Bahadur (Mianwali North, Muhammadan, Rural).
- Ghulam Rasool, Chaudhri (Sialkot Central, Muhammadan, Rural).
- Ghulam Samad, Khan Sahib Khawaja (Southern Towns, Muhammadan, Urban).
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- Gokul Chand Narang, Dr. Sir, M.A., Ph. D. (West Lahore Division, General, Rural).
- Gopal Das, Rai Bahadur Lala (Kangra North, General, Rural).
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- Gurbachan Singh, Sardar Bahadur Sardar (Jullundur West, Sikh, Rural).
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- Haibat Khan Dahi, Khan (Khanewal, Muhammadan, Rural).
- Hari Chand, Rai Sahib Rai (Una, General, Rural).
- Hari Lal, Munshi (South-Western Towns, General, Urban).
- Hari Singh, Sardar (Kangra and Northern Hoshiarpur, Sikh, Rural).
- Harjib Singh, Sardar (Hoshiarpur South, Sikh, Rural).
- Harnam Das, Lala (Lyallpur and Jhang, General—Reserved Seat, Rural).
- Harnam Singh, Captain Sodhi (Ferozepore North, Sikh, Rural).
- Hot Ram, Rai Sahib Chaudhri (Hissar South, General, Rural).
- Indar Singh, Sardar (Gurdaspur North, Sikh, Rural).
- Jafar Ali Khan, M. (Okara, Muhammadan, Rural).

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MEMBERS—CONTINUED.

- Jagjit Singh Bedi, Tikka (Montgomery East, Sikh, Rural).
- Jalal-ud-Din Amber, Chaudhri, B.A. (West Central Punjab, Indian Christian).
- Jogindar Singh Man, Sardar (Gujranwala and Shahdara, Sikh, Rural).
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- Kabul Singh Master (Jullundur East, Sikh, Rural).
- Kapoor Singh, Sardar, B.A., LL.B. (Ludhiana East, Sikh, Rural).
- Karamat Ali, Shaikh, B.A., LL.B. (Nankana Sahib, Muhammadan, Rural).
- Kartar Singh, Chaudhri (Hoshiarpur West, General, Rural).
- Kartar Singh, Sardar (Lyallpur East, Sikh, Rural).
- Khalid Latif Gauba, Mr. (Inner Lahore, Muhammadan, Urban).
- Kishan Dass, Seth (Jullundur, General—Reserved Seat, Rural).
- Kishan Singh, Sardar (Amritsar Central, Sikh, Rural).
- Krishna Gopal Dutt, Chaudhri (North-Eastern Towns, General Urban).
- Lal Singh, Sardar, M.Sc., LL.B. (Ludhiana Central, Sikh, Rural).
- Mazhar Ali Azhar, Maulvi, B.A., LL.B. (North-Eastern Towns, Muhammadan, Urban).
- Mohy-ud-Din Lal Badshah, Sayed (Attock South, Muhammadan, Rural).
- Mubarik Ali Shah, Sayed (Jhang Central, Muhammadan, Rural).
- Muhammad Abdul Rahman Khan, Chaudhri (Jullundur North, Muhammadan, Rural).
- Muhammad Akram Khan, Khan Bahadur Raja (Jhelum, Muhammadan, Rural).
- Muhammad Alam, Dr. Shaikh, B.A. (Hons.) (Oxon.), LL.D. (Dublin), (Rawalpindi Division Towns, Muhammadan, Urban).
- Muhammad Amin, Khan Sahib 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 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 Syed (Alipur, Muhammadan, Rural).
- Muhammad Hyat Khan Noon, Nawab Sir Malik (North Punjab, Landholders).
- Muhammad Husain, Chaudhri, B.A., LL.B. (Gujranwala East, Muhammadan, Rural).

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**MEMBERS—continued.**

- Muhammad Husain, Sardar (Chunian, Muhammadan, Rural).
- Muhammad Iftikhar-ud-Din, Mian, B.A. (Oxon.) (Kasur, Muhammadan, Rural).
- Muhammad Jamal Khan Leghari, Khan Bahadur Nawab Sir (Tumandars).
- Muhammad Nawaz Khan, Major Sardar Sir (Attock Central, Muhammadan, Rural).
- Muhammad Nurullah, Mian, B. Com. (London) (Lyallpur, Muhammadan, Rural).
- Muhammad Qasim, Chaudhri (Bhalwal, Muhammadan, Rural).
- Muhammad Raza Shah Jeelani, Makhdumzada Haji Sayed (Shujabad, Muhammadan, Rural).
- Muhammad Saadat Ali Khan, Khan Bahadur Khan (Samundri, Muhammadan, Rural).
- Muhammad Sarfraz Khan, Chaudhri (Sialkot North, Muhammadan, Rural).
- Muhammad Sarfraz Khan, Raja (Chakwal, Muhammadan, Rural).
- Muhammad Shafi Ali Khan, Khan Sahib Chaudhri (Rohtak, Muhammadan, Rural).
- Muhammad Wilayat Hussain Jeelani, Makhdumzada Haji Sayed (Lodhran, Muhammadan, Rural).
- Muhammad Yasin Khan, Chaudhri, B.A., LL.B. (North-West Gurgaon, Muhammadan, Rural).
- Muhammad Yusuf Khan, Khan, B.A., LL.B. (Rawalpindi Sadar, Muhammadan, Rural).
- Mukand Lal Puri, Rai Bahadur (Rawalpindi Division, General, Rural).
- Mula Singh, Sardar (Hoshiarpur West, General—Reserved Seat, Rural).
- Muni Lal Kalra, Pandit (Ludhiana and Ferozepore, General, Rural).
- Muzaffar Ali Khan Qizilbash, Sardar (Lahore, Muhammadan, Rural).
- Muzaffar Khan, Khan Bahadur Captain Malik (Mianwali South, Muhammadan, Rural).
- Muzaffar Khan, Khan Bahadur Nawab, C.I.E. (Attock North, Muhammadan, Rural).
- Nasir-ud-Din, Chaudhri (Gujranwala North, Muhammadan, Rural).
- Nasir-ud-Din Shah, Pir (Toba Tek Singh, Muhammadan, Rural).
- Nasrullah Khan, Rana (Hoshiarpur West, Muhammadan, Rural).
- Naunihal Singh Mann, Lieutenant 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).
- Partab Singh, Sardar (Amritsar South, Sikh, Rural).
- Pir Muhammad, Khan Sahib Chaudhri (South-East Gujrat, Muhammadan, Rural).

## MEMBERS—continued.

- Pohop Singh, Rao, M.A., LL.B. (East Punjab, Landholders).  
 Prem Singh, Chaudhri (South-East Gurgaon, General—Reserved Seat, Rural).  
 Prem Singh Mahant (Gujrat and Shahpur, Sikh, Rural).  
 Pritam Singh Siddhu, Sardar, B.A., LL.B. (Ferozepore West, Sikh, Rural).  
 Raghbir Kaur, Shrimati (Amritsar, Sikh Women).  
 Ram 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).  
 Rur Singh, Sardar (Ferozepore East, Sikh, Rural).  
 Sadiq Hassan, Shaikh (Amritsar City), Muhammadan, Urban).  
 Sahib Dad Khan, Khan Sahib Chaudhri (Hissar, Muhammadan, Rural).  
 Sahib Ram, Chaudhri (Hissar North, General, Rural).  
 Sampuran Singh, Sardar (Lyallpur West, Sikh, Rural).  
 Santokh Singh, Sardar Sahib Sardar (Eastern Towns, Sikh, Urban).  
 Sant Ram Seth, Dr. (Amritsar City, General, Urban).  
 Satya Pal, Dr. (Amritsar and Sialkot, General, Rural).  
 Shahadat Khan, Khan Sahib Rai (Jaranwala, Muhammadan, Rural).  
 Shah Nawaz Khan, Nawab Sir (Ferozepore Central, Muhammadan, 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 Sahib Lala (North Punjab, Non-Union Labour).  
 Sohan Singh Josh, Sardar (Amritsar North, Sikh, Rural).  
 Sudarshan, Seth (Eastern Towns, General, Urban).  
 Sultan Mahmud Hotiana, Mian, B.A. (Pakpattan, Muhammadan, Rural).  
 Sumer Singh, Chaudhri, B.A., LL.B. (South-East Gurgaon, General, Rural).  
 Suraj Mai, Chaudhri, B.A., LL.B. (Hansi, General, Rural).  
 Talib Hussain Khan, Khan (Jhang West, Muhammadan, Rural).  
 Tara Singh, Sardar (Ferozepore South, Sikh, Rural).  
 Teja Singh, Sardar (Lahore West, Sikh, Rural).  
 Uttam Singh Dugal, Sardar (North-West Punjab, Sikh, Rural).  
 Wali Muhammad Sayyal Hiraj, Sardar (Kabirwala, Muhammadan, Rural).

## ADVOCATE-GENERAL.

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

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# PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

## SIXTH SESSION OF THE FIRST PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

*Monday, 4th March, 1940.*

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

### QUESTION HOUR AND HOURS OF BUSINESS.

**Premier :** I beg to move—

That at the meeting of the Assembly to-day there be no questions, the Assembly shall sit till 7 p.m. and that the Speaker shall adjourn the meeting at that hour without question put.

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

That at the meeting of the Assembly to-day there be no questions.

*The motion was carried.*

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

That the Assembly shall sit till 7 p.m. and that the Speaker shall adjourn the meeting at that hour without question put.

*The motion was carried.*

**Premier** (The Honourable Major Sir Sikander Hyat-Khan): I move—

That on Tuesday, the 5th March, and on Wednesday, the 6th March, 1940, there be no questions, the Assembly shall sit till 5-30 p.m. and the Speaker shall adjourn the meeting at that hour without question put.

*The motion was carried.*

### ADJOURNMENT MOTIONS.

FAILURE TO PROSCRIBE PAMPHLET "AKSRYAT YA KHUN".

**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 failure of the Government to prevent the publication of the proscribed pamphlet "Aksryat-ya-Khun" written by Allama Mashriqi on a wide scale on 26th February at Lahore by the Khaksars.

**Premier** (The Honourable Major Sir Sikander Hyat-Khan): I am glad that my honourable friends have thought better of it and have not moved the first two adjournment motions. If they had moved them, my position would have been quite clear. I am in the hands of the House and if the House had desired it, I would have rescinded that order. I would not have waited for even a second. With regard to the motion for which leave is being sought to move, I beg to submit that it is neither urgent nor is it important. . . .



**Mr. Speaker :** The Honourable Revenue Member may move his motion. I do not consider the adjournment motion to be in order.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** No reasons, Sir ?

**Mr. Speaker :** Reasons need not be given.

### LAND REVENUE COMMITTEE REPORT.

**Minister for Revenue** (The Honourable Dr. Sir Sundar Singh Majithia) : I beg to move—

That the report of the Land Revenue Committee be discussed.

*The motion was carried.*

**Sardar Sampuran Singh** (Lyallpur West, Sikh, Rural) : I appreciate the great labours Mr. Darling and his Committee have taken in enquiring into the question of land revenue and having given us so much information in this report which is published under the name of the Report of the Land Revenue Committee, 1938. While doing so, I cannot really congratulate the Committee for the conclusions to which they have come after spending so much money of the province.

Sir, I find the same burden of the song in every chapter of this book and that is this that we cannot do this because that will involve another expenditure and we cannot reduce the revenue because that will so much deplete the coffers of the provincial Government that it will be very difficult for us to run the Government. I am afraid if this was going to be the result to which they were to come, it was no use starting this enquiry at all.

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

Then there was no sense in putting up this committee. From the very beginning we thought that this committee was being put up to find out ways and means for reducing the revenue paid by the peasant class of this province. At the same time we knew that we could not do so unless we reduced the income of the Government. If the Government was not willing to reduce its income and if it was not prepared to alter the theory of taking the pound of flesh, I am afraid it should not have organised this committee at all and there was no sense in spending so much money over this camouflage.

Sir, in the beginning of their report they compare the present revenue system with those of the Governments which had gone before them, I mean the Governments of this province before the British came here and they have tried to show that the revenue as it stands to-day is lighter than that ever assessed in the history of this province before the British came. I am afraid they give no reasons, they give no proper statistics and I think at this stage my categorically saying that this is wrong should be enough. Before I pass to the next point, I would like to say one thing. They say that the land revenue amounts on an average to 6·7 per cent of the gross value of the produce. I think that is a very ridiculous proposition to put up. They admit that the Government in most of the districts in this province is realising about 40 per cent of the net assets, i.e., except in districts which have

been assessed after 1928 and which are very few. In most of the districts the revenue is still about 40 per cent of the net assets. They also admit that the net assets are 50 per cent of the income of the landlord. After deducting their minor expenses it practically comes to this that they take 20 per cent of the gross income. You come to this conclusion by pure and simple mathematical process. In all those districts which were assessed before 1928, which are a large number, they are still taking 20 per cent of the gross produce per acre and with these facts which have been admitted by the committee itself, I think it is very preposterous to say that the Government is taking on an average only 6·7 per cent of the gross produce. The question before them was, as they give in the introduction of this report :—

Whether a practical scheme can be devised by which the principles of income-tax assessment can be applied to the assessment of land revenue, and in particular whether all or any of the following incidents of income-tax assessment are capable of adoption :—

- (a) a minimum below which the net assets of land shall not be liable to assessment;
- (b) a yearly estimate of net assets for every revenue payer;
- (c) a graduated scale of assessment, the rate increasing with the net assets;
- (d) a special rate of assessment on incomes exceeding a certain sum on the analogy of the super-tax,

and so on.

Now the first principle of income-tax is that nobody whose income does not come up to Rs. 2,000 will be assessed and in this report they find that this principle cannot be adopted even on a smaller scale, not even in the case of a person who pays Rs. 25 revenue in a year which means even admitting that he is assessed on the principle of 25 per cent of the net assets, his income would be about Rs. 100 and they are not prepared to exempt the annual income of Rs. 100 of a peasant. Therefore it is very obvious that they are not prepared to do anything so far as even the small proprietors of this province are concerned. One reason which they give for not adopting the income-tax system is that the people do not keep proper accounts. But I should submit that when the income-tax was first introduced even the people who now pay income-tax did not keep proper accounts. It was the income-tax department which compelled them to keep accounts. Not to go very far, I will give my own example. When I was first assessed I did not give any accounts. Next year they doubled my income-tax. Still I did not give them any accounts. Third year they again doubled my income-tax, till I was assessed on Rs. 25,000 as my professional income. When I found that they were going to assess me on an income which I was not actually earning I started keeping account and giving my returns. In the same way when the zamindars would come to know that they are suffering on account of not keeping accounts, they will be forced to keep them and I think that is a lesson which they ought to be taught, for if they learn that lesson once they will be able to save themselves from many a trouble to which they now fall a prey. The other reason which they give is that it will involve making of annual estimates of the income of the agriculturist. My submission is that even calculating on the basis of highest income of the agriculturist, assessment of revenues on the principle of income-tax would be most welcome, for it would be one-tenth of what you are now charging him on the basis of 25 per cent of his net assets.

[S. Sampuran Singh.]

Sir, I expected that this committee will remove the great injustice which has been done to the peasants in this country and will revise the definition of net assets. This has given me very great disappointment to know that despite coming to this conclusion that the peasant proprietor does not make as much as is said to be, this committee has not considered it worth their while to recommend that the net assets should be calculated on the basis of the net assets of the owner cultivator and not on the basis of the landlord's net assets. As you know the rules at present laid down by the Government require that the net assets are to be calculated on the basis of the income which accrues to the landlord deducting slight charges for kamins, etc. Government presumes that 50 per cent of the gross produce of the agriculturist is the net asset of the peasant proprietor which is extremely wrong. The committee has at one place said that the net assets of the owner cultivator is the gross produce minus cost of production including a fair return for the enterprise and labour of the cultivator. If they had accepted this definition of net assets and if they had recommended it, the greatest mischief which is now being done to the agriculturist in the name of assessment of revenue, will be removed from the province. Arguing in reference to this, the committee have said that they cannot allow the cost of production or the wages of the peasant who has worked on that land for a year, because such wages are now allowed to the managers or heads of families who work on their business in the matter of income-tax. Therefore there is no reason why in the case of a peasant proprietor these wages should be allowed. Perhaps you realise the shallowness of this logic. You all know that in the case of income-tax incomes of less than Rs. 2,000 are not assessed to income-tax. That should be considered enough for their living. (*Interup-tion.*)

**Mr. Deputy Speaker :** I would request the honourable member to proceed with his speech.

**Sardar Sampuran Singh :** I was submitting that in the case of income-tax, the first two thousand rupees are exempted from income-tax. It is extremely cruel that in the case of peasant-proprietors who earn after a whole year's labour perhaps Rs. 5 after working the whole day no exemption is allowed and you expect him to pay 25 per cent of this small sum of Rs. 5 even. At one place the committee has said that except in Nili Bar where the Government is trying their best to give relief to tenants, at no other place the peasant-proprietors are really hard hit on account of fall in prices or change of conditions. I do not understand why they do not see facts as they are. This reminds me of a settlement report of Lyallpur in which the Settlement Officer said that here and there in villages he found some pacca houses as places of worship and that indicated that the financial condition of the people was very good. That makes my blood boil how sometimes these people cannot even bear the sight of a few places of worship having been built in the country of pacca bricks. In the same way it pains me very much to read that in spite of our difficulties, in spite of our poverty and our low financial condition, the members of this committee think that the tenants and peasant-proprietors do not complain very much which shows according to them that they are not very hard hit. The Government should remember

that people in the Punjab are dumb, they have no press, they have no platform nor have they the organizing capacity to go out and raise a hue and cry as all other people in the world are doing. I am afraid if immediate steps are not taken to relieve them of this misery, if the cost of production is not reduced, they will one day have to act on what is proverbially said—

*Tang amad bajang amad.*

If you shut your eyes against their miseries and delude yourselves by thinking that because they do not complain loudly enough, I am afraid you are living in a world of illusion. This point has been discussed a good deal by Professor Brij Narain. While discussing the question of net assets in paragraph 75 the committee admits that when the prices fall the cost of production does not fall in the same proportion. But they do not suggest any change for the reason that if there is a lag one way when prices fall there is a lag the other way when prices rise, and when this occurs the cultivator may be expected to gain as much as he loses when prices fall, assuming that prices rise as much as they fall. What a wrong notion! They admit that when the prices fall the cost of production does not fall in the same proportion.

In the next paragraph they say—

Though the tenant's net income has undoubtedly shrunk with the fall in prices, there is no sign anywhere, except perhaps in parts of the Nili Bar Colony which are receiving the special attention of Government, that he is unable to live by farming.

Indeed the figures analysed in paragraphs eight and twenty of Note A suggest that good farming still pays reasonably well in the Lyallpur Colony, and Major Prideaux's evidence suggests that the same is the case in the neighbouring Montgomery Colony. As to the rest of the province, our statistical evidence is so meagre that we can hazard no opinion on the strength of it. At the same time there is a general consensus of opinion amongst our more instructed witnesses that the ordinary tenant with one or two ploughs does not often earn more, and may in places earn less, than the permanently hired agricultural labourer and he tolerates this because he need not work so hard and is both more independent and more secure. The position is no doubt different when a tenant has the support and guidance of a landlord who finances him in his difficulties and directs his farming on approved lines. But such landlords, though a number could be mentioned, are unhappily far too few in number to have any appreciable influence on the economic position of tenants as a whole, and our witnesses agree that in the landlord districts nearly all the larger landlords are too much in debt to finance their tenants and too apathetic to direct their farming.

In this connection I would say one word only and that is this that the conclusion which the committee has drawn that even under these conditions good farming still pays is totally wrong. Because the data that they have taken is from the Risalawala Government Farm and Mr. Prideaux's Farm. From experience it is well-known that these big landlords have more facilities for irrigation and they own very large areas and for that reason they can easily distribute their water which is very advantageous for producing more crops. But in the case of small holders where they own only six or twelve acres the warabandi is so small and so much water disappears in the water-courses that their condition is quite different from those of the big landholders. Besides in the case of the Risalawala Farm the conditions are altogether different. It is an experimental farm for growing cotton only. No

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doubt other crops are grown there, but in the case of these experimental farms they have much more facilities and there are great experts always available to direct them and to advise them to produce more. The labour also is well organised. It is therefore extremely ridiculous to compare the results of these farms of Government or of big landholders with those of peasant-proprietors who have to work on small farms of only six or twelve acres of land. Again in paragraph 80 the committee says—

It shows that only in the three worst years of the depression would landlords' net assets have been higher than owner-cultivators' net assets. In every other year assessment on the basis of the latter would have meant a higher land revenue rate.

This, again, is perfectly wrong and illogical for two reasons. First, the data is the same which I have mentioned before and should not be depended upon when considering the case of small landholders. The figures which they have taken are based on the income of Risalawala Government Farm and other big landlords. I do not want to repeat the same arguments here, but I would submit that for the reasons already given, this is wrong because the data there is not the same that is required for the peasant proprietors. The second reason is very simple. I have already submitted that in the case of the net assets based on the landlord's income the wages of the peasants are not included, nor does Government undertake to do so. If net assets are taken after deducting the wages of the labourers actually employed on the farm, then the net assets will certainly fall, as we know that the net assets cannot be 50 per cent of the gross produce as they actually are in the case of landlord's net assets. Sir, on page 38, paragraph 84 of the Report it has been said that the cost of enquiry for coming to a conclusion about the basis of peasant-proprietors' net assets will be very prohibitive.

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

I would suggest that this should be done at the time of settlement. And before this principle of basing assessments on the net assets of a landlord's income was actually made in 1928, the principle was that actually the wages of labourers on the farm were also taken into consideration. It is so given in Douie's Land Manual, under the heading of "Instructions to Settlement Officers." I do not think there is any reason why there should be any extra expense for calculating net assets on the basis of small owner's holdings.

Sir, now I would like to say a word about the sliding scale. Sliding scale by itself in principle is not wrong, but the way it is applied it does a great hardship to the agriculturists. In the first place, the net assets are kept very high and prices are also kept very high. The members of this committee then say that according to rules they could not assess land revenue on hypothetical prices, but they have actually in this case assessed it on hypothetical prices. As a matter of fact the real flaw in the system is in the way it is applied. The committee say that "it will be seen that the effect of the sliding scale was to reduce the former demand by about 11 per cent. This is more remarkable as the demand under the new settlement represents an increase of about 20 per cent on the old." In this connection I would submit that when the increase is about 20 per cent on the old assessment and when it is reduced according to prices then in most of the cases it

remains above the old assessment. There is no doubt that we had one or two years of exceptionally low prices and in this way there was a small fall. But as a matter of fact in most of the years it will be very hard because the actual assessment could be more than the old one by 20 per cent ; while the settlement was actually started with the idea of reducing the old assessment. In paragraph 94, page 45, it says :—

In the case of Lyallpur, Government adopted a scale of commutation prices far above current prices in order to guard against serious loss of revenue should prices rise again considerably. This is open to the obvious objection that the assessment is based upon prices which are, to say the least of it, problematical.

This is against law.

Then, Sir, they have discussed the question of *chahi parta*. They have hardly discussed the question. They have brushed aside the question by saying that *chahi parta* is not excessive, and there is no reason that it should be reduced. Moreover they have tried to justify that when by digging a well income has increased and the Government did not charge anything extra for the period of the past settlement, there was no reason why *chahi parta* should not be charged for the period of the next settlement. Sir, in this connection, I would refer you to the Government of India's Resolution of 1902. There was some correspondence perhaps on that occasion between the Government of India and the Secretary of State and it was practically decided at that time that the Government should not charge any excess for the improvement done in the land at the expense of the agriculturist, and this principle was adopted by the Government of Bombay, Madras and other provinces. Bombay, Madras and perhaps other Governments, except the Punjab, did not

charge *chahi parta*. I would, therefore, submit that this *chahi parta*, according to the resolution of the Government of India, which was passed in the year 1902, should never have been charged ; and if the Government have continued committing this mistake for so many years, there is no reason why they should continue doing so in future. I would say one word more about this *chahi parta* in relation to wells in the Multan district where irrigation is done by means of Sidhnai Canal as well. In the area through which that canal passes there are wells the proprietors of which are assessed *chahi parta* even if those wells are not used. Even if a well is used for a single day, the *chahi parta* for the whole of the well will have to be paid. The land in that area is mostly irrigated by the Sidhnai Canal and these wells are not used except in very rare cases when there is great scarcity of water due to scanty rainfall. On such occasions these wells are sometimes used for a day or two only to save the crops which are particularly affected and there is no reason that simply for the use of those wells for a very short period and for a very small area of land the whole *chahi parta* of the well should be charged from those people. This causes great hardship to some people. For instance, if one proprietor works a well and irrigates a few acres of land, the *chahi parta* shall have to fall on all the proprietors of the land who never used the water of that well. Such cases have been brought to the notice of the Government time and again, and since there is no justification for keeping *chahi parta* at all, I would submit that in this special case of Multan district it should immediately be removed.

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The committee has referred to *kharaba* also. In certain cases the produce from one *killa* comes to about two maunds of cotton while the revenue and water rate come to about thirteen rupees. This would mean a loss if the price of cotton is taken as ten rupees at the rate of four or five rupees per maund. I know that collectors in the Lyallpur district have ordered that the whole crop is to be destroyed. If this is not done, no *kharaba* would be given. It results in loss to the agriculturists as also to the Government because, considering the average produce of an acre to be seven maunds of cotton, if the produce is two maunds, no *kharaba* can be allowed according to the rules. From such examples the Government should realise how ridiculous their rules are and they should immediately remedy such anomalies which do not do any good either to them or to the agriculturists.

I would now like to make mention of small mercies, that is, the small holders' fund and temporary reduction of land revenue in the case of all those people who pay less than twenty-five rupees. No doubt, it is a step in the right direction, but these mercies are so small and disappointing that I would not like to thank for them. In connection with this small holders' fund it has been advised that there should be committees of the members nominated by the Deputy Commissioner and the Commissioner. I know of one example which relates to the *killa* fund in the Lyallpur district. During the last War the agriculturists of that district collected a fund, that is, thirty-three rupees—income of one *killa*—per square of land. Everybody who owned one square or more had to pay thirty-three rupees towards that fund. This money, when collected, was given over to the Government as a sort of gift which was taken in the form of a loan by the Government. When the War was over, this loan was put under the charge of a committee over which the Deputy Commissioner was to preside. During the last summer there was great agitation about *mogas* in the Lyallpur district. A *moga* hartal was observed for one day and the agriculturists who closed their *mogas* were marked out as people who were not to be helped from that fund and it was particularly mentioned in the meetings of the Trust at which the deputy commissioners presided, that they would not help those people because they joined in the *moga* hartal. If this fund is to be created with our money and the deputy commissioners are to preside over it and have to nominate the members from districts and tahsils, then God save us from this fund. We are better without it, if they have to create another weapon in their hand to force slavery upon us. If we contribute to the funds and the deputy commissioners have to take revenge from us on flimsy pretexts, then I would submit that this advice of creating this fund should not be accepted at all. The fund should be in the hands of people who have a popular support and not in the hands of the officials or people who are nominated by officials.

Moreover, in this connection I would submit that the peasant class of this province has become so poor and so weak that this little help will not be of any real help to them. It is no use feeding a consumptive on ghee. That would be a waste. The malady has gone too far and by this reduction of five rupees out of twenty-five in the case of small landholders or a little help from this fund you will not be giving any effective help. In the end, I would submit that those people whose income is less than one thousand

rupees should be exempted from the revenue altogether. I should have expected better things from this Government. Time and again, they profess to be the representatives of zamindars, i.e., of people who work with their own hands but they are not willing to do anything for them. So when the Government said that they were representatives of zamindars, we expected that they would do something really good and effective for these people. But to-day I find the truth of that well-known Punjabi saying which I cannot help quoting—

جٹ، مہاں سانسار قہیلے کال دے

Jat, buffalo and allegator kill their own kith and kin.

**Sardar Bahadur Sardar Gurbachan Singh** (Jullundur, West, Sikh, Rural): Sir, the report under discussion could be divided into three main heads. The first is the land revenue on income-tax basis, the second are the exemptions on the land revenue and surcharges, and the third are *chahi* rates. With regard to the first, that is, charging the land revenue on income-tax basis, our party appeared before this Committee, and we were not in favour of this system, notwithstanding the advantage that it affords to the land revenue payers under Rs. 2,000, because there are so many difficulties in the way of assessment and hardly any zamindar, literate or illiterate, keeps any accounts. When an educated person like my honourable friend from Lyallpur does not keep any accounts, as he himself admitted it just now, how can we expect an ordinary zamindar to keep any accounts? Moreover a good deal of staff will be required to calculate incomes on this basis and the expenditure will be increased to a very great extent; while on the other hand, a person, who pays land revenue or even has a property up to the value of two thousand rupees, will not be assessed, which will bring the revenue to nearly half of what we get even now. Notwithstanding other difficulties, this increase in the expenditure and decrease in the revenue will bring a state of bankruptcy which we do not want, unless of course other sources to make up the losses are available.

Second comes the exemptions. We are really glad that our recommendations—though not fully but to some extent—have been taken into consideration and there is a recommendation to give some relief to the poor agriculturists. We suggested that a land revenue payer up to five rupees should be exempted and that land revenue from ten to twenty rupees should be decreased by half. Here what we find is that they have given 50 per cent reduction to a land revenue payer of five rupees and a remission of five rupees up to twenty rupees of land revenue. Sir, it is the jagirdars who would be doubly hit. Firstly, they will lose substantial portion of their jagirs on account of the reduction in land revenue and, secondly, they will have to pay an extra tax, that is, the surcharge on the revenue of more than Rs. 250 as suggested in the report. We have not in any way shirked our responsibility and we hope that our poor zamindars are going to be afforded some relief, notwithstanding that we may be burdened twice as much as before. My honourable friends of the Opposition will pardon me if I ask them what they have done. They refused to come before the Committee and express their opinion, and now, of course, they may criticise the report in any way they like. But the main reason is that many of them are actually rolling in wealth. If this question had been put to them in the



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Committee, as to how they would make up the loss due to the reduction in land revenue, or by adopting the income-tax basis, they would not have said, like us, to make up the losses by taxing them, as they would never like to part with a sou out of their large incomes, if they were real supporters of the agriculturists, about whom they talk so much here in this House. They would have come forward and said, "Tax us, we can bear this burden and we should give relief to the poor" but their sympathy is lip sympathy and they only make a parade of pains. Sir, what we hear every day is, that they only create class hatred between the zamindars by bringing in the question of tenant and landlord which does not exist here in the Punjab. It may be in the United Provinces, where there are big landlords and where there are tenants who do not own any land. Here even a person who owns 10 marlas of land is an owner and so a zamindar. My honourable friend has said that a zamindar is a person who tills the soil with his own hands and not one who owns land. I do not agree with him. Are they prepared to apply the same principle to their class who are industrialists and business men? (*Sardar Sampuran Singh* : Yes.) May I know if the factory power wheel is turned by Mr. Birla, sitting in his office or by a cooly who gets a few annas a day and strokes the fire in the boiler that gives the power? Are they prepared to give away the factory to the coolies? Take another example of a fat lump of a *bania* sitting in his shop while the shop boys bring the material to be shown to prospective buyers. The *bania* hardly even moves from his *gaddi*. Is he prepared to give his shop to those boys? Not at all.

Now I come to my third point with regard to *chahi* rates. The Committee has barely touched on this subject which is really a very important one. (*Sardar Sampuran Singh* : Hear, hear.) There is no question of hear, hear. I am telling the truth. We very forcibly stressed this point on the Committee. I do not know whether in any other district people have done the same or not but certainly we did, and suggested to the Committee that *chahi* rates should be abolished. The reason for that was, at least in my district,—I cannot take responsibility of other districts, because I do not know their conditions—but at least in Hoshiarpur and Jullundur districts the conditions are very bad on account of subsidence of water level.

In my district innumerable wells have gone dry and the land is still assessed at the *chahi* rates notwithstanding that the wells do not serve that land. I expressed this view on the discussion on the land revenue demand when the second Budget was presented by my Honourable Finance Minister, even then it was stated that there is a rule that after a well has gone dry, land revenue at *chahi* rates is not charged on the land that was served by that well, but it is not so in actual practice. Though there may be such a rule, it has never been done. In our part once it is a *chahi* land it is always a *chahi* land, whether there is a well or not. From my own experience I may tell you that the life of a well is not more than 15 or 20 years. I sank three wells in 1925 out of which two have gone dry. What we fear is that in a few years time when the settlement takes place, these monuments which stand on the land and are called wells will be taken into consideration and the land will be classed as *chahi* and thus land revenue will be increased. The Committee has sent in its report and it is for the Government to take into consideration these things and this *chahi* question should be gone into more thoroughly

and substantial relief should be afforded by abolishing the *chahi* rates. I hope Government will take into consideration these recommendations and bring them into effect very soon.

**Sardar Partab Singh** (Amritsar South, Sikh, Rural) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, to-day we are here to discuss the Report of the Land Revenue Committee. Before I got up to say a few words in this respect two speeches were made. My learned friend Sardar Sampuran Singh has spoken from the Opposition and he has fairly discussed the Report in a general manner. Then after his speech my honourable friend Sardar Gurbachan Singh from District Jullundur who is sitting on the Government benches, was pleased to deliver a speech which consisted of all chaff and little grain. I must say that it was conspicuous by the absence of relevancy. What he said was only with a view to have this thing to his credit that he spoke on the Land Revenue Committee. But let me assure him that the peasants of his constituency will not be at all satisfied. He has tried to run down the forceful plea of the Congress point of view by quoting a *bania's* illustration. He has remarked that a *bania* does not give the whole shop to his servant. I may reply to his argument that if a *bania* does not give anything to his servant, what does a landlord give to his tenants? A shopkeeper, as a matter of fact, pays an amount of money to his servant which is quite sufficient for his maintenance, but as regards tenants, I must submit that we will see how these landlords do not give sufficient amount of money to them. (*Cheers.*) Sir, when this Committee was appointed it was felt that something good would be done for the poor and down-trodden zamindars and the tenants as well, but the results have been disappointing. The Committee have laboured for two and a half years and have cost the province Rs. 50,000. We expected much of this Committee. But that labour is lost and it is no less than digging up a mountain and finding a mouse. Strictly speaking the Report of the Land Revenue Committee suggests a *khiddu* covered with coloured pieces of silk cloth which are shattered into a thousand pieces when boys begin playing with it. Now when we peruse the Report we feel that all our high hopes for the betterment of poor zamindars have been dashed to the ground. Nothing substantial has been done for the down-trodden zamindars who rise early in the morning when most of us are fast asleep, and go to bed late in the night being dog tired and fatigued after the day's toil is over. When the Report is such what should we say on the academic discussion contained in the Report except this that the origin of the Report is bureaucratic and a poor apology for that. On this occasion I should like to relate an interesting story of a woman who was married to a shoe-maker. When she went to her father-in-law's house she loudly complained of the bad smell of hides and skins. She instructed the relatives of her husband to place the hides in certain corners of the house and to put dirty water into certain pits. A few days passed and she said to her mother-in-law : "Look here, my sagacity has stood me in good stead. Now I do not find bad smell anywhere in the house." Her mother-in-law replied to her with a smile that the bad smell was there as usual but it was she who had lost her smelling power. Similarly, before the Unionist Government came in power the Honourable Minister for Development used to criticise severely the present system of land revenue and used to say to zamindars that he would

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leave no stone unturned in making suitable changes for the welfare of zamindars. In this connection I should refer the House to the Indian Taxation Inquiry Committee of 1924-25 to which eleven non-official members were appointed by the Punjab Government. Does the Honourable Minister for Development remember those good old days? Since he has resumed the Minister's chair he has forgotten all his promises and undertakings. Now he says that there is no defect. I wonder how it lies in his mouth to say so. What should one say except this that the defect is there as usual, but it is due to his lack of smelling power that he does not feel it. Before the Honourable Minister for Revenue rises in his seat and puts forward certain schemes before the House, I may say a word in reference to his up-to-date information so far as this Report is concerned. When my learned friend Sardar Sampuran Singh was reading out terms of reference from the said Report the Honourable Minister for Revenue interrupted him by saying: "Is it in the the Report? Where are you reading from? Which page are you referring to?" When the Honourable Minister for Revenue does not even know the terms of reference and the page on which the terms of reference are put down, what should we expect from such a Minister?

There are two outstanding points of view which I would like to place before the House in connection with the Land Revenue Committee's report. One is the view of the old bureaucratic government of the province and the other is that of the actual tillers of the soil. This report mainly describes the point of view of the old and foreign government that has gone before. But over against this we have an excellent memorandum prepared by Professor Brij Narain in which the view point of the tillers of the soil is described in all its essential details. The name of this memorandum is "Land Revenue Reform in the Punjab," published by the Institute of Agrarian Reform, Lajpat Rai Bhawan, Lahore. But it is painful to observe that the Report of the Darling Committee decries this memorandum and says that the latter has been based on wrong data and wrong inferences. Now my opinion is that the Darling Committee's Report is defective, useless and misleading to the same extent to which it condemns the memorandum which in fact rightly describes the view point of the tillers of the soil. The official report is confined mainly to the discussions of questions whether to abolish the *chahi* rates of Multan or not, or whether to decrease the jagirs of the jagirdars or not, or whether to decrease the local rate or not, or whether to modify the *kharaba* rules or not. But I am sorry to find that the Report does not devote the necessary attention to the cardinal principle which underlies the whole policy of the land revenue system as it obtains at present. That is why I would advise the Government to throw it into the waste-paper basket and take no further trouble of adopting its recommendations. They are worthless and have no substance in them so far as the interests of the tillers of the soil are concerned. There are two points which I want to explain to-day. One relates to the net assets of an agriculturist. The Government thinks that whatever amount peasants pay to their landlords represents the actual net profit or the net assets of the tillers of the soil. In reality that is not the case. The Government proceeds on this wrong assumption and assesses the land revenue on the zamindars. It is a great pity that the Government acts on this

indirect method. The direct method of calculating the net assets of a tiller would be to consider the wages of his wife, children and his servants together with the costs and upkeep of his bullocks, the implements and the seed. But all these amounts not deducted by the Government from the gross income of the agriculturists. The net assets should really mean the sum which would be left after deducting the whole cost of the cultivator. It is that remaining sum which the Government should regard as the net income of the agriculturist and from which one-fourth or one-fifth should be demanded by the Government as land revenue. The Government may take any portion of that. I have no dispute with that at present. The point is only that of principle. How to assess the real gain of the cultivator? It is to this question that I want to draw the special attention of the Government. A direct method of assessing the net assets should be adopted by the Government. Our morsel should not be snatched away by the Ministry from our mouth. We are already starving and the Government think that we are rich enough to be taxed without any definite principle. We do not want to be kept under this uncertainty and unfairness any longer. We have been exploited by the British Government for the last 92 or 93 years. Now the Darling Committee has sought to justify that exploitation by comparing the ratio of the present system of land revenue to the gross produce with those that obtained during the reign of the Mughals, the Hindus and the Sikhs. But why do the Government go so far? Why not adopt the simple and direct method of calculating the net assets?

You claim to be sympathetic towards the Jats and profess that your Government is the Government of the Jats. But when the question of doing justice to Jats is to be settled, you act as if your only concern is to carry on the Government by hook or by crook. You want your pound of flesh even when the cultivators are driven to starvation. Your only aim is to fill the coffers of the province by robbing the poverty-stricken cultivators. Let the Minister clearly state this and declare to the agriculturists: "We want so much revenue whether you like it or not. We want to maintain the top heavy administration. We will not calculate your net assets by a direct method. You shall have to pay whatever we order." If the position is made clear thus, the Jats and the Punjabis know how to act. They will stop you if they will. Punjabis can well defend themselves against such exploitations. They are no longer ignorant of the economic principles. Professor Brij Narain and other able economic experts have made the zamindars aware of the true position. They now fully understand the cleverness with which they have been looted and fleeced by the British Government for the last 92 years. They have been trampled under foot and reduced to abject poverty by the crushing burden of the land revenue and other Government dues. Those days are gone when the British *bania* could deceive us.

It is sometimes asked that if the agricultural profession is not paying and is, on the other hand, a losing concern, then why do the agriculturists continue it? The reply is that the conservative Jats of the Punjab are not in love with their ancestral profession but they cannot adopt any other calling and have thus no choice in the matter. Moreover they are not able to start industries or trades for want of money. It is wrong to compare them with the clever public of England who converted their fields into pastures when agriculture had failed. Our Jat brothers do not judge their

[S. Partab Singh.]

convenience as the Britishers do. If we were half so clever, we would have left our profession, and just as England turned two crores of acres of land into a pasture we would have done the same here.

The Darling Committee Report says that Professor Brij Narain confuses economic rent with net assets of a zamindar. He confuses nothing. I can quote so great an authority as Lord Salisbury (Secretary of State for India) in support of Professor Brij Narain, to show that the rent paid by the peasants to the landlords does not represent the net profit of the tiller. Driven by competition, the poor peasants accept the hard terms and do not insist on compensation for the labour they put in during the cultivation of the land. It is entirely wrong to say that they are amply compensated by the landlords. The landlords do not allow them to enjoy the fruits of their labour. They loot and fleece the peasants and the Government also takes a share in that exploitation. The poor peasants cannot leave their motherland. That is why they stick to their unpaying profession. Moreover, they do not know what else to do. If the cultivator had any exact knowledge about his recurring loss and if he had the habit of calculating his loss and gain, he would have left his profession scores of years ago. In the hope of better harvests, he goes on paying to the landlord what is really his own due and his own food.

Well, Sir, Professor Brij Narain has quoted chapter and verse in support of this contention, although Mr. Darling has tried to prove the contrary by advancing fallacious arguments. But truth is truth. It cannot be concealed or suppressed. May I know if Government can convince the owner cultivators like myself, like the honourable member Sardar Kartar Singh, Sardar Kabul Singh and others or the zamindars of the districts of Gujranwala, Rohtak, Gujrat, Campbellpur, Dera Ismail Khan and Amritsar, that because Mr. Darling has considered the definition of landlords' net assets to be in the best interests of the zamindars, therefore they need not worry and that millennium is sure to set in as a result of this valuable research? I may point out that such reasoning would have satisfied the zamindar, if he had been able to make his both ends meet. The Government cannot make them rich merely by telling stories. I am rather of the opinion that such manipulations would tend to create misgivings in the minds of the zamindars and shake their confidence in the Government. I assert that the present definition is positively unfair to the owner cultivator since rents in the Punjab are not economic rents. It is totally wrong to say that the tenant can meet his own requirements and that of his family after having paid the landlord's share. I would, therefore, appeal to Government to assess land revenue not on landlord's net assets but on those net assets which remain after the cost of cultivation has been defrayed. But this cost must include a return to the cultivator and his family for all labour put into cultivation along with enterpriser's share. They should see things in their true perspective. They would be well advised to conform to that definition of net assets which can actually apply to our country. They should not make assessment on the basis of definitions which are applicable only to the conditions existing in foreign countries. In this connection I may also point out that landlordism or feudalism had been defunct even during Akbar's reign and Sikh raj. It has come into ascendancy only during the British domination in

India. It is only the English who are responsible for the introduction of this system of land revenue, which has worked havoc on the small holders. I would ask my landlord zamindar friends that they should accept the definition of owner cultivator's net assets. They should not grudge a little living to their poorer brethren who do not happen to possess hundreds of acres of land. It will certainly go to their credit and bring them a fair name if they accept this definition. They should not mind whether this little benefit accrues to a Hindu, Sikh or a Muslim small holder, because they should consider them as their kith and kin. But I am constrained to say that Mr. Darling has thought fit to recommend landlord's net assets. He has twisted the available data to prove the correctness of his conclusion. Professor Brij Narain has shown by facts and figures relating to Lyallpur that a tenant has to sustain a loss of 136 rupees in four years after having paid the landlord's share. If we put his wages at five annas a day, the loss in four years comes to the amount mentioned above. This is really a sorry state of affairs.

*(At this stage the Honourable Premier entered the Chamber.)*

I am glad the Honourable Premier has come now. I would like to discuss the sliding scale system exhaustively in his presence. But before that I may bring this fact to his notice that the definition of net assets as recommended by Mr. Darling would prove detrimental to the best interests of the small zamindars. I say why go after round-about figures to arrive at this conclusion; straightaway count the incomes of the owner cultivators of Gujranwala, Sargodha, Rohtak districts, etc., and then levy the land revenue. It is only by this process that the peasants might have anything to keep their body and soul together. I may point out in this connection that we would not mind if instead of Rs. 50,000 which has been spent on the preparation of this report, Rs. 1½ lakh is expended in search of such a principle of assessment of land revenue as would be equitable and just to all zamindars, big or small. The Government should not always think of filling the coffers of their treasury, but they should also keep those people in mind from whose pockets this money is squeezed out. May I know if the provincial exchequer exists for the zamindars or the zamindars exist for the provincial exchequer? It pains me to find that nothing worth the name is being done to improve the miserable plight of the down-trodden small zamindars who are being hard pressed to pay the Government dues at all costs. Again whenever we raise a hue and cry against the tyranny of high rate of assessment of land revenue, the Government begins to plead their inability to reduce it on grounds of financial stringency. They always think of everything in terms of the exchequer. I am constrained to compare the Punjab Government or for the matter of that its exchequer, with a demon—a hungry demon—who has a man in his captivity. The demon has no provisions to satisfy his appetite, so he resorts to cutting the flesh of the unfortunate captive in order to appease his hunger. Similarly the Punjab Government in order to fill its belly sucks the blood and cuts the very flesh of the small zamindars who are considered to be the backbone of the country. The question resolves to this, whether we the poor zamindars exist for the Government or the Government for the zamindars.

It means, in other words, that my honourable friends over there take away everything from the zamindars in order to fill the provincial exchequer.

[S. Partap Singh.]

I ask them, do they desire to fill the belly of that demon—Treasury—without reflecting for a moment that that action of theirs would reduce the zamindars to the verge of starvation? Let me point out to them that the zamindars are not made for the Punjab Government but on the contrary the Punjab Government has been established for them. This is not my point of view but it is the point of view of the zamindars in general. Now is the opportunity for the Government to realise the seriousness of the situation, otherwise if after four or five years another better government comes into power they will naturally do the needful. If my friends wish to be known as well-wishers of the province, it behoves them to give up that age-old definition of net assets which was devised by the white bureaucrats and they should find out a true definition of the net assets. I may also tell them that it is no use taking away the whole produce of the zamindars by way of land revenue and afterwards when they begin to starve, giving them some remission by way of charity. This is a western method of dispensing charity and I personally do not like it. In England, where the capitalist system was born, the capitalists first of all exploit the poor and when the poor become unemployed they dole out something by way of charity to them. But with all this they exhibit to the world at large that His Majesty's Government have a soft corner for the poor labourers. This idea of giving charity is not acceptable to us. What I want is that the Government should not make us poor by taking away everything that we produce, and then give us something by way of charity. The farmers of the Punjab are averse to such things. I do admit that the Punjab Government have a right to levy land revenue from the zamindars but justice demands that they should levy this after deducting the cost of cultivation of owner cultivator and they are at liberty to have one-fourth of whatever remains as the share of the Government. But actually the Government is realizing much in excess of one-fourth of the net assets. In order to elucidate my point I will cite an example for the information of the honourable members. In the Lyallpur tahsil Mr. Kirpalani performed the settlement operations and he fixed Rs. 25 lakhs as share of the government in that district. How did he come to this conclusion? He assumed that the gross produce of the zamindars of that tahsil was Rs. 228 lakhs. Out of it he deducted Rs. 128 lakhs as the cost of cultivation and whatever remained he considered it to be the net assets of the zamindar and fixed one-fourth of it as the Government share. This means that the share of the Government would be Rs. 25 lakhs. In this way Mr. Kirpalani assessed Rs. 25 lakhs as the share of the Government in that district. From the instance referred to above it is quite clear that Mr. Kirpalani thought that the cost of cultivation amounted to only 55 per cent of the gross produce. But this is not correct. As a matter of fact the cost of cultivation comes to 75 per cent of the gross produce. If the Government entertain any doubts about the matter I can prove my contention from the farming accounts which the Government have themselves published. If the Government does not agree with Professor Brij Narain in this respect I ask them to open a centre in every district and after taking into consideration the accounts of the owner cultivators find out for themselves the truth of the statement, whether or not the cost of cultivation comes to 75 per cent of the gross produce? Now if Mr. Kirpalani had assumed the cost of

cultivation to be 75 per cent of the gross produce, in that case the share of the Government in the Lyallpur district would have amounted to Rs. 14½ lakhs only. In the circumstances, I may point out that justice demands that you should take only Rs. 14½ lakhs but you are in fact realizing Rs. 25 lakhs from the zamindars of the Lyallpur tahsil. This in my opinion amounts to simply this that the Government want to fill their coffers come what may. I may tell them that this is not the way of doing things. Let them institute a searching inquiry into the matter and if they can prove that the cost of cultivation amounts to 55 per cent of the gross produce we will never raise this point any further. Either make us silent or do something for the poor zamindars. I am sure that they will not be able to prove this fact, however much they may try. If, however, my honourable friends consider the matter dispassionately they will find that the cost of cultivation, in which is included the wages of children and wife of a zamindar, will come to something like 70 or 75 per cent of the gross produce. I may add that so far as the accounts of the farms are concerned, the calculations of the Government may be correct but in the case of the zamindars in general it is not so. What my honourable friends have done is that they appointed a committee presided over by Mr. Darling and now whenever the zamindars ask them to reduce the amount of their land revenue they at once put forward the excuse that Mr. Darling did not think that they were heavily taxed and so they could do nothing. In this connection I may point out that a year and a half ago I stated on the floor of the House that agriculture was not a profitable concern and Sir Sikander Hyat-Khan then agreed with me. I want to know whether he is even now prepared to agree with me that the zamindars of the Punjab are not carrying on their agriculture for the sake of profit but simply to make their both ends meet. If he agrees with me I would request him to do away with the definition which the white bureaucrats fixed long ago of the net assets and now he should have one which would be just to the farming community and appropriate to the changing condition of the times.

Let this old system of land revenue assessment go to perdition. You should devise a system in accordance with the suggestions and principles which have been brought to your notice by us. The net assets of a zamindar should be the net assets of owner cultivator and not on the principle of the landlord's share.

2 p.m.

**Premier :** Kindly speak a bit slowly.

**Sardar Partab Singh :** How can I speak slowly and in lower tone when I am charged with conveying the lamentations of poor zamindars to your ears? (*Applause*). If I am convinced that the creaking of our shoes makes you uneasy..... (*Interruption*). My reference to the creaking of shoes has pinched the Honourable Minister of Revenue, and it reminds me of an incident which happened some time ago. A number of zamindars from Amritsar district came to me and asked me to accompany them to interview the Honourable Minister of Revenue in order to place their grievances before him. I told them that the red-coated orderlies would not let them see the Honourable Minister. Thinking that I was trying to be funny they said to me that the matter was too serious to be taken so lightly, but I assured them that what I said was a fact and that the ministers of this Government were too sacrosanct to be approached by ordinary



[S. Partab Singh.]

mortals like us. Moreover the orderlies who were wearing blood-hued uniforms were too severe to let us pass. They said "Let us try and if the Honourable Minister does not condescend to see us then we will think of some other method." At the Secretariat gates the policeman stopped us and enquired as to whom we wanted to see. On being told that we desired an interview with the Honourable Minister of Revenue he asked us to make an application. An application was accordingly sent praying him to grant an interview to the zamindars of Amritsar. We waited for an hour. But how could an application which was signed by Partab Singh and which was sent by the zamindars of Amritsar district be granted? On this the zamindars said that they should better try the rustic method and go straight to the Ministers' office. I told them that although they designated themselves as a zamindar Government they had no real sympathy for them and the age old Punjabi proverb aptly applies to them—

گو کان کنبہ قبیہ پال دے

جک مڈیاں منسار قبیہ گال دے

Anyway they went up his office but were informed that the Honourable Minister was very busy and could not see them. Upon hearing this these simple folk could not restrain their annoyance and said that it was very strange that the Government who squeezed the last penny out of them by way of land revenue and the Ministers who enjoyed the cool breeze of electric fans at their expense refused to hear their grievances. The Secretary of the Honourable Minister came out and asked them not to make a noise because he said the creaking of their shoes disturbed the Revenue Minister. They replied that when he needed their votes he tolerated the creaking of their shoes but now he felt disturbed by the noise. At last on being again refused an access to the *sanctum sanctorum* of the Honourable Minister, the zamindars returned saying that after all the Honourable Minister will have to come to Amritsar and they will then give him a bit of their minds.

Let me assure the Honourable Premier that not only will I speak slowly but I am prepared to ask the zamindars to walk barefoot so that he may not be disturbed, only if he tells me that he will do as we request him to do.

The Government should determine the net assets of an owner cultivator after deducting the costs of cultivation which must include his family wages, cost and upkeep of the bullocks and an enterpriser's return. On the other hand, as the holdings were very small and the zamindars were poverty-stricken the rent obtainable by the land-holders should not be considered a part of the tenants' net income.

Now I would say a few words regarding the sliding scale system. When the question was last taken up, the Honourable Sir Sikander Hyat-Khan said that this system was purely a creation of his own mind and had not been devised by a European. May I ask him whether or not his method has been understood by Mr. Darling? If it has not been understood even by him, why should I criticize a proposed modified system, which was not only defective in its original form but whose modified form is also full of flaws? If, on the other hand, your reply is that he has understood your system then I beg to submit that from the modified system as recommended by the committee it appears that your system or scale, which you declared to be so perfect

has been modified. Moreover, it also shows that there must have been some sort of harshness in the system that Mr. Darling has thought it necessary to modify it. After all he had to white-wash the Government's actions and unless there was a glaring defect in it, he would not have tried to modify the system. You should not laugh the matter off. In trying to understand the sliding scale system I have read very carefully the speeches made by the Honourable Chandhri Sir Chhotu Ram in this connection. I have also tried to understand the notification issued by His Excellency the Governor as well as the speeches delivered by the honourable members in this House. And to be more sure of it I had finally to become a pupil of Professor Brij Narain. Let me tell you one thing and I challenge anybody to disprove what I say. I would leave alone the doubts expressed in respect of the sliding scale system by the Darling Committee which has recommended some modifications in it. My contention is that this scheme is nothing but a fraud. There are three main features of this system. Firstly, the average of the prices for 20 years will be taken as commutation price; secondly, the total yield of the area concerned will be worked out according to the commutation prices and a maximum demand will be fixed, and, thirdly, the actual demand for a particular year will be determined according to the general level of prices prevalent in the preceding year, and the total yield of the year will be taken into consideration. This means that if in any year the general level of prices is lower than that represented by the schedule, a remission in the revenue rates will be given the following year proportionate to the difference, of course the yield and the area under cultivation will be taken as the same. Suppose the gross income for ten acres is Rs. 100 at the scheduled price of Rs. 4 per maund of wheat. Now if in a year the price of wheat falls down to Rs. 2 per maund while the yield and area remains unchanged the revenue demand will be remitted to the extent of 50 per cent. This is your sliding scale system. Then in calculating what remission is due for a particular year the Government will bring three factors into their calculations :—

- (1) The total matured area under important crops.
- (2) The average yield per acre of each of those crops.
- (3) The commutation price on the basis of last 20 years.

By multiplying these figures together, Government will obtain an index figure. They will then calculate a corresponding index figure for the year previous to that for which remissions are to be given. Now the difference between the ratio of these two figures will give you the percentage of remission to be granted. That is how the Government think its sliding scale system will work. What it ought to have done was to fix the commutation prices which would not have been higher than the prevalent and anticipated prices in the above calculations.

The officers of the Government tell the poor simple villagers that remissions will be proportionate to the fall in prices. We shall see if this is actually the case.

[S. Partab Singh.]

But before I proceed to that examination I would like to mention another thing. The Government of India passed a resolution in 1902 wherein it is stated —

Formerly the basis of assessment was the anticipated average yield of the land during the coming period of settlement. Now it is the actual yield at the time of assessment, so that the landowner enjoys to the full any new advantages that may accrue either from his own outlay or from outside circumstances, in the interval before the next revision is made.

**Premier :** Is that the resolution of Mr. R. C. Dutt ?

**Sardar Partab Singh :** Yes, and what if it is ?

**Premier :** Nothing. Only I wanted to point out that it was the resolution of a Dutt and not of a Jat.

**Sardar Partab Singh :** The sponsor of the resolution does not count, so long as the resolution is to our benefit ; and I may add that Mr. Dutt was a well-wisher of the Jats. Now, Sir, when we look at the attitude of this so-called zamindar Government *vis-a-vis* the resolution of the Government of India, we feel constrained to say that

جسٹ منہاں - سا قیدہ کال دے  
Let me make this point clearer. In 1902 the Government of India laid down that assessment upon actual, as distinct from prospective, assets is a cardinal principle of the land revenue policy of the Government. Your sliding scale is quite the reverse of this principle. You prepare a paper index on the basis of the prices of 20 years and with the slightest rise in the actual price your revenue demand will increase until that maximum scheduled demand is reached. May I ask why you are trampling under foot the cardinal principle laid down by the Government of Lord Curzon for the benefit of zamindars ? Thus the sum and substance of the sliding scale system is that you have deprived us of the benefit of Government of India's resolution of 1902. Whenever there is any rise in prices you will jump upon our heads with an increased revenue demand as your paper demand is very very high, over and above which the farmer can reap any benefit.

Now let us see how your calculations will affect us. Suppose the income from a particular area in a year when wheat is selling at Rs. 4 per maund is Rs. 100 and the cost of production is Rs. 75. This leaves a net asset of Rs. 25 out of which Rs. 6-4-0 will go to the Government. The next year the price of wheat falls to Rs. 2 per maund, and, therefore, the income is reduced to Rs. 50 only. Now while calculating the net assets the Government will assume that there has been a 50 per cent. decrease in the cost of production also reducing it to Rs. 37-8-0. The Honourable Premier is not here and I ask the Honourable Sir Chhotu Ram and Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan whether with a fall in prices there is actually a proportionate decrease in the cost of production. (A voice : No.) Is there any decrease at all ? I say there is almost none and, therefore, instead of there being any net assets the zamindar will be in this second year a loser to the extent of Rs. 25. But let us assume that although the cost of production does not fall by 50 per cent. yet it is reduced to Rs. 42, i.e., the fall in the cost of production is about 30 per cent. This will leave with the zamindar Rs. 8 out of which your demand should be Rs. 2 only. But in actual practice you will charge Rs. 3-2-0 thus inflicting a loss of another Rs. 1-2-0 on the poor zamindar.

This shows that unless the cost of production falls in the same ratio as the prices this principle of  $\frac{1}{2}$  of net assets will work to the detriment of the zamindar. I am raising this hue and cry because this system will crush the poor zamindars. I do not ask any favour from you. My contentions are based on a sound and reasonable principle.

Mr. Darling says that there is not always a slump in prices; sometimes they rise too. Moreover, if with a slump there is not a proportionate fall in the cost of production it is also true that the latter does not rise in the same ratio with an increase in prices. From this he concludes that zamindars stand to gain in a boom period because the Government cannot charge more than the fixed maximum. But my contention is that the commutation prices and the maximum demand have been pitched so high that in no case do the zamindars stand to gain under this system. If out of the settlement period of 40 years there are three years of good prices and 37 of low ones how can you say that zamindars will gain anything? Then with regard to the proposal of the present sliding scale or of Mr. Darling, my objection is that even if the price of wheat is as low as one pice per maund the revenue demand of the Government will be there. This price might sound to some as absurd, so let me say that even when wheat is selling at 12 annas per maund what does the zamindar get? There will be a revenue. Can you say that there will be any net assets in that case? Here again I must emphasise the point that the cost of production does not decrease proportionately with a fall in prices and that is the cause of the whole trouble with your system, and below certain prices net assets vanish altogether which your system does not take into account. I would, therefore, request you to bestow serious consideration on this point and to modify your method of calculation in the light of this objection. May I ask when will the zamindar get full remission under this system? I say never, because cent. per cent. remission will be possible only when the price of wheat falls to zero, and such a time will never come.

Sir, I am addressing these remarks to the honourable members belonging to the ministerial party. I am a great believer in being faithful to one's party but there are times when one's love for his country and his people has to be placed before the party bonds. This matter is not going to be put to vote and, therefore these gentlemen when they go out of this Chamber should tell Sir Chhotu Ram, Sir Sundar Singh, Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan and Syed Amjad Ali Shah that this sliding scale system will affect the zamindars adversely. The Honourable Sir Chhotu Ram looks displeased at these remarks, but I would submit that he should feel gratified and pleased because a man who used to read his Jat Gazette is pointing out to him that he is going wrong. I again assert that unless the cost of production goes down in the same ratio as the prices, this scheme even as modified by the Darling Committee cannot prove beneficial to zamindars. To the Government I would say that so far as principles of justice and equity are concerned the right is not on your side in respect of this system, but if you want to recover your revenue demands according to your own sweet will and without the least care for any principle you are welcome to do so. We will see if we can withstand these exactions.

Then there is no proposal envisaging any permanent relief. Only temporary relief has been mentioned. My submission is that it cannot

[S. Partab Singh.]

prove of the least avail to a man who is dying of starvation if you place in his hand a paper containing instructions of the thrift societies or co-operative societies that he should spend so much on the marriage of his son or daughter and so much on their education. Mr. Darling who is drawing a fat salary cannot realize the hardships which we are undergoing. He says in effect that the Government should be allowed to rob the zamindar of all his possessions in return when he sinks a well in front of his house, so that the zamindar and his family will be able to drink their fill of water. (*Hear, hear.*) I again appeal to my honourable friends to remember that it is not a question to be decided by votes. We came here to discuss this matter in a fraternal spirit in order to devise means to reduce this burden of revenue which the Britishers have imposed on us.

Mr. Darling has also said that the agriculturalists enjoy a privileged position. May I ask whether our position is more privileged than his own? Has he ever parted with a penny out of his salary in this way? In the end let my honourable friends understand that this report is no better than an apology for exploitation and as such does not deserve a better place than the waste-paper basket. Let us consign it to its proper place and do something for the starving and naked children of the zamindars. With these words I resume my seat. (*Cheers.*)

**Premier** (The Honourable Major Sir Sikander Hyat-Khan) (*Urdu*): Sir, I had a mind to make a few observations at the end of to-day's discussion but the speech which my honourable friend, Sardar Partab Singh has made calls for an immediate reply, so that the discussion which follows may not degenerate into vague generalities. The manner in which he spoke to-day suggested as if he was addressing an Akali Jatha in the usual orator's style. (*Interruption.*) I would request my honourable friend, Sardar Sampuran Singh not to interrupt me because the matter now before the House is of utmost importance and it is necessary that all of us should put our heads together in order to ameliorate the condition of the peasants. We should resist the temptation of exploiting poor zamindars by misleading slogans and catch-words. However I do not propose at this stage to dilate on the subject of political exploitation: I may refer to it later. In the first place, I should like to offer our grateful thanks to Sir Malcolm Darling on behalf of the Government and this House. Sir Malcolm Darling and his colleagues have compiled their report in an incredibly short space of time; they have prepared a comprehensive and lucid report with expedition in spite of the complexity of the problem and the vast amount of data which they had to collect. This House and the Government owe them a deep debt of gratitude. The recommendations of the Committee have been carefully examined by the department concerned, but the Government have not yet arrived at any conclusions. Before taking a decision we wish to ascertain the views of the various sections in the House and then in the light of the views expressed by my honourable friends Government will formulate its proposals. Let honourable members on the opposite benches come forward with constructive suggestions as to how we can best lighten the burden of the zamindar and to enable him to derive the maximum of benefit without impairing the financial stability of the province. My friend Sardar Partab Singh quoted Professor Brij Narain in the course of his speech in

regard to the sliding scale system and net assets. He said that they were not his views but those of a learned professor. Professor Brij Narain is undoubtedly an able man but the glasses through which he examines these particular subjects are not necessarily the same through which other economists see these problems. Sardar Sahib poses to be Professor Brij Narain's disciple but he does not seem to have benefited from this coaching as he has obviously failed to grasp the fundamental principles on which assessment is at present made. His efforts to pose as an expert reminded of that well known adage

معلم خطا جان و نیم ولا خطره ایمان

(a pseudo physician imperils life and a half baked theologian is a menace to religious faith). The cap fits him perfectly. His rambling speech and the confusion in his ideas was patent and bore the impression of half-baked theories. He did not appear to have understood the principle of sliding scale system or the net assets. He was neither clear in thought nor in words. He might have received his lessons from Professor Brij Narain but like a dull school boy seems to have failed to understand his learned teacher.

**Mr. Speaker :** Please do not be personal.

**Premier :** Sir, I am not being personal. I am simply making it clear that the principle of sliding scale system was not a device invented by me as attributed to me by my friend over there. Professor Brij Narain and his disciples can say what they like, but even a layman like myself—I do not pretend to be an expert—can say that the sliding scale system has benefited the zamindars. There is an English proverb to the effect that the proof of the pudding is in the eating. Let my friends go to Lyallpur and ascertain for themselves the remarkable success the sliding scale system has achieved in that district. The zamindars of the Lyallpur District have benefited to the extent of Rs. 80 lakhs per annum on account of this system. Professor Brij Narain's sophistry might attract some attention in a class room. His views may have some academic value but as practical politicians we have to judge every scheme by its results. Two and two must make four. The logic can make them either five or three. Whether the system of sliding scale has theoretical merits or demerits, need not worry us. Let us consider the results. It is sufficient for our purpose to know that the zamindars did get relief under the sliding scale system. This system might not be so effective when prices soar to a substantially high level, but in that event no relief would be necessary as the zamindar's pecuniary condition would be satisfactory. There is however no gainsaying the fact that the sliding scale system has considerably benefited the zamindars during the period of depression. Now I will take up the question of sliding scale in some detail. So far as the question of yield per acre is concerned, it is fixed at the time of settlement in accordance with the prescribed rules. The owners are also consulted; and it is only when all the conditions have been complied with that the yield is assessed. Again, the area under cultivation is also fixed at the time of settlement. Under the old rules commutation prices were fixed and remained in force for a period of forty years. It was not possible to make any change in the commutation prices so long as the settlement was in force. There was a slump in the prices of agricultural produce in 1929 and the zamindar was badly hit because in some cases the

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land revenue had been fixed at a time when prices were high. It was, therefore, with a view to give him some relief that the sliding scale system was introduced. Its main purpose is to protect the zamindar against any sudden fall in prices. Under this system the demand fluctuates with the rise and fall in prices of commodities; but it should be borne in mind that if the prices rise beyond the fixed maxima the demand does not increase beyond the limit fixed. Government can take from him a certain share of his net assets, but it cannot in any case increase its demand beyond the fixed limit of 25 per cent. It is on the whole a fairly effective and simple device. And whatever the theoretical objections, the fact remains that the zamindars of the Lower Bari Doab have benefited from this system to the extent of some nine or ten lakhs annually, while the zamindars of Lyallpur have derived benefit to the tune of approximately Rs. 80 lakhs per annum. I have quoted these figures to show that the sliding scale system has its merits which the Opposition seems to have deliberately ignored. The merits or demerits of a scheme, as I have said, should be judged by the results. It has done a world of good to the zamindars. If my friends on the opposite benches want to do away with this system, may I ask how they propose to ameliorate the condition of the zamindars? The prices of agricultural produce are rising and the zamindars stand to benefit by this rise.

**Begum Rashida Latif Baji :** What about the labourers?

**Premier :** Their wages will also increase in time.

Now I should like to make a few observations regarding net assets. I am not an expert or a specialist on the subject. I am speaking as a layman and I have never had the privilege of sitting at the feet of Professor Brij Narain as my friend opposite has had and mastering this intricate subject. All that I know is that the method of determining net assets is not free from difficulties. It has its defects. I have held this view for many years and this is also the view of my party. The Government of India decided in 1902 that the land revenue demand should be fixed at 50 per cent. of the net assets and it goes to the credit of the Unionist Party that they got this limit reduced from 50 per cent. to 25 per cent. by pressing upon the Government of India that the demand of 50 per cent. was unjust and unfair. That is the view we on this side of the House have held for the last two decades or more.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** And the Darling Report has given a practical shape to your persistent efforts.

**Premier :** It is a pity that my honourable friend does not realise that the Report constitutes the considered views of experts and not of the Government. We have yet to consider it in order to decide finally as to which of the recommendations and to what extent they should be given effect to. I was going to submit that the Government of Madras also tried to get a reduction in the 50 per cent. demand of land revenue but the Government of India remained adamant and turned down their request. It was the Punjab Government which succeeded in getting the Government of India agree to this reduction. The credit for getting the maximum goes to the Unionist Party alone. *(Cheers.)*

**Sardar Sampuran Singh :** The agreement must have been reached in camera.

**Premier :** My honourable friend has forgotten that he himself was a member of the Council when this demand of the Unionist Party was made and accepted by Government.

**Sardar Sampuran Singh :** I was never a member of your Party.

**Premier :** Of course not. There are, Sir, several provinces in which the land revenue demand is still based upon 50 per cent. net assets. May I ask my honourable friends opposite if it has been reduced in Madras, Orissa, Bihar, Bombay, Central Provinces or in the United Provinces? In Central Provinces it has been slightly increased quite recently. It may be noted that even the Congress Governments have not hitherto been able to amend the law on the subject. On the other hand, we have reduced the limit from 50 per cent. to 25 per cent. and yet my friends opposite have the temerity of criticising us for pitching the limit high. They talk of starving millions and half naked agriculturists whom the land revenue demand has in their estimation reduced to abject poverty here but they glibly gloss over the fact that the incidence is much higher in the Congress Provinces and they conveniently ignore the fact that Government has during the past three years spent the huge sum of six crores to give relief in the shape of remissions and other direct help to the peasants of this Province. The principle which I and my Party have all along kept in view is to afford, as far as possible, the greatest measure of relief to the smaller holders. But let me hasten to repeat what I have declared on several occasions before, that agriculture here for a vast majority of agriculturists is only a mode of living and not a commercial concern. I have held this view for a long time and I adhere to it even now. My honourable friends opposite who knows Russia so well is aware that the poor agriculturist there gets nothing. The whole of his produce is taken away by the State.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** I have never been to Russia. Your information is wrong as official information generally is. You have mentioned this thrice and I strenuously deny the charge.

**Premier :** My honourable friend may not have been to Russia but does he also deny that he believes in Russian socialism?

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** I believe in the principle, but I have never been to Russia.

**Premier :** My honourable friend knows that Russian peasants toil from morning till evening like beasts of burden and are not entitled to receive  $\frac{1}{2}$  or  $\frac{1}{3}$  or even  $\frac{1}{4}$  of their produce. No share can be claimed by them. The whole of the produce is taken away by the State.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** It is sheer propaganda.

**Premier :** No, facts.

**Mr. Speaker :** Please do not impute motives.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** I am not imputing motives. I have said that this is sheer propaganda.



**Mr. Speaker :** To say that an Honourable Minister is doing propaganda is unparliamentary.

**Premier :** Sir, I was submitting that agriculturists in Russia toil in their fields from morning till evening and the State takes away all their produce. They are not allowed to keep even a grain of their produce. The question of  $\frac{1}{2}$  or  $\frac{1}{4}$  net assets is not taken into consideration there. If the produce is 10 maunds, the whole of it is taken away ; and if it is 100 maunds, the whole of the 100 maunds are taken away by the State. The agriculturist gets only a chit or a ration card.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** That is not correct.

**Premier :** I expected my honourable friend and his neighbour Sardar Partab Singh, who also seems to have taken a leaf out of the book of Sardar Sohan Singh Josh, that they would advise the Punjab peasants to offer the whole of their produce to the State. But instead of doing that they have adopted a different policy foreign to their principles and creed. May I ask why ? Perhaps their object is not to deplete the resources of the people so that their capacity to finance political leaders is not impaired. My point is that there are only two methods of dealing with this matter. Either the peasant should be made to give up the whole of his produce to the State as is the case in Russia, or to contribute a small portion of his income to the exchequer. We have in the country adopted the latter method. If my honourable friends opposite can suggest some better method, I undertake on behalf of the Government to give it sympathetic consideration. Our main object is to afford every possible relief to the small holders, and we are taking rapid strides towards the realisation of our objective. But my honourable friends, who are in the habit of quoting Professor Brij Narain in season and out of season, have to-day advised us to deplete the provincial revenues by foregoing the whole of our income from land revenue, i.e., 4½ crores. Is that a suggestion which any practical man can accept ? Such destructive proposals can do no good to the peasant or the province. I for one refuse to be a party to undermine the financial stability of the province. What is needed is a substantial reduction in the burden of small holders and this we will do our utmost to achieve.

Have my honourable friends ever cared to ponder over the consequences which would follow if their proposal is given effect to ? The result would be that the provincial coffer would be depleted to the extent of Rs. 4½ crores and the whole administrative machinery would go out of gear. It is not difficult to see through the game which my honourable friends opposite want to play. They go out in the country and preach total remission of land revenue to dupe and exploit the unwary masses, and embarrass the Government. But they should remember that it is possible that they too may have to sit on these benches one day to guide the destinies of the province. If the coffers of the Government are depleted, how would they run the administration ? They should not overlook the fact that without money no Government can improve the lot of the people. May I know how they propose to make good this loss ? They should have at least given an indication how they proposed to make up the deficiency.

This is not a matter which should be exploited for political purposes ; instead, we should put our heads together in order to consider whether

the report which the committee of experts has prepared, offers any practical suggestion for the solution of the problem, namely, how to give adequate relief to the small holders. If we come to the conclusion that the recommendations made in the report do not provide any suitable remedy, then we should endeavour to devise some other method to give relief to the smaller man. But what have my friends done to help? They have indulged in diatribes against the Government and the revenue system. Do they think that by making false accusations, by using harsh words they would be able to solve the difficulties of the zamindars? I would request them to give careful and dispassionate consideration to the report and then like responsible persons try to base their conclusions on facts. My honourable friend Sardar Sampuran Singh quoted the Punjabi saying *جوت مہیاں سہارا قہلے گاڑے* I agree with him. So long as my honourable friend and men of his ilk occupy those benches, this state of affairs is bound to continue (*laughter*).

Now I would like to place a constructive suggestion before the House. But before doing so I wish to make it clear that this proposal does not represent the decision of the Government. I am making it in my personal capacity. I would request all sections of the House to frankly criticise it if they consider it impracticable. We are agreed that one main object should be to secure for zamindars, especially the small holders, the maximum possible relief without placing undue burden on the non-agriculturist sections of the populace. That is the cardinal principle which we must constantly keep in view. My honourable friends will readily concede that the days of miracles are no more. Nor do we possess the proverbial touchstone which would enable us to remit the whole of the land revenue and yet keep our coffers full. It is only by careful husbanding of our existing resources and by tapping fresh sources of income that we can hope to succeed in achieving our object. In this connection it would not be out of place to mention that the number of zamindars who pay Rs. 5 or less as land revenue is by far the largest. In my opinion it is the class which most deserves consideration. It has been suggested in this House and outside that a 50 per cent. reduction should be made in the land revenue permanently. This would mean a reduction of Rs. 2½ in the case of those who pay Rs. 5. Let us assume for a minute that this demand for reduction is conceded by the Government. Now let us analyse and see how far it is going to benefit the small holder who pays Rs. 5. According to the census figures an average family in this province consists of five persons. If you divide the amount remitted Rs. 2-8-0 by five, the result would be that each member of the family would get eight annas per annum as his share of the relief or three pice per head per mensem. Now I ask you if this is going to benefit the zamindar. Would it enable him to raise his standard of living, or provide better education for his children or himself and his family with other amenities of life? Of course not. It is apparent that this remission can do him no good, while on the other hand it would make a good gap in our income. To make the two ends meet it would be necessary to impose additional taxation and to apply the axe of retrenchment. The first to be affected by this retrenchment would be the beneficent departments. Government will be compelled drastically to reduce expenditure on roads, hospitals, schools, etc. It is obvious that we cannot do away with the police; and so long as my honourable friends opposite and their friends outside continue to behave as they

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do at present we must continue to employ additional police also. (Laughter.) Nor can we close law courts. In short it is the beneficent departments which would suffer, and our nation building activities would receive a serious set back. In view of the so obvious facts, no person with a modicum of commonsense could lend his support to the suggestion that a direct remission in land revenue is likely to afford any appreciable relief to the small holder. Now let me place before the House my scheme for what it is worth. As I have said I am putting it forward in my personal capacity. It is in a way a scheme of insurance which would, in course of time, provide adequate relief to the small holder without putting undue strain on the Provincial Exchequer. If the scheme commends itself to the House I would place it before the Cabinet for consideration. The proposal briefly is this—that those zamindars who pay Rs. 5 or less in land revenue should be given a reduction of 50 per cent., i.e., equivalent to  $\frac{1}{2}$  the amount of land revenue they pay. But instead of foregoing this amount outright Government should after realisation deposit it in a bank or in co-operative credit societies, and credit it to the account of each individual holder who would not be allowed to draw any money from his account for the first four years. In other words every zamindar would continue to pay his land revenue as at present but Government would credit 50 per cent. of the amount to his special account. After the fourth year he would be allowed to draw on this account to the extent of  $\frac{1}{2}$  the amount of land revenue assessed on his holding, for the purpose of paying his land revenue and an equivalent amount for buying seed or implements of husbandry if his crop fails on account of drought, hailstorm, or some other similar calamity, or if there is a sudden big slump in the prices of agricultural produce. With some luck after some years sufficient amount would have accumulated to enable the zamindar to pay a part or whole of his land revenue from this account. Incidentally the money so deposited would go a long way in strengthening the credit of the zamindar and the position of the co-operative credit societies.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** I am afraid lest this money should be treated like the *dharmkhata* of banias.

**Premier :** My honourable friend is unnecessarily suspicious. If he would listen to me and give thought to this constructive suggestion which is being put forward by a genuine well-wisher of the zamindar he would profit by it. I was trying to explain that if Rs. 2½ per holder per annum are deposited in a co-operative society or bank at the end of four years the amount at his credit will be Rs. 10.

For the first four years he will not be allowed to draw upon that fund. But later on he would be permitted to do so under certain prescribed conditions. As I have already pointed out a zamindar finds it exceedingly difficult to meet even half his land revenue demand in a bad year while in a good year he has no difficulty in paying the full amount. It is only when he is in difficulty owing to failure of a crop or other natural calamities that he needs help and my scheme will see him through on these critical occasions without borrowing. In this way he will be able to pay the whole of his dues in a bad year out of this special fund. I may also make it clear that this proposal would not affect the extraordinary remissions which Government grants when there is a total failure of crops due to natural calamities. Those remissions would continue as before.

If unfortunately his crops fail successively for four years he would be entitled to a remission as at present. Apart from land revenue there are certain other needs of a zamindar for which he requires cash. For instance, he will be able to draw on his special account to buy seed, draught bullocks and agricultural implements. According to a very rough estimate the aggregate amount credited to the individual account of these small holders would in ten years, including interest, amount to 6 or 7 crores. In course of time this sum might accumulate to a much larger total, and it is not inconceivable that eventually the whole of the land revenue demand might be met out of the interest or income from this money. They will also be free to draw upon this fund for the purpose of starting village industries in course of time. My honourable friend Munshi Hari Lal apparently does not seem to like this scheme. He cannot, of course, be expected to appreciate the small zamindars' point of view. He is perhaps afraid that if the proposal is put into effect zamindars would no longer be in need of borrowing from the money-lender and the creation of this fund would make him independent of this money-lending classes. (*Hear, hear*). My proposed scheme has the dual advantage of providing the wherewithal to the zamindar to meet his liability to the state and at the same time securing for him cheap and ample funds for other necessary requirements. With these words I commend my scheme to the House and trust that my honourable friends on both sides of the House would give it careful and sympathetic consideration. I may add that I do not contemplate direct Government control over these funds nor do I wish to confine the benefits of this proposal to only those owners of land who pay Rs. 5 or less as land revenue.

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

I fully realise that those zamindars who pay more than that also find it difficult sometimes to meet the demand. I, therefore, suggest that all those land revenue payers who pay Rs. 50 or less should be brought within the scope of my scheme on a graduated scale. As for example those who pay between Rs. 5 to Rs. 10 as land revenue may be granted remission to the extent of 25 per cent. and others still less. I do not however consider it necessary that one should go beyond the fifty rupee limit. This then briefly is my proposal. If after expert examination it is found practicable and is accepted by the House, then the problem of the smallholders who constitute the bulk of land revenue payers would be solved. It would benefit 94 per cent. of the zamindars in the province and only six per cent. who are big land holders would be left out. These six per cent. do not stand in need of any assistance from the State. But even they will benefit if by the introduction of this scheme the necessity of imposing additional burden on them is avoided.

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

I may for the information of the House point out that the total number of zamindars who pay land revenue to government is 3,470,000. Out of these 3,200,800 would get the benefit of this scheme. The remaining six per cent., as I have said, are capable of looking after themselves and shouldering the existing burden. If my scheme materialises our co-operative credit societies, with whom the money will be deposited, would in 15 or 20 years have an additional 12 to 15 crores to cater for the needs of the agriculturist

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and a day might come when 94 per cent. of our zamindars will not have to pay a penny out of their pockets into the Government Treasury, and the Government demand would be met from the proceeds of this fund. Let me make it clear once more that I have placed this scheme before the House in my personal capacity and not on behalf of the Government. If it is approved by the House, we will consult our expert advisers and have the details worked out and after obtaining your approval, put it into practice at the earliest possible opportunity. If on expert examination the scheme proves to be sound, as I hope it will, it would not only provide much needed relief to 94 per cent. zamindars but would also relieve the Government of the constant anxiety which it feels on their account. Moreover it would cramp the style of those who indulge in political exploitation of the unsophisticated peasantry. The small land holder would in course of time be able to keep the whole of his produce and the Government will find no difficulty in realising its dues. Besides, there will be a huge sum at the disposal of the credit societies which will both directly and indirectly benefit the zamindars and the coming generations. (Applause).

**Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan :** May I through you Sir, ask a question from the Honourable Premier. I want to know whether the proposal now put forward by him will be independent of the recommendations made by the Committee with regard to the establishment of a Special Fund?

**Premier :** This will depend largely upon the attitude of the zamindars themselves. I have held this view for a long time that if the Government remits 2 or 4 annas it will not benefit the zamindars at all. They will remain as poor as they are now and their difficulties will not be solved. If on the other hand the money as proposed by me is deposited in their name in a bank and its control is made over to them, this will go a long way to relieve them of their difficulties and it will be hardly necessary to establish a Development Fund. In a few years' time this small contribution will become the not inconsiderable sum of Rs. 5 crores. This will not only enable them to pay off their dues to Government but will also result in increasing their credit. All this seems to be as unsubstantial as a dream in the Arabian Nights, but who knows it may turn out to be a reality. If it does prove a reality let me assure you that it will ultimately lead to the exemption of 94 per cent. of the zamindars from the payment of land revenue. Within ten years this sum will automatically be doubled, and will go on increasing with the lapse of years.

**Mian Muhammad Nurullah (Lyallpur, Muhammadan, Rural) :** Sir, I have been instructed by my friends that in the first instance I should speak in Urdu and secondly I should not get excited in the course of my speech. I am much obliged to them for these instructions and will try to conform to their wishes.

I remember that some years ago a resolution was tabled in my name regarding net assets and was passed with the help of the Unionist Party, to which Party I at that time belonged. But the Committee that was proposed in the resolution was never set up and thus a few years have elapsed. When under the new constitution this Assembly was brought into existence the Government thought that the zamindars will now ask them to reduce

the burden of land revenue. That is how the Darling Committee was appointed to report as to how relief was to be given to the zamindars. After that whenever the question of relief was brought up, it was said on behalf of the Government that they had not yet received the report of the Committee, therefore nothing could be done in that connection. Now after a lapse of three years a beautifully got up volume has been issued at a cost of Rs. 50,000 to the provincial Exchequer. It contains nothing which merits special mention and the recommendations made therein are most unsatisfactory. It is very unfortunate that if the Honourable Premier had, after three years' dilly dallying, to present this insignificant proposal of his, he ought to have caused a sum of Rs. 50,000 of public money to be wasted. If he had put this proposal before the House three years earlier, we would have had ample opportunity of considering this scheme. However, I will discuss the merits of this proposal later on.

The best suggestion contained in the Revenue Committee Report is that which visualizes the establishment of a fund for the benefit of small holders. The proposal put forward by the Premier resembles it but that too is not satisfactory and I will discuss it at a later stage. The very first thing to be taken into consideration is as to which of these things can benefit the zamindars. There was no need for the Premier to enter into a lengthy discussion, nor was there any necessity of my honourable friend Sardar Partab Singh to deliver such a long speech. It would have been better if they had confined their observations to the question of net assets only. There are two ways of doing it. Firstly, the portion of net assets which is to be given to the Government should be reduced. I proposed that instead of assessing land revenue on the basis of 25 per cent of net assets it should be reduced to 15 per cent. But that measure was rejected by this Assembly. Secondly, it is very essential that the definition of net assets should be changed. I had given notice of a Bill to this effect but the appropriation by the Government of that Thursday deprived us of a chance to discuss it, and it may perhaps never be taken up again. If the Government were to agree to change the definition of net assets and were to add one more point in the ten points mentioned in the explanation, it would solve the difficulty to a great extent. I would like to read out to you the definition of net assets (*Interruption*). If that is your wish I would not do so, but I would like to submit a proposal as you have done. My honourable friends want me to present it before the House. Although I am conscious of its fate in the presence of a Government majority, yet I want that it should go on record in the hope that one day it might be unearthed and may materialize.

I thought I must muster up courage to make this suggestion to the House that the definition of net assets must be changed. At the present moment the zamindar is not being allowed the wages of the labour he puts in raising his crops. He is being assessed on a landlord basis. The wages of the zamindar, his wife and children must be deducted from his total income in order to determine his net assets. I am confident that the amount of net assets will thus be reduced and if in that case land revenue is charged on a basis of 40 per cent of his net assets I will not grudge that to the Government. But at present it comes to about 40 or 60 or even 100 per cent of his real net assets. In this connection I have the same concrete example

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of Karam Hussain Shah before me who having 5 squares of land had to hand over his ripened crops for six consecutive harvests and still he was in arrears of the land revenue. This is a very defective and harsh system and something must be done to set it right.

If the Government consider their proposal to be better than mine I challenge them to call a public meeting without bringing the influence of saildars and lambardars to bear upon the poor zamindars, and any two of the Honourable Ministers should address that meeting. The Government can call a public meeting in any one of the three constituencies of Lyallpur district excepting mine. I do not ask you to go to my constituency. Go to any one of the other three constituencies in the district whose representatives are sitting with you. Select any zail you like and let us explain to the people our respective views with regard to the definition of net assets. For two days I will explain the advantages of the definition proposed by me and similarly two days will be given to the Premier or the Minister of Development or any other member of your party whom you consider the most popular with the zamindars. After that hold an open meeting which should be absolutely free from official influence, and in that meeting we will put this matter to the vote of the zamindars assembled there. I am sure that an overwhelming majority will be in favour of altering the definition of net assets as proposed by me. I warn the Government that although the recent depression has, fortunately, passed away yet if another period of similar depression sets in the situation will, as has been pointed out by my honourable friend Sardar Partab Singh, become desperate. There is a verse of the late lamented Dr. Sir Muhammad Iqbal—

اس کھیت سے دھقان کو ملسر نہ ہو رازی

اس کھیت کے ہو خوشہ گندم کو چلا دے

You know it full well that the zamindar does not get from his fields as much as may be enough for him to keep body and soul together. A committee of Agricultural Research held an enquiry and came to the conclusion that the cost of production on a field yielding 15 maunds was Rs. 41, and that since the prices were almost constantly fluctuating the zamindar got no profit out of it. I would, therefore, ask the Government to rise to the occasion and do the needful before it is too late. Otherwise, if the zamindars come to grasp the meaning of the verse quoted by me and begin to act up to it the situation will become so dangerous that you will not be able to cope with it. As I have requested you more than once, let the definition of net assets be modified. It consists of nine clauses. Let the tenth clause proposed by me be added to them. If you are not prepared to do that you will have yourself to thank for the dire consequences.

Then, Sir, the Honourable Premier was pleased to remark that if we wanted to know the blessings of the sliding scale we should refer to the zamindars of the Lyallpur district. He said that the proof of the pudding lies in the eating. I admit that the introduction of the

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sliding scale is a step in the right direction, but there is no denying the fact that some aspects of the scheme are highly injurious to the interests of the zamindars. Even the Land Revenue Committee found it necessary to make a recommendation for its modification. The Honourable Premier said that on account of this scheme the Lyallpur district has benefited to the extent of Rs. 90,00,000 in the year 1937. But I submit that this statement is wholly incorrect and misleading. According to him the settlement has caused a remission of Rs. 30 lakhs a year in Lyallpur. Now let us look at the figures given in paragraph 88 on page 43 of the report. There we find that if the district had not been reassessed in 1935—1937 the settlement demand would have been Rs. 69,00,000 while the actual demand is Rs. 61,00,000. This gives a difference of Rs. 8,00,000 only. This is the actual state of affairs as disclosed by your own report. To hoodwink the people you pitched your settlement demand as high as Rs. 83,00,000, so that you may be able to say that by realising only Rs. 61,00,000 you were doing them a great favour. But even so the difference between the settlement demand and actual demand is Rs. 22,00,000 and not Rs. 30,00,000, as stated by the Premier. This shows that he made a thoroughly wrong statement which is not borne out by facts and figures. Then, Sir, the percentage remitted in 1937 was 11, but since the prices had fallen comparatively lower this remission did not prove of much avail to the zamindars. As I have already stated we admit that there are some good points in the sliding scale scheme, but the claims made by the Premier can satisfy no one but himself. If you want to give any remission it should be given on the basis of actual net assets and not of prices. If at some time our net assets are reduced by 50 per cent on account of the fluctuation in prices, we will have to pay more than we would have paid on the basis of net assets. You should, therefore, either change the definition of net assets or charge 15 per cent instead of 25 per cent.

Moreover, you should fix a unit for purposes of remission and arrange that the big landlords should get less remission than small landholders. In the district of Lyallpur 12½ acres may be described as an economic holding. To cultivate this area the zamindar has to keep one team of oxen. But if a person owns only 5 acres of land, he too shall have to keep one team of oxen and thus the cost of production would make the holding uneconomic. This shows that to be economic a holding must not be less than 12½ acres. Therefore, I submit that a man with an uneconomic holding must get relief. From 12½ acres to 2 squares may stay as they are. I am in full agreement with the recommendation of the committee that surcharge should be levied on big landholders. I am a big landlord myself. I pay Rs. 1,000 or over as land revenue. I do not mind if I have to pay more so long as you afford adequate relief to poor small holders. I have no objection to the surcharge being levied at the rate of 2 annas for a rupee on holdings up to 4 squares, 3 annas on those from 4 to 10 squares and 4 annas on holdings of more than 10 squares. There is no harm in asking the big landlords to shoulder some extra burden. This will give relief to poor zamindars without any loss to the exchequer.

Now I will deal with certain points raised by the Honourable Premier. He was pleased to remark that the Government will take decisions in this



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matter in the light of the opinions expressed by the various members. In this connection I would request him to invite the opinion of the people concerned on the Bill brought forward by me and base his decision on that opinion. I cannot say what that opinion will be and what decision you will take on that, but it will be a test of your *bona fides*. Then, he said that nothing has been done in any other province on the lines suggested by me. But my submission is that there was not a majority of zamindars in the governments of those provinces while here in the Punjab we have a so-called zamindar Government and, therefore, it should take credit for leading other provinces in this respect. You profess to have a great solicitude for the welfare of zamindars. Therefore, you cannot advance such arguments with advantage.

Again, he reminded us that in the Soviet Russia the cultivators had to hand over the whole of their produce to the Government and then they obtained necessities of life from the stores by presenting chits supplied to them by the Government. Sir, I do not want to say anything about the merits or demerits of that system. It may not be suitable for the Punjab. But the question of questions is whether the zamindars get enough to keep body and soul together. Our zamindars are dying of starvation and we are agreeable to any proposal or system which will ensure sufficient food and clothing to them.

With regard to the scheme propounded by the Premier, I must say that if it is to be worked like the Co-operative department and the decisions are to be influenced by your officials it is sure to prove worse than the recommendations of the committee. You should not put it in operation unless its full details have been placed before and approved by the House. I assure him that if on the examination of the details we find the scheme a useful one we will have no hesitation in accepting it. Then I must submit that the fund proposed to be established for the benefit of smallholders is too meagre. If you are really anxious to help these poor people the amount should be enhanced.

In the end I would say that although the Honourable Premier has thrown the report of the committee in the background and put forward his own proposal in preference to it we cannot at this stage say anything one way or the other about this proposal. We do not know the details of its working. It is only when they come before us that we will be able to express our opinion about the usefulness or otherwise of the proposal. (Cheers.)

**Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan) (Urdu):** Sir, since the Honourable Premier has brought the discussion on proper lines, I think, the House should be grateful to him. Now after the speech of the Honourable Premier, the House has understood as to how the Report should be discussed. I may submit at the very outset that the committee of revenue experts was appointed when the Government thought that it was its moral duty to help zamindars. I should like to ask the honourable member opposite who has picked holes in this report as to whether or not there are certain points in the report that may prove very useful to the peasantry. If there are some loopholes in the report the honourable members should

point them out, so that the Government may note down and try to remove them. As regards the speech made by my honourable friend Mian Nurullah, I would submit that he has developed a very bad habit of beginning his speech by saying "I challenge the Government." I think this habit will not stand him in good stead.

**Diwan Chaman Lall :** Mian Nurullah must have learnt it when he was sitting on those benches.

**Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan :** I believe he has developed this habit very recently. He never said anything like that when he was sitting on this side of the House. Since the matter now before the House is very important, it is most necessary that all of us should give due consideration to the schemes proposed by the Darling Committee. If we study the report carefully, we will find that a summary of recommendations has been given in it, so far as the net assets and sliding scale systems are concerned. The purpose of this summary of recommendations is that the people who are busy with their political activities and may not have sufficient time to go through the whole report should take advantage of it. As many as ten or twelve points have been mentioned in it and almost all of them seem to have been approved of by the honourable members of this House. As regards the sliding scale system certain members do not see eye to eye with the Government. If I begin to make them understand as to what sliding scale is, it will take much time and unfortunately I have limited time at my disposal. I can say this much that the Opposition members in general and my honourable friend Sardar Partab Singh in particular, have failed to grasp the implications of the sliding scale system. Fortunately or unfortunately my name was mentioned twice by Sardar Sahib during his vigorous speech. Now I would reply to his flimsy and vague line of argument by saying that when he began to cite instances, his speech grew from bad to worse and that almost all the instances were meaningless and indefinite to such an extent that no sensible man could understand them. One of the unintelligible instances advanced by Sardar Sahib was this : he said, if the price of wheat was one pice a maund.—While speaking on Revenue Committee's Report I cannot understand how it is justified to suppose the price of wheat as one pice per maund. I may point out to my honourable friend Sardar Partab Singh that as regards the sliding scale system, commutation prices have been fixed in Lahore and Amritsar districts. At some places it is fixed at Rs. 3-7-0 per maund. As you are aware the prices rose to Rs. 3-5-0 per maund, but it was not possible according to the sliding scale system to go beyond the limit of the fixed price. When the price is fixed at Rs. 3-5-0 per maund by the Government, wheat may be sold at the rate of Rs. 5 a maund, but the Government will not charge a pie more as land revenue than the fixed price. If the price falls down, the Government will charge land revenue according to the fall of price. It is, therefore, evident that zamindars are benefited in case the prices fall down. Under these conditions if the price of wheat, as Sardar Partab Singh has stated, falls down to the extent of one pice a maund, I am afraid neither will we be here nor my honourable friends over there will be seen in this Chamber. *(Interruption.)*

Now I should like to make a submission with regard to amendments proposed in the report which is now before the House. I would ask the

[R. Ghazanfar Ali Khan.]

honourable members sitting opposite to ponder over certain aspects of the amendments because Sir Malcolm Darling is a very intelligent and able man and every effort he has made in the name of justice deserves our thoughtful consideration. He is known to be one of the greatest wellwishers of the peasantry. It is a matter of gratification that he has kept up his reputation of being a real wellwisher of zamindars. The fact that big land owners are required to pay surcharges goes to show that this class of rich people has not been lost sight of. I am also of the opinion that big landowners should pay these surcharges. In this connection, my honourable friend Mian Nurullah has stated that he is a big zamindar himself and it does not make much difference if a little more is imposed upon persons who pay one thousand rupees as land revenue. I may also submit that the present Government is in power on account of the majority of poor zamindars at its back on whose valuable votes we have been elected. In fact they have laid the foundation of the Unionist Party and it is therefore our bounden duty to see that their grievances are removed. (*Interruption.*)

**Mr. Speaker :** Order, please. I cannot allow a running commentary.

**Begum Rashida Latif Baji :** All right.

**Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan :** The honourable lady member may kindly get up and say what she wants to say.

**Begum Rashida Latif Baji :** What I want to say is that your voters may be poor, but the Government is not poor.

**Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan :** I do not think the members sitting on the Government benches are as rich as the honourable lady member thinks them to be. Well, I was submitting that it is the foremost duty of the Government to help the poor. I would assert that the zamindars of the Punjab have confidence in the Government. In this respect I should also like to ask my honourable friend Mian Nurullah whether he is still of the opinion that the schemes proposed by the Darling Committee will not be approved of by the zamindars of the Punjab. Does he want to challenge the Government in this respect also? If he does, I will be pleased to invite him and the opposition members as well to come to my constituency and hold a public meeting. I will not let lambardars attend that meeting. It will consist of zamindars only. I shall put the Honourable Premier's scheme before them and say that according to the scheme, those zamindars who pay Rs. 5 or less of land revenue will be granted a remission of 50 per cent in the land revenue demand, but this remission will not provide direct relief to the zamindars. This money remitted by the Government will go to a zamindara fund in which the account of every zamindar will be maintained. For four years no zamindars will be allowed to draw from this fund, but if after four years there is a natural calamity, the zamindar will be entitled to draw from the fund to pay land revenue. I would then ask them whether they agree to this scheme.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Please fix a date. We are ready.

**Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan :** I know my friend Sardar Sohan Singh Josh is very fond of making tours, but I would suggest to him not to make haste in such an important matter.

**Diwan Chaman Lall :** Where will you get the money from ?

**Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan :** Why worry ? If my honourable friend Sardar Sohan Singh Josh will travel third class, I shall also follow suit. I was submitting that Rs. 2½ out of Rs. 5 will be taken by the Government and put away in a separate fund.

**Diwan Chaman Lall :** May I know what would be the loss to general revenues if Rs. 2-8-0 out of Rs. 5 is taken and put away in a separate fund ?

**Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan :** The scheme proposed by the Honourable Premier is magnificent and is calculated to benefit the zamindars in the long run. The small-holders' fund will stand them in good stead at the time of need and scarcity.

**Diwan Chaman Lall :** May I interrupt my honourable friend ? Why not let these zamindars off this amount of 50 lakhs ?

**Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan :** They will not be able to derive as much benefit out of this amount as the fund will confer upon them.

**Mr. Speaker :** Order, order, I cannot allow a dialogue.

**Diwan Chaman Lall :** I do not indulge in any dialogues. My honourable friend has given way.

**Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan :** After I finish, my honourable friend can ask any questions he likes.

Well, Sir, I challenge my honourable friend Sardar Sohan Singh Josh to come to my constituency and try to convince the agriculturists in a public meeting that this scheme will be most detrimental to their interests. My *ilaga* is mostly inhabited by small holders and these small holders pay about 1½ lakhs out of a total land revenue of 7½ lakhs in the whole tahsil. I will see if any zamindar is satisfied with his arguments. (*Interruption.*)

**Mr. Speaker :** Order, order. Please do not interrupt.

**Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan :** My honourable friend Mian Nurullah has charged the Premier for having proposed this scheme of small holders' fund, by saying that it is the Honourable Premier's own suggestion. May I ask if it is a crime to express what one considers useful for the zamindars ? After all there is nothing wrong in the Premier giving us a new scheme for the good of the small holders.

The second salutary step that this Darling Committee has proposed is to grant wide discretion to the settlement officers to reduce the revenue of the small holders to the minimum allowed by the rules. In the face of these important useful steps, does it lie in the mouth of the Opposition to say that the Unionist Government has no sympathy with the small holders ? The real point that needs stressing is that much time has already passed and now the Government should forthwith proceed to act on these schemes. Settlement of the Jhelum district is going on and these instructions should be given to the settlement officer at once, so that he may afford relief to the small holders.

**An Honourable Member :** So that he may shift the burden of the small holders on to the shoulders of men like the Parliamentary Secretary.

**Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan :** I quite welcome the suggestion. If my burden is to be increased in the interests of the smaller zamindars, I will be glad to bear it. There is no difference between my peasants and myself. They are my own kith and kin. Ties of blood unite us. Our life is interlinked with each other. The interests of my peasants are not different from my interests. There is absolutely no conflict between us.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** سہن سنگھ جوش کا اہل حال قبرا

**Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan :** I am glad my honourable friend has recited a couplet. That shows there is still a spark of life and sympathy in him and that he can be reformed. I am hopeful about him.

**Mr. Speaker :** Please do not reply to such interruptions.

**Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan :** I had a mind to recite a couplet by way of reply. But now that the Honourable Speaker has forbidden me to do so, I will not recite it.

In short, I will request the House to press upon the Government to carry out the recommendations of the Darling Committee at the earliest possible opportunity as the zamindars have already waited long enough. The Honourable Premier's scheme should also be acted upon as it is going to be very useful to the zamindars. It is a golden opportunity for Sir Sikander Hyat-Khan and Sir Sundar Singh Majithia to prove their sympathy by carrying all these schemes into effect at the earliest possible time. The House should request the Government to give a practical shape to all the suggestions of the Darling Committee. With these words, Sir, I beg to close my speech.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Before the honourable member resumes his seat, I would request him to fix the date on which I should address a public meeting in his constituency on the subject of land revenue system of the Punjab.

**Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan :** I will agree to any date that Sardar Sahib will himself fix. I have nothing more to say now.

**Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh) :** Sir, the honourable members.....

**Sardar Hari Singh :** You should call one member from each side in turn.

**Mr. Speaker :** I cannot follow the honourable member's suggestion.

**Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh :** I can assure the honourable member that I shall not be very long. Sir, the honourable members of this House may or may not agree with the recommendations made by the Revenue Committee, but I believe that there is no one in this House who will not appreciate the hard work and labour put in by the members of the Committee in collecting the valuable data which is embodied in this report. I believe this report will for a long time remain a book of reference on revenue matters. Sir, the members of the Opposition, who were expected to give their considered views on the proposals made by this Committee, have failed to make even a single constructive suggestion. They have made long speeches over general matters and the only question that they dealt with was that of net assets and sliding scale. Sir, this Committee has made a number of valuable suggestions which it will be advisable for the members of this House to concentrate

their attention on. With regard to the sliding scale, I shall say a few words. There seems to be a great deal of confusion in regard to this matter. The honourable members who spoke on this question have been confusing all along the question of sliding scale with the question of net assets. It is all very well to define net assets in a particular manner and I can well understand their point of view. Some honourable members were of the opinion that net assets should be defined in a particular way so that full wages of the cultivator and his family may be counted towards the expenses of cultivation. I can understand that, but having dealt with that question once, they should have considered the question of sliding scale

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on its own merit. Sliding scale was devised with the object of giving relief to the zamindars on account of the fall in prices. The question of net assets is quite separate from that of the sliding scale system. In whatever way you may arrive at the net assets, the method of sliding scale is sure to prove of great benefit to the zamindars when prices fall below commutation prices. Now, Sir, in this report an improvement has been suggested on the present system of sliding scale. When the Government introduced that method they fixed an upper limit beyond which the cultivators were not liable to pay land revenue even if rise in prices could justify it, but there was no limit to the remissions to which the cultivator was entitled as a result of drop in prices. The Darling Committee suggests that there should be two methods of calculating commutation prices. The first method, which has prevailed for the last several decades since the revenue system was introduced, is by taking the average price for the last 20 or 30 years. The other method to be adopted is to calculate the commutation price on the average price of last three to five years. The assessment is to be made on the basis of the price calculated by the second method, so that the zamindars may get immediate benefit as a result of a low level of prices. But if he is going to take immediate benefit on account of the present low level of prices, he should be prepared to pay higher land revenue if the prices go very much higher. In submitting that proposal the Darling Committee has also made another valuable suggestion. In order to prevent constant changes in the revenue demand, due to unimportant fluctuations in prices, the Committee has suggested an upper and a lower limit so that there should be no remission until prices fall  $12\frac{1}{2}$  per cent below lower commutation level and no enhancement until they rise 25 per cent above it. But when remission is due, it should be given in full proportion to the fall in prices, but when enhancement is due, an abatement of 50 per cent should be given. This is a very valuable suggestion and a great improvement on the present method of sliding scale and that is a recommendation which I believe the Government ought to accept in the interests of the zamindars.

I have got to make some remarks in connection with the suggestion made by the Darling Committee about the period for taking average daily price for the purposes of remission. I do not know why the Committee suggest that the price of wheat ought to be taken during the first fifteen days of April and the price of cotton during the first fifteen days of November. Only a small quantity of wheat is marketed during the first fifteen days of April and similarly not much cotton in the first fifteen days of November is marketed. I suggest that for taking these prices the time should be first

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fifteen days of June in the case of wheat and the first fifteen days of December in the case of cotton. Another valuable suggestion made by the Committee is about giving relief in the event of a calamity which may befall the zamindar. In that case the present method is that unless the damage to the crop exceeds  $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent on the entire holding, the zamindar cannot get any remission. What the Committee suggests is this, that in the last line of paragraph 565 of the Land Administration Manual "field" should be substituted for "holding." It is an improvement on the present system as after this change, remission would be considered in terms of each field separately instead of each holding.

I now come to the question of the relief, and this is by far the most important part of the recommendations of the Committee. The Committee suggests two ways of giving relief to the cultivator: one is permanent relief and another temporary relief. For permanent relief the Committee suggests that there should be a general decrease in the rate of assessment by 25 per cent in the case of owners paying not more than Rs. 25 land revenue; that is, in future assessments they should be given 25 per cent relief. I think that is also a very welcome suggestion and the Government ought to take it into consideration at the time of future assessments. With regard to temporary relief the Committee suggests that 50 per cent remission ought to be given to all land revenue payers who pay up to Rs. 10 land revenue. A question was asked as to the amount which Government will be made to remit if this recommendation is accepted. I have calculated the amount; it comes to about 40 lakhs a year if the Government were to accept that recommendation alone; but besides that, the Committee suggests that remission at a flat rate of Rs. 5 ought to be given in the case of those who pay up to Rs. 25. On the floor of the House the Premier made a very valuable suggestion. He said that if Government came to a decision that temporary relief ought to be given to small revenue payers, he would like that amount to be credited to a special fund created out of the proceeds of such remissions and that each revenue payer would have a separate account opened on which he could draw in times of distress. That is a suggestion which all members of this House ought to welcome coming as it does from the mouth of the Honourable Premier, and I think it will prove to be a lasting boon to the zamindar class. Honourable members ought to understand that this special fund the Honourable Premier announced on the floor of this House, would be a fund which will be of the zamindars themselves and the amount will be paid by the zamindars from the remissions which they will be entitled to, if the Government were to accept the recommendations of this Committee. Besides, the Committee suggest another special fund which they think Government ought to create and which ought to be utilised for the benefit of the small land-holders. In that special fund Government invested about 55 lakhs two years back and it is drawing upon that fund for the provision of amenities for the zamindars.

There is another useful proposal made by the Committee. They have suggested that the period of protective lease for wells should be raised to thirty years, that is to say, for thirty years no *chahi* rates should be charged. There is one proposal which the Committee does not make at present but

which the Committee thinks that the Government will have to consider after some time. That is the special tax on the sale of cotton. I take very strong objection to it. Cotton, as honourable members know, is already separately taxed for the purposes of the work that is being carried on by the Indian Cotton Committee. A cess of two annas per bale of cotton is collected in Bombay for financing the work of the Indian Central Cotton Committee. There is no objection to this, because the fund is being utilised on research work, and the improvement of cotton, and all the money that is thus spent is paid back to the cotton grower in one form or another. But to tax a particular commodity for general purposes is wrong. I can well understand if the Government were to change the whole revenue system and were to introduce a tax on sale of agricultural produce; then, in that case the cotton along with other commodities may be taxed. But to select cotton alone for the purpose of the sale tax would be wrong in principle.

Another suggestion which the Committee made was in regard to water rate. The Committee suggest that in certain villages which are unfavourably situated or where land is inferior the water rate should be low, lower than what it is for the good land or for favourably situated villages. This is a matter which also Government should take into consideration.

Another suggestion on which the Committee has not been able to give any definite opinion is with regard to discouragement of uneconomic holdings. The Committee suggests that if a minimum of Rs. 2 per annum land revenue is charged from every holding, then that might prove a deterrent to sub-division of holdings. I do not know whether it will have that effect, but it will certainly entail hardship unless a certain check is made on sub-division of holdings, either by law or by certain executive action of Government. I suggest that these holdings should not be allowed to be sub-divided beyond a certain limit. It is mainly for that reason that our yields compare unfavourably with yields in other parts of the world. I suggest that the Government should discourage sub-division of holdings either by definite legislation or by not recognising sub-division of holdings beyond an area which is held to be an economic holding. For example, as most honourable members know, irrigated area of twelve acres is considered to be an economic holding. I suggest that a sub-division beyond twelve acres should not be permitted by Government and if it takes place Government should not recognise it. For example, three members have twelve acres, they will not be allowed to sub-divide it into four acres each, but they will have to keep it as a joint property up to twelve acres, so that any one of them may till that land and derive benefit from it. I am not sure whether this will be approved by the honourable members of this House or by Government, but this is one of the methods adopted by some countries for preventing holdings from becoming uneconomic.

Lastly, I fully endorse the valuable remarks made by the Committee at the end of their report. The Committee after making all these recommendations for the benefit of the landholders suggest that all these facilities of remissions will be wasted unless there is something done to uplift the cultivator. The Committee thinks that so long as the cultivator remains ignorant, all the beneficent activities of the Government and all the amenities that Government might provide from time to time will be wasted. I entirely endorse that view. Education is as essential for general progress



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as consolidation is to economic development, and I think all honourable members will agree with that view expressed by the Committee. I make a suggestion that any special fund or any development fund that the Government might create in this behalf should be utilised primarily for dispelling ignorance from the masses.

**Sardar Kartar Singh** (Lyallpur East, Sikh, Rural) (*Punjab*): Mr. Speaker, we have been asked to express our views on the Darling Committee's Report which is under consideration of the House to-day. Before I say anything about the Report I would like to mention a fact in regard to the personnel of the Land Revenue Committee as well as of the Committee that has been appointed to suggest amendments in the Canal Act. All the members of these two Committees are non-agriculturists. Whenever a word of sympathy for the zamindars is spoken by a non-agriculturist, our Unionist friends ridicule the idea of his advocating the cause of the agriculturists. But may I know how the Government can justify their action in appointing non-agriculturists on the committees which had to deal with matters purely relating to the agriculturists of this province? On the one hand, the Government are themselves doing these things and on the other when Professor Brij Narain's pamphlet is quoted they get excited and say that he being a non-agriculturist cannot be expected to know anything about matters which concern the agriculturists.

I also want to bring this fact to the notice of the House that in the report of the Committee appointed to suggest amendments in the Canal Act—

**Minister of Revenue**: May I draw your attention to the fact that the Canal Committee's Report is not yet published, but the honourable member is discussing it.

**Mr. Speaker**: The honourable member should not discuss the Canal Committee's Report.

**Sardar Kartar Singh**: Well, Sir, reference has now been made and in spite of the objection by the Honourable Minister it cannot now be withdrawn. The fact remains that no agriculturist has been appointed to these committees by the Government, although they have never tolerated any reference to the suggestions made by Professor Brij Narain, on the contention that he cannot think of anything conducive to the interests of the zamindars. This shows clearly that in its heart of hearts the Government believes that the non-agriculturists too can do good to the agriculturists.

The terms of reference of the Land Revenue Committee among other things included two or three important matters.

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

One of these is as to whether the principles of income-tax can be applied to the assessment of land revenue, and if those principles are not applicable then what would be the alternative scheme whereby some relief at least in land revenue could be given to the small zamindars. In case there was any practicable scheme how much expenditure would it entail? I would submit, Sir, that in this Report the proposal of a special development fund is no doubt a good proposal but really that proposal is beyond the terms of reference.

The proposal that has been made by the Honourable Premier to-day in this House, in his personal capacity, is also outside the scope of the Land Revenue Committee which is to-day under discussion, and this proposal is probably intended to side-track the real issue. His scheme is briefly this. A reduction of Rs. 2-8-0 should be made from the land revenue of all the zamindars who pay Rs. 5, but this amount, instead of being remitted to them, should be deposited in a bank for their benefit. Full details of this scheme have not yet been worked out. Excepting that part of the scheme which deals with the amount to be reduced, the rest of it does not concern to-day's discussion. It appears that the temporary relief recommended by the committee does not find favour with the Honourable Premier who has in return put forward this different scheme.

In respect of the special fund my honourable friend Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan had remarked that if the zamindars are told that so much money will be deposited as a special fund for their benefit they will vote in favour of it. But may I point out to my honourable friend that if we were to ask them whether they prefer a reduction or a deposit in the bank, they would certainly favour a reduction. The plight of the zamindar is so bad that he cannot agree to lose Rs. 2-8-0. If land revenue is assessed on the basis of 25 per cent of nett assets, it means that the total annual income of revenue payer who pays Rs. 5 as land revenue is Rs. 20 only. Now in case the sum of Rs. 2-8-0 is remitted to him it would mean an increase of  $\frac{1}{3}$ th of his total income. There will be many for whom even such a little amount will be god-send. For instance, those who are deprived of such necessities as common salt and other articles of food cannot favour the idea of depositing this amount in a bank.

It is contended by my honourable friends on the treasury benches that the money thus deposited in a bank will belong to the zamindars. May I know if it is not their money which fills the Government's coffers? If you seriously want them to benefit by the money deposited in bank, why cannot you do the same from your own exchequer?

So far as the question of applying the principles of income-tax to the assessment of land revenue is concerned the Committee find that it cannot be done. They have given the following reasons: Firstly, that the number of those who will be thus assessed will be very large. It would be very difficult for 160,000 or 2 lakh persons to keep their respective accounts of income. Secondly, separate registers will have to be kept at district head-quarters and it would increase a lot of work. Thirdly, there will be an increase in expenditure on account of an increase in establishment that will have to be made for assessing incomes annually. Fourthly, the zamindars are illiterate and they do not know how to keep accounts. But who is to blame for their illiteracy and ignorance? I definitely hold the present Government and its predecessors responsible for the prevalence of this state of affairs in the province. It has been said that the application of income-tax principles to the land revenue system would lead not only to a considerable loss of revenue but also to other great many insuperable administrative difficulties. It has been urged now and time and again that by applying income-tax principles only 40 to 50 lakhs of rupees can be realized for the government treasury whereas at present the total income through land revenue is in the neighbourhood of 4½ crores. But

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my submission is that every Government worth the name is expected to make all sorts of sacrifices for the welfare of its rural population. If the claim of the Punjab Government for being a popular government is genuine and real, it will have to make such financial sacrifices for the amelioration of the condition of the poor kisans. What we want to impress upon the Government is that it should extend all those concessions to the agricultural community which are being enjoyed at present by our non-agriculturist brethren in respect of income-tax. After admitting this fact in the report that there is a general feeling among the zamindars to the effect that so far as government revenues and direct taxes are concerned the non-agriculturists are being taxed in a very light manner as compared with agriculturists and the Government is doing nothing to reduce their burden; it has been suggested by the committee that efforts should be made for the removal of this grievance. At the same time the committee has rejected the only method of placing agriculturists on an equal footing with non-agriculturists by turning down the proposal of applying income-tax principles to the land revenue system. On the other hand, the committee has recommended the continuance of the present system. Thus the logical conclusion is that the Government is rejecting this proposal simply because it is afraid of the probable loss of revenue to the state exchequer. Again, the report says that only a few landowners have pressed for the adoption of income-tax principles. In this connection I would like to read out paragraph 226 of the report which runs as follows :—

We did not find anywhere in the province a general desire for the application of income-tax principles. On the contrary, nearly all the groups of land-owners interviewed were opposed to it.

The committee could outright have said that it was not disposed to accept this proposal but it was not honest and truthful on its part to say that no body has before it expressed the desirability of adopting such a proposal. In fact it has done great injustice to the cause of the poor zamindars by saying so. It was up to the committee to recommend some alternative scheme if it was determined to turn down the one so zealously advanced by the rural community and its well-wishers.

Now, Sir, let me come down to the summary of recommendation made by the committee. By casting a cursory glance over them we can imagine the extent of the so-called useful work they are said to do for the benefit of the zamindars. It has been recommended that since the application of income-tax principles is practically impossible, the present system of land revenue should continue. The second recommendation is that the present definition of nett assets is all right; hence it should not be changed and so the present system should be maintained. Thirdly, the sliding scale system should be only very slightly modified, in one respect alone. Fourthly, so far as the fixed and fluctuating systems of land revenue are concerned *status quo* should be maintained. Further, it has been recommended that so far as *kharaba* is concerned, ordinary rules should continue to be given effect to. Then the committee has considered the question as to whether payment of land revenue in kind would be of material assistance to the small owners. It is not in favour of recovering land revenue in kind, so the committee recommends that if even the Co-operative department prepares a scheme of

payment of dues in kind in future then and only then it should be extended experimentally on an optional basis in selected areas to the payment of land revenue. The committee has not recommended even a general and immediate reduction of land revenue to 25 per cent of nett assets throughout the province. Then it has not recommended any change in the *chahi* rates. However, it has recommended that so far as new wells are concerned the minimum period of protective leases be extended to 30 years. This recommendation may benefit the zamindars of the Jullundur and Hoshiarpur districts to a small extent, whose wells have been gradually drying for the last 20 years. In short, one can realize as to how far these recommendations contain material usefulness for the agriculturists of the Punjab. In fact no radical change has been recommended to be effected in the present land revenue system.

Now, Sir, two points have very elaborately been discussed by the previous speakers. One relates to the sliding scale system and the other to the modification of the present definition of nett assets. The committee has considered the question as to whether the said definition of nett assets has the same effect on the owner-cultivator as it has on the landlord.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker :** I should like to inform the honourable member that he has taken 20 minutes. The time has been apportioned equally between the two sides of the House, and so far as this side is concerned only seven minutes more are left. The honourable member may, therefore, speak for seven minutes after which honourable members on this side will have no time to speak.

**Sardar Kartar Singh :** Thank you, Sir. It has been admitted on all hands that other things being equal the net assets of a cultivator have always been smaller than those of a landlord. If the committee further enquires into the matter it is sure to find that the cost of production incurred by a tiller of the soil is always greater than the one incurred by the landlord. It has been estimated in the recent settlement of the Lyallpur tahsil that the annual gross produce of that tahsil is in the neighbourhood of Rs. 228 lakhs and the cost of production is to the tune of Rs. 128 lakhs. In other words the cost incurred by the cultivators as estimated comes to 56 per cent of the total production. But the fact is that their cost of production is no less than 70 or 80 per cent of the gross produce. I would request the Government to make further enquiries into the matter and find out somewhat more exact figures in this connection.

Again, the amount of relief recommended in the report is not satisfactory. It should be further increased. The only laudable scheme that has been contemplated in the report is that a graduated surcharge has been recommended to be imposed on the big landlords. We have been told that it would yield no less than 6½ lakhs of rupees. But in my opinion this is not at all sufficient. It ought to be at least Rs. 15 or 20 lakhs and then increased gradually to the extent of Rs. 50 lakhs. In fact it is the only useful recommendation that has been made for the benefit of the smaller landowners. But we are not sure as to whether the Government would ever consider the advisability of accepting and putting it into operation.

[S. Kartar Singh.]

In 1928 it was provided in an amending Act that 25 per cent of the nett. assets should be permanently fixed as land revenue. The Unionist party claims credit for that change in the land revenue system, but it is a pity that up to this time only 9 districts have benefited by the application of that provision. It was suggested to the committee that this provision should be applied equally and simultaneously to all the districts of the province, but the committee did not agree to that, because it was of the opinion that such a change should only be effected at the time of the settlement.

In the previous Council when the Honourable Minister of Development was not a Government Member, he moved a resolution to the effect that land revenue should be assessed in accordance with the principles of income-tax. On this a certain newspaper which could not brook the idea of any good being done to the zamindars raised a great hue and cry against him, saying that he had made a Bolshevik suggestion in this respect. At that time he was pleased to remark in the course of his speech that the zamindar was a sheep and the Government a shearer, and that the shearer should not take away the skin along with the wool of the sheep. Now Chaudhri Sahib himself has the scissors in his hands and therefore we are justified in advising him only to shear the sheep, and not skin it. It is a common saying in the villages that the plants and flowers of gram look beautiful but when the gram is ground and turned into bread and placed on the cooking iron plate it makes a disgusting and unpalatable food.

جہولیاں نرے تیرے تے کوئی دھار پے جاندی اے

Similarly, Government has reached that stage now, and so I would like to request it not to behave in such a manner as would make this parable applicable to it.

In the end, Sir, I would like to say that the Honourable Sir Sundar Singh is said to be a humble servant of the *panth* and the public. I have always differed from that opinion. It has also been said that the Honourable Minister of Revenue is very sympathetic towards the poor zamindars. Here I would like to say that lip sympathy is no criterion of one's sincerity of purpose. Lip sympathy can be expressed even by *thugs*. In the end I would like to recite a verse of the Holy Granth which runs as follows :—

کز سازے ترے ترے دھو تران تیرے پائیں نگ  
کلیں جنہاں دے چپ مالیاں لوڑے مہ نے بگ  
اودہ ہم کے ساتھ نہ آکھئے دنا س ے کے تھگ

With these words I would request the Honourable Minister not hoodwink us like the proverbial Benrasi *thugs* by showering encomiums on such reports with a view to win support to them while not doing any real service to the people.

**Minister for Development** (The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram) (*Urdu*): Sir, this is a very important subject in which I have been constantly taking keen interest. I have also been giving expression

to my views about this matter pretty frequently during the course of last twenty years. The members of the Opposition while making reference to my previous speeches have laid emphasis on two points. Firstly, that the assessment of land revenue be made on the same principles as those applicable to the assessment of income-tax. It is true that I was the first to raise this question in the past and have also been doing some propaganda for it but let me clear my position here. I was conscious from the outset that the assessment of land revenue on the principles applicable to the assessment of income-tax was not practicable. My feeling is the same to-day. My explanation is this. The Government of those days was autocratic and irresponsible which could not be successfully moved except when it was face to face with a serious threat. I raised the cry for assimilation of the principles of assessment of land revenue to those applicable to the assessment of income-tax in the hope that the Government might, in order to avert this threat, agree to make other reasonable concessions to zamindars. The difficulties in the way of applying income-tax principles are insuperable. I regret that I have not time enough to dwell upon those difficulties. On some other occasion I may be able to explain the nature and extent of those difficulties. The Opposition says that the system of calculating assets is unjust. We have been accused of changing our views after coming into power. This is a false allegation. I hold the same opinion now as I held in 1928 when the Land Revenue (Amendment) Bill was discussed in the old Punjab Legislative Council and I, as a member of the Select Committee, recorded a strong note of dissent saying that the proposal was unjust and unsatisfactory. However leaving aside theoretical discussions we should judge the merits and demerits of every scheme from the point of view of practical results yielded by that scheme. What we desire is to give the maximum practical benefit to the zamindars with the minimum disturbance to the provincial budget. It is immaterial whether we achieve this through our adherence to the sliding scale or by abandoning it or by modifying the present method of calculating net assets under the Land Revenue Act. It is the end not the means, as my honourable friend Mian Muhammad Nurullah said, which counts. I agree that we must judge the value of every scheme by its results. Every proposal for the betterment of the zamindars is welcome, no matter whether it comes from the Opposition or from the treasury benches.

When the Honourable Premier was making his speech explaining his scheme of relief a voice came from the opposite benches that it was Chhotu Ram's proposal. The Honourable Premier rightly retorted :

دل رہا دل، دیتا دین گنبد ستر

But as a matter of fact the proposal put forward by the Honourable Premier is at once an amended and improved form of my proposal. All that it proves is that the Honourable Premier and I think alike so far as the welfare of the zamindars is concerned. But I must clarify one point still further. The proposal made by the Honourable Premier is not the proposal of the Ministry. It was never discussed in the Cabinet. So we are free to consider any other alternative proposal. I wish the Opposition had put forward some constructive suggestion and we had discussed it on the floor

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of the House. I fear that the Opposition had neither time nor inclination to make constructive proposals. Its members are keen only to offer violent criticism and to win cheap popularity in the columns of the newspapers by putting forward extravagant demands. Our Government have achieved unprecedented success in ameliorating the condition of the zamindars. It is not an empty claim. Relief of Indebtedness (Amendment) Bill, Money-lenders Registration Act, Marketing of Agricultural Produce Act, Benami Act and Restitution of Mortgaged Lands Act are remarkable landmarks in the history of legislation in the Punjab. Who can open his lips in deprecation against the Government in the presence of these remarkable pieces of legislation? The Punjab stands unique in this respect among all the provinces of India and no provincial Government is likely to achieve even in twenty years what we have already achieved.

The Honourable Premier's proposal is another step forward. I am sorry my learned friend Diwan Chaman Lall is not present here at this moment. He was of the opinion that the Government being weak in its finances will not be able to put this proposal into practice. I am glad that my honourable friend, Diwan Chaman Lall, has enquired as to where this money will come from. The simple answer to this question is

5 P. M. that the money should come from those capitalists of the Punjab who had the capacity to pay but had hitherto succeeded in evading to pay their proper share of taxation. May it be noted that the wealthier sections of the population, mostly those living in towns, have not been paying their due share of the provincial taxes, but have all along been benefiting from all the blessings of a good administration and leading a life of ease and comfort. My own wishes are that Government should levy new taxes from 4 to 6 crores on these people and spend part of the proceeds on beneficent departments and divert the rest to the creation of a special Peasant Relief and Welfare Fund. The Premier's scheme is, of course, different and represents only one aspect of my scheme. He wants to collect money from the small holders and then spend it on them. The best course in my estimation would be to tax the richer classes and offer relief to the poorer ones.

**Sardar Ajit Singh :** These are mere words ; you would not levy the proposed tax.

**Minister :** Unless we add to the appropriation of 50 lakhs out of land revenue another crore a year by taxing capitalists, the petty landholders and other poor classes of this province will not be benefited as much and as quickly as we desire them to be benefited. Our aim is to provide maximum benefit in the shortest possible period of time. In the interests of the ill-clad and ill-fed tillers of the soil with whom my honourable friends of the Opposition profess great sympathy, new taxes to the tune of six crores of rupees should be levied on the well-to-do people who reside mostly in urban areas. Then and then alone will the poor people be emancipated, their conditions ameliorated and our professions of sympathy with them proved to the hilt. (*A voice from the Opposition :* Then do it immediately.) My honourable friends of the Opposition ask us to do it immediately. But when we brought forward the Agrarian Bills before this House at Simla

and when we subsequently introduced the Marketing Bill here at Lahore, my honourable friends who now ask us to be quick in taxing the rich to the tune of 6 crores of rupees, raised a storm of protest against those measures which were calculated to benefit the poor. When later we wanted to levy a tax on luxuries like the cinemas and requested these protectors and well-wishers of the poor to co-operate with us, we found them up in arms against us. I wonder therefore if they will ever agree to any taxation of the rich in the interest of the poor.

Coming to my honourable friend, Sardar Partab Singh, who had said that Jats were by nature inimical to their own kith and kin, let me declare that I agree with him. His dictum applies with full force to his own case, because being a Jat himself he has joined a non-agriculturist party in this House and sworn allegiance to the enemies of the zamindar community. He and other Jats who are seated with him on Opposition benches have proved by serving under the command of non-zamindars against a zamindar government, that they are the very embodiment of the Punjabi saying that he has quoted, namely, I fail to understand what interests of the zamindar community are served by my friend Sardar Sampuran Singh and other Sikh Jats, agreeing to the command of Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava. Are they not forsaking their own "qaum"? (*An honourable member* : What do you mean by *qaum* ?) I mean not the Russians, but the Punjabis who carry on the profession of agriculture (*Interruption*). I make no distinction between big agriculturists and small agriculturists. All agriculturists constitute one *qaum*, irrespective of the fact whether they own or cultivate 5 bighas or 10 bighas or more. It behoves all of them to work in one compact body and not owe allegiance to non-agriculturist parties.

Now let me come to the thorny question of land revenue. We in the Punjab restrict the share of the State to 25 per cent of the net assets. It may be that our definition of the net assets is defective. That is not the point I want to discuss at the moment. But I want to compare the land revenue demand of the Punjab Government with that of the neighbouring province, the United Provinces, where my honourable friends, the members of the Opposition, say, a new heaven and a new earth have been created by the beneficent rule of the Congress. May I inform the House that the demand in the United Provinces continues to stand at 50 per cent of the net assets while an average 42 per cent of the net assets of zamindars find their way into the State coffers as against 28 per cent in the Punjab. No reduction whatever has been effected by the Congress Ministry either in the share of the State in net assets or in actual assessment or collection. If that is the way to ameliorate the condition of the land-owning classes and if that is the meaning of creating a new earth and a new heaven, then God save us from that amelioration and that utopia. We, on the other hand, believe in lightening the burden of the zamindars. With that end in view we had amended the Land Revenue Act in 1928. By that amendment, we reduced the demand of the Government from 50 per cent to 25 per cent of the net assets. And let us remember that that is the maximum limit to which we can charge. Actual assessment may even be three annas in the rupee. It can never exceed four annas in the rupee in any case. I may further enlighten the House that when we sought to introduce this salutary measure with the hope of affording a little relief to the poverty-stricken agriculturists the worthy



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brethren of my honourable friends who now profess great sympathy with the poor were the foremost among those who opposed the reduction from 50 per cent to 25 per cent of the net assets. The same question which is being asked to-day, was also asked in 1928, and the question came from the representatives of the fraternity to which Diwan Chaman Lall belongs. Where will the money lost by this reduction come from was the question asked then as it is being asked now. And my reply to this is the same now as it was then. Money will come from commercial class capitalists, and, if necessary, also from big landholders with big *turrahs*, in short from the rich who have the means to pay the taxes. I had pointed this out to Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram and Raja Narendra Nath. By all means tax the big landholders along with the big *banias*. I have no objection to that. But it is a great pity that whereas my honourable friend, Giani Kartar Singh, suggested that big landowners should be further taxed, he had not the decency even to hint that the capitalist classes of urban areas should also be taxed. It is they who enjoy all the amenities and comforts of the modern times and require most the blessings of law and order under a stable administration. Yet it is they who escape a full measure of fair taxation. They have never paid their proper quota to the provincial exchequer. But they derive the maximum benefit from tarred roads, well-equipped hospitals, up-to-date sanitary and public health services, efficient schools, colleges, courts and police. May I here add that if the police force expenditure which is so frequently and bitterly criticised were withdrawn or seriously reduced in strength, it would be the rich who would have to rue the day.

My honourable friends opposite have all along been crying themselves hoarse that in the interest of the peasant proprietors big zamindars should be taxed heavily. But I am constrained to observe that in spite of their professions that they are the champions of the cause of the poor petty zamindars they have never shown any disposition to support any measure calculated to tax urban or commercial capitalists in the interests of humbler section of land owners.

**Sardar Ajit Singh :** But when did we oppose such a measure ?

**Minister :** The day is not far off when the sincerity of my honourable friends would be put to a hard test. We intend to put forward certain measures in order to levy taxes on moneyed classes. Valuable time has been lost by the undesirable tactics of my honourable friends who have developed a bad habit of deliberate obstruction to the transaction of legislative business. They take two days over a petty proposal which should not take more than an hour or so to dispose of. If they give up that habit we can bring in suitable measures of taxing the rich more quickly. When the real test comes we shall see how my honourable friends behave. I am sure the honourable members representing capitalist interests would oppose it tooth and nail, but what about the zamindar members occupying the opposite benches ? They can either show the white feather as they did at the time when agrarian legislation was under discussion or support us. If they adopt the latter course, we should certainly feel beholden to them.

Well, Sir, some of my honourable friends opposite have unnecessarily wasted their breath in an effort to create a schism between big and small

zamindars. I may tell them that zamindars are a compact brotherhood. No amount of machinations on their part will succeed in dividing them. Will it interest or surprise my honourable friends to know that whenever big zamindars have been called upon to make sacrifices in order to give relief to their poorer brethren, they have always shown their readiness to do so? (*Hear, hear.*) Let me remind my friends that big zamindars readily accepted the proposal of exempting small zamindars from the payment of local rates and taking upon themselves the responsibility of paying the whole amount. My honourable friends should no longer entertain uncharitable notions that big zamindars will not come forward to make sacrifices for small zamindars. They will do everything possible for the sake of their brethren, but they are not at all prepared to become a scapegoat for urban capitalists. Now shopkeepers, merchants, traders, money-lenders, factory-owners, etc., will be asked to contribute their share towards the provincial exchequer. I declare on the floor of the House, as I have been doing outside, that taxes to the tune of Rs. 6 crores ought to be imposed upon capitalists in order to afford relief to agricultural classes.

My honourable friends of the Opposition have suggested that a remission of 50 per cent in land revenue should be granted to smaller zamindars with a view to relieving them of the crushing weight of taxes. I may tell them that a remission of Rs. 2½ out of Rs. 5 will come to 5 pice per head per month in a family of five members. Will this paltry amount add to his wealth or help him to raise his standard of living or pay off his debts? He will waste this amount on unnecessary and useless things. But the suggestion made by the Honourable Premier is commendable. Its adoption will certainly ameliorate the condition of the poor zamindars. The proposal is to forego 50 per cent land revenue of a certain section of zamindars. But the amount remitted will not be directly handed over to them. It will be put into a special fund in their respective names. After four years of this compulsory economy, a huge amount to the tune of Rs. 2 or 2½ crores will be accumulated. Now if any calamity befalls them or prices go down abnormally or crops fail on account of drought or hailstorm and they are unable to pay Government dues from their own pockets, they will be permitted to draw upon this fund. Thus they will be able to pay land revenue without spending even a single pie from their own pockets. Again, with the accumulation of such a vast amount we can carry out co-operative marketing schemes in order to protect the unsophisticated zamindars from the dishonest dealings of middlemen. As a result of the establishment of co-operative marketing societies, the credit of the zamindars will be strengthened to such an extent that they will be enabled to do without the good offices or good will of moneylending classes. In times of distress and stark necessity they can get financial help from this special fund or from these societies. But if my honourable friends opposite can put forward some better scheme to help the zamindars, we will welcome it. I hope in doing so they will also indicate sources for recouping the loss to the Exchequer resulting from the remissions urged by them for being granted directly to the zamindars.

Besides, my honourable friends have laid great stress on the fact that in order to effect economy, the Government should heavily axe the salaries of highly paid services like the I.C.S., I.P.S., I.F.S., etc. I do not favour unduly high salaries. However I may remind them that in the first place

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they are protected services. Secondly, if for the sake of argument it be conceded that we can dispense with these services and give the sack to all the incumbents, then what do my friends expect the saving to be? Only a sum of Rs. 70 lakhs. This will not make good the loss of Rs. 2 or 2½ crores resulting from the direct 50 per cent remission in land revenue granted to zamindars. Obviously it will be fantastic to think of turning out all the civil servants. But suppose we reduce their salaries, although we have no power to do so, by 50 per cent, the savings will be no more than 35 lakhs. Will this amount accomplish the end in view? I may repeat that personally I wish that some reduction should be effected in the high salaries allowed in these services, so that the tax-payers' burden may to that extent be lightened, but our hands are tied in the matter. So any reduction of salaries is out of the question. But unless my honourable friends suggest some alternative scheme to replenish provincial finance, dire consequences will ensue if their proposal is given effect to. With reduced finances Government will naturally have to apply the axe of retrenchment drastically to the beneficent departments. Schools, colleges, hospitals, etc., will have to be closed and maintenance of roads discontinued.

The object of the honourable friends opposite is to put us on the horns of a dilemma because they feel that their purpose is served both ways. If we remit the land revenue and close down some schools, colleges and hospitals or allow roads to fall into disrepair to meet the deficit caused by this remission, our friends here will go about preaching to the people that the zamindar Government has failed miserably, inasmuch as it has closed down schools, hospitals, etc. They will go even further and say that even the rule of foreign bureaucracy was much better than ours and that we be not entrusted with this power any more. If, on the contrary, we refuse to reduce land revenue it will be open to our opponents to go to the people and say that they moved resolution after resolution on the floor of the House urging a reduction of 50 per cent in *abiana* and land revenue and that, though non-agriculturists themselves, they urged Government to adopt measures calculated to secure the good of poor agriculturists, but a Government which called itself a zamindar Government thwarted all their proposals. In fact my honourable friends desire to make political capital out of this dilemma. But let me warn them against the facile assumption that zamindars are the same old simpletons. Let me assure them that if they think so they are living in a fool's paradise. Now zamindars have developed sufficient political consciousness to understand as to who are their real well-wishers.

Anyway I may point out that the suggestions which have been made by them do not commend themselves to Government. So long as new sources of income do not become available, land revenue cannot be remitted. And have my friends considered what those new sources of income can be? To my mind those sources lie only in one direction. Let the Government take courage in both hands and impose taxes to the tune of six crores of rupees on urban capitalists. Only then will you be in a position to reduce *abiana* and land revenue, if you are so minded, and also to open new schools, and new hospitals and make new roads throughout the length and breadth of the province. This will also obviate the need of doing away with the police, suggested so light-heartedly by the Opposition,

without the aid of which the administration of the country cannot run even for a week. So far as courts of justice are concerned, I have no soft corner for them in my heart and if their number can be reduced I will welcome the reduction. But to raise minor questions of closing or reducing institutions for economy is to shirk the real issue. At present we are faced with the question of evolving some practical scheme which will secure the greatest good of the zamindar community. It may be that the sliding scale system or a change in the definition of net assets will give considerable relief. But I am convinced that they will neither individually nor collectively solve the problem. My own scheme is good enough. But the scheme which the Honourable Premier has placed before the House is much better than mine inasmuch as it is not likely to be attacked by vested interests. But I may be allowed to point out one thing which the Honourable Premier has not mentioned and that is that a sum of Rs. 50 or 60 lakhs a year is not sufficient for the purposes of this scheme. A beginning should be made with at least one crore of rupees in the first year with large annual additions from Government revenues and levies from capitalists so that they may remember the price which has to be paid even in respect of a false claim for being regarded as well-wishers of the poor.

**Chaudhri Jalal-ud-Din Amber** (West Central Punjab, Indian Christian) (*Punjabi*): Sir, at present the Report of the Land Revenue Committee is being considered by the House. It is a matter of great regret that discussion on it has assumed party lines. As a matter of fact, the object of holding a discussion on this Report was that the honourable members should consider it very carefully and then put forward suggestions which they consider to be good from the point of view of kisans. It was expected of them that they would join their heads together and help the Government in improvising measures which would give the greatest benefit to the poor zamindar. I think it was their duty to point out to Government the particular suggestions of the said Committee which could be put into practice and to point out other suggestions which escaped the notice of the Land Revenue Committee. These were the things which required the urgent consideration of the honourable members, but as ill luck would have it discussion on it began on party lines. In fact this should not have been done. It is a thousand pities that, on the one hand, the members of the Unionist Party took the ground that this Report was a flawless one and no criticism could be levelled at it. On the other hand, the members of the Opposition Party criticised the Government for not bringing forward a good report and made this issue a partisan one. This is really regrettable.

I may submit that the point which was referred to the Committee was whether or not any benefit can accrue to the zamindars if land revenue was assessed on the basis of income-tax. In my opinion the point of reference should have been whether there is any other way in which the Punjab Government, in the presence of the fact that income-tax is being levied by the Central Government, can make good their loss if remission is granted to the poor zamindars. However, I am glad to find, though a sum of Rs. 50,000 has been incurred on the preparation of Land Revenue Committee Report, that at least this fact has been established that land revenue cannot be assessed in the Punjab on the basis of income-tax. I think in future at least this question will not be raised by any one.

[Ch. Jalal-ud-Din Amber.]

Now coming to the question of land revenue I may point out to my honourable friends that there is no mathematical way in which it can be levied. Just as the accounts of the zamindars are indefinite, so is the case with the question of land revenue. In this connection I am reminded of a story which aptly applies here. It is as follows. Two men were travelling together and in their way there lay a river. Now they wanted to cross it but they were afraid lest, if they crossed it on foot, they should get drowned. It happened that one of the two was an educated person and he knew something about arithmetic as well. He told his companion that he would first of all find out as to what was the depth of the river and after ascertaining that fact they would be able to cross it easily. Then he took certain readings about the depth of water from here and there and came to a conclusion that the average depth of the river was only three feet. At this he told his companion that they would not be drowned. What actually happened is known to every one. The mathematician was drowned with all his cut and dried rules about the depth of the river. The same is the case of the question of land revenue. If we want to fix it according to some cut and dried rules that would mean sheer fool-hardiness. As a matter of fact, the system of land revenue is prevalent in the Punjab for a very long time. The system that is in vogue in the United Provinces was adopted in the Punjab and land revenue was assessed on those lines, but up till now the Punjab Government have not been able to fix any system of their own. So far as the sliding scale system is concerned nobody understands it. As a matter of fact, it is very difficult to make people understand it. In short the system of assessing land revenue is very unarithmetical like. I have been a revenue officer myself and I fail to understand what land revenue has to do with arithmetical deductions and quibbles. In the circumstances, honourable members should not make it a party question. It behoves them that instead of picking holes in the garment of the Government they should place their suggestions before them. It has been pointed out by my honourable friends on the Treasury Benches that these are not the suggestions of the Government but have been put forward by a committee. It follows therefore that it is the duty of the honourable members that they should help the Government by putting forward suggestions which they think fit.

وزار نقطہ باریک تو زمر اینچنانہ ہر کہ سر بلو اشد قلزمی داند

There are so many points which require careful consideration. The honourable members instead of quarrelling with the Government can help them by putting forward suggestions which can give the greatest relief to the zamindars of the province.

As is evident from the terms of reference, the crux of the matter is that the zamindar must anyhow be given some relief. All other things are irrelevant. The only relevant point is that the present land revenue is exorbitant and it must be reduced.

**An Honourable Member :** There is nothing wrong with the basis of average assessment.

**Chaudhri Jalal-ud-Din Amber :** That is why the whole thing has gone wrong. Those who concern themselves with useless discussion of unimportant and irrelevant matters will find no way out of the tangle. Net assets have been a subject of debate for a long time. They are being discussed since the time of Romesh Chandra Dutt and still the problem remains unsolved. The result, if any, of all this unnecessary debate is that the real issue of bringing about a reduction in the burden of land revenue has been thrown in the background.

Now the question before us is as to which of these recommendations made by the Land Revenue Committee are such as to be fit for putting into practice by the Government. There are, we are told, two methods of assessment. One is the sliding scale method and the other is the system of fixed land revenue. The Committee has recommended the adoption of the first method in those areas only where it is approved and understood by the zamindars concerned. In my opinion this is a very reasonable thing to do. So far as the second method is concerned, the assessment should be fixed and the fluctuating system should be done away with. In the Lyallpur district the fluctuating system is in force for the last thirty-five years, and I request the Government that it is high time that it is discontinued, so that the bickerings of the zamindars may be stopped for good. (*A Voice* : That is not correct). My honourable friend says it is not correct. Kindly ask those who have to depend upon others year in and year out, who are faced with increased *kharaba* and remain at the mercy of the revenue officials.

شب غم بزمی بلائے نوحہ کیا عہدہ کیا ہے

مچھ گیا ہوا تھا مرنا امر ایک بار ہوتا

Every six months assessment on the basis of *kharaba* is a cause of constant worry and anxiety to the zamindar. Anyhow this is my personal opinion based upon my own experience. I hope the Honourable Minister of Revenue will carefully listen to my submissions. Both these systems, namely the sliding scale system and the fixed land revenue system, are based upon the prices prevailing in previous years and on the results of *girdawari*. The Government should pay special attention to them, because there is no correct method for ascertaining the prices of the agricultural produce. Special arrangements should be made by the Government for obtaining market prices because it is on the commutation prices that you have to base your assessment. Secondly, the arrangements for the more extensive supervision of *girdawari* operations, whether of fixed or fluctuating land revenue, which takes place in March-April and October-November every year, should be made, so that it may be correctly ascertained as to how much *kharaba* should be allowed to a particular village. If the question of cost stands in the way of the Government doing this, let me suggest that when for every paid *partwari* we have a candidate *patwari* on the waiting list and when there are so many candidates for naib-tahsildarship, why should not they be put to this work. Besides getting a training themselves they will be helpful in the supervision of the work. The stability of the superstructure depends primarily on the stability of its foundations.

**Mian Abdul Aziz :** It is no use reasoning with an unreasonable person.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker :** I would request the honourable member to address the Chair.

**Chaudhri Jalal-ud-Din Amber :** I am confident that the Honourable Minister is listening to my speech. These are the basic things that count, and not a matter for laughing it off.

محشدارل چوں نہد معمار کج — نا ثریا مے رود دیوار کج

The conclusions reached by you are wrong because their basis or their foundation is not sound.

Then, Sir, although the system of effecting suspensions in the realization of land revenue does not find favour with the agriculturists, yet the Committee has not recommended its abolition. In fact these suspensions only add to the burden of payments, in later harvest. Instead of suspensions there should be remissions of land revenue as the latter form of relief would go a long way to ameliorate the condition of the rural population. Again, it has been recommended that *kharaba* should be allowed fieldwise. I agree with this. If this suggestion was accepted, it would considerably decrease the possibilities of murmuring and grumbling on the part of the zamindars.

Furthermore, Sir, the Government should see to it that the diarchy of patwaris is discontinued. There should not be separate patwaris for revenue and irrigation purposes. It is a matter of gratification that the Honourable Minister of Revenue has as a tentative measure stopped this system on the Haveli Project area and I sincerely believe that he deserves congratulations from all sections of the House for taking such a laudable step. But we are told that a special officer has been appointed to enquire as to how far this experimental measure has succeeded in that *ilaga*. I doubt very much whether that officer would ever take a charitable view of this scheme. I have reasons to believe that he would recommend its discontinuance. I would therefore, request the Honourable Minister not to depend upon his advice in the matter.

The Land Revenue Committee has recommended the maintenance of *status quo* so far as the local rates are concerned. I do not find any justification whatsoever for this levy. The poor and destitute kisan is made to pay one or two pice more in the rupee as a local rate whereas non-zamindars getting 50, 60 or 100 rupees as salary or income monthly, do not pay a single penny to the Government by way of local rate, but enjoy many more amenities of life and benefits than the poor villagers. They make use of hospitals, roads, schools, etc., without contributing a single pice to the public revenue. I think the Government would do great justice to the zamindars by abrogating the imposition of local rates as an appendix to land revenue. I am at a loss to understand why the limit of Rs. 2,000 has been fixed for purposes of income-tax. Let the Punjab Government take courage in both hands and fix the limit of Rs. 1,000 for the realisation of some sort of additional tax. This step I am sure would find favour with all the sections of the House, and would remove the difficulties and worries of agriculturists as well as of the Government to a large measure. This way Government would be in a position to make up the

loss. To-day the poverty of the zamindars has become a vicious circle. Here, there and everywhere we find poverty in its acutest form. The poverty of the agriculturist has become proverbial now. But it is all due to his lack of intelligence. Make him intelligent and he himself would break all shackles of poverty. Educate him so that he may understand that his prosperity lies in the consolidation and not in the partition of holdings. Educate him so that he may understand the accounts. In the end I would say that the scheme sponsored by the Honourable Premier can only be beneficial to the agriculturists provided they are educated enough to draw distinction between good and evil.

**Sardar Jagjit Singh Man** (Central Punjab, Landholders): Sir, we have heard many speeches from the other side and particularly one or two forcible speeches like that of Sardar Partab Singh. But even that forcible speech has not impressed us and the reason is quite obvious. He was speaking here no doubt, but the real person who was speaking was Professor Brij Narain and if I may say so, that yellow book which he was holding in his hands throughout was speaking. I make bold to say that no other member of the opposition has given his views in a better manner on this report than Chaudhri Jalal-ud-Din Amber whose views the Revenue Minister has noted and who will give proper and due consideration to them. Before 1929 the rates were quite good and the condition of the zamindars was fairly well and they were just pulling on well. But after that when the prices became low, their condition was bad and it was at that time that the Government had to see what they had to do in this connection. There were three things which required adjustment. The first was the adjustment between the landlord and the tenant, the second was the adjustment between the creditor and the debtor and the third was the adjustment between the Government and the land-owner. These three points had to be considered by the Government. The first was automatically settled, because there was no trouble between the landlord and the tenant. As regards the second, the Government gave very serious consideration and as a result, passed many pieces of agrarian legislation to benefit the zamindar. As regards the third, there was a sliding scale introduced by the former Government and this Government wanted to do something more and in view of that appointed this Committee to consider and devise means and make suggestions. It is the report of that Committee which we are considering to-day. The sliding scale has been very much emphasised. The Premier more than once has said that this is a very useful proposition and he has cited the instance of Lyallpur where many lakhs were given in the shape of remission. I do not think I need say much on this. As regards the proposition that the land revenue should be based on the principles of income-tax, I think it is quite impracticable and it cannot be calculated easily as no zamindar can keep accounts. Then about the surcharge which the Committee has recommended I have wholehearted sympathy with that. I think there will be something which should be levied on big landlords, so that relief should be given to the small landlords. (*Hear, hear*). In the end I would say that since this Government has assumed office it has given many remissions and all those remissions and suspensions will be put on record in golden words. I may give a few figures. The remissions in 1937-38 amounted to Rs. 97,17,000; in 1938-39, Rs. 1,18,28,000 and in 1939-40, Rs. 1,46,97,000, the total remissions coming to about Rs. 3,62,87,000.



[S. Jagjit Singh Man.]

This is for three years and if we take into consideration the former Government's remissions the figure will come to about 1,47,87,000.

**Lala Bhimp Sen Sachar :** I hope this is our honourable friend speaking and not Professor Brij Narain.

**Minister for Development :** A Jat speaking.

**Sardar Jagjit Singh Man :** Then the proposal which has been just put forward by the Honourable Premier. I can assure him of my wholehearted support. It is a very good proposal and I think the House will give it its wholehearted support. With these words I resume my seat.

**Captain Sodhi Harnam Singh** (Ferozepore North, Sikh, Rural) (Urdu) : Sir, a tax whether in the form of land revenue or otherwise should be levied after the most careful consideration. It is the duty of the Government to regulate the incidence of taxation in such a manner as would make it easy for the people to pay it, without affecting the income of the Government. I do not believe in so much being levied on the urban population and so much on the rural. Every section of the population should be required to pay only as much as it is able to pay. In our province the zamindars pay ten crores of rupees or more to the Government while the contribution of other classes to the provincial exchequer is no more than 1½ crores. Then a large portion of the money received from the zamindars is spent for the benefit of the non-zamindar urban population. A zamindar with an income of Rs. 10 only has to pay Rs. 2-8-0 as land revenue while a non-zamindar with an annual income of Rs. 2,000 has to pay only Rs. 35 by way of income-tax to the Central Government and does not contribute a single penny to the provincial exchequer, while those whose income is up to Rs. 1,999 do not contribute a single pie to any Government. Our zamindar Government has been in office for three years but it has not taken any step during this period to remove this anomaly and inequity.

Sir, the zamindars are in a very sad plight. You can judge the extent of their poverty from the fact that out of 3,506,400 zamindars as many as 2,056,800 pay Rs. 5 or less per annum as land revenue which means that their annual income is not more than Rs. 15. The number of those who pay Rs. 25 or less as land revenue or whose income is Rs. 75 per annum is 2,848,000. Still the whole expenditure of the administration comes from their pockets. In European countries and America this whole burden is not thrown on the shoulders of zamindars as is the case in our country. There the governments guarantee a certain minimum price for the agricultural produce and therefore a certain minimum income to zamindars, and if the prices of the agricultural produce fall down, and consequently the income of the zamindars falls below that standard, the Government is bound to compensate him so that they could meet both ends and not starve as they do here. In Japan there is no discrimination between income from agriculture and that from other sources so far as taxation is concerned. Anybody whose income from any source is Rs. 250 or more pays income-tax on the prescribed scale. I would request the Government to adopt the same system here in the Punjab. Any loss to the exchequer caused by the adoption of this system should be made up by levying taxes on those who are not paying anything to the Government.

The Darling Committee has recommended that the unearned increment in the value of lands should be subjected to taxation. I agree with the principle. But I would submit that there again you should not tax the rural population alone. For instance you must tax the unearned increment in the income of those citizens of Lahore and other places the value of whose lands and other property has increased immensely. In the end I request the Government to devise such a system as would relieve poor zamindars and make their lives possible.

**Sir William Roberts** (European): I find this report very interesting, but in certain places very unpractical and theoretical.

6 p. m.

This report appears to consider the individual small farmer as more important than the best economic interest of the province as a whole. The farmer and not his farming seems the central issue. But taking the individual as the centre of this picture, even in that respect, I find that it needs a certain amount of criticism. We have in one part of the report a proposal to remit eight annas in the rupee for the first ten rupees of land revenue for a period of five years. No further concession is given up to Rs. 20 and not even Rs. 5 after that. If this is put into effect a person who has to pay Rs. 20 land revenue will get off at Rs. 15 as land revenue. Now, from the point of view of an individual in the canal colony, say, where the land revenue is Rs. 4 an acre, if a person owns five acres he will get Rs. 5 remitted from his land revenue whereas if he happens to own five acres and two marlas he will get nothing but pay in full. There will be no one paying between Rs. 15 and say Rs. 20. Can it be argued that five acres are the minimum area for which anybody in Lyallpur or Sargodha or in any colony area can keep a decent pair of bullocks? Why fix the figure at five acres? It is unsound economics.

There is another point. The Government of the Punjab is responsible to the people of the Punjab for developing the natural resources of the province. These consist of three things, land, water and labour. The aim of the Government should be to get the maximum amount from those three. The secondary aim should be to see that all the people get their share of it and that it is not kept in the hands of one or a few individuals. The first duty of the Government is to produce all that is possible from the land. Looked at from this point of view I maintain that the proposals made in the report are retrograde. It will decrease the wealth of the province and where you benefit a certain number of small individuals you are impoverishing the province as a whole. For that reason I hope the Government will get this report criticised by practical men before putting any of the proposals contained therein into effect.

**Minister for Revenue** (The Honourable Dr. Sir Sundar Singh Majithia): When I was listening to the speech of Sardar Sampuran Singh, I was wondering whether on the tree which has been reared by Sir Malcolm Darling and his colleagues he was jumping from one branch to another or whether he had only studied just a few portions of the report and had not studied the whole report. Probably with the busy life that he is leading he had not the time to go through the whole report. (*Sardar Sampuran Singh*: I have gone through the whole report). Then, he has evidently not digested the report. Then, another honourable friend of mine, Sardar Partab Singh made a vociferous speech. While he was speaking I was fearing lest he should have a

[Minister for Revenue.]

heart attack, but fortunately he was strong enough to stand all the endeavour that he made. But his whole knowledge appears to have been gained at the feet of his master, Professor Brij Narain. He has always been trying to approach me to reduce the incidence of land revenue in the Punjab and only recently he has sent in a representation to me which I trust will receive due consideration. He complained that certain zamindars came and that I was not able to see them, he being one of them. He ought to understand that Ministers have got besides seeing people other work to do. I hoped that with the great latitude that I show to people who come to see me, this sort of allegation could not be made against me. But here he has come with the complaint that I did not see him. He never fixed any time in advance to see me. If he wants to come and foist himself upon me without previous notice, surely he cannot expect me to be at his beck and call always giving preference to him over all other work which it is my legitimate duty to perform. I may even say that after I was free from my legitimate work I asked him and his friends to be shown in, but he did not turn up. I was however able to see his friends. He probably went away in a great deal of anger against me, because I had the hardihood to say that I shall not be able to see him, an M. L. A. Anyhow I saw his friends and had a sufficiently long talk with them. I shall leave that point there.

Now, coming to the report as a whole, the Deputy Leader of the Congress Party and the Secretary of that party have dubbed this report as a useless piece of work. They went so far as to say that it only required to be thrown into the waste-paper basket. That is the value they place upon the labours of Sir Malcolm Darling and his colleagues. Sir Malcolm himself is an officer who has not only studied the different problems of zamindars, but he has studied many subjects in the course of his long career in this province. Everybody was proud to be associated with him. The second gentleman associated with this committee was Shaikh Khurshid Muhammad. He had done settlement work in the Gujranwala district and he has had experience as Secretary to the Financial Commissioners. The third officer appointed was a well-known officer of the Income-Tax Department, because the application of the principles of income-tax in the matter of land revenue was one of the points on which we wanted to have the opinion of the committee. I do not know whether the personnel of the committee is such that anybody can take exception to it. But some of my honourable friends, probably Sardar Kartar Singh, in his great love for zamindars complained that not a single zamindar was on the committee. He probably forgot that this was a committee of practical men, experts on the subject about which they were asked to enquire into and report. On that committee I could possibly have put another gentleman, but a single addition to that committee would have meant greater expenditure. Our friends have already criticised that we have wasted Rs. 50,000 of the province on a useless report which has been placed before them. But I am not prepared to take that sort of criticism seriously. I place on it the same sort of value that an ordinary man who goes to purchase his goods from outside people would place. Probably my honourable friends in their enthusiasm for the small zamindars or for zamindars as a whole, have forgotten that we are here in this House responsible for the administration of the province. Any proposals that come before us

must be looked into very carefully and studied with reference to their effect on the finances of the province. Sardar Kartar Singh said : ' Why care about money and the financial responsibility. Throw that responsibility away and give concessions to the people.'

May I ask if this suggestion is a practical one? I do not think any practical man would accept such a suggestion. If this suggestion were accepted it would be instrumental in making the finances of the province a farce. It is not what I wanted. I had hoped all the time that our friends opposite would come forward with useful suggestions and would take advantage of the well-written report of Sir Malcolm Darling and his colleagues. But instead of that they have simply criticised on one side the net assets and on the other the sliding scale system. My honourable friend Mian Nurullah said that we should add one more clause to the sliding scale system which would give the benefit to the persons who till land themselves. May I ask my honourable friend, what has happened in the case of income-tax where the limit of exemption is Rs. 2,000? Does anybody take into consideration the labour of the man, his wife and children when he is assessable to income-tax? This is not done by anybody, and do they suggest that we should do it here?

Now my honourable friends in their enthusiasm have said that there is nothing left with the people who cultivate the land. Then why is it that there are so many people still calmmouring for land? Every time I find, when there is land to be auctioned for temporary cultivation, or there is land to be leased by tenants who take leases, and they have got sub-tenants who take leases from them, a good deal of competition is started by certain interested parties. But I would like to see that a tiller, who actually tills the land, should get a living of something, at least Rs. 10 a month. The wheat grown may be sufficient for the whole family or for one man, as pointed out by my honourable friend Sardar Partab Singh, but wheat is not the only commodity which is grown by the people. Wheat is, no doubt, one of the most important crops, which is grown by the people. Besides, there is sugarcane, toria, oil seeds and there is cotton, both American and desi. Several times my honourable friends have come forward and I have received telegrams sometimes that crops of a specified area or in the Nili Bar have been ruined by hailstorms or by this calamity or that and that the people have suffered heavily and that their income has been affected. Have they forgotten what we did the very first year, when we took charge of the Government when the hailstorms ruined the crops in the Multan division? What we did is known to my honourable friends and also to the people in this province outside this House. We have not forgotten our duty. My honourable friend, I think, Sardar Sampuran Singh, said that the principle of income-tax should be applied in the case of land revenue. How can 90 per cent of the illiterate persons of this province be expected to keep accounts? In Bulgaria where 60 per cent people are literate, this system was started in 1921 and was given up in 1923, because the people there even could not keep accounts. My honourable friend said that he himself could not keep income-tax account and thus has been evading income-tax. (*Sardar Sampuran Singh: No. My honourable friend did not understand me.*) Sir, the assessment that is made is made once. It used to be made after 10 years or 20 years and now it is made after 40 years. This is provided in the

[Revenue Minister.]

new Act. Before that, there used to be a limit of 50 per cent of net assets. Some of my honourable friends have said that this 50 per cent is a legacy of the European bureaucrats, but this legacy has come down from Akbar's time. May I tell my honourable friends that we have got our own responsibilities and we know what our responsibilities are and we will do our best to help the man who is needy and who wants our help, and that we would not be carried away this side or that side by the harangues of my honourable friend Sardar Partab Singh or by other considerations which some of our friends are apt to press. I may be allowed to say that this system of assessing on income-tax basis was given up in Bulgaria. Have my friends considered what is the substitute in other countries? There the land is valued not once, not twice, but whenever there is the necessity to do so and in the interest of the exchequer it is valued, and if needed, a greater portion is taken. Perhaps my honourable friends would be astonished if I tell them that assesses in England, when income-tax and all other assessments are combined, pay nearly fifteen shillings in the pound. (*Interruption*). (*Sardar Sampuran Singh*: House property). The death penalty there is very considerable. When I had the privilege of working for a few months on the Franchise Committee, I was told by Lord Lothian, the Chairman of the Committee, that death duties were so heavy that he was unable to find money to pay that cess and he asked the Government to take a portion of his property but his request was flatly refused and he was asked to pay cash. To pay that cess he had to sell the valuable library of his ancestors and still the whole amount was not paid.

However, this is by the way. (*Lala Bhim Sen Sachar*: Most certainly it is by the way).

**Khan Bahadur Nawab Muzaffar Khan**: On a point of order. We have heard the Opposition speeches, however dull and boring they were, including their filthy abuses, with calm and patience. May I, therefore, appeal to them through you to show the same amount of patience as we did?

**Mr. Deputy Speaker**: I would request the honourable members not to interrupt.

**Minister**: May I, in reply to the statements of probably Sardar Sampuran Singh and Mian Nurullah, tell them that even if their statements are correct, they must keep in mind the sliding scale of which my colleague the Honourable Premier has given some explanation. Sardar Kartar Singh, who looks from behind the Reporter on duty, said that the assessment in Lyallpur is very heavy. I have got facts and figures given to me by my friend who assessed the Lyallpur district. Those figures will be a convincing proof of what that gentleman, during the time that he spent there as a Settlement Officer, was able to cull from actual experience of assessments. The assessment is based on the average of prices of a series of years previous to the one in which the settlement takes place. The Government always takes the average of those previous years' prices. My honourable friend Chaudhri Jalal-ud-Din Amber suggested to the Government that the prices should be looked into very carefully. In reply I would say that a weekly statement of prices for the whole of the province is not only placed before us but is published in the Gazette and that statement is available to anyone interested

in the matter. If some of the honourable members are interested in that matter, they may usefully look into the pages of the Gazette. But coming to my point I may tell them that for the old established portion of the Lyalpur district, excluding the new extensions circle, the demand assessable in 1937-38 according to the rates of the old settlement would have been Rs. 68,71,140. The demand actually imposed after deducting remission under the sliding scale of assessment was only Rs. 52,56,587 resulting in a saving of Rs. 16,14,553 to the zamindars. In 1938-39, the saving to zamindars increased to Rs. 25,26,454. Thus in these two years the zamindars gained to the extent of Rs. 41,41,007. Although we have safeguarded the interests of the zamindars by agreeing that in the first five years of the new settlement we shall not take more revenue than that which would have been assessable under the old rates, it will be noticed that in point of fact, it has not been necessary to apply this check, owing to the favourable operation of the sliding scale scheme. Do my honourable friends think that this is only a sort of juggler's trick of which I was accused by my honourable friend Pandit Shri Ram Sharma the other day? Land revenue is a very intricate problem. It is not easily understandable by my friends like Pandit Shri Ram Sharma. I do not say that I am an expert in it, but I am after all a zamindar. My friend Giani Kartar Singh has tried to give me the title of a thug which I am afraid I cannot accept. He said :—

گز سادھے تیرے تیرے دہ تیاں تیرے ہاؤں تک  
 گلوں جہان چپ مالہاں لگے ہتھ نے بگ  
 ارہ ہ کے سات نہ آکھئے بنارس کے تھگ

I have not got any *japmali* on my body, I have not worn the sacred thread—he would like me to wear it—but I am trying to be a true Sikh. I am a humble servant of the community, but if I am a thug he is a bigger thug than myself when he goes and takes away all the income from the gurdwaras as Secretary of the S. G. P. C.

**Sardar Sampuran Singh :** On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

**Minister :** I have not given way. (*Interruptions*).

**Sardar Sampuran Singh :** I rise on a point of order. The Honourable Minister has attributed motives, almost of dishonesty, to an honourable member of this House. He must withdraw those words.

**Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan :** This is not a point of order.

**Minister :** I was called a thug.

**Lala Bhim Sen Sachar :** That might be metaphorical only.

**Premier :** The Honourable Minister has also used the same words metaphorically.

**Minister :** I may be a *Benarsi thug* but my honourable friend is a *Punjabi thug*.

**Sardar Sampuran Singh :** Sir, I again rise on a point of order.

**Minister :** I will not give way.

**Sardar Sampuran Singh :** Have you given any ruling on that point?

**Mr. Deputy Speaker :** It is no point of order.

**Sardar Sampuran Singh :** Do you mean to say that you are going to allow him to call bad names to people like that ? Are you not going to ask him to withdraw these words ?

**Minister :** I will not withdraw.

**Sardar Sampuran Singh :** I want the reply. Do you find that these words are parliamentary ?

**Mr. Deputy Speaker :** Order, order, please.

**Sardar Sampuran Singh :** I want your decision. Let us go on like this till this thing is decided. I want your ruling on this point ; otherwise I would not allow you to proceed.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker :** The Honourable Minister simply said something in reply to what was said by another honourable member.

**Sardar Sampuran Singh :** Will you please find out the exact words from the Reporter ?

**Mr. Deputy Speaker :** It was an open hint.

**Sardar Sampuran Singh :** I will give 20 abuses in this House if you allow others to be so unruly and to abuse members in this way.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker :** Order, order, please.

**Sardar Sampuran Singh :** I want to know whether those words are parliamentary or not.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker :** The honourable member should not have said first all that he said.

**Sardar Sampuran Singh :** Then ask him to withdraw those words. If he has been so unruly, ask him to withdraw. We are not going to hear such abuses. We will give 20 abuses if you allow us to be abused like this.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker :** First of all, the honourable member should not have used those words.

**Sardar Sampuran Singh :** Discuss that matter later..... (*An honourable member :* Please do not defy the Chair). I am not defying the Chair. If those words are going to be declared parliamentary, then allow me also to use those very words.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker :** I do not say that those words are Parliamentary. The game was begun by the honourable member first.

**Sardar Sampuran Singh :** But that point of order was raised afterwards. Let that also be discussed afterwards. But now my point of order is before you. If those words are not Parliamentary, ask him first to withdraw them.

**Minister :** I will not withdraw those words.

**Sardar Sampuran Singh :** I am not going to tolerate such words being used in this House. A proper and dignified language should be used in this House.

**Sardar Kartar Singh :** Will you kindly ask the Reporter to read those words ?

**An Honourable Member :** He is not denying.

**Sardar Sampuran Singh :** If you do not ask him to withdraw those words, then I am going to use them again.

**Premier :** I would request the honourable member not to shout at the Chair like that. It is most undignified and most disrespectful.

**Sardar Sampuran Singh :** That is my way of expression. I have got this habit from the Honourable Speaker.

**Premier :** The honourable member should change his way of expression. He is a responsible member. This is a House of gentlemen and wise people. We are responsible people and we must not behave like that.

**Minister :** Sir, I was going to say.....

**Sardar Sampuran Singh :** I would request the same thing again that I want your ruling on this point. If those words are unparliamentary, I would like him to withdraw them.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker :** The honourable member, Gyani Kartar Singh, should not have said what he did say against the Honourable Minister. The hint was obvious.

**Sardar Sampuran Singh :** Why was no point of order raised then ?

**Mr. Deputy Speaker :** There is no question of point of order.

**Sardar Sampuran Singh :** I have every right to see that proper and dignified language is used in this House. It is not a question of Gyani Kartar Singh. It is a question of all honourable members of this House.

**Khan Bahadur Nawab Muzaffar Khan :** I think the honourable member is in the habit of shouting like this. If you ask Gyani Kartar Singh, the difficulty would be solved.

**Sardar Sampuran Singh :** That is my way of expression.

**Gyani Kartar Singh :** What was the objectionable word which I used ?

**Mr. Deputy Speaker :** I would request the honourable member to—

**Sardar Sampuran Singh :** Excuse me, Sir. If you are going to allow him to call anybody a thug or if the phrase, '*tum ne itna rupiya khaya hai*' can be allowed like that, we cannot bear such words in this House. Unless you ask the Honourable Minister to withdraw those words, I am afraid I will also say the same thing about every body in this House. You are setting a very bad example.



**Mr. Deputy Speaker :** Order, order, please. Gyani Kartar Singh used those words to start with.

**Gyani Kartar Singh :** I have not used those words in the sense in which the Honourable Minister has used them. I wish to add one word more. If he considers me a bigger *thug* than himself, I may point out that his whole family consists of *thugs*. As a matter of fact, he has throughout his life been playing the part of a traitor to his own community. In short he is the biggest *thug* in the province.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker :** I would request the honourable member to resume his seat.

**Minister :** Sir, you can see where the shoe pinches. I do not say anything more than this. But my honourable friend has repeated that phrase again, and if I used the same phrase it was simply on the same analogy that my honourable friend has used.

I will leave out many things because unnecessary heat has been created in this House, for which the honourable members opposite were themselves responsible. My honourable friend Sardar Sampuran Singh has referred to the killabandi fund and he said that per *killa* Rs. 33 were put into this fund. Am I to understand that the income is Rs. 33 per *killa*? If this is the income per *killa*, surely Rs. 5 or Rs. 6 is not very much to be taken as land revenue per acre. The incidence of land revenue in the whole of the Punjab is Re. 1-9-0. Surely my honourable friends ought to concede that when they get Rs. 33 per *killa*, it is not too much to ask that Re. 1-9-0 should be given to the Government as incidence of land revenue. Further it has been said and I think it has been replied to clearly—that those people who started agitation in Lyallpur have been differently treated from the rest of the people. I think it was clearly stated on the floor of the House that there was no such differential treatment between one person and another so far as the killabandi fund goes. This fund is administered by a committee consisting of responsible members, who see that it is used properly for the purpose for which it has been set apart. The members, if I am not wrong, are elected by the district boards. Perhaps, my honourable friends would say that election is no good because the members do not see eye to eye with him in certain respects. Only those people would be considered by some of my honourable friends opposite as duly and properly elected who side with them and say ditto to what they say.

That is not the way in which democracy works. Democracy works by the voting of the people and as such when the voting of the people is to be considered they are the best judges to see as to who should represent them in this Assembly. Once a member is returned to this Assembly and once a member, on the same analogy, is returned to the district board, I think the electorate ought to place full reliance in the honesty and straightforwardness of the gentleman who is so elected.

I now come to the other members who made certain suggestions. I am glad that some of the members on this side of the House have welcomed this report and they were right in doing so, because the gentlemen on the Committee have not spared themselves in performing the task (a task which

was practically speaking a very difficult task) to the best of the ability which they possessed. They have put forward certain suggestions before the Government in their report, which, as the Premier has just now said, will receive the best consideration of the Government. We were waiting to hear the suggestions from some of my friends either from this side or that side of the House so as to enable Government to come to the right conclusion on the subject. I am afraid that from the opposite side I have simply received criticism as I have said that this report is useless, the report is a waste of paper to be thrown into the waste paper basket. No practical suggestion has come from that side except the one given by Mian Nurullah and which, as I have said, has been noted by the Committee in their report. I need not say anything more as regards "*jat mahajan sansar kabila galana*" because my friend Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram has already dealt with that subject. Except that some of them also belong to the same category. Possibly they cannot get out of the zamindar line. Whatever they may do or whatever their professions may be, they cannot get at anything else but declare themselves as agriculturists. There are many people who come to me every time with the request that they may be allowed to call themselves agriculturists or jats but no one has come to me to ask that their names be taken out. Sardar Sampuran Singh spoke on his favourite subject of net assets and this is the theme which he has learnt from Professor Brij Narain. He was expressing the views and opinions of that gentleman because probably he had rather hard time before this Committee when he was called to give evidence. If I am to believe what my friend Sir Malcolm Darling said, Professor Brij Narain was asked many questions about his views and whatever he said has been duly considered by the Committee as a whole. I never thought he would send somebody else to put forward those views in this House because the proper thing to do was to place them before the Committee. My friend Sardar Partab Singh said we do not want the old system. He wanted a new system and he said that the '*zamindar pet kat ke den dena hai*'. There may be some hard cases which require consideration and no doubt those cases will be considered most sympathetically by the Government. But, I am afraid, it is not quite correct to say that the zamindar pays from what he eats because if it were correct, what about the large number of people who do temporary cultivation? They have to employ a large number of sub-tenants to till their land; they have to pay to Government per mature acre very heavy sums. If I were to tell you what concessions we have given to the tenants by reducing the burden of certain illegal exactions that some of those holders exacted from them, I may point out that Government have suffered something like 18 or 19 lakhs of rupees. If Government is prepared to suffer 18 or 19 lakhs for the benefit of those tenants, surely they would be prepared to consider the plight of these people who may be hard hit. I do not want to paint the picture of 'Rakshash' (laughter). (An honourable member : What 'Rakshash'). Ask your friend. The Honourable the Finance Minister is the keeper of the keys of the provincial finance. Perhaps my friend does not mean him, because if he is Rakshash he is a very mild Rakshash, though on the other hand, he is fully alive to his responsibilities. They might use these catch phrases when putting their viewpoint before ignorant people but they carry no weight with sensible people in this House. He was simply dealing with wheat. He has conveniently forgotten that most of the paying crops are taken into

[Minister for Revenue.]

consideration when we are giving concessions on the sliding scale system. He says that the expenditure of the people is something like 75 per cent and that the income of the people has been reduced by 50 per cent. He wanted me to believe that the zamindars pay 50 per cent for their land. That man would be the most foolish person to get land if there is nothing to gain from that land. I think some of my friends opposite—some, not all—would like to have land if it is given to them on easy terms.

I think my time is nearly finished and I need not detain the House on this subject. I appeal to my friends that if all the suggestions of my friends opposite were to be conceded without considering the effects that they would have on provincial finance, then the remissions of which an indication was given by the Honourable Finance Minister on the floor of the House only three days back could not be given. We will not be able to give those remissions and we will not be able to give concessions to the people for the low prices that are prevailing. Do my friends want that? I would not detain the House long. I have got figures in my pocket book showing what we have done in the past. But the figures given by the Finance Minister ought to be sufficient reply to the criticisms that have been made on the opposite benches on this subject, but I would like to ask my friends whether they would like us to adopt the method of duplicating or to make a good deal of money by other methods which are prevalent, as some of my friends know, in other countries, to make up the deficiency that must be caused. Surely with a little sense of responsibility on my shoulders, my conscience will not allow me to adopt those methods to fill the coffers of the province.

I am quite ready to do what little I can and I claim that in this short time that we have been in office we have not done a little, we have done the most we could by way of suspensions, by way of remissions, by way of concessions on account of low prices and other things. Had we not the means the provincial exchequer would not have been there to assist us and we would not have been able to carry out the great work of starving off the rigours of famine in the eastern districts of the Punjab. I do not think I need detain the House any longer, so I resume my seat.

(At this stage Mr. Deputy Speaker called upon Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad to speak.).

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** It is 5 to 7 now. There are only five minutes left and as that time is not sufficient for me even to finish the introduction to my speech, I do not wish to speak and reject the offer with thanks.

**Sardar Ajit Singh** (Southern Punjab, Sikh, Rural) (*Punjabi*): Sir, we have heard the reply given by the Honourable Minister of Revenue to the debate on the report. We have also heard the praises that have been showered on the committee by the members of the Unionist Party. A good many honourable members from this side too have thrown light on the various aspects of the report under discussion. But nobody has touched a particular evil existing in my *ilaga*. I have, therefore, risen to draw the attention

of the Government to that grievance of the people of that area. I am referring to what is called *daura chah*. It is a sort of permanent cess in the form of *chahi* rates. It is true that this particular tax is not recommended to be realised for 30 years in respect of new wells in this report, but is it not curious that *daura chah* amounting to Rs. 30 to Rs. 60 per well is being realised in respect of all wells irrespective of the fact that even if the zamindars do not avail of the well water for more than one or two acres. The people of the *ilaga* have many a time made representations requesting the Government to stop recovering *daura chah* as it is not based on justice, but no attention has so far been paid to this flagrant injustice. Nor does this report under consideration contain any reference to it. It is, perhaps due to the fact that no member of the committee belonged to that area or had any knowledge of this unjust and iniquitous practice. I would, therefore, request the Honourable Minister to remove this long standing complaint of the people of the Multan and Muzaffargarh districts and other areas where this practice is prevalent. While taking decisions on the various recommendations of the committee he should remember this request of mine and try to do the needful in the matter.

*The Assembly then adjourned till 12 noon on Tuesday, 5th March, 1940.*

1911

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

1911年1月4日 星期三

1911年1月5日 星期四

1911年1月6日 星期五



1911年1月7日 星期六

1911年1月8日 星期日

1911

# PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

## SIXTH SESSION OF THE FIRST PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Tuesday, 5th March, 1940.

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

### UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

#### INSPECTORS AND DISTRICT INSPECTORS OF SCHOOLS IN JULLUNDUR DIVISION.

**1056. Lala Duni Chand :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education be pleased to state the names of Inspectors and Assistant District Inspectors of Schools in Jullundur Division, and whether all of them belong to one and the same community ?

**The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye :** The honourable member is referred to the half yearly Civil List corrected up to 1st January, 1940, and to the Register of the Subordinate Educational Service (Men's Branch) copies of which are placed in the Assembly Library.

#### SAYEDS AND SIYAL RAJPUTS IN JHANG DISTRICT AND THE PROVINCIAL CIVIL SERVICE.

**1057. Sayed Mubarik Ali Shah :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state the total number of (i) Sayeds, (ii) Siyal Rajputs in the Jhang district appointed to the Provincial Civil Service during the last twenty years ?

**The Honourable Major Sir Sikander Hyat-Khan :** One Sayed of the Jhang district and no Siyal Rajput of the Jhang district has been appointed to the Punjab Civil Service, Executive Branch. I may repeat for the information of the honourable member that appointments in this cadre are not made by districts nor with reference to sub-castes.

#### ASSISTANT DISTRICT INSPECTORS OF SCHOOLS.

**1058. Mian Abdul Rab :** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state—

- (a) the number of the Assistant District Inspectors of Schools in the province ;
- (b) the dates when they were appointed to their respective posts ;
- (c) the dates when they were posted to their respective stations ?

**The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye :** A statement giving the requisite information is laid on the table.<sup>1</sup>

#### PROMOTIONS IN EDUCATIONAL SERVICES.

**1059. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state—

- (a) the number of agriculturists and non-agriculturists in the province who have been granted promotion in the last year in each

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

[K. S. Khawaja Ghulam Samad.]

- grade of educational services under the administrative control of the Government ;  
 (b) the number of agriculturists and non-agriculturists granted promotion in each grade of the services mentioned in (a) in Ambala division during the last year ?

**The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye :** A statement giving the required information is laid on the table.

It is added for the information of the honourable member that in making promotions within the service no regard is paid either to the communities to which the officials belong, or to their tribes, or to the divisions in which they happen to be serving.

Grade.	Total number of agriculturists granted promotion in 1939.	Total number of non-agriculturists granted promotion in 1939.	Number of agriculturists granted promotion in 1939 in Ambala Division.	Number of non-agriculturists granted promotion in 1939 in Ambala Division.	REMARKS.
1	2	3	4	5	6
I. E. S. . . . .	..	2	..	..	
P. E. S. (Class I) (Men's Branch.)	5	4	1	..	
P. E. S. (Class II) (Men's Branch)	..	..	..	..	
Selection grade . . . . .	1	4	..	..	
P. E. S. (Class II) (Men's Branch)	..	..	..	..	
ordinary time-scale . . . . .	4	11	..	1	
P. E. S. (Class II) (Women's Branch)	..	22	..	..	
<i>S. E. S. (Men's Branch).</i>					
Rs. 200—10—250 (A.-V. Section)	9	9	..	1	
Rs. 140—10—190 (A.-V. Section)	12	9	2	1	
Rs. 140—10—190 (Cl. and Ver. Section) . . . . .	1	..	..	..	
Rs. 110—5—135 (Cl. and Ver. Section) . . . . .	2	4	..	1	
Rs. 80—4—100 (Cl. and Ver. Section) . . . . .	5	4	1	..	
Rs. 55—3—70 (Cl. and Ver. Section) . . . . .	9	3	1	..	
Clerical Establishment S. E. S., (Women's Branch.)	7	6	4	..	
Rs. 200—10—250 (A.-V. Section)	1	4	..	..	
Rs. 140—10—190 ( Do. )	3	7	..	1	
Rs. 110—5—135 ( Do. )	1	2	..	..	
Rs. 80—4—100 ( Do. )	..	1	..	..	
Rs. 80—4—100 (Cl. and Ver. Section) . . . . .	1	1	1	..	
Rs. 55—5—70 (Cl. and Ver. Section) . . . . .	..	1	..	1	
Rs. 35—2—50—3—65 (Cl. and Ver. Section) . . . . .	1	2	..	1	

## DISMISSED EMPLOYEES OF THE INDUSTRIAL BRANCH OF THE CO-OPERATIVE DEPARTMENT.

**1060. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Will the Honourable Minister of Development be pleased to state—

- (a) the names of persons who have been recently dismissed from the Industrial Branch of the Co-operative Department ;
- (b) reasons for their dismissal ;
- (c) the names of persons appointed in place of the dismissed hands ?

**The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram :** (a) No such dismissals have taken place recently.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

## SUB-INSPECTORS OF INDUSTRIAL BRANCH OF CO-OPERATIVE DEPARTMENT.

**1061. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Will the Honourable Minister of Development be pleased to state the number of vacancies of Sub-Inspectors, Industrial Branch of Co-operative Department, applications for which have been recently invited and how these are going to be filled paying regard to the representation of the various communities of the province ?

**The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram :** There is no vacancy of Industrial Sub-Inspectors at present. As, however, it takes a candidate about 9 months to qualify himself for the post, six men were accepted as Industrial Sub-Inspector candidates in February last. They were—

Muslims ..	..	..	..	2
Hindus ..	..	..	..	2 (including one scheduled caste).
Sikhs ..	..	..	..	2

The candidates were accepted after taking into consideration the representation of the three communities among the Industrial Sub-Inspectors, which was as under—

Muslims ..	..	..	..	81.8 per cent.
Hindus ..	..	..	..	9.1 do.
Sikhs ..	..	..	..	9.1 do.

## MUSLIMS IN THE CHEMICAL LABORATORIES OF THE PUNJAB UNIVERSITY.

**1062. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state with reference to the reply to my unstarred question No. 922<sup>1</sup> the steps he has taken so far to remove the glaring disparity between the number of *Muslims* and *non-Muslims* in the Chemical Laboratories in the Punjab University ?



**The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye :** The appointments under the University of the Punjab are made by the Senate and Syndicate of the University and the Punjab Government have no *locus standi* in the matter.

#### MUSLIMS IN EDUCATIONAL SERVICE.

**1063. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state the measures adopted by him to remove the glaring disparity between the number of *Muslims* and *non-Muslims* in I. E. S., P. E. S. (Class I), P. E. S. (Class II), and S. E. S. (Men's Branch) shown in the statement supplied in reply to my unstarred question No. 917<sup>1</sup> in Government Degree and Intermediate Colleges ?

**The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye :** As the honourable member is aware Government is anxious to adjust communal disparities in the services as opportunities arise. The policy of Government in this behalf is well known, and communal ratios on the block system have already been introduced in all the subordinate services; but all this applies to fresh recruitment. No communal proportions can be fixed in so far as promotions within a particular service are concerned nor is it possible to make an immediate adjustment of disparities. I can assure the honourable member that Government will continue to exercise the necessary vigilance in the matter.

#### SUPERINTENDENTS IN IRRIGATION BRANCH.

**1064. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** With reference to my unstarred question No. 925<sup>2</sup>, will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state—

- (a) the names of the two *Muslim* Superintendents in Irrigation Branch;
- (b) why the appointment to the posts of Superintendents was not made by selection on communal basis in view of the 50 per cent. communal representation fixed for *Muslims* in Irrigation Branch ?

**The Honourable Dr. Sir Sundar Singh Majithia :** (a) The names of the two Muslim Superintendents in the Irrigation Branch are—

1. Munshi Sirdar Din.
2. Sheikh Ata Muhammad.

(b) The orders regarding communal proportions are intended for entry into Government service only and are not applicable to promotions of Government servants. This part of the question, therefore, does not arise.

<sup>1</sup>Vol. X, page 711.

<sup>2</sup>Vol. X, page 714.

**MUSLIMS IN OFFICES OF DISTRICT JUDGES.**

**1065. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** With reference to my unstarred question No. 995,<sup>1</sup> will the Honourable Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

- (a) the action taken by him with respect to the candidature of *Muslims* in the Offices of District Judges in other districts with a view to giving adequate representation to the *Muslims* in such offices according to the orders of the Government regarding communal representation in services ;
- (b) whether the High Court has been moved so far to withdraw their order of withholding enlistment of candidates with regard to *Muslims* and other under-represented communities ?

**The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal :** (a) Detailed instructions regarding communal proportions for each district have recently been elaborated and approved and these instructions will shortly be issued to all districts.

- (b) This question does not arise in view of the answer to part (a) above.

**MUSLIM DEPUTY REGISTRARS, Co-OPERATIVE DEPARTMENT.**

**1066. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Will the Honourable Minister of Development be pleased to state—

- (a) number, community-wise, of the Deputy Registrars at present employed in the Co-operative Department ;
- (b) the number of agriculturists and non-agriculturists among them ;
- (c) whether it is a fact that none of these Deputy Registrars is a *Muslim* ; if so, the action intended to be taken by the Government to give adequate representation to the *Muslims* ?

**The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram :** (a) Three Sikhs, one Hindu.

- (b) Three agriculturists, one non-agriculturist.
- (c) Yes. The question of appointing a suitable *Muslim* Indian Civil Service Officer is under consideration and one will be selected shortly.

**MUSLIM I. C. S. OFFICER IN THE Co-OPERATIVE DEPARTMENT.**

**1067. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Will the Honourable Minister of Development be pleased to state whether any *Muslim* I. C. S. Officer has ever been placed on special duty in the Co-operative Department for receiving Co-operative training ; if not, why not ?

**The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram :** No *Muslim* I. C. S. officer has ever been placed on special duty in the Co-operative Department.

The present Government is not aware of the reasons which stood in the way of a *Muslim* I.C.S. officer having been selected for such training in the past. This Government, has however, had under consideration the election of a suitable *Muslim* I. C. S. officer for this training and one will be selected shortly.

**MUSLIM GAZETTED OFFICERS OF THE CO-OPERATIVE DEPARTMENT.**

**1068. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Will the Honourable Minister of Development be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Muslims are not adequately represented among the Gazetted Officers in the Co-operative Department ; if so, the action intended to be taken in the matter ?

**The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram :** (a) There is no marked disparity between the existing representation of Muslims and the share to which they are conventionally regarded as being entitled.

(b) Does not arise.

**SUPPLEMENTARY STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURE  
AUTHENTICATED BY GOVERNOR.**

**Minister for Finance** (The Honourable Mr. 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 (2nd Instalment) for the year 1939-40 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 1939-40, which specifies :—

- (a) the supplementary grants (second instalment) made by the Punjab Legislative Assembly in its Session held in February 1940, and
- (b) the sums required to meet the expenditure charged on the revenues of the Province.

*Supplementary statements.*

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.
1	2	3	4	5
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
3	9—Stamps .. .. .	1,02,340	..	1,02,340
6	12—Charges on account of Motor Vehicles Taxation Acts .. .. .	1,780	2,560	4,340
7	17—Interest on Works for which Capital Accounts are kept .. .. .	..	4,51,600	4,51,600
8	Irrigation Establishment Charges .. .. .	4,04,680	58,220	4,62,900

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.
1	2	3	4	5
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
	22—Interest on Debt and Other Obligations ..	..	5,82,000	5,82,000
10	25—General Administration .. ..	7,700	2,15,000	2,22,700
11	27—Administration of Justice .. ..	..	1,47,150	1,47,150
13	29—Police .. ..	1,79,340	..	1,79,340
15	37—Education (European and Anglo-Indian Education) .. ..	..	1,320	1,320
18	39—Public Health .. ..	..	4,920	4,920
28	72—Capital Outlay on Industrial Development not charged to Revenue .. ..	18	..	18
30	54—Famine .. ..	..	1,450	1,450
31	55—Superannuation Allowances and Pensions ..	2,03,800	..	2,03,800
32	83—Payments of commuted value of Pensions ..	..	64,100	64,100
1	7—Land Revenue .. ..	10	..	10
4	10—Forests .. ..	10	..	10
7	XVII—Irrigation, Navigation, etc.—Working Expenses and 18—Other Revenue Expenditure financed from Ordinary Revenues .. ..	10	..	10
9	68—Construction of Irrigation Works, etc. ..	10	..	10
16	37—Education (excluding European and Anglo-Indian) .. ..	10	4,600	4,610
20	41—Veterinary .. ..	10	200	210
22	43—Industries .. ..	10	..	10
27	Charges on Public Works Department Hydro-Electric Establishment—XL—Working Expenses and 79—Capital Outlay on Electric Schemes ..	10	80	90
34	57—Miscellaneous .. ..	10	780	790
35	Deposits and Advances — Advances not bearing Interest—Advances Repayable .. ..	10	..	10

LAHORE :

The 2nd March, 1940. }

H. D. CRAIK,

Governor of the Punjab.

## BUDGET—GENERAL DISCUSSION.

**Lala D. Chand** (Ambala and Simla, General, Rural) (*Urdu*): Sir, to-day I want to put my case rather my party's case before this Honourable House in the same manner as a responsible lawyer puts his facts and law applicable before a judge in order to persuade him to give his judgment in his favour or in a manner in which a judge addresses the jury in order to get its verdict.

Let me at the very outset say that the way in which the Honourable Finance Minister has introduced the Budget Estimates in the House is quite commendable. I further say that he was justified in paying compliments to the Auditor-General, the three Accountant-Generals, the Finance Secretary and other officers. I readily admit that it is the heads of the departments and other subordinate officers that render material help to the Government in carrying on the administration of the province. This is an indisputable fact but the question is how the responsible ministers who have been installed in their places by vote of the people influence the administration of the province and the working of the various departments. Prior to the inauguration of provincial autonomy we had hoped that under a democratic regime the administrative machinery would work smoothly and that the popular government would initiate sound policies and formulate high administrative principles for the guidance of the heads of the various departments. But our three years experience shows that the new Government has belied all our hopes and defeated all our expectations. It is an open secret now that certain responsible officers are dissatisfied with the unwise policy and unfriendly attitude of the Government. Only the other day references were made on the floor of the House to the treatment meted out to Rai Bahadur Lala Ram Lal by the present Government. Besides him there are other officers also who have suffered a lot at the hands of the ministry. Dame rumour says that there is another very high and responsible officer who is being shabbily treated by the Government. It may be that this case also may receive the light of the day soon. I take this opportunity to ask the Government to stop this practice and discontinue this policy, as the same is fraught with serious consequences.

I am ready to admit that the Government has allotted certain sums of money to the beneficent departments but this does not mean that it has done any appreciable good to the public. If the Government has taken any extraordinary step in the direction of the general welfare of the province I would have been the first to congratulate the Honourable Finance Minister on that score. It was up to the Government to introduce prohibition in the province or in any part of it. I know that the Government claims to be the only well-wisher of the zamindars and if so it was expected of it to give a practical proof of its profession by granting them liberal remission in land revenue and abiana. It could also be expected of the Government that it would fix the minimum salaries of the low paid rank and file of the services and the maximum salaries of the too highly paid officers at the top. If the Honourable Minister had taken any such bold steps I would have showered encomiums on him for preparing the Budget Estimates but I am constrained to say that he has altogether failed from this point of view. He appears to be of the mind "ministries may come and go, but the administration of the

province shall go on in the same rut and there is no help for that." But let me tell him that I belong to the party which is determined to change the entire outlook and the policy of the provincial administration. It is not much good providing 10,000 rupees for the purpose of sinking new wells for the use of Harijans or budgeting small sums for granting special scholarships for the children of the depressed classes.

What I want to ask my honourable friend opposite is what the present head of the Government, I mean the Honourable Sir Sikander Hyat-Khan, has done to support in any way the demand of the people of India for complete independence. Unlike other Provincial Governments the Punjab Government has signally failed in voicing forth the real feelings of the people of the province in this connection. On the other hand the Punjab Government has not only discountenanced the popular feelings but has also created all sorts of difficulties and obstacles in the way of those who are prepared to make all kinds of sacrifices to achieve the object of complete independence. Perhaps the Punjab Government thinks that since England is engaged in a terrible war the presentation of any such demand to the British Government would amount to high treason. I would like to quote the names of General Hartzog and Dr. Malan of South Africa and that of De Valera of Ireland; they are not in favour of involving their countries in this war but nobody dare call them enemies of their countries or that they are not as sincere and patriotic as the Honourable Premier considers himself to be. It is perfectly legitimate on his part to have the desire to become an international figure and I do not grudge him this. Even if it is considered as vanity on his part I shall add the word excusable to it. But the question is whether a man who wants to support England so that it might defend and support smaller countries has ever thought that it is also his duty to support the popular demand of his own country for complete independence. I can assert without fear of contradiction that the Honourable Premier has not done anything calculated to strengthen the hands of those who are longing for complete independence. Some time ago the Opposition moved a resolution in this House against Federation and though it was quite harmless and there was no demand of complete independence, yet it could not find favour with the Premier. By sheer weight of overwhelming majority at his back he carried through an amendment which defeated the very object of the main resolution. The truth of the matter is that he is not prepared to do anything that would according to him embarrass the British Government. I perfectly remember that when the Congress decided in favour of office acceptance the Honourable Premier was pleased to say that he "heaved a sigh of relief", but now I want to ask him as to his attitude with regard to the recent step of the Congress in spurning the ministries. He has not yet expressed any definite opinion so far with regard to the day of deliverance observed under the mandate of the Muslim League on the congress resignations of the ministries. He has at times seemingly differed from Mr. Jinnah on certain occasions, but I feel constrained to say that to all intents and purposes he has been supporting him. In truth, to-day there are two personalities in India that are standing between India and the earliest attainment of complete independence. One of them is the Honourable Sir Sikander Hyat-Khan and the other is Mr. Fazl-ul-Huq, the Premier of Bengal. By refusing to endorse the demand of the Congress they are proving false to the country,

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for the Congress represents the whole country. It voices the feelings of the public of India. In doing so he is sacrificing the independence of India. He is playing this role in the international politics in order to secure a niche in the temple of international reputation in order to be idolized as a political deity. In the course of his earliest interview with His Excellency the Viceroy, Mahatma Gandhi made it clear that he had every sympathy with the English nation during the hour of trial but this did not mean that he abjured his policy and gave up his programme. His demand for complete independence still stands. Mahatma ji has demonstrated that while he is an enemy of Hitler's Nazi-ism, Mussolini's Fascism and Stalin's Stalinism, he at the same time is not a friend of British Imperialism.

**Sardar Bahadur Sardar Gurbachan Singh :** On a point of order. Are we discussing the Gandhi-Linlithgo talk or the Budget ?

**Tika Jagjit Singh Bedi :** I want your ruling on the point whether this irrelevancy is permitted during general discussion of the Budget.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** May I ask the honourable member as to whether he is discussing the Budget or praising Mr. Gandhi ? I am sorry to say that instead of making some constructive suggestions he is showering encomiums on Mr. Gandhi although that has nothing to do with the Budget. Is it not true that Mahatma Gandhi has changed his demands with every change in the political horizon of the country ? Did he not at first make a demand of complete independence and then reduce it to mere dominion status ?

**Lala Duni Chand :** With regard to the remarks made by Khawaja Sahib I would only say that they amount to an inexcusable impertinence to that greatest personality of the country.

I was submitting Sir, that Mahatma Gandhi's sympathetic attitude towards England is not in any way inconsistent with his demand for complete independence. We are told that Sir Sikander Hyat-Khan is carrying independence or even super-independence in his pocket but my view is that at the same time he carries feudalism and slavery also in his pocket. He is in the habit of making boastful pronouncements both inside and outside the House but his aim always is to keep India under the yoke of British domination. Mahatma Gandhi has said that he has a soft corner in his heart for England but he has also said that he wants complete independence. The surest test or rather the touch-stone for testing any person and particularly a minister in regard to his professions of his patriotism is whether his efforts are calculated to strengthen the Imperialism or to remove the yoke of slavery. As regards the Honourable Premier of the Punjab I am tempted to say that while I recognise his ability for ready reply and even witty repartees his position as regards the demand of India for complete independence is that of a juggler who at one and the same time produces out of his bag complete independence, super-independence, feudalism and slavery and this is what I have observed about his politics. Practically every step of his is calculated to strengthen the bonds of slavery but his boast is that he is alone keen to free his motherland.

**Mr. Speaker :** The Honourable member should not be personal.

**Lala Duni Chand :** I have finished one part of my speech and I have to make two more submissions. Firstly, I want to tell the Honourable House as to how the Punjab Government has governed since 1st April, 1937. I would say with all the earnestness at my command that the Unionist Government have been governing at the point of the bayonet. In this connection I should like to refer to the convocation address delivered by Mr. G. C. Chatterji, Principal of the Central Training College at Jullundur. He said as follows :—

The shift of authority from a foreign race to an indigenous oligarchy has not improved the actual conditions under which the ordinary individual whatever his caste or creed or political complexion may be has to live and discharge obligations. Aggression, hatred and repression are still the ruling principles of our provincial administration.

**Minister for Education :** All provincial administrations including Congress.

**Lala Duni Chand :** This is what a competent educationalist like Mr. Chatterji has remarked with respect to the administration of the Punjab. We had expected that the Punjab Government would try to maintain democratic principles while governing the province, but unfortunately they started with aggression, hatred and repression. If the Government would be audacious enough to deny the charge I should confront them with facts and figures and enquire of them how many persons have been prosecuted for political reasons during their regime of office. You might be remembering that in 1937 the House passed a resolution asking for release of political prisoners. A plea was put forward then as to what a political prisoner meant and we solved this difficulty by quoting the definition of a political prisoner as given at page 208 of Encyclopædia Britannica, and Halsbury's Laws of England, "where an offence has been committed not from the motive of private spite or interest but in order to change the legislature or executive government in the country it is fairly contended that the offence is political and that the person convicted of it should not be treated as ordinary prisoner and should be pardoned or amnestied on the earliest opportunity."

We have been repeatedly asking the Government to let us know the number of political prisoners, the number of externees and interneers and the number of undertrial persons but what a pity it is that they do not even know what a political prisoner is. They have withheld from us the number of political prisoners since 1937. May I ask if the Government owes no responsibility in this matter? Who can dare say that the Government is being run on democratic lines while approximately 2,000 people have been shut up by the Government behind iron bars during the last three years? In this calculation I have not included the Kisan Morcha prisoners and in their case the Government plea is that they had to imprison them on account of their resort to civil disobedience. In case of all other prisoners this plea cannot hold good as civil disobedience was not resorted to in other cases. In politically backward district such as Kangra and Karnal the Government have tried to suppress the movement by shutting up active Congress workers in jails while in the case of politically advanced districts such as Jullundur and Hoshiarpur large number of Congress workers have been prosecuted and imprisoned with the same object in view. Can this Government under these circumstances claim to be a democratic and popular Government? The



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Congress had been carrying on the struggle for independence for about 20 years and when the new constitution came it was expected that they would have a relief and an opportunity to do constructive work for the province but the Government of Sir Sikander has not allowed us to do even ordinary constructive work for the Province. In certain districts such as Rohtak and Campbellpore repression has gone beyond all limits. It might be claimed by the Government that they released so many political prisoners but I may ask whether it is not true that ten persons have been sent to jail for one prisoner released. Do these facts not prove the repressive policy of the Government?

Now I would like to make my observations regarding the press. As regards the press the Government was making out that they have been dealing fairly with it but their position has been revealed by certain figures that were made available to the House a short time ago. The statement supplied by the Government shows that 300 newspapers and 67 presses had been required to deposit securities and the amount actually deposited as securities amounted to 2,22,000 rupees since the present Government got into office. Even good many religious and social papers were not allowed to be born even. The figures supplied show that about 90 per cent of the papers were not allowed to come into existence as they could not deposit securities. Really the Premier is very much opposed to the freedom of the press and that is why he leaves no occasion to demoralise it. The repression is not confined only to the Punjab it has been extended to almost all states as well. I will discuss the question of repression in the Punjab States only in so far as it has encouraged the same by applying the Princes Protection Act in the province. I want to show how this has affected the people living in States such as Kalsia, Sirmur, Patiala, Nabha and others.

**Mr. Speaker :** This subject the honourable member cannot discuss without the previous sanction of the Governor.

**Lala Duni Chand :** I was anticipating your objection. As a result of the encouragement afforded by the Punjab Government to the Punjab States a wave of repression has overtaken them.

**Mr. Speaker :** I cannot allow the administration of States to be discussed here. The honourable member can discuss only the provincial administration.

**Lala Duni Chand :** This is what I am going to do and it is only this phase of repression that I have been trying to discuss. Let us see for example how the Punjab Government has been dealing with prominent patriotic leaders of India who wanted to visit Punjab. The entry of Professor Ranga who is M. L. A. of the Central Assembly was banned without any rhyme or reason. Then again, an accredited leader Acharaya Narendra Dev was forbidden to enter the sacred precincts of the Punjab. Again Mr. M. N. Roy who is a leader of outstanding ability and who recently contested the Congress presidential elections was also prohibited from putting his foot on the Punjab soil. Similarly, our distinguished sister, Satya Wati's entry into this province was banned. All these instances go to show how far Sir Sikander is advancing the cause of civil liberty in this province, in fact he is crushing all civil liberty with all his might. It was

elicited in reply to an interpellation the other day on the floor of this House that the Government has prosecuted as many as eleven members of this honourable House of whom some have been acquitted and others are still behind iron bars. It is only a few days ago that Maulana Mazhar Ali Azhar an honourable member of this House who is a man of great ability and of an angelic character was sentenced to 18 months' rigorous imprisonment. He belongs to Ahrar party which is opposed to Sir Sikander Hyat-Khan's Government. No decent government should treat its opponents in such an indecent way. One wonders why the Punjab Government is treating its opponents the Ahrar party in this fashion. The Congress men and the Ahrars who are the enemies of the present Government do not deserve to be treated in this manner. Some of the Ahrar leaders who are in jails are head and shoulders above the present members of the Government in ability, intelligence and patriotism.

**Mr. Speaker :** Once more I request the honourable member not to discuss persons.

**Lala Duni Chand :** Whenever I referred to Sir Sikander Hyat-Khan I referred to him as the head of the Government. So far as the personality is concerned I have every respect for him but as head of the Government he deserves condemnation.

**Mr. Speaker :** Then please refer to him as Premier.

**Premier :** My honourable friend is at liberty to condemn me as much as he likes.

**Lala Duni Chand :** Let me again read out the condemnation by Mr. Chatterji which is in the following words—

The shift of authority from a foreign race to an indigenous oligarchy has not improved the actual conditions under which the ordinary individual whatever his caste or creed or political complexion may be has to live and discharge obligations. Aggression, hatred and repression are still the ruling principles of our provincial administration."

Can this oligarchy still have the courage to call itself a popular Government and a democratic institution? It goes without saying that this ministry came into power by hoodwinking the voters. The time is fast approaching when these Unionists will have to stand at the bar of public opinion and receive the verdict of the province, in the next elections.

I need say no more about the repressive policy of the Government. It does not behove the dignity of our Premier to condemn the Congress Governments in other provinces. In fact there is no comparison between the two types of governments, the Unionist Government and the Congress Governments. In this connection I would draw the attention of the House to the speech of the Premier delivered on 24th of April, 1939. In that speech he condemned the Congress which is in truth the bearer of the banner of freedom and which has raised this country, from the lowest depths to great heights in the eyes of the world. It is unbecoming of a Premier to use such words about the Congress as the Premier has done in that speech. It is only because of the Congress that now we can hold our head high before other countries.

The other thing that I want to place before this august House is that dishonesty and corruption are rampant under the Unionist regime. Instances

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are too numerous to be quoted here. I shall mention only one or two as the time at my disposal is short. The first instance I shall quote from the report of Revenue Assistant, Sialkot, Mr. Muhammad Akbar. There is a village in the Sialkot district called Wadala Sindhuan. The zaildar of that place had been for years the ring leader of a gang of plunderers who use to do all sorts of things in the *ilaga*. When the complaints became too numerous and too persistent to be ignored Mr. Muhammad Akbar, Revenue Assistant, was ordered to enquire into them. There is a reference to me in his speech as I had gone at the instance of aggrieved persons to the village and addressed a big meeting there. The Revenue Assistant has dealt with a number of charges of bribery and extortion against the zaildar in his report. But I shall read out only the concluding part of the report. It runs as follows :—

The petitioners have produced Ext. P. K. which shows that Lala Duni Chand, M. L. A., President, Removal of Corruption Committee, addressed a public meeting held at Wadala Sandhuan which was attended by nearly three thousand people of the *ilaga* belonging to all communities. It was held to demand an impartial enquiry into the existence and extent of liberty and extortion prevailing in the *ilaga*. The *Tribune*, dated 8th May, 1937, says that corruption was rampant in this *ilaga*. He advised the people to co-operate and root out canker of corruption by stating the true facts."

The concluding words of the report are significant which are as follows—

In this case I examined about 59 prosecution witnesses. The evidence of some of them might not be of the standard required in criminal cases but in some cases there is conclusive witness to show the extent of corruption practised by the zaildar. After very careful consideration of all the material on the record I have come to the conclusion that Sardar Sant Singh, zaildar, is the most corrupt zaildar. He has got a set of men who are regular hounds. They never let go any omission or commission on the part of villagers without being brought to book. He is in fact a black wolf always staring at opportunity. People are fed up with his atrocities and the state of affairs now prevailing in this *ilaga* had altogether become unbearable. In order to feed his vagaries and avarice there used to be stationed two police constables at Wadala Sindhuan who helped him in his tortuous extortion. It shall be a misplaced sympathy to be lenient to such a corrupt zaildar. He is a person of very low means but he is living like big sardars."

This is the conclusion at which the Revenue Assistant arrived in 1937 after conducting an exhaustive and thorough enquiry into the matter. I am prepared to hand over a copy of this report to the Honourable the Premier for perusal. I am constrained to say that the huge mountain of enquiry in labour produced only the proverbial mouse. In spite of this report the Government took no action in the matter and the case was hushed up. The result of this leniency shown by the Government has been the worsening of the conditions in this *ilaga*. The reign of corruption and extortion is as rampant now as before. The protest and cries of the afflicted people have proved a cry in the wilderness. In this connection I may also point out that at the beginning of the new regime the people had entertained high expectations of the even handed justice at the hands of the Honourable Premier. I sent a deputation of three gentlemen of this *ilaga* consisting of a Hindu, a Muslim and a Sikh to the Honourable Premier to lay their grievances before him and I understand he gave a sympathetic hearing to the deputation. This is a sample of the *Nausherwani Adal* that is administered under the regime of the Premier. I may cite another serious case of corruption. A representation under the signatures of 200 persons of Manimazara *ilaga* was submitted to the Government against the malpractices practised by Daroga Abi

Ghaggar. It was stated in the written complaint that he had been practising malpractices for the last ten or twelve years in order to gratify his greed and his extortions had ruined the people. I raised this question more than once through interpellations with the result that an enquiry was ordered. The tahsildar recorded statements of about 125 witnesses and the Sub-Divisional Officer, Rupar, examined 17 or 18 witnesses more. The aggrieved persons produced best possible evidence in support of their case but it pains me to say that in spite of all this the case was hushed up. May I know if the rule that a complaint supported by five respectable persons will receive serious attention of the Government has not been thrown to winds? Again, is it not a fact that Lala Daulat Ram, Sub-Divisional Officer, Rupar, got the Congressmen assembled at Behrampur village charged with lathis in order to please Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram? I can cite hundred and one instances in which subordinate officers have tyrannised and plundered helpless people to satisfy their unsatiable thirst or greed without the delinquents having been brought to justice. Is this the even-handed justice administered by the Unionist Government which professes to be the government of the people? I am reminded of a Persian couplet which aptly applies to the state of affairs prevailing in the province. I can say with the fullest confidence that almost in every sphere of the Punjab administration corruption and dishonesty prevail. I do not mean to say that Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram and other Ministers are directly responsible for malpractices of their officers but they connive at them and even encourage them to a certain extent. I may also cite the case of Ludhiana district which has been the victim of dishonest and corrupt officials. Five or six honourable members of this House who belong to that district have time and again brought this fact to the notice of the Government but I am constrained to say that the Government have been turning a deaf ear to all the outcry against corruption during the last three years. The Honourable Premier himself visited the district more than once. The Honourable Minister for Education and the Deputy Speaker belong to that district. Can they have courage to characterise the allegations made by the honourable members of this side of the House as false and baseless? As a matter of fact they are fully apprised of the true state of affairs prevailing there but they connive at the doings of their officers. This shows that our Ministers in view of the surroundings in which they find themselves placed cannot take courage in both hands like the Congress Ministers who have set their face against their corrupt officers. The truth of the matter is that the Unionist Government do not want to displease those persons who helped them during the general elections and whose help may again be required in the next elections.

It is true that the Government has spent large sums on famine relief to the famine-stricken people but this is also a fact as demonstrated already by my honourable friend Pandit Shri Ram Sharma that considerable amount were misappropriated by officials in charge of famine work.

Let me now deal with the question of law and order which the Honourable Premier is so anxious to maintain in the Province. In dealing with this matter I am taking no account of the political repression that is being carried on so relentlessly by the Government. I would only cite figures to show how

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ordinary crime is on the increase in our province. In 1924 number of reported murder cases were 748 but in 1938 it rose to 1,308. Four thousand and forty-seven persons were prosecuted in 1938 on charges of murder either in the courts of magistrates or sessions judges but owing to the inefficiency of the police to secure sufficient evidence only 28·8 per cent of the accused could be convicted. It will not be out of place to mention the opinion of the Inspector-General of Police. He remarked that as regards lawlessness and murders the year 1937 was a record year. Later on he said that the year 1938 had beaten the previous year. I am afraid that when the report of the administration of law and justice for the year 1939 will be published it will disclose a record of murder cases numbering 4 to 5 thousand. As regards the year 1940 the less said the better. If it is taken into consideration and if the present state of affairs is to be considered the number of murders will beat the record of any previous years. In this connection I may point out that I have time and again appealed to the Premier to protect the Ambala district which had been most peace-loving district from depredations, dacoities and murders. The honourable members will be surprised to know that during the last five or six months there have been 50 to 60 murders in that district. It is no exaggeration to say that reign of terror is prevailing there. It was only the other day that I enquired about the number of murders committed in the Sheikhpura district and I was told in reply that in a fortnight eight or ten murders had been committed. This is a deplorable state of affairs, in so far as the administration of law and justice is concerned. This does not bring any credit to the Government. Besides, 4,047 accused persons were tried for murder as already mentioned; in the same year the number of attempted murder cases was 537 and that of culpable homicide cases was 448. Cases of dacoity are many. These figures speak for themselves and need no further comment. This is the condition of law and order in the province.

In the year 1940 when the people of India are seriously demanding complete independence, feudal system is virtually prevailing in certain districts of the Punjab. In this connection I would like to say that recently the Honourable Sir Sikander Hyat-Khan ironically remarked "I wish if our gallant friends, members of the Opposition are going to wage war against the present British Imperialism." Though I earnestly desire that an amicable settlement may be arrived at between Britain on the one hand and India on the other, let me tell him that if no such agreement is arrived at he will see how his gallant friends will take part in the fight for freedom.

**Premier :** I never addressed my honourable friend as "the gallant member". I might have addressed him as "my learned friend".

**Lala Duni Chand :** This much I do admit that there is no one in India who can excel the Honourable Premier in repartee but he is in the habit of talking at random. I was submitting that at a time when the whole of India is demanding independence there are districts like Muzaffargarh, Mianwali and Dera Ghazi Khan where the Jirga system is rampant and feudal system prevails. I ask if this is the democratic and popular Government. Sardar Ujjal Singh while replying to my starred question No. 3724<sup>1</sup> could not help

<sup>1</sup>Vol. VIII, page 40.

admitting that in the course of 8 months 824 cases of murder were reported out of which 140 could not be traced. Such is in short the condition of law and order in the province of which my honourable friends are boasting so much.

Again if we study the report of police administration we would find that every year an increase of something like 3,000 criminal cases take place. This I venture to think is the result of the speeches of some of the Honourable Ministers like Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram and Sir Sikander Hyat-Khan. I do not say that they are directly responsible for the increase of crime but it cannot be denied that they are responsible for creating the atmosphere which contributes to the increase in crime. Their speeches are calculated to encourage the people to commit more crime.

There is yet another grievance of which I should make mention. The treatment meted out to the Opposition is against all canons of justice and fair play. The truth of the matter is that my honourable friends opposite have practically deprived the Opposition Party of their just right. I am aware of the fact that hundreds of non-official Bills were sponsored by the non-official members during the last three years and except a few of them all others were killed at the introduction stage. That is not all. Up till now except a very ordinary Bill, the Punjab Tenancy Amendment Bill, not one of the Bills allowed to be introduced has been permitted to proceed further. The one Bill allowed to be passed was sponsored by a member of the Unionist party. As regards resolutions, I know for a fact that certain unimportant resolutions moved by the members of the majority party were used as weapons to prevent the important Opposition resolutions from being reached and discussed and thus very rarely any non-official resolution of any importance was allowed to be discussed. Sometimes two non-official days were wasted on discussing a Unionist party resolution of no importance. That was nothing but deliberate waste of time. The Honourable Premier has more than once charged the Opposition of wasting the precious time of the House by delivering longwinded speeches. The instance of the debate being prolonged for two days on an insignificant resolution of the member of the Unionist party is fresh in the mind of the honourable members of this House. These are hard facts. How can the Honourable Premier say in view of these facts that we have been wasting the time of this House. On the contrary he and his party have been guilty of wasting the precious time of the House. Let them refer the matter to the Honourable Finance Minister, Mr. Manohar Lal, and he would let them know the amount of public money which they have wasted by resorting to such obstructive methods. I ask if this is the economy which they are trying to effect. Now, so far as questions are concerned it is a matter of every day experience. However I do admit that the Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal and to some extent Honourable Sir Chhotu Ram have been fair in answering questions.

**Mr. Speaker :** Please do not make personal remarks.

**Lala Duni Chand :** I am not making any personal reflexion. My submission is that unlike other Ministers the Honourable Finance Minister and the Honourable Minister for Development have been fair to some extent in answering questions.

**Mr. Speaker :** This is a reflexion which should not be made.

**Lala Duni Chand :** I am far from making any personal reflexion and I do not mean any. Whatever I am saying in regard to them applies only to their public capacity. So far as their personal position is concerned it is excusable but not their public position which deserves to be condemned in view of the lawlessness that is prevailing in the province. I want to strike a note of warning that the day is not far off when the public opinion would become so strong that they would find it irresistible and we are waiting for the advent of such time.

**Mr. Speaker :** The honourable member has spoken for one hour.

**Lala Duni Chand :** Sir, it will not take me more than 4 minutes to finish my speech. Although I had to say many things, as the time at my disposal is very limited I will merely recite two verses of Shaikh Saadi, which very aptly portray the feelings of the Honourable Minister—

کریمہ بہ بخشائے بر حال ما کہ ہستم اسیر کمند ہوا  
نداریم غور از تو نریاد رس۔ توئی عامیان را خطا بخش و بس

When public opinion turns against this Government, these Ministers will have to go about the province begging pardon on bended knees, saying that they have committed many sins of omission and commission but the public should forgive them.

Sir, I thank you very much for permitting me to say these few words, and I hope that the Government will learn a lesson from the submissions that I have in all sincerity made before the House.

**Khan Muhammad Yusuf Khan** (Rawalpindi Sadar, Muhammadan, Rural) : Sir, before I make my observations on the Budget I may submit that I have been all ears to the speech of my honourable friend Lala Duni Chand and I refrain to say anything except this that it was a beautiful jumble of irrelevancies : I hope my honourable friend will excuse me for that. Therefore I do not think that I stand in need of giving any reply to what he said. I must confess that whatever I will say I will say from the point of view of a layman. Though I have been a student of economics in my college career, still I do not claim to say anything with an expert's view point. I will be failing in my moral duty if I do not congratulate the Honourable Finance Minister on the presentation of this most clear cut Budget for this year especially. We all know that this Budget is a remarkable document of triumph of economists' shrewdness over the ravages of nature, a circumstance which is absolutely beyond human control. We all know that the famine in the Ambala division has been the cause of great drainage of our money. It was an onslaught on the exchequer of the province and every sensible man and every man who is in any way in touch with governmental activities was looking with concern and anxiety on the position of the finances of the province. It was expected and expected very reasonably that there would be a very heavy deficit in the Budget, but fortunately our finances being in the hands of a financier of high repute we have, in spite of the fact that there has been a great famine and there has been great expenditure thereon, only a deficit of 28 lakhs. Sir, the direct expenditure on the famine during the last three years is one crore and 37 lakhs, and taking into consideration the remissions and other expenditure we find a very

huge figure that is 2 crores and 75 lakhs spent on the famine. While we have got a deficit the provision for direct expenditure on famine is now 32 lakhs and if it were taken into consideration even for the ensuing year we might have a surplus of 4 lakhs instead of 28 lakhs deficit. In spite of all this there is good reason to feel jubilant and grateful that in spite of the fact that we have been waging war against nature rather nature was waging war against our finances, still we find that all these nation-building departments, that is, the beneficent departments have not been in any way jeopardised and still we find that there has been an increase in the allotment of the amount of 17 lakhs. We all know that budgets are the general indices of the Government's achievements and the Government policy. If we look into the Budget and take a bird's eye view and review the past achievements of the Government for the last three years, we find that from 8 crores and 9 lakhs which had been allocated for the beneficent departments during the last three years it has reached the huge sum of 3 crores and 47 lakhs. This is a great achievement and if the figures are duly calculated we find that 34 per cent of the total expenditure of the Province is being spent on the beneficent departments. When the present Government assumed office, the responsibilities of the Government towards the people under the new law have been increased and it is a common place matter of fact and every one knows that under the reformed constitution when we have got provincial autonomy and democratic government, it is the duty of the Government to educate the people because without education there cannot be democracy working in the true sense of the word.

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

It is a pity if in any country we find the people assume responsibility of Government and those people are quite ignorant and a few chosen people become masters instead of the people who are the masters of those representatives and if the masters are illiterate and the servants of the masters are literate the whole matter will become a mess. Education lies at the root of all these things and still let us see what achievements Government has made in education and how it has discharged its responsibility towards the people. We find that there has been an all round progress. Twenty-eight model schools have been opened. There has been a great war waged against illiteracy and firm determination has been evinced by Government to banish illiteracy from all parts of the province. We find in the new expenditure that there has been an allotment of Rs. 10,000 for maintenance of grants to district boards for vernacular education. Similarly, we find that a sum of Rs. 10,000 has been allotted as additional scholarships for the sons of poor classes, such as weavers and soldiers and similarly we find that Rs. 22,000 has been allotted for adult education. In the same way we find that provision has been made for sanitation in order to remove or decrease disease which is prevalent in the villages. What I mean by quoting these figures is that there is undoubtedly all round progress as regards education and other beneficent activities of the Government.

The other day the Honourable Premier was pleased to remark that his socialism was meant not to make the rich poor but to raise the poor to the level of the rich. I examined and looked into the budget to find out how far the



[Khan Muhammad Yusuf Khan.]

remark of the Honourable Premier has been implemented. I find that the scheduled classes have been allotted some land in the Montgomery district and there has been a provision made for wells for them, and even yesterday the Honourable Premier initiated a scheme as regards the remission of land revenue specially for the poor zamindars who pay land revenue up to Rs. 5 per annum, and he even wants to raise it to Rs. 50. I am a representative of a district which is a district of cultivators, peasant proprietors, and I welcome this scheme on their behalf a scheme which is calculated to make the poor rich without in any way affecting the rich as he depicted.

The population of my own district is 684,857, and, Mr. Deputy Speaker, you will perhaps be astonished to know that the land revenue assessed in the district is Rs. 6,66,000. In other words it amounts to Re. 1 *per capita*. In that district approximately six lakhs of acres of land are under cultivation, and out of that six lakhs we find that only one lakh and some thousands are tenants including occupancy and non-occupancy tenants, which mean that four-fifths of the cultivated land of the district belongs to petty zamindars. So that if the scheme of the Honourable Premier is realised, I hope that the greatest benefit that will accrue to any district will be the Rawalpindi district, because it is a land of owner cultivators, petty zamindars, and under the present conditions, I may submit, my district is mainly dependent upon no other resources but the military pensions and allowances. Now we find that the British Government is committed to Dominion Status of the Westminster variety, we find unfortunately that we have not been given to understand what will be the condition of the Muslims in India if the Dominion Status is granted to our country. We feel happy. We do not grudge. We do not in any way stand in the way of India's freedom, but still it is our bounden duty to our countrymen, to our own community and to our own nation that we must know and must understand what will be our position, what will be our status under the new regime. If Dominion Status is granted just after the close of the War, I find that the plight of my district will be most deplorable unless and until we know what will be our position because under that regime quite naturally every province besides the Punjab will come forward and demand its share in the military, and thus deprive the Punjab and consequently my district of its pensions and allowances that it gets at present. Rawalpindi district being a martial district and having no other means of subsistence than the pensions and allowances, I feel very anxious as to what will be our position, because if we are going to be deprived of all the amenities of these allowances and pensions, it will be very hard for the people who number about six lakhs, and they will be put to a lot of suffering. Therefore before we come to that deplorable condition, I may point out to Government that it is its duty to apportion some land for the poor people in the colonies, who are thus deprived of their allowance and pension, on the plea that they are suffering, on the plea that they have no other source of income, on the plea that if such time comes, will be shorn of other sources of income. The whole district of Rawalpindi is a barani district and there will be no income from the land. I would request Government that it should set aside some land in the Haveli Project for distribution to people of barani districts, specially the Rawalpindi district which is the most deserving of all. Otherwise the district will be

reduced to great poverty because it will have no other source of livelihood except the income from *barani* lands.

**Khan Bahadur Captain Malik Muzaffar Khan** (Mianwali South, Muhammadan, Rural) (*Urdu*): Sir, my honourable friend, Lala Duni Chand, spoke for one hour and was responsible for discussing in the course of his speech such diverse matters as the principles and ideals of the Indian National Congress and the transfer of Rai Bahadur Lala Ram Lal. But now the duration of speeches has been limited to 15 minutes and, therefore, we shall not be able to ventilate adequately the grievances of our constituencies. Sir, the hearty congratulations showered on the Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal are not an extraordinary phenomenon. He is a capable and painstaking gentleman and has, therefore, prepared a flawless budget at a time when there has been an extraordinary burden amounting to crores of rupees on the exchequer. On this achievement I must congratulate him and his able Financial Secretary, Mr. Bhanot, and the rest of the staff concerned. So far as the details of expenditure are concerned I find that no relief has been given to my district.

Now let me state briefly some of the grievances of my constituents. First of all in spite of the fact that it is within the knowledge of the Government that the gram crops have failed in my district for three successive years we have not been dealt with justly. Gram is our staple crop and on account of its failure we have suffered losses amounting to lakhs of rupees. But no relief has been afforded to us.

So far as land revenue is concerned, both systems, i.e., the fixed as well as the fluctuating are in vogue in my district. I will leave aside the fluctuating system under which land revenue is payable only if there is any crop. But our grouse is that no relief worth the name has been given in fixed land revenue in Bhakkar Tahsil and zails Thanawal, Nammal and Chakrala in the Mianwali Tahsil where this system is applied. I would, therefore, request the Minister concerned to do the needful in the matter.

Taccavi loans are given when zamindars are unable to purchase seed, or cattle and other requisites. I admit that in response to my submissions last year the Honourable Minister was pleased to grant taccavi loans to the extent of a few thousand to that district but that amount is not sufficient. As regards the old taccavi loans I have repeatedly brought to the notice of the Government that the zamindars are not able to repay them. But instead of remitting the loans or postponing the payment warrants are being issued in that connection and the poor zamindars are running hither and thither to escape them. This matter also requires immediate attention on the part of the Government. Let me take this opportunity to submit that the Ministers should note down our grievances and give them due consideration. A mere speech from me or the appearing of my name in the columns of a newspaper cannot be of any use to those poor zamindars.

Then, Sir, last year I drew the attention of the Government to the havoc wrought on the lands of villages like Kalur Kot and Kalwal, Darya Khan, Kotla, etc., villages in Tahsil Bhakkar by the river Indus changing its course. I requested the Government to grant some area out of the Government pasture lands on temporary cultivation to those zamindars who had

[K. B. Captain Malik Muzaffar Khan.]

been hard hit by this change of course, but here again all the requests have been in vain. I hope the Government will move in the matter.

As regards the scarcity of drinking water it is well-known to the Government that the people of *ilagas* like Chhidra, Borikhel and Sawans have to depend for this necessity of life on the rain water collected in ponds. This is a very uncertain source and on the top of it the water is often full of germs with the result that the disease of *narwa* is very common in that part of the district. We were told that the Government were carrying out experiments to remove this complaint but so much money has been spent on these experiments and yet the people are still in the grip of scarcity of water and abundance of disease. These people are in a very sad plight. I have with me a representation which they have sent to me regarding this matter. I need not read it to the House but I once more request the Government to move in the matter.

We are thankful to the Government for having enacted the Relief of Indebtedness Act and other agrarian measures, but I wish to point out that these measures are not being worked properly in my district. The Deputy Commissioner is, no doubt, trying to give effect to these Acts but the Deputy Commissioner being overworked the Government should appoint another officer to assist him. I also drew the attention of the Government last year to the fact that the Sub-Judge at Bhakkar was sending people to prison for non-payment of their debts although they were unable to do so. But neither the District Judge has done anything nor has the Government moved in the matter through the Chief Justice. I submit that it is the duty of the Government to at least make proper inquiries into complaints of this sort when we bring them to its notice.

**Munshi Hari Lal :** On a point of order. Is not what my honourable friend is now stating a reflection upon the judges?

**Mr. Deputy Speaker :** There is no reflection upon any judge.

**Munshi Hari Lal :** I also wanted the freedom.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker :** I would request the honourable member to go on with his speech, as the time at his disposal is very short.

**Khan Bahadur Captain Malik Muzaffar Khan :** I cannot be an aeroplane. I am doing my best to finish my speech within time. My second submission is with regard to the appointment of conciliation boards. I submit to the Honourable Minister incharge that the conciliation boards should be extended to the other two tahsils of my district, i. e., Isa Khel and Mianwali immediately. They should not neglect my district which is a backward district but nevertheless a faithful and reliable district. *(Interruptions.)*

My next submission is the old one which, I think, the Honourable Minister has understood. I mean Mianwali-Khushab road. It is very lamentable that nothing practical has been done by the Government so far. Fortunately provision has been made in the Budget but who knows when the work will be started!

**Minister for Public Works :** After the month of April, when the demands are sanctioned!

**Khan Bahadur Captain Malik Muzaffar Khan :** If the Honourable Minister intends to construct the road as a whole it will be very kind of him. But if he wants to construct it by instalments then I would request him to start the work from Mianwali side.

So far as the management of the district is concerned credit goes to Sardar Iqbal Singh, Deputy Commissioner, and Chaudhri Ghulam Rasul Khan, Superintendent, Police. Both of them are beyond reproach and their work is most commendable. The leading zamindars and others have co-operated with the officers in an enviable manner. But as regards the locality of the district I would submit that it is situated on the frontier—adjoining Bannu, Kohat and Dera Ismail Khan. Dacoities are prevalent in that area and the additional police is not sufficient to face big dacoities. Only recently a dacoity took place at Isa Khel and it was due to the bravery of Raja Sikandar Khan, Sub-Inspector of Police, Habat Khan, Head Constable, and Khan Bahadur Ghulam Qadir Khan, Member, Legislative Assembly, that the dacoits took to the heels and one of them was shot dead. No damage or casualty took place to the people of Isa Khel. Under these circumstances I would request the Government to appoint two military posts on the western side of Isa Khel so that tranquillity and peace of the people may not be disturbed. As the western side of Mianwali is also within the range of dacoits, two additional police posts should be appointed there as well.

**Lala Duni Chand :** Does the honourable member know the number of people who have migrated from Isa Khel ?

**Khan Bahadur Captain Malik Muzaffar Khan :** I may inform my honourable friend who has interrupted me that none has migrated from Isa Khel. His information is unfounded and incorrect.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker :** I would request the honourable member to go on with his speech.

**Khan Bahadur Captain Malik Muzaffar Khan :** Before I resume my seat I should like to submit that it is our good fortune that zamindars of the Punjab are being guided by a most talented and competent statesman like Sir Sikander-Hyat Khan. Whether the present zamindar members of the Assembly or other zamindars of the province are returned at the next general elections, we assure the Honourable Premier that we will remain as sincere as ever.

**Lala Duni Chand :** On a point of order. I want to know whether praise does not spoil the Ministers ?

**Khan Bahadur Captain Malik Muzaffar Khan :** My submission is that the other Honourable Ministers should serve the poor zamindars with more enthusiasm and love so that the prestige of our Honourable Premier, Sir Sikander-Hyat Khan and their own may be kept up. With these words, Sir, I resume my seat.

**Chaudhri Sumer Singh** (South-East Gurgaon, General, Rural) (Urdu) : Sir, I rise neither to praise the Budget nor to condemn it. But I shall try to place certain facts before the House which are connected with the present Budget. First of all I submit that we do not find a considerable change in the present Budget as compared with the Budget of the time of the previous Governments. As regards the Development Fund one may say that

(Chaudhri Sumer Singh.)

a little change has taken place. But as regards other departments no change has taken place, for instance the District Board's grants which were stopped in 1931 are still stopped and no step has been taken to resanction them. It is a pity that district boards have been neglected while sufficient grants have been given to schools situated in towns for higher education. It is not the concern of the Government to impart high education. It should be done by private enterprise. The Government should pay attention to primary education. Government gives a grant of Rs. 5,000 per annum to district boards for repairs of school buildings. I wonder how this grant will be enough to cover the repair charges of all the 300 or 400 school buildings in a district. My submission therefore is that this grant is insufficient and should be increased. Next I draw attention to the grant given for new buildings for district board schools. Since 1931 no money has been provided under this head. It requires special consideration, otherwise there will be no school buildings or the existing buildings will get into very bad repairs in a few years time. A grant of Rs. 100 is given to be used in case of transfers of school teachers for travelling allowance purposes. Suppose ten or twelve transfers take place; the grant will be spent altogether. Generally district board teachers are transferred without travelling allowance being allowed to them. This causes great hardship. Government ought to pay special attention to this. May I in this connection ask the Government, have they ever given due consideration to the bad condition of primary schools? They should not at least turn blind eye to a primary education because this is the education which counts in the future life of a boy. Higher education is next to it and I think this education is secondary education. But it is a matter of regret that the Government is not prepared to spend much money on primary education and one lakh of rupees has been provided for female education. I may, therefore, warn Government in time that if the grants for district boards are not increased and the budgetary position of the district boards is not properly scrutinised in time to improve the present state of affairs, the result will be the same as it was in the case of Jullundur, that is, the salaries of teachers will have to be reduced, some highly paid teachers will have to be asked to go and some schools will have to be closed. Then, much attention has been paid to adult education. I have no objection to adult education. That is a necessity. But the method employed for the purpose should be modified. A sum of one thousand or two thousand cannot suffice. Instead of giving allowance to those who are already getting some salary, the Government should ask unemployed literates to educate a certain number of adults up to the primary standard and then reward them for fulfilling that quota by granting them land. That will greatly facilitate the task.

Now I come to the Medical Department. No new dispensaries and hospitals are being opened by the Government in rural areas. Not a single step has been taken in that direction. If expenditure deters them, I tell them a cheaper way. Vedic and Unani dispensaries should be opened in the rural areas. The money that goes to foreign countries as price of the medicine, will remain in our own country. Moreover, desi treatment will be useful to the villagers. In fact they do not freely go to civil dispensaries. That treatment does not suit them. With the limited amount of loca

rates, and with so many liabilities the district boards are no longer able to aid the Vaidik and Unani institutions. Government should undertake to patronise them. This will be cheaper than engaging M.B., B.S. men. A Vaid or a Hakim will get Rs. 30 or Rs. 35 and the remaining rupees 40 or less may be spent on medicine. The whole dispensary will be run on Rs. 70 only. I may add here that qualified persons alone should be employed. They will be available and will not dislike going to the villages as the M. B., B. S. persons do. Besides, the qualified Vaid or Hakim should have the same privileges as are enjoyed by doctors in giving certificates, etc.

Another thing that I want to mention is that there is no use of spending money on white elephants like the Government College, Lahore, or other institutions where only first division students are admitted but who while they come out of these institutions pass in third division. (*Hear, hear.*) Similar is the case with the Government High Schools, and specially in Gurgaon. The results of the national institutions are better than those of these schools. As a matter of fact most of the money spent on higher education should be curtailed and spent on primary education and adult education.

Now I come to a very important point. The mentality of Government servants has not improved so far. The officials regard themselves as the masters and not as the servants of the public. They are intoxicated with their powers (*Hear, hear*). Moreover my humble suggestion is that new servants should only be employed by competition. By all means fix a certain proportion for the various communities. But employ the best Muslims, the best Hindus, and the best Sikhs, after competition. (*Cheers.*) At present the relatives of Members of the Legislative Assembly and other big persons are employed. Again, the sons of rich persons, big landlords and the high salaried officers should not be recruited, and the pays of the employees should be decreased so that the (services) should lose attraction. Only those who want to serve should be recruited and not those who want to make money or enjoy power. When inefficient persons, Hindu or Muslim, are employed merely for their high connections, they do not care for their duties. If they are sometimes punished for malpractices, they invoke the help of communalism, and say. "Look here, I am a Muslim; that is why I am being punished." The same is said by a Hindu. We should end such incidents by recruiting persons belonging to different communities through competition with reservation of posts for various communities, debarring of course the sons of income-tax payers and of big zamindars.

A man having a service of twenty-five years or more to his credit should be asked to retire forthwith. His post should be abolished or another man in the initial grade of the post should be appointed. In this way a large number of people will retire. There should be equitable distribution of all these posts to various communities and appointments should be filled by open competition with reservation of posts to various communities. The savings thus effected should be utilised for imparting primary education in rural areas.

One word more and I have done. Those villagers who used to come to the Mental Hospital for treatment were required to pay Rs. 20 or so only

[Chaudhri Sumner Singh.]

but now the Government has fixed the cost according to the population. Under this system the rural areas under district board management will have to bear a bigger portion of the cost. That will be hard for the rural people. The towns people have been given undue relief in this matter. It is against the policy of the Unionist Government of shifting the taxation from rural area to urban area. It is strange that when a few thousand rupees can be spent on a London Gymkhana, why the Government cannot bear the cost of treatment of villagers in the Mental Hospital. At first all the available money should be spent within the province. If there is any surplus that may be spent abroad. But here the Government is doing just the opposite thing. May I ask what is the necessity of paying for a tennis court in England for those Indian students who can well afford to go there for study? They must be the sons of rich men and can well afford to pay their own expenses of such courts.

In the end I will say that the Budget is not up to the mark of democratic Government. These are my personal views and as a member of the party I shall vote for the Budget in spite of the fact that I do not approve of most of the items in it.

**Captain Sodhi Harnam Singh** (Ferozepore North, Sikh, Rural) (*Urdu*) : Sir, the Budget that has been presented to the House is really a Budget of very high order. The Honourable Minister for Finance deserves our sincere congratulations for the admirable manner in which he has conducted and controlled the finances of the province. But I fervently desire that he should have presented such a Budget as may have guaranteed minimum income to the zamindars. That is, if the crops fail owing to drought or certain calamity or prices of agricultural produce fall abnormally, the loss which the zamindar is bound to suffer may be made good by Government, as is done in America, from its coffers to the extent of his minimum income. In this connection I would request the Honourable Minister Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram, to give practical shape to his plans very soon so that the revenues of the province may increase from 11½ crores to 20 crores of rupees, and that 5 to 6 crores may be spent by Government with a view to enhancing the income of the zamindar.

Besides, I may point out that the number of Debt Conciliation Boards set up in the province is very small. At present these boards have been established in every district for conciliating debts in only one tahsil. I would urge upon the Government the desirability of bringing 4 or 5 tahsils, that is, a complete districts under the jurisdiction of every such board. I am of the opinion that Government should lose no time in making such arrangements so that the poor zamindars may get the fullest benefit out of them. Now that the moneylenders have come to know that Debt Conciliation Boards are going to be appointed everywhere, they are trying hard to realise their debts from the zamindars as early as possible. Consequently the zamindars are being put to great hardships. I am therefore of the opinion that either Government should set up Debt Conciliation Boards in every tahsil or issue instructions to courts that they should withhold the execution of decrees till the establishment of such boards in those tahsils where they do not exist at present.

Then I may bring this fact to the notice of the Honourable Minister that there exists no other arrangement in the province for financing the zamindars except through co-operative credit societies. And the money-lenders refuse to advance loans owing to the enactment of agrarian laws. The credit of the zamindars is almost shattered. In fact he is very much hard pressed. I suggest that Government should set up mortgage banks, so that those zamindars who have to pay off their old long standing debts may be able to obtain loans against their lands. I may point out in this connection that a land yielding 500 rupees worth of produce in 10 years is now-a-days being leased out (Mustajri) by courts for fifty rupees. This is ample to show how much zamindars are losing in this way. In case there was any credit, or there were land mortgage banks then very easily such amounts could be paid by getting advances on reasonable interest. I, therefore, request the Government to pay special attention to devise means with a view to increasing the credit of the zamindars.

There is another matter which deserves mention. We find to our great delight that Government have established an anti-corruption department which is discharging its duties very efficiently. But I am constrained to remark that its staff is very meagre. The staff of this department requires to be enlarged sufficiently in order to cope with the enormity of work. I may also point out that the activities of this department are so limited that people in general do not know that Government have set up such a useful department with a view to eradicating the evil of corruption from amongst the dishonest officers. I propose that the staff of the department in question should be increased with the least possible delay so that corrupt officials may soon be brought to book and their malpractices may come to an end. Exemplary punishments should be awarded to the delinquents so that others may learn a lesson. It would not be out of place if I invite the attention of the Honourable Minister for Public Works that corruption is rampant in the Public Works Department. He should adopt means to put a stop to it.

Besides, I find that in a district the Deputy Commissioner is the most busy and over-worked official owing to his being in charge of so many departments. That is why the administration in the districts has deteriorated. I am of the opinion that Government would be well advised to appoint greater number of officers under the Deputy Commissioner, so that there may be an equitable distribution of work and he may be free to devote more attention to administrative work in the district.

Then note should be taken of the fact that to the great detriment of the zamindars, almost all the high schools and colleges have been opened in the towns. I am of the opinion that these should be started in rural areas so that the zamindar may be saved of the waste of his hard earned money which he has to spend in educating his children in the college. It is obvious if the colleges were opened in rural areas, education expenses of the zamindars would be reduced considerably. Their sons would not be able to indulge in unnecessary waste of money, which they do in cities by frequently visiting the cinemas, dining in restaurants, etc. I hope the Government would see their way to accede to my request.



[Captain Sodhi Harnam Singh.]

Now I would like to draw the attention of the Government to this fact that it is being keenly felt that arrangements should be made in high schools for imparting knowledge about agriculture, handicraft and other industries. I am rather of the opinion that the science of agriculture should be vigorously disseminated among the boys of zamindars. Now-a-days the profession of agriculture is being looked down upon. Government should take steps to popularize it.

Then, Sir, the work in the civil courts has decreased considerably. I think Government should retrench some Sub-Judges and effect economy.

Besides, Government should direct their special efforts to the promotion of cottage industries, like dairy farming, fruit preservation, etc. This can be of great benefit to the rural people. The appointment of an expert in fruit preservation and fruit growing industries, for the purpose of advising the people to take to these industries is really very desirable.

One word more and I have finished. In view of the fact that war might extend even to the boundaries of India, I suggest to Government that they should open military classes in high schools and colleges, so that an army of trained combatants may be mobilised for the defence of our country in no time.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan** (Ludhiana, Muhammadan, Rural),  
(Urdu): Sir, if you study the Budget carefully you will find that there are many things to which no attention has been paid by the Government. What to speak of paying any attention to those things even sufficient provision has not been made for the existing departments. The reason for this is that unfortunately according to the definition of my honourable friend Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram the Honourable Minister for Finance is a non-agriculturist and he is incapable of understanding the real needs of the zamindars. With all this the present Ministry in season and out of season declare their Government to be a zamindar Government. The Honourable Minister for Development while in the course of his visits to different towns and villages delivers speeches that only he and his Government are the well wisners of the zamindars and that non-agriculturists are their enemies. I ask him what he thinks about his own Finance Minister. Does he regard him also the enemy of agriculturists? If so, may I know why he has entrusted the destinies of the province to him?

Besides, I may point out that lawlessness is prevailing throughout the length and breadth of my district and it has become very difficult for the Unionist Government to control the situation. In this connection I may point out that only recently an address was presented to my honourable friends, the veteran Leader of the Sikhs, Honourable Sir Sunder Singh Majithia, Honourable Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram and Honourable Sir Sikander Hyat-Khan, not by the members of the Congress party but by no less personalities than the members of the District Zamindara League, Ludhiana, themselves. The signatories of the address were, Chaudhri Muhammad Suleman, Vice-President, Zamindara League, Sardar Jogindar Singh, Ghalib Kalan, Rai Muhammad Iqbal Khan and Sardar

Gobind Singh Swaddy. Now, what is stated in that address? It is mentioned therein that the signatories of the address were constrained to remark that lawlessness was on the increase in their district and that so far the zamindars have not fared better at the hands of the so-called zamindara Government. I will quote a passage from that address. It is as follows:—

”آج کل اس علاقہ کے مصیبت زدہ زمیندار بڑی کرم جوشی اور نہایت مدق دل سے اور ادب سے صاف عرض کرنا چاہتے ہیں کہ کچھ عرصہ سے اس ضلع میں دامنِ اس قدر بڑھ گئی ہے کہ زمیندار پہلے کی طرح ٹھینکی کا دم نہیں کر سکتے۔ مسافر محفوظ ہو کر چل نہیں سکتے۔ شریف اور عزت دار لوگ اپنی عزت اور آبرو کو مذہبی میں لٹے دم خشک کر کے زندگیاں بسر کر رہے ہیں۔“

I want to know whether after three years the Government have not realized the seriousness of the situation as to what is going on in an important district of the province, to which the Honourable Minister for Education has the honour to belong. As a matter of fact lawlessness is prevailing in that district, but the Government has not so far moved its little finger to put a stop to such a state of affairs. What better proof can I put forward than the testimony of the members of the District Zamindara League who are the creatures of the Government? In short this address is a condemnation of the Ministry. I may remind my honourable friend from Ambala Division who often pays a visit to my district, that if he now visits it, I assure him that the zamindars of Ludhiana district will tell him to his face that the so-called Zamindara Government have done nothing to ameliorate their hard lot. I may point out that a meeting of the representatives of the Co-operative Society was held on the 13th June, 1939, and a resolution was passed in it condemning the attitude of a zamindar officer of the Government. But the Honourable Minister did not pay any heed to the demand of the zamindars. He should bear in mind that he cannot go on spurning the demands of the zamindars for ever. One day he will have to answer for his deeds.

Now, I may point out that at present the greatest need of the zamindar is that he should get his bread. But the Honourable Minister for Development stated the other day that if the Government granted remissions to the poor zamindars that would only come to five pice per head and with it no purpose would be served at all. But I may submit that at present the poor people are face to face with starvation. Even a part of a bread can go a long way in saving them. But fancy the attitude which this Government have taken up. They probably think that unless and until ten different dishes are not forthcoming the zamindars should not be given anything to eat. With all this they call themselves the well-wishers of the zamindars as well. I may tell them that in fact they are not so. Do they still want any more proof of this thing? The zamindars are fully aware of the fact and now my honourable friends cannot hide this fact howsoever they may try to do so.

Now, it has been pointed out that a sum of Rs. 1,37,00,000 has been incurred on providing relief to the famine-stricken area of Hissar. In this respect I may point out that my honourable friend Pandit Shri Ram Sharma

[Ch. Muhammad Hassan.]

has pointed out more than once on the floor of the House that corruption and loot is rampant in the matter of disbursement of famine relief. But so far the Government have not moved their little finger to put a stop to this state of affairs. The only thing which they have done is to declare every time on the floor of the House without feeling any compunction that the Fodder Adviser is an honest person, an able person and what not. I may also remind the Honourable Premier that some members of the Unionist party waited on him in a deputation in connection with that officer against whom inquiries were being instituted and in that deputation, Mr. Deputy Speaker, you were also present. I may tell you that if responsible persons like yourself take part in such deputations the object of which is to save corrupt officials that would not decrease corruption in the province but on the contrary it would give a great filip to it, and the object of holding any inquiry would result in nothing. I take this opportunity of making a suggestion to the Honourable Premier that if he wishes to root out corruption from the province he should, as soon as he hears that in any part of the province corruption is rampant, take the earliest opportunity to appoint an inquiry committee and see that corrupt officials are weeded out and corruption rooted out completely. But on the other hand if he takes two and a half years as he has done in the case of a corrupt officer of the Ludhiana District, that, in my opinion, amounts to a half-hearted attempt only. The best course would be to turn out corrupt officials regardless of the rank which they are holding.

The other day I made mention of the working of the additional police force in my district. As a matter of fact without the help of the regular police of that district they cannot do anything. But the police of that district is so very dishonest that it would neither work itself nor let others work. Therefore so far as the additional police force is concerned, at least in our district, it has not proved useful. I quoted many instances in support of my contention and so I will not repeat them now. But I can say without any fear of contradiction that the so-called zamindara Government has not at heart the welfare of the zamindars whose votes they are anxious to secure. As a matter of fact they do not regard it their duty to find out ways and means for ameliorating the condition of the poor zamindars. I for one, think that if they reduce the salaries of all the Government officers that can save much money. I may submit that this reduction in the salaries of the Government servants will not in any way adversely affect them. I know that these people can make their living on small salaries as well. However, I do admit that my honourable friends over there are getting less than what they were earning outside. (A voice: No.) But they should remember that when they were not Ministers they did not possess the same amount of patronage, influence and prestige as they do now.

By reducing the pay of your officials and Parliamentary Secretaries you can better the conditions of the province. The Honourable Minister for Finance said in his speech that he had done this and he had done that, but I am unable to understand what good has come out of it. If out of one crore and thirty-seven lakhs of rupees, which were put aside for famine relief work, 37 lakhs have been wasted, then what is the use of such famine

relief? Even if the Government professes ignorance about it, still the responsibility of this waste of funds lies on its shoulders. The shortcomings of the Government have become so numerous that nobody can side with them except for the sake of party politics. Chaudhri Symer Singh was very frank in saying that nothing has so far been done for the sake of zamindars. He observed that although he was a member of the Ministerial party yet he was compelled to say those things. Ministers must have come to know by now that there are people, who in spite of their obligations, can candidly state the truth. My honourable friend Captain Malik Muzaffar Khan has related the difficulties of the zamindars of Mianwali district. He thanked the Government but at the same time he said that as the Government will succeed in removing their grievances, he will go on offering his thanks to them. If these people who are zamindars oppose this so-called zamindar Government, it is easy to conclude what sort of treatment is being meted out to zamindars. When these sub-registrars, land-owners and zamindars have started criticising the Government, the Government would be well advised to change their policy.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker :** Two minutes more, please.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan :** There is one thing more to which I beg to draw your attention. It is this : if it is proved that the Superintendent of Police of our district had saved that Sub-Inspector who did not fire upon the dacoits who had killed the head constable and if this fact is corroborated by a responsible officer who is appointed to make inquiries in this respect, then immediate action should be taken against them. There is no reason why an investigation should not be instituted against your officials—nay against the servants of the public. If you want to enlist public support then you ought to encourage the public.

It is a budget for which no honourable member of this House, who has gone through it, can congratulate the Finance Minister. There is nothing in it except that it is presented with a well-worded speech, and the statistics supplied therein are nicely arranged. I am reminded here of the story of a bania who had pinned down a pathan under him, and still he was crying : "I am done for, I am done for." This was the result of the advantageous position which he enjoyed. Similar is the case with our Finance Minister. If you try to find out as to what has been done with respect to the beneficent Departments, such as Education and Public Health, then you will see that nothing worth the name has been done in connection with them. I submit Sir, that the Budget as presented does not merit a single word of felicitation and I do not feel disposed to offer any congratulations to the Honourable Minister of Finance.

**Dr. Sant Ram Seth** (Amritsar City, General, Urban) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, I rise to oppose the Budget which is under consideration of the House today. I have facts in my possession with which I propose to convince the honourable members of this House in order to enlist their support for opposing this Budget.

Sir, on April 8rd, 1939, I put a question to the Government enquiring about the amount of annual grant which was being given to the Boy Scouts Association. The Honourable Minister for Education gave the figure as Rs. 32,000. On being asked whether he was aware of the fact that a similar

[Dr. Sant Ram Seth.]

association, the Hindustan Boy Scouts Association existed and whether any grant was also being made to it, he replied that as the said association took an active part in politics no grant could be given to it.

Two or three days ago I received a letter, from the organising commissioner, Hindustan Boy Scouts, Amritsar, stating that on 15th May or before that date, on the occasion of the arrival of a Muslim League Deputation, the Boy Scouts belonging to the Government School of Multan were ordered to receive it at the railway station and the deputation was accordingly received. Now, may I put it to the Honourable Minister of Education whether Muslim League is a political body or not? If the Hindustan Boy Scouts Association was not given any grant simply because it took part in politics, was not the act of the Boys Scouts of the Government School, Multan, in going to receive the deputation of a political body the same as actually taking part in politics. Now, this is a very objectionable act on the part of the authorities to force the boys to do a thing of this nature. In this way the boys are being made toadies and their self-respect is being crushed. We send our children to school to raise their spirits and standard of morality but they are taught to be shoe lickers of every Minister, Governor and all the high officials of the Punjab Government that go to their town.

**Sayed Amjad Ali Shah :** What if the person is Mahatma Gandhi?

**Dr. Sant Ram Seth :** But the Ministers are your servants. They go about for the sake of discharging their duties for which they draw very fat salaries. You are also a Parliamentary Secretary and you too are concerned with your pay.

Now, Sir, I would like to make a few observations with regard to the additional police force. In the present Budget a sum of Rs. 1,12,580 has been earmarked for its retention during the next financial year. But I would like to submit that this item is a sheer waste of public money. The additional police is serving no useful purpose. It has failed to justify its existence. Here I may be allowed to give an instance to illustrate my point. On March 2, 1939, on the occasion of Muharram festival a communal riot broke out in Amritsar. There was nothing extraordinary about it as Hindus and Muslims are brethren and their riot was no more than a domestic quarrel between two brothers. But this much I must say that none of these communities can claim to be free from the existence of bad characters. And in fact their existence is a constant source of danger to the public peace and tranquillity. In short these *badmashes* looted and plundered the shops of gold merchants and other shopkeepers in broad daylight under the very nose of the additional police. The gold merchants cried for help but the police officials refused to protect their lives and properties. In fact the police has never done its duty by the public. It has always been guilty of dereliction of duty. Its only duty is to produce false witnesses in the courts. I hope and trust the House would not accord its sanction for the requisite sum under this particular head.

Sir, there is a well-known saying لَا تَقِمْ إِلَّا مَا رَأَيْتَ It means that people do what their king does. The subjects try to follow in the footsteps of their rulers. It is alleged that in the course of the proceedings

against Syed Ata Ullah Shah a startling fact came to light that the Premier had sent through his Personal Assistant a number of letters to the Superintendent, Police, Gujrat, in this connection.

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

Sir, the Government has recently appointed an Anti-Corruption Committee with a view to weed out corruption from the province. It is said that its principal function is to bring the corrupt and dishonest officials to book. But let us see whether this committee is trying to eradicate corruption in the Punjab or to increase it. Recently Mr. Brar, the Superintendent, Police of Gujrat, was transferred to Ambala and was compelled to go on leave. The said committee asked a sub-inspector of police to give false evidence against him. My information is that the said gentlemen has refused to do so. Now it is not known as to what particular penalty the poor fellow is being made to pay for this refusal.

**Mian Abdul Rab :** What is the source of the information of the honourable member ?

**Mr. Speaker :** What did he say ?

**Dr. Sant Ram Seth :** I was making a few observations with regard to the Anti-Corruption Committee. When the Premier himself stoops to such underhand policy the morals of the public at large must deteriorate.

**Mr. Speaker :** The conduct of the Premier or a Minister cannot be discussed, in his personal or individual capacity, except on a substantive motion. But the conduct of the Government as a whole or of any individual Minister as a part and parcel of Government can be discussed.

**Diwan Chaman Lall :** May I, with your permission ask for any authority on the subject ?

**Mr. Speaker :** Please refer to May, page 271.

**Diwan Chaman Lall :** I do not think you have followed the point which I have raised. We are all agreed as far as individual conduct of a Minister or any Member of the House is concerned ; we are debarred from discussing it except by a substantive motion ; but there can be no doubt whatsoever that the administrative responsibility of a department of which the head is a particular Minister is capable of being discussed on the floor of this House.

**Mr. Speaker :** Certainly ; but not of an individual Minister in his personal capacity.

**Diwan Chaman Lall :** I would like to have guidance. After all honourable members may be overstepping the limits which you are laying down and it will be very necessary for us to know. For instance, here is an Honourable Minister who is in charge of his own department and is responsible for the administration of that department. If that Minister is being criticised he is not being criticised as Sir Chhotu Ram but is being criticised as the Minister in charge of a particular department.

**Mr. Speaker :** Not only as the Minister in charge of a particular department ; but also as part of Government and responsible for the acts of his subordinates.

**Diwan Chaman Lall :** It is true. I hope you were not going to lay down the rule regarding individual and collective responsibility because we had a debate on the subject; that is a constitutional matter of very great importance. What I am suggesting is that no honourable member would be capable of criticising the administration of a department run by a particular Minister unless he criticises the administrative responsibility of the Minister himself.

**Mr. Speaker :** But as a part of Government and not in his personal capacity.

**Diwan Chaman Lall :** The point is this that if a particular individual officer is being criticised by my honourable friend he goes further and says because this particular officer has done such and such thing the administrative responsibility of this particular department of which you are the head arises and then refers to the Minister. Is he debarred from doing this?

**Mr. Speaker :** No. Because the conduct of a particular officer of Government is under discussion and the Minister, as a part of the Government, is the head of the department to which the particular officer belongs.

**Diwan Chaman Lall :** That is the reason why he criticises. All that I suggest is this that in criticising that particular department of Government the honourable member is justified in saying, you, so and so, Minister of the department are responsible for this—.

**Mr. Speaker :** In discussing the department he can certainly discuss the conduct of the Government, and refer to the Minister in charge, as a part of Government.

**Diwan Chaman Lall :** Perhaps there is a misunderstanding. No-body is wanting to discuss the conduct of an individual Minister. They want to discuss him merely as an administrative head, that is capable of being discussed.

**Mr. Speaker :** The administrative responsibility of a Minister, even when he is acting individually, is of the Government; because it is the Government—.

**Diwan Chaman Lall :** Therefore we criticise his department and criticise his action.

**Mr. Speaker :** Strictly speaking no Minister can act in his personal capacity. As a rule he acts on behalf of Government, whether his authority is express or implied.

**Diwan Chaman Lall** Not a bit.

**Mr. Speaker :** I may add that there is only one Government of which he is a member and which he represents. But in practice he is held responsible by Government for acts done by his subordinates as well as by himself. If those acts are not approved or adopted by Government, he may be called upon to resign.

**Diwan Chaman Lall :** A Minister may refuse to resign. That actually happened in Bengal where a Minister refused to resign, and the whole Cabinet had to tender resignation. This is the point. Therefore it is his individual responsibility.

**Mr. Speaker :** Yes, as the head of a department and as the representative of the Government.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** I give an instance. Take the Education Department. An Inspector of Schools does something which is glaringly wrong and there has been not one instance but several instances where that particular Inspector of Schools has gone wrong. His conduct as an Inspector of Schools has really amounted to a scandal. The honourable member who is discussing that question has pointed out that reports have several times been sent to the head of department, namely, the Minister of Education, and he has refused to take any action. Can we not criticise his conduct.

**Mr. Speaker :** But that is only a statement of fact.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** What other conduct have we to criticise? If we were to criticise the private conduct of the Ministers I do not know what we may not have to say! (*Laughter.*)

**Mr. Speaker :** Such matters can certainly be criticised.

**Dr. Sant Ram Seth :** Sir, I was submitting that the Honourable Premier sent 2 or 3 letters through his Personal Assistant to the Superintendent of Police suggesting him to obtain such reports of the speeches of Sayed Ata Ullah as may make him liable to prosecution under sections 121 and 302. My submission is that when the Premier of a province himself stoops to such underhand policies the public morality is sure to deteriorate.

**Minister of Education :** The incident to which the honourable member is referring relates to a case which is now *subjudice* and is before the High Court. I hope, Sir, you will not allow him to discuss it.

**Minister of Development :** The honourable member has stated that the Premier through his Personal Assistant had letters addressed to the Superintendent of Police suggesting that the speeches of a particular speaker—Sayed Ata Ullah Shah—were to be recorded in a particular manner.

**Mr. Speaker :** Did the honourable member say that the Premier had letters written by his Personal Assistant?

**Dr. Sant Ram Seth :** I have said that he gave instructions to the police through his Personal Assistant. He sent the letters to the police through his Personal Assistant.

**Mr. Speaker :** I would ask the honourable member not to touch this case as it is pending in the High Court.

**Dr. Sant Ram Seth :** I was submitting that the Sub-Inspector, Police, Riana, district Hissar, was asked by the Anti-Corruption Committee to give false evidence against the Superintendent of Police. But it is said that he refused to do so.

**Mr. Speaker :** May the House know the authority of the honourable member?

**Dr. Sant Ram Seth :** Sir, I cannot disclose the authority at present. Let the time come and the whole province will come to know the real facts.



**Mr. Speaker :** Unless the honourable member has personal or direct knowledge of facts or they are otherwise proved, I do not think it is fair to state them.

**Dr. Sant Ram Seth :** I have sufficient documentary proofs in my possession to show—.

**Mr. Speaker :** The honourable member may produce that proof.

**Dr. Sant Ram Seth :** The report on which I rely has been sent to me by certain respectable persons. But it will not be in the public interest to disclose their names on the floor of the House.

**Mr. Speaker :** Then proceed to the next point.

**Dr. Sant Ram Seth :** Very well, Sir. The second point which I like to bring to the notice of the Government is that the diet supplied to the indoor patients in the Amritsar Hospital has always been of an inferior quality. They are never supplied with pure milk and fresh vegetables. It is for this reason that the Honourable Minister in charge should note these grievances. I have seen with my own eyes that the milk which is supplied to them is adulterated. And it is quite possible that by using such milk they may catch another disease. Once I happened to visit the Tuberculosis Hospital. I was surprised to see the bread which was provided to the patients suffering from tuberculosis. It was hardly baked. I am afraid some of the patients might have caught tuberculosis of intestines by eating the *kacha* bread. I would, therefore, request the Government to pay more heed to such bad conditions prevailing in hospitals.

Now I should like to make a submission with regard to the depressed classes. When we peruse the budget we do not find satisfactory provisions in it. I mean to say that nothing practical has been done for the members of scheduled castes so far as their education is concerned. The last but not the least point to which I want to draw the attention of the Honourable Minister for Education is that our province lacks in maternity homes where labour cases can satisfactorily be dealt with. The women-folk is, therefore, in much trouble especially in countryside. I request him to start as many maternity homes as possible in rural areas in order to facilitate the poor women-folk. With these words I oppose the Budget.

**Mian Abdul Rab** (Jullundur South, Muhammadan, Rural) (*Urdu*) : Sir, I have listened to the speeches that have been made from the Opposition and I would say that they have had no relevancy whatsoever to the Budget that is now before the House. If the members of the Opposition had studied the new expenditure and thought over it, I am sure, they would not have opposed the Budget. As a matter of fact not a single member from the Opposition has spoken to the point. They have been beating about the bush and some of them have been discussing the foreign policy of the Government. The honourable member from whom we expected a lucid and reasonable speech was no less than my honourable friend, Lala Duni Chand. He is a competent lawyer and knows how to discuss things. But his today's speech has not impressed me in the least and I must say that

his speech amounts to nothing and can be described in a couplet, which runs as follows :—

دہت شور سنتے تو پہلے میں دل کا

جو چہرا تو اک قطرہ خون نہ نکلا

He started his speech from Rai Bahadur Lala Ram Lal, Director of Industries, and finished it with the rights and privileges of the Opposition party in the Assembly.

Anyhow I should like to reply to his speech very briefly. As I have already submitted, first of all he stated how Rai Bahadur Ram Lal, Director of Industries, was removed from his post. If my honourable friend has resented his Hindu brother being removed from this prize post and a Muhammadan being given a chance, my reply is that I also desire that this post hitherto occupied by Rai Bahadur Ram Lal for so many years should go to a Muslim. If my friend says that Rai Bahadur Ram Lal is a very able man, I would submit that the other departments should also be given chances to avail of the ability of Rai Bahadur Ram Lal. I pray to God that Rai Bahadur Ram Lal may live long. But if my honourable friends opposite attach so much importance to the removal of Rai Bahadur Lala Ram Lal I ask them, God forbid it, if he dies to-day what will be the position ?

**Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt :** This is a disgraceful argument.

**Mr. Speaker :** Please proceed.

**Mian Abdul Rab :** I pray that he may live till doomsday. But if the Government has given a chance to some other gentleman to get training in the Industries Department, why do my friends opposite feel upset and agitated ? I do not see any harm in this change. I am, however, unable to understand the mentality of the members of the Opposition. The other day my learned friend Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt moved a cut motion on this very subject and tried to create bitterness in the House and to throw mud on the Government benches. Then my honourable friend Lala Duni Chand began to refer to Mahatma Gandhi and the present war. I submit with due deference that Mahatma Gandhi is a very great leader. But I am afraid my friend Lala Duni Chand cannot understand the politics of Mahatma Gandhi and the present situation in India. Does he deny the fact that first of all Mahatma Gandhi putting off his differences assured the Viceroy that the Congress was with the British.

**Lala Duni Chand :** On a point of correction.

**Mr. Speaker :** Facts and figures may be corrected immediately if the honourable member, in possession of the House, gives way ; otherwise after he finishes his speech.

**Lala Duni Chand :** I think he has given way.

**Mr. Speaker :** No. He has resumed his seat because I am standing.

**Mian Abdul Rab :** Yes, Sir.

**Mr. Speaker :** Be sure of your facts.

**Mian Abdul Rab :** I was submitting that when Mahatma Gandhi after bringing about the pressure of constitutional crisis in Congress provinces and paying visits to His Excellency the Viceroy became sure that he

[Mian Abdul Rab.]

would not be able to bring the Viceroy on favourable terms. Suitable to his own community and having lost every hope he declared that the Congress could not help Imperialism.

**Lala Duni Chand :** He has not understood.

**Mian Abdul Rab :** I understand from my point of view and you understand from your own point of view.

**Mr. Speaker :** Why is the Honourable Member discussing Congress and Mahatma Gandhi ?

**Mian Abdul Rab :** Sir, the initiator of this debate was responsible for referring to them and I am only replying to his arguments. I noted the points then and there. But if you do not allow me I will not refer to them.

**Mr. Speaker :** Irrelevant matters may be easily made relevant by a learned lawyer.

**Mian Abdul Rab :** Thirdly, my learned friend Lala Duni Chand referred to a zaildar and read out a report of the Revenue Assistant of Sialkot.

That may be only one side of the picture. The Honourable Premier who may be in possession of the true facts of the case may give a proper reply to this and I need not waste the time of the House over this matter. Suffice it to say that a zaildar has nothing to do with the Budget. As a matter of fact the honourable member could not point out any flaw or defect in the Budget. He has pointed out only certain shortcomings of different departments. But he has said nothing about the actual Budget. It appears that the honourable member accepted the Budget as satisfactory. He has only avoided to congratulate the Government for the excellent relief measures which have been adopted by it. Ample sum has been provided for the famine in Hissar. I need not refer to other speeches of the Opposition members. Dr. Sant Ram Seth also followed the irrelevant ways of Lala Duni Chand and criticised the police only. He too failed to express his opinion about the Budget. When I see the Budget, not from any party view-point, but from the point of view of the province as a whole, I find the Budget satisfactory to a great extent. In view of the famine conditions the Budget can be said to be normal. But I may also be allowed to view the budget from the point of view of my own constituency which I have the honour to represent, and when I come to this, I find that justice has not been done to my district, i.e., Jullundur. The water level in this district is going lower and lower day by day. The matter has been under consideration of the previous Government as well as the present Government. It has remained under consideration for the last 25 years, but no definite step has been taken by the Government to redress this grievance of the zamindars. A special sub-division was opened last year by the Government and it was hoped that something useful would be done very soon. But we are still waiting for the result. After all there is a limit to one's patience. How long shall we continue to wait ? The time has come when the Government should immediately proceed to act on the experts' advice in order to raise the water level of the Jullundur district. I request the Government to bestow their special attention to this matter.

The second grievance of my district is that whereas the Government have suspended or remitted land revenue in the province to the extent of over three crores of rupees, they have not given any share in these remissions to the Jullundur district, although the Honourable Minister of Revenue in answer to a question from me was pleased to admit that barani crops have altogether failed in the Nakodar and Phillaur tahsils. As a matter of fact there have been no barani crops in those areas for the last three successive years. The Government should not ignore this part of the province at the time of granting remissions. It is a great pity that the Government did not agree to the recommendation of the Deputy Commissioner who had said that 25 per cent remissions should be granted in this area. Again, ehahi rates have not been abolished so far. On the other hand the water level is decreasing and the poor people who dig wells at their own expense have to bear further expenditures of deepening their wells, according to the decrease in the water level. I would request the Government to see that proper relief is given to the zamindars of this *ilaga* at the earliest moment.

Next I want to say one word to the Minister of Public Works, but I am sorry to find that the Honourable Major Malik Khizar Hayat Khan is not in his seat at this time. The House might be aware of the fact that a graveyard situated near Qila Phillaur which was in the possession of Muslims for several years past has now been transferred to the Superintendent of Police incharge of the Qila, Phillaur. The revenue officers of the area might have done this as a result of some conspiracy, I cannot say, but this entry in the revenue records is a sheer injustice. That is a clear interference and is obviously illegitimate. I would appeal to the Government to set the wrong right as soon as possible, and get the entries in the revenue papers corrected and ask the police authorities as to why they have adversely taken possession of the graveyard.

With these few words, Sir, I finish my speech and resume my seat.

**Tikka Jagjit Singh Bedi** (Montgomery East, Sikh, Rural) (*Urdu*) : My honourable friend Lala Duni Chand, who spoke for an hour has not been able to lay his finger on any loophole or defect in the Budget. It would have been better if he had addressed an audience outside Bhati Gate to please his fancy. This House has nothing to do with irrelevant speeches of this type.

Another honourable member of the Opposition was pleased to say that the Government had done nothing for the zamindars. It is strange that the honourable members of the Opposition go on beating their own drum of hatred against the Ministry irrespective of whether the Government helps the zamindars or not. The Opposition had better look to their own actions before criticising the Government. When the agrarian measures were brought up before this House at Simla these very persons raised a storm of protest against the action of the Government. But now they have the audacity to profess to be the great benefactors of the zamindars. They opposed every measure that was calculated to benefit the zamindars like the Marketing Bill, the Restitution of Mortgage Bill, and the Benami Bill. Now it does not lie in their mouth to claim to be in sympathy with the zamindars. The recent bye-elections should have been enough to disillusion them

[Tikka Jagjit Singh Bedi.]

about their influence in the country-side. The zamindars are no longer foolish to be taken in by their lip sympathy.

My honourable friend, Mian Abdul Rab, pointed out that the Opposition members did not criticise the Budget because they might not have read it. But I think that they must have read it and must have found it a sound one. They could not find any loophole in it. It was too sound a Budget for them to criticise successfully.

Now, Sir, the first and foremost duty before our Government should be to devise ways and means for the amelioration of the poor zamindar who is rightly considered to be the backbone of our country. We have to see how far and in what manner the present Government have endeavoured to achieve this object. The first thing in this direction is the provision of irrigation facilities to the zamindars. In this connection I may point out that during the last 3 years our Government have created a land mark in the history of Punjab irrigation by successfully constructing the Haveli Project. As a result of this the arid lands which previously could not be brought under cultivation for want of water, are now yielding rich harvests to the immense benefit of the zamindars. Then Government have taken in hand the execution of Thal Project. When fully developed the project is expected to provide irrigation for a million acres of land. This project is to be constructed at the cost of a colossal amount of Rs. 7½ crores. It redounds to the credit of our Government that they have undertaken this project in spite of the tremendous difficulties caused by the Hissar famine. Besides, I may mention the Bhakra Dam. This scheme has been a subject of constant and anxious study by our Government for a few years. But now they are concentrating their efforts to bring it to a successful conclusion. There are certain difficulties which will have to be surmounted before the scheme can be undertaken. But in the meantime they have prepared an alternative scheme for the study of the technique of which they had sent two distinguished Punjabi engineers to America. As this scheme, too, is expected to take some time, Government have taken in hand the important Western Jumna Kharif Extensions Scheme in order to provide all possible immediate relief to the south-eastern districts. It will cost Rs. 60 lakhs and is calculated to provide irrigation to an area of about 3½ lakhs of acres.

These are the glorious achievements as well as the splendid efforts of this Government in regard to the domain of irrigation. Now I come to the second method by which they have endeavoured to afford relief to the poverty-stricken zamindars. They have been helping the zamindars by granting them remissions and suspensions in land revenue at the time of distress. I may quote for the information of the House the figures in a consolidated form—

Year.	Total suspensions and remissions.				
	Rs.				
1937-38 .. .. .	..	..	..	..	97,17,000
1938-39 .. .. .	..	..	..	..	1,18,28,000
1939-40 .. .. .	..	..	..	..	1,46,97,000

These three years give an aggregate total of Rs. 3,62,37,000. Now let us compare these figures with those of the three years immediately preceding, when land revenue suspensions and remissions granted by the predecessor of our Government stood as follows:—

					Rs.
1934-35.	..	..	..	..	52,98,000
1935-36	..	..	..	..	42,80,000
1936-37	..	..	..	..	51,89,000

The total comes to Rs. 1,47,37,000. There are in addition remission of water rates granted by the Government. The aggregate up to date comes to Rs. 99,47,860. The remission in water rates granted by the previous Government during the preceding three years comes to Rs. 39,75,000. Honourable members would see that if we compare the figures, we find that our Government granted remissions and suspensions  $2\frac{1}{2}$  times more than the previous Government.

Now if we look to the beneficent departments, we find that our Government have been allocating grants to these departments on a liberal scale. I may be permitted to adduce figures in support of my contention.

Year.					Allocation of grant in lakhs of Rs.
1937-38	..	..	..	..	309
1938-39	..	..	..	..	322
1939-40	..	..	..	..	332
1940-41	..	..	..	..	346

I am sure that never in the history of the Punjab such a colossal amount has been earmarked for the beneficent departments.

Now so far as education is concerned, Government have started a whirlwind campaign to eradicate illiteracy, and girl education continues to receive increasing attention. It is proposed to start 80 primary schools for girls. Besides, 7 new vernacular middle schools are to be opened and the Middle School for Girls at Rewari is being raised to the high standard. Then as regards the Industries Department, Government have increased the grant by  $2\frac{1}{2}$  lakhs of rupees. Again, honourable members would be interested to know that Government have decided to open two industrial schools for girls at Lahore and Rawalpindi. In view of these hard facts I can say without any fear of contradiction that there is no department which has not received enhanced grant and increased attention of the Government.

While considering the provisions which have been made for the different departments, honourable members should bear in mind the difficulty which the Government had to confront, while preparing the Budget. That difficulty was the unprecedented famine of the Hissar district. In this connection the Government have spent something like 275 lakhs of rupees. With all this huge expenditure which the Government was called upon to incur, they have increased the provision for the beneficent departments. On this remarkable achievement the Honourable Finance Minister deserves our congratulations.

[Tikka Jagjit Singh Bedi.]

Before I resume my seat I would like to make one or two submissions to the Honourable Minister incharge of the Medical Department. In the first place I may point out that the professors and clinics who are employed in the Mayo Hospital are allowed to carry on private practice as well, and generally their practice is very large. The result is that they cannot discharge their hospital duties as efficiently as they should do. In addition they carry on their private practice in the time of their official duties for which they are paid so high salaries. I do not say that they should be debarred from carrying on their private practice but on the contrary my suggestion is they should be asked to deposit in the Government Treasury if not the whole at least a part of the money which they earn by private practice. Moreover when they perform operations, the nurses who attend the patients and the assistants who help the doctors to perform operations and the implements which they use, all belong to the Government. But it is a curious thing that the fees which they get from their patients find their way in their pockets alone. Justice demands that the private practice of such surgeons should be stopped altogether. It is just possible that the Honourable Minister may say by way of reply that if the Government forbade them to carry on their private practice the Punjab would be deprived of their services as such surgeons would naturally resign. In view of this my suggestion is that if the Government cannot stop their private practice at least they should ask such doctors to pay something to the Government Treasury from the income of their private practice.

My second submission is that now-a-days along with real degrees a large number of bogus degrees are also prevalent in the province. One can very well imagine as to what M.B., B.S. stands for, but after certain degrees there is one word more as well, that is, M.B., B.S.H. We fail to understand as to what this word "H" stands for. In short such are the bogus degrees which are prevalent in the country. If anybody wishes to have any such degree he has only to spend Rs. 10 or Rs. 20. In the circumstances I request the Honourable Minister incharge to close down such institutions which issue such bogus degrees so that the country should be saved from the depredations of the bogus degree holders.

Last but not the least the Government should also enact some sort of measure for vairs and hakims. Generally such vairs and hakims start their so-called profession in the villages and instead of saving or curing their patients they facilitate their deaths. I respectfully submit to the Honourable Minister to do something in this respect as well and save the rural people of the Punjab from the nuisance of the so-called vairs and hakims.

I would like to make one suggestion about the fruit industry in the province. Our Fruit Development Board has set up a nursery at Lyallpur in which they have planted high quality fruit trees. Naturally the maintenance of such a nursery entails expenditure as well. Besides, the advantages of that nursery do not accrue to any individual but go to the province as a whole. The expenses of the said Board are something like Rs. 10,000 a year, but in the Budget provision has been made only for Rs. 2,500. I

may point out that a similar board exists in the United Provinces as well but there that board is granted a substantial sum of Rs. 8,500. As compared to this the Fruit Development Board here is granted only Rs. 2,500. I would, therefore, request the Honourable Minister for Revenue to grant more money to this Board. In this connection I may also point out that many deputations have waited on the Honourable Minister in connection with setting up a fruit market in the Punjab. And so far only promises have been made and no practical action has been taken. It is high time that something should be done in connection with the setting of a fruit market so that the province should benefit as a whole. With these few remarks I resume my seat.

**Chaudhri Ali Akbar** (Gurdaspur, Muhammadan, Rural) (Urdu): Sir, at the very outset of my speech I want to congratulate the Honourable Minister of Finance for having introduced so commendable a Budget. But, before I proceed with my speech and put forth some suggestions I would like to answer the charges which my honourable friend, Lala Duni Chand, has thought fit to level on the zaildars. As a matter of fact during the course of his speech he vehemently attacked them in general and made a particular reference to a zaildar of the Hoshiarpur district. He was also pleased to remark that lawlessness was prevailing in that district and so far the Government had done nothing to put a stop to this state of affairs. But let me point out that it appears that he does not know as to what are the duties which the zaildars have to perform. In fact the zaildars help the Government in running their machinery. I may also make it clear to him that I am not a zaildar myself, though I was sometime back and now I have resigned the post. Nonetheless I have a good deal of experience about the duties which the zaildars are called upon to perform and on the basis of this personal experience I can say that if the police want to arrest any dacoit or murderer it cannot do so except with the active co-operation of the zaildars. I go further and say that the machinery of Government cannot run smoothly without their help. I want the honourable members opposite to name any department to which the zaildars do not render any help. Now in the presence of these circumstances in a district which is the hot bed of bad characters if any criticism is made against any zaildar that, in my opinion, is not a thing of which notice should be taken. But it is a matter of great regret that the honourable members opposite encourage the bad characters by pleading their cause on the floor of the House. Under these circumstances if even hundreds of complaints are made against any zaildar that he should be dismissed it would only encourage lawlessness in the district and nothing more.

Then my honourable friend Lala Duni Chand referred to the number of murders in the province. He blamed the Government for the increase in murder cases, but I would submit that in reality they are themselves responsible for it, because they spread disaffection everywhere and are putting stumbling blocks in the way of the administration. The miscreants are thus encouraged to break the law of the land. In this connection the Honourable Minister should pay special attention to the fact that the first information report lodged with the police should be recorded by a responsible police officer. At present the duty of recording such reports



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is usually in the hands of a head constable. This is of the utmost importance, because even in the High Court much depends upon the words of the first information report.

It is a usual occurrence that in a free fight between 15 or 20 persons if a man dies the person belonging to his party comes to the police station and lodges a report under section 302. No reference at all is made to the fight that actually took place. God knows whether the clerk on duty is bribed or he is deceived into recording a wrong report. Anyway on further investigations when the truth is made known to the police they are at a loss to understand how to chalan the case. Because they have recorded the case as of wilful murder in the first information report and now it has turned out to be a riot case under sections 147 and 304, i.e., culpable homicide and riot. The prosecution takes place in accordance with the first information report and the lower courts who are under the influence of the police commit the accused to the sessions court. Now the session judge who thoroughly goes through the case frames charges against the accused under section 304 or acquits them. This is not a mistake on the part of the police but a blunder committed by the legislators who have not amended the law so far.

Another reason for this apparent increase in the number of crimes is that innocent persons are implicated in falsely instituted cases, who are eventually acquitted in the sessions court. Now this procedure affords an opportunity to the police for accepting illegal gratification without fear of its detection, because if a case challaned by the police is referred to the sessions court, no blame is attached to the police. And as I have already stated, the lower courts even if they find in the course of the trial that the accused are innocent do not discharge them on account of their being under the influence of the police. If the Government were to prosecute those police officers who institute false cases, it would serve as a lesson to others and this action would go a long way in reducing the number of such cases. The Honourable Minister of Development is laughing, but let me inform him that this is not a matter which should be treated so lightly. Again sometimes it happens that the police having received illegal gratification, record the first information report falsely and cases are registered against many innocent persons. The Government cannot discriminate between good and bad. They do not make any distinction between honest and corrupt officers. I can cite many cases in which honest officers have not been promoted in spite of the fact that their rolls were sent up as many as four times whereas dishonest and corrupt officers have very often received promotions. So long as the Government do not recognise the services of honest officers and encourage them and do not prosecute dishonest officers the evil of corruption cannot be eradicated.

Now I come to the question of unemployment. I do not deny that the Government have done many things for the benefit of the zamindars, but I must make this submission that the Government have not taken any serious steps to improve the condition of the unemployed. It is not only the educated who are unemployed but even among the zamindar unemployment is on the increase. In my opinion it can be remedied by granting

lands to those agriculturists who have little or no land, so that they may be able to earn their own living. And secondly, by starting cottage and village industries for the huge, meagrely-literate masses; and so far as unemployment among the labouring classes is concerned, the Government should do all they can to further the development of industries. An increase in the number of factories will mean a decrease in the number of unemployed labourers.

Again, in the case of the educated unemployed a resolution was moved by me about 3 years ago to the effect that all those Government servants who have completed 25 years of service should be made to retire. Instead of keeping highly paid officials the Government can employ young men at half or one quarter of their salaries. Although they will have to pay pensions to those officers, yet they can effect a saving as well as reduce unemployment. But the difficulty is that we who represent the zamindars and offer sincere suggestions are not being listened to by the Government. Merely passing certain Acts would not benefit the zamindars of this province unless they are also properly enforced. The condition of the zamindars has not improved and if no immediate steps are taken by the Government, it will get worse. This is the thing which you should guard against, because if things are allowed to remain as they are the peasantry will turn against the Government. In connection with the agrarian legislation to which I was just now referring, I beg to submit that the Act which deals with the benami transactions is a very good measure, but here again the purpose of the Act is being nullified by deputing non-agriculturist officers to give effect to it. In this connection I am reminded of a Punjabi Proverb—

چو دہان دی بوہل تے کوٹا اکھا

Sir, the officers entrusted with the work should frequently tour about the villages, and very carefully prepare lists of benami transactions. I am of the opinion that the success in tracing the cases mostly depends upon their own diligence and sincerity of purpose. I may be allowed to suggest here that these officers should be asked to invite the persons concerned to mosques and mandirs and then administer oaths to them. Then and only then would they be in a position to know the real facts about the cases. The present practice adopted by these officers would do no good to the poor people. By merely recording evidence and preparing files no useful purpose can be served. I am not one of those who maintain that all the non-agriculturists are dishonest and corrupt. But according to the well-known Arabic saying *كل من جمع على امره* the non-agriculturist officers are sure to side with their own brethren. They can, with a single stroke of their pen, play havoc with the complaints filed by the agriculturists. Let me take this opportunity to warn the Government that the slightest mistake committed by any of its officers can give a great setback to its own popularity and stability. It is generally felt in the countryside that the relief measures recently passed by the Government are nothing but a fraud. They have miserably failed to relieve the debts of the zamindars. It has been often seen that while effecting a benami transaction the clever money-lender had made his benami holder furnish him with a pro-note equal to the amount advanced to his debtor. Now if by chance a benami

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transaction is declared null and void the fraudulent money-lender comes forward with the pro-note and insists upon speedy repayment of his debts failing which he gets a decree against him. Thus despite all these laws the condition of the mortgagee remains unameliorated. Now people have become sick of this hopeless state of affairs, and in fact great dissatisfaction and unrest is felt in villages against the present lukewarm attitude of the Government. I have reasons to believe that this discontent on the part of the rural community will have an adverse effect on the next general elections to the Assembly. In the end I request the Government to realize its duty and responsibility in the matter and see that these Golden Acts are properly given effect to.

**Pir Akbar Ali** (Fazilka, Muhammadan, Rural) (*Urdu*): Sir, our congratulations are due to the Honourable Finance Minister for preparing such a budget under the circumstances that are well-known to all of us. I must also congratulate the province and the Government on having such an able Minister. His constituency, the Punjab University, deserves our congratulations too. He has prepared a Budget involving more than 12 crores of rupees which may be described as flawless without any fear of contradiction. You know, Sir, there are always some people who would find fault with the most perfect thing. I admit that it is the duty of the Opposition to criticise the Government and therefore the Congress party is well within its rights to criticise those provisions of the Budget which they do not like. But I must ask them to remember that the faculty of speech is a boon from God which should be used for uttering sweet and pleasant words and not for hurling abuses. We always speak of their leaders and great men with due respect; but the words used by the other side about our leaders and Ministers are, to say the least, not in keeping with the dignity of this House. Perhaps you are not aware of what happened yesterday. However, I will leave that alone and say only this much that what ever merits the Congress may possess, the specimen of Congressites that we see here are not such as would impress anybody and enhance the prestige of that organisation. A tree is known by its fruit. Anyway, we should not display a lack of gratitude by withholding praise which is due to the Finance Minister who has prepared this Budget, and to our wide-awake and sympathetic premier who is responsible for the policy of the Government. In fact the whole cabinet deserves to be congratulated.

Very scathing criticism has been levelled against the Government with regard to the expenditure on additional Police. My complaint is that in my district the Police force is not enough to cope with the work. That district is surrounded by Indian States like Bikaner, Bahawalpur, Nabha, Patiala and Malerkotla. Another State, Faridkot, lies within the district. Recently there have been six cases of dacoity in the Fazilka tahsil of the district; but instead of increasing the police force, an additional Superintendent and other officers have been called back. The police in my district is very active and vigilant. Four King's medals have recently been awarded to its officials. But the volume of work is such that they cannot cope with it in spite of their best efforts. Life and property in the rural areas have become so insecure that people want to migrate to towns and cities. Even a man with no more than Rs. 50 with him is not secure. Now, what is

the remedy? The Government cannot disarm the dacoits who can get rifles and pistols from the States and, therefore, the only course open to it is to be liberal in granting gun licences to the people. In many villages there is not even a single gun. Moreover, a licensee is allowed to keep with him no more than 25 cartridges and even these are to be used with the permission of the sub-inspector of police. We have a zamindar Government; but we are allowed only cartridge No. 6 for our safety, and even that under so many restrictions.

I submit that a liberal grant of licences is not going to disturb peace and tranquillity in any way. You cannot create an armed revolution with twelve-bore shot guns. Nothing untoward has happened in Mianwali or Bikanir where licences are granted freely. You should treat the people of Ferozepore in the same liberal manner. Let the licence fee be raised if you will, but grant us more licences so that we may be able to defend our life and property against dacoits. Moreover, you should arrange that equal treatment is meted out to all in the grant of licences. The method should not be such as would enable a sahukar to get a licence for every member of his family while the applications from poor zamindars may lie unheeded with the Sub-Divisional Officer or the Sub-Inspector of Police. The Government is a trust which the people have placed in your hands, and, therefore, it is your bounden duty to make their lives and property secure. Besides granting licences on a liberal scale and increasing the police force in the district the Government should better the condition of roads. For instance, the roads between Ferozepore and Fazilka as well as between Fazilka and Malot should be metalled. Another suggestion which I would like to make in this connection is that telephones should be installed in each police station so that no time may be lost in calling the police in cases of emergency.

As regards the indebtedness of zamindars I would suggest that if a debt was incurred when the agricultural produce fetched high prices it should be reduced proportionately with the fall in prices. The rate of interest should also be reduced. Moreover, if a debtor has already paid the principal and there is an abnormal fall in prices his debt should be wiped out entirely.

Then I come to land revenue and water rates. My district pays Rs. 60,00,000 to the Government; the Fazilka tahsil alone paying Rs. 22,00,000; but we have never been favoured with any remission at all. I must say that it is not the Government but the laws and rules that are responsible for the hardships that we have to face. For instance, at the time of settlement the average yield of every crop is fixed, and for purposes of remission if  $\frac{1}{4}$  of a crop matures then no remission would be admissible. The average yield of cotton in the Ferozepore district fixed at the time of settlement is 4 maunds a bigha, while in Lyallpur it is 12 maunds but the water rates are the same in both districts. In Ferozepore, if the yield of a matured crop is, say, one maund only, there will be no remission; but in Lyallpur if it is a seer less than 8 maunds, remission will be due. I ask, what has abiana to do with the average yield fixed at the time of a settlement? It should depend on prices; and prices being the same in the whole province, both districts should be treated equally in the matter of remissions of water rates.

[Pir Akbar Ali.]

Another grievance to which I want to draw the attention of the Government is with regard to the contract relating to the pond at Abohar with an area of 400 bighas. It was I who raised this question, but when the officers at last decided to attend to the problem the contract was given not to the people of Ferozepore but to those belonging to the Gujranwala district. I am at a loss to understand why this injustice is being done to the people of my district and I request the Government to do the needful to remove this grievance of ours.

I am glad to say that during this year there have been fewer communal riots in the Punjab as compared with other provinces. (*Cheers.*) But I must draw the attention of the Government to the most objectionable immoral posters issued on various occasions. As regards their language and subject matter the less said the better. (*Hear, hear.*) The Government should not lose any time in checking this evil.

Last year I drew the attention of the Government to the fact that the work in connection with consolidation of holdings was not making sufficient progress due to the fact that it was being carried on under different departments. I suggested that it should be entrusted to one department, the Revenue Department. But no attention has so far been bestowed on that suggestion. I again request the Government to look into the matter without delay.

Next I want to say just one word with regard to passports. In this respect we are placed at a great disadvantage. For instance, it is well nigh impossible for us to get a passport to America. But any American can come to India without the least hitch. May I ask the reason for this state of affairs? Are all Americans saints and every Indian a criminal?

I may also point out that things purchased by the Government are purchased at a much higher rate than the bazar prevailing rates. For instance, a few days ago gur was purchased for Ferozepore Jail at a much higher rate than the bazar rates.

My submission is that such methods should be given up. Next I would draw the attention of the Government to the dilapidated condition of roads. Do the zamindars not deserve that a certain amount of money out of the land revenue paid by them should be spent for their comforts? Generally speaking, the condition of roads is very bad and it is becoming worse day by day. Then I come to Retrenchment Committee. We do not find a hint of it in the present Budget. How are the proposals of retrenchment and new taxes to be treated?

Besides, I would like to draw the attention of the Honourable Minister of Education to another important point that boys under 12 years of age who have to appear for middle examination are made to sit for six hours. The boys of such tender age should be given one paper of three hours daily and not two papers of 6 hours.

My next submission is in regard to district boards. I suggest that the ex-officio members of district boards should be taken from different departments. But what is being done is that they make a company of persons belonging to the same departments. For instance, they take

one Civil Surgeon, one Health Officer and third a doctor of some hospital. In this way they get persons from the same department. This is very objectionable. I am afraid such companies have never proved successful.

In this way you shall have to take one engineer from the Public Works Department, one from the Canal Department, another from some other department.

**Mr. Speaker :** The honourable member's time is over.

**Sayed Mohy-ud-Din Lal Badshah** (Attock South, Muhammadan, Rural (Urdu) : Sir, the Government have presented this Budget for proper and fair criticism before the House after having considered it thoroughly. What we are here to do is to discuss the general policy of the Government and to express our honest opinion about the present as well as the future state of affairs. I would submit those points one by one which can be criticised by the honourable members of this House. Firstly, the amount of money realised on account of the sale of agricultural lands belonging to zamindars has been shown under the head of income in this Budget. But my submission is that the agricultural lands already sold or auctioned or which the Government intends to sell will not go a long way to help the Government and the province as well. I, therefore, submit that under the present circumstances it is not in the public interest to do so. To sell or to auction landed property in markets can be reasonable to some extent and it is regarded to be reasonable. But to auction agricultural lands cannot be regarded reasonable and legitimate in any case. So far as the removal of this practice of selling and auctioning agricultural lands in canal areas is concerned I had already tabled a resolution to be moved in the House but unfortunately we have had no opportunity to discuss it as yet. Anyhow I request the Government with all the earnestness at my command to abandon this policy of auctioning agricultural lands, as these lands are going into the hands of those who are either non-agriculturists or capitalists, and the tillers of the soil are in this way deprived of their lands and privileges. They have, therefore, no alternative but to starve. I may also point out that if the facts and figures with regard to those lands be collected which have been auctioned or sold so far, you will find that at least 90 per cent of agricultural lands have gone into the hands of non-agriculturists or moneylenders or capitalists. If the Government do not agree with me in granting lands to people *gratis*, I would most respectfully submit that the lands should be divided amongst those who have not got it, and that the Government should realise the same price from petty grantees by easy instalments which would likely be realised by putting it to auction.

The second point to which I should like to draw the attention of the Government is the realisation of permanent land revenue from *barani* areas. In this connection I would also request them to give up this practice. So far as canal areas are concerned permanent land revenue can be realised, but in *barani* ilaqas permanent land revenue cannot be assessed as the crops in those ilaqas are not certain. One cannot say whether any crop will be successful in *barani* areas. For instance, I refer to my district where no crop has ever been successful.

[Sayed Mohy-ud-Din Lal Badshah.]

I brought the pitiable condition of a village to the notice of the Minister of Revenue and he promised to hold an inquiry, but full one year has passed and yet nothing has come out of it. 4 p. m. Had there been no fixed land revenue, the land which was not sown could not have been charged. But as land revenue is assessed in this area irrespective of whether a particular field is cultivated or not, the poor land-owners have to pay the fixed Government demand even when several successive crops fail due to the absence of rains. If the land revenue demand of the Government is not fixed in *barani* areas, the cultivators would have this concession that they would be asked to pay land revenue only for those fields which have been cultivated and matured and not for those acres which have not been cultivated or which have failed.

Another thing that I notice in the Budget is that provision for taccavi loans is too small to be regarded sufficient for the purpose. The total of this item is 43 lakhs and the municipal committees and the zamindars have all to draw upon this. Our past experience reveals that a lion's share is given to the local bodies and a meagre portion is allowed to the zamindars. I may request the Government to pay special attention to the poverty-stricken zamindars, and provide more money in the budget for taccavi loans to be given to the zamindars.

No doubt the Government have been very liberal in offering relief to the South-Eastern districts, but they have not paid due attention to the western districts which are even worse off than the eastern districts. I may point out that the western districts are in the grips of want and scarcity. Government should afford relief to them immediately before the people of that area die for want of food.

The third thing that I want to mention is that the financial state of this province is very much the same as it was previously. A minor change here and there in the Budget would not do. To curtail or increase certain expenditure does not require much ability or skill. What is wanted is a fresh outlook and a new angle of vision. I would submit with due deference to the Honourable Minister of Finance that he should devise means to increase the income of the province. It may be doubled or even trebled if the will is there. Let us cast off the distinction of banias and non-banias. Our duty is to see impartially as to who fills the provincial exchequer and who benefits most from it. Clearly the capitalistic classes for whose protection the police and courts are there draw more advantage than the agriculturists. The zamindars are more hard hit by the taxes than the rich citizens. All the amenities of good roads, hospitals and colleges, are mostly provided by the zamindars and mostly enjoyed by others. More taxes should be levied on those capitalists who have hitherto escaped taxation. Those classes who pay income-tax to the Central Government make no contribution to the provincial coffers, in spite of the fact that they draw the greatest advantage from the provincial expenditure. My submission in this behalf is that the provincial Government should also levy a tax on those who pay income-tax to the Central Government. This provincial charge should be equal to the amount of the income-tax. This fact needs

no explanation that income-tax is imposed only on that income which exceeds two thousand rupees and even then a very low percentage is charged. But the land revenue demand is one-fourth of the income of a zamindar even if the annual income of a cultivator may be one rupee.

Now I come to another very important matter to which none of the speakers who have already spoken before either from this side or that side of the House, have referred at all. I mean the morality of the province. The Government have not sought to improve the morals of the services or of the public. In fact the policy of the Government is calculated to adversely affect the people at large, inasmuch as magisterial powers are often given to those persons who do not deserve such powers or honours. As it is, persons of low moral character and vindictive nature are generally allowed a long rope to wield these magisterial powers as they will. Their main aim is to keep the poor people under their thumb by fair means or foul. I may add that powers conferred by Government cannot improve those who are already corrupt. But people are made to respect them simply because Government honours them. The slavish mentality of the people cannot be cured as long as they are not delivered from such daily atrocities. May be there are some honorary magistrates or judges who are capable as well as honest. But their number must be very small; in fact too small to be counted at all. The majority is of those whose prestige and living both depend on their honorary powers. They perpetrate atrocities and avenge themselves on the people. All this directly affects the Government. If the system of conferring honorary powers is not abolished, the mentality of the people will not change. You may compare the mentality of the inhabitants of an ilaqa where there is no honorary magistrate with the mentality of those in whose ilaqa there are honorary magistrates. This comparison will reveal as to who is the more slavish. I fail to understand why those persons who already command respect on account of their moral excellence and the status of their family, should try to acquire the rod of authority in order to overawe and oppress the poor people. Three years ago, I had brought this point to the notice of the Premier and it is a great pity that he has not done anything in the matter in spite of the fact that he had promised to do the needful for abolishing the system of honorary magistrates. He can take a leaf out of the history of the North-West Province where the Congress Government have abolished the system of honorary magistrates or sub-judges, and yet the administration is going on as before.

In the end I want to say a word about the defence of the country. It is often said that we are not fit or able to defend our country if the British leave us. That is no doubt true. But the chief cause is that we are never given an opportunity to improve our ability to defend the country. I am sorry to add that the only organisation that was calculated to train the public in social service and thereby also infuse military spirit, I mean the Khaksar movement, has been banned by the Punjab Government.

This movement might have been useful at some later stage, for the defence of the country. If, however, the Government wants to prevent such movements, they should also take some steps to impart compulsory



[Sayed Mohy-ud-Din Lal Badshah.]  
military training. It should be made obligatory for every Punjabi to receive military training in the Government centres within a certain age limit.

**Chaudhri Jugal Kishore** (Ambala and Simla, General, Reserved Seat, Rural) (Urdu): Sir, the honourable members on the ministerialist benches have showered exaggerated praises on the Budget although it is neither unique nor excellent. It is full of defects to which pointed attention has been drawn by the honourable members on this side of the House. I have no mind to dwell upon the limitations of this Budget. I leave it to my brethren of the Opposition to expose them in a better way. As I am here to represent the cause of the Achhuts, I would criticise that part of the Budget which particularly relates to them. I may point out that in the budgets presented during the last three years, i.e., since the advent of this Government, no provision worth the name has been made for the amelioration and uplift of the Harijans. Last year a sum of Rs. 10 thousand was earmarked for the construction of wells to be used by the Harijans. But when I asked questions regarding this amount, the Government gave evasive replies from which I could not make out anything. I particularly put questions in regard to Arnavli village in which an amount of Rs. 934 was stated to have been spent by Government for the purpose of sinking wells. I enquired of the Government as to where the said village was situated in the Ambala District and in what manner was the said amount utilised. It is a pity that the Government did not give a satisfactory reply. It is obvious that a provision to the tune of Rs. 10 thousand was made in the Budget but no account had been kept regarding the utilisation of the money. A similar amount has been provided in the present Budget for the purpose of constructing wells. In this connection I would like to know whether Government considers the Achhuts of the Punjab as much advanced, highly educated and considerably well off so that the authorities have deemed it fit not to provide any funds for their betterment. Does the Government think that the Punjab Achhuts are ahead of the Achhuts of other provinces so much so that they do not require any further facilities or amenities of life and that a mere provision of Rs. 10 thousand for the construction of wells would suffice? Perhaps the Government is under the impression that the Punjab Achhuts have reached the zenith of their glory and now they should be dragged into wells. (Laughter). May I know if wells are the only means left to Government for improving the miserable lot of Achhuts? If my honourable friends opposite care to pay a visit to the villages, they would find that the Achhuts are in a miserable plight. I would rather say that since this Government came into power, their condition has gone from bad to worse. When the Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram during his tours harangues to the ignorant zamindars and tells them that now they are the rulers and masters of the situation, their joy knows no bounds. But the result of such harangues is that the zamindars commit all sorts of atrocities on the Achhuts. I may also point out that the Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram has been an old enemy of the scheduled castes. He has been throughout in favour of the Land Alienation Act of 1902 which debars the Achhuts from purchasing or mortgaging any land. Again, the Government have enacted agrarian laws because they were bitterly oppose

to the attitude of *banias* who charged exorbitant rates of interest from the zamindars. But may I know what grudge they bear against us that we have been deprived of the right of purchasing land in the Punjab. I must say that under the British regime everybody is at liberty to buy anything with money. No restriction has been placed on anybody. Even people from outside can take advantage of it and buy land. But it is a thousand pities that here in the land of five rivers the Unionist Government have placed restrictions on our community and we are prohibited from purchasing land under the Land Alienation Act. I may submit that ordinarily Achhuts do not reside in the ilaqas from where the Honourable Premier and the Honourable Major Khizar Hayat hail. But they abound in the ilaga of Sir Chhotu Ram. There the zamindars take almost the whole of agricultural work from them. The land Aliendation Act was enacted because the Government had apprehensions that if the Achhuts were permitted to purchase land they would not meekly obey the behests of the zamindars.

(At this stage Mr. Speaker left the chair and Mr. Deputy Speaker occupied it.) The zamindars also think that if the Achhuts were allowed to colonise a certain land, they would not be able to dominate over them and coerce them to carry out their fats.

I want to bring one thing to the notice of my honourable Achhut friends who are at present siding with the Unionist party that if they are under the impression that the Government have done a great favour to them by appointing them as Parliamentary Private Secretaries on Rs. 250 a month, they are mistaken. The fact of the matter is that the Government have done no favour to them. This was our right. They are not giving anything by way of charity. I may tell them that if they have an ambition to become Parliamentary Secretaries or even Ministers, Sir, Chhotu Ram Sir Sikandar-Hyat Khan cannot give them these offices. As a matter of fact it is we who can appoint them as such. My Achhut friends opposite and particularly my honourable friend, Sardar Gopal Singh show great anger for Manu because he framed very harsh laws for the Achhuts; but I may point out to them that we do not know whether Manu framed these laws or not. In fact this is a story of the past. Let bygones be bygones. We even do not know whether Manu framed these laws or some selfish individual enacted them. But what we have to see is as to what harsh laws the Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram or for the matter of that the Manu of the present times has enacted for us. Let me point out that such harsh measures as the Land Alienation Act was enacted by the party of the Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram. I ask them whether in the presence of such hard facts they are prepared to side with the party which does not remove these hardships from the Achhuts. As a matter of fact they should not side with such a party which is enacting such stringent measures for the Achhuts rather they should regard this party as the party of the Manu of these days.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker :** Please do not be personal.

**Chaudhri Jugal Kishore :** Now I wish to make a submission and that is that at present some sort of self-Government which has been given to the Indians is the result of the hard labours of the Congress Leaders. In fact they have toiled so much for getting independence that to-day we see

[Ch. Jugal Kishore.]

that the provincial legislatures consist mostly of Indians. I want to make it clear that we are not opposed to the fact that India should not get independence. But we are better off without such independence which we have obtained in the Punjab under the rule of the Unionist party. I would rather appeal to Mahatma Gandhi to save us from this independence. We do not stand in need of it.

Next, I wish to say something with regard to those things which we need in this province. In the first place my submission is that we should be declared as agriculturists by amending the Land Alienation Act. The reason for this is that we have been carrying on this profession since times immemorial and we are entitled to be declared as such. I may point out that a person who works as a blacksmith can call himself a blacksmith. In the same way a person who works as a goldsmith can call himself as a goldsmith; but why should we not be declared as agriculturists although we have been engaged in this profession for the past many generations. It is really a great injustice that even though we are engaged in agricultural work, still we are not declared as agriculturists. I think the old adage.

اندھیر نگرے چڑھت راجہ

نگے سیر بہاجی نے سیر کہا جا

aply applies to my honourable friends over there.

Now Sir, one word more and I have done. I want to tell the honourable members as to how our Government is treating us and what favours other Government have done to our community there. If we ask the Government that they should appoint any one from amongst us as a tahsildar, we are told that suitable candidates are not forthcoming from the Acchuts and therefore, it cannot be done. Against this I wish to point out to the honourable members that B. A.s, M. A.s, and M. A. B. T.s, are found amongst us; but nobody cares a fig for them and in fact the present Ministry is doing nothing for the Acchuts. Against this the Congress Government of the United Provinces have appointed Moti Lal Vayas as a tahsildar and I have with me his photo as well.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker :** The honourable member's time is over.

**Chaudhri Jalal-ud-Din Ambar** (West Central Punjab, Indian Christian (Urdu) : Sir, as it is the desire of most of the honourable members that I should speak in Urdu, I would, in deference to their wishes speak in Hindustani. To begin with I may point out that every year the Budget is presented as receipts and expenditure is explained. After all this is the way of the world :

صبح ہوتی ہے شام ہوتی ہے

عمر بونہی تمام ہوتی ہے

Now if we cast a glance on the Budget we would find that the revenue of the province is Rs. 11,74,00,000 and expenditure is Rs. 12,02,00,000 and the deficit is Rs. 28,00,000. But if extraordinary receipts, which amount to Rs. 50 lakhs, are included in the revenues the year will close with a substantial surplus of Rs. 22 lakhs. I think it is the good luck of the Punjab.

that its geographical position is such that it helps in producing extraordinary receipts. But my honourable friend Pir Mohy-ud-Din Lal Badshah has pointed out that the Government get these extraordinary receipts by selling their crown lands. Further, it has been pointed out that the money that the Government have received from extraordinary receipts has been well spent in order to give relief to the famine-stricken area of Hissar. But my submission is that while spending such extraordinary receipts on providing relief to the famished people this fact should be borne in mind whether its expenditure was justified or not. Even if we admit that its expenditure was quite justified, even then I may point out that if we consider the Budget very carefully we would feel the necessity of having a concentration or a famine fund in the province so that we should be able to meet unforeseen calamities. I may add that a fund of this nature existed some-time back and now I request the Honourable Minister to give his urgent consideration to this matter. Otherwise if the Government go on selling these crown lands they will very shortly exhaust this source of reserve capital.

Again, it is stated that numerous economies have resulted in a surplus of 22 lakhs, but no explanation is given by the Honourable Minister of Finance either in his Budget speech or in the Memorandum, that such and such economies have been effected, to enable us to go into their merits or demerits. The Honourable Minister cannot work a miracle. After all the income can only be had from such sources as already exist, and if this has been achieved without tapping any fresh sources it is very creditable. The Honourable Minister of Finance and the Financial Secretary deserve our congratulations for their hard work and very able handling of the provincial finances. But the conditions of the province demand a revolutionary speeding up of all activities. This is a zamindar Government and therefore they ought to do more than they are at present doing. I do not deny that the expenditure on beneficent departments has increased by 17 lakhs as compared with last year. But taking into consideration the progress in literacy from the year 1920, a period for which we have figures before us, we find that only about 8 per cent of the population has become literate. It is not a juggler's trick nor is it a miracle. The surplus is being spent on these departments. But in spite of all this the progress is not as quick as it ought to be. If Japan had made progress at this pace it would not have been the same power that it is to-day. The Government seem to subscribe to the view expressed in the verse :—

آهسته خرام بکام مہرام      زلا قدمت مزار جان است

But if you progress at a snail's pace as you are doing now, the nationalist spirit would not be created even in 100 years' time. I am aware of the reply that I will get, but why should not Government seriously undertake to tap the two sources, viz., reducing expenditure and levying new taxes for getting enough money to pay for the necessary expenses in this connection. You are not boldly tackling this problem. It is no doubt, true that you cannot reduce the salaries of the Indian Civil Service Officers, but even where you can, you are not doing anything. Now what is the necessity of these additional or assistant inspectors? Of what use are

[Ch. Jalal-ud-Din Ambar.]

these imposing structures of your schools? You should conform your ideas of efficiency to the economic conditions of our province :—

مئی غروب باہندی تھی عشرہری چوب

and give more thought to removing illiteracy at a low cost. There is no fun in keeping up the standard of European efficiency. We should do things in accordance with the conditions prevailing here and should try our best to remove illiteracy. The Honourable Minister of Finance will deserve our sincere thanks and congratulations if he could produce a revolutionary change with the present resources. In the Departments of Agriculture and Public Health as well as in other departments development can be effected by less costly methods. The same thing can also be done in other beneficent departments.

Now coming to the question of taxation, I would propose that the limit of taxable income should be reduced to Rs. 1,000. I do not see any reason why when the agriculturists have to pay land revenue at a considerably higher rate on incomes many times smaller than the incomes of those who are assessed to income-tax, why should not the limit of Rs. 2,000 be brought down? In my opinion the Government should boldly do this without caring for the opposition of the people. Again, the Government can increase their receipts under the Motor Vehicles Act. They can very easily charge more from those who are holding monopolies for themselves or replace the system by healthy competition. Your success will be measured by achievements which you can justly claim to have been due to your efforts, and not by making promises. Now, what about reduction in revenue and abiana and the prohibition? What about the generous treatment of the minorities?

It has been repeated *ad nauseum* on the floor of the House that the Government has done this and that for the benefit of Achhuts. But let me tell my honourable friends opposite that if the Government has extended any favour to them there is nothing to be proud of. In fact every responsible Government is expected to do its duty by the minorities. But it is a pity that in spite of the fact that we, the Indian Christians are also in a minority in the province the Government is meting out a step-motherly treatment to our rights and interests. The Christian community is not favoured with those rights and privileges which have been extended to the Achhuts. I may be allowed to mention here that I do not grudge them those privileges. Far be it from my mind to do so. What I want to do is to press the demands of my own community. I need hardly say that the general condition of the Christians in various parts of the province is even worse than that of the Achhuts. They are still made to give *begar* in the villages. They have no wells for drinking water. They cannot buy agricultural lands. Their children are not granted scholarships for prosecuting studies. When Government lands are granted in the colonies the Christians are not favoured duly. And last but not least their share in the Government services, in the departments of revenue, police, agriculture, forest, etc., is hopelessly negligible and no weightage has been given to them in the education and

medical departments where they claim pioneer work. They are cultivators of land, but yet not agriculturists. They cannot buy land and they have no graveyards in many places and cannot obtain land for a house of worship. I would request the Government to remove all these genuine grievances of ours and accede to our legitimate demands. In dealing with minorities the Government should not stick to a set proportion. It should be generous in order to create confidence in their mind.

Since the time at my disposal is very short I would briefly say that the present Budget is awfully wanting in any scheme of national uplift. No provision has been made for effecting a healthy change in the general outlook of the province. In short, I feel constrained to say that the preparation of this Budget was a purposeless adventure. It is a pity that the present Government has signally failed in bringing about a communal harmony in the province. Let me tell my friends opposite that there are two main functions of every responsible Government. One is to accord better treatment to the public at large, and the second to hold the balance even between the various communities by maintaining goodwill and better understanding among them.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker :** The honourable member's time is up.

**Chaudhri Jalal-ud-Din Ambar :** I would finish my speech in a minute, Sir. I am sorry to say that instead of fostering and promoting better relations between the various communities the Punjab Government has created class hatred and communal bitterness. The present policy of the Government is responsible for creating disintegration and more classes, where there were only Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs and Christians. Now we find in addition to them agriculturists and non-agriculturists, sahu-kars and non-sahu-kars, urban and rural, and rich and poor. Let me warn the Government that it is absolutely unpatriotic on its part to encourage such factious sentiments. I ask you, where is your 5 years' programme and where is your progressive spirit? What is your contribution towards joint electorates and political advancement of India as a nation? Do not let the posterity say 'You were weighed and found wanting' and in the words of Naziri :—

توبہ خویشتن چه کردی کہ بیا کمی نظیری  
بغدا کہ واجب آمد ز تو احتراز کردن

**Lala Sita Ram (Trade Union, Labour) (Urdu) :** Sir, before I proceed with my speech I would like to say that the rule regarding the allotment of only a few days for general discussion on the Budget Estimates should be amended. The Honourable members of the opposition are perfectly justified in complaining against the present state of affairs. Owing to the limited time at our disposal a member is given at the most 15 minutes to speak on the Budget, but may I ask, Sir, as to whether it is possible for a man to discuss the whole Budget and to offer constructive criticism in this short span of 15 minutes? The discussion on the Budget happens to be the most important feature of the legislative proceedings. It is a question of public revenue worth 11 crores of rupees and is therefore, not a light matter. It is the sacred duty of every member of the house to seek avenues by which he can be faithful and helpful to the constituency which has returned him to this House. He must see whether the expenditure proposed in the Budget

[Lala Sita Ram.]

is fairly proportionately spent on the betterment of his constitution. Surely all this cannot be done within so short a time and especially when the copies of the voluminous budget are supplied to us only a few days before and it is physically impossible to go through the whole of it, much less understand it and find its shortcomings. Thus without dilating further on these introductory remarks I would like to submit that necessary amendment should be made in the rules so that more days may be allotted for the general discussion on the Budget. In this way, I am sure, every honourable member would be in a position to express his opinions and offer useful criticism on the Budget.

The second point I would draw your attention to is the strange mode of discussion on the Budget. Sir, it has become a common practice in the House that when honourable members adorning the treasury benches get up to make speeches on the Budget they begin with showering encomiums on the Finance Minister for its preparation, and when the members of the Opposition rise for the purpose they think it their bounden duty to condemn the general policy of the Government. In fact very few of them ever care to go through the Budget, and realise their grave duty. In my opinion it is all due to the diehard attitude of the Government that most of the honourable members do not take interest in the study of this elaborate statement of our receipts and expenditure. We anticipate that Government is not going to listen to us, therefore we cease taking keen interest and the result is that one section of the province feeds itself fat at the cost of other equally deserving sections and classes. No doubt budgets are prepared under a set policy of the Government, but the Government should be, at the same time, open-minded on the question of Budget. They should welcome useful suggestions coming from this side of the house. They should not be step-motherly in their treatment towards other classes who have equal claim upon them. To-day the policy of the present Government is to benefit the agriculturists and ameliorate their condition. Personally I am not against their uplift; but it becomes most objectionable when you go out of the way to benefit them and injure other classes. It does not constitute practical politics. Such a policy is open to serious objections. It is not politic and much less reasonable on the part of the Government to benefit a single community at the expense of others. We were under the impression that provincial autonomy would increase the national wealth of the province and make the people of the Punjab more prosperous. But now it has dawned on us that provincial autonomy is nothing better than a grant of mandate to a party to rob Peter to pay Paul. The Punjab Government is ruining one class of people for the benefit of the other, and cries from their hill-tops that they are fair to all. Let me take the earliest opportunity to point out to you that the present Government is suffering from a wrong notion. A wrong impression is sticking to their minds that the interests of agriculture and industry stand poles asunder. This contagion is spreading to others and the two classes of people are not pulling together. Let me furnish an illustration. You have completed the Haveli Project, and now you are starting the Thal Project simply to increase the agricultural produce of those areas. But I take this opportunity to warn the Government that by increasing the productivity of the

soil you are going to ruin rather than help the agriculturists, for the prices would fall with a rise in the productivity of the soil. And thus the ultimate result would be chaos and confusion. But no such risks can stare you in the face if you promote industrial development in the province side by side. You can help industry and agriculture at one and the same time, if you decide to put an effective restraint on the import of finished goods from foreign countries, encourage the moneyed classes to start factories and if they will try to absorb all the raw material produced in the province. I need hardly say that there are people who have money enough to invest on such enterprises; what they really require is the State encouragement. By promoting industry in the province you would increase the purchasing power of an average Punjabi. In this way I am sure the frequent visitations of famines would also become a thing of the past. Passingly, I may mention here that the present famine is not due to any over-productivity or under-productivity of the soil. People would suffer from famine only where there is no industry. Had there been mills and factories to provide labour and livelihood, the tillers of the land would certainly not starve. A famine is a scourge of God for which the Government has to thank their own intentions and motives. You want to chain the peasants to soil only and nature is out to warn you and teach you a lesson.

So, your intentions are to be praised or cursed. Here I am reminded of a king, who in the guise of a common man, used to tour his empire for personal knowledge. Once, during his visit to the country, he met a man with a cow which yielded 20 seers of milk. Avarice and greed took hold of the king and he cherished the ill-intention to have the cow. But first of all, he must make sure whether the animal did yield so much of milk. He asked the owner to milk it, but water, instead of milk, came out of the teats. Struck with wonder the king asked the owner the reason for that. The innocent, simple, honest owner, who did not know that the stranger in disguise was no other than the king himself, and who belonged to that honest section of the subjects who rightly attribute all calamities to the dishonest intentions of the rulers, at once remarked that there was something wrong with the intentions of the king of the country. The king was put to shame, as his own conscience was pleading guilty. This brought a change in his mind and just the very moment the cow began to yield milk. I would therefore ask the present Government to change their mind and cherish benevolent intentions. My point is that we doubt the *bona fides* of the Government. If their intention is not sincere they may do whatever they like for the welfare of the province, but take it from me that they will not be able to have Almighty's blessings, as it is said :—

My submission is that by industrialising the province the benefit will be threefold. The zamindars will be benefited on one side and capitalists on the other side and labour will not lag behind in taking advantage of it. But it is a matter of regret that as regards labour the Government have not done anything substantial since we are here in this House. I may point out that when I was sitting on the ministerial benches certain Bills were brought in the House which were to help labour. I suggested to the Government in our party meeting to support them as their object was to ameliorate the



[Lala Sita Ram.]

condition of poor labourers. But, do you know what the Government's reply to it was? They said that there were some defects in those Bills and that they would introduce those Bills themselves after making improvements in them. I waited and am still waiting for that particular time when the Government would take serious steps to give a lift to the labouring classes. But I am sorry to say that neither any Bill nor any resolution was passed by the Government to this effect. I admit that the Unionist Government is governing the province on the strength of zamindars and therefore they have to take every step to please them. But anyhow they should have paid considerable heed to unemployed labourers rotting in the urban areas. These are hard facts which cannot be concealed. I therefore, want to draw the attention of the Government to this matter in particular. I being the representative of the railway constituency, regard it my urgent duty to ask the Government not to neglect the interests of the railway labour. You would come forth in season and out of season to help the zamindars, but for the dumb-driven labourers you have no sympathy. Thousands of your Punjabi brethren who are railway employees, are crying under crushing restrictions. They have complaints about decrease in number of their railway passes and about grades. The question of literate and illiterate drivers is hard hitting them. The fireman are faring no better. But the Government cares a fig for them, because, perhaps, they are not zamindars or farmers. May I ask the Government if they have done anything for the poor railway guards, who have been raising their cry of protest against the increased duty hours. Will it not undermine their health and ultimately tell upon their efficiency? Will it not result in constant danger to public safety? Again, the poor guards are crying against the blockade of their grade on Rs. 68. Their long-due promotions are denied to them and you are sitting here little stirred, because, perhaps, they are not members of the privileged class of peasants or zamindars. I know that the Government can dispose of the whole matter by saying that Railway is a central subject. Of course, there can be no way, where the will lacks. The Government can, at least, send their recommendations to the central legislature in the form of resolutions. They can frame certain rules by which they can curtail the number of working hours of poor labourers in general. They can fix living wages for their Punjabi brethren. It is a pity that the Railway Member boasts of showing crores of rupees as surplus; but for the railway employees the same surplus evaporates into nothing. But it is only crying to the deaf. We cannot expect anything, as nothing has been done so far by the Government in this direction.

Now a word of personal explanation for my honourable friend S. Har Singh who, while discussing electoral rolls at the time of supplementary demands, made certain remarks in my absence about the number of the recognised North-Western Railway Union members, whom I represent.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker :** The honourable member may take part in the discussion, but there is no occasion for any personal explanation. (*Voices : no reference to previous proceedings.*)

**Lala Sita Ram :** Sir, I only wanted to show that his information was incorrect and it was due to propaganda by interested persons who had

already been disqualified from the recognized Union. The number of members can well be ascertained from—

**Mr. Deputy Speaker :** The honourable member's time is up.

**Lala Sita Ram :** Very well, Sir, I put it off to some other occasion to make things clear on this point.

**Minister for Development :** (The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram) (*Urdu*) : Sir, I have attentively listened to the speeches made by the honourable members sitting opposite. But I am sorry to say that most of them were quite irrelevant and had nothing to do with the Budget. I think, only one member has hit on the nail and that is my honourable friend Chaudhri Jalal-ud-Din Ambar. His speech was relevant and to the point. My complaint that precious little has been said about the Budget seems to be correct. And it is still more true that my departments have received hardly any notice. I will, therefore, direct my attention to other departments as well. But first of all I should like to reply to the slight criticism that has been made against my departments.

It has been said that Debt Conciliation Boards should be established in each tahsil of each district of the Punjab. That, I  
5 P.M. may point out at the very outset, was far from the intention of the Government. It was originally proposed to establish one Debt Conciliation Board in every district and it was decided that the board should start work in one tahsil ; and as work from that tahsil approaches completion work from another tahsil in that district should be taken up by that board. This procedure still holds good generally. To establish a separate board in each and every tahsil was neither intended by the Government nor was it desirable from a financial point of view. It would be well to remember in this connection that the cost of establishing and maintaining a board in every tahsil in the Punjab would amount to 12 or 13 lakhs of rupees, while at present we are spending about 3 lakhs. This one reason alone, apart from others, is sufficient to discourage Government from establishing one Debt Conciliation Board for each tahsil.

Another point that was raised by some of my honourable friends was that more mortgage banks should be established to provide credit for zamindars. I have more than once stated, and I may repeat it again to-day, that the possibilities of the success of mortgage banks in the Punjab are very limited. In order that such banks should flourish lands should be mortgaged for a long time and, if necessary, they should be available even for being sold. Both of these possibilities are ruled out by reason of the Punjab Alienation of Land Act, which permits neither mortgages for a longer period than 20 years nor sales of agriculturists' land to non-agriculturists. That is why I hold that the possibility of mortgage banks flourishing in the Punjab is very limited. There are only a very small number of land owners whose lands in the Punjab can be mortgaged for longer periods than 20 years or whose lands can be sold away. In view of this, I, for one, would not accept the suggestion that has been made in this connection.

Further, it was mentioned by one of the honourable members that the Government had made no arrangements for training people in the art of preserving fruits. I may hasten to inform the honourable member as well.

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as the House that we have already opened three courses of such training in the Punjab Agricultural College at Lyallpur. The first course is for two weeks, the second for two months and the third for seven months. The first course is meant for women, so that they may quickly learn the job and return to their household affairs in a short time. This course is elementary. But the second is a higher one. All essential matters are taught during this course. The third course of training is meant for those who want to adopt preservation of fruits as their chief trade or who want to set up business on commercial lines. This course provides comprehensive training and all those who wish to avail themselves of this training are hereby informed that these facilities are already being offered at Lyallpur.

Now I come to another suggestion that has been made by some honourable members. We have been asked to give an impetus to cottage and village industries. I may mention in this behalf that we have already amended the law on the subject to facilitate the development of cottage and village industries. Those zamindars who have an inclination towards them, can also benefit from this amended Act. (*Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma*: What is the sum provided for the purpose?) I would not reply to interruptions.

Let me now deal with the irresponsible statement of a very responsible member, Lala Duni Chand, who has also had the privilege of once having been a Deputy Leader of the Opposition in this House. It is a pity that such an important and responsible member should have thought it fit to state on the floor of this House that cases of murder and dacoities have increased as a direct result of my speeches. I wonder whether speeches made by anybody can, by themselves, explain the increase in the number of murders and dacoities. But if they can, then I may safely say that it is the speeches made by Congressites that must have increased such crimes in the Punjab because, if I speak once or twice in a couple of months at public meetings Congressites hold four conferences in one month in the district of Rohtak alone. The Congress probably follows a similar course in other districts as well. So the House can well imagine the number of speeches which Congressites deliver at public meetings. In view of this, I should repeat that if speeches are the exclusive cause of increased crime in the Punjab, the blame lies at the door of the Congress itself. However, I need hardly say that the insinuation is as ill-founded as it is unworthy.

Then, Sir, my honourable friend, Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan, made a remark that once a vote of no confidence was passed against the President, Ludhiana Central Co-operative Bank, but the Government did not take steps to remove the gentleman from that office. My honourable friend deliberately made a wrong statement. He is not present in the House now. But he was fully aware of the fact that when, subsequent to the previous invalid proceedings, a meeting of the members was duly called to decide the matter, his supporters sustained a crushing defeat. Then he had the audacity to say that the Unionist Government was no longer a popular Government, that it did not enjoy the confidence of even the members of the ministerialist party, some of whom had criticised the actions of the Government. He cited Chaudhri Sumer Singh's speech in support of his contention. My honourable friend should bear in mind that every member has

the right—nay it is his duty, to criticise Government. But note should be taken of the fact that while honourable members opposite criticise with a view to discredit Government, the honourable members on this side of the House criticise with the intention of bringing certain defects and irregularities in the administration to the notice of Government, so that the latter may remove them for the benefit of the people. (*Hear, hear.*) So, the difference lies in the motives which actuate criticism. The former level criticism against Government with motives of hostility, while the latter discuss things critically with honesty of purpose. Chaudhri Sumer Singh has very rightly brought certain things to the notice of Honourable Ministers who would see that the matters are set right. But one thing has greatly surprised me. My honourable friend opposite pleaded on behalf of Chaudhri Sumer Singh that the latter's suggestions should receive careful consideration at the hands of Government. In this connection I am reminded of a saying

نہی کا ضامن چسپو

(*Laughter.*)

It aptly applies to my honourable friend. His recommendation to Government for favourable consideration of the suggestions put forward by Chaudhri Sumer Singh who is an active member of the Government party was simply ludicrous.

Besides, my honourable friend Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan said certain things in pious ignorance. He remarked that this Government though professing itself to be the champion of the cause of zamindars, had done nothing for their betterment since it came to power. Now I propose to enumerate a few of the items of work which Government has put through not for the amelioration of zamindars alone, but also for all poor classes. In the first place, Government has successfully constructed the Haveli Project. The execution of this project will ever remain a striking and memorable chapter in the history of Punjab irrigation. It will provide perennial irrigation to about half a million acres and non-perennial irrigation to another half a million acres of land. Then comes the Thal Project. Its construction has been taken in hand at an estimated cost of 7½ crores of rupees. The project is calculated to irrigate a million acres of desert land. Now, can anybody say honestly that these measures are not intended to ameliorate the condition of poor zamindars? Again, the important Western Jumna Kharif Extension Scheme has been undertaken by Government with a view to provide all possible immediate relief to the south eastern districts of the province. This scheme will cost the Government 60 lakhs of rupees. God willing, it will be completed by this summer. It is calculated to provide irrigation to an area of 3½ lakhs of acres. Although for the present the scheme is intended to supply water only for kharif it is hoped that later on it will ensure perennial irrigation. As regards the Bhakra Dam, a High Dam Circle has been created to prepare designs and estimates of construction. This scheme will provide perennial irrigation. But, if for any unavoidable reasons, it does not come to fruition, the alternative Balehu Dam Scheme is under consideration with Government. When either of these two schemes has been completed the zamindars will receive a boon of incalculable value and will bless the Unionist Government for ever and ever.

[Minister for Development.]

If even the Balaeh Scheme somehow or other fails to materialize we have a fourth scheme, namely, that of sinking tube-wells. This scheme is that tube-wells should be sunk along the river Jumna, and the water thus obtained will be pumped into the distributaries of the Jumna Canal from which it will be distributed to the zamindars of that ilaqa. Now, can any one say that the schemes which I have enumerated above are ones which will not benefit the zamindars? On the contrary I am positive that they will bring the greatest possible benefit to poor peasants who find themselves in the grip of famine so frequently now.

I may now be allowed to make a brief reference to the agrarian measures which the present Government have placed on the Statute Book. In the first place there is the Registration of Money Lenders Act. This Act will not only benefit the zamindars but also all the poor sections of the Punjab population. Debtors of all classes stand to gain by this Act. The reason is that in future no sahukar can indulge in malpractices. If he does so, he can be easily brought to book. In the past if any sahukar indulged in malpractices it was very difficult to lay hands on him. If occasionally he was even hauled up before any court of justice for dishonest dealings he could not be adequately punished. But the enactment of this measure has tightened the grip of the law. If in the presence of this measure he indulges in dishonest dealings his licence will be revoked. As a consequence of the cancellation of his licence he will be debarred from instituting cases for realizing his outstanding loans, and if he has obtained any decree against any debtor he will not be able to get it executed. In the presence of these hard facts it does not lie in the mouth of any honourable member to say that the poor people including zamindars will not get any benefit by means of this Act.

Then, there is the Punjab Agricultural Produce Markets Act. I may point out that if the zamindars begin to get even two annas in a rupee more than they do now for their produce the total additional income which will accrue to those people who are engaged in agriculture, whether they are zamindars, or tenants or partners or agricultural labourers, will be no less than ten crores, for agricultural produce of all sorts worth 80 crores of rupees is sold every year by agriculturists. At 2 annas per rupee the additional income works out to 10 crores of rupees yearly. This will be the benefit that will accrue to those people who are connected with agriculture.

Now, so far as the Land Alienation (Third Amendment) Act commonly known as the Benami Act is concerned it has been ascertained by inquiry that lands to the value of 15 to 16 crores of rupees will be restored to their owners by virtue of this Act. I may point out that in tahsil Kasur alone land to the value of 15 lakhs of rupees will be thus restored. In the district of Gurdaspur land worth 44 lakhs of rupees will be restored. The measure which the Government have enacted will annul all benami transactions. Now in the presence of such stern facts if any one says that this Act will not provide any relief to the agriculturists it will only amount to denying the obvious.

Besides, there is the Restitution of Mortgaged Lands Act. May I remind honourable members that under this Act all the lands mortgaged

before 1901, whether by zamindars to non-zamindars, or by zamindars to zamindars, or by non-zamindars to zamindars or by non-zamindars to non-zamindars, will be restored to mortgagors practically without any payment. The principle that we have adopted under this Act is that no mortgagee who has derived from the land mortgaged benefit which equals or exceeds twice the amount actually advanced as mortgage money shall be entitled to get any further compensation. As such lands have been held by mortgagees for periods ranging between 38 and 60 years it is obvious that cases will be rare where the mortgagees have not received double the amounts they invested in the mortgages. In the circumstances I am entitled to claim that such mortgaged lands will be restored to the original mortgagors or their descendants without payment of any further compensation. Now, what is the total area of land that will be redeemed by virtue of this Act? This will amount to 88,500,000 acres. And I may point out that this area does not include lands which will be restored to the mortgagors in Muzaffargarh and Gurgaon districts. Now, what is the total sum for which these lands have been mortgaged? That comes to Rs. 4,13,00,000. How many individuals will have their lands restored. Their number is 366,780. Thus lands which had been under mortgage for three or four generations will be restored to mortgagors or their descendants. With these facts in front, can anybody honestly say that zamindars will not get any benefit by virtue of the Restitution of Mortgaged Lands Act? And if there is any mortal alive who can say that the Zamindara Government have done nothing for the poor people, I can only say that he is an incarnation of ingratitude.

Reference was also made to the Trade Employees Bill. It was the Unionist Government which introduced a Bill for the benefit of trade employees who work from morning till late in the night.

**An Honourable Member :** That is as yet in your bag.

**Premier :** The honourable member is probably aware of those that have come out of it.

**Munshi Hari Lal :** Is it for two districts only?

**Minister of Development :** No. Government introduced the Bill for the benefit of all.

**Munshi Hari Lal :** I should like to ask for a piece of information if the Honourable Minister gives way.

**Minister of Development :** I will not give way.

**Munshi Hari Lal :** I only want information.

**Minister of Development :** Sir, I was submitting that it was this very Government which introduced the Trade Employees Bill and my honourable friends who claim to be the guardians of the interests of the poor, opposed it.

Again the Panchayat Bill which has since been passed into law was also introduced by the present Government. This will give Swaraj to villages. The autonomy which provinces had received in the provincial sphere will be transmitted to villages by the enforcement of this measure. This Act too gave great offence to the displeasure of our honourable friends like Dr. Sant Ram Seth who is even now fidgeting in his seat through a

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fright of mere suggestion of autonomy in villages. The Factories Amendment Bill was also brought forward by this Government, and the Congress party as usual arrayed itself against it. When it is placed on the Statute Book, my honourable friends will say that they favoured a more advanced measure.

The Relief of Indebtedness (Amendment) Bill which is shortly to come up before the House seeks to exempt from attachment one main residential house of every judgment debtor, whether a Hindu, a Muslim, a Sikh, a Christian or an Achhut, and whether living in a village or in a town. Our honourable friends, Dr. Sant Ram Seth and Mr. Dev Raj Sethi, have been opposing this Bill also which is so clearly intended for the benefit of the poor. There is another clause in this Bill which lays down that a person— whoever he may be—whose total assets do not exceed Rs. 5,000 will be given the same privileges as are now enjoyed by zamindars under the Punjab Relief of Indebtedness Act. There is yet another clause which gives the same status to an Achhut as is given to a zamindar. No decree-holder will in future, be able to ask the court for the attachment or sale of an Achhut's house. Now, may I ask whether this clause will now benefit those Achhuts who have deserted the Unionist Party or those whom they represent in this House? The present Government has also given a practical shape to the principle of Damdupat, in an amending Bill; and in spite of the fact that the money-lenders and their representatives in Congress clothing hate its very name, we are determined to see it through. Milch cattle, whether in milk or in calf, which could up till now be attached and auctioned will no longer be available for attachment in execution proceedings.

My honourable friend over there will probably remember that according to the provisions of the Colonisation Act squares of land granted on horse-breeding conditions could not be attached or given on lease. But, thanks to the hair-splitting arguments of our lawyer friends, this Act was in danger of becoming a dead letter, the High Court having ruled that if a receiver is appointed by court he can attach and lease such squares.

*At this stage the Assembly adjourned till 12 noon on Wednesday, 6th March, 1940.*

# PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

## SIXTH SESSION OF THE FIRST PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Wednesday, 6th March, 1940.

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

### BUDGET—GENERAL DISCUSSION.

**Minister for Development** (The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram). (Urdu): Sir, yesterday I was replying to the objections raised by the honourable members on the opposite benches that so far the Government had done nothing whatever for the benefit of either the zamindars or the poorer classes. The last thing to which I was referring at that time was the Colonization Act. According to this Act, land granted on horse-breeding conditions could neither be attached nor given on lease. But thanks to the hair splitting arguments of our legal friends, it was held by courts that if a receiver was appointed, then such squares of land could be given on temporary Mustajri or lease by him. The Government brought in an amending Bill and horse-breeding grants have, as a result, been saved and this danger to their lands has been averted. There is absolutely no ground or justification for saying that nothing has been done by this Government.

Now I will proceed to reply to an objection which was raised by Chaudhri Jugal Kishore, representing scheduled castes, namely, that the Unionist Government had done nothing for depressed classes. He contended that Achhuts in other provinces had gone far ahead. I beg to submit that if my honourable friend had gone to the United Provinces he would have found that the position of scheduled castes in the Punjab was far better as compared with that of non-proprietor Jats and Rajputs there.

**Sardar Mula Singh**: Absolutely not. I have been to the United Provinces myself.

**Minister for Development**: If my honourable friend had gone to Muradabad, Bijnor or Badaun his brethren would have given him a different story. They are in such a bad way and their condition is so miserable, that our worst critics cannot help saying that the Punjab Government has done much more for depressed classes than any other provincial Government in India. A detailed account of the various things done for the depressed classes by the Punjab Government is given in the daily 'Milap' of the 3rd March. This information is also available in the *Tribune*, dated 3rd March. I do not propose to repeat what is stated therein.

Another complaint made by the depressed classes is that they have not been declared agriculturists for the purposes of the Punjab Alienation of Land Act, and they allege that Chaudhri Chhotu Ram, being an old enemy,



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purposely got the Alienation of Land Act passed in such a manner. Let me assure my honourable friend that in 1901 when this Act was passed I was too young to take part in law making. But I do not wish to conceal the fact that if it is the intention of the honourable members that the Act may be amended in such a way that they may be able to purchase the lands of the zamindars, I am not prepared to do that because it will amount to a negation of the basic principle of the Act. The principle underlying this measure seeks to put a restriction on the transfer by sale or mortgage of the lands of those agriculturists who have held them from generation to generation and whose only occupation is agriculture. These people have been, in their own interest, deprived of the right to sell or lease out their lands. In fact all such objections are due to ignorance of the various provisions of the Act. The Land Alienation Act does not at all prevent the Achhuts from buying the lands of the non-agriculturists. They are perfectly at liberty to do so. There are people like Kaisths, Suds, Khattris, Roras, Mahajans, Brahmans, etc., who in spite of the fact that they are not agriculturists own considerable lands in the Punjab. The Achhuts can easily buy their lands. Do they think that the land belonging to the agriculturists contains any special charm or attraction that they are so much clamouring for their purchase? Let me tell them that as much as 17 per cent of the whole landed area in the Punjab is at present in possession of the non-agriculturists, and my honourable friends know it full well that these people are free to sell their lands to a member of any community they like. But has any Achhut ever approached them for purchasing even a single inch of land from them? No. None of them has ever made any offer to them for the purpose. Then, sometimes Government lands are auctioned in the colonies and it is announced that the auction would be open to all communities. Has any Achhut ever made a bid for those lands? No. Nobody has ever done so. Again, my friends know that the Deputy Commissioners of all the districts have been given special instructions to the effect that in case any village kamin or artisan applies for permission to purchase a certain piece of land his case should be most sympathetically considered. But may I know as to whether there is any Achhut who has ever made such an application to any Deputy Commissioner? My answer to that question is a big "No." Under such circumstances I am at a loss to understand as to why my friends are clamouring against the Act. Let me assure them that it is not the Act that prevents them from acquiring agricultural land in villages. It is their poverty that stands in their way. Had their economic condition been sound they would have bought lands from the non-agriculturist classes; they would have made a bid for Government lands in the colonies; or they would have applied to any Deputy Commissioner for the requisite permission. In fact they have to thank their own poverty and economic backwardness. I feel constrained to say that the simple and credulous Achhuts are being duped by certain clever people who for their own personal ends are creating such wrong impressions in their minds that it is the Act that does not allow them to be the owners of lands.

Furthermore, Sir, it has been said that the Achhuts are not given their due share in the Government services and that I am an enemy of the depressed classes. I most emphatically repudiate that charge. Although

In every Government department the Achhuts are being given their legitimate share of services yet I have issued separate instructions to all departments under me that special favours should be extended to the candidates belonging to the scheduled castes. In all the institutions that are working at present under my charge such as Stock Assistant Training Classes, Weaving Schools and others a proportionate admission is reserved for the Achhut candidates. Particular care is being taken that no non-Achhut is given a post which has been specifically reserved for the Achhuts. If you ever consult the relevant statistics you are sure to find that the share in services that has been granted to the Achhuts in these years surpasses all records of the past 10 years. But even if my friends want to have a fling at me or any other member of the Cabinet they are free to please themselves. In the end I would advise them not to be ungrateful, for this attitude on their part will ultimately go against their own interests.

**Minister for Education** (The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye): Yesterday my honourable friend, Lala Duni Chand, when he opened this discussion on behalf of the Opposition, made a reference to a certain speech delivered by one of my educational officers the other day at Jullundur in the form of a convocation address and it appeared to me that Lala Duni Chand went jubilant over that speech, an abstract of which he had read in the morning papers. I thought that a responsible gentleman of the type of Lala Duni Chand would not refer to that at all. If he would carefully read that speech, he would, like me, hang his head in shame, for, the libellous, scurrilous attack to which he referred is not only an attack on the present Government in the Punjab, but is an attack on all provincial administrations including the Congress Ministries who till yesterday were in power in seven provinces. This is not the time to defend the Punjab Government. We know our duty best and we are fully competent to vindicate our honour. But I think I owe a duty to the Congress, that organisation which seeks to speak in the name of the masses of India, I owe a duty to the Congress Ministries that till yesterday were in office in seven provinces. I deem it my duty to apologise publicly on the floor of this House for the lapse of one of my educational officers, and the indiscretion committed by him. It is rather difficult to believe that a responsible officer would go to the extent of making an utterance of this nature. If Government is not ultimately satisfied that it was a case of temporary insanity, drastic action will be taken, but I will not speak on that at any length at this stage.

During the discussion on behalf of the Opposition when several honourable members spoke on this budget, there was very scant criticism so far as the three departments included in my portfolio are concerned. No useful or constructive suggestions were made. But those who spoke from the ministerial benches did make very useful suggestions. My honourable friend, Chaudhri Sumer Singh, reminded the Government of its duty towards the people of the Punjab. He drew my attention to the weak financial position of district boards and the necessity for making additional grants. May I remind him that the Government is not oblivious of its duty in this matter? It was because of this that we decided in the current year to open as many as 180 primary schools, all of them in the rural area and all of them for girls. Honourable members are aware that primary education is primarily the concern of local bodies. It was because we realised that their

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financial position would not admit of any increase in the expenditure, that we decided to shoulder the burden. The honourable member went to the extent of saying that no new money should be spent on higher education and that no new money should be spent in constructing costly buildings. Still another honourable member from the ministerial benches suggested that Government must realise that there are no high schools and colleges in rural areas. I think that the Government had made its position clear during the last three years as to what is to be their future policy as regards the whole of the Punjab.

We have made it clear, not only by word of mouth, but by action that the interests of the people living in the countryside, which have been ignored in the past, are nearer to our heart. It was because of this that during the last three years, we have not opened any College or any High School, or for the matter of that, any institution, in the urban areas and the major portion of the new expenditure has gone in opening new institutions in the rural areas. As we were confronted with the difficulty relating to the paucity of village teachers, we decided to spend a sum of fifty thousand rupees and opened a special training institution, with a definite bias towards domestic science. This institution is now attracting girls from rural areas. When more female teachers are available and are willing to go to villages, more schools will be opened. My honourable friend Chaudhri Sumer Singh pointed out that we should not spend any money on brick and mortar. If you will compare this Budget with the previous Budgets, you will find that we have not spent any substantial amount in erecting any buildings. The policy of the Government is to popularize primary education and undertake a vigorous campaign against illiteracy. The Government have got a very soft corner in their heart, so far as the girls' education is concerned, no matter whether it is primary or secondary or even college education. And with this end in view we last year converted an intermediate college into a degree college. As regards the allegation of one of the honourable members that in the rural areas we have no high schools and colleges, I may remind him of the college at Shahpur, which is a degree college and is located in a rural area. There are other intermediate colleges also that are located in rural areas. In the matter of high schools, may I point out that a large number of them are in the rural areas and even those high schools, intermediate and degree colleges, which are located in the cities, are not entirely meant for the benefit of the people living in the urban areas only? In some of them the majority of students come from villages.

It was only the other day, Sir, that the question of closing down certain schools in the Jullundur District was debated on the floor of this House and it was pointed out to us that the District Board proposes to close down four high schools. Prompt enquiries were made and we found that although these four high schools were actually located in the towns, yet the facts were that from 80 per cent to 90 per cent of the students came from the neighbouring villages and only a few came from the towns concerned. The same is the case as regards dispensaries and hospitals. I had an occasion, some months back, to cite instances that hospitals which are situated in district headquarters cater mainly for the needs of villages round about.

So far as the question of adult literacy is concerned, I regret that I have not enough time at my disposal to deal with this at some length. Honourable members are aware that an appeal was issued more than two years ago. In the first year we were not able to set apart any funds for this campaign. Last year we provided a modest sum of a little over 20 thousand rupees. That amount, I am very glad to say, has been well-spent. During the year, thousands, I should say, lakhs of Primers were published and distributed without charging any price. The campaign has made rapid strides towards progress and it is every day on the increase. I had the opportunity to issue personal appeals to all the honourable members of this House, including the members who sit in the opposition. I decided to issue an appeal to the President of the Punjab Provincial Congress Committee. I issued that appeal to the various religious heads, to all the organizations, whether social, religious or political and I am very glad to state here to-day that from most of them I have received very encouraging replies, but the replies from others are still awaited. A similar appeal was issued to big landlords in the province drawing their attention—

**Sardar Lal Singh :** The time for speeches from both sides has been fixed. The Honourable the Finance Minister will take at least one hour and other Honourable Ministers have also to speak. And if the Honourable the Education Minister will go on at this rate, there will be no time left for others. The five Honourable Ministers will take a good deal of time.

**Minister for Education :** Similar appeals were issued drawing the attention of prominent and wealthy people of the province, especially the big landlords to the need of extending medical relief in the rural areas. As an instance of the response that it had at the hands of some of them, I may quote one instance. One of my old friends, who is a big landlord and lives in the Lahore district, has erected a very substantial building and opened a dispensary. I had the privilege of visiting that village only the other day. He is a Muslim and all his tenants for which this dispensary has been opened are Muslims. But he made a request that a Sikh Sub-Assistant Surgeon may be sent to that dispensary and the Government readily agreed to that. In the same way in a neighbouring village, which is populated entirely by Sikhs, the people raised funds to set up a building for a dispensary and they in their turn made a request that they should be given a Muslim doctor. This sort of thing, this Government wants to encourage. The gentleman, to whom I was referring, has decided to spend more money in erecting another building in order to provide at least 20 beds for his tenants.

Now, Sir, reference was made by Chaudhri Sumer Singh that Government should encourage Vaidas and Hakims and establish them in the villages. The Government by its policy and action in the past has already established that it has the welfare of the indigenous system of medicines in its heart. Since a very long time we have been paying a very substantial grant-in-aid to that excellent institution, which owes its existence to the initiative of the late lamented Hakim Ajmal Khan. That grant-in-aid, which is for research purposes, is being continued. So far as the local bodies are concerned, the Government have permitted them to employ qualified Vaidas and Hakims.

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So far as the Government dispensaries are concerned, I am prepared to take a step forward but I am now awaiting the Report of the Indigenous Medicine Committee which was set up last year and which has not yet concluded its labours. My honourable friend Chaudhri Sumar Singh also made a reference to the change of policy as regards the contribution to the Mental Hospital. His grouse was that whereas previously the local bodies were required only to pay those amounts which were necessary for the maintenance of lunatic patients sent by those local bodies, the present Government has now countermanded those orders and required the local bodies to make fixed contributions. This matter was examined first in 1932 and the decision was arrived at in the year 1933 and I see absolutely no reason why the decision of the previous Government should be altered. According to that decision definite action was taken and certain Acts were amended in 1935. If, however, some special difficulty is pointed out to me I shall very gladly look into this matter.

My honourable friend, Captain Sodhi Harnam Singh, while making his speech, drew my attention to the necessity of providing increased facilities for agricultural instruction in schools. The position as regards agricultural instruction is that some years ago we made a beginning. What we decided was that we should popularise agricultural instruction by enriching general education through the vehicle of our middle schools in the countryside. To begin with, thirty such middle schools were selected and farms were provided and additional expenditure was also made available by the Government. According to the original plan, farms having an area of three acres were provided and the Government decided to give annually an initial grant of Rs. 3,500 for the purchase of bullocks, implements, construction of buildings and for the purchase of these farms. Eighty-eight such farms were established and were attached to eighty-eight schools in the province. Later on, the Government realised that in certain villages, where these middle schools were located, sufficient land was not available and the initial cost was excessive. The modified scheme provided for a lesser area and a lesser amount. In pursuance of that decision I find that 143 new farms were established with the result that we have to-day in the Punjab as many as 231 middle schools to which either big farms or small plots are attached. This would give you eight such middle schools per district. Apart from this, we decided to send our S. V. teachers for training to the Punjab Agricultural College at Lyallpur. The period of training was one year and all facilities were provided. After this training they went back to their schools and were engaged in imparting agricultural instruction and they were given an extra allowance of ten rupees per mensem which was paid entirely from the provincial revenue. As regards these farms and plots, it was later on decided that as they were running at a loss, the Government would recoup the local bodies concerned to the extent of one hundred rupees per farm or plot. During the next year we propose to provide twenty big farms and seventy-five small plots and if these are added to the existing number we shall have one dozen middle schools in each district to which these farms would be attached and where agricultural instruction would be imparted.

My honourable friend Chaudhri Sumer Singh has suggested that under this Government no new dispensaries were being opened in the rural areas. The honourable members are aware that it was only last year that we set apart sufficient funds from Provincial Revenue to open eighty-three subsidised dispensaries in the Punjab. This policy shall continue and we shall be able to grant more relief to our poor brethren living in the countryside. Dr. Sant Ram Seth had drawn my attention to a certain defect in a hospital in Amritsar. As he speaks from personal experience and knowledge, I would now request him that he should supply the necessary information in detail to me and I shall lose no time in making necessary enquiries. Reference has also been made to facilities for maternity homes and hospitals. The honourable members, if they will scrutinise the Budget, will realise that we are making provisions for establishing maternity centres....

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** On a point of order. You know that two days or, in other words, eleven hours only are reserved for discussion of the Budget. The Budget is a big volume of about 700 pages (*Interruption*). The replies to arguments of the members should be given by the Minister of Finance and not by each and every Minister. This is my point of order. I want your ruling on my point of order whether each and every Minister is entitled to speak in this manner or only the Minister of Finance should speak.

**Mr. Speaker :** The past practice has been that things said about various departments have sometimes been replied to by the Ministers concerned.

**Minister of Finance :** And very rightly.

**Mian Sultan Mahmood Hotiana :** I want to ask whether the Ministers are entitled to reply at the very beginning. They can reply later. (*Hear, hear.*)

**Mr. Speaker :** Strictly speaking they should reply at the end but it is for them to decide whether they would stand up earlier and reply only on those points which have been said up to that moment and leave it to their Parliamentary Secretaries to reply to points made out subsequently. (*Interruption.*)

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** I would request you to limit the time of the Ministers as you have limited the time of the honourable members.

**Mr. Speaker :** Had any honourable member made a suggestion to that effect, I would have gladly fixed the duration of speeches not only for the Ministers but for all members.

**Minister for Education :** Since some of the honourable members are feeling restive and want to have an opportunity of intervening in this discussion, I propose to make only a passing reference to three more subjects. The question of private practice has been raised on the floor of the House and it has been urged on behalf of certain members that we must place some restriction. Reference has been made to certain hospitals, specially those situated in Lahore and it has been suggested that the fees realised by our medical officers, when they attend patients in private wards, should

[Minister for Education.]

not all of them go to their pockets, but the Government must have a share in those fees. On a previous occasion I dealt at length with this subject. This matter has been very carefully considered and provisional decision has been arrived at and the final order will issue in due course.

Reference has also been made to the needs of the harijans. The House is aware that we have provided an amount of Rs. 10,000 for sinking wells for the benefit of our harijan brethren. It was only the other day that I laid a statement on the table showing in what villages funds have been allotted—.

**Pandit Muni Lal Kalia :** On a point of order. May I know on what subject the Honourable Minister is speaking, whether he is relevant or not and whether he is not wasting the time of the House? *(Interruptions.)*

**Mr. Speaker :** I am not going to allow obstruction.

**Munshi Hari Lal :** On a point of order.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** On a point of order. *(Laughter.)*

**Munshi Hari Lal :** Sir, I am rising on a point of order. I would refer you to Rule 131 which says—

(1) On days to be appointed by the Governor exercising his individual judgment subsequent to the day on which the Budget is presented, and for such time, as the Governor exercising his individual judgment may allot for this purpose, the Assembly shall be at liberty to discuss the Budget as a whole or any question of principle involved therein, but no motion shall be moved at this stage nor shall the Budget be submitted to the vote of the Assembly.

(2) The Finance Minister shall have a general right of reply at the end of the discussion.

By reading these two paragraphs it means that the words "the Assembly shall be at liberty" mean the members of the Assembly and not the Ministers of the Assembly.

**Mr. Speaker :** Is that all?

**Munshi Hari Lal :** I have not yet finished.

**Mr. Speaker :** I cannot allow a speech.

**Munshi Hari Lal :** I am making no speech. I am only explaining my point of order.

**Mr. Speaker :** Please state your point of order, but do not make a speech in its support.

**Munshi Hari Lal :** My point of order is that it is only the Finance Minister to whom the right of reply is given at the end of the discussion and to none else.

**Mr. Speaker :** There is no force in the honourable member's point of order. The Assembly does not mean only the members other than Ministers. It includes all members whether Ministers or not. Part (2) of Rule 131 does not lay down that only the Finance Minister shall reply to the whole debate. What it lays down is that the Finance Minister has a right to make a reply; while the remaining Ministers can speak or reply like the honourable members, other than Ministers, of the House.

**Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :** I shall be prepared to come to the help of the honourable members of this House who want to take part in the discussion, provided we are told what time is to be given to us. If we are not given the time according to the arrangement arrived at yesterday, we would not like to speak at all. Therefore, if you just announce your ruling about the procedure that you are going to adopt with regard to the time, I shall save you from the objections that are being raised from the Ministerial side.

**Mr. Speaker :** The arrangement, communicated to me by Party whips, was that half the time will be given to the Government and the remaining half to the Opposition. The whips might have included Ministers or not, I do not know, at that time there was no mention of Ministers.

**Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :** I do not know what will be your ruling with regard to the time that you are going to allow us.

**Mr. Speaker :** In the absence of any agreement between the parties, I think I will exercise my discretion and give as much time to the Opposition as I possibly can.

**Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :** Yesterday what we had decided was that we would request every member from our side not to speak for more than 20 minutes.

**Mr. Speaker :** Will the Honourable Sayed Amjad Ali Shah please state what arrangement was arrived at yesterday between him and the Honourable Seth Sudarshan with regard to the time ?

**Sayed Amjad Ali Shah :** The settlement arrived at between the Whip of the Congress Party and myself yesterday was that the time should be divided half and half between the Opposition and ourselves and that the Opposition should have the first hour and the subsequent hour should be taken up by us and then again the Opposition—.

**Mr. Speaker :** Was the same arrangement decided upon for to-day ?

**Sayed Amjad Ali Shah :** With regard to to-day, I told my honourable friend that as the Opposition would naturally be criticising the various departments of the Government, the Ministers would like to reply to them and that it would be only fair if the Ministers' time should be excluded from that time. Then, further I suggested that we should have an hour and a half against every one hour which they would take. That was my suggestion.

**Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :** Was that agreement arrived at yesterday or is it a new suggestion ?

**Sayed Amjad Ali Shah :** The agreement was with regard to yesterday and this suggestion of mine I made subsequently in the afternoon, as my honourable friend will bear me out.

**Mr. Speaker :** So there is no agreement for to-day.

**Sayed Amjad Ali Shah :** None. That is how I would take it.

**Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :** Since the official whip says that there is no agreement and as there is difference of opinion, I beg to inform you that as we are not given sufficient time for expressing our opinion on the budget, I am afraid, we shall not take part in the discussion hereafter.



**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Only half an hour was allowed to the Minister according to yesterday's arrangement.

**Mr. Speaker :** Half of his time has been taken up by interruptions.

**Minister for Education :** Coming now to scholarships and stipends for Harijans, an amount of Rs. 10,000 is being provided in the budget and although this amount is meant for special classes in which people who are poor and indigent and not necessarily harijans, should be entitled to participate, yet Government have decided that the whole of the amount shall go for the benefit of depressed classes.

As regards adult literacy I have only one remark to make and that is that now I am in a position to state that on an average in a district we have between 3 to 5 thousand adults always under instruction and we realise that we have arrived at a stage when we must make adequate arrangements so that those persons who have been made literate may not relapse to illiteracy. With that end in view literature has been prepared or is now in the course of preparation. Before the 31st March the Punjab Government proposes to establish 600 libraries in villages for the benefit of adults (*hear, hear*) and boxes containing 5 books will be supplied to each village where they decide to establish such a library. (*Hear, hear.*)

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Sir, I rise on a point of order.

**Mr. Speaker :** I cannot allow the valuable time of the House to be taken up by unnecessary points of order and irrelevant discussions.

**Premier :** I hope there is no misunderstanding with regard to time (*Mr. Speaker :* There is) and that if there is it may be removed. Yesterday the Whip of the opposite party said that they would like time to be so divided that the Opposition may speak for one hour and this side may also speak for one hour, and I acceded to the request to accommodate my honourable friends opposite. That does not mean that they should get half the time: they are only one-third of the House and on the General Discussion of the Budget every member should have the fullest latitude to express his views. There are a large number of members on this side who want to speak and I think it would be most unfair on the part of the Opposition to prevent these members having their say. Apart from that, there is the question of answering the various criticisms raised by members sitting either on these benches or those benches and therefore members of the Government should be given an opportunity to have their say and to rebut those criticisms. That has been the procedure throughout in this House and I hope you will kindly adhere to the previous procedure and give the fullest opportunity to the Ministers concerned to reply to the debate. Of course the Finance Minister has got the right of reply, but the procedure is that other Ministers speak with regard to their own departments and answer criticisms. I hope we will adhere to that practice which is now sacrosanct, since that convention was established in the last Council and has been consistently adhered to in the present Assembly.

**Seth Sudarshan :** I am pained to hear what was said by my friend opposite. I wish to point out that if the arrangement made is not kept and if no arrangement regarding allotment of time to both the sides is possible, the proceedings of the House will become absolutely sham and a

mockery. Really speaking according to the arrangement made we must get  $5\frac{1}{2}$  hours during these two days and  $5\frac{1}{2}$  hours should be given to the Government including the Ministers. If this arrangement is not kept I am afraid the Opposition will not be able to take part in the Budget discussion.

**Premier :** My honourable friend has not put the position correctly. He came and said that it would be convenient if this side spoke for one hour and that side also spoke for one hour. It did not mean that each will get  $5\frac{1}{2}$  hours.

**Seth Sudarshan :** My friend over there took permission from the Premier and said that  $5\frac{1}{2}$  hours would be taken by the Opposition and  $5\frac{1}{2}$  hours by the other side.

**Premier :** How can my honourable friends ask for  $5\frac{1}{2}$  hours when they are only one-third of the House.

**Seth Sudarshan :** It is fair that  $5\frac{1}{2}$  hours should be given to us because it is our duty to criticize and discuss the Budget. Other members of that side would only repeat what has already been stated in the Budget.

**Premier :** My honourable friend should remember that these members are also the representatives of the people.

**Mr. Speaker :** Some arrangement should have been arrived at between the parties. In the absence of any such arrangement, I will exercise my discretion and allow as much time as I can possibly do to the Opposition.

**Seth Sudarshan :** In these circumstances nobody from this side wants to make any speech. They can sing their own song.

**Sardar Bahadur Sardar Gurbachan Singh** (Jullundur West, Sikh Rural) : I offer my warm congratulations to the Honourable Minister for Finance for safely steering the ship of our finance through the turbulent waters and for keeping a high standard of the soundness of our finance. Not only that, he has been even more liberal in providing funds for the nation-building departments. It is further gratifying to note that the Government have considered and taken action on the two suggestions that I made last year in my budget speech, with regard to the Thal and the Bhakra Dam Projects. With your permission, Sir, I would like to refer to what I said—

Both these schemes were once considered uneconomical and I hope that the soil survey has been carried out of Thal area, and that steps will be taken to re-acquire the land which the Government surrendered at the time of abandoning this scheme. The prices realised from this area will no doubt meet a substantial part of the capital cost as indicated in the original project.

I am glad that Government have brought the Thal (Increase in Value) Bill, which will no doubt contribute a substantial amount to the original cost of the scheme. Similarly, with regard to the Bhakra Dam scheme I said—

As regards Bhakra Dam I believe another scheme of releasing water in the Jumna Canal was prepared by a former Chief Engineer in an area where water level permitted economic pumping and to serve that area by means of tube-wells and taking the water thus released in the canal to the parts which would be served by the Bhakra Dam.

[S. B. Sardar Gurbachan Singh.]

I am glad to note that the Finance Minister in his speech on page 4, has mentioned that a sum of 48 lakhs has been provided for this scheme which will no doubt serve to relieve the famine-stricken area of Hissar.

Another good feature of this budget is, that the Government is going to take up the development of roads which is provided in the new expenditure, and I congratulate the Honourable Minister for Public Works for this wise step. Yet I would draw his attention to the fact that all the hydro-electric rural extension schemes which were sanctioned last year have been abandoned on the flimsy ground of not getting the steel poles. My friends who have been to Europe and England tell me that almost everywhere wooden poles are used to carry the wires, notwithstanding the fact that these countries are the home of steel industry; while in India, our country is covered with forests, but we must have steel poles to carry the wires!

I think there is some truth in the statement that money is allowed to flow out of this country. You must have read that Delhi is launching a very big hydro-electric scheme from the Jumna river which will provide power not only to Delhi, but to all the surrounding villages. I wonder how they have got over this difficulty of the steel poles. This reminds me of the electrification of Ludhiana which notwithstanding the fact that there was no war, took this department five long years to complete, while an ordinary electric company would have done the whole work in five months.

**Chaudhri Kartar Singh :** Sir, I want to make just one submission. You are by rule authorised to fix the time of the House. If the Government wants to go back on the agreement arrived at between the Government and the Congress Whips, it lies in your power to make some decision.

**Mr. Speaker :** I have already stated that I shall do my best to give as much time as I can possibly give to the Opposition. But I cannot fix any definite time for each speaker. That can be done by arrangement.

**Chaudhri Kartar Singh :** If you fix the time yourself.

**Mr. Speaker :** I am quite prepared to fix the duration of speeches.

**Chaudhri Kartar Singh :** If this is the case, then I am bent upon disturbing the House because of the high-handedness of the Premier.

**Mr. Speaker :** I ask the honourable member not to behave like that.

**Seth Sudarshan :** If the words are not kept, we have no other course. There is nothing for us to do but to.....

**Mr. Speaker :** If the honourable members are determined to obstruct I am afraid I shall have to use my exceptional powers.

**Chaudhri Kartar Singh :** Mr. Speaker, I am walking out in protest, and the Congress Party is also walking out. Now the Honourable Premier can do as he pleases.

*(At this stage Chaudhri Kartar Singh walked out followed by the Congress Party.)*

**Sardar Bahadur Sardar Gurbachan Singh :** I was saying that such are the ways of the Hydro-Electric Department, and it is thus that the cost of production is increased and the scheme is made less productive. I am

very grateful to the Honourable Minister for Public Works who has just told me that he is not abandoning these rural schemes and is trying to use wooden poles which are being treated in some way to protect them from white ants.

There is one thing more which I wish to say, not by way of mere criticism, but by way of concrete suggestion. You know the saying, "A stitch in time saves nine." This alternative scheme of tube-wells which I have mentioned before was prepared many years ago and its comparative cost is much less than that of the Bhakra Dam Scheme which the Government is now going to put into operation. Had they completed this scheme some years ago, the conditions in Hissar would not have been what they are, and the Government would have saved a substantial sum out of the relief money which they have spent. Similar are the conditions in the Doaba where the water level is rapidly falling and the Government does not seem to pay any heed to it. A conference was held at Simla and many suggestions and recommendations were adopted and one of the minor recommendations was to construct bunds in the chos and the two Beins and thus conserve rain water which would certainly help in keeping the water level in the wells. We have been looking in vain and hoping against hope that funds would be provided for this small measure in this budget, but nothing so far has been done. The conditions in the Doaba are so bad that even this year it would have been in the grip of famine but for this last shower. I may tell the House that the conditions there are getting from bad to worse every day, but these big doctors only believe in giving oxygen treatment when the patient is gasping for his last breath and would not give a few pennies worth of nutrition in the initial stages. With these words I again bring this vital question to the notice of the Government for immediate action.

**Sardar Jagjit Singh Man** (Central Punjab Landholders): Sir, the annual budget of a Government is not an ordinary thing. It is not merely a paper book explaining the accounts of expenditure and income but it serves to explain the policy of the Government, not only the policy of the past year, but also the policy of the next year. Keeping in view that we have been suffering from a lack of rain besides having famine of severe intensity, our budget is very sound. There is only a deficit of about 28 lakhs. But that again by a magic wand the Finance Minister has turned into a surplus. It may not be out of place to mention here what is the position in other provinces. We know that only three provinces are now having provincial autonomy, while the remaining provinces are under the control of the Governors. In Bengal there is a deficit of 48 lakhs, in Assam there is also a deficit budget and in Sindh there is a balanced budget. Keeping in view these facts one could easily congratulate the Finance Minister on his wonderful achievement. There is no new taxation, either on trade or on industry. So the industrial people are also benefited by this budget. In spite of the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee, no taxes are being imposed in this budget. The greatest achievement of this budget is that Government has been feeding the beneficent departments very liberally and every year expenditure is enhanced on them. It shows that the Government is determined to feed as much as possible these nation-building departments in order that we might stand on our own legs. I would like

[S. Jagjit Singh Man.]

to cite the figures in this connection. In 1937-38 expenditure was Rs. 3,09,000. In 1938-39, Rs. 3,02,000; in 1939-40, Rs. 3,29,000 and again in 1940-41, Rs. 3,46,000. It shows that the money expended is being increased every year. There may be a criticism that the province is not made literate as a whole, unemployment is not removed and that relief is not given to the peasantry. All these criticisms are only for the sake of criticism. I can reply to them in a word, that whatever this Government has done within a period of three years, no other Government could do even within a period of 20 years. (*Hear, hear.*) Then again the Government has maintained *status quo* with regard to taxation, both in rural and in urban areas. Neither taxation is increased in the urban areas nor has it been lowered in rural areas. That shows that the Government is so far considerate on this point. But I may urge that it is a dire necessity that the burden in rural areas is lowered and more taxation imposed on the urban areas. With these few words I whole-heartedly congratulate the Finance Minister and say that I highly appreciate the present budget which is under discussion.

**Chaudhri Abdul Rahim** (Shakargarh, Muhammadan, Rural) (*Urdu*): Sir, at the very outset I would like to offer my hearty congratulations to the Honourable Finance Minister who has been able to adjust the budget at a time when the whole province is threatened with famine and scarcity.

Now, Sir, coming to the requirements of my own constituency I am free to admit that some provision has been made under the major head "Education" for the tahsils of Shakargarh and Pathankot in the district of Gurdaspur, but since there is not a single Government high school in both these tahsils, the zamindars of that part of the province cannot get substantial benefit from these small mercies. In fact it is nothing more than paper provision. There are at present several private schools in these tahsils but owing to lack of funds, their condition is highly deplorable. Time and again we have represented to the Government to move the District Board to take over charge of these schools and bring them under its own administrative control. But since the District Board has not sufficient funds to take upon itself the management of these schools our repeated requests have always proved a cry in the wilderness. For the last 3 years I have been urging upon the Government the advisability of giving special scholarships to the children of zamindars and Achhuts of these tahsils but the Honourable Minister of Education has not acceded to this reasonable demand so far. I would request him to extend special favours to my backward *waga* as it badly stands in need of his help and assistance. Sometime back the District Board, Gurdaspur, made a representation to the Government for an increase in educational grant and later when an address was presented to the Honourable Minister this demand was again put forward but I am sorry to say that our requests have not been so far complied with. Huge sums are being allotted for the departments which are serving no useful purpose, but very meagre provisions are budgeted for those that really benefit the public at large. At present the whole attention of the Government is concentrated on the special police staff. But I make bold to say that murders, dacoities and thefts would have been a thing of the past but for this special police staff. The reason is not far to seek. There is a long standing rivalry between the local police force and the special police staff. Since the former

wants to see the latter become unpopular with the authorities and the public it does not help the special police staff in tracing and investigating the criminal cases. The Government should see to it that this rivalry is removed and good will and better understanding is fostered among both these forces. I was in full agreement with the honourable Lala Duni Chand when he remarked that the *sufedposhes*, *lambardars* and *zaildars* are instrumental in the police officials getting illegal gratifications from the criminals, and if they refuse to help these officials in their corrupt dealings they make false reports to the authorities against them and poison the ears of the Deputy Commissioner and the Superintendent of Police. In 1937 when the Deputy Commissioner, Gurdaspur, paid a visit to *Shakargarh* he was pleased to express his dissatisfaction with the efforts of the local authorities in minimising the number of crimes in that *tahsil*. On this I made a submission to the effect that unless the authorities and the public worked in collaboration the stamping out of these crimes was practically impossible. On that occasion a *zaildar*, Chaudhri Rasila, remarked that the *sufedposhes*, *lambardars* and *zaildars* could easily remove these evils but since they were afraid of the official rod they did not take the initiative in dealing with the criminals. Thus the police officials who make adverse reports to the authorities against the village officials do it merely out of malice and personal grudge. They harass and molest all respectable persons who stand in their way of getting illegal gratification from the criminals. If by chance any *lambardar* fails to grease the palms of the police officers he is thrown in the back-ground and a landless *kharpanch* is raised in the village with whose help they carry on their corrupt practices. Recently in my *ilaga* alone there took place a number of criminal cases which come within the purview of section 302. Since the real criminals have given considerable bribe to the officials they have not been prosecuted but quite innocent people have been apprehended in their stead. Thus a state of utter lawlessness is prevailing in my *tahsil*. I would therefore request the Government to realize its duty and responsibility in the matter and issue necessary instructions to the district authorities to do the needful.

Now, I would like to say a few words with regard to the agrarian measures recently passed by the Government. Only some of them have been enforced as yet. But I feel constrained to say that instead of affording relief to the people these measures have become a source of great trouble. The difficulty is that in my district no separate officer has been appointed for giving proper effect to these Acts. Only a clerk has been employed to look after the relevant files. I have good reasons to believe that he is corrupt and dishonest. He adopts queer methods for extracting bribes from the applicants. If any unfortunate person refuses to pay him anything he punishes him by frequently changing his dates. Recently a poor man came to file an application with him. The clerk asked him to pay Rs. 2, but since he was absolutely penniless he could not comply with his demand. On this the clerk threw away his application and turned him out of the room. The poor man had his wife with him; she sold her ear-rings and thus paid the required amount to this callous and light-hearted man. I would appeal to the Government to appoint an officer as soon as possible so that he may cry halt to the corrupt practices of this dishonest clerk.

[Ch. Abdul Bahim.]

Here I may be allowed to inform the Government that there are several Government-officers who are at present in league with the members of the Opposition. Outwardly they pose as humble servants of the ministry, but inwardly they are with the Opposition. Most of them deliberately refrain from properly investigating the criminal cases so that the present Government may become unpopular with the public. Whenever we talk to them they say that the present Government is doing nothing. They have no respect for the members of the Unionist party. They say that since these members are with the Government they can do no harm to them. In fact they are afraid of the members of the Opposition who intimidate them by putting short notice questions and by moving adjournment motions against them. I am strongly of the opinion that it is in the best interests of the Government to warn such officers who are not true to their salt.

Now, Sir, I would make a respectful submission to the Government that it should not issue appeals for raising subscriptions on different occasions. When such appeals are made the local authorities play havoc with the poor villagers. The tahsildars and kanungos openly tell the people that they would effect mutations of their lands only if they are prepared to give Rs. 10 as a contribution to the fund. When they pay the required amount no receipt is given to them. The official puts Rs. 9 into his own pocket and shows in the accounts that such and such person has subscribed one rupee. In my opinion this practice of raising funds by subscriptions should be entirely discontinued. I hope the Government would carefully consider my submission and stop its officers from plundering the poor people in the name of the State.

Now, Sir, I would like to say a few words to the Honourable Minister of Development. In my tahsil scarcity of water is felt badly. No satisfactory arrangements have been made for the irrigation of my *ilaga*. I know the Central Government is giving grants to the local Government for sinking tube wells in various districts. At present a tube-well is being sunk at Qadian. In Qadian water is found in abundance and the soil is exceptionally fertile. If such experiments can be made in *ilagas* where irrigation facilities are already sufficiently available then my demand for sinking a similar tube well for experimental purposes in my tahsil speaks with much greater force. In Shakargarh the sub-soil water level is gradually going down. At present it has gone down as far as 300 feet. Then, Sir, the Government has fixed boring charges at a much higher rate. The private firms charge at the rate of 5 pice per foot, whereas the Government rate is 7 pice per foot. Not only that, but there is a surcharge of 12 annas which is realized for every first 50 feet. In fact this surcharge is a great hardship, and I would urge upon the Government the desirability of its abolition.

In the end, I would take this opportunity to congratulate the Honourable Minister of Education who has been kind enough to appoint a special medical officer to deal with the epidemic of *ta bhus* which unfortunately broke up in my tahsil. The Honourable Minister of Education did so in response to the requests made by the deputation that waited upon him last year.

**Chaudhri Anant Ram** (Karnal South, General, Rural) (*Urdu*): Sir, I am sorry to observe that my honourable friends of the Congress party have staged a walk out on the ground that the Government could not allow them half of the time of the House to which they were not, in fact, entitled. Only recently they themselves had demanded one-third of the seats in the select committee on the Lahore City of Corporation Bill on the plea that their number in the House entitled them to that position. But now suddenly they have come forward to claim one-half of the time of the house as if their number had increased to this extent. Be that as it may, I would not labour the point any further. It is for them to decide whatever course of action they deem fit for themselves.

Coming to the budget, I may point out that my honourable friend Lala Duni Chand has not in his speech referred to the allocation of funds at all. As a matter of fact he could not lay his finger anywhere in the budget as it was a sound budget and was absolutely free from any defects or loopholes. I agree with him that the land revenue and the water rate have not been reduced by the Government. Let me assure him that the Government is even more anxious to relieve the burden of the zamindars than Lala Duni Chand himself is. But the question that must be solved before affording substantial relief to the zamindars in the land revenue and abiana is as to how to make up the deficiency. Where should the money come from? That is the problem. The Unionist party have all along been declaring from house tops that they would afford relief to the poverty-stricken agriculturists. But this must be done without emptying the provincial exchequer. The only possible way is to tax the richer classes who have escaped taxation so far. But when we come to this, the sympathy of the so-called lovers of the poor, melts away. We have seen in the past, that whenever any measure that is calculated to benefit the poor agriculturists has been brought before the House, these honourable Congress friends were the first to protest against that. This was their attitude towards the agrarian measures. But when the High Command pricked up their ears and asked them to support those Bills, they adopted a policy of neutrality. That showed the extent of their real sympathy with the poor. Leaving that somewhat remote history, let us come nearer, and see how they behaved when the Honourable Premier introduced the Punjab Agricultural Indebtedness Relief (Amendment) Bill a few days ago. My honourable friend Lala Duni Chand and Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt opposed this measure very bitterly. It was also said by some of the Opposition members that the Government was anxious to help the zamindars only, and was not prepared to afford any relief to the non-agriculturists. But as soon as the Honourable Premier agreed to exempt the properties of those non-agriculturists from attachment whose assets do not exceed 5,000 rupees in value, the Opposition again raised a storm of protest. They began to say that the Government were going to ruin the credit of the non-agriculturists. I wonder how to explain this attitude of the Opposition. If the Government tries to help the zamindars, the Congress opposes the measure, and if the Government tries to afford some relief to the poor non-agriculturists, even then the Congress members begin to cry that they are going to be ruined. Whatever the Government does for the amelioration



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of the conditions of the poor, whether agriculturists or non-agriculturists, the Congress friends begin to oppose and condemn it.

Now I will come to the charge that has been levelled against this Government by the Congress party to the effect that the Unionists are preventing the attainment of freedom in this country. How they can justify this charge, is more than I can tell. May I refer them to the resolution which was passed by this House in this connection and may I also draw their attention to what Mahatma Gandhi himself had said in the beginning? He had advised unconditional support to the British in their war efforts against Hitlerism. But it is a pity that Mahatma Gandhi has now gone back upon his words. I, however, have no concern with that aspect of the question. I will confine my remarks to the affairs of the Punjab only. Here I am tempted to ask as to why these Congress friends fight shy of offering their unconditional support to the British people especially when they regard the enemy of the British as their own enemy and admit that they are against Hitlerism? They condemn the Nazi aggression in unmistakable terms and yet keep aloof from the war efforts of the Punjab Government. Punjab wants them to do their duty but they are turning a deaf ear to the call of the country. They should ask every Punjabi to support the British people against their enemy who is also the enemy of this land of the five rivers.

Adverting to what my honourable friend Chaudhri Sumer Singh had said about the educational grants to the district boards, I may point out that I entirely agree with him that the Government has provided a very meagre sum for this purpose. May I add that unless more financial help is given to the district boards, the Punjab Compulsory Primary Education Bill would become null and void? It would become a dead letter without adequate financial support. I may point out that education of all sorts, whether it is adult education or girls education or boys education, is more essential than even the good roads. The greatest need of the time is education and funds must be found for this purpose.

Then I would like to mention another point. My honourable friend Chaudhri Sumer Singh has rightly pointed out that the present system of recruitment to the Government services is very defective. I quite agree with him. I would request the Honourable Premier that, while he has issued instructions to all Heads of the Departments to strictly adhere to the principle of giving 66 per cent representation to the agriculturists in the services, he should also take steps to introduce the element of competition in the recruitment, of course with reservation of seats for each community. This would go a long way to remove the general complaint of the agriculturists that it is only the influential persons from amongst them who get into the services through selection and no heed is paid to the deserving but poor zamindar candidates. I am of the opinion that the method of selection has grown stale. The introduction of competitive system would bring in the best material and consequently the efficiency of the services would be increased. Besides, this would eliminate all chances of favouritism and nepotism.

I am again at one with my honourable friend Chaudhri Sumar Singh that Government should adopt effective measures to promote the indigenous system of medicine which is less costly and more suited to the conditions of our country. As it is the bounden duty of the Government to eradicate disease from the country and provide adequate medical aid to the people, I think the Government would be well advised to establish a large number of Ayurvedic and Unani dispensaries.

As regards the remissions and suspensions I would like to congratulate the Government for their courage and resourcefulness in providing relief to the poor zamindars on such a liberal scale. I may be permitted to make mention of the Bhakra Dam. This scheme has been the subject of constant and anxious study by Government. But so far it has not come to fruition. Although we do not see any hopeful signs that it would be given a practical shape, yet I am sure that Government would do their best to provide irrigation facilities to the famine areas.

I would like to bring to the notice of the Honourable Premier that the wave of crime is engulfing the Karnal District. Honourable members would be surprised to know that gangs of dacoits are very active there and within the last two months 10 to 15 dacoities and a similar number of murders have been committed. This state of affairs is really very deplorable. The people are being put to great hardship. I would not be exaggerating facts if I say that a reign of terror is prevailing there. I would request the Honourable Premier to take effective steps to check this lawlessness and post there a strong contingent of mounted police in order to put an end to the depredations of the dacoits.

**Begum Rashida Latif Baji** (Inner Lahore, Muhammadan, Women, Urban) (Urdu): You would remember, Sir, that when I first took my seat in this august legislature, I invited the attention of the honourable House as well as the Honourable Premier to the fact that no member should be debarred from making a speech in his mother tongue, i.e., Urdu. But then we were told that this could not be permitted under the law. However, it is gratifying to note that this difficulty was overcome by our persistent demand in the matter.

**Mr. Speaker:** But what has the language question to do with the budget? The honourable lady member should speak on the budget.

**Begum Rashida Latif Baji:** But may I know who has spoken on the budget? As a matter of fact no honourable member has cared to touch the budget. (Laughter.) Well, Sir, I was submitting that it is a matter of gratification that now every honourable member—from a back bencher to the Honourable Premier—can make a speech in Urdu. I may also add that at present there are 48 members who are being provided with the copies of the questions as well as of the proceedings of the House in Urdu. But it is a thousand pities that at the time of the budget, a load of copies of the budget estimates printed in English and weighing nearly seven seers is supplied to them. May I know how those honourable members who have yet to finish their English primers, will be able to understand the intricacies of the budget? How would they come to know of the items of receipts and expenditure? When these non-English knowing members

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visit their constituencies, the electorate ask them as to what provision has been made in the budget for their amelioration. They find it hard to answer their query and quietly remark that everything has been given in the budget. (*Ironical laughter.*) Of course I do admit that to our great delight Urdu translation of the budget speech is made available to us. In this connection it is interesting to note that yesterday an honourable member, during his speech, recapitulated all the facts given in the budget speech of the Honourable Finance Minister. Besides, Lala Duni Chand waxed eloquent but he meticulously refrained from attacking the budget estimates. He had all along been eulogising Mahatma Gandhi. I also listened with rapt attention to the speeches made by other honourable members. But these, too, were wide of the mark. You will see, Sir, that all these irrelevant speeches go to show that, apart from the 48 non-English knowing members, even other honourable members have failed to understand the budget. I emphatically assert that it is sheer injustice that the budget estimates supplied to us are printed not in the language we speak but in a foreign language. How can we find out as to what amounts of money have been budgeted for education or for other beneficent departments? I, therefore, request the Honourable Premier to kindly see that in future Urdu version of the budget estimates and other reports, i.e., Unemployment Committee Report or Revenue Committee Report or Select Committee Reports, etc., are supplied to us. I can anticipate that Government will adduce this argument that translation of such reports and budget estimates would involve enormous expenditure. But may I point out that they spend large sums of money for providing facilities and comforts to the honourable members in order to attend the sessions held at Simla? Do they not incur heavy expenditure on this account or in paying double allowances to the honourable members? I may also add that we would not mind if something is deducted from our allowances towards the cost of the Urdu version of the budget estimates or other reports. We would not grudge the English-knowing members if Government supply them gratis copies of budget estimates printed in English. I am sure my appeal would not fall on deaf ears. Although my brethren fight shy of admitting their inability to understand the budget, yet I make no secret of it. I, therefore, submit that if in future budget estimates or select committee reports are supplied to us in English we would certainly return them to Government. (*Laughter.*) I am not making this request for myself only. I am sure I am voicing the feelings of my non-English knowing brethren in the House. As you are aware, Sir, the number of honourable members who have read up to the degree standard is few and far between. Even a large number of honourable members are merely matriculates. Besides, there are 4 lady members of this House. None of them has passed even the matriculation examination. I can therefore, say, in what language the literature regarding the business of the House should be supplied to us. When to-day I entered the Chamber carrying a load of these books, the honourable members perhaps thought that I was going to attack every item of the budget estimates. But the fact of the matter is that I have not even glanced through them. I brought this load of books merely with a view to make a show of it. (*Laughter.*) Now I return these books to the Honourable Finance Minister. (*Renewed*

*Naughton.*) I fully realise that the Honourable Minister for Finance possesses extraordinary ability and a talent of high order. When I cast one glance at him and the other on this book-load, I feel in my heart that these voluminous books must be containing some very useful things, because I myself do not know what provision has been made in them. I, therefore, hope that my appeal that the budget estimates should be supplied to the Urdu knowing members in Urdu only, would not prove a voice in the wilderness. The budget is being discussed for the last two days. But after hearing this discussion I think it appears that very few honourable members have studied the budget and that is why nobody has touched it. As a matter of fact no one has discussed it and every member has been talking about different things. In my opinion if the budget be translated into Urdu and then presented before us we can put forth very good points before the House after studying it.

Now, Sir, through you I want to know from the Government as to how many measures it has enacted during the past three years for the protection of the rights of women and what steps it has taken to safeguard their interests. It is a matter of great regret that the Government has not done anything in this connection. My submission is that women are so very unprotected that they hesitate to go to the courts whether as complainants or defendants because even from these places where justice is dispensed, people kidnap them away and the police fails to protect them. That is but natural because the other party bribes the police officials and they only do their duty in obedience to those rupees. The result of this neglect on the part of the police is that cases of kidnapping of women are daily increasing, but the Government do not pay any attention to this thing. In fact so far no law has been enacted by this House for the protection of women so that they too can feel secure and safe. Let me also point out that I introduced a Shariat Bill for protecting the rights of Muslim women. My object in doing so was, among other things that their rights, which they were given 1,350 years ago and which had been trampled under foot by the laws in force in the Punjab, should be protected. I may submit that the main object of my being in this House has been the securing of that right for which I moved the Shariat Bill. At this stage I also thank the Honourable Premier who like a true Muslim agreed to my request and allowed me to introduce the Bill on a day allotted for Government business. Honourable members are aware of the fact that that was at a time when the capitalist members of this House were not present in the Chamber and if at that time I had spoken aloud they would certainly have come in and obstructed its introduction. You are aware of the fact that I introduced this Bill in a muffled voice and now I would again appeal to the Honourable Premier that he should very kindly allot a day out of those days which have been reserved for Government business, to pass this Bill into law.

Besides, my submission is that you Sir, must have seen many times and my honourable brother the Premier must have seen often that when two men fight with each other they indulge in abusive language and abuse each other's mothers, sisters and wives. Although a law prohibiting the use of abusive language is there, I ask how many people obey that law, when

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as a matter of fact its first teachers are the sub-inspectors of police and constables while the elementary schools for the teaching of abuses and invectives are the police stations? My submission is that if a thief steals anything he is an offender, let him be punished; if a dacoit commits a dacoity he is an offender, let him be punished; if a murderer commits a murder he is an offender, let him be hanged for that; but why should mothers, sisters and wives of such offenders be abused? If anybody goes to a police station, as you have often seen as your house in the city was situated near the police station, that police sub-inspectors hurl abuse at the offenders. I therefore, request the Honourable Premier to take effective steps to stop that evil practice. As a matter of fact he should make it a point to include this in the training course of the police sub-inspectors, that they do not abuse anybody even if he be a criminal of the worst type. Moreover in every police station, in every tahsil, and in every district this notification should be posted on boards and also circulars issued that the police sub-inspectors or police constables are not to hurl filthy abuse at anybody. I should even go to the length of asking for similar measure in regard to the general public but perhaps under the circumstances it is an impossibility. I must confess that if this suggestion is given effect to in the case of the general public it would simply provide one more excuse to the police to rob the public. In fact they would try to arrest every person under this excuse. What I want therefore is that we should strike a blow at the very root of this evil wherefrom the public get habituated to it so that poor women might be spared any further indignities.

Now, I wish to say something with regard to the cinemas. No doubt the Honourable Minister of Finance has got a Bill enacted into law which will bring revenues to the extent of Rs. 75,000 to the Government Treasury, but I am sorry to state that so far he has not brought forward any Bill to improve the tone of the cinemas. In this connection I want to cite an example. At present a film named "Ali Baba and Forty Thieves" is being shown in one of the cinemas and in response to the complaints of the public I also went along with the members of the Censor Board to see this picture. To my astonishment I saw half naked women dancing in many scenes with many more objectionable features in the film referred to above. I pointed out to the members of the Censor Board the defects of the film and particularly drew their attention to the fact that the exhibition of this film in the Punjabi language was highly objectionable and that it should be stopped. But later on I heard that after expunging a small scene the rest of the film was allowed to be shown in the cinema. On this I went to the Honourable Premier and presented to him a lengthy representation which was signed by a score of the honourable members of this House and I pointed out to him that the exhibition of that film should be stopped. But that film is still being shown. It is said that the film was shown in other provinces and that there was no harm if it were shown here. But I may point out that we have nothing to do with other provinces. Let them do as they please. So far as our province is concerned its people are very modest and they dress decently as well. If other provinces have not censored this film that does not mean that it should not be censored here. I ask the honourable members whether they have ever seen scantily dressed women of the Punjab.

crushing stones on the roadsides. I do not think they have ever seen that. But against this they must have seen scantily dressed women of other provinces crushing stones on roadsides. If the honourable members happen to see the work in progress on the Lahore sewerage scheme, they will see such scenes very often. It is not only the women of the Punjab who dress better than their sex of the other provinces, but the men too are much better off than the male sex of the other provinces. As a matter of fact the dress of the people of other provinces is much too short and scanty as compared with the dress of the people of the Punjab. I can say without any fear of contradiction that as compared with the mode of the dress of the people of other provinces the people here are far more decently dressed and that the Punjab can rightly take pride in it. If the honourable members of the Opposition had been here now I would have certainly pointed out their short-coming in this behalf and would have asked them as to why they have adopted an alien garb by giving up very decent dress of their own province.

Sir, I would again request you not to consult your watch but to allow me to proceed with my speech. You are aware of the fact that I represent the women of 29 districts, and if I am allowed one minute for laying before the House the difficulties of each district, I would require at least 29 minutes to have my say.

I was submitting, Sir, that in the present circumstances all such films in Punjabi which can be exhibited to the village folk, should not be allowed to enter the Punjab. The exhibitors are encouraged by the fact that the Government, being a partner in the earnings, cannot do anything against them in this connection. It is with this idea in my mind that I request the Government to see that no such film should either be made or allowed to enter this province, which is likely to have a baneful effect on the morals of the people, and I am confident that the Honourable Premier will take action in the matter. I do not deny the fact that if you were to see some of these films, you may derive some benefit or learn a lesson from them but it cannot be inferred that it will also be to the good of the illiterate masses.

Some time back an Excise Bill was introduced in this House, and it was said that the Government intended to prohibit the use of liquor by enacting it. But let us see what profit has been derived by the Government from this enactment. The net income from this source for the first year as given in the budget estimates, is more than one lakh of rupees. (Interruption.) What should one say to these honourable members who do not know a single word and still say that they know everything?

**Minister of Finance :** Educate them.

**Begum Rashida Latif Baji :** What will they learn from me? Why do you not educate them?

**Mr. Speaker :** The honourable lady member has spoken for more than 15 minutes. I do not propose to allow her any more time.

**Begum Rashida Latif Baji :** But, Sir, I have not yet referred to such important departments as Education, Public Health, etc. I am confident that my honourable brethren would like to hear my views on matters concerning these departments. You can enquire from the honourable members whether they are not anxious to hear my speech. Gentlemen, would you like me to proceed with my speech? (Voices : Indeed.)

[Begum Rashida Latif Baji.]

Sir, I referred to the Excise Bill mainly from the point of view of the women. It is no doubt true that the Government derives a considerable amount of revenue from this trade but it is proving very harmful to the people of this province. If the honourable minister were to visit the liquor shops of Lahore.....

**Minister of Finance :** I went along with my sister to visit these shops.

**Begum Rashida Latif Baji :** Yes and I showed you that some of these liquor shops were situated in localities where decent people were living and that they were put to great trouble on account of them. On your replying that they should keep their windows closed, I had submitted that it was on account of their being gentle that such things existed there, otherwise if they were bad people they would have caused these shops to be removed from such places by their hooliganism. It would, therefore, be better if such shops were removed from those localities to some out of the way places, to ply their trade. The liquor shops should in no case be situated in the city or its adjacent abadis. Moreover I do not think that people would refuse to buy liquor if its price were raised by two annas on account of the scarcity of bottles. It will also eliminate the necessity of enacting a law for ensuring the return of these bottles to the distilleries. It is highly desirable that the liquor shops should be removed far away from the city. I am making this request on behalf of the women of this province who have a legitimate cause for grievance. There are many women whose life is being ruined and whose children are being starved on account of their husbands having fallen a prey to this evil habit. They waste their earnings on buying drinks thus depriving their families of even the bare necessities of life. I am confident that the Honourable Premier will take steps to send these shops out of the city. It is a pity that whenever such a demand is made by us he replies that it will encourage illicit distillation, but may I know from him as to what purpose the Law and Police serves, if it is incapable of checking this evil? If according to the Islamic Laws, it is laid down that the hands of a thief should be cut off, why do you not enact fresh measures and provide exemplary punishments for such people?

**Mr. Speaker :** According to parliamentary practice as well as the practice of this House, matters requiring legislation or involving legislation cannot be discussed in general discussion on the Budget. The parliamentary practice is :—

Administrative action of all departments is open to debate but the necessity for legislation and matters involving legislation cannot be discussed in a committee of supply.

**Begum Rashida Latif Baji :** Who is going to understand what you say? Mr. Speaker, I have still to say a few words in regard to the attitude adopted by the Honourable Minister of Development.

**Mr. Speaker :** The conduct of a Minister cannot be discussed except on a substantive motion.

**Begum Rashida Latif Baji :** We are not going to table such a motion against our own Minister. I wanted to say a few things to the Honourable Minister of Development but he has gone out of the Chamber.

**An Honourable member :** His party secretary is present.

**Begum Rashida Latif Baji :** Last year I drew the attention of the Government towards the fact that the number of industrial schools for girls in the province was very small, and I had particularly referred to the Industrial School at Rawalpindi. I am glad to say that the Government has very kindly taken over not only the said school, but also the Sikander Zenana Industrial School under its protection. But I am at a loss to understand why, whereas a sum of Rs. 21,29,000 is being spent on the Industrial department, only a paltry sum of only Rs. 60,000 is being given to the industrial schools and what is more, not a single school possesses its own building. Every school must have its own building and a hostel attached to it. Marketing arrangements should be made within such schools and the women inmates of jails as well as other destitute women should be allowed to come to such schools and work there. All other facilities for buying and selling things should also be provided, and it is very essential that every district must have one such school. I hope the Honourable Minister for Development will give this matter his most serious attention.

Before I finish my speech I would like to mention another matter. There was a rumour current among the public that the most praiseworthy work of village uplift will be stopped, but on looking up the budget estimates I learnt that it will go on as before. It pained me to find out that the post of the Indian Lady Assistant Commissioner has been abolished, and a European lady has been appointed instead to do that work in honorary capacity. What does a European lady know of Indian crafts and requirements? Besides, I fail to understand why the Honourable Minister paid a visit to the school after the Lady Assistant Commissioner had left. Above all in the report that he made in connection with the school he has not said one word of praise or encouragement for the labour put in by the Indian lady, but has applauded the work done by the European lady. I request the Honourable Minister of Development that even if Indians put in lesser work he ought to encourage them more, and should not ignore altogether the praiseworthy work done by the Indian lady. May I know who will now supervise the work of the women uplift workers and lady health visitors who work in rural areas and towns? In view of this fact it is very necessary that she should be re-appointed to the same post so that the work of supervision can go on as before.

Now, Sir, I would like to make a few submissions to the Honourable Minister of Education who, in the course of his lengthy speech, has proudly remarked that all his efforts are directed to the welfare of the villagers and nothing is being done for the amelioration of the condition of the urban population. But let me point out to him that by making such an invidious distinction he can do no good to the province. The towns and villages are interdependent. The prosperity of the one is sure to affect that of the other. Thus it is in the fitness of things that the interests of both these sections of population should be taken into consideration while making any decision in the matter. The Honourable Minister is going to introduce the compulsory Primary Education Bill under which good many trained mistresses would be required. It was up to him to start several girls training schools for getting the required number of mistresses. In Lahore, at present, their



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is not a single training school in which girls may be trained for J. V. or S.-V. certificates. The Government should immediately make necessary arrangements in a big town like Lahore where hundreds of girls are willing to get such a training. Then, Sir, the present building of the Lahore College for Women is not only insufficient, but also old and dilapidated. Although I have on several occasions invited the attention of the Government to the fact that the building is in a bad state of repair, yet he has never thought fit to do the needful.

Now, with regard to the Lady Aitchison Hospital I would like to say that here women from all over the province come for medical treatment. Since accommodation is definitely inadequate, the out-door patients experience great inconvenience and difficulty. I am, as you know, Sir, a non-official visitor of this Hospital. When I along with other non-official visitors paid a visit to the hospital we badly felt the want of space. Hence we sent a telegram to the Government with a request to extend the present building, rather raise a new one. My submission is that the matter requires immediate attention of the Government. Since the accommodation is not sufficient several patients go without being admitted into the hospital and their desire for being recovered from their illness is never fulfilled. There are only 28 beds for women in the tuberculosis ward of the Mayo Hospital, and the patients experience great difficulty in seeking admission in the ward. Only one is admitted out of every 10 patients that come for the purpose. Since there is no sufficient accommodation in the ward the doctors are absolutely helpless in the matter. My information is that the late Bawa Dinga Singh had made a donation of 3 lakhs of rupees for raising a separate building on the Ferozepore Road for the benefit of such patients. I hope the Government would take immediate action in the matter and see that this new hospital is started as soon as possible.

I have nothing to complain against the Honourable Malik Khizar Hayat Khan, the Minister of Public Works. In fact I do not expect any good from him. I have made several representations to him during these 8 years, but he has never condescended to give favourable consideration to any one of them. It is a fact that he has always turned down my requests. God has favoured him with power and authority and he is now well within his rights to use that power and authority in any way he likes. I made several representations to him with regard to the Lahore Municipality, but he acceded to none of them. I, therefore, do not propose to say anything to him, for I want to maintain my self-respect.

Now, Sir, I would like to say a few words to the Honourable Minister of Revenue. Several women daily come to me with the complaints that they cannot approach the deputy commissioners and that if they represent their cases to the village lambardars and zaildars the latter instead of redressing their grievances rob them of their lands and thus make them suffer further hardships. I would earnestly request the Government to appoint a lady officer for the purpose. In fact she should be entrusted with the work of holding enquiries into such cases and making recommendations to the higher officers for the removal of genuine grievances of women in the matter. In this connection I had mentioned to Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan of

a widow and also submitted her petition to him. She had a pathetic tale to tell. Once she was the wife of a big landlord, and now her whole property has been attached. She has nothing to subsist on. She had represented to the Government that if a piece of land were given to her she would manage to pull on. But it is a pity that the Government vouchsafed her no reply. Now her children have been admitted in an orphanage and she has been helped to open a tuck shop in a certain girls school. She too is a sister of zamindars and I request the zamindar Government to make some provision for her subsistence. Besides, there are several other women who deserve your financial help. If the Honourable Minister holds out a promise to help these poverty-stricken women I take it upon myself to submit their petitions to him. In short the Government should appoint a lady officer for the purpose and supply her with necessary staff to cope with the work of granting relief to the needy and deserving women.

Now, Sir, I am really thankful to the honourable members of the House who have most patiently and calmly heard my submissions. I would request the Honourable Ministers who are as dear to me as my brothers to give favourable consideration to my remarks and take necessary and proper action in the matter. In the end, I would express my gratitude to you for the indulgence you have shown me to-day.

**Sir William Roberts** (European): Sir, I must congratulate the Finance Minister for introducing a conservative and sound budget. It is very fortunate that in the first few years of provincial autonomy we have had a Finance Minister who laid the foundations of our finances in so careful a manner—.

**Mr. Speaker**: I have fixed 15 minutes the duration of speeches, barring of course the Honourable Ministers.

**Sir William Roberts**: I will finish it within 5 minutes—in so careful a manner as to stand a very favourable comparison with any of the Finance Ministers under the bureaucratic Governments which preceded the present Government. The only general criticism which I would like to make is that he has been a bit too conservative, but this is a good fault. I now wish to make some criticism of the Government in connection with a Bill which was recently before the House—I refer to the Indebtedness Bill. In that Bill the rate of interest is put down at  $7\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. I do not wish to be misunderstood. It is not the rate of interest to which I object: in fact if a lower rate were proposed I should have had no hesitation in supporting it. But I do not agree with the retrospective effect of this Bill. That seems to me to undermine the business relations of agriculturists and dealings of man with man in the village and it will ruin something in their character which has taken generations to build. I think therefore our Finance Minister, having adopted a sound conservative attitude in his budget, should have also expressed very strong condemnation of the departure from the same sound principles in the case of this Indebtedness Bill. I have not had an opportunity of expressing my views on the Bill before; so I take this opportunity of expressing them in a general way. I hope therefore that the Government will reconsider their attitude in this matter. It does not matter how severe the remedy

[Sir William Roberts.]

is, because the evil of indebtedness is a very, very serious one, and should be treated drastically. But no financial measure should have retrospective effect.

**Mian Faizal Karim Bakhsh** (Muzaffargarh Sadar, Muhammadan, Rural) (Urdu): Sir, the Honourable Finance Minister has prepared the Budget with great care and ability for which he deserves our hearty congratulations. But so far as my district is concerned, I feel constrained to say that the situation remains as it was. The lands in the Muzaffargarh district are being spoiled by *kallar* and their yield is becoming less and less. As there has been no reduction in land revenue and water rates, the income of a zamindar with 200 acres of land after paying Government dues is no more than Rs. 39 a year which comes to Rs. 8-4-0 per mensem. You can very well imagine how difficult it is to maintain one's family and meet other necessary expenses with that meagre income, especially when these people have to pay their debts to *sahukars* and co-operative societies. These poor zamindars are being crushed under various liabilities. The incidence of land revenue in the Muzaffargarh tahsil is higher than in the other tahsils and, therefore, the condition of the zamindar in that tahsil is still worse. Last year I brought it to the notice of the Government that these people are not able to pay Government dues and, therefore, it would be a great help to them if the incidence of land revenue was lowered. The problem of dates is still more troublesome. The income from dates is not enough even to pay Government dues. The revenue in respect of them should be charged according to the prevailing prices. Moreover, if they are allowed to prepare *gur* out of dates their burden will be lightened to a great extent. These dates are of an ordinary inferior variety and cannot compete favourably with the varieties imported from Basra.

The Government has given monetary grants to the people of Dera Ghazi Khan and Mianwali districts for cattle breeding. I would request it to show the same favour to the people of Muzaffargarh so that they may be able to earn something by breeding cattle. There are vast jungles and pasture lands in my district and they can be of much use to the poor zamindars and other people. The Government has been holding out promises to establish nurseries and agricultural farms in the district for the last ten years, but nothing has been done to fulfil those promises.

سے بڑے بڑے زمینداروں کو زمینوں پر حکومت کا  
کچھ کام کرنے کے لئے کہا گیا ہے (عربی)

Then as regards the golden laws, civil courts are not giving effect to them properly. As an instance I might mention the conditions obtaining in Alipur. The Government should appoint an officer to tour the district and report to the Government whether or not these laws are being worked in a proper manner. Unless worked properly they cannot prove of any benefit to the people, and so long as they do not prove useful you cannot expect the people to appreciate them. An officer was appointed to dispose of the applications with regard to restitution of mortgaged lands and benami transactions, but he cannot cope with the work with the present insufficient staff. On account of this state of affairs people cannot derive proper benefit from these measures and are put to a great deal of unnecessary trouble.

As regards education the district is awfully backward. There are only four Government High Schools in the whole district. Now it is proposed to close the High School at Alipur. That, I submit, would be an act of sheer injustice. Alipur is at a distance of 52 miles from Muzaffargarh and if that High School is closed it will be well nigh impossible for students of that *ilaga* to go to Muzaffargarh for higher education. The Government should, on the contrary, open High Schools at Rangpur, Khangarh, and Rohlanwali in order to remove educational backwardness of the district. Since primary education is going to be made compulsory in the province, the number of students is sure to increase and, therefore, you should provide more facilities for higher education.

Then coming to the means of communications, the road between Muzaffargarh and Alipur, a distance of 52 miles, is under the Public Works Department, but half of it is still unmetalled. In the rainy season when the river is in flood this road becomes impassable and the people are put to great trouble. This road should be metalled and its level should be raised. The condition of the Rangpur-Muzaffargarh road which is unmetalled from end to end is still worse. It would be very kind on the part of the Government if this road is brought under the Public Works Department or a grant is given to the district board so that the road may be metalled after its level has been raised. In summer it becomes absolutely unfit for traffic and in these days of civilization people are obliged to travel this distance of 41 miles on camel back as was done in ancient times. Rangpur is a sub-tahsil and people have to go from that place to the headquarters of the district. There is no railway line in that *ilaga* and the journey has to be made in lorries or tongas. I would, therefore, request the Government to remove this source of trouble and inconvenience to the people.

I must also draw the attention of the Government to the necessity of opening more hospitals in the district. On account of the swarms of mosquitos in that area malaria takes a heavy toll every year and constant whirlwinds are responsible for cataract and many other diseases. The Government should either open more hospitals or grant subsidies to Unani physicians so that people may get medical aid from them without any difficulty.

Another grievance of my district is that we are not given our due share in Government services. Previously it could be said that the inhabitants of the district did not possess sufficient educational qualifications, but now although they have acquired education the doors of Government service are still closed against them.

Now I come to possibilities of industrial progress of the district. There is an abundance of mangoes, maltas and oranges in the district and if they are preserved in tins, both the Government and people will be benefited to a great extent. This district is by no means less poverty-stricken than Hissar. You will be able to get very cheap labour and the people will be relieved of unemployment. The industry of woollen cloth and blankets can be started in Muzaffargarh, tahsil Leiah and Kot Addu where large flocks of sheep are reared. Then sugar industry can also be started with great advantage. Sugarcane is produced in abundance there. Moreover, if it be possible to produce sugar out of the juice of dates, the prospects of the success of this industry will become much brighter.

[Mian Fazl Karim Bakhsh.]

Then, Sir, if the Government *rakhs* in the district are distributed among the poor zamindars, cultivators and other unemployed people according to the needs of their families, it will go a long way to relieve want and poverty in that part of the province. These people are so poor that although wheat and other articles of food were very cheap last year, yet the inhabitants of my district had to eat boiled leaves of turnips, etc., instead of bread. The only luxury they could enjoy was a little salt in those boiled leaves. Last year when Mr. Darling visited that district on the occasion of Id-ul-Azha he was pleased to remark that since the people were crushed under debts they should not indulge in any extravagance. I told him that there was no such likelihood because the people could not get anything even to keep body and soul together. At this he inquired from those present as to how many of them had eaten boiled leaves instead of bread. He was really amazed when four or five men stood up. I told him that if he wanted to acquaint himself with the real state of affairs he should pay surprise visits to some of the families and see for himself how wretched their life is. They have no bread to eat and no cloth to ward off the bitter cold. I can assert with confidence that conditions in my district are much worse than those in Hissar and, therefore, I again request the Government to grant them lands in Government *rakhs*.

Another request which I have to make relates to the railway bridge which is closed at sunset cutting off Muzaffargarh from the rest of the world. If it is left open for traffic throughout the 24 hours, people will be highly grateful to the Government.

As regards benami transactions, although certain restrictions were already in existence with respect to them yet clever people managed to evade the law to their advantage. This Government has very kindly made the law on this point absolutely clear by enacting the Golden Acts. But I understand that in January or February last orders were issued to the effect that applications in respect of benami transactions should be accompanied by court fees as is done in the case of civil suits and *talbana* should be deposited for summoning witnesses as laid down in the Civil Procedure Code. I submit, Sir, that such an action would prove a great hardship to the poor people of the Muzaffargarh district.

In the end I want to draw the attention of the Government to the fact that the number of *kharaba* grades has been reduced. The poor zamindars do not get *kharaba* remission even when they richly deserve it. I request the Honourable Minister of Revenue to remove this grievance of the people at his earliest convenience.

**Sufi Abdul Hamid Khan** (Ambala and Simla, Muhammadan, Rural), (Urdu): Sir, several honourable members have tried to praise the Honourable Ministers and to point out the merits of the Budget. But I would observe that the Budget speaks for itself and needs no pleader to hold brief on its behalf, as the Persian couplet goes—

مشک آلسم کہ خورہ پیوندد نہ کہ عطار بگریزد

The Budget is an open chapter and its merits are not concealed from any one. It goes without saying that it is an excellent budget. As the

time for each member has been fixed by the Honourable Speaker, I would proceed forthwith to discuss other important matters.

It is gratifying to note that the Unionist Government has done a lot of work to ameliorate the conditions of the poor and specially the poverty-stricken agriculturists of the Punjab. Other provinces have also begun to follow the good lead of this Ministry. But I cannot help observing at the same time that although the agrarian measures are quite useful in themselves, yet the Government has not enforced them in right earnest and in all the districts. They have been enforced in a few districts only, with the result that these Acts have not been allowed to benefit the down-trodden zamindars to the same extent to which they are capable of benefiting the poor. All sorts of rumours are afloat in the province. There is a great feeling of excitement among the zamindars with regard to this state of affairs, and various explanations are given by different people. Some say that Sir Gokul Chand Narang had gone to London and got these Golden Acts cancelled. Although I know that this is not true, yet I must inform the House how the people are feeling on this point. Why they have not been enforced in their entirety is beyond the comprehension of the common villagers. Full one year and a half have passed, and yet we do not find these Acts being acted upon in the whole of the province. There must be some reason for that. Laws are made not to decorate the Statute Book but in order to be enforced. Why are these agrarian Acts, nay, the Golden Acts, not being enforced when they are thought to be really very useful for the zamindars? It is interesting to note in this connection that the Honourable Minister of Development often goes on tours and praises these measures and promises that they would be enforced very soon, and yet they are not being enforced. We are still waiting and wondering as to how long we shall have to wait. Moreover I would request the Government very respectfully to appoint a special officer in every district to see how the Benami Act is being acted upon by the district officers. I know that the Deputy Commissioner of Jullundur has held that unless the Benamidars themselves admit that a certain transaction is benami, the transaction should not be held to be a benami one. He has also issued instructions to his subordinate officers to this effect. That, I say, is a strange interpretation of the law. How can the guilty persons themselves confess their guilt in all cases? It means that no criminal should be punished unless he admits that he is guilty. I am afraid such interpretations will defeat the very object of these Golden Acts. The Acts would be made null and void by the local officers and there are many such prejudiced officers in the Punjab who will try to avail themselves of this opportunity and make this law a dead letter. I hope the Government will check this tendency on the part of the local officers at their earliest.

Now I will come to the Department of Police. I am sorry to observe that whereas the Government is making rapid strides to improve and ameliorate the conditions of the poor zamindars, the police is deteriorating day by day. I would draw the special attention of the Honourable Minister of Public Works who is in charge of this Department to the deplorable fact that the police is becoming worse and worse with the march of times. It is a great pity that whereas three years have passed since the provincial autonomy was introduced in this province, no effective step has been taken to

[Sufi Abdūl Hamid Khan.]

improve the ways of the police. Far from the number of crimes decreasing, it has increased to a considerable degree. An honourable member had quoted figures yesterday to show that the crime was on the increase since the coming into power of the present Government. I can also say from my personal experience about my own district as well as four other districts of the Ambala division that cases of dacoities and thefts have increased and the police has not been able to arrest the offenders and bring them to book. During the last 1½ years the condition has become particularly bad. The dacoits of Ambala have now begun carrying their raids in the adjoining districts as well. In this connection I may add that the cases of dacoities that were committed in the Rupar Tahsil in the year before last, have not so far been traced and only very few dacoits have been arrested. Those dacoits must have belonged to the gang of dacoits from Karnal. The local police and the additional police have been unable to do their duty in the matter. The dacoits remain busy in committing crimes in the four Thanas of that district. I know it because I belong to this district. The police should take more active interest in the matter and investigate the cases more thoroughly than it has done before. They have failed to take any steps to put an end to the depredations of the dacoits. They have not even cared to depute a C. I. D. official to find out clues to the whereabouts of the gang. They have taken no pains to make enquiries in the *ilaga* with a view to apprehending these marauders. The Superintendent of Police pays no heed to the problem of eradicating the evil of gangsterism. They content themselves with going to the place of occurrence of dacoity, taking down statements of the victims and bringing a dead body, if any, for *post-mortem* purposes. Afterwards they take no serious interest in the matter. I would, therefore, request the Honourable Premier to make adequate arrangements to protect the people of the *ilaga* from the pilferings of the dacoits and issue strict instructions to the police to spare no efforts in bringing the delinquents to book.

Then I would like to make a mention of the consolidation of holdings. It is really very useful work. But I would suggest that the fee of two or four annas per consolidated bigha should be abolished. Most of the zamindars refuse to get their lands consolidated because they find it difficult to pay the fee. I am of the opinion that Government should make consolidation of holdings compulsory and free, so that the zamindars may derive the fullest benefit of this laudable scheme.

Then I may be permitted to make a few observations regarding the boring operations of wells. Our Government receives a grant for this purpose from the Central Government. As a result of this grant no departmental charges are realised from the zamindars who get their wells bored through the Boring department. But when this grant is spent up, Government begins to levy charges for the boring operations. The zamindars being poor and impecunious, find it hard to pay these charges. I, therefore, suggest that in future Government should bear the cost of boring from the provincial revenues.

Then I come to the taccavi loans advanced to zamindars for sinking wells. I may point out that sometimes it so happens that the

wells for sinking of which the zamindars take taccavi loans, are not successful. Consequently the money spent in digging operations is wasted and the purpose for which it is taken is frustrated. The poor zamindar then finds himself in a quandary. Neither has he been able to succeed in getting irrigation facilities which the well would have provided him, nor is he in a position to pay off the loan. But the Government insists upon its realisation. The result is that more often than not the land of the zamindars is auctioned to their great detriment. I would request the Honourable Minister that he should so arrange matters that where the wells are not successful the taccavi loans should be written off so that the poor zamindars may not be put to great hardships.

Besides, I should like to offer felicitations to the Honourable Minister for Education for having made a provision for opening 80 more primary schools for girls in the current year in addition to 80, which have been opened last year and budgeting some money for the advancement of adult education. I also congratulate the Honourable Minister for opening M.A. classes in the Lahore College for Women. This has been the crying demand of the Muslims of Lahore. People of my way of thinking, who are opposed to co-education of young girls and boys, feel much indebted to him. As regards adult education I am glad to say that the Education Department is doing commendable work. But I cannot help saying that provision of only 450 paid workers, for whose emoluments Rs. 54,000 have been provided in the budget to eradicate illiteracy from the province, is merely tinkering with the problem. I am of the opinion that it is the bounden duty of the Government to educate the masses in order to improve their miserable lot. But as the honourable members are aware, the number of illiterate persons in the province is very large. I fail to understand how 450 paid workers would be able to liquidate illiteracy from the Punjab. I, therefore, suggest that the provision for this purpose should be considerably increased in order to achieve this laudable object.

**Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh** (Parliamentary Secretary): Sir, this province is fortunate in continuing to have as the custodian of its finances an economist of the ability and calibre of Mr. Manohar Lal whom any country would be proud to have as its Chancellor of the Exchequer. (*Hear, hear.*) The budget that he has presented to this House reveals the soundness of the provincial finances. Apparently it is a deficit budget, as it shows a deficit of about 28 lakhs. If, however, the honourable members were to go carefully into the budget they would find that it is not at all a deficit budget. After providing for about 42 lakhs for famine relief and also making an allowance of about a crore and twenty-four lakhs for suspensions and remissions that the Government may have to make in the year 1940-41, only a nominal deficit of 28 lakhs has been shown in this budget. And then there is no additional burden put on the tax-payer. On this achievement, the Finance Minister ought to be congratulated. Sir, the soundness of the provincial budget can be tested from two points of view. First, if the honourable members were to take into consideration the debt position of the province, they would find that in spite of floating three loans to the extent of Rs. 4½ crores, the net addition to the total debt of the province is only two crores and seventy-six lakhs. And then if they go into



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the total debt figures, they would find that the total debt of the province is thirty-three crores and thirty-four lakhs, against a capital expenditure, almost wholly on productive works, of forty-eight crores. Of this, 41 crores is expenditure on Irrigation and Hydro-Electric works which is giving a return of 9·28 per cent, that is more than double of what this province has got to pay on its debt by way of interest. One honourable member, I believe my honourable friend Pir Lal Badshah, suggested that this budget is not good because the income remains stationary and that the Honourable Minister for Finance ought to have been able to double revenue receipts. I do not think the finance minister is a magician and I believe the honourable member never realized that the revenue receipts of the province could not be doubled without additional taxation or without additional burden on the tax-payer. I quite concede that if the prices were to rise, and I believe they would rise, then additional income of nearly one crore and forty-five lakhs, which the Honourable Minister has provided on account of remissions and suspensions of land revenue and water rate, would be available as a source of additional income to this province.

■ Another way by which one can judge the soundness of the provincial finance is by considering whether the income of the province was being properly utilised for the amelioration of the general public, whether the purchasing power of the people in general was being raised and whether anything was being done for the down-trodden and for those who are on the lowest rung of the economic ladder. In order to judge the finances from these points of view, I would like honourable members to look into the budget very carefully. If they look carefully into the memorandum that has been supplied to us, they will find that in spite of the huge sum of money provided for famine relief and for probable remissions, the amount that is to be spent on beneficent departments stands at the figures of 3·46 lakhs, the highest that was ever reached in this province. (*Hear, hear*). I would like to compare these figures with the figures of previous years. If we compare the present figure with that for 1921, it will be found that the present figure is an increase of 108 per cent on what it was in 1921. The expenditure on beneficent departments in 1921 stood at 170 lakhs whereas it is now 346 lakhs. Even if we compare the present figure with the figure for the year immediately preceding the advent of provincial autonomy, that is 1936-37, we find that whereas in that year the expenditure stood at 287 lakhs, the present figure is 346 lakhs, that is, an increase of 21 per cent.

Honourable members will also realise that in the matter of expenditure on law and order, about which much criticism has been levelled against the Government, whereas in 1921 the expenditure stood at 192 lakhs, in 1940-41 it is 213 lakhs, that is, an increase of 11 per cent only.

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

As compared with the figures for 1936-37, it will be seen that the present expenditure on law and order shows an increase of only 1·15 per cent over that of 1936-37. Honourable members will thus realise that the greater part of the income of the province is being spent for the benefit of the people at large and comparatively a small amount is being spent on law and order.

In regard to the efforts made to raise the purchasing power of the people, I will not take a long time, but I would only refer to two or three matters. First taking agriculture, it will be observed that by agricultural research and the provision of improved variety of seed of cotton, wheat and sugarcane, the income of the peasants has gone up by 3½ to 4 crores every year. Is that not an achievement on which the Punjab Government can pride themselves? With regard to irrigation projects, most of our capital expenditure is now on productive works. As all honourable members know, the Haveli Project has been completed and we are now taking in hand the Thal Project and very shortly, I believe, the Government is likely to take up the Bhakra Dam. In connection with the Bhakra Dam, I have got to make one or two suggestions. This is one of the most important projects that the Government of this province will have to undertake. It will not only provide relief to the poor people of the south-east Punjab on which the Government has already spent nearly 2½ crores, but it will lead to the general prosperity of the province. It is from the point of view of this general development of the province that I stress the importance of that enterprise. The Bhakra Dam is likely to cost about 16 crores of rupees. But this is only the cost of the irrigation project. If the Government were to spend an additional crore or a crore and a half, they would be able to develop about 200,000 KW. of electric energy at a cost of less than one-quarter of what it costs to produce from the Uhl river. This is a matter which the Government should not overlook. In financing this scheme the Government should take into consideration the fact that if we incur an additional expenditure of about a crore we will be able to provide cheap electric energy, which may be utilised for industrial development.

With regard to famine relief, the measures taken by Government in this respect are so liberal that they can take a genuine pride on them, and I am sure the whole province is thankful to Government for this. But I have got one suggestion to make in this connection. It is no doubt true that Government has come to the help of these needy and poverty-stricken people with the promptness and liberality for which there is no parallel. But the Government may also consider the proposal of allotting large tracts of land on temporary cultivation to the poor families of Hissar. They can import a large number of agricultural families of Hissar and settle them on colony lands on temporary cultivation basis instead of giving those lands to well-to-do zamindars or non-zamindars. I think if the Government were to adopt that course it will go a long way to relieve the famine-stricken people as well as reduce the huge expenditure of Government on famine relief.

Another method by which Government can increase the purchasing power of the poor people is by developing the industries of the province. I will not take up the time of the House by dwelling on this subject at any great length because the demand for grant for industries is coming up for discussion shortly and I will have to make some observations on the subject then. But I cannot help referring to one industry which is very much allied to agriculture and I should therefore like to make a few remarks in regard to it with the permission of my Leader, the Minister for Revenue. I refer to fruit culture. I quite appreciate, that Government and more particularly, my honourable and revered Leader, the Revenue Minister,

[S. B. Sardar Ujjal Singh.]

have shown great sympathy for this industry. When last year a deputation of the Fruit Development Board waited upon him he was kind enough to say that the Government would be prepared to give extra water for fruit culture to the extent of half a per cent. of the total culturable commanded area on each canal, and one per cent. of the total area of any particular distributary. But it is now more than a year since the Government made the promise and nothing has so far been made to implement that promise. Probably there are some difficulties in the way. I do not minimise them, but I do hope that my honourable friend the Revenue Minister will give serious consideration to this matter and try to expedite it.

The last subject I should like to touch is the police. My honourable friend Captain Muzaffar Khan said that he wanted additional police for the Mianwali district, because he believed that it was only with the help of the police that the dacoities and raids in that district could be averted; but on the other hand, I was surprised to hear from my honourable friend from Ludhiana, Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan, that the additional police was quite useless. I cannot believe that there is any one in this House, who thinks that he can maintain peace and order in the province, or can stop dacoities and raids without the help of the police. I am not here to defend the acts of omission or commission of the police force. I know that there are good men in the police and there are black sheep also in them. But honourable members must also realize that sometimes the police have to perform very difficult jobs at great personal risk. They should therefore be a little more considerate in criticising the police force. Some honourable members have referred to the corruption in the police department. I am not here to defend the corrupt persons. As a matter of fact, the Honourable the Premier on many occasions has declared on the floor of this House that Government is not going to give any shelter to any corrupt officer. They are anxious to see that the police, and for the matter of that, all the departments of Government, are purged of corruption. With regard to the treatment of the police, we do realize that there is scope for improvement. The Government however are determined to see that the police and all its officers behave as true servants of the people and not as their rulers.

**Malik Barkat Ali** (Eastern Towns, Muhammadan, Urban): Sir, I desire at the very outset to congratulate the Honourable Finance Minister on the very able and skilful manner in which he has been handling the finances of this province. As a member of the Public Accounts Committee, I have had occasions to study his methods and the methods of his department for the purpose of ensuring a rigid control over expenditure and securing scrupulous compliance with the well-accepted canons of financial rectitude, and I must say that it is most fortunate that we have him at the helm of affairs. While I say so, I deem it my duty to acknowledge on the floor of this House the deep debt of gratitude that this province owes to the long and distinguished line of Finance Members, the predecessors of the Honourable Finance Minister, who built up this magnificent system of finance which has stood the heavy strain and test of the severest famine that this province has experienced during recent years. In order that honourable members of this House may be in a position to realize the care

with which they built up, nursed and conserved the financial resources of this province, I may just remind this House of the very first Budget that was introduced in this Assembly, after the introduction of provincial autonomy. The House will remember that that Budget (1937-38) estimated a surplus of 2 lakhs. I am confining myself to the ordinary revenue account and not taking into consideration the figures of extraordinary receipts. The Budget showed a surplus of 2 lakhs, but before the year closed, the province succeeded in realizing in ordinary revenue account a sum of about 87 lakhs. A sum of 55 lakhs, out of this 87 lakhs, was set apart for constituting a Special Development Fund for the purpose of intensive rural uplift. The remaining 32 lakhs went into the coffers of the provincial exchequer. This Budget of 1937-38 was not the only first surplus Budget of its kind. Since 1932-33, right up to 1937-38, the province had been having a succession of surplus Budgets. In 1938-39, the Honourable the Finance Minister budgeted for a surplus of 17 lakhs, but we actually closed with a deficit of 45 lakhs. Deducting from this sum of 45 lakhs the sum of 19 lakhs on account of extraordinary receipts, which ordinarily should not figure in the revenue account and in normal conditions goes to meet capital expenditure, the net deficit of the year came to 26 lakhs. But we have got to remember that this was the year when some parts of this province were stricken with that dire famine which cost the exchequer something like 66 lakhs—35 lakhs on direct expenditure and 31 lakhs as resultant loss in revenue on account of remissions. The last year's budget, that is the Budget for 1939-40, was also a deficit Budget. The Honourable the Finance Minister budgeted a deficit of 29 lakhs, but he had to face and meet with a deficit of 49 lakhs. If to these figures, the figure of 41 lakhs, on account of extraordinary receipt is added, we have really a deficit of 90 lakhs; as against this we have the appalling figure of 88 lakhs spent in this year to meet the famine calamity. The Budget of 1940-41 is also a deficit Budget. We have budgeted for a deficit of 28 lakhs. Now, let the House remember that the Finance Minister is really not responsible for these two or three deficit Budgets. After all if you look into the matter, it is really the vagaries of nature, which determine the Budget of this country. Whether it is a deficit Budget or whether it is a surplus Budget, the only judge and determinant of the situation is nature. A surplus budget is nature's kindness and a deficit budget is nature's affliction. All that a Finance Minister is expected to do is that he will proceed very cautiously, will control expenditure, will take note of financial and economic developments and try his best to cut his coat according to his means and thus conserve the vast resources of the province.

I will now turn from this dry discussion of the Budget figures, and take advantage of that very salutary convention which, on the occasion of the General Discussion of the Budget, allows members to roam over the entire field of provincial administration and discuss questions connected with Government policy and administration in the province during the year that has come to a close.

The House will remember that about two years ago, when I last took part in the general discussion of the Budget, I requested the Government to do something to advance the soul and self-respect of the people. I had

[Malik Barkat Ali.]

asked the Government to remember that the separation of judicial and executive functions was a reform long over-due. I had put forward a powerful plea for the complete democratisation of local bodies and for eschewing the method of nomination for the purpose of filling seats in those bodies. I had similarly asked the Government to abolish that out-of-date and anti-diluvian institution of honorary magistrates which an alien bureaucracy had foisted with a view to tighten their grip on the soul and self-respect of the people. I must say that the record of the present Government in regard to all these questions is a complete blank. Let me take the first question that is, the separation of judicial and executive functions. I will not go through the history of that question, but the House should know some facts. On the 9th of March, 1920, so far as the Government of India was concerned, it declared that it had no objection to the separation of judicial and executive functions and left the matter completely to local governments. The 9th of March, 1920, was a time when we were within an ace of reaping the benefits of the Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms. As the very first step in the direction of this reform, we find that in the then provincial Legislative Council, a resolution was moved by my friend, the late lamented Mian Shah Nawaz Khan whose talented widow now adorns the Treasury Benches, and as a result of that resolution a committee was appointed which consisted of officials and non-officials and was presided over by a Judge of the High Court. That committee submitted recommendations and so far as the civil judicial work was concerned, that was completely separated from the executive officers, and was handed over to sub-judges who were, for the purpose of their work, placed completely under the control of the High Court. Tahsildars, revenue assistants and sub-divisional officers, who previously used to do civil work, were not given powers of civil judges after that date. So far as criminal work was concerned, the position remained where it was. We are still where we were fifty years ago when the union of the constable and the magistrate was condemned from all sides. I am glad that I have had the benefit of hearing the views of the Honourable Premier on this very question on the floor of this House. The Honourable Premier was pleased to say then that he was not prepared to go further, because any further separation of judicial and executive functions would really mean that the power which has come into his hands as a result of provincial autonomy would have to go back into non-Indian hands. It appears to me that this way of looking at the question is entirely wrong. There is really no question of any parting with powers, so far as the separation of judicial and executive functions in the realm of criminal department is concerned. Criminal work is just as much judicial as civil work. As a matter of fact, it is in the domain of criminal work that the liberty of the subject is most vitally affected and it was really in connection with criminal work that this demand was originally made. I believe that the criminal magistracy of the province is recruited now through the door of the Public Service Commission. So far as the appointments of magistrates are concerned, there is no question of remitting any power back into non-Indian hands or any power being parted with and there is therefore no reason why after their appointment the magistrates should not be completely under the control of the High Court and of the Sessions Judges. With regard to the anomaly of the Deputy Commissioner being a District Magistrate, being also the head of the Police.

responsible for the peace of the district, and being also a Collector who is responsible for collection of the revenue, I submit that the time has come when this anomaly should come into an end and the criminal judicial work should be handed over to a magistracy, which, whoever be their appointer, shall, from the beginning to the end, be under the complete control of the High Court. Coming to the question of the local bodies.....

**Mr. Deputy Speaker :** The honourable member's time is over.

**Malik Barkat Ali :** But I will be very brief. We find, if we take the town of Lahore, that people have been crying hoarse for the restoration of the Lahore Municipal Committee, but.....

**Mr. Deputy Speaker :** The honourable member's time is up. As many honourable members are anxious to speak and as the time that is left to the honourable members to speak is only 45 minutes, I will reduce the time limit from 15 minutes to 10 minutes.

**Khan Bahadur Nawab Fazal Ali Khan** (Gujrat East, Muhammadan, Rural) (*Urdu*) : Sir, the general principles of the Budget have been discussed at very great length and, therefore, I need not dilate on them. But it will be sheer ingratitude on our part if we do not offer our hearty congratulations to the Honourable Finance Minister, his Lieutenant Mr. Bhanot, the Financial Secretary, and other officers of the Finance Department on preparing such a flawless budget under the present trying circumstances. Sir, a good many attacks have been made against the ministry, especially against the Honourable Premier and the Honourable Minister of Development. It is not possible for me to reply to all of them at some length in the short time at my disposal. In fact after the speech of the Honourable Minister of Development it is unnecessary to say anything more with regard to those attacks. What the present Government has done for the province is well known to all but if some one refuses to acknowledge the existence of the Sun in broad daylight you cannot help. I do not blame the Opposition for finding fault with the budget and general policy of the Government. That is what they are here for. But they should not shut their eyes to the praiseworthy efforts of the Government to ameliorate the general conditions of the province. To the Honourable Ministers I would say that they should not mind what the Opposition say so long as they are doing their duty by the people. They can very well say with the poet—

دہ بے قر ترک - جعدۂ ابلیس سے آم

عد۔ کس سرکشی سے ذوق کب رنجہ ہو کم میزا

Now I want to draw the attention of the Government to the difficulties of the people of my district due to the fact that at places there is no bridge for 13 miles wide enough for a bullock cart or tonga to cross the canal. Then the people of certain villages have to make a journey of one mile to find a bridge to reach their fields on the other side of the canal. You can very well imagine how much valuable time is wasted in making these journeys. On the top of it the bullocks cannot cross the bridge in a team and have to be taken to the other side one by one. Sometimes while the man is attending to one bullock the other runs away and by the time he returns with that bullock the other one is lost and thus the whole of the time of the poor fellow is wasted. I do not want to apportion blame for this state of affairs. Perhaps it is due to paucity of funds, or, may be, sufficient pressure has not

[K. B. Nawab Fazl Ali Khan.]

been brought to bear upon the Irrigation Department to do the needful with regard to this matter. But the fact remains that we have been facing these difficulties for the last 25 or 30 years. For instance up to the 13th mile from the Grand Trunk Road up to Paron village on the Upper Jhelum Canal the passages are too narrow for carts and tongas laden with fodder to cross the canal. The Irrigation department has not done anything to make the passage fit for traffic. The pity of it is that although they have caused great trouble and loss to the people by providing too narrow passages in those 13 miles yet they are not prepared to allow the people the use of service roads even if they are boundary roads. Many parts of the district are in a great difficulty so far as communications and transport are concerned. The district board requested the Irrigation Department to hand over to it a part of the road, 6 miles long, and took the responsibility to make it fit for traffic. At first they agreed to this proposal and the board had been maintaining the road, but after sometime without informing the district board they closed the road. The board protested against this but with no result. Not even a reply was vouchsafed to us.

At another place (Danatpora village) there was a road before the construction of the canal. When the distributary was constructed the road was cut off and the Irrigation Department constructed a bridge to cross the distributary at a distance of some two hundred yards from the road. Thus the road became useless on account of this action of the Irrigation Department and in spite of it they are asking the district board to construct a service road for them. May I ask how any one can justify such a demand? There are many instances of the troubles to the people due to want of sufficiently wide bridges.

Similarly the zamindars of Bhagnagar have been deprived of the use of many hundred bighas of land on account of the canal. There being no bridge to cross the canal these zamindars cannot go to their fields on the other side of the canal and therefore they can draw little benefit from their lands. Sir, there are some other grievances to which I wanted to draw the attention of the Government but my time being up I must resume my seat.

**Chaudhri Ahmad Yar Khan** (North-West Gujrat, Muhammadan, Rural) (*Urdu*): Sir, before I proceed with my speech I feel it my duty to congratulate the Honourable Finance Minister and his worthy Secretary Mr. Bhanot on preparing the present budget at a time when a famine of an alarming magnitude is proving a great strain on the finances of the province. By going through the budget one is sure to find that they have fully realized their sacred duty in the matter. But it is a pity that in spite of the fact that we pay Rs. 27,000 as land revenue we are not given our legitimate share in the Government services. Although at present there are some graduates in my community yet none of them has been given any post in the Government departments. I would request the Government to accede to this legitimate demand of ours and fix proportionate share of services for us.

Sir, the honourable Nawab Fazal-i-Ali was pleased to suggest that the Government should construct big bridges on canals running through our district. In fact their need is strongly felt in my *ilaga*. Since there is no

such bridge the zamindars of my *ilaga* find great difficulty in crossing the canals. Those who have their lands on the other side of the canal find it practically impossible to devote full time to ploughing their fields. In fact half of their time is wasted on merely reaching the other side of the canal. I would request the Honourable Sir Sundar Singh to realize our difficulty in the matter and issue orders to the department concerned for constructing big bridges on these canals.

Now, Sir, I believe that the Honourable Minister of Education rightly deserves our congratulation as he has done his level best to promote literacy in our district. But my submission is that he should kindly increase the grant of our Intermediate College so that we may be able to raise it to the standard of a degree college. Again, I would like to remind him that once he was pleased to promise that he would sanction a special grant to the Vernacular Middle School Vara Alam Shah. I request him to fulfil his promise by according the necessary sanction as soon as possible. Since my *ilaga* is backward in the matter of education I would request him to favour us with liberal grants so that it may come in line with other advanced districts. With these words I resume my seat.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad** (Southern Towns, Muhammadan, Urban) (*Urdu*): Sir, songs of praise are being sung from yesterday by the honourable members; and the Honourable Minister of Finance is being eulogised for having produced such an excellent budget. But the fact of the matter is only this that the budget is satisfactory inasmuch as the province had to bear the extraordinary expenses on account of the famine in Hissar and yet the budget has not shown a serious deficit. The budget is good to this extent only, otherwise, it is just like its predecessors. As a matter of fact the various Heads of Departments prepare their budgets bearing their figures on actuals of the past 2 years and the Secretariat scrutinises these smaller budgets before compiling the whole budget. It is wrong to say that it is the Finance Minister's budget. In reality it is the budget of the Secretary for Finance and his subordinates, who have been working hard to prepare it. In one sense it can also be called the budget of the Finance Minister because when an army wins, the credit goes to its General. But for this fact I would call it the budget of the various heads of departments who have instructions to prepare their budgets and scrutinise them before sending them to the Secretariat where the Budget takes the final shape.

I will now come to the discussion of the budget itself. In this connection I propose to take up the work of the inspection of the motor vehicles. The total receipts under Motor Vehicles Acts were estimated for 1939-40 to be 7,89,100 and the revised estimates were 13,39,000 while the estimates for the year 1940-41 total 14,08,500 rupees. On the expenditure side we find that there were 4 Inspectors and 6 Sergeants last year while for 1940-41 the number of Inspectors has been raised to 5, and only one Sergeant has been provided. Their travelling allowances were estimated for 1939-40 at Rs. 9,720, while for the present year they have been raised to Rs. 35,100. I fail to understand why so much travelling allowance has been provided. One can see how this sum is squandered away by the Inspectors. They start from Lahore, go to Panthakot and return to Lahore without stopping at Amritsar on the way. On the next day they start for Amritsar afresh and



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go to Hoshiarpur but do not go to Jullundur for which they start a new journey from Lahore at some other time. Again, they do not stop at Amritsar in the way but undertake a fresh journey for Amritsar to multiply their travelling allowances. That is how public money is wasted by these Inspectors of Motor Vehicles. Moreover, they are appointed to these posts without their having qualified in mechanics. There are hundreds of qualified persons who have passed the Engineering Classes. But they are not appointed. In fact it should be made a necessary condition for the Inspectors of Motor Vehicles to qualify themselves as Mechanics. Only those persons should be recruited for this job who have passed Mechanical Engineering from some recognised college. They should be aware of the various parts of the machinery of the motors. The Europeans who are generally appointed at present do not possess these qualifications and moreover, they are not sympathetic towards the Indian owners and drivers of motor vehicles. They want to make money through travelling allowances, and through corrupt practices. I want to quote instances but the time at my disposal is very short. May I request the honourable Deputy Speaker to grant me two minutes more?

**Mr. Deputy Speaker :** Two minutes more.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** If these Inspectors of Motor Vehicles had been expert mechanics, they would not have allowed those vehicles to be plied which have caused as many as 538 accidents in the province in which several persons died or were injured. But this matters little to the Inspectors, whether people die or live. They are concerned with their heavy travelling allowances. I would, therefore, request the Government to replace these European Inspectors by Indian Mechanics.

Adverting to the retention of additional police, I fail to see why such a large force is retained and not disbanded. It costs the province Rs. 1,85,080 as given at page 108 of the Memorandum. In addition to this another sum of Rs. 1,67,080 has been provided for additional police in connection with the War measures. I wonder how this sum of Rs. 1,67,080 will help the British against Hitler. The theatre of War is far removed from this place. What help this police will offer to the British, is beyond our weak comprehension. The real reasons must be known to the Ministry and I do not like to reveal them here.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker :** The honourable member's time is over.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Sir, only 7 minutes are over, and three minutes remain. What is the use of allowing me to speak for 10 minutes only?

**Mr. Deputy Speaker :** Time limit fixed is 9 minutes and not 10 minutes.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** I was thinking that I was to speak for 10 minutes. Even that was insufficient.

The real reason must be that the Government has banned the Khaksar movement which was a body of social workers and the chief aim of which was to serve the public. The Government has declared it to be a political movement. It is a pity that the Government has stopped the only body that was organised and was busy in the service of the public. This has been declared to be a political body while it was not so in the least.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker :** The Honourable Member's time is over.

**Mr. E. Few :** I only want to make one correction. This gentleman has said that when the soldiers fight, it is the General who gets the credit. What has happened to the Russians? They have got plenty of troops there but no generals.

**Minister for Revenue** (The Honourable Dr. Sir Sundar Singh Majithia) : Sir, I am sorry that the Opposition benches are all empty, with the exception of the honourable member who has just come, probably by mistake. (*An honourable member : He is sawa lakh*). My friend has corrected me by saying that he is *sawa lakh*.

Lala Duni Chand made two very serious allegations. One was as regards Sardar Sant Singh, Zaildar, who was alleged to have acted in a very bad manner in Sialkot, and the other was about the Darogha in Ghaggar. With regard to the first allegation I would say that a full enquiry into the case was made by the Deputy Commissioner and after that enquiry the case was filed. In fact the Revenue Assistant in his first enquiry examined only 59 witnesses for the applicant and 40 defence witnesses, but then the Zaildar came to the Deputy Commissioner and asked him to be permitted to produce further defence evidence to prove his innocence. The total number of witnesses examined came to 106. Out of them there were some respectable people of the place. I may mention that the Revenue Assistant who held the first enquiry was in the meanwhile transferred to another place and then the case was handed over to the Revenue Assistant who took his place. That enquiry was made and finally the matter was placed before the Deputy Commissioner and through the Deputy Commissioner it came to the Financial Commissioner, Revenue. Agreeing with the Deputy Commissioner and also with the Commissioner he found that the charges had not been proved at all, and when the charges were not proved, I think he was justified in filing the case. My friend Lala Duni Chand who is a lawyer would certainly admit that any man who is accused of bribery and corruption must have a chance of proving his innocence. He would not like that the man should be condemned without having been given a chance of proving the charges to be false. In this case, therefore, a full enquiry was made, and even from some high quarters a letter was received by the Financial Commissioner enquiring about the case, and the Financial Commissioner again looked into the matter and after examining all the relevant papers he came to the conclusion that the case was not proved against the Zaildar, and therefore that case was filed.

As regards the Darogha Ab in Ghaggar, my friend has tried to shake up some very old bones. The incident happened ten or twelve years ago. I shall not take long over it, but shall simply read out the report of the Deputy Commissioner on the subject. The Deputy Commissioner said—

“ One hundred and five witnesses were first examined by the Tahsildar in the enquiry against the Darogha, and 17 witnesses were examined before the Sub-Divisional Officer. After the recording of these statements, the Sub-Divisional Officer came to the conclusion...

Mind you in this case the Darogha of Ghaggar was a Muhammadan and the Sub-Divisional Officer was a Hindu, Mr. P. D. Budhwar—

“That the allegations against the Darogha were incorrect.”

[Minister for Revenue.]

He submitted a report which was gone into very carefully by the Government here and we came to the same conclusion that the charges had not been proved. In these circumstances, it is wrong for my friend to come and say that the matter was hushed up by Government. Government is always anxious to uproot corruption, but when money is said to have been paid some ten or twelve years ago, it is not possible for this Government now to re-open that case and make further enquiries. Here in this case further enquiry was made by the Deputy Commissioner and he came to the conclusion that the charges were due to enmity between the Darogha and the gentleman who had made those charges, and he fully exonerated the Darogha of any complicity in the case.

I think it was Pir Lal Badshah who said that the revenue should be fluctuating, and I think the honourable member behind me also said that in the case of *barani* tracts the land revenue should be fluctuating. (*An honourable member*: I never said that. We want the land revenue to be fixed). I might tell those of my friends who made that criticism that Government is always prepared to give fluctuating assessment if the people of the place where the land revenue is assessed want the assessment to be fluctuating, and if they want fixed assessment, Government is prepared to give them fixed assessment. They must understand that in the case of fixed assessment the assessment is fixed for the period of settlement, but in the case of fluctuating assessment the assessment is a sort of short period assessment, probably from harvest to harvest, and if the harvest is good heavy rates are charged and probably the charge in this case is heavier than the charge in the case of fixed assessment. So, as I have said, where my friends would like to have a fixed assessment, we are always prepared to give them fixed assessment, and where they want fluctuating assessment, Government is always willing to accede to the request of those who want that sort of assessment.

Then Captain Muzaffar Khan said that no *taccavi* has been given. If I am permitted, I shall read out a statement showing the advances of *taccavi* given in the Attock and Mianwali districts during the years 1937-38, 1938-39 and 1939-40—

	1937-38.		1938-39.		1939-40.	
	Act XIX of 1883.	Act XII of 1884.	Act XIX of 1883.	Act XII of 1884.	Act XIX of 1883.	Act XII of 1884.
Attock .. ..	2,500	7,500	2,775	8,300	7,000	10,000
Mianwali .. ..	8,000	77,000	10,000	40,000	20,000	95,000

Under these circumstances, probably my friends have been labouring under a misapprehension—we have done our best for these districts. (*Hear, hear*).

Now coming to another point that was raised by my honourable friend, Pir Muhammad Lal Badshah, for whom I have got great respect, I may tell him that it is not quite correct on his part to say that we are not giving land to the poor people of the country. I may say that in Nili Bar, exactly 50 per cent. of land to the tune of 375,000 acres have been allotted to smaller men in grants not exceeding  $1\frac{1}{2}$  rectangles and mostly of one rectangle each. The value of this land at the rate of Rs. 250 per acre, comes to Rs. 9,37,50,000 and of the balance of the area in the Nili Bar which is now leased on temporary cultivation during the last three years, Government has leased out not less than 118,000 acres in small lots not exceeding 50 acres as well as 17,000 acres similarly in Lower Chenab extension. In the Lower Chenab Colony extensions, an area of 36,140 acres has been allotted in small grants; in the Haveli project, 41,000 out of 69,000 acres of good land have been set aside for this purpose. I think I may say that in the Lower Bari Doab canal land equal to 71 per cent. has been set aside for grants to peasant class. I may also inform the House that under the Colony Manual, the indigenous population in the Lower Bari Doab canal colony are given 16 per cent., the immigrant peasant settlers 43 per cent., and the auction purchasers 8 per cent. Now in the same area I think the depressed classes have been given 2 per cent., landed gentry and for services rendered to Government  $7\frac{1}{2}$  per cent., grants on service conditions 10 per cent., grants for special objects such as irrigated forests, horse-runs, cattle farms and the like  $18\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. In the Nili Bar the indigenous population has got 10 per cent., immigrant peasant settlers 33 per cent., auction purchasers 50 per cent., criminal tribes and reformatory farms 1 per cent., compensation for land acquired by Government  $3\frac{1}{2}$  per cent., police rewards,  $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent., cattle and seed farms  $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. Mandis  $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. Now could anybody, with these figures that I have placed before this august House, say that we are not keeping in view the interests of the smaller cultivators and smaller peasants? As regards the small grants, I may tell my honourable friends that we have recently issued instructions that 50 per cent. of the area should be in smaller grants for a period of 5 years and 25 per cent. a little bigger say 5 rectangles for a period of 4 years and over and above that for a period of 8 years only and after that these grants would be taken back.

As regards erosion, I think under the erosion rules first of all what we do is that an official, probably the revenue assistant, looks into the case and then comes and reports as to what erosion has taken place and we immediately remit the land revenue in the case of any land which goes out of cultivation by the river action and we charge it again when it is brought under cultivation under the alluvion and deluvion rules. But as regards the generality where the rivers have eroded many of the lands, if Government were to take responsibility of restoring these lands which were eroded by river action over which Government has no control, then I think no area will be left for Government for sale to add to the provincial exchequer.

I think my friends have said a great deal as regards work done under the famine and that a good deal of corruption has been going on. I admit that in a big work like famine works, where crores and crores have to be spent, and where a large number of people have to be employed locally and also.

[Minister for Revenue.]

brought from outside for a short period during which we expect the famine to continue and for which we cannot take away our Government servants, it is not possible to keep a strict control over all those people. Some corruption might occur. I do not say that all people are corrupt. There may be some who are corrupt. But there are many who are not corrupt and Government is doing its best to eradicate the evil wherever it is found. As regards corruption in the famine area, I may inform this House that one officer in charge was dismissed and one officer was suspended. One store-keeper was dismissed and 223 muharrirs and overseers and sub-overseers were dismissed and removed from service. Ninety-one muharrirs were fined for unsatisfactory work. We are doing all this in order to eradicate corruption. Naturally this House should see that if any corruption takes place Government is not always responsible, specially when people want to make money from a place where we are giving so much in order to save the lives of both animals and men. We do our best to eradicate the evil. But a wild statement which was made by my friend, Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan, that out of Rs. 1,87,00,000 nearly one crore has gone into the pockets of these people by way of illegal gratification, is a statement which is not backed up by any figures. It is not backed up by anything else except the harangue we have heard from the lips of Pandit Shri Ram Sharma. Therefore under these circumstances you would not expect that that statement would be acceptable in this House. Now I think my friends, Mian Abdul Rahim and Sardar Gurbachan Singh, have made certain statements that we have not done anything as regards the fall of water-level in the Jullundur and Shahpur Doab. While we are anxious to deal with water-logging in certain areas, we are also anxious to provide water for lands which are not served by canals and where people suffer for want of good water for drinking. We are not unmindful of what is happening to Jullundur and Hoshiarpur districts. My friends ought to remember that we started investigations and drew

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out a scheme for meeting this difficulty. The rough estimates that have been prepared come to about one crore and fourteen lakhs and you will have a canal which will give a discharge—these are rough figures—of about 2,23 cusecs. I am talking of the new canal which will run through Phillaur and Nikodar tahsils and then another branch of this canal would run through Bain and pass through or round about Jullundur. Estimates have been prepared and they are being vetted by the Chief Engineer and will very shortly be placed before the Government for sanction. If and when sanction is given by Government and this House votes funds, the probability is that we should be able to build this canal to irrigate this part and provide necessary water for the raising of the water level in the wells within a period of about 18 months. My honourable friends should understand that it is not quite easy for us to launch on this big scheme without the matter being properly looked into and thoroughly sifted by the Department over which my honourable friend the Finance Minister holds sway. Therefore as soon as the estimates are passed by the Finance Minister and a grant voted by the House, we would be able to proceed with this scheme.

(At this stage Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair).

It has been said that we have not given any remission in abiana and land revenue. My friends have probably forgotten the speech which was delivered by the Honourable Finance Minister and I refer them to pages 17-18 of his speech. Let me read the figures. I would not go into details. Land revenue suspensions and remissions during the years 1937-38-39-40 total up to Rs. 3,62,37,000, whereas figures for the three years earlier total up to Rs. 1,47,37,000. Remissions of water rate for the years 1937-38-39-40 sum up to Rs. 89,47,880 as compared with Rs. 39½ lakhs for the years 1934-35-36-37. Now you can see and our friends can see what this Government has done in this short period of nearly three years. With that record to its credit, surely any Government can be proud. The lady member Baji Rashida Latif has suggested a novel scheme of appointing a lady for the purpose of enquiring into the difficulties of widows of zamindars. The suggestion has my sympathy. We shall be happy if we can find a suitable person who could undertake this duty. For the enquiry has to be made not by the lady member but by the officers of the Government and by the Deputy Commissioner and Commissioners and at any rate it has to go before the Financial Commissioner and the Government. I shall consult the Financial Commissioners and if any good applicant is forthcoming I shall ask the Financial Commissioner to look into the matter. My honourable friend from Muzaffargarh has said that Muzaffargarh is a poor district and we are charging very heavy rates from them. We have got specimens of the poverty of the inhabitants of Muzaffargarh in this House (*laughter*). While I am making this statement I do not in any way minimise the poverty of that district.

**Premier :** The specimen here is an exception to the rule.

**Minister :** Not only an exception but a very strong exception. As regards land revenue and abiana we shall look into the case and something would be done. At any rate the new rates have not yet been applied and that ought to be enough. We also promise that we will start farms to see what is the actual income, because some of my friends said that if the Government can make something out of the farms that they may start, they would not mind paying the rates that have been imposed. This experiment has been tried on a very small scale and I am going to ask the Director of Agriculture to try it on a bigger scale say 50 acres.

Coming to Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh who has brought up the subject of water for orchards, I think he has conceded that the question is not free from difficulties. I met a deputation and I heard them patiently and assured them that I would look into the matter very carefully and would be able to give them some water. My friends know that every drop of water in the canals is at the service of the province as a whole and if any saving can be effected nobody would be happier than myself to provide water for the nurseries and garden plantations to provide fruit for the health and well being of the province and its people. We have looked into the case. There are two or three difficulties. If you started giving water to small people who have lands everywhere, I think it would be very difficult for Government to provide water separately for gardens. If you give water through the channels that exist at present, the possibility is that the water instead of being utilized for these gardens would

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most probably be utilized for other crops. This is the difficulty in our way. There is another idea which has been suggested by my honourable friend, the Leader of the House, that we should set apart one rectangle in each village for the purpose of fruit culture to be cultivated by the villagers themselves. This is a good suggestion and we are considering that question, but in cases where nobody is the owner, nobody takes care of the property. That is another difficulty.

**Khan Bahadur Nawab Muzaffar Khan :** Quite right.

**Minister :** There are some difficulties in my way, but this does not mean that I will not consider this suggestion. The Honourable Speaker would appreciate that while I am quite prepared to do my best for increasing water supply for cultivating gardens, I have to look to the interests of the province as a whole because it is necessary that I must have some water spare to give to this most deserving industry. Let me assure the House through him that the matter would be dealt with sympathetically. I have got the file on my table just at present and I had an occasion to consult certain friends and they appreciated my difficulties.

Nawab Fazl Ali Sahib said, I am sorry I was not present when he made his speech as I was otherwise busy elsewhere, I am told that he said, that the people of the Upper Jhelum Canal experience a great deal of difficulty as there is no bridge between a distance of 13 or 14 miles. (*Nawab Chaudhri Fazl Ali :* I said big bridges for the passage of carts). I may assure him that this matter will receive my very best consideration and I would ask the Irrigation Department and see that this difficulty is removed. Another honourable friend said that similar difficulty was felt on one of the drains. I may inform him that that also would be looked into.

There has been nothing further in the course of this debate which calls for any reply from me. Practically speaking there has been no criticism of the budget proposals so far as the departments in my charge are concerned. So I need not detain the House any more. But I may give this assurance that every point that was referred to has been carefully noted by me and if there is anything that can be done to relieve the suffering of the people, particularly the poorer people I am sure they will not find me lagging in doing my duty in this respect. (*Cheers*).

**Bhagat Hans Raj** (Amritsar and Sialkot, General, Reserved Seat, Rural) (*Urdu*) : Sir, the province of the Punjab is fortunate in having as its Finance Minister a renowned economist like the Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal, and also in the fact that the Ministry includes gentlemen like the Honourable Sir Sikandar Hyat Khan and the Honourable Chaudhri Chhotu Ram who have the well being of the poor at heart. I congratulate the Honourable the Finance Minister on preparing a budget which deserves all praises from the point of view of zamindars. Last year certain laws were enacted for the benefit of the zamindars. Now provision has been made in the budget for certain schemes which will go a long way to ameliorate their condition. Although this budget may technically be described as a deficit budget, yet that is not actually the case because a large sum has been allotted to the Special Development Fund which will prove highly beneficial to the people. It will be utilized *inter alia* for sending demonstration parties to the rural

areas where they will teach the people various arts and crafts like weaving, basket making, etc., and thus make them able to earn their livelihood. Besides that, Rs. 10,000 have been provided for sinking wells for the use of the scheduled castes. A similar provision was made last year too and we are thankful to the Government for all that. Another sum of Rs. 10,000 has been earmarked for the education of these castes. But I want to point out to the Honourable Minister of Education that the scheduled castes will get a very small proportion of these scholarships because his 'special classes' include many other classes of people which are not depressed classes in the real sense. (*Minister of Education*: The whole amount will go to the depressed classes.) It will be very kind of the Honourable Minister if he does that and we shall be thankful even for that amount.

I know, Sir, that the present Government has the welfare of scheduled castes at heart, but I must submit that in spite of that these people are in a very sad plight. Every day we hear the cry in this House that the condition of the zamindars is very pitiable and something must be done to ameliorate it. But you must remember that there are other people in the province numbering no less than 20 lakhs whose very existence is at the mercy of these very zamindars. They deserve your attention too. We know that the Honourable Premier and the Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram have every sympathy with these poor people and we are waiting in the hope that they will do something to remove our grievances. I would, therefore, request them to bestow a little attention to our welfare. I draw their attention to the fact that in spite of their instructions with regard to abolition of forced labour the scheduled castes are still made to give begar in the rural areas. I am free to admit that the zamindars do not take begar now. But the police have not yet carried out the instructions of the Government to any appreciable extent. Just now my honourable friend Chaudhri Prem Singh has received a letter to the effect that a Deputy Superintendent of Police when he went shunting compelled some men belonging to the scheduled castes to accompany him. Not only were they not paid a single penny in return for this forced labour but they were given a good beating when they asked for remuneration.

**Premier**: Give me the names of those men as well as that of the police officer.

**Bhagat Hans Raj**: The letter is here and it will be handed over to the Premier.

Then, Sir, we have many a time brought to the notice of the Government the grievances of the depressed classes in connection with their residential houses. They cannot get out of their present miserable condition unless something is done to remove this long standing complaint. The Government should lose no time in moving in this matter and safeguarding the rights of these people with regard to the houses in which they have been residing for two or three centuries.

Again, we have been told that our share in Government services has been fixed at  $2\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. Although we deserve  $7\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. on the population basis yet we are quite willing to accept  $2\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. for the present. But the pity is that we do not get even that much. Moreover no proportion



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has been fixed for us in the Government notification so far as the judiciary is concerned. I hear the Honourable Minister saying that the first out of every three posts will be given to the depressed classes but there is no mention of it in the notification.

In the end I would request the Government to give the depressed classes a share in the lands given on temporary cultivation in Ganji Bar and also to exempt them from the levy of the professional tax.

**Rao Pohop Singh** (East Punjab Landholders) (*Urdu*): Sir, I feel it my duty to congratulate the Honourable Finance Minister who has been able to adjust the budget at a time when a great part of the province is in the grip of a severe famine. It is gratifying to note that in a year of scarcity and dearth he still has the means enough to finance the colossal irrigation schemes like the Thal and the Haveli Projects. It is a matter of satisfaction that despite the huge expenditure incurred on famine relief measure in Hissar he has been able to make a provision for starting the Western Jamna Kharif Extension Scheme. In spite of all this he has taken upon himself to budget thousands of rupees for the new expenditure to be incurred in connection with the promotion of female education, establishment of panchayats, and the operation of consolidation of holdings. Thus in view of all these beneficent and nation building activities one can assert without fear of contradiction that no other Government can boast of having done better than this. But I feel constrained to say that the programme of work that this Government had taken upon itself to carry out has not as yet been completed.

Sir, although the present budget is in fact a deficit budget yet it has been shown as a surplus one. It appears from the budget that the total revenue receipts of the Government are less than the aggregate expenditure by 28 lakhs. But by taking into account the extraordinary receipts from sale proceeds of Government lands etc. estimated to be 50 lakhs this deficit budget has been presented as a surplus one. To tell the truth our Government cannot claim to have a sound financial position. If you propose to adjust the budget by selling lands it is a serious matter which should not continue for long. Instead of selling lands the Government should try to devise ways and means by which the deficiency of Rs. 28 lakhs may be made up. If you really intend to work up to your programme you would require at least 6 crores or rupees. You have to increase the number of girls schools as the present number of 180 is hopelessly inadequate. You have to start the work of consolidation of holdings throughout the province. You have to carry out your programme of free and compulsory primary education in the province. Again, by accepting the various recommendations made by the Land Revenue Committee you will have to make liberal remissions in the land revenue. Thus all these schemes require at least  $1\frac{1}{2}$  or 2 crores of rupees for their effective materialization. It would be practically impossible for the Government to give a proper effect to all this programme by depending on mere sale proceeds of government lands. You should better take a leaf out of the book of the Central Government. Whenever there is deficit in the budget of the Central Government it balances it by levying new taxes. One may feel glad to see that despite a deficit of 28 lakhs, the Punjab Government has not proposed any new taxation. But may I know as to how long the Government can pull on like that? If it really loves

its programme it will have to supplement its revenue receipts by resorting to new taxation. The Government of India Act empowers it to levy a tax to the extent of Rs. 50 on profession and employment. Even if you decide to levy such a tax only in Lahore you will be able to realise more than 50 lakhs. And then, Sir, there are several other commercial cities like Amritsar, Ludhiana, Jullundur, Multan, etc., from where you can get lakhs of rupees. At present poor people like cobblers are paying Rs. 5 as professional tax in the villages. Then why should these rich and wealthy townsmen be called upon to pay as little as Rs. 5 as proposed by the Retrenchment and Resources Committee especially when they do not pay even the chaukidara tax. Thus if the Government wants to do anything remarkable in the province it must have to make its financial position secure by resorting to taxation. I am sure the agriculturist members of the Opposition would whole-heartedly support you in levying such a tax on the urbanites. I know it full well that such a fiscal proposal would not find favour with the non-agriculturist members of the Opposition but the Government should not upset its programme for fear of incurring their displeasure. In fact we cannot expect anything better from those who can have the audacity of taking exception to the provisions of a useful measure like the Relief of Indebtedness Amendment Bill. My honourable friend Dr. Muhammad Alam has rightly remarked that due to its bania mentality the Congress party cannot but oppose this Bill. Undoubtedly he has done a great service to the province by tendering his resignation from the membership of the congress party. In fact this measure has caused a split in the ranks of the Opposition. My friend Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt wanted that only those debtors should be given the benefit of the measure whose assets do not exceed Rs. 2,000 but the honourable Master Kabul Singh made the ground slip from under his feet by proposing that this value should be raised to Rs. 7,000. So I was submitting that these non-agriculturist members of the Opposition would object to every proposal of taxation. But the Government should not take notice of their opposition, rather it should do its duty in the most dignified manner. It is a pity that in urban areas people earning even Rs. 1,999 are not called upon to pay any tax but in villages even the poorest of the poor has to pay the Government dues. I am at a loss to understand as to why the Government is hesitating in levying taxes on the townsmen. Several honourable members opposite such as Sardar Kapur Singh, Sardar Ajit Singh, Master Kabul Singh and many others have told us in so many words that if the Government decide to levy taxes on the urbanites they would be only too glad to lend their support to such a proposal.

I am reminded of a story which I may very kindly be permitted to relate in this connection. A person who had taken some purgative happened to stay as a guest in a house where a baby had been born recently. At night he got up to pass his stools but finding a dog near by he could not rise from the cot for fear of the dog. So he passed his stools in the cloth which was meant for the baby to pass its stools in. The parents of the baby were surprised to find in the morning that their baby had passed so much stools. They took this as a sign of their baby's youthfulness and said "This baby is a promising one and would soon grow into a young man." But the guest retorted, "if this dog remains tied in this very vicinity, the baby would continue performing the same deed." The same is the case of my honourable

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friends of the Congress party. They will continue attacking Sir Chhotu Ram until the rich classes are taxed. I would advise an early taxation and an adequate taxation of the capitalists. The province will also make a rapid progress and even Swaraj will come nearer. In the end I congratulate the Honourable Finance Minister once more on his excellent budget.

**Premier** (The Honourable Major Sir Sikander Hyat-Khan (*Urdu*): Sir I fully realise the difficulty of the Opposition. The lack of interest in the general discussion, I suspect, is due to the feeling that they can hardly make any effective criticism of a budget which is free from defects, and does not provide any loopholes for an adverse attack. Not only I and my party but the whole province is grateful to the Honourable Finance Minister for the sound state of our finances as disclosed in the budget in spite of the enormous sums that we have been and are still spending on the famine in Hissar. Nobody in the two-day's general discussion of the budget could find any loopholes in it. Notwithstanding the heavy demands on account of famine, as I have already pointed out, the budget is a surplus budget; and the allotment to beneficent departments has not been curtailed but increased. That is why the whole province is justly proud of our Finance Minister. In fact when I glanced through the budget speech, the first thought that came to my mind was that it would completely foil the Opposition because there was hardly any flaw or loophole which could provide an opening for attack. And that is exactly what has happened. At first they made some irrelevant speeches and finally walked out in a state of utter despair and helplessness. The Honourable Finance Minister need not take the trouble of replying to these speeches because the points made by the Opposition need no reply.

My honourable friend Lala Duni Chand did not refer to the allocation of funds at all in his speech which lasted for over one hour. He only repeated the criticism which the Opposition is in the habit of repeating in season and out of season against different departments of Government. He said for instance, that Sikander is an enemy of the Press. In fact I am a friend of the Punjab Press in the true sense of the word. Its attitude towards the war has been most satisfactory and it has voiced the opinion of the Punjab Government which in fact represents the true feelings of the whole province. I am grateful to the Press for this, especially because certain individuals belonging to a section of the Press held different views on the subject. If any section of the Press had any misgivings or doubts about me in the beginning, I trust that those doubts and suspicions have completely melted away since we have established personal contact with each other. Our relations are cordial and there is mutual confidence and trust. Far be it from me to deal in a high-handed manner with anybody, much less the Press. I am, however, not a "foolish friend" of theirs. If any member or section of the Press makes a mistake the lapse is pointed out in a friendly way, often by me personally and I acknowledge with pleasure and gratitude that my suggestions and advice are generally accepted. One thing, however, I have made perfectly clear to every one and that is that I cannot and will not tolerate any attempt which would tend to exacerbate communal feelings or incite people to violence.

Otherwise the entire Press enjoys the fullest possible liberty. I repeat the assurance which I have already given to my friends of the Press that my doors are always open to them and I am always prepared to listen to any well-founded complaints that they may have to make against anybody connected with the Government including myself. I am glad to be able to inform the House that the Press have always fully reciprocated the friendly feelings expressed by the officers in charge of the Publicity Department and myself. On occasions when it has been necessary to administer friendly advice they have always taken it in the friendly spirit in which it was given.

Now I come to the allegations of repression that my honourable friend Lala Duni Chand has made against the Government. I may point out to him that he has not given any concrete examples of repression. He has, however, asserted that I have adopted hostile attitude towards the Ahrars who are being arrested and sent to jail. The name of my honourable friend Maulvi Mazhar Ali Azhar was particularly mentioned in this connection. But may I point out to him that I am neither a Kotwal nor a court of law. I am here to serve you and to see that the law of the land is respected. The courts of law are there to administer justice without any distinction of caste, colour or creed. Law does not distinguish between persons or parties. Justice and Law must take their course and have nothing to do with any party, whether it is friendly or opposed to Government. As soon as the War was declared I made a declaration offering unconditional support of the Punjab in its prosecution and I have great pleasure in informing you that there has been a generous and universal response to my appeal and not a single discordant voice has been heard against it. Every Punjabi is ready to support the British in this hour of their trial and to stand by my declaration. "We are ready to offer our sons and all we have" is the usual burden of the messages that I have been daily receiving from every corner of the province. In fact Punjab is ready to defend its honour and the hearths and homes of its people against any aggression.

If certain persons had decided to contravene the provisions of law in order, perhaps, to gain cheap notoriety how could Government be blamed for it? In view of the repeated warning that Government would not spare any one who defied the Defence of India Act in regard to matters relating to War, if any individual or organisation thought fit to infringe the law, they must suffer the consequences. It is generally believed that since their hold on the people was weakening they decided that infringement of the law was the only course left to them for regaining their lost popularity. In pursuance of that policy they have thought fit to bear the legal consequences of their action. I may remind the House that before taking action we declared through a press communique and warned the people that Government would take severe action against any person found guilty of infraction of the provisions of the Defence of India Act. We laid emphasis on the fact that Government would in no way brook the violation of the provisions, particularly those relating to war. Again this Assembly had an opportunity of discussing three resolutions on war. My honourable friends will remember

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that I made it abundantly clear on that occasion also that the Government were determined to take drastic action against those who indulged in anti-recruitment activities. I again declare on the floor of this House that so long as I am at the Head of this Government, I will not spare anybody who contravenes the provisions of the Defence of India Act, relating to War. Now, Sir, if in spite of these declarations and warnings certain persons deliberately insist upon disregarding the law, then Sikander Hyat-Khan cannot be held responsible for the consequences. It is my earnest hope and desire that they will desist from saying things which might besmirch the fair name of our province. But I am constrained to remark that they openly deliver anti-recruitment and anti-war speeches in public. Naturally we have to tighten our grip on them. I may also point out that previously i.e. before the outbreak of hostilities Government used to take a lenient view of the activities of these misguided people but now that the war is in free swing we cannot tolerate their unlawful activities. It will, therefore, be seen that if action has been taken against the Ahrars, it is because they deliberately and persistently indulged in making anti-recruitment speeches.

Then my honourable friend made a reference to the speech of Mr. Chatterji. At present I do not consider it advisable to draw any conclusion or form any opinion as I have yet to ascertain the facts about it. But I think that Mr. Chatterji while criticising the provincial administration had probably in his mind the maladministration prevailing in other provinces where riots and disturbances of the public peace were the order of the day. But I can assert with the fullest confidence that so far as the present Government is concerned, we have never deliberately given any chance of complaint or criticism to anybody and I assure the honourable members that we are determined to carry on this wholesome and patriotic policy. It would not be out of place to mention that so far as the minorities in our province are concerned, we have always endeavoured to accommodate them and have not given them any cause for complaint against the Government. (*Hear, hear*). I can assure you that the interests of even the smallest minority in this province are jealously looked after and will continue to be vigilently safeguarded.

Then my honourable friend Lala Duni Chand remarked that on the whole there had been no substantial decrease in corruption. But the information at my disposal tells a different tale. Complaints of corruption have been received from the illaqa represented by my honourable friends. Enquiries are invariably made into such complaints and I might mention that in a large majority of cases they have been found to be without foundation. Some uncharitable people suspect that these complaints are by my honourable friend. I hope this is not true. So far as my information goes, I can with regard to other parts of the province say that corruption has decreased to a considerable extent. There has been a remarkable change in the attitude and mentality of the officers who once considered themselves to be the *Hakims* and even the police has ceased to be the terror it used to be. But the case of my friend's constituency is different. The conditions there are not very satisfactory and the main reason for this is that my friends by their irresponsible speeches do not allow normal conditions

to prevail in that ilaga. Even my honourable friend Lala Duni Chand is responsible for this state of affairs to some extent. No doubt he makes complaints on the floor of the House, but when enquiries are made he and his supporters do not come forward to help the authorities. I have pointed out to him this fact several times before also. I remember once I told my friend in private that while the authorities were making enquiries into a complaint made by him, his friends including an honourable member of the Opposition were making efforts to tamper with the witnesses. Unfortunately my friend Lala Duni Chand is not in his seat now. Had he been here I might have disclosed the name of that gentleman. However, I may tell the honourable members that Lala Duni Chand himself admitted that the said gentleman was in the habit of receiving illegal gratification. When his own supporters behave like this, how does it lie in his mouth to say that we are not doing our best to eradicate this evil? I, therefore, hold those persons who deliberately try to thwart our efforts responsible for this state of affairs. However, I assure the House that our efforts to put an end to corruption will continue unabated. Besides, when deterrent punishment is inflicted on high-placed corrupt officials, it will have a very salutary effect on other officers and eventually this complaint will disappear.

Then my honourable friend referring to law and order, remarked that forces of lawlessness had been let loose in the province. I may point out again that the increase in crime is most noticeable in the Division from which my honourable friend hails; and this lawlessness is due more than anything else to the irresponsible speeches of political agitators. In this connection I do not exonerate Lala Duni Chand either. When he and men of his ilk stand on a platform they indulge in indiscriminate vituperation against government officials. They lose sight of the fact that by doing so they lower the prestige of the officers in the eyes of the public. On the one hand, they by their caustic remarks discourage the officials in their efforts to check lawlessness and on the other they encourage the bad characters to indulge in their nefarious activities. Besides, I know of certain honourable members of the Opposition who often speak of officers in very contemptuous terms. But to some extent I, too, am responsible for this state of affairs, since during the last two and a half years I did not bring to book those persons who indulged in making irresponsible speeches. I issued special instructions to the officers that they should submit the reports of the speeches made by Members of Legislative Assemblies direct to me, and that I would deal with them myself. I particularly asked the officers not to take legal action against any Member of Legislative Assembly. The honourable members would be surprised to know that the majority of speeches were such as rendered the speakers liable to prosecution. But I gave them a long rope and I did not take legal action against them. As a matter of fact I have all along been cherishing the hope that my honourable friends would mend their ways. I personally asked some of my friends opposite to desist from unlawful activities and they were good enough to listen to my advice. But I am constrained to remark that the reports submitted to me indicate that the activities of my friends in that ilaga have not abated a wit. If I were to quote extracts from their speeches, the House would be forced to conclude that these speeches are mainly responsible for the lawlessness prevailing there. I declare on the floor of the House that hitherto I have taken a lenient view of my

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honourable friends' speeches, but henceforth I shall stiffen my attitude. I will not allow inflammatory speeches to be delivered by them. I warn them that I will not spare anybody who dares to contravene the provisions of the law.

There is yet another reason which is responsible for the increase in lawlessness in that part of the province, namely that the police have now changed their methods of investigation. We are obliged to the Honourable Judges of the High Court for bringing certain instances of police excesses to our notice. We held inquiries in a number of cases and were able to punish some of the police officials who were found guilty. Besides, the Inspector-General of Police has also issued instructions to police officials that if anybody is found guilty of committing excesses while conducting an inquiry he would not be allowed to escape punishment. That too in a way has afforded encouragement to bad characters in the districts. However, I am confident that as soon as people in general, and my honourable friends on the opposite benches in particular, begin to feel their responsibility, this lawlessness will disappear. Under a democratic form of government people take time to realize their responsibility and in the beginning such things do happen. As soon as the people begin to realize their responsibility, there will be a change for the better and lawlessness will receive a set-back in the districts. In the meantime, we will certainly make vigorous efforts to arrest offenders responsible for creating an atmosphere of insecurity in the districts. My honourable friend Chaudhri Anant Ram also drew the attention of Government to the increase in crime in his district and made some suggestions to check it. While referring to dacoities he suggested that a contingent of additional police and mounted police should be posted in this district under the command of an experienced officer, who will be able to deal with the offenders. My friend will be glad to know that I have already instructed the Inspector-General of Police to prepare a scheme and submit it to the Honourable Finance Minister, and if the latter agrees to it, a contingent of police force will be sent to the ilaqa. We are also considering stationing some mounted and some cycle police in the district. The latter is less expensive than the former, but it would prove equally useful in stamping out lawlessness in the district. It is also essential that a superior police officer should be put in charge of all these arrangements. We contemplate appointing a Senior Additional Superintendent of Police or an Additional Deputy Inspector-General to keep strict watch over these arrangements and make good use of the additional police force. I, therefore, assure my honourable friend that as soon as the Honourable Finance Minister accords his sanction to the scheme referred to, the above arrangements will be made for mounted and additional police.

Besides, he was also pleased to remark that although he and his friends have been hearing a good deal about the imposition of new taxes and that Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram and Sikander Hyat-Khan have in the course of their tours made lengthy speeches regarding the imposition of new taxes, nothing so far has come out of them. Let me make it clear to him that we are not opposed to imposing new taxes on those sections of public who have hitherto escaped lightly. But it is a matter which requires careful consideration. My honourable friend is aware that sometime back we appointed a committee to suggest ways and means for increasing the revenues of the

province. The report of that committee is now under consideration and after the honourable members have had time to discuss it, the Government will come to some decision. If after considering the report the honourable members recommend that new taxes should be imposed we shall have no hesitation in carrying out their wishes. I assure him that if the honourable members make any suggestions which are considered to be sound and practicable the Government will put them into practice without delay. On the contrary, if it is found that these suggestions are defective, we will bring the defects to the notice of the honourable members and point out to them that their suggestions are open to such and such objections and are not, therefore, practicable. I shall be only too glad if we could increase our revenues by levying fresh taxes. Surely the Honourable Minister for Finance would welcome such proposals. As a matter of fact that is what we need. But as I have already pointed out we cannot adopt any scheme without examining it carefully. We have also to keep the balance even between all classes. I think there can be no two opinions that the burden of taxes on the people who have till now been paying more than they ought to pay should be lightened and those who have so far been lightly taxed should be made to pay more. But we have to see what is the present proportion of the burden and what it should be in future. This is a matter which requires careful consideration. I therefore, request the honourable members to consider this report carefully and to put forward their suggestions. So far as I am concerned, I have also certain suggestions to make in this connection and I think that Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram would also like to do the same. And then we will put our heads together and consider what new taxes should be imposed. If the honourable members agree to our suggestions, new taxes will be imposed without any further delay. It all depends on the honourable members for they have to pass the Bills that will be introduced in this House. In fact we are here only to obey and carry out their wishes.

Again my honourable friend Chaudhri Sumer Singh suggested the other day, unfortunately I was absent at the time, that vacancies in Government services should be filled by open competition and not by selection. If he is of the opinion that the present method of making appointments by selection should be given up and that the system of competitive examinations should be introduced, I shall be only too glad to accept it provided his suggestion is acceptable to the House. So far we have been acting on the following procedure in the matter of making appointments. Applications are invited by the Public Service Commission. We have issued instructions to the Commission that while making selections they should bear in mind the proportion which has been fixed for the various communities i.e., Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, agriculturists and non-agriculturists. After that the Public Service Commission makes a selection and recommends the names of suitable candidates for appointment. I may mention here that there are certain limitations on our discretion in this matter. For example, we cannot ask the Public Service Commission to send more than two names for each appointment that falls vacant. Supposing there are four vacancies only. In that case eight names will be sent up for consideration and not more. When we receive the names of the candidates we select the most suitable out of them. Now if my honourable friend wants that all services should



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be thrown open to competition I will have no objection, provided the proposal is officially sponsored by his party. If the Hindu Jats of the Punjab desire that there should be open competition for all services I personally will have no objection to meeting this demand.

**Chaudhri Suraj Mal :** May I inform the Honourable Premier that barring the departments in the charge of the Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram, in all other departments the rights of Hindu zamindars of the Ambala Division including Kangra and Hoshiarpur districts are being ignored. As a matter of fact no attention is being paid to them.

**Premier :** The trouble is that every honourable member looks at things from his own angle of vision. Now my honourable friend over there thinks that district Hoshiarpur is not getting its due share in the matter of services. My Muslim friends think that the Muslims of the Eastern Punjab are not getting their due share in the services. In order to meet all these demands what we do is that we recruit candidates from different communities and give due share to agriculturists and non-agriculturists amongst them. In fact we cannot take sub-castes into consideration in the matter of making appointments. If we were to accord recognition to different sub-castes and sub-divisions we shall be creating for ourselves insurmountable difficulties, for one district or the other will always be complaining about inadequate representation in service. Amongst the names which have been brought to my notice, there are a few who are really agriculturists and this may have been due to a mistake on the part of the district authorities or the Public Services Commission. Any doubtful case that is brought to the notice of the Government will be enquired into and as a result of the enquiry the mistake, if any, will be rectified.

Sir, as the time at my disposal is limited and my honourable friend the Minister of Finance has also to make his final observations in reply to the general discussion of the budget, I would now, with your permission, try to reply to some of the remarks made by my honourable sister, Begum Rashida Latif Baji. My honourable sister, referring to the Shariat Bill, said that if the Government had extended a helping hand to her, this Bill would have been passed by now and this would have brought to an end a good many of the difficulties which the Mussalmans are facing to-day. It is really a pity that on the one hand my honourable sister does not agree with what I say and on the other hand the Ulemas are at daggers drawn with one another and are vehemently opposing one another on certain points. Until they compose their differences, we cannot proceed with the Bill. The case is the same with the Zakat Bill. In the sub-committee appointed to consider this Bill side issues were raised by many members and difference of opinion again cropped up.

**Begum Rashida Latif Baji :** Zakat is merely a form of charity.

**Khan Bahadur Mian Mushtaq Ahmad Gurmani :** On the contrary, it is one of the cardinal principles of Islam and one of the foremost duties of the faithful.

**Premier :** It is one of the most important duties of a Muslim to give Zakat. (*Interruption*). My honourable sister should now kindly hear me patiently. I was submitting that in the sub-committee a discussion on certain unimportant details was raised. The Ulemas are of the opinion that so long as there is no *Amir-i-Shariat*, a *bet-ul-mal* cannot exist and consequently Zakat cannot be collected. In the days of the Caliphs this was possible but in later days, when the Muslim democracy degenerated into a monarchy, this became impracticable. One of them went so far as to suggest that they would recognise me as their Amir but I thankfully declined the honour as I am already over-worked and my onerous duties as the Premier will not allow me to attend to this additional and onerous work. Moreover I do not consider myself suitable for that august position. It is incumbent on every *Sahib-i-Nisab* Muslim to give Zakat and Islam has provided many facilities to its adherents in this matter. A law can be passed which would provide for the preparation of a register of all Muslims who in accordance with the canons of Shariat are obliged to pay the Zakat and it can also be laid down that when such a person unfortunately ceases to be *Sahib-i-Nisab*, he can get his name struck off the rolls. There would be no compulsion of any kind whatsoever in this matter because if people are compelled they will somehow try to wriggle out of it by saying that they are no longer *Sahib-i-Nisab*. It must be the experience of many of my honourable friends that a number of people come to them and representing themselves as 'religious students' ask for Zakat. Some Mussalmans, believing that if they do not give Zakat to them they will incur religious odium and will be committing a sin, give it to them. We are trying to introduce this Bill in another form and when that is done my honourable sister can do propaganda in its favour and educate the Muslim public.

Again my honourable sister made a reference to the filthy abuse which she alleged was showered upon women-folk by the police. I admit that sometimes police does use strong language but I assure her that if she brings any particular instance to my notice, I will take severe action against the policeman found guilty of the lapse. In fact it is not open to any Government official to use obscene language against any member of the public. But I would take this opportunity of requesting my honourable sister to realise her own responsibility also in the matter. It is her duty to educate other women and persuade them to refrain from using indecent language. There was a young man in my village who two or three days after his marriage suddenly disappeared. For months together his whereabouts remained unknown. After a year a letter was received from him by his mother informing her that he was in China and that he had left his house because his wife was very insolent and indulged in obscene language. (*Laughter*).

**Begum Rashida Latif Baji :** It is very uncharitable on the part of the Honourable Premier to accuse the whole women community by quoting the instance of a single individual. Can he deny that there are thousands of women who bade farewell to their homes simply because their husbands had made their lives miserable?

**Premier :** I have every sympathy with those poor women. But my submission is that so long as our sisters and mothers are neglectful of their duty and do not care to educate their children, such woeful things will continue to happen. It is all due to their lack of education. Recently we made

an attempt to liquidate illiteracy from the province by enacting the Primary Education Bill, but I am sorry to say that my honourable sister was very prominent among those who opposed this measure tooth and nail.

**Begum Rashida Latif Baji :** I am not opposed to the liquidation of illiteracy from the province. May I submit for the information of the Honourable Premier that I have educated no less than 5,000 girls up to this time ?

**Premier :** Then, I am sure, that those girls will not use obscene language. She must continue her good work so that this evil may be completely eradicated.

Then, Sir, my honourable sister was pleased to make a reference to a certain film. Sometime back when she first brought the matter to my notice I told her to refer it to the Board of Film Censors. But later, when I received from her a representation signed by some other honourable members also, I forwarded it to the Board with necessary instructions. The Board replied that not only Baji Sahiba, but Lady Abdul Qadir was also present when the picture was first exhibited for approval. At that time she took exception to a certain scene which was consequently removed from the film. Personally I am no judge of these pictures, and so I would only say that this particular picture has already been passed by the Bengal and Bombay Film Censor Boards which include amongst others several prominent lady members. I may mention for the information of my honourable sister that here in Lahore there is a group of blackmailers who are a constant source of trouble to film producers and distributors. When these people fail to extract money from the latter they begin to intimidate them by carrying on propaganda against their films. My information is that these blackmailers approached my honourable sister long before the picture was actually released or even exhibited before the Board. I am told that there are at least four such films against which these people were agitating long before they were actually exhibited to the Board for its approval. In fact these blackmailers do not believe in morality or decency of any kind ; their only object is to extract as much money as they can from the producers and distributors. I would request my sister not to be led astray by such false propaganda. If it is encouraged, it would, I am sure give a great set back to our film industry. These people were carrying on propaganda against the film entitled ' Salah-ud-Din ' but I personally know that there was nothing objectionable about it. A good many objectionable films are being imported from Europe but since the blackmailers know that European producers are not prepared to grease their palms they do not start any propaganda against such pictures. I would request the honourable members that if they personally find anything objectionable in any film or films they should refer the matter to the Secretary of the Board of Film Censors rather than give encouragement to these blackmailers who have no respect for morality.

Now, Sir, I would like to say a few words to the honourable members belonging to the scheduled castes. They have complained that begar is still being taken from Achhuts. My information is that it has been announced in every village by beat of drum that no Achhut should be called upon to give begar. If my friends think that this announcement has not been made:

in any village I would ask them to furnish me with their names and I will see to it that the requisite announcement is made there also.

**Bhagat Hans Raj :** Not to speak of villages, there are many districts in which no such announcement has been made so far.

**Premier :** I beg to differ from my honourable friend. The reports that we are receiving daily in this connection contain signatures and thumb impressions of respectable Achhuts stating that the requisite announcement has been made in their villages. But if my friends still maintain that there is any village where no such announcement has been made they should acquaint me with its name and I will have the orders of Government proclaimed by beat of drum.

Now, Sir, another complaint which has been voiced by the representatives of the Achhuts is that they are not given their due share in Government services. Let me tell them that in all the departments attempts are being made to enlist suitable Achhuts. In the departments under the Honourable Minister for Development in some cases even the share reserved for Hindus is being given to Achhuts, and a large number have been enlisted in the Police. The Achhuts will soon have due and adequate representation in all departments and may be even more than their share. I understand that now non-Achhuts are trying to pose as Achhuts simply to derive benefit from the concessions granted to the latter. Such tactics on the part of interested persons cannot be effectively checked. When the Sikhs were given special concessions then too several opportunists availed themselves of the same by hoodwinking the authorities.

Then, Sir, certain remarks were made with regard to the grant of Government lands to the Achhuts. In this connection I would like to refer my friends to the letter of the Revenue Secretary Mr. LeBailly which formed the subject matter of an adjournment motion the other day. It was decided by the Government to let half of this land remain with the Agricultural Department and to distribute the other half among zamindars who offered to produce seed of good quality. It was further decided that one-fourth of these squares of land should be granted to our brethren of the scheduled castes. (*Her, hear.*) But the essential condition was that the tenants should be hard working cultivators and not like those who had failed us previously. The idea is to confer eventually proprietary rights on those tenants who proved suitable. I, therefore, directed the Revenue Secretary to issue letters to the four honourable members of the scheduled castes to recommend suitable names to the Director of Agriculture. Incidentally this formed the subject matter of an adjournment motion in order to censure the Government for inviting applications only from the supporters of the Unionist party. The object was to secure the right kind of scheduled castes for the grant of land in Gurdaspur and Jullundur districts. Letters were issued to the four members of the Unionist party the reason being that if the matter had been left to the Deputy Commissioners, their clerks might have got an opportunity of making their own choice without caring for the best type of tenants. The members addressed in this connection belonged to the districts of Jullundur and Gurdaspur where the land was to be granted. Moreover, it was expressly laid down that no land would be given to those who were connected with the subversive activities, or had taken part in the kisan agitation, or

[Premier.]•

those scheduled caste members of the Opposition who did not belong to the districts in question and also those who had exploited such opportunities of making recommendations on previous occasions. As a matter of fact I know personally that Sardar Mula Singh has been trying to exploit the people by virtue of his position and endeavouring to take credit for all that the Government has been doing in connection with the uplift of the scheduled castes. The same is true of my friend Lala Harnam Das. As to my friends Chaudhri Faqir Chand and Chaudhri Jugal Kishore, I may point out that they did not belong to the districts in question and were not consequently addressed on the subject. However, if I am assured that my friend Lala Harnam Das will refrain from exploiting people.....

**Lala Harnam Das : Question.**

**Premier :** Unless I am thoroughly convinced that my friend will never attempt to take undue credit for things not done by him and for which he cannot lawfully make any claim, I am afraid he will not be consulted even in future in such matters.

**Lala Harnam Das : Question.**

**Premier :** It is, therefore, obvious why it was not considered advisable to consult these honourable members of the scheduled castes. Moreover, I may make it clear that the scheduled caste members of the Unionist party will not make the final selection. They can merely recommend suitable persons and the final selection will be made by the Director of Agriculture.

In conclusion I apologise for having taken so much time of the House.

**Minister for Finance (The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal) :** Sir, there are only a few minutes left for me and I propose not to take even these ten minutes. My first words must be of thanks to honourable members here for the kind and generous way in which they have received this budget, and also the way in which the budget has been received outside this House. I find it difficult and feel really at a disadvantage in offering any remarks in this discussion at the present stage for two reasons; first, as the discussion has proceeded it has been only too obvious how it has roamed over a wide and vague field. The major part of it had nothing to do whatsoever with the budget. It had no kind of relation or connection with the budget as presented to the House. Some honourable members addressed themselves to questions which related immediately to the particular difficulties which they felt in their own districts; these problems have already been touched and touched in detail by my honourable colleagues who are concerned with these matters. But I must as a matter of well established convention refer to one or two things that Lala Duni Chand who initiated the general discussion said. He started by saying that he was going to address the House in the manner of a judge directing the jury. He assumed for himself a very high position and right at the start of his speech he referred to a matter which I think our Premier has with discretion not mentioned. He said that this country would have achieved independence but for the obstruction by our Premier. He said in fact that the country was, so to say, ripe for independence and that independence was within our grasp.

but certain activities of our Premier prevented that independence to come. A proposition like that is only to be put neatly to see how absurd it is. But may I with your permission refer to two important pronouncements that have been made during the past eight or ten days? The first pronouncement was by the Finance Member of the Government of India who, in presenting his budget and making his proposals for the extra cost that the Defence expenditure is going to place on the Indian finances as a result of the war, said this was going to be 8½ crores. This is the maximum that the Finance Member of the Government of India thought India might at any rate at this stage contribute to the defence, to the part that India will take in its defence because of this war. Now, Sir, it is at once apparent that Rs. 8½ crores represent barely three-fourths of the daily expenditure which Britain incurs for the war and yet this is the total contribution which the Finance Member thinks India might make at any rate at this stage for this war. Can any one say that a country which with difficulty, and I myself am not very happy with the budget which the Finance Member of the Government of India has presented, because I feel personally hit by his many proposals for taxes, but can any one say that a country that can afford only 8½ crores during a whole year for the extra defence necessities imposed on it by the present war, can carry on as an independent country, if independence were possible? That is one pronouncement. The other pronouncement is that contained in a recent resolution which is to be proposed very soon and in an important session of the National Congress where it is said that India's constitution must be based on independence, democracy and national unity. If that constitution is to be so framed, I may say that it will be lacking in every one of the elements which would go to strengthen the constitution. And to talk of democracy—we are here thinking of the three years during which we have had provincial autonomy in this province—to talk of democracy in certain administrations which have been directly guided from not within the ministry but from somebody outside is a total denial, a total misunderstanding, of what democracy means (*hear, hear*), and so far as independence is concerned we ought to know that the way in which this independence is to be realized is this that if we had independence it is not that we should depend on our arms but that we should pray sincerely for the success of the British arms. No problem of defence and therefore no problem of independence for a country can be solved by mere prayer, or expenses on the scale on which even the bold Sir Jeremy Raisman has been able to suggest expenditure. In this connection I might also say that honourable members here are impatient to raise the income of this province. My friend sitting there suggested why not double it, in fact treble it, that is from 12 crores raise it to 24 or 36 crores. Sir Jeremy Raisman has been hard put to it to raise extra 8 crores that he wanted out of the whole of India for this additional defence purposes. The other day I was reading in some papers the questions that were put to a very gifted British writer with whose name we all are familiar. I mean Mr. George Bernard Shaw. A question was asked him whether the constitution for India could be built on the basis of a constituent Assembly and he said—

The demand for a constituent Assembly based on adult franchise shows a remarkable confidence in the existence of adult universal wisdom and political sagacity in India. Its results in the countries that have tried it, have not been reassuring.

[Finance Minister.]

One aspect of our present budgetary situation which the honourable members should bear in mind is this. The position for the year 1940-41 is that we are budgeting for a deficit of 28 lakhs. But 32 lakhs is provided for famine. In other words, as I said, if we did not have the famine we would have a surplus of four lakhs. You should really have a surplus of only two lakhs because out of thirty two lakhs, two lakhs are our normal provision for famine in order to recoup famine funds. I have said that if there were no famine, we will have an additional 11 lakhs because there will be less special remissions and suspensions due to famine. In other words, if there had been no famine in this province, we would have had a surplus of 13 lakhs. As against that we must remember that we are proceeding on the basis of general famine conditions in our expenditure. We will have to cut down expenditure to almost unsafe limits. But even if the expenditure were to be fixed at its present level, 13 lakhs is not the sum on the basis of which we can carry through even the supplementary expenditure that is bound to arise during the course of the year. It means in other words that we are spending to-day to the last penny that the Punjab revenues yield. During the last year our receipts from the Government of India under the Niemeyer award has gone up by 12 lakhs and our petrol duty by another 10 lakhs. That is we have had an improvement in our revenues to the extent of 22 lakhs which did not exist 12 months ago. The whole of that 22 lakhs, the honourable members would realize has gone to the expenditure on our nation-building and beneficent activities. But unless further sources of income are found, the limit of our expenditure within our present financial position has really reached and that is a matter which it is necessary for honourable members to bear in mind.

*The Assembly then adjourned till 2.30 p.m., on Friday, 8th March, 1940.*

**PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.**  
**SIXTH SESSION OF THE FIRST PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE**  
**ASSEMBLY.**

*Friday, 8th March, 1940.*

*The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber at 2-30 p.m. of the clock.*  
*Mr. Speaker in the chair.*

**STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.**

**REALIZATION OF LAND REVENUE FOR THE LAST KHARIF FROM  
THE VILLAGES OF HIRAPUR, MOHANA AND BASELWA,  
TAHSIL BALLABGARH.**

**\*4997. Chaudhri Sahib Ram :** Will the Honourable Minister for Revenue be pleased to state the reasons for the realization of land revenue for the last kharif from the villages of Hirapur, Mohana and Baselwa, tahsil Ballabgarh (Gurgaon), while in all the surrounding villages there was suspension on account of kharaba and famine conditions and the result of the representations of the zamindars of those villages in this connection?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan) :** The entire demand of village Mohana was suspended while in villages Hirapur and Baselwa three-fourths of the demand was suspended. One-fourth of the demand was collected in the latter two villages because the village Hirapur had an 8-anna crop while in village Baselwa 110 acres were under *mehndi*—a paying crop. The surrounding villages in which the entire demand was suspended had a 4-anna crop and did not produce *mehndi*.

As the treatment accorded to these villages was already as liberal as the rules permitted, the representations were rejected.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Is it a fact that in all the surrounding villages suspension in land revenue has been granted on account of kharaba and famine?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** Yes, Sir.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** In view of the fact that the latter two villages have been granted only three-fourths suspensions in land revenue demand, may I know whether the crops were so plentiful that they were not granted full suspensions?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I have already stated the reason why they were granted only three-fourths suspensions in land revenue demand.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know whether there is any other reason also for not granting suspension to the village in which *mehndi* is under cultivation?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I have already stated that *mehndi* is under cultivation in that village and that is why full suspension has not been granted to it in respect of land revenue demand.



REMISSION IN LAND REVENUE ALLOWED IN THE DISTRICT OF  
HOSHIARPUR.

**\*5223. Sardar Hari Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister for Revenue be pleased to state the total amount of remission in land revenue allowed in the district of Hoshiarpur for the last rabi crop which was damaged by hailstorm ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan) : Nil. There was no appreciable damage.

TRAVELLING ALLOWANCE AND PAY OF THE FODDER ADVISER,  
HISSAR, AND PAY OF STAFF UNDER HIM.

**\*5367. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state—

- (a) the monthly pay and travelling allowance which the fodder adviser draws as in charge of the famine relief works at Hissar ;
- (b) the total pay and expenses of the establishment for the fodder adviser each month ;
- (c) community-wise the total number of clerks and other employees and the ratio of those belonging to Hissar, southern districts and other districts of the province ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan) : (a), (b) and (c) A statement is laid on the table.

*Statement.*

					Rs.
(a) Substantive pay	..	..	..	..	1,250
Special pay	..	..	..	..	200

*Travelling Allowance drawn from April, 1939.*

<i>April, 1939.</i>	<i>May, 1939.</i>	<i>June, 1939.</i>	<i>July, 1939.</i>	<i>August, 1939.</i>	<i>September, 1939.</i>
Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Nil.	839	913	480	Nil	Nil.

*(b) Pay of Assistant Fodder Adviser's establishment and other expenses from April, 1939.*

2,861	4,310	7,216	6,851	5,031	4,161
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*(c)*

<i>Serial No.</i>	<i>Name of post.</i>	<i>Total number of posts.</i>
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1.	Assistant Fodder Adviser .. ..	1
2.	Naib-Tahsildars .. ..	3
3.	Clerks .. ..	8
4.	Fodder Kanungos .. ..	30
5.	Patwaris and Moharrirs .. ..	5

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** I have asked in part (c) of my question, "community-wise the total number of clerks and other employees and the ratio of those belonging to Hissar, southern districts and other districts of the province." But no reply has been given to the latter part.

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I have more than once stated on the floor of the House that it is the declared policy of the Government that questions savouring of communalism should not be answered on the floor of the House. In the circumstances I am unable to answer this part of the question.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** This policy of the Government is welcome provided the Government are not communal-minded themselves. If the Parliamentary Secretary did not like to answer the first part of part (c) he could very well have replied to the latter part in which "ratio of those belonging to Hissar, southern districts and other districts of the province" was asked.

**Parliamentary Secretary :** If the honourable member gives notice of an unstarred question I will supply him the necessary information.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know whether the Government has also decided that if any question is asked regarding any part of the province that should also not be answered on the floor of the House on the plea that it savours of communalism?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** My honourable friend has by putting the word "community-wise" in the beginning of part (c) made the whole question look like a communal question and Government do not think it advisable to answer such questions. However, I will try to supply this information to the honourable member if he tables an unstarred question.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** I want to know from the Parliamentary Secretary as to what is the total number of clerks and other employees and the ratio of those belonging to Hissar, southern districts and other districts of the province.

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I have already stated that the honourable member in his original question has asked community-wise information and that is the reason why the answer has not been given. If, however, he expunges this word from his question I will be right glad to supply him the necessary information. If he does not like even to take this trouble I promise to supply him the required information.

**Lala Duni Chand :** In view of the fact that as admitted by the Parliamentary Secretary one part of the question is admissible and the other is inadmissible, is it not *zabardasty* that he does not even reply to the admissible part of the question?

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

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know whether it is the declared policy of the Government that if in any question the word "community-wise" is mentioned, in that case complete answer should not be given? Is it the policy of the Government or the decision of the Parliamentary Secretary?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** This is not the decision of the Government, but on the other hand the convention that has been set up in this House is that questions savouring of communalism should not be answered on the floor of the House. However, I will supply the required information to the honourable member, but I will not mention names.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** I am not asking about names. I want to know whether the Parliamentary Secretary is entitled to withhold answer to the second part of the question on the plea that the first part contains the word "community-wise" in it.

**Mr. Speaker :** That does not appear to be a supplementary question.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** If the Parliamentary Secretary had said that he declined to answer, the matter would finish, but when he gives reasons for not replying to the question we have a right to satisfy ourselves on that score.

**Mr. Speaker :** That is not a reply, but a refusal to answer.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** But may I know the reason ?

**Mr. Speaker :** This reason has been given on the floor of the House by Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries hundred times and no such cross-examination or discussion has been held on those answers. I would request the honourable members that the valuable time of the House should not be wasted either by this side or that side on these supplementary questions.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** On a point of order. I want your ruling on this point that if a Minister or a Parliamentary Secretary declines to answer a question, is he in order in giving reasons which have no connection whatsoever with the question put ?

**Mr. Speaker :** As this matter has been discussed before I do not think the House will gain anything by wasting any more time on it.

**Lala Duni Chand :** Have we no right to put the Parliamentary Secretary hundred times in the wrong if we can ?

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** The Parliamentary Secretary has said that if the word "community" occurs in a question, the question will be deemed as a communal question and he further said that if the names are asked for in a question that question too will be considered as communal. I do not understand the logic. May I know it ?

**Mr. Speaker :** The next question.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Mr. Speaker, there is no answer to my question.

#### CONTRACTORS IN THE FAMINE AREA, HISSAR.

**\*5368. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state—

- (a) the names of contractors in the famine area of Hissar and the amount of contracts given to each of them and the number of those among them who belong to Hissar district and outside, separately ;
- (b) the quantity of fodder that has been reported to be wasted in the said area and the manner of such waste ;

- (c) whether the Government have received any complaint against the fodder adviser and the famine relief department concerned; if so, the number of complaints with the names of the complainants and the action taken on them?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan): (a) A statement is laid on the table.

(b) The quantity of wastage amounts to 3,100 maunds up to the 15th August, 1939, out of a total supply of about 21 lakh maunds of fodder. This works out to 0.15 per cent.

The wastage is due to the fodder being blown away by winds, damage by rains, etc.

(c) Complaints have been received from Mr. Hardeo Sahai. The matter is being enquired into.

*Statement showing the names of contractors supplying fodder in the famine area of the Hissar district and the quantity of fodder ordered from each since 1st September, 1939.*

Serial No.	Name of Contractor.	Headquarters.	Quantity ordered.
			Maunds.
1	Premier Flour Mills .. ..	Lyallpur .. ..	7,000
2	R. B. Neji Mal and Sons .. ..	Lahore .. ..	7,500
3	S. G. D. Sondhi and Co. .. ..	Jullundur .. ..	36,000
4	Lala Amar Nath .. ..	Ferozepore .. ..	5,000
5	Lala Ram Narain .. ..	Lahore .. ..	2,000
6	Messrs. Ram Sarup-Trilok Chand .. ..	Gurgaon .. ..	18,000
7	M. Ved Parkash .. ..	Hissar .. ..	21,000
8	Lala Kidar Nath .. ..	Do. .. ..	9,000
9	Lala Lachhmi Narain Dev Raj .. ..	Do. .. ..	10,000
10	Chaudhri Sheo Dayal Singh .. ..	Do. .. ..	7,000
11	Malik Muhammad Salim-ud-Din .. ..	Do. .. ..	20,000
12	Haji Yakin-ud-Din .. ..	Do. .. ..	15,000

*Contractors belonging to*

*Quantity to be supplied by them.*

Hissar district, 6 .. ..	85,000
Gurgaon district, 1 .. ..	18,000
Other districts 5 .. ..	57,500

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma:** Is it a fact that many contractors from outside Hissar were given contracts for the supply of bhoosa?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** A few of the contractors are outsiders.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Why did not the Fodder Adviser think it advisable to give contracts to local persons ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** The Government have imposed no restrictions on the Fodder Adviser in this connection. If he thinks that a better quality of bhoosa can be had from Lyallpur, he is at liberty to purchase it from that place. The Government do not want to upset the present arrangements for the sake of any individual.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Is it a fact that the contracts were given to persons belonging to those places wherefrom bhoosa was purchased ?

*(At this stage both the Honourable Minister and the Parliamentary Secretary began to reply the question at the same time.)*

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** On a point of order. Is it fair that both the Honourable Minister and the Parliamentary Secretary should stand up and begin replying the question at the same time ?

**Mr. Speaker :** I have noticed with regret that occasionally both the Honourable Minister and Parliamentary Secretary stand up and give the same answer or different answers to the same question. That, in my opinion, is not desirable. Only one of them should stand and answer a question.

**Parliamentary Secretary :** May I inform my honourable friend that if he would see the list of contractors and the places from where those contractors were engaged, he will find that the Government's sole intention was to engage the most suitable persons, for instance from Lyallpur, Lahore, Jullundur, Ferozepore and Gurgaon and out of 12 contractors, there are 6 from the Hissar district. That is enough to show that the Government was anxious to take as many people from the Hissar district as they could find suitable to do that work.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** The Parliamentary Secretary stated a little while ago that the Government has to see that the contracts should be given to those persons belonging to those places from where the fodder is to be supplied. May I know if the contracts are being given on this principle ?

**Mr. Speaker :** The last answer given by the Parliamentary Secretary is very clear that out of 12 contractors, six belong to the Hissar district and six to other districts.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** What I want to know is whether the six contractors from outside have been given contracts in pursuance of the policy that the contractors must belong to the place from where the fodder is to be supplied.

**Mr. Speaker :** That question has already been answered. I cannot allow this question as the Parliamentary Secretary has stated that the outside contractors were not necessarily preferred in all cases, but only in some cases where circumstances justified.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know whether that principle was applied in all cases ?

**Mr. Speaker :** Probably not in all cases.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** I wanted to know as to how many contractors belong to those places wherefrom bhoosa was purchased?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I have already stated that it is the intention of the Government to purchase bhoosa from those places where in their opinion a better quality of bhoosa can be had at cheaper rates. If the Fodder Adviser thinks that a better quality of bhoosa can be had from a person in Lyallpur, he is authorised to place an order with him. It is not necessary that bhoosa should be purchased from that very place wherefrom it has to be supplied. But in spite of that we purchased 85,000 maunds of bhoosa from the contractors belonging to Hissar, 1,800 maunds from those belonging to Gurgaon, and orders for 57,000 maunds were placed with outsiders.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** As it was stated in reply to part (b) of the question that 10 per cent of bhoosa was lost in the case of Rohtak, may I know as to how much of it was lost in connection with the supply for Gurgaon and Hissar?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I have already stated that 21 lakhs maunds of bhoosa were purchased out of which only 3,000 maunds were lost. This is such an insignificant loss that the Government can very well take pride for the efficient arrangements of transportation made in this connection.

**Lala Duni Chand :** May I know if the contractors are being imported from distant districts like Jhelum and Lyallpur?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I have said that there is one contractor from Lyallpur and none from Jhelum.

#### NOTIFICATION OF KHATIS OF ROHTAK AS AGRICULTURISTS.

**\*5440. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the Honourable Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Jangra Brahmins otherwise known as Khatis of Rohtak have, for the last some years, been continuously representing their case to the authorities, for being notified as agriculturists; if so, the action taken or intended to be taken thereon;
- (b) whether these Khatis fulfil all the conditions precedent for being notified as agriculturists and if not, which of these conditions they do not fulfil?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan) :** (a) Yes. The matter was investigated.

(b) The main considerations for the notification of a particular tribe or group as an agricultural tribe are—

- (i) whether the tribe or group as a whole is dependent mainly on agriculture for its livelihood;
- (ii) whether it is sufficiently important both as regards numbers and the area owned;
- (iii) whether it is losing land to an extent and at a rate which would justify the extension of protection to it.

[Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan.]

The matter is still under consideration of Government.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know from the Parliamentary Secretary whether any enquiry was made with regard to the Khatris if they were fulfilling the three conditions precedent to their being declared as agriculturists ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I have stated that the matter is being looked into.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Do the figures of their population show that they do not mainly depend upon agriculture for their subsistence ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** An inquiry is being made to the effect whether that particular tribe fulfils those conditions.

**Pandit Shri Rma Sharma :** May I know since when this matter is being considered by the Government ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I do not remember the date.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Is it a fact that those persons have been making representations for the last 2½ years, yet their requests have not been granted ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I have nothing more to add to what I have already stated.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** For how long would the Government go on considering the matter and keeping these people in suspense ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I am afraid I cannot give any exact date.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Is it a fact that when the Honourable Minister of Revenue paid a visit to the Rohtak district a deputation led by the nephew of the Honourable Minister of Development interviewed him and requested him to notify the Khatris as agriculturists ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I am sorry I have nothing further to add to what I have already stated.

**Mr. Speaker :** The next question.

#### BRIDGES ON JAMNA CANAL.

**\*5831. Lala Duni Chand :** Will the Minister of Revenue be pleased to state—

- (a) how many bridges there are over the Jamna Canal between Tajewala and Dadupur and of what kind ;
- (b) whether it is a fact that the residents of many villages lying between Tajewala and Dadupur have lands on both sides of the Canal, but there exist no means of going across the Canal for cultivation of land ;
- (c) whether it is a fact that for years representations have been made by the people of the villages concerned for the construction of bridges over the Jamna Canal at reasonable distances ;
- (d) what action, if any, has been or is intended to be taken by the Government in the matter mentioned above ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan): (a) and (b) There is one suspension bridge at R. D. 53,500 for men and cattle. There is also a ferry at R. D. 13,500.

(c) Yes.

(d) A scheme is being worked out for a bridge at R. D. 25,500; which will be constructed as soon as funds permit.

**Lala Duni Chand**: May I know the distance between these two places, namely, Tajewala and Dadupur?

**Parliamentary Secretary**: I am afraid I cannot give the reply off hand.

**Lala Duni Chand**: May I know if it is not a very hard case that the villagers should be allowed to own land on the two sides of the canal and yet there should be no means of crossing it?

**Parliamentary Secretary**: Government have started a scheme for a bridge and if something can be done, funds permitting, it will be done.

**Lala Duni Chand**: Is not the Parliamentary Secretary aware of the fact that a large number of villagers in the Jagadhri tahsil have got land on both sides of the canal and have got no means of crossing the canal?

**Parliamentary Secretary**: I have no reason to doubt the first part of the statement, but the second part is wrong.

**Lala Duni Chand**: What arrangements are the Government going to make in order to enable the villagers to go to their land by crossing the canal?

**Parliamentary Secretary**: I have said that the Government are already preparing a scheme and it will be carried into effect as soon as funds permit.

**Lala Duni Chand**: Is the Parliamentary Secretary aware of the fact that the only way of crossing the canal is by swimming?

**Mr. Speaker**: Disallowed.

#### VEHICLE TRAFFIC ON ROAD BETWEEN TAJEWALA AND BURIA ON JAMNA CANAL.

**\*5832. Lala Duni Chand**: Will the Honourable Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

- (a) whether it is a fact that the road coming along the eastern line of Jamna Canal between Tajewala and Buria is not open to vehicular traffic and for that reason a great inconvenience is felt by the public;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that owing to the said road not being open to vehicular traffic, the agricultural produce, particularly the sugarcane crop, cannot be exported and for that reason the agriculturist is made to suffer heavy loss;
- (c) if answer to (a) and (b) above be in the affirmative, the action that Government is prepared to take in the matter?



**Parliamentary Secretary** (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan): (a) The Canal Inspection Road is not open to the public vehicular traffic, but there is another road between Tajewala and Dadupur for public traffic. From Dadupur to Buria, there is a district road on the right side of the canal. There is, therefore, no inconvenience for the public.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

**Lala Duni Chand**: May I know if it is not a fact that the other road referred to by the Parliamentary Secretary is a kucha road and for the most part of the year conveyance cannot go on the road?

**Parliamentary Secretary**: Roads on the canal banks are not pucca.

**Lala Duni Chand**: May I know if it is a fact that a lot of cane grows on this side of the country but the people are absolutely unable to carry the sugarcane to Abdullapur where there is a market?

**Parliamentary Secretary**: I do realise that there are a large number of kucha roads which become almost impassable when there are rains, but if the scheme of Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram succeeds some of these roads will become pucca.

**Lala Duni Chand**: Is he aware of the fact that repeated representations have been made by the people concerned that they should be allowed to take their carts on the canal road?

**Parliamentary Secretary**: I am afraid Government cannot allow it.

**Lala Duni Chand**: What objections are there to the use of the canal roads by carts during a certain part of the year?

**Minister for Revenue**: These roads cannot be allowed for this purpose: they are meant for canal officers who go on tour.

**Lala Duni Chand**: May I know if the Minister has ever been to that side and whether he has seen the road or not?

#### FAILURE OF COTTON CROPS IN TAHSIL KHANEWAL.

**\*5835. Khan Haibat Khan Dahi**: Will the Honourable Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

- (a) whether it is a fact that the supply of water in chaks 126, 130, 131, 132 and 133 on the tail of minor 10-R., tahsil Khanewal, has during the last two or three months been altogether insufficient and the cotton crop in this area is much below average;
- (b) that cultivators concerned have not been able to sow wheat this year according to their "Haq";
- (c) whether any representations for granting necessary relief have recently been made to the canal authorities and the Honourable Premier by the zamindars of the chaks referred to in part (a);
- (d) if the answer to (c) be in the affirmative, what steps the Government propose to take to give relief to the zamindars in regard to increase of water-supply and remission of water rates and land revenue?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan) : (a) Yes. Shortage of supplies is due to silt trouble, but the yield of cotton is below normal even in tracts where supplies have been ample.

(b) Yes. Zamindars have given preference to their cotton crop at the cost of the rabi crops and consequently a smaller proportion of water has been utilised for rabi sowings.

(c) Yes.

(d) Silt clearance and berm trimming are in progress to improve supplies. The condition of the cotton crop on the whole of this canal is being carefully examined with a view to ascertaining the extent of remissions, if any, to be given.

#### INQUIRY INTO COMPLAINT OF CORRUPTION AGAINST ZAILDAR SANT SINGH, OF VADALA SANDHUAN.

**\*5912. Lala Duni Chand** : Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether Mr. Muhammad Akbar, Revenue Assistant, Sialkot, enquired into a corruption and extortion complaint against Sant Singh, Zaildar of Vadala Sandhuan, tahsil Daska, and his associates and made a report on 15th November, 1937 ;

(b) the action taken by the higher authorities on the said report ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan) : A reference is invited to the reply given to Question No. \*4072<sup>1</sup> put by the honourable member on the 12th April, 1939.

**Lala Duni Chand** : In view of the fact that it was only the other day that I drew the attention of the House to the actual report according to which this zaildar had been guilty of a very atrocious behaviour, is the Government now prepared to reconsider the matter ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** : I do not think Government is prepared to reconsider the matter.

**Lala Duni Chand** : May I know if the Parliamentary Secretary is aware of the contents of the report a part of which I read out to the House only the other day ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** : Does it arise out of the question ?

**Minister for Revenue** : If my honourable friend were present here he would have heard my reply to it the other day.

**Lala Duni Chand** : Is it not a fact that even according to that report this gentleman along with several others had been preying on the people of the *ilaga* for many years, robbing them and plundering them, and that is the report by the officer, namely the Revenue Assistant, appointed by your Government to look into the matter ?

**Minister for Revenue** : As I said day before yesterday there was a certain amount of evidence taken by the Revenue Assistant but as the person complained against requested the Deputy Commissioner to give

[Revenue Minister.]

him an opportunity for putting further evidence, an opportunity was given and a very large number of people were examined by the Revenue Assistant and he came to the conclusion that there was no case.

**Lala Duni Chand :** May I know if it is not a fact that all the charges were supported by the witnesses and the Revenue Assistant reported to the effect that all the charges were proved and people should be saved from these rapacious people? If so in view of the findings and the bulk of evidence, what excuse have the Government got not to look further into the matter?

**Minister for Revenue :** The reply was given day before yesterday and I have nothing to add to what I then said. There was a large number of people who gave evidence against what was said by the other people.

#### DILAPIDATED CONDITION OF CANAL BRIDGE NEAR KOTLI HARECHANDAN IN GURDASPUR DISTRICT.

**\*6028. Sardar Hari Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state whether the people of village Kotli Harehandan, tahsil and district Gurdaspur, have recently represented to the Government their difficulties consequent on the dilapidation of the bridge across the canal passing at a distance of about two furlongs from the village; if so, action taken or proposed to be taken in the matter?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan) :** The bridge referred to in the question is on Kahnuwan Swamp Drain and not on any canal. The bridge collapsed some ten or twelve years ago and was not repaired by the District Board, Gurdaspur, which was in charge of the drain until very recently. It has now been decided that the Irrigation Branch should maintain the drain and a survey is being made with a view to preparing an estimate of the cost of the necessary re-conditioning.

The reconstruction of the bridge will be included in the estimate and will be carried out when the estimate is sanctioned and funds are provided.

Petitions regarding the condition of bridges on this drain have been received but immediate action could not be taken for the reasons stated.

#### REMISSION OF LAND REVENUE ON LANDS WASHED AWAY BY FLOODS.

**\*6064. Khan Bahadur Nawab Muzaffar Khan :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state—

- (a) whether about 55 acres of *chahi sailab* and *maira* lands in Barwal and Gangapind in the Attock tahsil of the Attock district have been completely washed away by floods in the Haro river since the last settlement;
- (b) whether it is proposed to remit land revenue of the *chahi* and other lands which no longer exist;
- (c) whether the authorities of the Anti-erosion Forest Circle propose taking any action to help the zamindars of that *ilaga*?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan): (a) 22 acres have been washed away in Barwal: none in Gangapind.

(b) Yes.

(c) The proposal has been examined: but unfortunately the cost would be prohibitive.

#### HAILSTORM IN ATTOCK DISTRICT.

**\*6065. Khan Bahadur Nawab Muzaffar Khan:** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether he is aware that there was severe hailstorm during the month of October last year in Burhan, Khalaqdad and other neighbouring villages in tahsil Attock of the Attock district;

(b) whether the Deputy Commissioner of the district or any of his Assistants visited those villages soon after the calamity and whether they submitted any report on the subject; if so, what action the Government have taken or intend to take on that report?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan): (a) There was a hailstorm but the damage was not very severe.

(b) Yes. Twice. Rs. 28 on account of land revenue were remitted.

#### DISTRIBUTION OF THE WATER OF HARO RIVER TO PANJKATHA ILAQA IN ATTOCK DISTRICT.

**\*6066. Khan Bahadur Nawab Muzaffar Khan:** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether he is aware that Panjkatha *ilaga* in tahsil Attock of the Attock district is irrigated from the Haro river;

(b) whether he is also aware that land revenue is charged in that *ilaga* at full *nahri* rates;

(c) whether distribution of water is entirely in the hands of the villagers concerned?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan): (a) Yes.

(b) Land revenue is charged at the rates fixed at settlement, which vary from Re. 1-1-0 to Rs. 7-10-0 per acre according to the class of soil. No separate charge is made for irrigation.

Two of the villages in this *ilaga* recently asked for a fluctuating system of assessment which they have been allowed. The fluctuating land revenue rates there imposed vary from Re. 1-7-0 to Rs. 3-15-0 per acre matured according to the class of soil.

(c) Yes, subject to the provisions about the mode of distribution of water in the *wajib-ul-arz* of each village.

**Khan Bahadur Nawab Muzaffar Khan:** May I ask whether might is considered right in this area and no proper division of water takes place?

**Parliamentary Secretary:** So far as the distribution of water in the *wajib-ul-arz* is concerned, it is not in the power of Government to intervene. It is only the civil courts who can decide the matter.

**Khan Bahadur Nawab Muzaffar Khan :** Cannot Government consider the appointment of a zilladar or a naib-tahsildar for distribution of water and for avoiding murders and free fights ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** Even if Government were to make such appointment, so far as *wajib-ul-arz* is concerned and any quarrel about it, it will have to be decided by court.

#### INCOME FROM LAND REVENUE IN AMRITSAR CITY.

**\*6118. Dr. Sant Ram Seth :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state—

- (a) the total income from land revenue paid to the Government by the people of Amritsar within the municipal limits of the city in 1937, 1938 and 1939 ;
- (b) the total area irrigated by the canal within the municipal limits of Amritsar during these three years ;
- (c) the total income from canal water supplied for irrigation purposes within the municipal limits of Amritsar during this period ;
- (d) the total area irrigated by wells within municipal limits of Amritsar and the total income on account of land revenue in regard to this area during this period ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan) :** (a)—

Year.					Land Revenue.
					Rs.
1936-37	..	..	..	..	30,641
1937-38	..	..	..	..	30,641
1938-39	..	..	..	..	30,641

(b) and (c)—

<i>Year.</i>					<i>Total area irrigated.</i>	<i>Income.</i>
					<i>Acres.</i>	<i>Rs.</i>
1936-37	..	..	..	2,877	14,832	
1937-38	..	..	..	2,807	14,454	
1938-39	..	..	..	2,877	14,683	

(d)—

Year.				Total area irrigated. from wells.	Total land revenue for chahi areas.
				Acres.	Rs.
1936-37	..	..	..	847	3,257
1937-38	..	..	..	822	3,257
1938-39	..	..	..	784	3,257

**RELIEF MEASURES FOR A PART OF THE FEROZEPUR DISTRICT  
AFFECTED BY FAMINE CONDITIONS.**

**\*6128. Master Kabul Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

- (a) whether he is aware of the fact that that part of the Ferozepur district which is adjacent to the Hissar district has also been affected by famine ;
- (b) if the answer to (a) above be in the affirmative, the measure of relief adopted for that part of the said district and if no such measure has been adopted, the reasons therefor ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan) :** Famine conditions do not prevail but on account of drought taccavi has been given.

**RELIEF FOR FAILURE OF RABI CROPS IN CHAKWAL TAHSIL.**

**\*6133. Raja Muhammad Sarfaraz Khan :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state—

- (a) whether it is a fact that the rains have again failed this year in Chakwal tahsil, district Jhelum, with the result that no rabi crops have been sown this year too ;
- (b) whether it is the fourth harvest failing successively in the said tahsil ;
- (c) whether Government is aware that the peasants have in their dire want been forced either to migrate to other districts or to dispose of their live stock and other belongings at incredibly low prices ;
- (d) whether it is also a fact that these facts have already been brought to the notice of Government through Press and by representations made by the members of the Punjab Legislative Assembly of the district ;
- (e) whether there have been persistent demands both by the public and officials on the spot for liberal remission of land revenue to the zamindars concerned for the last harvest and the present rabi 1940 ;
- (f) if answer to the above be in the affirmative, whether Government contemplate affording any measure of relief in Chakwal tahsil against the failure of rains and consequent failure of crops ; if not, why not ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan) :** (a) No. 136,700 acres have been sown : and are doing well.

(b) No. The area sown in the previous four harvests was almost up to the average.

(c) This may be partially true of some peasants who migrated to their relatives in the colony areas.

(d) Representations have been received.

(e) Yes, so far as public is concerned.

[Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan.]

(f) Rs. 33,352 have been suspended out of the land revenue demand for kharif 1939. .

Taccavi loans have been advanced to the extent of Rs. 14,870 ; and if in spite of the winter rains more relief is necessary, the matter will be sympathetically considered.

The question of granting relief out of the land revenue demand for rabi 1940 will be dealt with according to rules after the girdawari.

**Lala Duni Chand :** May I know if it is not a pitiable case that people who starve in a district migrate probably to the district to which my honourable friend belongs ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I regret that conditions in some parts are such that people have to migrate. Government have distributed taccavi, and the question of any further relief will be sympathetically considered.

**Lala Duni Chand :** May I know what part the Parliamentary Secretary has played in relieving the misery of the district ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I have kept the Government fully informed about every part of the district and I have succeeded in persuading the Government to give all possible relief which was permissible under the rules.

**Lala Duni Chand :** Has he spent anything out of his own pocket ?

**Mr. Speaker :** Disallowed.

#### NOTICES OF EJECTMENT ISSUED TO TENANTS IN JHANG DISTRICT.

\*6136. **Mr. Dev Raj Sethi :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state—

- (a) the number of notices of ejectment issued by the Revenue Officers in Jhang district to tenants-at-will and on occupancy tenants separately in the years 1937, 1938 and 1939 ;
- (b) In how many cases appeals were filed by the persons aggrieved, and the number of appeals accepted, rejected, compromised or withdrawn, separately ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan) : (a) *Tenants-at-will*—

Notices of ejectment.					Year.
184	--	..	..	..	1937
196	..	..	..	..	1938
200	--	--	..	..	1939

*Occupancy tenants*—

Nil.

(b) The law does not provide for appeals in such cases but the tenants aggrieved can bring suits in the court of the Assistant Collector, I Grade,

to contest their liability to ejectment. Details of such suits lodged in the court of the Revenue Assistant are—

Year.	Number of cases instituted.	Decreed.	Dismissed.	Compromised.	Returned.	Dismissed in default.
1937 .. ..	9	5	..	4	..	..
1938 .. ..	25	11	5	1	..	8
1939 .. ..	21	12	..	1	1	7
Total .. ..	55	28	5	6	1	15

The following appeals were lodged in the court of the Collector against the orders of the Revenue Assistant in the above-mentioned cases and all were dismissed :—

1937 .. ..	..	..	..	..	Nil
1938 .. ..	..	..	..	..	6
1939 .. ..	..	..	..	..	2
Total .. ..					8

#### REMISSION OF LAND REVENUE IN DERA GHAZI KHAN.

**\*6138. Khan Bahadur Sardar Muhammad Hassan Khan Gurchani:** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state—

- whether land revenue assessment for kharif of various tahsils in district Dehra Ghazi Khan has been completed; if so, the amount assessed in the case of each tahsil of the district;
- whether the realization of any portion of the land revenue has been postponed; if so, the amount postponed in each tahsil;
- whether any portion of the land revenue accumulating owing to successive postponements in the past has been remitted; if so, the amount remitted in each tahsil;
- whether land revenue of lands rendered desolate by locusts has been remitted;
- whether any proposal has been put forward before Government by local authorities that land revenue of lands depending totally upon rainfall and which have been desolate for the last ten years be remitted;
- whether it is proposed to remit a fraction of the land revenue in the district as a whole;
- if answers to the questions above be in the negative, the reasons therefor?



**Parliamentary Secretary** (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan): (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the table.

(c) The question of remitting suspended revenue is under consideration.

(d) Locusts have not appeared.

(e) No. In case of failure of crops, relief is granted under the rules.

(f) No. Adequate relief has been granted, where necessary, according to rules. A general and indiscriminate remission is not called for.

(g) Attention is invited to the reply to parts (d) to (f).

*Land revenue demand for Kharif 1939 in the Dera Ghazi Khan district and the suspensions and remissions granted at this harvest.*

Tahsil.	TOTAL DEMAND FOR KHARIF, 1939.			Amount of fixed land revenue suspended.	Amount of fluctuating land revenue remitted in the shape of kharaba.
	Fixed.	Fluctuating.	Total.		
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Sanghar .. ..	51,992	5,106	57,098	20,827	885
Dera Ghazi Khan ..	84,065	97,741	1,81,806	11,807	30,068
Jampur .. ..	82,743	35,810	1,18,553	30,030	7,750
Rajanpur .. ..	15,515	62,078	77,593	1,020	34,543
Total .. ..	2,34,315	2,00,735	4,35,050	63,684	73,246

#### ZAILDARS AND SUFEDPOSHES.

**\*6167. Khan Sahib Raja Fateh Khan :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether he is aware of the fact that the zaildars and the sufedposhes have to convey personally the dâk of the district authorities to their residence when the latter visit an ilaqa ;

(b) whether he is also aware of the fact that at the time of their visits to an ilaqa all the arrangements regarding the stay and comforts of the officers for example supply of foodstuffs, eggs, grass, beds, etc., are to be made by the zaildars and sufedposhes and in case of their failure to perform these duties to the satisfaction of the officers concerned, they are dealt with departmentally ;

(c) whether the Government introduced in the past a scheme in the province according to which the arrangements mentioned in (a) and (b) were made by contractors ;

(d) the action Government intends to take to rid the zaildars and sufedposhes of the duties mentioned in (a) and (b) ; if no action is contemplated the reasons therefor ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan) : (a) No.

(b) There is no such rule : and no instance of such departmental action has been brought to notice.

(c) Subject to Budget provision contractors are appointed for supplies to touring officers, not for conveyance of dāk.

(d) Does not arise.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma** : Is it not the duty of the lambardars to make the necessary arrangements in connection with the tours of the Government officers ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** : If the officers happen to visit some of those villages where no special arrangements exist, it is the duty of the lambardars to assist the tahsil peons to obtain the necessary things on payment.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma** : Is it also included in the duties of these lambardars to take begar from Harijans ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** : That is absolutely wrong.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma** : Is it a fact that a lambardar of Ganaur, Ram Chander, was dismissed simply because he had refused to take begar from Harijans for the Sub-divisional Officer ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** : I do not carry in my pocket the history of records of all the 80,000 lambardars in the province.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma** : May I know if begar was taken during the tour of the Minister of Development ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** : The question does not relate to the tour of the Minister of Development.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma** : May I know if the Government is prepared, in view of the fact that the Minister of Development remains constantly on tour, to issue special instructions that no begar should be taken during his tours ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** : The insinuation is wrong.

**Sardar Mula Singh** : May I know if drastic action has ever been taken against any officer who takes begar from Harijans against these orders of the Government ?

#### FORCED LABOUR FROM ACHEHUTS IN HISSAR.

\*6183. **Chaudhri Faqir Chand** : Will the Honourable Minister for Revenue be pleased to state whether he is aware of the fact that at the time of recent visit of the Honourable Minister of Development to Hansi, the tahsildar of that place extorted forced labour from twenty-four Achhuts of village Patwar, tahsil Hansi, district Hissar, and got different kinds of duties performed by them for four days like bringing of wood from the jungle, pitching of tents and keeping of watch at night without any payment ; if so, the action Government propose to take in the matter ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan): Attention of the honourable member is invited to the answer given to starred<sup>1</sup> question No. 6026 during the current session of the Assembly.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma**: May I know since when this question has been under the consideration of the Government that begar was taken during the tour of the Minister of Development?

**Parliamentary Secretary**: An inquiry is going on and the Government can say nothing until the result of that inquiry is available. The honourable member is always bothering about time.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma**: I had to ask that because the Government always say "The matter is under consideration."

May I know if the Government will issue instructions to the effect that whoever takes begar will be punished along with the officer for whose sake and with whose knowledge the begar is taken?

**Chaudhri Faqir Chand**: May I know if any officer has ever punished any one for taking begar?

**Parliamentary Secretary**: A deterrent punishment will of course be meted out to that man who is proved to have taken begar. If none has been punished so far, the presumption must be that no case of begar has been proved so far.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma**: May I know from the Parliamentary Secretary whether, apart from the statement issued by the responsible officers of the Government, any other practical steps have been taken to stamp out begar?

**Parliamentary Secretary**: Yes, several remedies have been adopted. One is that the Government by answering questions on the floor of this House have most emphatically declared that begar is strictly prohibited.

**Munshi Hari Lal**: Beyond the declaration on the floor of this House against the system of begar, I want to know what effective steps have been taken to stamp it out.

**Parliamentary Secretary**: The effective step taken was to declare by beat of drum in every village in the province that begar by officials is strictly prohibited. Besides, the Government, to make sure that this notification had reached every nook and corner of the province, asked the deputy commissioners to take thumb impressions or signatures of as many Achhuts as could be available to the effect that the Government have declared that taking of begar by Government officials is strictly prohibited. Unfortunately some of my honourable friends mix up two things. One is the begar or work taken by a zamindar in return for certain rights given to the Achhuts and the other is the begar by Government officials. So far as the relationship between the landlord and the Achhut is concerned, it is a very difficult question and the Government would not like to interfere but so far as begar by the Government officials is concerned, it has been strictly prohibited.

**Mr. Speaker**: The question relates only to the Hissar district and not to the whole province.

## SETTLEMENT OPERATIONS IN GURGAON DISTRICT.

\*6184. **Chaudhri Faqir Chand** : Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state—

- (a) whether he is aware of the fact that settlement operations are in progress in the Gurgaon district ;
- (b) whether he is aware of the fact that in that district the *Achhuts* are coerced into putting their thumb-impressions on the *wajib-ul-arz* and *begar* is taken from them in connexion with measurements of land (*Jarib Kashi*) ; if so, the action Government propose to take in the matter ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan) : (a) Yes.

(b) No complaint regarding coercion in taking thumb-impressions of *Achhuts* on the *wajib-ul-arz* or taking *begar* from them in connexion with land measurements has been made to the settlement officer. Under the rules, in map correction work, land owners are required to supply suitable chainmen and flag holders to whom payment is to be made by the land owners. No *begar* is being taken by the settlement staff from the *Achhuts*.

**Lala Duni Chand** : May I know if it is not a fact that in the course of settlement operations, what is called *jarib kashi* is taken as a matter of course without payment and that fact is known to every officer of the Government ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** : Yes, I have stated it clearly. If my honourable friend instead of thinking of his supplementary question, had listened to the answer that was given, he would have been benefited. I have said in the answer that under the rules in map correction work land owners are required to supply suitable chainmen and flag holders to whom payment is to be made by the land owners.

**Lala Duni Chand** : Is it not true that no payments are made ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** : I know nothing about it. It is between the landlords and the tenants.

**Lala Duni Chand** : As a very prominent citizen of the Jhelum district, may I ask him whether it is not within his knowledge that no payment is made ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** : So far as my district is concerned thank God there are no *Achhuts* and no *begar*.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad** : May I know from the Parliamentary Secretary whether the Government have ever taken the trouble of finding out whether the chainmen are paid by the land owners ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** : Circumstances are different in different villages and different parts of the country. In my own poor district the land owners themselves work as chainmen.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad** : My question is quite different. I want to know whether the Government have ever taken the trouble of finding out whether the chainmen are paid by the owners or not.

**Mr. Speaker :** The Parliamentary Secretary has already stated that he is not in a position to say what sort of relations exist between the village landlords and kamins.

**Rai Bahadur Mukand Lal Puri :** Will he inquire into the matter whether the persons who are assisting the Government officers as chainmen are paid or not either by the Government servants or land owners ?

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** I want to know whether the Government received any complaint from these chainmen who are taken on begar or on payment by the land owners to the effect that their wages are not paid.

**Parliamentary Secretary :** Government have received no such complaint.

**Lala Harnam Das :** May I know if it is the policy of the Government to allow the zamindars to take forced labour on payment ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I wonder if payment of wages for work is considered begar.

**Chaudhri Prem Singh :** Will the Parliamentary Secretary please let me know the result of the representation which I submitted to him in connection with begar ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I regret that reply to his representation has not yet been received from the officer concerned. It will be communicated to him as soon as we are in receipt of it.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** When did the honourable member submit that representation to him ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** Not very long ago.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Is the Parliamentary Secretary aware that in connexion with the settlement operations in Gurgaon district, the zamindars coerce the Achhuts to do *jarib kashi* ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** Government is aware of it. But I may tell the honourable member that big landlords can always command the services of the members of the scheduled castes, who gladly do *jarib kashi* work as they receive ample remuneration in kind during the harvest season. But those landlords who do not pay in kind, pay wages in cash.

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SELECTION OF CANDIDATES FOR CLERKSHIP IN THE OFFICE  
OF THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, DERA GHAZI  
KHAN.

**\*6187. Khan Sahib Sheikh Muhammad Amin :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state whether it is a fact that a number of persons have recently been accepted as candidates for posts of clerks in the office of the Deputy Commissioner, Dera Ghazi Khan, and placed on the waiting list ; if so, the names and qualifications of candidates so accepted and their educational qualifications and the names and educational qualifications of those who applied but who were not accepted ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan): *First part.*—  
Yes.

*Second and third parts.*—As regards the giving of names attention is invited to the policy of Government enunciated in the volume of Secretariat Instructions, Chapter XVI, paragraph 427, clause (e).

The qualifications of the 18 accepted candidates are—

4 B.A.

2 F.A.

7 Matriculation.

The qualifications of the 56 candidates not accepted are—

1 B.A.

1 F.A.

1 F.Sc.

53 Matriculation.

**Khan Sahib Chaudhri Sahib Dad Khan :** Is it not a fact that the communal proportions laid down by the Government have not been observed in this case?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I am not going to reply to any question which savours of communalism directly or indirectly.

**Khan Sahib Chaudhri Sahib Dad Khan :** Is it not a fact that an unstarred question was put in regard to the number of candidates in Dera Ghazi Khan district? What action was taken on it?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I am afraid I do not know what was the unstarred question about.

#### SCARCITY CONDITIONS IN HOSHIARPUR DISTRICT.

**\*6196. Sardar Hari Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) the normal rainfall in the Hoshiarpur district for the past decade and the amount of rainfall this year since April, 1939 ;

(b) whether he is aware of scarcity conditions as regards fodder and grain in several parts of the district ; if so, the steps Government propose taking to alleviate suffering in the district mentioned above?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan) : (a)—

*Inches.*

(i) The average rainfall for the decade from the 1st April, 1929, to 31st March, 1939 .. .. . 30·94

(ii) Average rainfall from the 1st April, 1939, to 31st January, 1940 .. .. . 21·85

[Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan.]

(b) Concession rates for the import of fodder by rail have been sanctioned. There is no scarcity of food grains.

**TAX ON MEN AND WOMEN GOING TO THE BANKS OF THE RIVER RAVI.**

**\*6211. Mrs. Duni Chand :** Will the Honourable Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is proposed to levy a tax on men and women who every day go to the banks of the river Ravi at Lahore and make their living by rendering odd services to those who bathe in the river; if so, under what rule of law it is proposed to tax them;

(b) the amount of the tax expected to be realized and the rate at which it is to be levied?

**The Honourable Major Nawabzada Malik Khizar Hayat Khan Tiwana :** (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

**Mrs. Duni Chand :** May I know if it has come to the knowledge of the Honourable Minister that the servants of the Forest Department have been telling such persons that a tax of Rs. 3 per head would be levied on them? If the Honourable Minister cares to go to the Ravi bank, he would see things for himself. May I know under what rule they are going to levy a tax?

**Minister :** As I have already stated there is no proposal to levy such a tax. As regards the other information, she may give a fresh notice to the Honourable Minister concerned.

**SCHEDULED CASTE EMPLOYEES OF SIRHAND CANAL CIRCLE.**

**\*6214. Seth Kishen Das :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) the total number of the members of the scheduled castes employed in the Sirhand Canal Circle as (i) Gauge Readers, (ii) Pansal Nawises, (iii) Signallers, (iv) Clerks, (v) Patwaris, and (vi) Dakias;

(b) the number of members of the scheduled castes who applied for employment in the Sirhand Canal Circle during 1939-40 and the number of those who have been appointed to the posts mentioned in (a)?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan) :** I must decline with regret to answer questions which savour of communalism on the floor of the House. I am sorry to have to adopt this attitude but Government considers it necessary in the public interest to establish a convention in connexion with such questions. I shall, however, always be prepared

to examine any particular instance of disproportionate representation which honourable members may bring to my notice in a more informal way.

**Munshi Hari Lal :** On a point of order. I want your ruling on the point whether it is a communal question or a class question. •

**Mr. Speaker :** As the honourable member is a learned lawyer of standing he can answer the point himself.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Is it not a fact that so far Government have been replying to all questions relating to the scheduled castes? If so, why has this particular question been considered as savouring of communalism?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** Yes, it has been a rule with the Government. But now questions relating to the scheduled castes are being given a communal tinge. Hence Government's decision to refuse to answer questions savouring communalism.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Is it a fact that Government consider Harijans a separate community like the Sikhs, the Hindus, and the Muslims?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** Yes, it is a fact.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** May I know whether it is within the power of the Government to decide whether they are to answer a particular question or not?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** Yes.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know if questions regarding percentages of agriculturists and non-agriculturists would be considered as communal questions?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** No.

**Rai Bahadur Mukand Lal Puri :** Why should not such questions also be considered communal?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** It is a hypothetical question. If any question is put and answered, it would then be for the honourable member to put this question.

**Rai Bahadur Mukand Lal Puri :** Why this invidious distinction?

**Lala Harnam Das :** What has made the Parliamentary Secretary not give a reply to this question?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** The policy of the Government.

**Lala Harnam Das :** But why does he feel diffident about replying to this question? Is it a fact that before this, answers were given to such questions?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** Unfortunately Government fights shy of replying to questions of communal nature.



## DEMANDS FOR GRANTS.

## INDUSTRIES.

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

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 21,23,900 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1941, in respect of Industries.

**Mr. Speaker :** Motion moved—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 21,23,900 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1941, in respect of Industries.

**Sardar Sahib Sardar Santokh Singh** (Eastern Towns, Sikh, Urban) :  
I beg to move—

That the demand be reduced by Rs. 101.

On one point there is general agreement and that is that it is only the industries of the province that can ensure its steady and sustained progress. The principal countries of the world will not be what they are to-day without their industry. England even when it is fighting its terrific war is not unmindful of its industries and trade. Indeed it feels that without industries the war will not be worth winning. It is also agreed that prosperity and plenty follow the wake of industries, while non-industrialisation and poverty go together. Our province is very rich in raw materials. What we lack is the determination, the will, the earnestness and enterprise to turn our raw materials into manufactured goods. Whether it is the old bureaucratic Government that is responsible for this or whether it is the people themselves, it can at this stage be only an academic discussion; and therefore I do not propose to waste the time of the House in going over that question. We had, however, expected that after provincial autonomy was introduced we would see a change for the better, a rapid progress in industries and the betterment of the province. But what do we find? I will, for illustration, take up the expenditure that has been incurred by the present ministry for industrialisation from the time it took over charge of the province. In 1937-38 the total expenditure on the Department of Industries was Rs. 20,31,504. In 1938-39, the revised estimate was Rs. 20,23,400, but the actual expenditure came to only Rs. 19,36,098. This quite clearly shows that the grant that was made to this department was not utilised in full. The reasons given are (1) that the machinery purchased through the Indian Stores Department was not paid for during that year, (2) the delay in supply of machinery ordered in connection with cottage and small scale woollen industry scheme, and (3) no expenditure on 'Assistance under the Punjab State Aid to Industries Act'. So far as the first two reasons are concerned, one will understand that the payments must have been made at least in the following year and consequently the expenditure in the next year would be greater. But what do we find? Even in that year the original grant sanctioned by this House is Rs. 21,46,200 and according to the revised estimate the expenditure is anticipated at Rs. 19,09,100. Here also a sum of Rs. 2,37,000 remains unutilised. What is the reason given? The reason given is that no expenditure was incurred against a provision of Rs. 2,70,000 made for 'Assistance under the Punjab State Aid to Industries Act' on account of campaign of economy. This

axe of economy appears to have been applied only in the case of the important Department of Industries and not a pie appears to have been spent out of a provision of Rs. 2,70,000. The provision for 1940-41 is about the same, that is, Rs. 21,28,000 and I will not be surprised if at the end of the year we find that this amount also has not been utilised in full.

This takes me to some very pertinent observations that were made by the Honourable Minister of Development in March, 1938, while addressing this House. It may not be amiss if I read out his exact words. He said—

One fact is that there seems to be a lurking suspicion in the minds of many people representing urban constituencies that being a rural man with pronounced rural ideas and pronounced agricultural outlook I will not have the same sympathy for the Department of Industries as a minister in charge ought to have. Sir, I can assure them sincerely that the Industries Department will have the same attention from me as any other department that falls in my portfolio. The reason is obvious. In the first instance, as a minister in charge of this department it is my obvious duty that I should give my best to it. Secondly, I realise quite as clearly as any honourable member of this House can, that the prosperity of agricultural classes, the prosperity of the rural population, is closely bound up with industrial development. If we desire to add to the income of agricultural and rural classes, it is absolutely essential that we should enter upon a programme of industrial expansion and industrial development.

Further on he makes mention of some limitations that stand in his way. He says—

One is that there are certain restrictions placed upon the free functioning of every provincial Government under the Constitution. However much we may desire to get rid of those restrictions they exist and we ought to take note of those restrictions when we criticise the working of any department. The second limiting factor is that of finance. Within the limits of financial resources of the province, a minister ought to be prepared to do all that he can and honourable members of this House have full right to expect that he will do so, but I will request honourable members of this House not to overlook this limiting factor.

If within the financial resources I have failed to do anything which I could have done or ought to have done I am to blame; but if within these limits I have been able to do something I think a word of acknowledgment will do no harm to the Opposition.

I have brought home to the Honourable Minister that although he got a bigger sum, he has not been able to utilise it to the full. May I ask if according to the criterion laid down by himself he is to blame for that or any of his subordinates is at fault? The Department of Industries is an important department. It is asserted in some quarters that the Minister of Development is the most influential Minister in the present Cabinet. My first charge against him is that being a very influential Minister, he has not asked for more money than what he actually did. I feel sure that with all the influence that he has, he should have been able to secure for the Industries Department a greater provision than what he did ask for and having asked for a lower sum and having been given that sum, my second charge is that he has not utilised it in full. There is a fallacy in the minds of some people that industries benefit only the urban people. This is an entirely erroneous idea. The industry benefits all people alike, labourers in the shape of wages, traders, agents, brokers, etc., in the shape of profits and even the Government, by way of taxes that they get out of the people. Any money spent on industries is always well spent because it comes back ten-fold in one shape or another.

[S. S. Sardar Santokh Singh.]

That takes me now to another point which the Honourable Minister had tried to make while speaking in this House in March, 1938. He was pleased to say that the Punjab was spending more money on industries than what they were doing in the United Provinces. I will now refer him to the amount that the United Provinces are spending upon the industries and I feel sure that he will be surprised at the figures. The United Provinces have, during the last year, spent Rs. 29,58,460 on industries which works out to 2.22 per cent of the revenue of Rs. 13,31,00,000. We, in the Punjab, have spent only 19,09,000 which means an expenditure of 1.58 per cent of our revenue and if we take into consideration the revenue that this Department of Industries makes—about 6 lakhs of rupees—that would come to 52 per cent and would further reduce the expenditure on industries to 1.06 per cent. I put it to the Honourable Minister whether at this pace of progress it will not take the province another century to go ahead and be what other countries are to-day. This is a very important matter and I do hope that he will give his earnest consideration to it and tell us what he thinks of it and within how many years he expects that something tangible will be done in the way of improving the industries of this province. I find that with the new expenditure that is to be undertaken this year, two schools are going to be opened—one at Rawalpindi and the other at Lahore. The school at Lahore is to be for the widows and girls of a particular community only. I am really surprised to find that even in the domain of industries communal considerations have been brought in. This is a matter where there should be no communal divisions. This is a matter where every Punjabi should feel proud to give his quota for the advancement of industries and the advancement of the province. Under these circumstances, I cannot but make my most emphatic protest against the communal colour that has been sought to be given to the institution that is to be established in Lahore.

**Minister of Development :** You protest ? Why ?

**Sardar Sahib Sardar Santokh Singh :** I do protest. I protest because a special school for the widows and girls of a particular community is being opened. I say that there should be no communalism in the domain of industries. Everything must be for all. Another notable difference that I find between the expenditure incurred by the United Provinces and the Punjab over industries is that the United Provinces are spending on the pay of establishment half of what we are doing in the Punjab. In the Punjab the pay of establishment is Rs. 6,33,720 and the number of hands employed is 816. In the United Provinces the pay of establishment is Rs. 3,85,766 and the number of hands employed is 504. Another notable difference that I find between the working of the two provinces in the matter of industries is that the amount of travelling allowance and honoraria that is being spent in the Punjab is Rs. 85,600 while in the United Provinces it is only 24,950. United Provinces are spending much more in the shape of grants, scholarships, and relief to industries but here we are spending more on the pay of establishment and on travelling allowances—a matter which should engage the serious attention of the authorities that be. I now come to the question of loans that this Department gives by way of help to cottage industries. I will quote from the

\* Note showing the progress and measures taken by the Industries Department, Punjab, for the industrialisation of the province'. It is stated there—

*Financial Assistance.*—Financial assistance in the form of loans was rendered under the Punjab Industrial Loans Act up to 1935-36 and an aggregate sum of Rs. 8,27,450 was advanced for the development of cottage and small scale industries. This Act was replaced by a more comprehensive measure, viz., the Punjab State Aid to Industries Act, 1935, which has generally been welcomed as a serious attempt on the part of the Punjab Government to help local industry. This Act which came into force on 7th March, 1936, provides State aid in the following forms, etc., etc.

My point is that under the old Act which was considered to be not very comprehensive, loans amounting to Rs. 8,27,450 were given to the needy industries but what we now find is that up to 31st March, 1939 the total of these loans in aggregate is no more than Rs. 6,41,041. I will quote the exact figures. Under a more comprehensive Act the amount of loan has come down to Rs. 6,41,000, that is, a reduction of over two and a half lakhs. May I enquire if the need of these poor people was entirely fulfilled by the previous loans that were given, whether they did not need any more loans, or is it, that the campaign of economy has also played its part here and has prevented the government from making these loans to the most needy industries?

Not only that. In the matter of recoveries, it appears to me that the department is perhaps as hard, if not harder than a typical bania. In the matter of realisation of these loans in the year ending 31st March, 1939, there has been a recovery of Rs. 78,211 towards principal and Rs. 12,534 towards interest. I do not mean that the loans that have been advanced must not be taken back, I do not mean that the agreements which have been made should not be fulfilled or should be broken like a scrap of paper. But what I do say is that there must be a change of heart and sympathetic treatment towards the poor debtor. You are so generous to the debtor and profess so much sympathy for him when it does not touch your pockets, but where the question is otherwise you are as hard or even harder than a typical bania. It is only by the way that I point this out to the Government; otherwise I do think that agreements once entered into must be fulfilled and loans once advanced must be returned.

It would not be out of place to refer here to the situation as it exists in other countries. In the United States of America, up to 1900 the income from industries was the same as from agriculture. In 30 years the income from industries went up by four times as compared with the income from agriculture. The population engaged in agriculture remained stationary while the total population increased by 47 millions. The number employed in manufacturing and mechanical pursuits was nearly doubled. This was the position up to 1930. I am sorry I could not lay my hands at the figures after the year 1930. Now, take the case of Canada. Before the Great War, Canada was a predominantly agricultural country. It is now a great industrial centre, with an industrial income about twice as much as that from agriculture. Then I come to Sweden. In 1870, one-fourth of its population was dependent on agriculture, but to-day half of its population is maintained by industries. Now take the case of Russia. This is a most notable case. Some years ago Russia was known

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in the domain of industry to be as backward as India. Russians were said to be as indifferent as Indians to the advancement of trade and industry. I will tell you what they have done within a brief period of 4 years. Soviet Russia which, only a few years ago, was considered a predominantly agricultural country is to-day one of the richest and most advanced industrial countries in the world. Some of the industrial achievements even in the first five years plan—from 1928 to 1932—read like romance, and here the Honourable Minister for Development says that he could not change the mentality of the people within a brief period of 3 years. I will quote his exact speech a little later. In 1928, the share of industry represented only 48 per cent of the total production of industry and agriculture, while at the end of 1932 it represented 70 per cent that is, an increase of as much as 22 per cent within 4 years. The gross output of industrial production increased to 218·5 per cent. “In 1928 the output of machines was only 7 per cent of the United States of America, in 1932 it was 56·9 per cent of the United States of America, 140 per cent of that of England and 151 per cent of that of Germany.” It shows that where there is a will there is a way. “During the period of the plan the output both of electrical engineering and agricultural machinery increased 5·5 fold, general engineering 4·4 fold, electrical power 4 fold, iron and steel industries 3·5 fold, mining and timber 2·5, fuel industries 2·3 and so on and so forth. During the plan in total industrial production in the world Russia has moved from fifth to second place, in the production of pig-iron it rose from third to second place, in coal from seventh to fourth place, in machine building from fourth to second place, in electric energy from eighth to third place. Simultaneously with this industrial revolution there has been an agricultural revolution which has increased the agricultural output from 80 million tons in 1928 to about 100 million tons in 1932.” This was all within a brief period of 4 years. And it may be noted that the total population of the Soviet Russia is less than one-half of that of India and not more than 6 times that of the Punjab. Now, coming to Japan, seventy years ago it was industrially no better off than India. At that time Japan was a feudalistic agricultural country with a strong aversion to foreign trade or commerce. With the advent of Commodore Perry, Japan turned over a new leaf. The Japanese Government decided to make their country the leading industrial land of the Orient. And how did the Japanese Government go about? There were official excursions into the domains of silk-reeling, cotton and silk spinning, brick burning, printing and book binding, type-casting and ceramic decoration. In short the authorities applied themselves to educate an industrial disposition. The result of all this was that whereas in the beginning of 1876 Japan had virtually no industries worth the name, in thirty years she possessed no less than 4,595 industrial and commercial companies, either joint stock or partnership with a paid up capital of two hundred million dollars; and to-day the number of companies and the capital invested are almost beyond belief. There can be little doubt that if India had the same opportunities for industrial and commercial development as Japan, she, with her great natural resources and unlimited manpower, would have prospered as well as, or even better than, Japan.

In Russia in the year 1913 the gross production from industries was 42·1 and from agriculture 57·19. In 1932 this was changed from 42 to 70·

and from 57 to 29, respectively. In Britain only 14 per cent. of the population is dependent on agriculture; whilst in our country the farm population has increased from 61 per cent. in 1881 to 73 per cent. in 1931. In India the industrial production is one-sixth and agricultural production is five-sixth of the total population.

I will now give you some figures regarding the income per head of population. In India, the income *per capita* from agriculture is 159 and from industries 12; in the United Kingdom from industries it is 412 as against 12 in India per head, in Canada 470, in the United States of America 721 and in Japan 158. All these progressive countries are moving towards industrialisation while in India unfortunately the tendency has been in the opposite direction. In the

4 p. m.  
other countries there are no water tight compartments of agriculturists and non-agriculturists: there are no communal divisions, Hindus, Muhammadans and Sikhs. Here, even in the domain of industry these unfortunate divisions do come in and I for one believe that this is also one of the reasons why we have not been so successful up till now. Regardless of caste and creed, everybody should contribute his or her quota towards the industrialisation of the province in the right manner. Some idea as to the position of key industries will be available from the figures which I am just going to give you. In India the number of organised industries established in 1930 was 8,148 and the total organised capital was estimated to be 700 crores, of which the Indian share was not more than 300 crores. In the United Kingdom the number of organised industrial establishments is 107,000 and the capital invested 7,067 crores, about 28 times the Indian capital. In the United States of America the number of organised industrial establishments is 174,136 and the capital invested is 23,000 crores. In Canada, with a population of 3 per cent. of India, the number of organised industries is 24,000 and the capital invested is 1,445 crores. In Japan with a population of one-fifth of India, the number of organised industries is 18,711 and the capital invested is 1,009 crores. Japan has increased its manufactures seven fold during the years 1914—26. Coming to our own province it is crystal clear, what a small number of organised industrial concerns we have. The same is the case with the banking institution, and still what do we find? How does our Government encourage joint stock companies and industries? We have seen lately that a new Bill has been introduced in this House and if it is passed it will curb all the activities of these joint stock companies. Instead of offering some attraction to the people with a view to induce them to form new joint stock companies, our Government is going just the other way, and all sorts of obstacles are being placed in the way of formation of new companies, banking companies, joint stock companies and industrial societies. Our Government does not seem to benefit by the recommendations of such committees as the Central Banking Committee in regard to the encouragement of these companies and industrial organisations. I will quote a few passages from that report to show exactly what the opinions, and the recommendations of these experts are and how our Government is acting in these matters. The Banking Enquiry Committee's Report says 'Sons of the indigenous bankers should be encouraged to join the joint stock banks'. Now what do we find in this unfortunate province? These people are being treated as "pariahs" and as untouchables and their very sight is

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being looked down upon with contempt and no attraction is offered to them to change their money lending profession to joint stock companies and banks. The Central Banking Committee recommended the establishment of land mortgage banks. They said that they should be encouraged. What have our Government done? Instead of encouraging them the small sum of Rs. 61,000 which the Government had in the provincial bank for being advanced to these banks, has been withdrawn from the bank, and this is the way in which our Government is implementing the recommendations of the Central Banking Committee. Further on, the committee recommends that the money-lenders should be induced to join the co-operative societies. Probably the very recital of these words will take the wind off our Development Ministers' head. The committee further recommend the development of well-organised joint stock mortgage bank and the encouragement of industries. Apart from this report of the Central Banking Committee, what does the report of the Registrar, Co-operative Societies, say? It says that the co-operative societies numbering 418 are in liquidation and 379 cases of dishonesty have come to light in the year ending 31st July, 1938, and the sense of moral obligation to repay is getting weaker and weaker in almost every corner of the province. This unsatisfactory state of affairs is directly the result of the speeches that the Minister goes and makes in the villages. It is these speeches that encourage default amongst debtors. I am not making any personal reflections, but am describing the situation as I see it. Further on, the report says that it is to the advantage of the movement that the trading classes should be induced to join the co-operative societies and take part in them because it will bring to it a certain variety of activity and also the much needed business acumen. How is the Government acting in this matter? Let them lay their hands on their heart and say as to what has been the result of their legislation in such matters and whether it has been towards the advancement of banking institutions and towards the advancement of industry of the province.

I come now to the number of persons engaged in organised industries. I find that of the total working population in India, roughly only 1 per cent of the people are employed, and of that Punjab can boast of only 60 per cent. In the United Kingdom the number of people employed in industries is 47·2 per cent, in the United States of America 32 per cent, in Canada 25 per cent, in Germany 41·3 per cent, in France 33·3 per cent and in Japan 19·5 per cent. This is how our position in respect of industries compares with that of foreign countries.

I now come to the actual position that exists here in our province in respect of our factories and industrial institutions. I am again quoting from the official record. It says: The number of factories actually working fell from 798 to 780 in the year ending 31st March, 1939. The number of new factories registered was 47 as compared to 98 in the previous year, and of these 47, only 29 were newly built. And still our Ministry had the audacity to bring forward in this House a Factories (Amendment) Bill because they thought that there was a rapid extension of industries and because according to them there has been uneconomic competition, and therefore, they wanted to put obstacles in the way of construction of new factories. The actual position however is that the number of factories has gone down from

798 to 780 in the year ending 31st March 1939. The new factories, as I have stated, are only 47 against 98 that were registered in the previous year, and of these 47, 29 only were newly built.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** May I ask one question of my friend ? The Honourable Minister in charge of the Development department said that the number of factories had risen from 802 in 1936 to 887 in 1939. My honourable friend has just quoted different figures. I just draw his attention to this, whether he has any criticism of this to make or any correction to make.

**Sardar Sahib Sardar Santokh Singh :** I am quoting from the official report—Report on the Department of Industries, Punjab, for the year ending 31st March, 1939. I have taken my figures from there and they are correct. The same official record describes the present state of industries as follows :—

Textile mills at Lahore, Okara, Lyallpur and Montgomery complained severely of contraction in sales which was attributed to comparative shortage of money in rural areas consequent on the fall in the prices of agricultural produce and the failure of crops. The Mela Ram Mills, Lahore, resorted to single shift working, whilst the Lyallpur and Okara Mills had large stores left on their hands at the close of the year. The New Woollen Mills, Batala, remained idle. Vegetable oil industry suffered from local and extra-provincial competition, as a result of which several factories remained idle, or worked by fits and starts. The match industry of the province was practically crushed in consequence of the burden of excise duty and the competition from foreign manufacturers. Sugar industry received a further set back. The Rahwali Mills could work only for 56 days, while the factories at Bhalwal and Phularwan remained idle. The sugar refineries at Amritsar had to close down owing to the rise in the price of gur.

As regards the Tanning industry, the foreign demand was poor and prices went down considerably. The Northern India Tanneries, Limited, Shahdara, remained closed. The Wazirabad Tannery, Wazirabad, held large stocks of tanned leather.

This is the state of affairs of our industries at the present time. I have not added or subtracted one word from the official report and have quoted exactly the words and the language of the report for the year 1938-39. In these circumstances I submit with all respect, where was the urgency, where was the necessity, and I might even say where was the justice of bringing legislation which would tend to prevent the construction of further factories in the province ? I think I have succeeded in bringing home to the Honourable Minister for Development that so far as expenditure is concerned he has not spent on this department any more money than what used to be spent in preautonomy days.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** May I make one request ? We are unable to hear or understand what the honourable member is saying. The first part of his sentence is no doubt audible but then he drops his voice and the second part of the sentence is not audible at all. Will he kindly speak out the whole sentence clearly, so that we may hear and understand him ?

**Sardar Sahib Sardar Santokh Singh :** I am speaking at the top of my voice and I am afraid I cannot do more. As I have stated, the expenditure on such an important department as Industries has not increased to any extent, much less to the extent that we had expected of the so-called



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popular Government. There is no denying the fact that niggardly treatment has all along been meted out to his department, presumably because there was an urban tinge in it.

**Lala Bhim Sen Sachar :** No, no, there has been an urban setting in it.

**Sardar Sahib Sardar Santokh Singh :** I now come to planning. I find that it has been carried on in a very slipshod and slovenly manner. The expenditure that has been incurred on planning has been to say the least infinitesimal. We are spending to-day on the survey of the province a sum that we used to spend about five years ago. In 1935-36 we spent under the head Survey—Charge—Superintendence Rs. 30,500. In 1936-37 the amount was Rs. 31,000. In 1937-38 it came down to Rs. 10,900 exclusive of travelling allowance. In the former two years the travelling allowance was included, but now it is excluded. I am quoting the figures as they are given, and I do not know what amount was spent on travelling allowance in 1937-38. All that I know is that in 1937-38 we spent on survey Rs. 10,900 and in 1938-39 we spent only Rs. 8,250 exclusive of travelling allowance. In 1939-40 we spent on this only Rs. 9,000 and for 1940-41 we are asked only Rs. 9,000. I leave it to the House to find out and satisfy itself if the survey was to proceed at this slow pace, how many years will be necessary for it, to be completed.

I will now make some suggestions as to how this department should be worked. That will not be from the party point of view because I think that this department at least must be above parties and if I have been compelled to make some criticism, it is simply because I found it was very necessary to do so. I have not said a word from the party point of view. To my mind Government must spend on this department as much money as they can possibly find, because in this alone lies the salvation of the province and as I have said, this will come back tenfold in one form or the other and what is more, it will make the people happy and contented. Planning must be finished at as early a date as possible. So far as the Opposition is concerned, it will not grudge the Government any money under this head, but if Government have not the will and do not ask for it, that is a separate matter altogether. Government must spend more money on scholarships, send as many boys as they can, abroad to learn there and come back fully equipped to teach others and to bring prosperity to the province. Government should help all well-thought out schemes, not by directly plunging themselves into them, because by their very constitution they are incapable of managing business, but by helping all well-thought out schemes, by buying their shares or by rendering them other possible help. I would recommend to the Government not to meddle themselves straight away with industries. This is not my opinion alone but the opinion of many experts as well. I will just quote to you the opinion of Dr. Bhatnagar on this matter with which I perfectly agree. He says:—

Without meaning any insult to anybody Government as they exist now really cannot develop industries. They have neither the requisite experience nor the ability nor any intelligent enthusiasm for industry. I would suggest that if we start any big national industry the State should buy half the shares. The advantage would be that at least 50 per cent. of the profits will be available to the nation. Equal share of profit on capital will ensure that industry is run on a scientific and economic basis.

For goodness sake do not have water tight compartments; in the domain of industries, do not have agriculturists and non-agriculturists. Have proper men at the proper places. Everything done in this matter must be for the interests of the province and the province alone, and everything should be above board and above party in a matter of this kind. Help cottage industries by giving them subsidies as much as you possibly can. I have not been able to understand why during the last two years Government have not thought it worth their while to give even a pie in this direction. The House had made a provision of Rs. 2,70,000 and Government have not utilized a pie out of it if I correctly understand. I will read out to you the official report in this connection, the memorandum issued by the Secretary. It says:—

The revised estimate for the current year anticipates expenditure to the extent of Rs. 19,09,100 against the original estimate of Rs. 21,46,200 indicating a decrease of Rs. 2,37,100. This saving is mainly due to no expenditure having been incurred against the provision of Rs. 2,70,000 made for assistance under the Punjab State Aid to Industries Act on account of campaign of economy.

It follows, that out of a provision of Rs. 2,70,000 the Government have not incurred any expenditure whatsoever simply because of a campaign of economy. I submit that this should be the last department where economy should have been resorted to. Cottage industries stand very much in need of Government help and it is to the interests of the Government itself, to the interests of the province, that as much aid is given to them as our finances could possibly permit. Another thing to which I take strong objection is, that Government is refusing all co-operation from anybody other than their own party in the matter of fostering and encouraging industries in the province. It has come to my notice that the Leader of the Opposition wrote to the Government as an agent of the All-India Spinners Association asking the Government that if it condescended to advance money to that Association, they would be able to work for the benefit of the peasantry in the famine stricken district of Hissar with only a loss of 10 per cent but Government would not accept that proposal. They refused it and the result was that there was loss of 50 per cent instead of 10 per cent in the carrying out of that scheme. Government bought cotton worth Rs. 1,07,000; Rs. 98,000 were paid in the shape of wages and with an overhead charge of Rs. 3,000 altogether it cost the Government Rs. 2,35,000 or Rs. 26,126 per maund of yarn. This yarn was sold at Rs. 13-8-6, resulting in a loss of 50 per cent. These are the figures supplied to me from a very reliable source and if the House wants any more particulars, I am in a position to supply them. My point is that instead of working through the All-India Spinners Association Government did the same work through its own officers and the result was that instead of losing 10 per cent which Government would have lost by working through the All-India Spinners Association, they have actually made a loss of 50 per cent. Government would have secured the same benefit for the people by making a loss of only 10 per cent instead of 50 per cent. that they have now made. There are certain well established concerns or institutions, whose co-operation should be welcome to any Government, and Government should never feel shy of inviting such co-operation in the interests of the province. To refuse such co-operation when offered is indeed the height of absurdity. Another instance that has come to my

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notice is that Government are sending glue demonstration parties to places where they teach glue making and it takes more than a year for the people concerned to learn glue-making. I am told that if we send these people to Gandhi Sangh for training, they will not only become self-supporting from the very beginning, but will learn their work in three months instead of a year. Glue making cannot be taught in summer. The demonstration party will only be remaining idle in summer months. Why not then invite the co-operation as suggested above? After all wisdom is not the monopoly of the Unionist Party alone. Others may be able to help you but as it is, you have probably taken it into your heads that nobody other than the members of the Unionist Party can understand these things.

**Mr. Speaker :** The honourable member should address the chair.

**Sardar Sahib Sardar Santokh Singh :** I was saying that this Government seems to consider as if the monopoly of wisdom lies with the members of their own party. Even in such matters as the Joint Development Board, the board is packed with members of the Unionist Party. I do put it to the Government that there may be others who may be belonging to the Opposition and even outsiders, people of independent ideas who may prove of greater advantage to the Government. You will lose nothing by inviting their co-operation and working with them.

Coming to the question of credit again, I would ask the Government to extend credit facilities. The credit of the zamindars has gone entirely and no agency has so far been devised to take its place. This is not only my view but the view held even in the Report of the Income Tax Department for the year 1937-38. I will read out to you the relevant portion.

**Sayed Amjad Ali Shah :** Has this anything to do with the demand under consideration?

**Sardar Sahib Sardar Santokh Singh :** The report reads—

Whilst the money-lenders' position has been made difficult the co-operative societies do not appear to have either the means or the necessary method of replacing the money-lenders.

Another thing that I cannot but refer to, is the change that Government are contemplating in regard to the transfer of the present Director of Industries from his post. It has been admitted on all hands that the officer concerned was thoroughly honest. He has quite a vast experience of the working of this department. Trade and Industry are different from other departments. They are not akin to the duties that a judge has to perform in courts over there. He may be as good a judge in one place as in the other, if he understands law. But trade and industry are quite a different matter. You need people who are thoroughly experienced in the matter of trade and industry and no such transfer as this of a very experienced officer should be undertaken with a light heart. So far as I know, and I have got some experience of the actual working of the trade and of these factories, because I own just a few myself, I do know that the officer was liked by one and all. He was thoroughly honest and this fact was admitted by the Minister for Development himself the other day on the floor of this House. The officer had another two years to serve and I

therefore think that it was in the interests of the province, in the interests of the Department, that he should have been allowed to complete the two years' service. I would say no more but I do hope that the Government, I believe there is still time, will pause and consider seriously over this matter and not deprive the province of the services of this most efficient officer for another period of two years which he is entitled to put in. With these words I move my cut—

That the demand be reduced by Rs. 101.

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

That the demand be reduced by Rs. 101.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad** (Southern Towns, Muham, madan, Urban) (*Urdu*) : Sir, if you look at the list of cut motions you will find that one cut motion stands in my name as well. I wanted to move it in order to urge upon the Government the desirability and advisability of industrializing the province as soon as possible. But the whip of the Opposition party came to me this morning and requested me not to move my cut motion and that I would be provided an opportunity to express my point of view on the discussion of the cut motion standing in the name of Sardar Santokh Singh. I agreed with his suggestion. Now Sir, the major part of my speech will relate to my own cut motion. However I am thankful to my honourable friend Sardar Santokh Singh that he has simplified my speech to a very large extent by giving facts and figures about other countries which I wanted to place before the House. There is no doubt about it that the present Government have tried their level best to make progress in all the departments and the department of industries is one of them. If we compare the amount that is at present provided for the Industries Department with that of the year 1921 we would find that it is five times more than that. (*Hear, hear*). It follows therefore that the Government is fully alive to the fact that without industrialization there can be no economic progress in the province. But I may submit that so far the Government have not been able to take right steps in this direction. The opening of a few industrial schools, whether for boys or girls, will not help. Industry can make progress only if right steps are taken to industrialize the province. And for that reason it is highly essential that those methods should have been followed in industrializing the province which have been followed in other countries and which in fact have raised them from the lowest ebbs to the pinnacle of glory. In view of that I would suggest that the Government should start state owned industries in every division, if not in every district, of the Punjab so that some kind of industry should be started in one division and another kind in another. If this suggestion is adopted in this way, the whole of the Punjab would be industrialized in no time. I know that the Government would say that they have no spare funds for this purpose. I agree that they have no spare funds but I may point out to them that this difficulty can be solved in the same way in which other countries solved their own. The Government can borrow money from other Governments or from the Central Government. I am constrained to remark that the economic progress of our province solely depends on the progress which the industry makes in this province and it is up to us to industrialize our province as soon as possible.

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The progress made by all the other countries can be attributed only to the strides that they have made in the development of their industries. Our neighbour Japan has by industrialization made a progress unequalled in history and has within a short time found a place in the first rank of the Great Powers of the world.

It is no doubt true that there are a good many industrial schools in the province. There is, for instance, a weaving school at Rohtak, a Metal Works Institute in Ambala where machinery and spare parts are manufactured, a Tanning Institute in Shahdara, another institute for giving training in wool-yarn-making and knitting woollen articles in Hissar, still another in Ludhiana, where training is imparted in manufacturing hosiery. But the real object of starting these schools was to impart theoretical and practical training to the sons of artisans and skilled labourers. Unfortunately this object has not been achieved, because hardly 5 per cent. of the students in these schools belong to the classes for which they were intended. Even here the influential persons have by exerting pressure on the teachers got their own children admitted to them. The poor artisans have no way of approach to these schools and even if they have, all sorts of excuses are fabricated by the teachers to discharge and dissuade them from getting their children admitted in them. Most of the headmasters of these schools are communally inclined and try to discourage the sons of artisans belonging to other communities from joining such institutes. In this connection I would request the Honourable Minister of Development to adopt measures for giving more opportunity to the sons of the artisans and thus fulfill the object of these institutes.

Sir, as I have already stated, no progress is possible so long as the industries of the province are not developed. We cannot also hope to ease the situation created by unemployment merely by appointing an Unemployment Committee and disregarding its recommendations. Even the Unemployment Committee has recommended industrialization of the province as a remedy for removing poverty and unemployment. Now it is up to the Honourable Minister of Development who is in charge of this department to put these suggestions into practice and to rid the province of poverty and unemployment.

It is not only the capitalists who can start industries with the capital at their disposal. The Government can also start many industries and include the public by selling its shares. The industries thus started under the patronage of the Government will not only be successful but will not also burden the exchequer.

This is with regard to major industries. Now I come to minor industries. There are many artisans in villages who are such experts in their particular professions that we can hardly find their equals even in towns. They are capable of doing very good work, but they are handicapped by lack of funds and if the Government gives them monetary help they are sure to start many industries. The Government should give loans or subsidies to such persons and should thus encourage village industries. There are many small industries which can be started in both urban and rural areas. For

instance, durrie-making in Ambala can be really profitable but people have no capital for starting a factory. The same is the case with the utensil-makers and blanket makers of Panipat, the locksmiths of Rupar and the weavers of Hoshiarpur. The persons belonging to these professions are not earning more than 4 annas a day, especially the last named who have to work 12 hours a day and even then are not able to earn more than 4 annas per day. This is due solely to lack of capital for which they are at the mercy of the capitalists, shopkeepers and middlemen. They sell yarn and other raw material on loan to these people at whatever price they like and if the money is not paid within a specified time these poor people have to hand over the manufactured articles at much below the market price to their creditors and thus they suffer losses instead of making any profit. It should be the foremost duty of the Government to persuade these persons to form their own unions and the wealthier among the members of these professions should be appointed chairmen of these unions. The Government besides supplying raw material to them should arrange for advancing loans at reduced rates of interest and repayable in easy instalments and should also make arrangements for the marketing of their products. By taking these persons in its protection the expenditure of the Government will no doubt increase, but that will be made up by the resultant increase in trade and prosperity.

Sir, I had no intention of saying more than what I have already said but as my honourable friend Sardar Sahib Sardar Santokh Singh drew the attention of the government, to the communal representation in the department, I also want to make a submission in this behalf. I would like to make it clear at the very outset that it is not for the sake of criticism that I refer to this matter but my intention is that the Government should try to right this wrong. The communal representation in the services was fixed by a notification of the Government giving 50 per cent. to Muslims, 30 per cent. to Hindus and 20 per cent. to Sikhs but in the Stores Purchase Department which has recently been established out of eight or ten members of the establishment only one Muslim has been appointed as an assistant superintendent, 2 clerks in the lowest grade and the rest are all non-Muslims who were granted higher grades. If you ever care to cast a glance over the establishment list of the whole department you would be surprised to find a great disparity between the shares in services enjoyed by the Muslims and non-Muslims. I have carefully worked out the figures and I can assert without fear of contradiction that the share of the Muslims in services of the Industries Department is no more than 8 per cent. of the whole. But since most of the Muslim staff is low paid their share in the aggregate salaries is even less than that. On the whole the Muslim servants are paid only 5 per cent. of the total establishment charges. In the department of the Boiler Inspector there is only one Muslim junior clerk. Otherwise with the exception of that solitary figure the entire staff belongs to non-Muslim communities. Then, Sir, there is not a single Muslim servant in the department of the Factory Inspector.

**Mr. Speaker :** The honourable member is not relevant in discussing Muslim and non-Muslim interests.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** It is relevant. The cut motion is regarding general discussion on industries. I can, therefore, discuss Muslim and non-Muslim interests.

**Mr. Speaker :** That would be irrelevant.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad:** Anyway, this much I must say that since the non-Muslims have a preponderance over the Muslims in the matter of services they are alleged to have been doing irregularities of an inexcusable nature. Being in a hopeless minority the Muslims cannot dare to prevent the non-Muslims from doing so. The condition prevailing in the departments of the Boiler Inspector and the Factory Inspector are awfully deplorable. It is said that the rules regarding travelling allowances are not being properly observed by these officers, and great irregularities are being done in the preparation of their travelling allowance bills. I would request the Honourable Minister of Development to institute an enquiry into the matter and see as to how far these complaints are genuine. In fact the defaulters should be severely dealt with and stopped from playing ducks and drakes with the public money.

Next I would like to make a few observations with regard to the industrial schools. Last time when the Factory Bill was under discussion I pointed out to the Honourable Minister that these institutions were serving no useful purpose. The qualified students of these schools are as good as nothing. In spite of the fact that they possess first class or second class diplomas they fail to earn their own livelihood. In fact these industrial institutions are increasing the number of the unemployed people. Since the qualified students lack necessary capital they cannot purchase tools and machinery necessary for starting their own business. I would request the Government to do its duty by these poor people who have qualified themselves from its own institutions. My respectful submission is that these qualified unemployed people should be advanced necessary loans for starting their own enterprises.

Last time I suggested to the Government that it should start wholly or partly state-owned or state-managed industries in the province, and I again urge upon it to realize the advisability of this proposal. This scheme if adopted would equally benefit the State and the public. Raw material and cheap labour are the two principal factors that really promote the industrial development of a particular country. And it is a matter of satisfaction that both are found in abundance in the Punjab. I would, therefore, again request the Government to supplement its income by materialising this useful scheme of mine. With these words I resume my seat.

**Khan Bahadur Maulvi Ghulam Mohy-ud-Din** (Sheikhupura, Muhammadan, Rural) (*Urdu*) : Sir, before I proceed with my speech I would like to say a few words with regard to a passing remark made by my honourable friend Sardar Sahib Sardar Santokh Singh. He was pleased to remark in the course of his speech that the Government while realizing its debts resorts to methods which happen to be even worse than those adopted by the banias. It was indeed highly uncharitable on his part to draw a comparison between the Government and the banias whose blood-sucking propensities have become proverbial now. It was a charge which I must emphatically repudiate. Let me point out to him that the revenues of the

province are not the private property of any individual nor do they belong to any of the ministers. It is public money which is held in sacred trust by the Government. It will be failing in its duty if it allows the public money to be squandered like that. In fact it was incumbent upon my friend to congratulate the Government on the very fact that it is particularly careful about its sacred duty in the matter.

Now, Sir, coming to the subject under discussion I would like to submit that we are looking forward to a day when India will have the same position which she enjoyed in the bygone days. She had once the privilege to lead all other countries in the industrial sphere. Being an industrial nation our prosperity knew no bounds. Our finished goods and manufactured articles were sold in the markets of all the foreign countries. But the point to be taken into consideration is this: what was the condition of industry when the present Government took office and how much

5 p. m.

time did they have to raise it to the high level to which everybody is anxiously looking forward? I admit that the industry of India is very limited. Today when we pass through a bazar we see that instead of indigenous articles foreign articles are everywhere being sold and our commerce is in a way in the hands of commission agents to foreign manufactures. But it is the bounden duty of the Government to bring the most important industry, upon which the livelihood of 70 per cent. population depends, to such a level and to such a pitch as it deserves. I may point out that the most important industry is zamindara. We should not look at this industry from communal point of view but from industrial point of view. If the Government is making attempts to remove the handicaps and difficulties of those who take part in this industry then we must say that the Government deserves our thanks. I have already stated that agriculture is the most important industry of this province and if it is so, then let us see whether the Government have come to its rescue when any calamity has fallen on it. You are fully aware that the coming into power of the present Government was followed by a severe hailstorm in one of the divisions of the province and the Government was constrained to spend as much as 25 lakhs of rupees on the affected area.

**Lala Bhim Sen Sachar :** I do not think all this is covered by industry. That is the demand before the House.

**Khan Bahadur Maulvi Ghulam Mohy-ud-Din :** It has been said that I have confused certain points. But I may point out that if the industry of the province is agriculture then I am justified.

**Mr. Speaker :** The Honourable member is not relevant.

**Khan Bahadur Maulvi Ghulam Mohy-ud-Din :** Sir, as I am to obey your ruling I leave this subject and come to another point. My learned friend says that we have not followed in the footsteps of Russia and Japan as far as industry is concerned. He has also stated that we have not adopted those ways and means which the foreign countries have adopted. My honourable friends over there should remember that industry is not a toy which can be had from bazar. Industry must grow and it takes years and years to reach its climax. Anyhow I appreciate the idea that the industry of our province should also be raised to a level which has been attained by



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the industry of other countries. It is indeed a good aim. While on the one hand my honourable friend wishes us to copy Russia, on the other hand he was pleased to say that the State should not meddle with industry and he referred to Dr. Bhatnagar in this respect. I think, I should remind him that at one time in Russia nobody possessed private property and none could get more wages than the fixed ones. I wonder how they say that the Government should part with 50 per cent profit which would go to capitalists. However I am of the opinion that if my friends are really keen on industrialising the province they should come forward and help the Government by putting their capital, ability and experience at Government's disposal. And the Government should guarantee a minimum interest and it should be settled that the balance over and above a certain limit should go to the State.

**Mian Abdul Aziz :** Come forward and part with your property, we will follow you.

**Khan Bahadur Maulvi Ghulam Mohy-ud-Din :** I will be only too willing. I think this verse aptly applies to my honourable friends over there who do not want to agree to my proposal.

کو حاکم طلبی مضائقہ نیست کو زر طلبی دشمن دین است

When the proposal is that the money should remain in the pockets of capitalists, they are one with us. But when it is otherwise, that is to say that if the profit is 50 per cent. it should not be kept entirely by these persons, they are opposed to it. I submit that it is very easy to refer to Russia while sitting conveniently on those benches. But what is required in this respect, as my honourable friend has stated, is change of heart, and the Government want that there should be change of heart. It is the desire of the Government that the money of capitalists that is being spent on annoying and embarrassing the poor should be spent on the prosperity of industry.

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

The profits of Industries should be equitably distributed among the capitalists as well as the labourers. The capitalists should claim the profits because they have invested the capital and the labourers should be paid out of it because it is due to their labour that the industry flourishes. That is why I hold that the industrialists should share the benefits of their business with the labourers as well.

The second point that I want to make is that the industries should be organised. At present they are disorganised in the province. An honourable friend was pleased to observe that the Government had prohibited the further development of industries in the Punjab. But I may point out to him very respectfully that, as the Honourable Minister of Development had explained the other day in his speech, small plants cannot flourish under the shadow of a big tree. If a certain capitalist goes on expanding his industries and monopolises the whole field it would become next to impossible for others to develop their industries. The man who monopolises begins to offer but very meagre remunerations and wages to the poor

labourers. The time has come when the Government should pass a legislature (*Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt*: Pass a legislature!) I am sorry for this slip of the tongue. One lives to learn. کے فائدہ مانی اسے The Government should pass an Act in order to make it obligatory on the big industrialists to pay a fixed proportion to the labourers, not in cash but by including them among the shareholders of the industry. The foreign countries have successfully experimented this method. In this way the poor labourer's mind is filled with joy and pride and such labourers work with redoubled vigour as the Persian proverb says :

کہ مزدور خود دل کند کار بیش

In other countries the industrialists are compelled under the law to include the labourers among the shareholders who get a certain portion of the profits.

I think it will not be fair on my part if I do not entirely endorse the remark of my honourable friend that no communalism should be allowed to creep into the industrial field. To allow communalism to play a part in those institutions where people go to seek relief from pain and misery, would be a crime which neither God nor man would pardon. But we have to hang our heads in shame when we notice that such institutions do exist in our province the doors of which remain closed to certain communities. The Government should prohibit by law all such institutions which shut their doors against other communities. It is a great pity that the Lady Maynard School which has been receiving grant from the Government has not been admitting for the last fifteen years any Muslim student into it. (*Munshi Hari Lal*: What about the Sikander Industrial School?) The Sikander Industrial School is under an institution of which I had the privilege of being the Secretary, and I can say from my personal experience that the guiding principle of the Anjuman Himayat Islam has been always to keep its doors open to all communities. For instance, you will find in our Tibbia College which is under the management of the Anjuman-i-Himayat-i-Islam, Lahore several Hindu and Sikh students along with Muslims. Even on the staff of the Islamia College we have Hindu professors. (*An honourable member*: And so does the D. A.-V. College) I am not criticising the D. A.-V. College at all. Those who do this, are good institutions. But I was saying that the Lady Maynard School has not been admitting any Muslim student for the last fifteen years. It is this institution that I was criticising.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad** : May I put a question to the honourable member through you, Sir? He was speaking about the national institutions. I want to know whether he knows anything about the Government institutions where communalism governs?

**Mr. Deputy Speaker** : This is not a relevant question. The honourable member may go on with his speech.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad** : May I know if it is really irrelevant?

**Khan Bahadur Maulvi Ghulam Mohy-ud-Din** : Sir, my honourable friend has quoted extracts from the report of the Department of Industries for the year 1939 in support of his contention. But referring to the same report I can say that the Government have done their level best in providing

[K. B. Maplvi Ghulam Mohy-ud-Din.]

as large an amount for the development of industries as lay in their power. The honourable members are already aware of the untoward condition which our province has been face to face with during the last 2½ years when Government had to incur unforeseen and very heavy expenditure in connection with the Hissar famine. In spite of these difficulties our Government have been able to budget an amount which is far in excess of the amounts allotted to the Department during the previous years. If the Government failed to pay any heed to the Industries Department or if they had no set programme for the development of industries in their mind, or if they had not earmarked more funds for this department we would have blamed it. Besides, in that event of failure of Government in this respect, it would have been the ministerialists who would have severely criticised the Government for this lapse. (*Hear, hear*). But if we take into consideration the prevailing adverse conditions, it can be safely said that Government have provided all possible money for this department. Then I am of the opinion that when my capitalist friends come forward and invest funds in various industries, they would be supplementing the efforts of the Government. I am sure, when conditions improve the Government would be able to budget more funds for the industrial development of the province. With these words I close my remarks.

**Lala Harnam Das** (Lyallpur and Jhang, General, Reserved Seat, Rural) (*Urdu*): Sir, on perusing the demand I find that the Government have allocated a sum of Rs. 21,23,700 to the Department of Industries. Although during the preceding years much less amounts were budgeted for this purpose, yet I must say with regret that the amount provided for by our popular Government has fallen far short of our expectations. I, therefore, submit that any country where industrial development is neglected, is bound to lag behind in the field of progress. I am rather of the opinion that the backwardness of our province is due to the fact that our Government has not been paying proper attention to industry. Although none can gainsay the fact that the majority of the population of the Punjab mainly depends for its subsistence upon agriculture, yet the fact remains that poverty is rapidly on the increase in the province. I admit that Government must devote its energy to improving agriculture also as otherwise we would not be able to render any substantial help to industry. But this does not mean that Government should make a very small provision for the development of industries in the province. Besides, if those who are at the helm of affairs do not possess ability to find out ways and means conducive to the growth of industries, they should at least try to act upon the maxim of the celebrated *Shaykh Saadi*, which is to the effect that "if you see the world carefully, you will find that it serves as a piece of advice for you." In this connection I may point out that when those foreign countries which were previously dependent mainly upon agriculture found out that more cultivation of land could not bring about economic betterment and prosperity to their people, they diverted their attention to industrialisation of their countries. The result is crystal clear. Now we find them leading the world in every sphere of life. Then you will observe, Sir, that owing to lack of industrialisation our province is in the grip of acute poverty and ever-increasing unemployment. If you pay a visit to the countryside you will find that the

population of those zamindars who possess small holdings of land has enormously increased. They do not have in their possession sufficient land by cultivating which they could eke out their living and support their families. The people in the villages are in such a miserable plight that a majority of them have no means to provide themselves with the bare necessities of life. The things have come to such a pass that they have now resorted to begging. My honourable friends who hail from rural areas would bear me out that in villages hundreds of beggars daily visit almost every house with a view to getting alms. As they do not possess any other means of earning their livelihood, they collect agricultural produce worth 8 or 10 annas in a day through begging. The result is that they have begun to consider begging as an easier and more convenient method of earning their livelihood. As a matter of fact they prefer begging to labour which hardly brings them three annas a day. These hard facts amply prove to what extent the people have been rendered poverty-stricken. If this state of affairs continues to prevail, I am sure, the day is not far off when our Honourable Ministers would be compelled to go abegging. To be brief, the condition of the province is going from bad to worse. It is a thousand pities that our Government have adopted no such measures as may lead the province to the goal of prosperity. It is a matter of regret that if well-to-do and enterprising persons want to start industries with a view to eradicate poverty and banish unemployment from the province and also to make the people industrially minded, they are discouraged by Government. As a matter of fact Government do not want the people to flourish because they are afraid lest the people should throw off the yoke of bondage. The Government make efforts to win over such affluent and enterprising gentlemen. My community is an instance to the point. The Government have won over several of the representatives of the *Achhuts* by offering them offices and squares of land. I may add in passing that within a short period 10 squares of land are going to be distributed among the *Achhuts*. The result of distribution is a foregone conclusion. The Government would oblige those *Achhuts* who wield influence with them by awarding the proposed squares of land and the rights of the deserving but poor *Achhuts* would be ignored.

Now, Sir, we have to see what steps have been taken by Government to manufacture those articles which can be prepared indigenously. If you ever happen to pay a visit to any village, you would find there foreign made articles at least worth 200 rupees in every house. I am of the opinion that if these articles of common use are manufactured in the Punjab, two fold benefit would accrue to the people. Firstly, unemployment would decrease to a considerable extent and secondly, the capital would remain in our own country. If Government care to make endeavours in this direction, I am sure, these articles of common use can be manufactured in our own province with little difficulty.

Besides, my submission is that if the Government encourage industry in the province right earnestly they can change the conditions of the Punjab in a few years. But this object can be achieved provided the Government have a will to do it. In this connection I may point out that the policy of the Government is that they only take care of the rich and the capitalists and do not pay any attention to the needs of the poor. Probably the Government

[L. Harnam Das.]

are afraid that if they did anything for the poor people the result would be that they would become independent by breaking off the shackles of dependence. I think if the Government have a will they can find out ways and means by which industry can be encouraged in this province. At present something like Rs. 12 crores are spent in the Punjab. In my opinion the Government can effect a saving of two crores of rupees very easily. I can even point out hundred and one ways by which this saving can be effected. After saving two crores of rupees the Government can spend one crore on providing relief to the poor agriculturists and one crore of rupees can be incurred on the encouragement of industries in this province. Besides, if the Government say that they cannot get experts for working the factories, I would suggest that they can send men from the Punjab to such countries from which we import things for getting the required training and after getting this training these people can come back to the Punjab and here they should train others and thus trained men can be produced for working in the factories. If this suggestion is adopted it would prove very useful and profitable for the country. (*Hear, hear*). In short my suggestion is that by saving one crore of rupees the Government should spend a part of it for providing industrial education to the Punjabis in foreign countries and Rs. 20 lakhs should be spent on the opening of industries in every division. If this suggestion is adopted, our Government can change the condition of the province in five years. But it is a matter of great regret that the Government do not want to do so. At present hundreds of people are going from pillar to post and as a matter of fact they are being compelled to beg for alms on account of this neglect on the part of the Government to provide for them. The responsibility for this dereliction of duty falls on the shoulders of the Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram. In fact he does not know that unemployment is increasing in the Punjab and that people are crying for bread and clothes. I may add that these suggestions can be adopted only if the Government reduce their expenditure. If we see the budget we would find that it consists of only the pays of superior officers and there is nothing else in it. If the Government want they can reduce the salaries of the officers who draw very fat salaries. I would also suggest that if the Government so desire they can reduce our allowances as well.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker :** The honourable member is not relevant.

**Lala Harnam Das :** I was submitting that instead of encouraging industry in the province the Government are squandering away public funds by paying so very high salaries to the officers and I was suggesting as to how economies can be effected in the current expenses so as to save money for spending it on the encouragement of industry in this province. In this connection I am reminded of a story which I would like to state for the information of the honourable members. And it is as follows : It is said that during the reign of Alexander the Great a dacoit was brought before him. Let me here point out that the dacoit was not like the dacoits of the present time, who when arrested try to get themselves out of the difficulty by concocting different kinds of excuses that I was not there and this and that. But when that dacoit came before Alexander he did not say that he was not a dacoit but he confessed that he was a dacoit and he continued that he (Alexander) was a bigger dacoit and he was only a smaller one. Alexander the

Great said, "O scoundrel I am the King and you are calling me a dacoit." At this the dacoit replied that if he had been able to rob the world more than he (Alexander), then certainly he (Alexander) would have been brought before him and he would have inquired from him whether he was dacoit or not? Similarly, our Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries and other high officials are robbing the provincial exchequer by drawing very high salaries. The only difference between them and the dacoits is that the former rob the province in a civilised way while the latter commit dacoities by using firearms. (A voice : You are also a dacoit ?) Yes, we are also included among those who are robbing the province because we are also drawing Rs. 22 per day by way of allowances. But to-day I declare it on the floor of the House that I am prepared to work free provided the Honourable Ministers also follow suit.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker :** The honourable member is not speaking to the motion.

**Lala Harnam Das :** I am only discussing the Department of Industries. Now I wish to draw your attention to the needs of the *Achhuts*. Previously there were two kinds of industries amongst us which are no longer present. One was the spinning industry and the second was the leather industry. Sir in days gone by, the financial condition of the people was much better than at present and when any member of the depressed classes could not make his living by these two methods, he used to work for the honourable gentlemen sitting on the treasury benches and could make enough for his subsistence. But now that they themselves have been reduced to such extremes, how can we make a living?

As I have already stated the agriculturists have small tracts of land which do not yield them enough for themselves and their families. There are practically no cottage industries and if there were any they have been ruined on account of foreign competition. Large stocks of cloth are being imported from outside.

**An Honourable Member :** Your neighbours are importing it.

**Lala Harnam Das :** If they are importing foreign made goods, cannot the Government bring in a Bill to prohibit such imports? Sir, so far as cloth-making industry is concerned it has been ruined by imports. All that we were left with was the leather industry and that too is fast dwindling. Leather like cloth is being imported from outside, yet I do not understand why the Government is establishing tanning institutes. Our boys who attend such institutes do not even learn as much as they used to do from their own parents at home. There are two classes in the institute at Jullundur called 'A' and 'B,' and it is said that after getting their training in 'B' class the boys are promoted to 'A' class. Now what really happens is this : all the boys belonging to the scheduled castes are put in 'B' class because they are given the work in the primary stages of the leather curing process. This is a filthy work and therefore it is given to our children. You probably do not know, Sir, what this means. In the earlier stages of the work, "jehra" is applied to the raw skins for curing them and at this stage the great stink which issues from the skins pervades the whole atmosphere. As no one else likes to do this work *Acchut* boys are made to handle them until they are ready to undergo the subsequent process and

[**L. Harnam Das**]

then they are handed over to the 'A' class. These students are treated even worse than labourers. It is probably on account of this reason, that the Tanning Expert told these boys during the strike that they were not students, but they were labourers. In spite of that, the Honourable Minister for Development did not take any action against him. Moreover the training given in the said Institute is such that even if the boys were to start their own business after coming out of this institute, they are unable to make a living. In view of this fact there seems to be absolutely no use of such an institute. Apart from this, let us see what the Tanning Expert does. He purchases raw hide for ten rupees and spends about five or six rupees on curing it, then he sells it for Rs. 12 or at least enters that amount in the register, even if he actually sells it for twenty rupees. On being asked as to why he sold it so cheap, the reason put forth by him is that the hide was tanned by the boys in the course of their training and therefore on account of certain defects, people do not offer a better price. And thus the rest of the money goes to the pockets of the Expert. Again I have told that many fictitious names of the employees are entered in the register, while their salaries are drawn by the Expert himself, who obtains false receipts for them. Is that the way how industries are being developed? Have the Government ever cared to look into these matters? These were the things which compelled the students to go on strike. Besides these I want to draw the attention of the Honourable Minister to the fact that the Expert does not know much about the machinery installed in the institute. If the Honourable Minister doubts the veracity of my statement, I am prepared to go along with him to the Institute where we will dismantle the machinery and will ask the Tanning Expert to fit it up again. It was probably not on account of any special aptitude that he got this appointment, but because he belonged to a good family, like that of the Honourable Ministers.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker :** This is irrelevant; you cannot discuss this thing.

**Lala Harnam Das :** We can discuss everything. As we are Achhuts and are also poor we dare not disobey your orders. But, Sir, may I through you put a question to the Honourable Minister: whether, he gave an interview to the strikers and listened to their complaints before expelling them from the Institute, or was it as a result of the callous and objectionable policy adopted by the Government with regard to the depressed classes that the lives of those students were ruined?

**Mr. Deputy Speaker :** The honourable member should speak to the motion.

**Lala Harnam Das :** If my telling the truth is unpalatable to you I would not proceed with my speech. With these words, I strongly support the cut motion moved by my honourable friend Sardar Sahib Sardar Santokh Singh.

**Chaudhri Ali Akbar** (Gurdaspur East, Muhammdan, Rural) (*Urdu*) : Sir, I strongly maintain that the promotion of industrial development in the province would be in our best interest. To-day the problem of unemployment is very acute in the Punjab. I have already stated on various occasions

that unless you start factories in the province the number of the unemployed would not decrease. But in spite of my repeated requests the Government has not done anything remarkable in this direction. In fact the expansion of industries would absorb a large number of the unemployed.

Sir, to-day I would like to say a few words with regard to only one point. The other day my honourable friend Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt raised a great hue and cry to the effect that the Department of Industries should not be deprived of the services of an expert like Rai Bahadur Lala Ram Lal. He was of the opinion that the said officer had done excellent work in this department. In fact he wanted to have a fling at the Honourable Premier, and he actually made certain undignified remarks in his speech. He knows full well that the department is not making steady progress towards the industrialisation of the province. If the province has not made any industrial progress it is all due to the Director of Industries and if the officer in question is being transferred, there is no sense in raising a hue and cry against it. The money that is earmarked under this Major Head is not properly utilized. It is a pity that the Department of Industries has failed to start any glass factory that could meet the ever increasing demand for bottles. Had there been any such factory there would have been no need for enacting the Excise (amendment) Bill. The Government should realize that there is great scope for industrial expansion in the province. I would request the Government to do its level best for promoting industrial development in the Punjab. With these words I resume my seat.

**Sardar Moola Singh** (Hoshiarpur West, General, Reserved Seat, Rural) (*Urdu*): Sir, I rise to support the cut motion moved by my honourable friend Sardar Sahib Sardar Santokh Singh. Since the House is perfectly aware of the defective administration of the Department of Industries, I would confine myself only to a single important matter. I cannot refrain from saying that the whole responsibility of the recent strike in the Government Tanning School, Jullundur, devolves entirely upon the Honourable Minister of Development and the Industrial Department. The students of the "B" class of that institution, numbering 18, struck work on the 9th November, 1939. In fact they had several grievances against the attitude of their Principal. One of their demands was this that they should be paid stipends during the summer vacation also. But the Principal told them that since they were only labourers getting daily wages they could not claim any such stipend. The students replied that if they were mere labourers they should be not made to pay boarding house fee during the summer vacation, and that they should be paid wages at the rate of Rs. 15 per mensem and that if the department was not prepared to give them the required wages then they should be treated as *bona fide* students and paid the requisite stipends during vacation. There was another grievance which the students placed before the Principal. They complained to the effect that if by chance any one of them came late even by a few minutes, half the daily wage was lost to him, and that a few minutes' delay should not be made a reason for such a severe punishment. On this the Principal showered abuses on them and turned them out of his room. The students entered a protest against this fact also that the "B" class students were employed for tanning dirty hides but when the latter ceased to emit offensive smell they were handed over to the Hindu and Muslim students for dyeing purposes. The students



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clamoured that if they had to be trained only in tanning work there was no use joining the school. They could very easily learn such an ordinary thing at home. It is a fact that although they undergo training for a period of 2 years yet they learn nothing. They are simply made to waste a highly important period of their lives. Moreover, the students complained that the Principal had fitted the hand pump in his own house after removing it from the school compound. They represented to the Honourable Premier, the Honourable Minister of Development, Sardar Gopal Singh and Bhagat Hans Raj in the matter, but when none of them cared to take any action in this respect, they could not help but strike work. It was only due to the efforts of the honourable Seth Kishan Das, a Unionist member, that a compromise was effected between the strikers and the Principal. But later the Principal fell back upon his promises and refused to re-admit the students. I have at present in my possession a copy of the letter which he wrote to the honourable Nawab Dr ulatana with regard to Seth Kishan Das. I would like to read out only relevant portion of the letter in which the Principal writes—

I am helpless of all the demands of students in the rules. I would have patched up matter with the boys somehow or other but Seth Kishan Dass, M.L.A. and others of his community stand in my way of accomplishing this. Seth Kishan Dass who belongs to this place as I do is I am constrained to conclude a bit jealous of me and I also find that he is trying to fan this faction.

**Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan :** On a point of order. So far as I have been able to gather from the speech of my honourable friend I find that the correspondence is of a private nature. I would like to have your ruling whether private correspondence can be quoted on the floor of this House.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker :** Private correspondence can be quoted but the thing is that the honourable member does not seem to be relevant. He could have referred to it in passing so far as the incident of strike is concerned, but he should not make it the subject of his speech.

**Seth Sudarshan :** He is not making it the subject of his speech.

**Sardar Moola Singh :** Sir, I am coming to the point.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker :** I would request the honourable member to speak to the motion before the House.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan :** Sir, he is developing his argument.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker :** The honourable member is not speaking to the motion.

**Munshi Hari Lal :** He is speaking on tanning which is a subject of Industries. He says that tanning is not being encouraged among the Harijans.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker :** He is not speaking on the motion. He is not speaking about tanning.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan :** On a point of order. Is it not open to any member to give 99 arguments in support of his contention? He is giving various arguments, they may not appeal to the chair, but is it not open to the honourable member to give as many reasons as he can in support of his motion?

**Mr. Deputy Speaker :** This is no argument in support of the cut motion.

**Seth Sudarshan :** He is describing the condition of the Tanning School at Jullundur. Is he not in order ?

**Mr. Deputy Speaker :** He could have referred to it but he is dealing with it entirely and with nothing else.

**Sardar Sahib Sardar Santokh Singh :** Tanning School is part and parcel of the Industries department. He is perfectly in order if he refers to it.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker :** He is discussing nothing else but the strike.

**Sardar Sahib Sardar Santokh Singh :** Is he out of order simply because he exclusively discusses this ?

**Mr. Deputy Speaker :** Order, order.

**Sardar Moola Singh :** The letter goes on like this :—

I have not got any stake in the matter or if the Government is willing to accede to the demands of those students I am quite ready to do anything for the sake of the students. But you see under the rules I am tied hands and feet. Seth Kishan Dass will be coming to Lahore to attend the session and before he tries to make more mischief I wish you to put these matters in ears of the Premier and the Minister of Development. Kishan Dass might not say anything about the Institute or me as he is against me for the reasons not known to me. So please keep a watch over this man and his activities.

I do not want to make this matter the subject of my speech. What I want to submit is that the Principal of the Institute communicated this information to a member of this House in order to shut up the matter. The Principal instead of redressing the grievances of the students managed to secure shelter by sending a letter to Nawab Daulatana. This is how things are done. The fact of the matter is that when the students made their complaints before the public, the Principal tried to get them back in the Institute. He gave a slap on the face of a student and took him to the class room forcibly. When the rest of the students came to know about it they tried to keep the remaining students with them. Then the Principal sent for the police and threatened them. Certain students were beaten by the police at the instance of the Principal. Those students lodged a report in the police station. I may say that the police constables who beat them bore numbers 480 and 448. I may also submit that the police took no action for the poor students. It was later on that a notice was served on them to the effect that they should rejoin their respective classes within 48 hours, otherwise their names would be struck off from the rolls. I should like to submit that the Director of Industries paid a visit to the said Institute at Jullundur, but even he did not listen to the grievances of the students and came back to Lahore without having made any settlement between the students and the Principal. I think that my honourable friend Seth Kishan Dass might have requested the Honourable Minister for Development but could not have convinced him. If Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram had some sympathy with the students he would have done something substantial for their welfare whose lives have been ruined by the obstinate attitude of the Principal. Sir, you might remember that I tabled an adjournment motion in this connection but the Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram refused to accept that notice and he stated that he

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wanted to have discipline in the Institute no matter if the lives of many a student might be spoiled. My submission is that the students were justified in going on strike. They wanted to fight on principles. Their complaint was this that they had to pay the boarding fee for the summer vacation while they did not stay in the boarding house. They made a demand that when they had to pay the boarding fee the stipends should also be given to them during the summer vacation. Why should it be stopped? It is a matter of regret that the Honourable Minister for Development who professes to be a sympathiser of the members of the scheduled castes did not care to hear the grievances of the students. But what was done by him was a mere paper transaction. The Government have miserably failed in their very first attempt to popularise the industry among the Achhuts. They first got the students admitted in that Institute and then turned them out. I ask the Government what substantial step have they taken to ameliorate the miserable lot of the scheduled castes? The Achhut population is as much as 40 lakhs in this province. May I know how many weaving and tanning schools have been opened by the Government so far? I assert that the Government has not done anything substantial for the Achhuts, whose voice even to-day, when provincial autonomy has set in, is not being heard in the Assembly Chamber. I would therefore submit that the Unionist Party has no soft corner in its heart for the depressed classes, and if this Government say that they are the well-wishers of the depressed classes, it is but lip sympathy. What can we expect of the Punjab Government when they have not taken any steps to popularise industry among the members of the depressed classes? (*Cheers*). May I be permitted to submit that the Achhuts are the most depressed class and they possess neither any powers, nor any organisation to influence the Government to bring about their betterment? In this connection I may point out that the Government should fear their sighs of helplessness lest they should meet bad fate and their star of destiny may set. (*Cheers*).

In the end, I would urge upon the Government the necessity of doing some useful work for the scheduled castes and their industrialisation because that would tend to stabilise the present Government in the Punjab.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker :** The honourable member's time is over.

**Sardar Moola Singh :** I would conclude my speech by saying that lip sympathy would not please the scheduled castes if the Government fail to industrialise them.

**Chaudhri Abdul Rahim** (Shakargarh, Muhammadan, Rural) (*Urdu*)  
Sir, I want to ask the Government, through you, as to what portion of the provincial revenue of 11 crores which mostly comes from the pockets of the poor zamindars, is really spent on them. I had never studied the relevant figures before, but now I am astonished to learn that the Government does not spend even one anna in the rupee on the zamindars. The lion's share of the provincial expenditure goes to non-agriculturists. In this connection I want to draw your particular attention to the Department of Industries. The present Director of Industries in the Punjab has never cared for the rights of the zamindars ever since his appointment to this post.

**Mr. E. Few :** No quorum.

(At this stage the bell rang and after a few minutes Mr. Deputy Speaker declared that there was quorum).

**Chaudhri Abdul Rahim** : Sir, I wanted to say that ever since the present Director of Industries took charge of this exalted post, he never cared a fig for the communal representation fixed by the Government for employment. A pleader of Shakargarh whose name is Mulk Raj and who has started hand-loom industry told me recently that when he came to the Director of Industries for seeking instructions, he found the latter absolutely incompetent to give advice. He opined that the Director of Industries knew nothing of industries. I would request the Government to have competent men in this department. (*Interruption*). My honourable friend Bhagat Sahib says that the Director of Industries is the most capable man. May I ask what rapid progress the work of industrialisation has made in the rural areas of the province during his regime? His record is nil in this respect.

Moreover, the funds allocated to this department should be spent on the poor industrial workers. But we find that the Director spends all the available funds on the capitalists. Instead of doing that he should try to send these funds for the amelioration of the condition of the poor working classes of the province. A major portion should be spent on the employment of those who do not get any employment. (*A voice* : Why not dole away the money directly to the poor?) There is no harm in doing that. Other civilised countries dole away money to their poor and unemployed subjects. But my point is that at the time of employment the present Director of Industries does not pay any attention to the claims of the poor and working classes. He patronises the rich classes only. That is my charge against him.

**Lala Sita Ram** (Trade Union Labour) (*Urdu*) : Sir, I rise to support the cut motion that has been moved by my honourable friend Sardar Santokh Singh. I would like to take up the question of industrialisation in its general aspect and so need not criticise, much less take to task, the poor subordinate officers working in the Department of Industries who have merely to carry out the policy of the Government. The whole blame, in my opinion, lies at the door of the Minister-in-charge of this department whose treatment towards his department is ruthlessly step-motherly and who is out to feed others fat at the cost of those whom he is supposed to defend and protect. It is a matter of great pity that in this age of industry and machine out of budget of Rs. 12 crores, only a small sum of Rs. 21 lakhs should be earmarked for this important department. And this is not all. My friend Sardar Santokh Singh has analytically proved that the Government has been granting similar meagre amounts to this beneficent department during the last three years since when this Government have taken the reins of the province in their hands. Had the Government been showing a steady increase in these sums, we would have been satisfied, but this constant neglect of the very important factor of industry shows that the Government wishes that the province be tied for ever to the plough and sickle of the peasants and big zamindars.

[L. Sita Ram.]

May I ask the Minister of Development if the industrialisation of the province would not benefit the province as a whole? I for one am certain that the whole province stands to gain if the Government proceeds to industrialise it. If industries are developed, the curse of class war would also disappear from this province.

So far as I have studied the working of the Unionist Government I have come to the conclusion that the present Government is victim of a great misunderstanding. Their fears are that the funds spent on industries would altogether enrich and benefit the urban classes, the non-zamindars or the capitalists and industrialization of the province would hit hard the rural classes, the zamindars and the tillers of land. There can be no greater misunderstanding than this. I fail to see any reason in this contention. Industry must require raw material and the greater it is developed, the more and more raw produce shall be required for consumption. Again, labourers shall be needed to work in the factories and homes of industry. No argument can convince me as to how it will not benefit all the classes. This is a simple inference drawn from simple premises and it is a pity that we do not try to understand it. Before I proceed further with my speech, I consider it necessary to bring some important things to the notice of the honourable members of the House. The first is that because our province is mainly an agricultural province, therefore my honourable friends think that agriculture is the only industry which should receive the best attention of the Government. But they are wrong to make such presumptions and excuse me when I say that they are still living in the past. I am of the opinion that so long as Government make no efforts to industrialise the province, the profession of agriculture cannot derive any substantial benefit. The honourable members should know that zamindars from generations past have been producing raw agricultural produce and exporting it to foreign countries from where it fetched good and lucrative price. But now things are quite changed. The foreign countries which in the past used to import raw materials from our country have begun tilling their own soil and producing enough of wheat and cotton for home consumption as well as for export. And even those who still want these raw materials, find many countries to get their supply from. They have begun importing materials from the nearest countries in order to effect savings and economy in their expenses of production. Consequently the demand for raw agricultural produce from our province has decreased considerably, and we have lost much of our importance and trade. I cannot think of the future without fears, if we do not resort to industrialisation and I do not know how to consume what we produce.

Supposing, for the sake of argument, that the yield of produce doubles or trebles as a result of these irrigation schemes. Where to sell and consume it? It is crystal clear that if the demand for a particular commodity has decreased, the increase in supply is not going to help the zamindars. It is but natural that the prices should fall further. But if the province is industrially developed, that produce can be consumed in that particular industry to the great benefit of the agriculturists. It is wholly wrong if my honourable friends think that only the capitalists and the urban non-agriculturist classes would stand to gain and the agriculturists would not be benefited at all.

Let all classes of the province pull together. The agriculturists should produce; the capitalists should start industries and the labourers and artisans should work hard. Therein would be the salvation of us all. It will be obvious that the industrial development would benefit both the capitalists and the agriculturists and in no less way the labouring classes by opening unto them doors of unemployment and decent living. The honourable members would remember that previously our capital used to be shy. The people were rather reluctant to invest their money in industrial concerns. But now I can say that industrialism has come to stay in the Punjab. There are several persons who are prepared to invest their funds in various industries. What they are looking for is that the Government should guide them on proper lines and help and encourage them to develop those industries. Let me give a warning to one and all that agriculture, unaided by industrialisation, has long ceased to be a lucrative trade. Our salvation lies in industrial development, when every class of persons, agriculturists or non-agriculturists, capitalists or labourers would be benefited by it without any distinction of caste or creed. I can assert with the fullest confidence that the Honourable Minister for Development with all his arguments cannot gainsay the fact that industrialisation of the province would bring prosperity to all. He should, therefore, earmark greater amount of money for this purpose because the amount is to be utilised for the good of the province as a whole. I maintain that industrialisation is a panacea for all the ills of the province. The Government should concentrate their energies in this direction. Here both the pillars of provincial revenues *i.e.* the agriculturists and the capitalists, would benefit. Then, Sir, most of my honourable friends opposite are labouring under a grave misapprehension, lest the Unionist Government should spend huge sums of money on the industrial development of the province, which it wants to utilise for the benefit and betterment of the zamindars. Even my honourable friend Maulvi Ghulam Mohy-ud-din expressed his fears to this effect. But this is a 'penny wise and pound foolish' policy. You do not see deep into the future. You cannot imagine the wealth and prosperity of all, when every square mile of our province will have a tall smoking chimney of a factory, calling the agriculturists to bring their produce to it and get better prices. I would ask you all to think calmly over it and the experiment is worth trying. I am of the opinion that even if the Government wishing not to part with their own funds have to resort to loans for the purpose of developing industries, they should do so without any hesitation or delay.

**An Honourable Member :** We want to collect money for this purpose by levying taxes on the moneyed classes instead of taking loans.

**Lala Sita Ram :** If they are obsessed with the imposition of taxes let them please themselves. But this shows which way their mind is working. They are afraid lest the money which the Government would otherwise spend on the welfare of the agriculturists, should be spent on the industries. Again, this shows that the present Unionist Government is the Government of the zamindars only. It cares a fig for other classes and they would tax the moneyed classes with vengeance as if they do not form part of the subject of this province. I would, once again, advise them to realize that industrialisation of the province would bring more sale of the produce to the agriculturists, better profits to the capitalists and last but not least, honourable

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employment to the labouring classes who remain unemployed for the major portion of the year. I may also point out that I do not lay stress on the fact that the industries should be established in the cities alone. They may be started even in villages. In this connection the report of the Unemployment Committee is of great help to you which contains immense information as to where certain commodities are produced in abundance and where it would be profitable to establish certain industries. I am, therefore, of opinion that a net work of industries should be set up in the towns and the villages. No urban-rural question should be brought in this matter. We want the province as a whole to flourish.

Now, Sir, there is yet another thing which I wish to bring to the notice of the House and that is that since this Government assumed office three years ago they have been spending money in providing relief to the famished people. And on this the members of the Unionist party in season and out of season congratulate the Government. That is all well and good. Let not any honourable member infer that I am against relief being provided to the famished people of the Hissar district or of any other unfortunate part of the province. But my point is this : what means are the Government going to devise to make these famines affect us the least ? Surely it is folly to wait for man to fall sick and then prescribe him a dose. Why not give him life and health to fight the malady ? Prevention is surely better than cure. Why do you not open factories and start industries to provide the peasants with a sure source of livelihood when there is drought and lack of rains ? Money spent in relief work is money spent and gone. But funds used in establishing industries become permanent sources of living and employment. If no other reasoning is powerful enough to convince them of the usefulness of industrialisation, let the Government assume, for supposition sake, that there are famines at three or four places of the province occurring at one and the same time. Let them reshape their budget to provide money for the relief work and now let that money be invested in industrialising the province. I guarantee that the money shall not be ill-spent and it will make a hundred famines to come the least painful for us. You would take pride in giving charity to a hungry man, but you would not give him an alternative occupation to make his own way and live decently. It is exploitation always that comes in the guise of charity. The reason why famines bring such distress to the people is that the Punjabis mainly depend for their livelihood on agriculture alone. If the rains fall in time and no other unforeseen calamity befalls the people, the peasants become prosperous. But on the contrary if unfortunately there is a scarcity of rainfall, the natural result is that crops fail and having no alternative occupation to depend upon, the poor zamindars are plunged in distress. In the circumstances I may point out that it is the duty of the Government to improvise measures for rooting out this evil of recurring famines from the Punjab. After all when the rains do not fall, that affects the budget of the province as well. How long can we suffer such deficit ? Now take the instance of Hissar famine. For the last three years the Government have been spending money and so far they have spent about 275 lakhs of rupees. Instead of every year paying encomiums to the Honourable Finance Minister that he has very ably prepared the budget in spite of the fact that he had

to make a huge provision for the Hissar famine, we should face the situation boldly and try to uproot this evil for ever. In my opinion this evil of recurring famines can only be rooted out if the province is industrialised. If industries are started in this province in right earnest, the people in times of famine can be provided employment elsewhere. In addition, it will reduce the pressure on land as well. As a matter of fact development of industries in the province will benefit all the classes of the Punjab. This thing will provide bread to many, without in any way injuring the zamindars to whom my honourable friends are so enamoured of providing facilities at the cost of others. I may add that the suggestion which I have made is not my personal whim but it is the expert opinion of the framers of the Report on Unemployment as well. The committee have expressed their opinion in two or three places with regard to this matter and they fully support my contention. The very first paragraph of the chapter on "Industries" says—

The lesson has been driven home to us that if we want to compete and exist in the modern post war world we must make a striking and basic departure from our present economy which for all practical purposes is an entirely pastoral economy. We must not be misunderstood to mean that we advocate desertion of agriculture as a profession; indeed this is not possible. But what we wish to say clearly and emphatically is that the root cause of our growing unemployment is our unbalanced economy which far too much emphasises on agriculture and far too little on commerce, trade and industry.

So long as that is not done, it is not possible for the Government to better the condition of the province merely by improving agricultural conditions, because the raw material thus produced shall remain unutilized.

The Deputy Commissioner of Amritsar is quoted thus in the same report; "In the development of industries lies our principal hope of removing unemployment both amongst educated and uneducated persons." Professor Bhatnagar, an eminent industrial scientist of this province suggests in the same report that "there are two methods of improving the general economic condition of this province. One is by agriculture development and the consequent development of the cottage industries. But it is futile to anticipate that the standard of living is going to rise appreciably by this method, although it may lead to some improvement. The other method which is the only successful method is to develop large scale industries."

Sir, quite a number of valuable suggestions are made in the same Report. They recommend that Government should immediately set up a small committee of experts to study our resources and requirements and draw up practical schemes for the establishment of large scale industries through direct state enterprise. As an alternative to the opinion that all new major industries should be owned entirely by the State, they suggest that in the case of starting any big national industry the State should buy half the shares, the other half being available to the public. And the Government should establish at least one major industry in each division. They have also asked the Government to set up a permanent industrial economic bureau whose function would be to collect and co-ordinate upto date data regarding survey, research, manufactures and marketing. While discussing the scope and future of minor industries, the committee say that in the course of their tours they had had occasions to meet several young men with scientific training of practical experience who could make a useful contribution to the



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establishment of these industries, if they had some capital at their disposal and they suggest that Government should make a small grant of Rs. 20,000 a year for five years to begin with for loans to such individuals. The committee have also supported the proposal of some factory owners that a State Industrial Bank should be set up which could advance them loans on the security of, not manufactured goods as is done by some banks, but, machinery or raw material. Now all that I ask is as to how many of these suggestions and recommendations have been translated into action by the Government. The Government would be running to the relief of crying millions of this province, if they turn to industrialisation. The data as to the possibilities of major or minor industries and with regard to those suitable places where they can be set up, has been collected from every possible source. All that is needed now is that the Government should make up their mind and should understand this fact clearly that industry is the only method whereby our province can make any progress. If once the Government realize that industrialization is the only remedy there will be no difficulty in launching a wide-spread campaign of industrial development. Where there is a will, there is a way.

Refraining from repeating other useful suggestions made by the same committee, I would like to lay stress on the fact that the very first thing needed is education. We must make arrangements for industrial training. Sir, at present there are several schools and colleges in the province. But it is a pity that these institutions are increasing the number of the educated unemployed people. The graduates who had spent as much as Rs. 200 or Rs. 250 per mensem during their college career cannot get a job worth Rs. 40. In fact it is all due to the defective educational system of ours. If you really want to ameliorate the condition of the suffering humanity and solve the problem of unemployment you will have to prescribe a separate industrial course in the schools. You have already prescribed the subjects of English Mathematics, General Knowledge etc., etc. Add to them an industrial subject and make it compulsory in all the academic institutions. By learning this extra subject the student would be able to earn his livelihood after the completion of his studies. The system of education should be such as may help the students to earn their living. Appoint a committee of experts on the subjects and act in accordance with their advice.

Again, instead of drawing so much by way of allowances in respect of unnecessary tours of the rural areas where party propaganda is done and speeches are made to spread class hatred, the Honourable Minister should go on world tour and acquaint himself with the different uses to which our raw material is put by other countries and find out what is the best use that we can make of it here. The Honourable Minister is shaking his head in refusal of this suggested tour. However, it was my duty to suggest what was in the best interest of the province; now it is up to the Honourable Minister to make such a tour or to disregard my suggestion. In case he does not feel disposed to undertake such a tour himself, he should at least give facilities to those, who have brains to think of industrial enterprises but are handicapped on account of lack of funds, to proceed to foreign countries for receiving industrial training. In suggesting this, I have again, no class or community prejudice. I do not necessarily mean that non-

agriculturists should be given such an opportunity. You can by all means send agriculturists as well if you like. I am only interested in the fact that some suitable persons should be sent abroad for getting industrial training and on their return they should start different industries in our province.

My honourable friend Sardar Sahib Sardar Santokh Singh has made many valuable suggestions, and I need not repeat them. There are industries in which the State can also have an interest. An honourable member has expressed his fears that if industries are subsidized by the Government the whole profit will go to the capitalists. I ask, why do not the Government invest their own capital? In case they have no money for investment, they can raise a loan and get all the profit themselves. There is no need for the Government to give any share in an industry, which they start themselves, to any capitalist. If industries are run by the Government there will be a lesser risk involved and even if there is any, the Government can afford and should not hesitate to run such risks. I am free to admit that such experiments would involve considerable expenditure but in view of the ultimate benefits you have to bear this extra financial burden. The experiments should be made at places where raw-material and cheap labour are easily available. I think if you succeed in only one or two experiments in a year even then you would not be the loser in any way. By starting one or two industries every year, as suggested by the committee on unemployment you can considerably increase the national wealth of the province. The moneyed-classes would have an opportunity to invest capital thereon. Then most of the raw material would be utilized in the new factories and this will benefit the agriculturists. And last but not least the acuteness of the problem of unemployment under whose crushing burden the labouring classes are crying with pain, would be relieved to a large measure. Then and only then I would admit that the Government is doing anything for the material benefit of the province.

The last point I would submit is that legislation should be undertaken for the welfare of labouring classes. (*Laughter from Government benches*). I understand what makes them laugh. Perhaps they are curious to know how a person belonging to a class of capitalists can make an appeal for the benefit of labourers. I have my difference of opinion. In the first place I may point out to my honourable friends sitting on the Government benches that I am not a capitalist in the sense in which they see things with jaundiced eyes, and, if I am, it is not a sin to advocate their just cause. If certain ministers and members, being non-agriculturists, can take pride in representing agriculturists, what is the harm if I plead for the labourers? Come, let a third person put their *bona-fides* as well as mine to test. Let the Government come forward with some beneficial legislation for the labouring classes and let us see who votes for it. I know also of another thing which pinches them to see a capitalist pleading for the labourers. They wish that this seat had better gone to a poor labourer whom they could easily win over to their side and whose opinion and vote they could buy easily.

To turn to my point again, I was submitting, that legislation should be undertaken to secure, as the report of the unemployment committee suggests, control of labour turn-over, minima rates of wages for men and women, prohibition of employment of children in factories and restrictions of hours of work. Unless we are fair to all classes and partial to none, we cannot

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see the province flourishing. The four factors of land, labour, capital and enterprise must combine to achieve the common good. With these words I support the cut motion.

**Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt** (North Eastern Towns, General, Urban): Mr. Deputy Speaker, I have not got a good voice. It is very hoarse. I therefore apologise to the House for speaking in such an extremely hoarse voice and particularly at the fag end of the day to a tired House and particularly still when the Honourable Minister of Development is yawning and stretching and feeling tired. But this being a very important subject and as I am profoundly interested in this department, I have taken the risk of addressing the House in these circumstances to give expression to certain views which I hold on the subject, not only to give expression to the views, but to censure the Government for its sins of omission and commission. Mr. Deputy Speaker, the proposition before the House is not merely a formal cut motion. It is in the real, genuine sense a censure motion directed particularly against the Honourable Minister of Development and his department. There are in the department various sub-heads, for instance, there is the direction, there is the superintendence, there is the stores purchase branch, there is industrial education and there is industrial development. I beg to submit that I have got to say something about each and every sub-head under the Industries Department. Before I give expression to my views on the various subjects I have enumerated and make an attempt to censure the Government and also make useful suggestions for the development of industry, both big as well as cottage, I would take up a matter which was not discussed thread-bare the other day and to which reference was also made the other day by my honourable friend, Lala Duni Chand, and to-day by my honourable friend, Sardar Santokh Singh, the mover of the cut motion. I also gave notice of a cut motion in regard to this subject, that is the direction. I gave notice of the cut motion so that I may be permitted to raise a discussion in regard to the policy followed by the Punjab Government in regard to the appointments in that department. The first and foremost and, in my opinion, the most outstanding question and one of the burning topics of the day in Lahore is the appointment of a successor to the present Director of Industries. I make no apology to you or to the House for expatiating upon this matter once again in view of the very vital importance of the subject, in view of the very vital importance of the issue underlying this new appointment of a successor to the present Director of Industries. By common consent the present Director of Industries is a very competent, efficient and honest gentleman and one of the few officers of the Punjab Government whom any Government may be proud of. (*Hear, hear*). Not only the Punjab Government but even the non-official circles in the province are proud of the fact that the Department of Industries is in the hands of a very competent, honest and efficient Director. There is no doubt that we have many complaints and many grievances against the Department, but I do not hold the Director of Industries responsible for them. The present Director is a servant of the Government and he has to carry out the policy of the Government whether that policy is dictated by Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang or by Sir Chhotu Ram. In the budget an attempt has been made to justify the conduct of the Government in prematurely terminating the

services of the present Director as Director of Industries. I do not want to go into the details in regard to that matter. But some motive has been imputed to Government in regard to the termination of the services of the present Director and the appointment of another person in his stead which as I said the other day are ugly and ignoble. It is a pity that the supporters of the Government in order to justify or condone its evil act should have gone out of their way to say certain things about the present Director, which are totally false and which should not have been uttered by the Government or any of the members of its party. I know that whatever is said against the Director has been said by way of propaganda to justify the conduct of the Government. If there were any acts of commission or omission on the part of the Director, the House should take into account the fact that he is a servant of the Government. If sometime ago the department was in charge of Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang, it was the bounden duty of the Director to carry out the policy of that Minister. Even now if there are any complaints against the Director, who is responsible for that? It is not the Director, but the Minister in charge. The Honourable Minister raises up his finger to show that he is responsible. I am very glad that he concedes that. Having conceded this fact there should not be this grievance trumped up against him. However, I do not want to go into those charges which are being circulated from one end of Lahore to another to justify the conduct of the Government. (*Honourable members*: There are no charges against him). I am glad to hear that. I only wanted honourable members of the House to say that there was no charge against him. This will be published in the Press and the people will come to know that there is no charge against the present Director and still his services are being terminated in order to bring in a man who is absolutely incompetent and inexperienced. I made that point quite clear the other day.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker**: I would request the honourable member not to characterise any Government servant as incompetent.

**Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt**: I ask the House to refuse to allow this money because it has been merely abused by the Minister for Development. May I point out an instance? If I am wrong in my statement of facts I should like to be corrected and I shall be prepared to apologise. I am told that sometime ago, the Jammu and Kashmir Government, wrote to the Punjab Government enquiring whether the services of the present Director of Industries would be terminated and if so, whether they would be available for the Kashmir Government. The reply of the Punjab Government was that there was no likelihood of his services being terminated. I understand that this correspondence took place only recently. Now, I should like to know what happened within the few weeks or months after that correspondence that the Government should all of a sudden take this decision of terminating his services and bringing in another gentleman? If it was the intention of the Punjab Government to terminate his services why should it not have said so even then? This is a very important matter and the House should understand why it was that this decision was not taken even then, though I understand that even then an attempt was made by certain gentlemen, may be the friends of the new incumbent, to bring him in as the successor of the present Director, though it must be said to the credit of the

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Minister for Development that he stood by the present Director. (*An honourable member* : He denies that). Whatever he may deny he would not deny at least one particular thing and that is that of late attempts have been made and are being made to replace the present Director of Industries by the new incumbent. It is within my personal knowledge that the Honourable Minister resisted all attempts which were made by official quarters in this province. But later on the Minister gave way and let down the present Director. After all, what was the motive behind all these ? How is it that the Honourable Minister who a few days ago resisted all attempts to replace by another gentlemen the present Director who was so useful to the department—if you examine the papers of the department you will find that the Honourable Minister has recorded therein all commendations about the present Director and his inability to terminate his services—how is it that within a few days or even a few weeks after that, the Minister was forced to do a thing against his wishes, against his own views and against his own conscience ?

**Mr. Deputy Speaker** : I would request the honourable member not to be personal so far as the Minister is concerned.

**Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt** : I am not personal. I am not discussing the Honourable Minister.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker** : The honourable member used the expression 'against his conscience' in reference to the Honourable Minister.

**Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt** : I am not discussing the Honourable Minister in his personal capacity.

7 P. M.

*At this stage the Assembly adjourned till 12 noon on Monday, 11th March, 1940.*

# PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

## SIXTH SESSION OF THE FIRST PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

*Monday, the 11th of March, 1940.*

*The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber at four minutes past twelve noon as the House was not in quorum till then. Mr. Speaker in the Chair.*

### STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

S. TEJA SINGH SWATANTAR.

**\*5799. Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state the date on which the case of S. Teja Singh Swatantar, M. L. A., was last examined and the result of that re-examination?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) :** The case was last considered in September. As has been explained on several occasions, it is not proposed for the present to release this particular prisoner.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** May I know how many times his case has been considered?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I cannot give this information to my honourable friend off hand. If he gives me notice I will supply him the requisite information.

### CONDITION OF HEALTH OF CHAUDHRI AFZAL HAQ.

**\*6040. Sardar Hari Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) the weight on admission as under-trial prisoner and present weight of Chaudhri Afzal Haq recently sentenced under Defence of India Ordinance and serving his term of imprisonment in District Jail, Rawalpindi;

(b) condition of his health on his arrest and his present health?

**The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal :** (a)—

Weight on admission	..	..	108 lbs.
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Present weight	..	..	104 lbs.
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(b) His condition of health on admission into the jail was indifferent but since admission to hospital for special treatment he has shown marked signs of improvement and he is now putting on weight.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know whether on the occasion of his last visit to the Rawalpindi Jail the Honourable Minister for Finance personally inquired from Chaudhri Afzal-ul-Haq about his state of health?

**Mr. Speaker :** Disallowed.

ELIGIBILITY OF GRADUATES IN LAW OF ALIGARH UNIVERSITY FOR  
LEGAL PRACTICE IN PUNJAB.

**\*6098. Sufi Abdul Hamid Khan :** Will the Honourable Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that a graduate in law of the Aligarh University is not considered eligible like an LL.B. of the Punjab University for starting legal practice in this province without fulfilling certain conditions ;

(b) whether the Government intends to move the Punjab High Court of Judicature and the Punjab University to remove those conditions and if not, why not ?

**The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal :** (a) Yes.

(b) No. The object of these restrictions is to prevent the legal profession becoming overcrowded by persons from outside the Punjab.

**Khan Sahib Chaudhri Sahib Dad Khan :** Is it a fact that the only difference between the graduates in law of Aligarh University and graduates in law of Punjab University is the legislation of the land tenure of the provinces ?

**Mr. Speaker :** I have not followed the question.

**Khan Sahib Chaudhri Sahib Dad Khan :** My question is whether the only difference between the graduates of Aligarh and the Punjab Universities is the special test in land legislation and the graduates are required to undergo a special test.

**Mr. Speaker :** That is an argument.

**Khan Sahib Chaudhri Sahib Dad Khan :** Should not the special test be reduced to one year or six months ?

**Mr. Speaker :** The honourable member may move a resolution to that effect.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know whether the law graduates of Aligarh University and other Universities are treated on the same basis or whether there is any difference ?

**Minister :** This is a matter of opinion. They are on the same basis except that the Punjabi students who read at Aligarh are not subjected to the same restrictions.

**Sufi Abdul Hamid Khan :** May I know whether the same conditions apply to the graduates of the Benares University as well or not ?

**Minister :** I cannot answer that question without notice but my own impression is that only a limited number of students outside the Punjab University are admitted.

**Sufi Abdul Hamid Khan :** May I know whether the Punjab Government are prepared to check the growing number of lawyers of the Punjab University ?

**Minister :** I do not think that that arises out of this question but the course has been extended to three years, as you are aware, and that has a restricting influence.

**GRANT OF TREES IN PALAMPUR TAHSIL TO A CONTRACTOR.**

**\*6132. Rai Bahadur Lala Gopal Das :** Will the Honourable Minister of Development be pleased to state—

- (a) whether it is a fact that in village Lahla, tahsil Palampur, about 400 trees belonging to the villagers were given over by Government to a certain contractor during 1938 and 1939 ;
- (b) if the answer to (a) be in the affirmative, the conditions and terms of the grant of these trees to the contractor ;
- (c) whether the respective shares of the zamindars were paid to them ; if not, why not ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Chaudhri Tikka Ram) :** (a) No.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

**Rai Bahadur Lala Gopal Das :** Do I understand that no trees have been given to anybody in that district ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** No.

**BAIL APPLICATIONS IN CASES UNDER THE DEFENCE OF INDIA ACT.**

**\*6139. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

- (a) the number of cases tried so far under the Defence of India Act in which the trying courts have accepted bail applications ;
- (b) the number of cases in which the sessions courts and the High Court have accepted applications for bail on appeal preferred before these courts against the orders of the lower courts in such cases ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) :** (a) 35.

(b) (i) In 6 cases sessions courts have accepted applications for bail in supersession of a magistrate's order while the case was still pending in the lower Court. In one of these cases the sessions judge accepted bail on the condition that the accused refrained from making more objectionable speeches. The accused did not observe this condition and the bail was cancelled.

(ii) In 8 cases the High Court accepted applications for bail in supersession of a magistrate's order while the cases were still pending in the lower court.

(iii) In 4 cases sessions courts have accepted application for bail for conviction by a lower court.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the Parliamentary Secretary please state the total number of arrests made under the Defence of India Act ?

**Mr. Speaker :** That question does not arise.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Is it a fact that the Government have issued instructions to courts to the effect that applications for bail should not be accepted from the persons who are arrested under the Defence of India Act ?

**Mr. Speaker :** Disallowed. Government cannot issue such instructions to law courts. The next question.



**COMPLAINTS OF AHERIS OF DISTRICT ROHTAK AGAINST THE POLICE.**

**\*6140. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the Honourable Minister for Finance be pleased to state whether the Deputy Commissioner, Criminal Tribes, Punjab, the Deputy Commissioner and the Superintendent of Police, Rohtak, have recently received a complaint on behalf of the Aheris of district Rohtak, that in spite of their exemption from the Criminal Tribes Act they are still being called to certain police stations in that district and treated as if they were still under disabilities ; if so, the action taken on that representation ?

**The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal :** Yes. Enquiry shows that the exempted Aheris are not being subjected to any disabilities.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know whether any representation has been made to Government by Aheris or not ?

**Minister :** All that I know is that Aheris are not being subjected to any disabilities.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** I want to know whether any representation was received from the Aheris and whether any action was taken on it or not ?

**Minister :** I have said "Yes". Enquiries show that the exempted Aheris are not being subjected to any disabilities.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Is it a fact that the Aheris who submitted a complaint to the Government were sent for by the police to the nearest police station and were treated like members of criminal tribes ?

**Mr. Speaker :** That has been denied by the Honourable Minister.

**DASONDDHA SINGH, KISAN MORCHA PRISONER.**

**\*6143. Sardar Hari Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

- (a) the reasons why Sardar Dasondha Singh, a kisan morcha prisoner, now confined in district Jail, Ferozepore, is being treated as a 'C' Class prisoner and whether his social status was taken into consideration before deciding to treat him as such ;
- (b) the state of his health, his present weight and weight on admission to the jail ?

**The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal :** (a) The classification of "C" class prisoners is a matter for the convicting court. If this prisoner is dissatisfied, he can always approach the Local Government according to the rules for a revision of his classification.

(b) The general state of his health is good though he suffers to a small extent from piles. His present weight is 142 lbs. and his weight on admission was 154 lbs. The standard weight for a man of his height is 128 lbs.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Was he placed in 'C' class by the trying magistrate or was he degraded by the Government to that class ?

**Minister :** I think my answer conveys that the matter has not been before the Government at all. The convicting court placed him in "C" class. He can always approach the Government but so far he has not moved Government to consider the question.

**HEALTH OF BALDEV MITTAR, BIJLI, SURENDAR KUMAR, AND OTHERS  
CONFINED IN FEROZEPUR JAIL.**

**\*6149. Sardar Hari Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state—

(a) the health of the political prisoners Baldev Mittar, Bijli, Surender Kumar, 'Shad', Arjan Singh, 'Sach', Mula Singh, Waryam Singh, 'Khalal', at present confined in District Jail, Ferozepore :

(b) weight of each of them on admission to the jail and their present weight, respectively ?

**The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal :** A statement is laid on the table :—

Name of the prisoner.	Weight on admission into the Jail.	Present weight.	Condition of health.
Baldev Mittar ..	113 lbs. ..	115 lbs. ..	Good.
Surender Kumar ..	102 lbs. ..	106 lbs. ..	Satisfactory.
Arjan Singh ..	152 lbs. ..	143 lbs. ..	Good.
Moola Singh ..	127 lbs. ..	126 lbs. ..	Satisfactory.
Waryam Singh ..	135 lbs. ..	126 lbs. ..	Do.

**MEDICAL OFFICER, MULTAN DISTRICT JAIL.**

**\*6161. Shrimati Raghbir Kaur :** Will the Honourable Minister for Finance be pleased to state whether he is aware of the fact that the Medical Officer in charge of the Multan District Jail is an Englishman who is not at all conversant with the Hindustani language and that the sick prisoners find it very difficult to explain their ailments to him ; if so, the action the Government propose to take to redress the grievances in this respect of the prisoners confined in the Multan Jail ?

**The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal :** No such difficulties have been brought to the notice of Government and enquiries made show that they do not in fact exist.

**SALARIES, SPECIAL PAY AND ALLOWANCES OF I.C.S., I.E.S., AND OTHER IMPERIAL SERVICES.**

**\*6164. Mr. Dev Raj Sethi :** Will the Honourable Minister for Finance be pleased to state the amount of (a) ordinary pay ; (b) special pay ; and (c) special allowances paid to the members of the Indian Civil Services, Indian Educational Service, Indian Service of Engineers, Indian Agricultural Service and Indian Forest Service in 1936 and 1939 ?

**The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal :** A statement showing the amounts of pay and allowances is placed on the table. In the accounts, expenditure on special pay is not booked separately. Therefore in the statement the amount of special pay is included in that shown under pay.

*Statement showing the amounts of pay and allowances paid in India during 1936 and 1939 to the members of certain Imperial Services.*

	1936.			1939.		
	Pay.			Pay.		
	Allowances.			Allowances.		
	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.
I. C. S.	15,56,230	10	6	56,206	15	0
I. A. S.	1,40,610	0	0	4,063	0	0
I. F. S.	2,68,061	5	0	5,286	1	0
I. E. S.	1,56,654	10	0	896	14	0
I. S. E. (B. & R.)	3,27,257	6	0	8,788	4	0
I. S. E. (Irriga- tion.)	13,46,867	4	0	53,873	2	0
	16,57,836	9	0	48,989	1	4
	717	0	0	11,798	11	0
	304	6	0	1,193	7	9
	39,871	2	7			

**MODIFICATION OF RULES OF LEAVE, PAY AND ALLOWANCES TO MEMBERS OF INDIAN IMPERIAL SERVICES.**

**\*6165. Mr. Dev Raj Sethi :** Will the Honourable Minister for Finance be pleased to state whether the Punjab Government has ever represented to the Government of India or the Secretary of State for India for the revision or modification of the Rules of leave, pay, special allowances, overseas pay, passage concessions, etc., to the members of the Indian Imperial Services ; if so, when and with what result ?

**The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal :** The answer to the first part is in the negative and the second therefore, does not arise.

## CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES IN AMRITSAR DISTRICT.

**\*6190. Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Will the Honourable Minister for Development be pleased to state —

- (a) the number and names of new co-operative societies formed tahsil-wise in the Amritsar district during the year 1939 ;
- (b) the number of villages, tahsil-wise, in the said district where no co-operative societies have been formed so far and the nature of obstacles that stand in the way of the co-operative department establishing co-operative societies in those villages ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Chaudhri Tikka Ram) :** (a) Following Co-operative Societies were registered during the Co-operative year ending 31st July, 1939, in the Amritsar District :—

No. Name of Tahsil.

Name of Society.

1 Amritsar

1. The Amritsar Municipal Employees Co-operative Thrift and Credit Society.
2. The Taragarh Had Bast No. 133 Co-operative Consolidation of Holdings Society.
3. The Amritsar Co-operative House Building Society.
4. The Tahsilpura Ladies Co-operative Thrift and Savings Society.
5. The Bopa Rai Co-operative Dehat Sudhar Society.
6. The Varpal Co-operative Cattle Breeding Society.
7. Fancy Metal Works, Katra Jaimal Singh, Amritsar, Co-operative Industrial Society.

2 Tarn Taran

1. The Attari Had Bast No. 5 Co-operative Consolidation of Holdings Society.
2. The Pakhoke Tarf Sikhian Co-operative Dehat Sudhar Society.
3. The Kaka Kandiala Co-operative Dehat Sudhar Society.
4. The Naurangabad Had Bast No. 90 Co-operative Consolidation of Holdings Society.
5. The Behala Co-operative Dehat Sudhar Society.
6. The Chutala Co-operative Dehat Sudhar Society.
7. The Qazi Kot Co-operative Dehat Sudhar Society.
8. The Rotala Co-operative Cattle Breeding Society.
9. The Khan Rajada Co-operative Thrift and Credit Society.

<i>No. . Name of Tahsil.</i>	<i>Name of Society.</i>
2—Tarn * Taran—con-cluded.	10. The Dharar Co-operative Dehat Sudhar Society.
.	11. The Khan Rajada Co-operative Dehat Sudhar Society.
.	12. The Nathu Ka Burj Co-operative Cattle Breeding Society.
3 Ajnala	.. 1. The Shahzada Had Bast No. 73 Co-operative Consolidation of Holdings Society.
	2. The Talibpur Had Bast No. 81 Co-operative Consolidation of Holdings Society.
	3. The Passia Had Bast No. 80, Co-operative Consolidation of Holdings Society.
	4. The Changanwan Co-operative Mule Breeding Society.
	5. The Jasterwal Co-operative Cattle Breeding Society.
	6. The Veroke Co-operative Cattle Breeding Society.
	7. The Kakar Tareen Co-operative Cattle Breeding Society.
	8. The Chamiani Co-operative Cattle Breeding Society.
	9. The Isa Pur Co-operative Cattle Breeding Society.
	10. The Odar Co-operative Mule Breeding Society.
	11. The Gagoomahal Co-operative District Board Middle School Thrift and Savings Society.
	12. The Thoba Lower Middle School Centre Co-operative Thrift and Savings Society.

So in all 31 new societies were registered in the whole district during the year under report.

(b) The number of villages, tahsil-wise, in the said district where no Co-operative Societies have been formed so far is as under :—

<i>Serial No.</i>	<i>Name of tahsil.</i>	<i>No. of villages where no Co-operative Society exists.</i>
1	Amritsar ..	151
2	Tarn Taran ..	197
3	Ajnala ..	178

The nature of obstacles that stand in the way of the Co-operative Department for the establishment of Co-operative Societies in these villages are as under :—

- (1) Some of the villages are not suitable for the purpose on account of being the property of one man and the inhabitants being tenants only with no property of their own.
- (2) Inadequacy of the staff to supervise more societies.
- (3) Ill-directed Congress and Socialist propaganda in teaching people to remain aloof from any Government run institution and advising non-payment of dues.

CASES DISPOSED OF BY THE DEBT CONCILIATION BOARD,  
AMRITSAR.

**\*6191. Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Will the Honourable Minister of Development be pleased to state—

- (a) the total number of cases disposed of by the Debt Conciliation Board, Amritsar, from 1st July, 1939 to 31st December, 1939 ;
- (b) the total amount of the debt involved in the cases disposed of during the same period ;
- (c) the number of cases ; if any, among them dismissed by the said board ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Chaudhri Tikka Ram) :** (a) 812 cases.

(b) Rs. 9,35,434-7-0.

(c) 602 cases.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Will the Parliamentary Secretary please state why so large a number of cases as 602 have been dismissed ? Were those cases frivolous ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** If the honourable member gives me notice I shall supply the information.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** What is the amount involved in the 210 cases that were decided ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I require notice.

MAULVI GULSHER KHAN OF DISTRICT ATTOCK.

**\*6197. Sayed Mohy-ud-Din Lal Badshah :** Will the Honourable Minister for Finance be pleased to state the class in which Maulvi Gulsher Khan, resident of village Malhawali, tahsil Pindigheb, district Attock, who has been recently convicted from district Sargodha under the Defence of India Act, has been placed ?

**The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal :** He is being treated as an ordinary prisoner.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR, A POLITICAL PRISONER.

**\*6232. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :** Will the Honourable Minister for Finance be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the health of Dr. Murl Manohar, a political prisoner, now confined in Rawalpindi Jail, has deteriorated and that he has lost in weight ; if so, what action does he propose to take in the matter ?

**The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal :** He was transferred from the Hissar District Jail to the Rawalpindi District Jail on the 16th November, 1939. His weight on admission to the Hissar District Jail was 146 lbs. and on transfer to the Rawalpindi District Jail it was 147 lbs. His health is good. He was placed in the convalescent gang on the 26th January, 1940 for 4 weeks in view of his loss in weight. I may further inform the honourable member that he was released on the 1st March, 1940.

ZAD-I-RAH FOR POLITICAL PRISONERS OF KISAN MORCHA ON  
RELEASE.

**\*6238. Lala Duni Chand :** Will the Honourable Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

- (a) whether it is a fact that about seventy political prisoners of *kisan morcha* were released on 24th October, 1939, at 4 p.m. from Mianwali Jail, without any evening food being given to them ;
- (b) whether it is a fact that on their demanding *Zad-i-rah* they were offered only six pies per head regardless of the distance they had to travel to reach their home districts and each one of them declined to receive the amount so offered ;
- (c) the amount each released prisoner was entitled to get under the rules and the basis on which the amount due was to be calculated ?

**The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal :** (a) Sixty-nine *kisan* prisoners were released from the Mianwali District Jail on the afternoon of the 24th October, 1939. They were offered but refused evening meals.

(b) They were offered '*Zad-i-rah*' at the rate of Re. 0-1-6 per meal per head but with the exception of one prisoner they refused to accept this amount.

(c) They should have been given '*Zad-i-rah*' in accordance with paragraph 528 (1) of the Punjab Jail Manual but by mistake it was calculated on the basis of meals allowed to prisoners on transfer.

SWAMI LACHHMAN GIR AND OTHER PRISONERS OF KISAN MORCHA.

**\*6239. Lala Duni Chand :** Will the Honourable Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

- (a) whether it is a fact that Swami Lachhman Gir and some other prisoners of *kisan morcha* were put on leg-fetters and confined in solitary cells on or about 28th August, 1939, in Mianwali Jail, for merely demanding the daily newspaper "Vir Bharat" ;

- (b) the period for which they were kept in solitary cells, and the nature of any other punishment inflicted on them as a consequence of this demand?

**The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal :** (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

**RETRENCHMENT OF THE POSTS OF MUNSHI AT MUSLIM GRAVEYARD, CLERK AT HINDU CREMATION GROUND AND THE RAVI BOATMAN BY THE ADMINISTRATOR, LAHORE MUNICIPALITY.**

**\*5148. Sardar Hari Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister for Public Works be pleased to state whether the Administrator, Lahore Municipality, has retrenched the posts of Munshi at Muslim graveyard, clerk at Hindu cremation ground and the Ravi boatman who took dead bodies of children to be thrown into the river ; if so, the reasons for the same ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Shaikh Faiz Muhammad) :** Yes, because there is no express provision in the Punjab Municipal Act, 1911, that the Municipal fund shall be applicable to the payment of charges and expenses incidental to the disposal of dead bodies.

**Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :** Is it not the concern of the public health department to take statistics of the dead ? Therefore is it not within the purview of the Municipal Act ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** A similar question was asked some time ago in answer to which the Honourable Minister had given an undertaking that this question would be examined and necessary amendment would be incorporated in the Corporation Bill.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Was this arrangement in force even under the Committee ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** Yes, it was in force even when the Committee existed but there were many such improper things going on at that time.

**Minister :** It was an illegal procedure.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** It may be illegal, but I want to know whether this was started in the regime of the Administrator or was it in force even before ?

**FRUIT-SELLERS' HARTAL AT SIMLA.**

**\*5150. Sardar Hari Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister for Public Works be pleased to state the reasons for the fruit sellers' *hartal* at Simla in July last and steps taken to end it ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Shaikh Faiz Muhammad) :** In the interest of public health the Municipal Committee of Simla decided to enforce its by-laws for the sale of fruit and vegetables in sanitary premises and refused to grant licenses to shops which did not conform with the provisions of the by-laws. The proprietors of these shops tried to bring about a *hartal*. A demand was also made for the total remission of octroi duty on fruit and vegetables and the agitators spread a false rumour that the duty had been doubled. The *hartal* was unsuccessful and collapsed after two days.



**Lala Duni Chand :** Is it not true that the result of the public agitation was that the Municipal Committee had to withdraw its orders ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** It is not true to the best of my information.

LETTER OF COMPLAINT BY PANDIT SHRI RAM SHARMA AGAINST THE SUPER-INTENDENT OF POLICE, ROHTAK.

**\*5235. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the Honourable Minister of Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether the letter of complaint that I wrote to the Superintendent, Police, Rohtak, on 16th July, 1939, as a protest against his behaviour towards me in an interview came to the notice of the Government ;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Deputy Inspector-General, Central Range, and the Deputy Commissioner received copies of the letter and they were also personally acquainted with the facts ;

(c) the action that has been taken in the matter, if not why ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh) :**  
(a) Government have now obtained a copy of the letter from the Deputy Inspector-General of Police.

(b) and (c) The Deputy Inspector-General of Police received a copy of the letter in question and doubtless the Deputy Commissioner. The Deputy Inspector-General of Police made personal inquiries into the matter in the course of a visit to Rohtak at the beginning of August. These inquiries—I understand that the honourable member himself had an interview with the Deputy Inspector-General of Police on the 4th August—satisfied him that the honourable member had no fair ground for complaint.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Is it not a fact that certain complaints were sent by me to the Superintendent of Police on 5th July, 1939, against the police administration of the district and after that another letter was sent to him, but in the first instance he refused to listen to me and then he said, 'kindly do not cross-examine me' and finally he flatly refused on the plea that he had no time. Is the Government aware of the fact that the Superintendent adopted such an attitude ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I know that the honourable member sought an interview with Superintendent of Police in regard to certain complaints, but he came late. The time of the interview fixed was 7.45 A.M. but the honourable member turned up at 8.5 P.M. and the Superintendent of Police gave him only 15 minutes for interview. The Superintendent of Police had another important engagement fixed at 8 A.M. therefore he could not give more than 15 minutes to the honourable member.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Apart from the question of time, may I enquire if he is aware of the fact that when the Superintendent is approached he says that he cannot do anything because trying magistrates acquit the gamblers ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I was not present at the time of the interview. I can only say that the Superintendent of Police tried to satisfy the honourable member that the police was doing everything possible to eradicate *satta* gambling.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Does this reply depend upon the answer given by the Superintendent that he has satisfied me ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** He tried to satisfy my honourable friend; but of course, it is impossible to satisfy him.

**Lala Bhagat Ram Choda :** Are the Superintendents of Police not prepared to listen to any complaints after the time fixed for interviews ?

**Mr. Speaker :** Disallowed.

**Lala Duni Chand :** Are any instructions issued by the Government that when complaints are made by responsible members of this House, they should receive special consideration or are the instructions to the contrary ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** The complaints of every responsible person including the members of this House are listened to carefully by the local authorities.

**Lala Duni Chand :** May I know if the Government places the honourable members of this House in the same category as regards complaints as other people ?

**Mr. Speaker :** Disallowed.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** When I asked the Superintendent of Police whether he was aware of the actual facts he blurted out "Do not cross-examine me". Is that what you mean by giving a patient hearing ?

**Mr. Speaker :** Disallowed.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know whether what I have stated is or is not mentioned in the letter ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I do not remember.

**Lala Duni Chand :** Do the Government attach any importance to the information that is given by the honourable members of this House as regards the public grievances ?

**Mr. Speaker :** Will the honourable member please make himself clear ?

**Lala Duni Chand :** I want to know whether any importance is attached to the complaints regarding public grievances, not in regard to personal grievances, made by the honourable members of the House ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** Due importance is attached to the complaints brought to the notice of Government by the members of the House and for the matter of that by all respectable citizens.

**Lala Duni Chand :** Will Government make the authorities understand that whenever any complaint is made by an honourable member of the House they should start an enquiry.

**Mr. Speaker :** That is a request for action.

**SUPERSESSION OF THE MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE, GOHANA.**

**\*5240. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the Honourable Minister of Public Works be pleased to state—

- (a) the date of supersession of the Municipal Committee, Gohana (Rohtak), and the reasons for doing so ;
- (b) the present financial condition of the committee particularly after the inclusion of *mandis* within the municipal area of Gohana ;
- (c) the reasons for not restoring the said committee and the time when it is intended to restore the said committee ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Shaikh Faiz Muhammad) :** (a) The Gohana Municipal Committee was superseded in November, 1938, for persistent default in the performance of its duties.

(b) The inclusion of the mandis within the limits of the municipality has put its finances on a sound footing.

(c) It takes time to rehabilitate a committee which has been superseded on account of bad management and finances. The Committee at Gohana will be reconstituted as soon as its electoral rules which are under preparation are ready.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know whether the decision of the Government to postpone elections to local boards will apply to the Gohana Municipal Committee also ?

**Mr. Speaker :** That question does not arise.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** In reply to a previous question it was stated that the Government will try to restore the committee very soon. Does the Government still stand by that promise ?

**Mr. Speaker :** The Parliamentary Secretary has answered that the electoral rolls are being prepared and as soon as they are ready the committee will be reconstituted.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** On a point of order. It is on the basis of that reply that I ask whether the postponement of elections will apply to this committee also ?

**Mr. Speaker :** He has said that the committee will be restored.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** But my question is whether the decision in question will apply to this committee or not.

**Parliamentary Secretary :** The question will be considered when the time for elections comes.

**RAILWAY APPROACH ROAD, BAHADURGARH.**

**\*5244. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the Honourable Minister of Public Works be pleased to state—

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Railway approach road, Bahadurgarh, is owned by the Public Works Department, but is under the control of the local Municipal Committee for repairs, etc. ;

- (b) whether it is a fact that the committee, for want of funds, is constantly representing to the Department for taking back the road under its own control; if so, what has been done or is intended to be done by the Government in this connection?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Shaikh Faiz Muhammad) :** (a) Yes.

(b) The reply to the first part of this question is in the affirmative. As regards the second part, the question of taking over the road from the Municipal Committee is under consideration.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know whether the Chief Engineer went to see the road in question and then made a report that it should be taken over from the committee?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I have said that the Government is considering the question of taking over the road. There is no reason why anybody should go and see the road in question.

#### TREES ALONG LUDHIANA DISTRICT BOARD ROADS.

**\*6022. Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan :** Will the Honourable Minister for Public Works be pleased to state whether any written complaint was recently submitted to the Chairman, District Board, Ludhiana, about the cutting of trees along the District Board roads, if so, when, and whether any enquiry has so far been made in this matter and with what result?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Shaikh Faiz Muhammad) :** Yes, on the 11th October 1939. The enquiry is not yet complete.

#### SUSPENSION OF RESOLUTIONS AFTER THEIR EXECUTION BY THE LAHORE MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE.

**\*6052. Mian Abdul Aziz :** Will the Honourable Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

- (a) the number and dates of resolutions of the Lahore Municipal Committee which were suspended by the Deputy Commissioner, Lahore, or the Commissioner, Lahore Division, during the period 9th March, 1935, to 27th October, 1936, together with the dates on which these suspension orders were actually delivered and communicated to the committee;
- (b) the number of orders passed by the Administrator, Lahore Municipality, which were suspended by the Deputy Commissioner or the Commissioner during the period 28th October, 1936, to 1st September, 1939;
- (c) the numbers and dates of the resolutions or orders mentioned in (a) and (b) above, which were duly supplied to the Deputy Commissioner within three days as required by section 30 (2) of the Punjab Municipal Act and which were suspended by the Deputy Commissioner or the Commissioner, after such resolutions and orders had been duly given effect to and carried out by the Municipality;

[Mian Abdul Aziz.]

- (d) the steps Government have taken or propose to take to restore the *status quo* of the resolutions or orders which were suspended by the Deputy Commissioner or the Commissioner after their due execution by the Lahore Municipality in view of the recent judgment of the Lahore High Court in case of Administrator, Lahore Municipality *versus* Jagan Nath ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Shaikh Faiz Muhammad): I do not think the labour involved in collecting the information would be commensurate with the results to be achieved therefrom, but if the honourable member would give dates and particulars of any special resolutions, that information will be collected and communicated to him.

**Lala Duni Chand** : Even when an enquiry is demanded by the late President of the Municipality of Lahore ?

**Minister** : Why dig up the graves unnecessarily ?

**Lala Duni Chand** : Does not the Government give any importance to the fact that Mian Abdul Aziz has been the President of the Municipality and whenever he wants information there must be some good reason ?

**Minister** : Let him point out any resolution ; an enquiry will be made.

#### INQUIRIES MADE BY INSPECTOR OF LOCAL BODIES INTO AFFAIRS OF LAHORE MUNICIPALITY.

**\*6053. Mian Abdul Aziz** : Will the Honourable Minister for Public Works be pleased to refer to his answer to my starred question<sup>1</sup> No. 288, put on 5th July, 1937, and state—

- (a) whether the Inspector of Local Bodies while enquiring into allegations made in the memorial referred to in that question, called for the records of each individual case from the office of the Lahore Municipal Committee ;
- (b) whether a copy of this memorial had also been supplied to the Executive Officer of the Lahore Municipal Committee for his comments or observations thereon ;
- (c) whether each individual case mentioned in the memorial had been examined by the Inspector of Local Bodies personally ;
- (d) the cases mentioned in the memorial in which the Executive Officer of the Lahore Municipal Committee is stated to have himself taken steps to regularise the irregularities committed by him in the course of his official duties, and the manner in which he had done so ;
- (e) whether the municipal files reported in the said memorial to be outstanding in the name of the Executive Officer since a very long time, were duly returned or restored by the latter ;
- (f) the description of the files still standing in the name of the Executive Officer, and the action taken to have them restored ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Shaikh Faiz Muhammad) : I regret that the answer to this question is not yet ready.

**REDUCTION IN THE SALARIES OF TEACHERS UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE LAHORE MUNICIPALITY.**

**\*6113. Mian Muhammad Iftikhar-ud-Din :** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state—

- (a) whether it is a fact that the salaries of school teachers employed by the Lahore Municipality and drawing Rs. 75 per mensem, have recently been reduced by Rs. 25 each and of those drawing below Rs. 80 and Rs. 60 per mensem, by Rs. 5 each ;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that the salaries of these teachers had already been subjected to a cut and reduced to three-fourth of their salaries ;
- (c) whether it is a fact that these teachers have been compelled to agree to these cuts with the threat of dismissal ;
- (d) whether, while effecting these cuts in the salaries of these teachers and reducing their salaries to the scale allowed to teachers in schools in rural areas, the question of the cost of living in a city like Lahore, and the recent increase in that cost on account of the war was taken into consideration ; and, if not, why not ?

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

**THEFT CASES IN AMRITSAR.**

**\*6120. Dr. Sant Ram Seth :** Will the Honourable Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

- (a) the number of theft cases recorded by the police in 1937, 1938 and 1939, in the district of Amritsar, tahsil-wise ;
- (b) the value of stolen property in these cases ;
- (c) the total amount of cash and worth of jewellery alleged to have been stolen in this connection ;
- (d) the value of property and the amount of cash recovered ;
- (e) the value of property and cash restored to the owners ;
- (f) the balance of the property in the custody of the police ;
- (g) the number of persons arrested in these cases and the number of persons convicted ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh) :** A statement is laid on the table :—

**Dr. Sant Ram Seth :** The statement shows that the number of such crimes in the Amritsar Tahsil was 338 in 1937, 360 in 1938 and 431 in 1939. May I know the reason why there has been a proportionate increase in the number of these crimes during the life of this Government ?

**Premier :** My friend is in a better position to know the reason.

**Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :** What else could anyone expect ?

## Theft cases in the Amritsar District.

A.	B.	C.	D.	E.	F.	G.	G (i).
	Value of stolen property.	Value of cash and jewellery stolen.	Value of property and cash recovered.	Value of property and cash restored to owners.	Balance in the custody of police.	Persons arrested.	*Persons convicted.
	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.		
1937.							
Tabail Amritsar	338	17,704 5 0	7,935 6 3	4,719 6 3	..	211	135
Tabail Tarn Taran	299	13,535 0 0	6,755 2 9	3,918 0 0	..	177	98
Tabail Ajnala	206	6,342 1 0	3,019 4 9	1,465 3 0	..	91	84
1938.							
Tabail Amritsar	360	16,541 3 3	11,879 2 6	6,792 14 9	..	201	105
Tabail Tarn Taran	294	14,997 2 6	9,917 3 9	5,189 15 6	..	117	87
Tabail Ajnala	205	12,331 15 9	4,296 1 0	2,661 7 0	..	91	51
1939.							
Tabail Amritsar	481	19,737 5 9	15,219 7 6	9,716 3 9	2,116 10 0	209	150
Tabail Tarn Taran	389	14,939 7 6	8,911 11 9	7,879 7 6	15 0 0	187	139
Tabail Ajnala	277	14,478 9 0	6,793 6 6	4,565 13 0	13 0 0	136	94

## DACOITIES AND THEFTS IN JULLUNDUR AND HOSHIARPUR DISTRICTS.

**\*6126. Master Kabul Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister for Public Works be pleased to state —

(a) whether he is aware of the fact that an abnormal number of thefts and dacoities is occurring in the Jullundur and Hoshiarpur districts in these days and many people have recently made complaints to this effect to the police authorities of these districts;

(b) if the answer to the above (a) be in the affirmative, the action he proposes to take to stop these dacoities and thefts?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Shaikh Faiz Muhammad) :** (a) Yes.

(b) The increase in crime is mainly due to the large number of proclaimed offenders and dangerous outlaws at present evading arrest. As has been mentioned in the reply to another question, a special body of police, under a selected Superintendent of Police, has now been formed to deal with the gangs of dacoits operating in the south-eastern districts.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Has the Government ever tried to find out the reason why the number of dacoities is on the increase?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** It is not possible to give exact reasons but it may have something to do with economic depression, possibly with fall in the figures for convictions and also with political agitation.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** May I know the number of murders committed in the course of these dacoities?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I should have notice for that.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** The Parliamentary Secretary has mentioned political agitation as one of the causes. May I ask whether by that he means the speeches delivered by the Ministers on various occasions?

**Premier :** My friend should know that Ministers never make objectionable speeches.

**Lala Duni Chand :** May I know if this Government has no views to offer on this most important subject, namely the spread of dacoities and other serious crimes?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I have already stated that the causes may be the economic depression, the harbouring of criminals by villages, the fall in the figures of convictions, and probably also political agitation. It is not possible to give any definite cause.

**Lala Duni Chand :** Has Government been able to ascertain definitely any causes or is it a mere guess work?

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** May I know whether economic depression is extraordinarily acute in that ilaqa?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** All the causes combined contribute to the increase in crime.

**Lala Bhagat Ram Choda :** May I know whether the reason why dacoits and thieves cannot be apprehended is that the police force is concentrating the whole of its attention on political workers?



**Parliamentary Secretary :** That question does not arise out of the answer given to the original question.

**Lala Duni Chand :** Is it not the duty of the Government to lose no time to ascertain the causes of any unusual spread of crime in this province ? Is that not the elementary duty of Government ? If so, has Government discharged its duty ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** The duty of Government is to preserve order and the Government is doing its best to do so. They have appointed a special Superintendent of police to take charge of a body of police sent there to arrest those gangs of dacoits.

**Lala Duni Chand :** May I know if it is a fact that dacoities and murders are being committed in all parts of the province for a considerable time ? What particular steps has Government taken to stop this kind of spread of crime ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** An increase in the figures of dacoities is more prominent in the south-eastern districts but not so in other districts, and as I have stated, special police has been posted under a special officer to cope with the crime in those districts.

**Sardar Rur Singh :** Is it within the knowledge of the Government that at places where additional police has been posted, the people are encouraged to commit crimes in their very presence ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** It may be in the knowledge of my honourable friend. Government has no information to that effect nor can Government believe that such a thing can happen.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Has the Government enquired from the Superintendents of Police of Hoshiarpur and Jullundur the reasons for the increase in these crimes ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I have no information. No special enquiry is necessary. Government is kept fully informed in regard to the state of crime in these districts.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** Has it ever occurred to the Parliamentary Secretary or his boss that these dacoities may be due to the spirit which has been engendered in this province by the policy of Government against those people who are being looted and against whom dacoities are being committed ? In other words has it ever occurred to Government that dacoits are doing what Government is doing in this hall ? *(Laughter).*

**Premier :** No, because my honourable friend is quite safe. *(Laughter).*

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Is it a fact that the south-eastern districts are under the influence of the Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram ? *(Laughter).*

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Has any case of a political worker inciting the people to commit thefts and dacoities ever come to the notice of the Government ?

**Premier :** They do not incite the people openly.

**Parliamentary Secretary :** What I said was not that any honourable member makes any speech inciting people openly to commit dacoities or murders, but that by political propaganda an atmosphere of lawlessness is created which leads to crimes.

**Chaudhri Kartar Singh :** Is the Government aware of the fact that a good many military deserters are committing dacoities in the Jullundur district ?

**Premier :** Not many. I think the number of such deserters is not more than one or two.

**Chaudhri Kartar Singh :** Is the Honourable member aware of the fact that an employee of the Phagwara Sugar Mill was robbed by such deserters at Behram ?

**Premier :** May be. The police will find out the criminals and then we shall know the truth.

**Chaudhri Kartar Singh :** Will you try to ascertain through the Criminal Investigation Department whether military deserters are responsible for these dacoities ?

#### DACOITIES AND THEFTS IN JULLUNDUR DISTRICT.

\*6127. **Master Kabul Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister for Public Works be pleased (a) to lay on the table of the House a statement giving the number of cases of thefts and dacoities that took place in the Jullundur district in December 1938, and in December 1939 ; (b) to state the cause in the increase, if there has been any, in such cases in December 1939 and the steps that he has taken or proposes to take to check this increase in the number of cases of thefts and dacoities in the district ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh) (a)**

	December 1938.	December 1939.
Thefts .. .. .	36	31
Dacoities .. .. .	Nil.	6

(b) There has been no increase in thefts. The increase in dacoities is due to the same reasons mentioned in the reply to the preceding question.

#### ANTI-CORRUPTION DEPARTMENT AND ITS WORKING.

\*6135. **Mr. Dev Raj Sethi :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) when was the Special Inquiry Agency with Mr. Qurban Ali as its head appointed and when did it start its work ;

(b) what is its jurisdiction, procedure and method of work ;

(c) the number and the names of the Government servants found by the Agency to be corrupt and punished up to 31st December, 1939, with details of charges and penalties in each case ;

[Mr Dev Raj Sethi.]

(d) the number and the names of the Government servants with full particulars whose cases are under consideration of the said Agency ;

(e) full details of the staff working in the above department ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) : (a) 1st April, 1939.

(b) The attention of the honourable member is invited to Punjab Government Circular No. 10476-Gaz., dated the 17th March, 1939, a copy of which was placed on the Assembly table with the reply given to a Short-Notice Question<sup>1</sup> on the 21st April, 1939.

(c) and (d). Up to the date mentioned 23 cases had been referred to the Agency. In 9 of these the Agency found that there were grounds for further proceedings. In 4 out of the 9 cases action is now being taken under the Public Servants (Inquiries) Act, 1850, and the remainder have been made the subject of departmental proceedings. In 8 of the 28 cases mentioned above the inquiries of the Agency are not yet complete.

I do not think that it would be in the public interest to give names or to go into the details of the cases.

(e) The establishment of the Agency, apart from clerical and subordinate staff, consists of —

One Superintendent of Police.

One Deputy Superintendent of Police.

Six Inspectors.

Two Sub-Inspectors.

**Lala Duni Chand** : Has it ever occurred to Government that an enquiry agency like this can succeed only if it inspires the confidence of the public ? If so, has it inspired the said confidence ?

**Mr. Speaker** : Disallowed.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh** : Can you say how many cases of corruption the agency has dealt with so far ?

**Premier** : Twenty-eight.

**Lala Duni Chand** : Government has not been good enough to answer my question. May I know if Government wants to hide its shame by silence ?

**Mr. Speaker** : Disallowed.

**Mr. Dev Raj Sethi** : How many cases have resulted in conviction and punishment ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** : As the enquiry is still proceeding the question of conviction does not arise as yet.

**Mr. Dev Raj Sethi** : How long have these enquiries been in progress ?

<sup>1</sup>Volume IX, page 910.

**Premier :** I do not remember any exact dates. As soon as a case is reported, enquiries are started. If my honourable friend gives notice of a particular case, I shall be only too glad to supply the information.

**Mr. Dev Raj Sethi :** The Agency has been in existence for well nigh one year. May I know whether or not a single case has been decided so far?

**Premier :** When a case is to be enquired into it is referred to the Agency. The difficulty is that at present there are as many as four cases proceeding under the Act of 1850. My friend should know that the proceedings under this Act are very elaborate and take a long time. The accused is given the right to put in defence and it is only after a lengthy hearing and thorough scrutiny that he can be punished. It is not a case of a summary trial and rough and ready justice.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Is it a fact that most of the officers against whom the Agency has started inquiries are gazetted officers?

**Premier :** Yes. Most of them are gazetted officers.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** May I know the amount of money spent on this agency?

**Speaker :** Disallowed.

**Mr. Dev Raj Sethi :** May I know the number of Imperial Service Officers against whom an inquiry has been conducted by the agency?

**Premier :** What does the honourable member mean by Imperial Service Officers?

**Mr. Dev Raj Sethi :** I mean officers of the Indian Civil Service, Indian Education Service, etc.

**Premier :** There is none belonging to the Indian Education Service. Among those to whom my friend refers as Imperial Service Officers there are only three or four against whom the Agency conducted enquiries, and the others also belong to superior services. Time is not ordinarily wasted on enquiries against petty officials.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Has this agency been appointed for the officers of superior service?

**Mr. Speaker :** Disallowed.

**Sardar Kapoor Singh :** Is the Honourable Premier aware of the fact that during an enquiry at Ludhiana this agency brought pressure to bear upon certain persons?

**Premier :** The honourable member is making a false statement.

**Sardar Kapoor Singh :** Will you please read part (b) of the question? It is with regard to the nature of its jurisdiction, procedure and method of work.

ASSISTANT SUB-INSPECTORS OF POLICE RECRUITED FROM THE KANGRA DISTRICT.

\*6137. **Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Will the Honourable Minister of Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) the names, places of residence and the number of Assistant Sub-Inspectors directly recruited in the Police force from the

[Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma.]

Kangra district from the 1st April, 1937, up to the 31st December, 1939;

- (b) whether in view of the paucity of the residents of Kangra in the police force any special consideration is given to their claims in the said recruitment; if not, why not?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh): (a) One—a resident of Dharamsala. I do not think I need give the name.

(b) Recruitment in the rank of assistant sub-inspector is not made on a district basis.

#### PROCLAIMED OFFENDERS.

**\*6145. Chaudhri Sahib Ram:** Will the Honourable Minister of Public Works be pleased to state—

- (a) district-wise the number of proclaimed offenders on 31st December, 1939, with the number of those arrested district-wise in 1937, 1938 and 1939, respectively;

- (b) whether the number of proclaimed offenders has or has not been on the increase since 1st April, 1937?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh): (a) A statement is laid on the table.

- (b) The number of proclaimed offenders at large at the end of each of the last three years was —

31st December, 1937	..	..	3,289
31st December, 1938	..	..	3,888
31st December, 1939	..	..	4,097

The increase cannot be dissociated from the rise in crime. That is a subject which could hardly be dealt with in answer to a question—it has been discussed, in some of its aspects, in the Government reviews of the recent Police Administration Reports—but I can assure the honourable member that Government are fully alive to the importance of the matter.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma:** Have the Government ever tried to find out the main cause of the increase in number of proclaimed offenders?

**Premier:** My honourable friend is the main cause.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma:** Is the present Government with the Honourable Sir Sikander Hyat-Khan as its Premier responsible for the increase in the number of proclaimed offenders?

**Lala Duni Chand:** Has the unusual number of proclaimed offenders caused any anxiety to the Government or made this Government in any way uneasy?

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma:** May I know if the increase in number of crimes is due to these proclaimed offenders?

*Proclaimed Offenders.*

	At large on 31st Dec- ember 1939.	Arrested during 1937.	Arrested during 1938.	Arrested during 1939.
1	2	3	4	5
Hissar .. .. .	278	210	213	219
Rohtak .. .. .	102	56	67	100
Gurgaon .. .. .	79	22	31	16
Karnal .. .. .	83	41	49	70
Ambala .. .. .	96	27	26	53
Simla .. .. .	6	2	2	4
Hoshiarpur .. .. .	72	22	24	76
Jullundur .. .. .	136	46	30	86
Ludhiana .. .. .	208	94	163	249
Kangra .. .. .	31	27	2	8
Ferozepore .. .. .	390	212	397	394
Lahore .. .. .	536	73	234	152
Amritsar .. .. .	287	199	375	211
Gurdaspur .. .. .	124	140	165	138
Sialkot .. .. .	135	54	63	88
Gujranwala .. .. .	136	36	78	57
Sheikhupura .. .. .	122	55	99	159
Montgomery .. .. .	264	168	155	189
Lyallpur .. .. .	97	46	77	107
Jhang .. .. .	111	28	92	123
Multan .. .. .	181	68	95	127
Muzaffargarh .. .. .	43	21	41	37
Dera Ghazi Khan .. .. .	87	38	60	70
Gujrat .. .. .	121	100	79	155
Shahpur .. .. .	165	27	70	155
Jhelum .. .. .	54	23	30	25
Rawalpindi .. .. .	36	24	34	24
Attock .. .. .	9	27	8	50
Mianwali .. .. .	108	27	18	79
Total .. .. .	4,097	1,913	2,777	3,178

**ABUSE OF POSITION BY SOME MEMBERS OF LUDHIANA MUNICIPALITY.**

**\*6146. Chaudhri Sahib Ram :** Will the Honourable Minister of Public Works be pleased to state the instances of flagrant abuse of position in the case of two and the facts leading to apprehension of public peace and order in the case of other two municipal commissioners of Ludhiana who were served with notices in the first week of January last to show cause why "they should not be removed from the membership of the committee"?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Shaikh Faiz Muhammad) :** The charges have been communicated to the members concerned, and I do not think it would be in the public interest to state them on the floor of the House, especially when the matter is still under investigation.

**ELECTRICAL MISTRIES IN LAHORE UNDER ELECTRICAL ENGINEER TO GOVERNMENT, PUNJAB.**

**\*6151. Shaikh Karamat Ali :** Will the Honourable Minister of Public Works be pleased to state—

- (a) the number and names of the electrical mistries working in Lahore under the Electrical Engineer to Government, Punjab, and the places where they are at present posted in Lahore ;
- (b) the hours for which each of them is required to be on duty ;
- (c) whether there are any mistries among them who are required to be on duty for more than the ordinary number of hours without any extra remuneration for the overtime for which they have to work ; if so, the reasons therefor ;
- (d) whether it is a fact that the residential quarters allotted to these mistries who are required to work for more than their ordinary duty hours are not so commodious as to accommodate them with their families ; if so, the action intended to be taken in the matter ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Shaikh Faiz Muhammad) :** (a) There are at present 51 electrical mistries employed under the Electrical Engineer to Government, Punjab. The labour involved in collecting the information desired by the honourable member will be out of the proportion to any public interest served.

(b) The hours depend upon the nature of duties performed.

(c) No.

(d) Residential quarters allotted to such mistries are generally commensurate with their status, and no action of the nature suggested by the honourable member is contemplated.

**PERSONAL ASSISTANT TO EXECUTIVE OFFICER, MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE, RAWALPINDI.**

**\*6152. Mian Abdul Aziz :** Will the Honourable Minister of Public Works be pleased to state—

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Municipal Committee, Rawalpindi, engaged the services of M. Riaz Ali as Personal Assistant to their Executive Officer with effect from June 18, 1938, and terminated his services with effect from November 8, 1938, after abolishing his post ;

- (b) whether it is a fact that after creating the post of Personal Assistant in June, 1938, the Rawalpindi Municipal Committee on the Auditor's objection subsequently provided funds therefor in the budget till the close of the current financial year ;
- (c) whether it is a fact that the services of M. Riaz Ali were neither terminated nor dispensed with by the Committee after 12th September, 1938, when the specified probationary period of three months fixed in his case by the Committee, expired ;
- (d) whether it is a fact that after the expiry of the probationary period of 8 months recommendations were made by the Secretary as well as the Executive Officer of the Committee for M. Riaz Ali's confirmation to the post, and that the President of the Committee also endorsed these recommendations ;
- (e) whether it is a fact that the post of Personal Assistant had not been created by the Committee for a period of three months only, or for any other specified period as reported by the President of the Committee to the Examiner, Local Fund Accounts, Punjab, in connection with M. Riaz Ali's claim for a month's wages in lieu of notice under section 45, Municipal Act ;
- (f) whether it is a fact that several representations made by M. Riaz Ali to the President of the Committee as well as to the Deputy Commissioner, Rawalpindi, for the supply of a copy of the Examiner's decision in his case were not acknowledged by either of them ; if so, the reasons for the same, and whether a copy of this decision will now be laid on the table of the House ;
- (g) (i) the action proposed to be taken by Government with regard to his claim for a month's wages under section 45 of the Municipal Act, (ii) payment of provident fund admissible under the rules, and (iii) with respect to his claim for the arrears of his pay till the date of his handing over charge to the Secretary of the Committee ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Shaikh Faiz Muhammad) : (a), (b), (c)

Yes.

(d) The reply to the first part is in the affirmative. The President merely ordered that the papers be laid before the Committee.

(e) The post was not created for a specified period but M. Riaz Ali was appointed on probation for three months.

(f) No representation was made by M. Riaz Ali to the President specifically asking for a copy of the Examiner's decision. He asked for a copy in one of his representations to the Deputy Commissioner who suggested to the President that the applicant may be informed of the rule under which his claim for a month's salary had been rejected. It has been found that the Examiner, Local Fund Accounts, did not have the correct facts before him when he gave his decision. It is, therefore, not in the public interest to lay a copy of it on the table.



[Sh. Faiz Muhammad.]

(g) M. Riaz Ali was engaged temporarily and discharged while on probation. He was not entitled to a month's wages in lieu of notice under section 45 of the Municipal Act and no provident fund was admissible to him under the rules. It is also reported that no arrears of pay are due to him.

#### DACOITIES IN LUDHIANA DISTRICT.

**\*6159. Sardar Lal Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

- (a) the number of dacoities committed in the Ludhiana district during the year 1939, together with the number of murders committed during these dacoities;
- (b) how many of these dacoits have so far been traced and chalaned?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh) :**  
 (a) Twenty-two dacoities. In two of these cases two persons were killed.  
 (b) Fifty-five dacoits have been traced and sent for trial.

#### INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF DACOITIES AND MURDERS IN AMBALA DISTRICT.

**\*6160. Lala Duni Chand :** Will the Honourable Minister for Public Works be pleased to lay on the table of the House a statement showing—

- (a) the number of murders;
- (b) the number of dacoities accompanied with murder and not accompanied with murder committed in the Ambala district during the period from 1st April, 1939 to 20th January, 1940;
- (c) the value of the property stolen in this connection;
- (d) the special reasons or causes for the unusual increase in the number of murders and dacoities in the said district;
- (e) the special steps, if any, taken by the Government to restore confidence among the people in the said district and whether the dacoits and murderers in each case have so far been traced and arrested?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh) :** (a), (b) and (c) A statement is laid on the table.

Number of murders.	NUMBER OF DACOITIES.		Value of property stolen.
	Accompanied with murder.	Not accompanied with murder.	
20	1	10	Rs. A. P. 10,038 8 0

(d) There has been no unusual increase in murders. The increase in dacoities is attributed mainly to the large number of proclaimed offenders and dangerous outlaws at present evading arrest.

(e) A special body of police, under a selected Superintendent, has now been formed to deal with the gangs of dacoits operating in the south-eastern districts.

In 8 out of the 20 cases of murder the accused have been arrested. Arrests have also been made in 8 of the 11 cases of dacoity.

**Lala Duni Chand :** Will the Parliamentary Secretary be pleased to enquire further on the strength of the information that I give him on the floor of this House that the number of dacoities accompanied with murder is not one but about half a dozen?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** The information that the Government has received is that the number is one. I do not know what the source of information of my honourable friend is.

**Lala Duni Chand :** Will the Government enquire whether that information is correct? I say that the Government's information is incorrect.

**Minister :** That is not the question now.

#### EXECUTIVE OFFICERS FOR MUNICIPALITIES.

**\*6162. Mr. Dev Raj Sethi :** Will the Honourable Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

- (a) the names of municipalities in the province where as a result of disagreement between the Executive Officers and the elected office bearers or members, Government has been constrained to take notice and interfere so far since the time Executive Officers Act came into force ;
- (b) the number of instances in which Executive Officers have been recalled, transferred or made to resign or discharged ;
- (c) the names of municipalities in which Government has been forced under the law to appoint an Executive Officer, the Municipal Committee having failed to recommend a suitable name with necessary majority ;
- (d) the names of municipalities which secured the necessary majority for recommending an Executive Officer ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Shaikh Faiz Muhammad) :** (a) and (b) Although differences of opinion between the Executive Officer and the members of a municipal committee are not uncommon, Government have not found it necessary on that account to take action of the nature mentioned in part (b). I do not think it would be in the public interest to mention the names of municipalities where such disagreement has occurred.

(c) and (d) A statement is laid on the table.

[Shaikh Faiz Muhammad.]

*Statement.*

- |                        |                     |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| (c) 1. Ambala City.    | 6. Bhiwani.         |
| 2. Jhang-cum-Maghiana. | 7. Kasur.           |
| 3. Campbellpur.        | 8. Jalalpur Jattan. |
| 4. Multan.             | 9. Gujrat.          |
| 5. Ludhiana.           | 10. Rawalpindi      |
| (d) 1. Khem Karan.     | *4. Sialkot.        |
| 2. Amritsar.           | 5. Khushab.         |
| 3. Rupar.              | 6. Jandiala.        |
|                        | 7. Chakwal.         |

\*NOTE.—The municipality of Sialkot is in charge of an Administrator, who selected the Executive Officer, under section 3 (1) of the Punjab Municipal (Executive Officers) Act, 1931.

CASES OF SUICIDE DUE TO UNEMPLOYMENT.

**\*6175. Mr. Dev Raj Sethi :** Will the Honourable Minister of Public Works be pleased to state—

- (a) the total number of cases of suicide and attempted suicide during each of the last five years in the Punjab ;
- (b) how many of such cases were found to be due to unemployment ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh) : The honourable member is invited to refer to the replies given in 1938 to Assembly Question \*2977<sup>1</sup> and more recently to Question \*4342<sup>2</sup>. The figures then supplied to the House are not quite up to date, but they make it sufficiently clear that unemployment is comparatively seldom a cause of suicide in the Punjab.

DISMISSAL OF SOME EMPLOYEES OF THE LAHORE MUNICIPALITY.

**\*6180. Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan :** Will the Honourable Minister of Public Works be pleased to state —

- (a) whether it is a fact that some of the employees of the Lahore Municipality have been dismissed without any reason being assigned except one month's notice of termination of their services under section 45 of the Punjab Municipal Act ;
- (b) the names, home addresses, education and length of service of the employees so dismissed or discharged ;
- (c) the reason or reasons, if any, for a notice under the section referred to above ;
- (d) whether any charges or complaints had reached the authorities concerned about such employees ; if so, the date and time when such complaints had been received ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Shaikh Faiz Muhammad) : I do not think that the labour involved in collecting the information would be commensurate with the results to be achieved therefrom. Under the rules made by Government no municipal servant can be dismissed or discharged for misconduct, unless a definite charge is framed in writing and he is given an opportunity of defending himself. I have no reason to think that the rules have been disregarded. If, however, the honourable member would indicate any specific instance or instances, an enquiry would be made.

<sup>1</sup> Volume V, page 558.

<sup>2</sup> Volume VIII, page 731.

## TERMINAL TAX PANIPAT MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE.

**\*6182. Chaudhri Faqir Chand :** Will the Honourable Minister of Public Works be pleased to state—

- (a) whether he is aware of the fact that the Panipat Municipal Committee levies a very heavy terminal tax on various commodities and articles of everyday use, especially on leather and shoes imported into the Municipality, with the result that the leather business in the town is almost at a standstill ;
- (b) whether it is a fact that in consequence of the several representations submitted to the Deputy Commissioner of Panipat in this respect by the citizens, he advised the Municipal Committee not to charge exorbitant rate of terminal tax ; if so, the result of his advice ;
- (c) whether he is aware of the fact that owing to the heavy terminal tax levied by the Panipat Municipal Committee the inhabitants of the town do not usually buy the articles of everyday use at Panipat and have to go to neighbouring villages for that purpose where several markets have been started ; if so, the action Government propose to take in the matter to save the people from this inconvenience ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Shaikh Faiz Muhammad) :** (a) Terminal tax is levied on leather at the rate of Rs. 8 per maund, on boots and shoes at Rs. 1-12-0 per maund and on shoes of Indian fashion at Re. 0-8-0 per maund. There is no evidence to show that the leather business of the town has been adversely affected by these rates.

(b) The Municipal Committee was advised to amend the Schedule. It has proposed a rate of Re. 0-6-0 per maund on tanned indigenous leather in its new schedule of octroi (without refunds).

(c) Government are informed that this is not correct.

**Chaudhri Faqir Chand :** Has the Government considered the resolution of the Panipat Municipality by which the tax on leather has been fixed at 8 annas per maund ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** The Government had directed the Municipality to modify the rates and I understand that the Municipality will now charge 6 annas per maund.

**Chaudhri Faqir Chand :** Does the Government know that the public is unable to bear even the burden of 6 annas per maund ?

**Lala Harnam Das :** Does the Government intend to ruin this industry ?

**Mr. Speaker :** Disallowed.

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SARDAR TARA SINGH, PRESIDENT, CONGRESS COMMITTEE, DURA.

**\*6192. Master Kabul Singh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state whether it has come to his notice that resolutions of protest were adopted in public meetings at several places in

[Master Kabul Singh.]

Jullundur district concerning the order of Police to Sardar Tara Singh, President, Congress Committee, Dura, tahsil and district Jullundur, requiring him to report himself daily to the police station within the jurisdiction of his village; if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken in the matter?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh): Resolutions are reported to have been passed in three small meetings. No order of the kind mentioned has been issued and no action is contemplated by Government.

#### LOCAL BODIES AND SYSTEM OF JOINT AND SEPARATE ELECTORATES.

**\*6194. Malik Barkat Ali:** Will the Honourable Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) the number separately of municipalities and district boards in the Punjab in which joint electorates are in force and of those in which separate electorates are in force;

(b) the number and the names of municipalities among them in which joint electorates are in force but in regard to which representations have so far been made by those concerned for the introduction of separate electorates, also stating whether in any such municipal committee separate electorates have been introduced on a representation being made to the Government in this behalf;

(c) the number and names of the municipalities and district boards in the province which at present enjoy the right of electing non-official presidents and also of those which do not enjoy this right?

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

(a) Municipalities with joint electorates .. .. 66

Municipalities with separate electorates .. .. 51

All District Boards have joint electorates.

(b) Five, namely Pakpattan, Bhera, Panipat, Okara and Hodal.

The answer to the second part is in the negative.

(c) A statement is laid on the table—

#### Statement.

1. (a) Names of municipal committees which have the right to elect Presidents:—

1. Hissar.	10. Sonapat.
2. Hansi.	11. Rewari.
3. Bhiwani.	12. Palwal.
4. Sirsa.	13. Ferozpur-Jhirka.
5. Rohtak.	14. Hodal.
6. Jhajjar.	15. Ballabgarh.
7. Beri.	16. Faridabad.
8. Bahadurgarh.	17. Karnal.
9. Gohana.	18. Panipat.

19. Kaithal.	69. Sheikhpura.
20. Shahabad.	70. Nankana Sahib.
21. Thanesar.	71. Sharapur.
22. Ambala City.	72. Gujrat.
23. Jagadhri.	73. Jalalpur-Jattan.
24. Rupar.	74. Kunjah.
25. Sadhaura.	75. Dingah.
26. Kalka.	76. Sargodha.
27. Sadar Bazar Ambala Cantonment.	77. Khushab.
28. Dharamsala.	78. Bhera.
29. Hoshiarpur.	79. Miani.
30. Urmar Tanda.	80. Sahiwal.
31. Jullundur.	81. Phillurwan.
32. Kartarpur.*	82. Jhelum.
33. Nakodar.	83. Pind Dadan Khan.
34. Phillaur.	84. Chakwal.
35. Nurmahal.	85. Rawalpindi.
36. Banga.	86. Campbellpur.
37. Rahon.	87. Pindigheb.
38. Ludhiana.	88. Hazro.
39. Jagraon.	89. Mianwali.
40. Raikot.	90. Isa Khel.
41. Khanna.	91. Bhakkar.
42. Ferozpur.	92. Kalabagh.
43. Fazilka.	93. Montgomery.
44. Muktsar.	94. Pakpattan.
45. Zira.	95. Okara.
46. Moga.	96. Lyallpur.
47. Abohar.	97. Kamalia.
48. Lahore*.	98. Jaranwala.
49. Kasur.	99. Chak Jhumra.
50. Khem Karan.	100. Gojra.
51. Patti.	101. Tadianwala.
52. Chunian.	102. Jhang-cum-Maghiana.
53. Pattoki.	103. Chiniot.
54. Amritsar.	104. Multan.
55. Jandiala.	105. Khanewal.
56. Tarn Taran.	106. Shujabad.
57. Pathankot.	107. Mian Channu.
58. Dinanagar.	108. Muzaaffargarh.
59. Gurdaspur.	109. Alipur.
60. Batala.	110. Khangarh.
61. Dera Baba Nanak.	111. Leiah.
62. Sialkot.*	112. Karor.
63. Pasrur.	113. Dera Ghazi Khan.
64. Narowal.	114. Jampur.
65. Gujranwala.	115. Dajal.
66. Wazirabad.	116. Rajanpur.
67. Eminabad.	117. Mithankot.
68. Hafizabad.	

\*NOTE.—These municipal committees are under suspension.

I. (b) Names of municipal committees which do not have the right to elect Presidents.

- |               |               |
|---------------|---------------|
| 1. Simla.     | 3. Dalhousie. |
| 2. Kasumpti.* | 4. Marree.    |

\*NOTE.—Deputy Commissioner, Simla, constitutes the municipal committee.

II. All District Boards except Simla where Deputy Commissioner constitutes the Board, have the right to elect a chairman.

#### OFFICIAL PRESIDENT OF THE DISTRICT BOARD, MULTAN.

\*6195. **Malik Barkat Ali:** Will the Honourable Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Deputy Commissioner of Multan was allowed to stand as a candidate for election to the Presidency of the District Board, Multan;

[Malik Barkat Ali.]

- (b) when was the Deputy Commissioner, Multan, first directed not to stand for the Presidentship of the District Board, Multan, and for how many years the District Board, Multan, was electing a non-official Chairman prior to the change referred to in part (a) of this question?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Shaikh Faiz Muhammad): (a) No.

(b) No such direction was issued. The Board had a non-official chairman from 29th January, 1935, to 5th July, 1938.

#### ADDITIONAL POLICE EXPENSES.

**\*6201. Shrimati Raghbir Kaur:** Will the Honourable Minister for Public Works be pleased to lay on the table of the House a statement containing the names of those persons, if there are any, who have properties in villages Chuhar Chak and Dhodeke in the jurisdiction of Thana Mahna, tahsil Moga, district Ferozepore, and who do not live in those villages and are doing business elsewhere but who have been made to bear a part of the expenses of the additional police post quartered in the foregoing villages?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh): A statement is laid on the table.<sup>1</sup>

#### EXPENSES OF ADDITIONAL POLICE POST AT CHUHAR CHAK AND DHODEKE.

**\*6202. Shrimati Raghbir Kaur:** Will the Honourable Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

- (a) whether the Government has issued any instructions to the authorities concerned about the distribution of the expenses to be borne by the inhabitants of the villages of Chuhar Chak and Dhodeke in the Ferozepore district, tahsil Moga, thana Mahna, in connection with the additional police post quartered there; if so, whether he would be pleased to lay a copy of those instructions on the table of the House;
- (b) whether any inhabitants of the above-named villages have been exempted from the burden of the expenses mentioned in (a), if so, whether he would be pleased to lay on the table of the House a list containing the names of such men together with their callings and financial position?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh): (a) No.

(b) Yes. A statement is laid on the table.<sup>1</sup>

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

CONSTRUCTION OF ROADS IN FEROZEPUR DISTRICT.

\*6203. **Sayed Amjad Ali Shah**: Will the Honourable Minister for Public Works be pleased to state the amount of money granted to the Ferozepur district out of the Central Road Construction Fund for the construction of roads in that district in the years 1937, 1938, 1939 and 1940 and the number of the roads constructed so far out of that grant?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Shaikh Faiz Muhammad): Grant from the Central Road Fund is not distributed district-wise.

A list is laid on the table of the roads constructed in Ferozepur District from the Central Road Fund along with expenditure incurred on them during the financial years 1937-38, 1938-39 and 1939-40.

*A list of the roads constructed in the Ferozepur District from the Central Road Fund along with expenditure incurred on them during the financial years 1937-38, 1938-39 and 1939-40.*

Serial No.	Name of Road.	EXPENDITURE INCURRED DURING			REMARKS.
		1937-38.	1938-39.	1939-40 to end of March 1940 approximate.	
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Metalling Malout Abohar Section of the Delhi-Multan Road, Arterial No. 6 in Ferozepur District.	Rs. 42,243	Rs. 7,944	Rs. ..	
2	Widening section between Mandi Malout (mile 215) and Abohar (mile 233) of the Delhi-Multan Road, Arterial No. 6, in Ferozepur District.	7,156	..	..	
3	Metalling Fazilka-Suleimanke Section of the Delhi-Multan Road, Arterial No. 6, in Ferozepur District.	28,229	16,179	89	
4	Widening and metalling Mukhtsar-Malout Road in Ferozepur District.	81,144	1,30,981	56,000	
5	Reconditioning Class II Road from Bachu to Nathana in Ferozepur District.	..	8,387	..	
6	Reconditioning Class II Road from Gidderbaha to Lambi in Ferozepur District.	..	12,053	..	
7	Reconditioning Class II Road from Taiwandi to Zira in Ferozepur District.	..	39,828	..	
8	Reconditioning Class II Road from Moga to Dharamkote in Ferozepur District.	..	..	18,000	
	Total ..	1,58,772	2,15,372	74,089	



## METALLING OF ROADS IN TAHSIL ZIRA.

**\*6206. Sayed Amjad Ali Shah :** Will the Honourable Minister for Public Works be pleased to state when the roads given below in tahsil Zira will be metalled ;

- (a) Ferozepore-Mullanwala-Makhu Road ;
- (b) Harbe Pattan-Kot Isakhan Road ;
- (c) Zira-Makhu Road ;
- (d) Zira-Kot Isa Khan Road ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Shaikh Faiz Muhammad) : The district board has not got the money to metal these roads in the near future, but hopes to be able to improve their condition during the year 1940-41.

## LAHORE-RAEWIND ROAD.

**\*6207. Sayed Amjad Ali Shah :** Will the Honourable Minister for Public Works be pleased to state whether Government has any intention of metalling the Lahore-Raewind Road ; if so, when ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Shaikh Faiz Muhammad) : It is a District Board road and its metalling depends on when the District Board can find the funds for a project of this sort.

## TRANSFER OF POLICE EMPLOYEES BEYOND THEIR HOME DISTRICTS.

**\*6210. Sardar Harjab Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

- (a) whether it is a fact that usually the police employees who draw less than Rs. 50 per mensem, are not transferred beyond their home districts ;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that the police employees belonging to Hoshiarpur, Jullundur and Ludhiana districts and drawing Rs. 50 per mensem are transferred to districts other than their home districts ; if so, the reasons therefor ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Sardar Sahib Sardar Ujjal Singh) : Under section 22 of the Police Act, 1861, all officers of police are liable for service in any part of the province, and while lower subordinates are not generally transferred from the district in which they are first recruited the rules expressly contemplate that when circumstances make this necessary they may be so transferred with the sanction of the Deputy Inspector-General of the Range. Government understand that in pursuance of this rule the Deputy Inspector-General of the Eastern Range has recently approved the transfer of a number of lower subordinates belonging to the three districts mentioned, the reason being that with the increasing mobility of criminals it is desirable to have in each District Force a number of police officers belonging to the neighbouring districts.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the Parliamentary Secretary please let me know the names of those districts from where the foot constables of police have been transferred on the ground that they were posted in their home districts?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I require notice.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Are there any districts from where foot constables have been transferred simply because they were the residents of those districts?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I require notice for that also.

#### PUBLIC WELLS.

**\*6213. Seth Kishan Das :** Will the Honourable Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

- (a) the number of public wells situated within the limits of the Jullundur Municipality;
- (b) the wells among them which are cleaned out of the funds of the Jullundur Municipal Committee;
- (c) the wells on which sign-boards that they are public wells were put up in accordance with the circular of the Punjab Government issued in this respect;
- (d) the amount annually paid out of the Municipal funds for the cleaning of the well situated in Gali Bhattan and the date, since when this money is being paid for this purpose;
- (e) whether a sign-board throwing open the well to the public was put up on the well mentioned in (d) in accordance with the Punjab Government Circular?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Shaikh Faiz Muhammad) :** (a) 98.

(b) All.

(c) 29, which are conveniently accessible to the depressed classes.

(d) Rs. 4 were spent about a year ago. These wells are not cleaned at regular intervals but only when it is necessary to do so.

(e) Yes.

**Seth Kishan Das :** Was the necessary sign-board put up in Gali Bhattan?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I require notice.

**Seth Kishan Das :** Has a wall been constructed around the well situated in Gali Bhattan?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I require notice for that.

**Seth Kishan Das :** Does the Municipality bear the expenses of cleaning Gali Bhattan?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I require notice for that also.

**Seth Kishan Das :** May I know if the well belonged to the Hindus or whether it was constructed at the expense of the municipality?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I have stated that Rs. 4 were spent a year ago. I cannot say whether this was Gali Bhattan well or some other well. If my honourable friend is very keen about this particular well, he may give fresh notice and I will be glad to collect the information.

**Seth Kishan Das :** Is the Government prepared to take action against the indecency and shamelessness of those who believe in caste system?

**Mr. Speaker :** What has this to do with the public wells?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** Matters of policy cannot be dealt with in answers to questions.

#### OCTROI DUTY FOR GOODS CARRIED BY LORRIES.

\*6215. **Chaudhri Ali Akbar :** Will the Honourable Minister for Public Works be pleased to state whether it is a fact that passengers leaving, for example, Pathankot for Jhelum by a lorry and having with them goods chargeable to octroi duty have either to pay octroi duty or to pay a fee for *parcha rahdari* at every octroi post separately on the way, for example, at Dinanagar, at Gurdaspur, at Batala, at Amritsar, at Lahore, at Gujranwala, at Wazirabad, at Gujrat and finally at Lala Musa before reaching their destination and that this checking and payments at every octroi post, besides causing considerable inconvenience to public travelling by lorries, causes a financial loss and in some cases costs such persons more than the value of the goods carried by them; if so, the action that he intends to take in the matter?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Shaikh Faiz Muhammad) :** Government have received no complaints. When goods liable to octroi or terminal tax, which are intended for immediate export, are imported into a municipality, they are dealt with under the transit pass system. When issuing the transit pass, the committee is empowered to charge a fee not exceeding annas 2; but no such fee can be levied if the amount of the tax leviable on articles in respect of which the pass is granted is less than annas 2. *Bonafide* personal luggage of travellers is entirely exempt from payment of octroi or terminal tax. These rules are intended to reduce any possible inconvenience to travellers to the minimum.

**Chaudhri Ali Akbar :** I had asked whether passengers leaving Pathankot for Jhelum by a lorry and having with them goods chargeable to octroi duty had either to pay octroi duty or *rahdari fee* at every octroi post that came in their way, for example, Dinanagar, Gurdaspur, Batala, Amritsar, Lahore, Gujranwala, Wazirabad, Gujrat and finally Lala Musa before reaching their destination?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I have already replied to this, saying that when goods liable to octroi duty are imported into a municipality they are dealt with under the transit pass system. When issuing the transit pass, every committee is empowered to charge a fee not exceeding Rs. 0-2-0.

**Chaudhri Ali Akbar :** My question was whether the total amount of fees charged at the various posts does not exceed the price of the goods taxed.

**Parliamentary Secretary :** It cannot exceed the price of the article, because it is provided in the rules that no such fee should be charged on articles the price of which is less than two annas.

**Chaudhri Ali Akbar :** How is it that this duty does not exceed the price of the article when the same article is taxed at so many stations ?

Moreover the passengers are put to a great inconvenience as they have to waste time and load and unload their luggage and sometimes they are given false coins which they have to accept under pressure of time. Cannot the whole amount of fee be charged as a lump sum at any single station instead of charging the same at so many stations ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** This complaint had never been brought to our notice before. As the honourable member has done so to-day, the Government will carefully consider the question in the light of the remarks made by him.

**Lala Duni Chand :** Does the Parliamentary Secretary feel that the honourable member who is putting the question feels thoroughly satisfied with the answers ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** He is absolutely satisfied with the answer that I have now given.

## DEMANDS FOR GRANTS.

### INDUSTRIES (*concluded*).

**Mr. Speaker :** The Assembly will now resume discussion on the motion for the reduction of the demand by Rs. 101.

**Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt** (North-Eastern Towns, General, Urban) : On Friday last I was discussing the question of the appointment of the successor to the present Director of Industries. When I raised this issue on the floor of the House I laid the charge of nepotism against the Punjab Government so far as this new appointment was concerned. I laid that charge with a full sense of responsibility and I also knew that it was a very serious charge. And I have absolutely no reason now to repent for having made that charge against the Government. I pointed out that the new incumbent was the brother-in-law of the Honourable Premier and the real brother of one of the Parliamentary Secretaries, Mir Maqbool Mahmood. I know that it is a very unpleasant task for me, but I submit that it is under the influence of a sense of public duty that I gave vent to my feelings and reactions on the subject. Personally I have a soft corner in my heart for the Honourable Premier, for his sweet disposition and amiable manners. But this is a public question and therefore personal feelings should not come in. I may also tell the House that for this fearless expression of my views I have sometimes made enemies and even quarrelled in my own home. Just by the way I may say that during the days of non-co-operation when I was a student I left my college and joined the National College. I was boycotted by my father. He refused to support me for a number of months. But I

[Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt.]

did not mind it. If I can afford to incur the displeasure of my father, I can surely afford to incur the displeasure of the Honourable Premier on the floor of this House, because this is a public question, a question of principles and convictions. Moreover it is a question of public duty and it is from that point of view that this question should be considered. When I laid that charge of nepotism against Government the Minister for Development got up and said that the Honourable Premier had absolutely no hand in the matter of the appointment of the new incumbent. I got up and interrupted the Honourable Minister, because at that time my information was that the statement of the Honourable Minister was not correct. But even accepting what he said was correct, namely, that the Honourable Premier had no hand in the matter, that he was absolutely reticent and adopted a sort of maidenly reserve on this question, then there should be another charge against the Honourable Premier, viz., that on this question as the head of the Government he adopted an attitude of criminal silence when he is the person who is mainly responsible for the policy of the Government. Is there no collective responsibility in the Cabinet? The Honourable Premier ought to have interfered in this matter and should not have assumed an attitude of reticence when such a competent officer was being asked to leave the department and in his stead an inexperienced man was being brought in. This is a serious charge against the Honourable Premier. Particularly when the new incumbent happens to be his relative he ought to have interfered in the matter. He ought to have realised that if he did not interfere there would be the charge of nepotism and that there would be a great scandal in the province. As head of the Government it was his duty to avoid all misunderstandings being created in the province. But he did not do so. He left the matter to his colleagues and his colleagues knew that this gentleman was the brother-in-law of the Honourable Premier. In this connection, I may refer to another point. The other day when I levelled certain charges against the Punjab Government an impression was created by the speech of the Minister for Development that he repudiated all those charges. But I may point out that he repudiated only one charge. My charges were (1) that the present Director was a very competent and experienced gentleman and without any reason absolutely his services were being prematurely terminated; (2) that the new incumbent was absolutely incompetent and inexperienced; (3) that the new incumbent was the brother-in-law of the Honourable Premier; (4) that it was the Honourable Premier who was responsible for his appointment. The Honourable Minister for Development then said that the Honourable Premier had no hand in the matter. But so far as the other charges were concerned he kept absolutely quiet. He did not repudiate, rather he admitted that the present Director was competent. He did not repudiate that the new incumbent was the brother-in-law of the Honourable Premier. He did not repudiate that the new incumbent was absolutely inexperienced.

When these charges against the Government remain unrepudiated, I still hope that there is scope for reconsidering this question of the appointment of his successor. The other day, when I laid this charge for the first time on the floor of this House, the Honourable Premier was then present in this House. I was pained to see that embarrassment was visible in his

face, embarrassment in his face was crystal clear, and the Honourable Premier's face went death-pale when I laid the charge of nepotism against him. I was really sorry for that. I had no intention of becoming personal to any gentleman in my criticism in this House. But I respectfully submit to the Honourable Minister of Development that the question which the people in this province are asking is that when there are hundreds and thousands of people—hundreds and thousands of Government servants—who are highly competent, why above their heads is this gentleman selected when he is possessing no special qualifications and is not an expert in the matter of industry? After all, those people have the right to ask the Punjab Government as to what is the special reason for which that gentleman, who is inexperienced and incompetent and against whom there are so many things which I do not want to give expression to in this House, should be taken in as the new Director of Industries. (*Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad*: Question.) I have asked two questions. What was the necessity of terminating prematurely the services of the present Director and why has this particular gentleman, out of hundreds and thousands of Government officials, been selected to succeed the present Director of Industries? (*Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad*: Question.) (*Interruption.*) (*Mian Abdul Rab*: He is bringing in this point over and over again. The speech is irrelevant.) The reason why I am very keen on this question is (*Mian Abdul Rab*: I want to ask a question.) I do not want to answer any question from the honourable member. (*Mian Abdul Rab*: Because you cannot answer it.) This gentleman, who has interrupted me, while discussing this subject of the appointment of new Director of Industries, gave an argument, which at that time I dubbed as disgraceful, viz., that if the present Director of Industries joined the majority on the other side of the world, that is, if he had died, then what would happen? He said that in that case somebody would have to be appointed. This is the sort of questions that the honourable member wants to put to me. Do you expect me to waste your time, to waste the time of the House and to waste my own time by answering such questions?

**Mr. Speaker**: The honourable member may proceed with his speech.

**Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt**: Why have I attached so much importance to this subject? It is not on account of Rai Bahadur Lala Ram Lal. It is not simply because I have to criticise and lay a charge of nepotism against the Government. That is not the question. I have no personal friendship with the present Director of Industries and I have absolutely no enmity with the new incumbent. I do not know the new gentleman. I have never met him and I have no personal grudge against him, but the reason why I am attaching so much importance to this subject is that in my opinion circumstances have arisen in the Industries Department which give colour to the impression that there are evil stars ahead for the growth and development of industries in this province. Can you realise the consequences when the Industries Department will be controlled by a Director who is absolutely inexperienced in the matter and on the top of that when there is a Minister who is absolutely incompetent and inexperienced and has got no knowledge of the working or development of industries in this province? (*Interruption.*)

**Mian Abdul Rab**: I rise on a point of order. Has not the honourable member twenty times repeated the argument that the

[Ch. Krishna Gopal Dutt.]

present Director of Industries is very capable and honest and so on and so forth ?

**Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt :** This is a very important question before us that the Industries Department is being run by a Minister who is incompetent and inexperienced and—

**Mr. Speaker :** How many times is the honourable member going to repeat it ?

**Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt :** It is the first time that I have said so and I am doing so because he is interrupting me and, therefore, I have to repeat.

**Mr. Speaker :** Please avoid repetition. (*Interruptions.*)

**Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt :** I respectfully submit that when you have to emphasise a particular point, you have to repeat it and not only that, but I was interrupted by the honourable member. I am repeating the same thing again so far as the Honourable Minister of Development is concerned that the Honourable Minister of Development, as is generally known in the province, has got no sympathy with the industries of the province. He is perhaps very busy with his agrarian reforms or with the diffusion of class hatred in the province and, therefore, as I see it from the working of the industries during his regime, as I see it from the reports that have been taken from the Budget, I have come to one conclusion that the Honourable Minister of Development talks tall but does little. So, with such a Minister at the helm of affairs, the future of industrial development in this province, in my opinion, is extremely gloomy. I still hope against hope that the Honourable Premier will reconsider that matter.

**Mr. Speaker :** That has been said before.

**Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt :** I am sure he will reconsider the matter and, for no other reason except to assuage the misgivings and doubts that have been created in this province, he will see the justification of the cause espoused by the Opposition in this matter.

I am going to deal with a number of scandals about the Industries Department. I have dealt with one and I am going to deal with another. You must have read in the newspapers that there is a shoe factory in India and even in the Punjab which is working under the name of Bata Shoe Factory. You know that the Bata Shoe Factory is a foreign concern. You know that the capital invested in it is foreign. They have extended their operations in this province and the Government instead of helping the shoe makers in this province, instead of helping any Indian shoe factory of this or any other province, have thought it fit to help this company by giving it some free land. This is my information. If I am wrong, he may contradict me. The Honourable Minister of Development has taken into his head to encourage and help the foreign exploiters, the foreign capitalists and he goes about in the province, goes to Lyallpur and condemns us and condemns the Punjab Congress as being capitalist and he calls himself as the real man of the poor people. He calls himself as a man of the masses and we people are dubbed as representatives of banias, representatives of capitalists. The present Government have thus aimed at killing the leather

industry of the province. The result will be that with the establishment of Bata Shoe Factory there will be very little scope for the development of other shoe factories and other forms of leather industry. May I ask the Honourable Minister of Development why he does not get up to tell the House as to why he thought that the money collected from the poor people in this province should be used in such a merciless manner and should be handed over to people who have got no sympathies with the aspirations of Indians, who are foreigners pure and simple.

Mr. Speaker, this is a very serious charge which I am laying against the Honourable Minister for Development who misrepresents the Government and who misrepresents the Opposition in regard to this matter. He claimed that he was the real Congressman in the Punjab, that he was the bearer of the national flag in this province and that he constituted the Congress in this province and neither Dr. Gopi Chand, nor Dr. Kitchlew, nor Dr. Satyapal had anything to do with the Congress and that they were not real Congressmen. On the one hand he is helping foreign capitalists and on the other hand he is charging the Congress leaders with capitalism. Now, this is as is said in Persian—

مگر منم دینم و همونک مسدود زینم

He denies that he takes liquor and still he lives like a drunkard. That is the translation of the Persian couplet. In this connection I may just mention a very interesting story and I hope you will enjoy it at the expense of the Honourable Minister for Development. The story goes that Hitler once paid a visit to a lunatic asylum and he was taken round to different wards. First of all he was taken to a ward which contained mild patients. When the inmates saw him they saluted him in the Nazi fashion. Then he was taken to the second ward and then to another ward and then to another and wherever he went the inmates of those wards saluted him in the Nazi fashion, until eventually he was taken to a ward which contained the most violent patients. Even there as Hitler entered the chamber, all the inmates got up and saluted him in the Nazi fashion and said, "Heil Hitler," with the exception of one who instead of saluting him in Nazi fashion, did otherwise than in the Nazi fashion. Hitler was offended and asked him as to why he did not salute him in the normal Nazi fashion. He said, "Don't you know that I am Napoleon?" Hitler got exasperated and said, "But, don't you know that I am Hitler, the greatest man ever born on this earth?" That man said, "Hush, don't speak aloud otherwise they will put you in the next cell!" (Laughter.)

It aptly applies to the Honourable Minister for Development. Here are people who are the true advocates of the industrial development in the province, not only of the industrial development, but the amelioration of the conditions of the workers. We who represent the real masses, are dubbed as capitalists. But there is a gentleman over there who says that he is the real Congressman in the province. Can you imagine how ridiculous it is? Brazen-facedness cannot go further than that. The Honourable Minister for Development has the audacity to make a statement like this and still he expects a better treatment from the Opposition. This will be a standing condemnation that the Honourable Minister for Development has been



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responsible for the ruination of leather industry in this province by helping a foreign company like the Bata Company.

Now, I come to another point. I do not want to dwell upon the motives which are being attributed to the Punjab Government in giving help to the Bata Company because they are rumours and I do not think it is proper to give expression to those rumours which are being spread outside this House. I come to another point and that is also one of the scandals connected with the Industries Department and for that also various kinds of good, bad and indifferent motives have been attributed to the Government for having done that. As I said, I am not going to give currency to those rumours in this House. A new company has been floated in this province for the development of textiles and the managing agency of that company is owned by Sir J. P. Srivastva, a big landlord of the United Provinces. He is a capitalist, a gentleman who is a friend of the rich and an enemy of the poor, a gentleman who is an advocate of big landlords and opponent of *kisans*, a gentleman who is an enemy of all popular aspirations who owns and is a pioneer of an anti-Congress paper, not only that, he is anti-kisans, as I have said before. That gentleman owns the agency of that company and the Government have decided to buy shares of that company and to have two directors to represent on the directorate of that company. May I ask the Honourable Minister for Development when he was making that speech at Lyallpur, did he conveniently ignore this fact that he was himself a friend of the capitalists who are enemies of the aspirations of the people of their own motherland? May I ask him if it occurred to him that there were gentlemen in this province who could easily float such a company and who could invest hundreds and thousands of rupees in such a company, and there are companies here who have asked for help and who have begged for help from the Government, but the Government turned a deaf ear to them? Is it because they could not bring recommendations from the highest authority in India, they could not bring the recommendations from the judges or even from the Viceroy or from the Secretary of State in the name of the Honourable Minister for Development or in the name of the Honourable Premier? He should explain to us as to what the reason is that a big landlord of the United Provinces is allowed to exploit the resources in the Punjab. Here is a friend of the poor. I know that when he gets up and replies to the arguments, he will be able to advance many arguments which he thinks will convince the majority in this House. But I may inform him that there is an independent opinion in this province, and sometimes it is not merely partial and party opinion which should be taken into account. The statesmen, the politicians and wise men in the world always take into account the independent opinion instead of the opinion of the majority. I know of a great man, who used to say that he always took into account the opinion of the minority, because he had found out by experience that the truth lay with the minority. If the Honourable Minister for Development depends on the majority of this House and tries to appease or satisfy them, he should not rest there. He should try to convince the independent and impartial opinion in the province. The independent opinion is that the Honourable Minister talks in socialistic manner, but in reality his actions do not tally with his professions and that

He is in fact reactionary of reactionaries. He has attempted many times to electroplate or silverplate his reactionary and bourgeois views with professions of sympathy for the poor. Therefore it has been said that the Minister for Development, while he talks of the poor people, while he talks of the Congress, while he talks of socialism and while he talks of communism and while he talks of helping the agriculturists, he is merely acting as a sugar-coated pill.

Now, Sir, I shall deal with the condition of industries in the province. As a result of the present accursed war a number of industries in this province have been adversely affected. There were certain industries in the province which were flourishing before the war because they could get the raw material from foreign countries. Raw material is not now obtainable here although perhaps if effort is made by the Industries Department something could have been done in this direction, but since nothing has been done by the Industries Department for getting the raw material the result is that raw material cannot be had any more and many important industries in the province have suffered. I may refer to certain specific cases. There is the glass industry in the province. It was a very promising industry; but now I understand the glass industry has almost been paralysed in the province merely because the raw material required for the glass industry, that is soda, is not available any longer. May I ask the Honourable Minister for Development what steps he has taken or what step he is going to take for making available this raw material so that this glass industry may not be handicapped and suffer in this province? Then there is another industry, that is the ice industry. There are no refrigerants available: they use to come from outside. Now since they are stopped the ice industry will suffer. Then there is the soap industry. The soap industry is a very important industry. Now there is very little casutic soda available for the soap industry. That caustic soda used to come from Germany and from other foreign countries but on account of the war this raw material is not available. Hence the soap industry is face to face with a serious crisis. Similarly there is no bleaching powder and no dye for printing and dyeing factories. There are a number of other industries which are of minor importance but still which deserve encouragement and help from the Industries Department, but it is a pity that the Punjab Government, the Industries Department and the Minister for Development, who has probably very little time to devote to these things, has taken no step to remedy this evil in the province.

I now come to another point, i.e., the Industrial Research Fund. I am glad to know that the Minister claims the credit for this being the first province in India to have established the Industrial Research Fund. When the Supplementary Demand came for consideration before the House I dwelt at some length on the working of the Industrial Research Fund, as to how it should work and what considerations should be taken into account and how it should be constituted. The Minister for Development at that time said that he welcomed the constructive proposals and would give due consideration to the suggestions. I regret to say that the Punjab Government have done nothing in the matter although the Minister for Development gave me an assurance that he would take into consideration my suggestions in regard to the Industrial Research Fund, but so far nothing has been done. I want to know from the Minister for Development as to who is controlling

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the Research Fund. Is there going to be an advisory body for controlling the Research Fund or is it the Punjab Government through the Board of Industries to control the Research Fund? Even if it is the Board of Industries which is going to control the Industrial Research Fund (*An honourable member*—He himself will do it) it would be a pity, if I repeat it again, that a gentleman who knows nothing of industries should control the Industrial Research Fund. The Industrial Research Fund should be controlled by people who are experts or who have some knowledge of industries. May I suggest in this connection that for want of a better member of the Cabinet this Industries Department should be handed over to the Honourable Minister for Finance. He may not be able to do much but he is at least an economist and has got some sympathy with the development of industries as has been shown by his speeches. As President of the Economic Conference he said that the development of industry is the key to prosperity. A gentleman who holds these views I think should be in charge of this department. Although there is joint responsibility and collective responsibility, still much depends upon individual touch which depends on the gentleman who is in charge of the department. Therefore, I say that if he is going to control the Industrial Research Fund then God save the Industrial Research Fund: that is all that I can say. At the time when I made the suggestion that there should be an advisory committee consisting of experts in the province to control the Fund he said that he would give due consideration to it. It has been suggested that the Board of Industries which is an advisory body might control to a great extent the Industrial Research Fund. I have got a complaint that for a long time no meeting of the Board of Industries has been held; and may I ask the Minister for Development whether he has absolutely no time for such an important organisation, i.e. the Board of Industries? A year has passed since this Fund was established but so far nothing has been done in the matter. May I ask if any scheme has been financed by this Fund? One year has elapsed but no research has been made. What is the use of claiming credit for initiating the Industrial Research Fund in this province? That Industrial Research Fund probably remains a dead letter in the province. Nothing has been done and no industrial research has been made and no scheme has been financed.

I come now to another matter, that is the Stores Purchase Department. I want to say only one or two words in regard to this department. As I understand, this Government claims credit for having established this department in this province, although as far as I know this idea is not a new idea of this Government. This idea was before the preceding Government, but it does go to the credit of the present Government that they have established a Stores Purchase Department in the province. However, if you find out what this Stores Purchase Department is doing, you will be surprised to learn that the department is merely killing the Indian industry here, by its apathy and by its indifference. The chief function of this Stores Purchase Department in practice is to patronise foreign articles and to patronise foreign machinery. The Stores Purchase Department has been mostly helping in the purchase of foreign machinery, but has not even moved its little finger for purchasing either the indigenous products of this province or of any other province. That is my chief complaint against the Stores Purchase Department.

Now I take up the item of industrial education. As I have seen from the various reports and from the views gathered after having come in contact with some of the teachers and the students, I have come to the conclusion that this Department of Industrial Education is not doing much good to the province, and a large part of the money set apart for industries is being squandered away. Why? With the exception of two schools, one at my own town of Sialkot and the other at Ludhiana, all the other schools are turning out students who are adding to the number of the unemployed people in this province. They are giving education but nothing is being done to provide them with any sort of employment. I suggest in this connection that those industrial schools should start model industries or model factories themselves, so that those boys who are turned out by the schools may be taken in those factories and they may have more practical training, so that they might be able to find employment in other factories.

In this connection I want to refer to another matter—the Inspector of Industrial Schools. It is a pity that so far as I have found out from the budget, there is only one Inspector of Schools for Industries and he has to devote his attention to so many things that it becomes difficult for him to do justice to any single school in this province. Therefore, I suggest that instead of one there should be at least two or three Inspectors of Schools. In this connection I have another complaint that the Inspector of Schools is being teased and bothered unnecessarily and handicaps are being placed in his way by the European factories. The Inspector of Schools wants to visit certain European factories in the province, but all sorts of obstacles are placed in the way of the Inspector. He wants to get some technical information or he wants to know whether the law is observed in these European factories or not, but I understand that the Inspector is not allowed by the owners of European factories facilities to inspect the factories. I hope the Honourable Minister for Development would look into the matter and remove these grievances.

In this connection I want to refer to another matter. I regret to say that my honourable friend Maulvi Ghulam Mohy-ud-Din is not in his seat, because I am going to refer to one of his remarks. He got up the other day and complained against the Government, not for the first time, that Government should not patronise, should not subsidise, should not encourage financially those schools and colleges in the province—he was speaking of industrial schools—which are primarily or exclusively meant for any one particular community. That was his suggestion. I do not want to say whether it is a sound suggestion or not. One may differ on that point, but I am going to point out the inconsistent attitude he adopted. He suggested that Government should not give financial aid to schools which are meant exclusively for any one particular community and in making that suggestion he named one or two schools which Government is helping and where boys or girls of Muslim community or some other community are not permitted and *vice versa*. When it was pointed out to him that Sir Sikander Hyat-Khan School was being helped by the present Government, he got up and said that that was not primarily or exclusively a school for the Muslims. I at once interrupted him and asked as to what was the name of the school, and he said that the name of that school was Sir Sikander Hyat Industrial School. I said, no, he was wrong and I found out from

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the memorandum of the Budget that the name of that school which Government is going to help is Sir Sikander Hyat-Khan Industrial School for Muslim Women and Girls. That is the full name of the school. Not only that. In the Memorandum it is written that this school is going to be exclusively for Muhammadan women and girls. I am not raising any objection against that. I am merely pointing out the inconsistent attitude of the honourable member who has either consciously or unconsciously tried to mislead the House that Government is giving aid and subsidies to those schools which are primarily Hindu and is not giving any aid to schools which are primarily Muslim. Therefore, I want to clear this matter, that the name of that school is Sir Sikander Hyat-Khan Industrial School for Muslim Women and Girls. It is meant exclusively for Muslims and the request was made by the Anjuman-i-Himayat Islam. I have no grievance. If there is any particular community which is backward, surely it is the duty of every Government to go out of the way to provide schools for that community.

There is one point which I want to mention and which I mentioned several times in this House. I am not going to expatiate on that point, but I want merely to make a reference to it, that if the present conditions and terms under which loans are given to the industries continue, then this means that we would not be able to give enough help to the poor factories and industries which ask Government for help. I have come across a number of people and I have been in touch with those who apply for industrial loans and I know that it is a general complaint in the province that the conditions under which the loans are granted are so harsh and so stringent that it is not possible for them to secure the loan or even to apply for it. I think that those conditions and terms should be relaxed, so that it may be possible for those who have not much property to offer as security to be able to get financial aid from the Government.

Another grouse which I have in this connection is that the Industries Department set apart a definite sum for loans and several subsidies, but all that sum is not utilised and it is stated in the Memorandum that this is being done merely by way of economy. If the Honourable Minister for Development in the first instance or the Honourable Minister for Finance in the first instance claims credit for having set apart a certain amount and when the budget was produced before this House claimed that so much money is being set apart for industries and so much is being set apart for loans and so much for subsidies, then that amount is not utilised, what would you call it? I would call it misleading the House for want of a stronger word which I do not wish to use. This is juggling with figures and trying to get credit for putting false figures in the budget not intentionally at that time, but now actually and eventually it has been proved that that much money which was set apart for encouraging industries through the State Aid to Industries Act has not been utilised.

Now, I ask you, with such a step-motherly treatment, with such gross abuse, in my opinion, of the State Aid to Industries Act, can you expect industrial development? The Honourable Minister of Development, in his previous speech, said that he was in favour of industry and that he realised that there was no conflict between industry and agriculture, that he realised

that the prosperity of one depended upon the prosperity of the other and that he would do everything in his power and that he would set apart so much money. But when the actual practice came, I do not know whether it was at his instance or at the instance of any other minister, he yielded and the money which was set apart for the purpose was withdrawn. In face of all these things, I repeat for the hundredth and thousandth time and I will repeat it *ad nauseum*, that the Honourable Minister of Development is not competent, is not sympathetic towards the industries and therefore this motion should be taken as a censure motion against the Honourable Minister of Development and I suggest to the Punjab Cabinet, I suggest to the Punjab Government, that this department should be taken out of his hands and handed over, for want of a still better person, to the Honourable Minister of Finance. With these words I support the cut motion moved by my honourable friend, Sardar Sahib Sardar Santokh Singh.

**Khan Bahadur Nawab Muzaffar Khan** (Attock North, Muhammadan, Rural): Sir, it is most depressing, disheartening and I would say, sickening to hear of communalism that is prevailing in this unfortunate province. It is doubly so when we hear it not from ordinary individuals like myself but from prominent members who call themselves nationalists. Sir, you must have observed, as we have observed with the greatest disappointment and regret, the spirit displayed by that Congress member, Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt, on the appointment of a Muslim Director of Industries. He must remember, but he does not and he conveniently forgets—(*Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt*: I have never said a word about communalism) (*Voices of order, order*)—that for the last fifteen years, the Directors of Industries have been Hindus. Have we, who are dubbed as communalists, the Muslims or the Unionists.....

**Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt**: I never said a word about communalism.

**Mr. Speaker**: Order, please. The honourable member should not interrupt.

**Khan Bahadur Nawab Muzaffar Khan**: You have not, but you have shown it by your conduct. Have we, Sir, even once objected? I was pointing out that for the last 15 years we had Hindu Directors of Industries in this province. Did we, who are dubbed as communalists by my honourable friend, object once to these appointments? We welcomed the appointment of my friend, Rai Bahadur Lala Ram Lal. He is a personal friend of mine. I do not copy the method adopted by the Opposition in this matter. I know he is one of the most honest and conscientious officers. (*Hear, hear and applause*). I have known him for the last 25 years when fate brought us together during the Great War and I had every opportunity of judging his work and his ability. But, Sir, we must remember that all these appointments, these prize-posts, cannot be reserved for one officer. I myself was one of those sinners in that I held one appointment for ten years and I know what great heart-burning and what great disappointment it caused amongst the members of my service. I happened to be the President of the Provincial Service Association and I know their feelings on the subject. They do not like one officer to hold these appointments for a long time. For some time past this has been the policy of the Government. There was

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the Deputy Commissioner of Criminal Tribes and he held that post for ten years. There was the Joint Secretary to Government and Reforms Commissioner (that is myself) who held that appointment, and then there was Rai Bahadur Ram Lal who held the appointment for 10 years. I know that there were very strong feelings in my service on this point and we owe a deep debt of gratitude to the Government for stopping the favouritism which has been going on in this province for a long time—I myself was one of the officers who gained by it. I do not deny it. But I think the system was wrong. Then there was a good deal said by these nationalists questioning the ability and want of experience of the new officer. May I ask these gentlemen who waxed eloquent over this question, what were Rai Bahadur Ram Lal's qualifications when he was first appointed?

**Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt :** He was for two years Under-Secretary to the Industries Department.

**Mr. Speaker :** Order, please. I cannot allow interruptions.

**Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt :** He has asked a question.

*(Voices of order, order).*

**Mr. Speaker :** He has asked through the chair.

**Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt :** I am replying to that.

**Mr. Speaker :** He has not given way. He should not be interrupted.

**Khan Bahadur Nawab Muzaffar Khan :** Unlike poets Directors of Industries are not born. They are made. If an intelligent officer like the Rai Bahadur could be a successful Director of Industries, I do not for a moment doubt that the future incumbent would be as successful. He too has been Under-Secretary to Government for about 2 years.

I think there are some drawbacks in the new Director of Industries and one of the greatest of his sins that I can think of is that he happens to be a relation of the Premier. For that he has already suffered long enough. The Premier has I must confess, the weakness to ignore his relations. This gentleman is a man of great ability. He has been educated in England, has travelled very widely and is a Bar-at-law. He acted as my assistant and had to leave that office although he was recommended very strongly by the Chief Secretary and by all English officers that he was one of the ablest officers under the Punjab Government and that he should be made the Director of Information Bureau. He could not get that appointment because he happened to be the relation of the Revenue Member, Sir Sikander Hyat-Khan, as he then was. So I think that is his one drawback and the greatest crime. I am afraid my honourable friend has taken objection that I have dubbed him as a communalist but we cannot draw any other conclusion from the speeches that have been made so far from the Congress benches.

Now I will come to the Independents. My honourable friend, Sardar Sahib Santokh Singh from Amritsar attacked the Government the other day on the ground that they had established Sir Sikander Muslim School for Muslim girls. Twenty years ago Sir Ganga Ram Industrial School for Hindu girls was established and the Punjab Government has all along been

paying its running expenses. Its expenditure even now appears on the same page of the budget. We did not raise any objection to it all these years. But provision for a Muslim girls school is objected to even in the very beginning of its establishment. Sir Ganga Ram of blessed memory did a lot for the Hindus and we and the country are most grateful to him. He had placed a certain building at the disposal of the Government and the Government in return for that established a school for Hindu girls. We also approached the Government for a similar school for Muslims but so far were not successful although we were prepared to comply with the same conditions as Sir Ganga Ram had done. To the credit of our Minister Sir Chhotu Ram may it be said that when we approached him he refused to listen to us. He said that he was against these communal institutions. He was right. But we never objected to a Hindu institution being paid by Government and as long as that exists, I think we have some claim. It was with reluctance that Sir Chhotu Ram agreed to our request. I agree with him that we should not have communal institutions. But who started it? Did my honourable friend see that page of the Budget or did he overlook that? We were quite happy that some good was being done by Government for Hindus and we never objected for twenty years, but this is the first year when this item has been included in the budget and I am surprised to find that my friends should have the hardihood of objecting to it. This, Sir, is the nationalism of my friends and this is the nationalism that has forced some of us who were nationalists to give up their ranks. What about Dr. Alam and before him many others who served the Congress most loyally?

**Lala Duni Chand :** What about your son?

**Khan Bahadur Nawab Muzaffar Khan :** Fools there are in the world and will continue to be. Young men are very easily misled and misguided but when we hear these speeches, speeches full of communalism and bitterness and hatred, we naturally ponder. Is this the nationalism you give us? (*Hear, hear*). It is most disappointing to hear these speeches, particularly from Congress benches. I pity the few zamindars who are sitting on those benches. They must be scratching their heads now. I ask Mian Nurullah and other Muslim members and zamindar members sitting there whether these are the nationalists and whether this is the treatment that you expect from them. I have nothing more to say except to hang my head in shame as a Punjabi on the conditions prevailing in this country. One word more as regards the development of industries and I have done. I find that very small amount has been placed for the next year in the new Expenditure. I think it amounts to Rs. 2,15,000 and I agree with my honourable friends on my right that something more should be done. I would respectfully request the able Finance Minister and the Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram who I know is deeply interested in this matter to pay a little more attention to the matter. (*Hear, hear*).

**Mrs. Duni Chand** (Lahore City, women, General) (*Urdu*): Sir, I rise to support the cut motion that has been moved by Sardar Hari Singh. In the first place, I wish to point out that so far as I know in other provinces the expenditure on industries is less and income from them is more.



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But against this in the Punjab, where everything is topsy turvy, the expenditure is more than the income of this department. If we study the budget of 1940-41 we would find that the total expenditure of this department is Rs. 21,28,900. But against this the income from this department is only Rs. 6,16,250. I think the success of the Department of Industries depends on the fact that its income should be more than its expenditure. But here the matters are quite the reverse. The reason for this failure is that the evil of top-heavy-ness which is present in all departments of the Government, is also to be found in this department. This is the main reason of its failure.

Now in order to elucidate my point I would like to point out as to how the funds of this department are being wasted by paying huge salaries to the officers. For example, the pay of the Director is Rs. 17,000. There are two Assistant Directors who draw Rs. 14,470 by way of salaries. The pay of these three officers comes to Rs. 35,180 excluding allowances. Now there is another proposal that an Intelligent Assistant should be appointed. I for one think that an intelligent person means, a person who has a high degree of understanding. But may I know from the Government as to what is the object of creating this new post of an Intelligent Assistant when they are already paying high salaries to their officers? Are they not intelligent? If so, what is the use of wasting the public funds? Why is this extra burden being put on the province? Besides, I very well understand as to what is the definition of intelligent person in the eyes of the Government. In their opinion only that person is intelligent who is a relative of a high official. In short this post is being created for making a provision for somebody. Otherwise there is nothing very significant about it.

Besides, there are five other assistants who draw Rs. 18,980. The amount that is incurred on the Superintendents comes to Rs. 61,200. Moreover the Inspector of Industrial Schools is drawing something like Rs. 18,000 and Rs. 4,400 are given to the Marketing Supervisor. Now in view of these facts and figures the honourable members can judge for themselves that, on the one hand, there is so much unemployment in the province and young men are going from pillar to post so much so that M.As. and B.As. strive hard for getting themselves recruited in the police on Rs. 16 or Rs. 17 a month and, on the other hand, Government are giving so high salaries to white elephants and do not pay any heed to the needs of the poor who are forced to commit suicide for want of bread. This is, in fact, a great burden which our Government have placed on the people of the Punjab.

Now I wish to draw your attention to the fact that in the presence of such huge expenditure what work is being done by this department. I do not want to discuss other matters, but I would only say something with regard to the work that the Government is doing for the women of this country. At present there are only 7 industrial schools for women in the Punjab. Those schools are generally situated in big towns. At the same time, I beg to submit that the number of schools at present, i.e., in the whole of the Punjab is insufficient and our sisters who are residents of villages and small towns cannot derive full benefit from these institutions. This is due to the

fact that these institutions have no hostels attached to them where the women of adjoining villages who wish to go there for learning handicrafts should be able to reside. Due to lack of hostels they cannot go there and take advantage of these schools. If the Government wants that they should be profited by these schools then it should make hostel arrangements for them.

I want to draw the attention of the Government to two or three other facts. Most of the women who come to these schools are either widows or orphans who want to get training in different handicrafts in order to earn their livelihood. They cannot afford to bear the expenses of these schools. The present industrial education is very expensive. Hence I request that scholarships should be given to those poor women who want to study in order to be able to earn their livelihood or to become school mistresses.

The stipends sanctioned at present are very inadequate. Again the term for imparting industrial instruction has been changed from two to three years, which has increased the expenses and thus the scholarships already allowed to them have become insufficient. I have personal experience of the fact that the poor women and orphan girls who are sent for education do not get any aid from the schools but are helped by other outside institutions.

The other fact to which I want to invite your attention is, that in these schools some unnecessary subjects are taught to these women which cannot be of any use to them, e.g., net work and embroidery work on fine *dasutti*, which entail more expense and hard work and affect their health adversely. If in place of these useless subjects the household tasks and works of every day utility are included in the curriculum of studies, the cost of education will decrease and the health will not be affected. It is only in that case that education will be truly beneficial.

The third fact which I want to mention is that I have often observed that the schools are generally situated in densely populated parts of the towns. This may be due to lack of funds because most of such funds are misappropriated by those who are at the top. Thus the girls are forced to work in unhealthy atmosphere which undermines their health. I beg to submit that it is the duty of the Government to make proper arrangements for changing the sites of these schools.

I would also like to refer to the remarks made by my honourable brother Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt in connection with the two grants of Rs. 4,250 and Rs. 1,500 made to the Industrial School for our Muslim sisters and girls, which bears the name of Sir Sikander Hyat-Khan. It should not for a moment be considered that the interests of women (be they Hindus or Muslims) are in any way different, on the contrary, our interest are common. I along with my honourable sister sitting on my right have full sympathy with our Muslim sisters and I am aware of the fact that my honourable sisters sitting on the opposite benches have the same sympathy with Hindu women. My heart is filled with joy when I realize that the minds of women are free from the poison of communalism among women, which is at present prevalent amongst men only. But let me inform the Government with all the emphasis at my command that we will not allow this poison

[Mrs. Dani Chand.]

to spread amongst ourselves. Both Hindu and Muslim women are working side by side in the schools that have been opened so far. It has never happened in any Government school, nor has it been the case with schools opened by the Hindu or Muslim communities that the students should have been refused admission. In our country there are numerous Government, Muslim, Hindu and Mission colleges and schools, but there is no restriction in any of these institutions whereby the admission to the students of other communities may have been barred. Many Muslim boys are studying in the Dyal Singh College, although it is an institution which belongs to the Sikhs. Again a number of Muslims are also studying in the D. A. V. College. But even if these private institutions were to impose such restrictions, it will not be as objectionable as will be the case if these restrictions were imposed by the Government. It will be more objectionable, because the Government is common to all. They themselves assert that they want to do away with the curse of communalism and that their Government is a common Government. Then there is no reason why it should take such a step which would result in poisonous gas of communalism being spread amongst the Hindu and Muslim women.

I can discern only one ray of light, and it is that time will come when the Hindu and Muslim sisters will jointly lead their brothers to the right path and will stop them from quarrelling with each other. ((Hear, hear). Mrs. J. A. Shah Nawaz : 201 (13)). It is very sad on the part of the Government to have made this distinction. The women are by nature more just, they are the makers of their country and they cannot be deceived by these toys. (Hear, hear). An honourable member had alluded that in comparison to this school there was Sir Ganga Ram School which is open only to the Hindu Girls. He is mistaken. That school was not intended for Hindu girls, but was started for the benefit of Hindu widows. It was not the idea underlying Sir Ganga Ram Industrial School that a separate school should be established on communal lines. The real reason was that as unfortunately the number of child widows amongst the Hindus is very large, an opportunity should be provided for them to learn some craft whereby they should be enabled to earn their own living. It is a matter for gratification that the Muslims have adopted better measures to effectively check this misfortune from assuming enormous proportions, whereas among the Hindus either on account of a defective social system or some other reason the number of these wretches has become appalling.

Thus the late Sir Ganga Ram started that institution simply for the benefit of the Hindu widows, but this precedent set up by him does not justify the action of the Government in starting a school on similar lines. I know that Sir Ganga Ram did not act communally in any sphere of his beneficent activities. For example, the hospital opened by him is being utilised by Hindus and Muslims alike. Among Hindus there are several other generous persons of great repute whose donations are benefiting people of all castes and colour. Sometime back the late Bawa Dinga Singh made a donation of 3 lakhs of rupees, but he did not impose any restriction to the effect that the sum should be expended solely for the benefit of the Hindus. Similarly another magnanimous person Lala Jodha Mal made donations amounting to several lakhs of rupees but he never laid this

condition that only the Hindus and not the Muslims should be benefited thereby. Again, my honourable sister Begum Shah Nawaz has recently made a donation to the hospital as a mark of thanksgiving for her son's recovery from a long illness, but she too did not lay any such condition with respect to its use. In fact a person who has got love for his motherland always remains above such communal considerations. Thus it is absolutely wrong to say that since Sir Ganga Ram had opened that school exclusively for the Hindu women the Punjab Government is justified in starting a similar institution for the Muslim women. Supposing a doctor prescribes quinine mixture for a patient laid up with malarial fever, and a sweet medicine for the one suffering from cough, who has the temerity to say that the doctor has done favour to the latter? In fact he does what he thinks best for his patient. Had the Government abstained from patronising one community at the expense of the other, my three honourable sisters and I would have tendered hearty congratulations to the Government.

Now, Sir, there are two kinds of widows in India. One group consists of those whose husbands have died and the other comprises of those whose husbands have abandoned them after marrying a second wife. There are thousands of such 'widows' who fall under the latter category. In fact there is nobody who may be safely counted upon to protect or look after this most unhappy class of human beings. At least the Government should have a soft corner in its heart for this section of our population. When any measure is sought to be enacted for their welfare my brethren raise a hue and cry saying that such an enactment would endanger their *dharma*. If the Government was really anxious to start an industrial school in the province it should have done so for the benefit of these women only. Such a school, if started, can prove beneficial to the Government and these 'widows' alike. On the one hand, these poor women having qualified from such an institution would be able to earn their livelihood, and, on the other hand, Government would save a lot of money by employing these women who would be most willing to work even on nominal wages. I would, therefore, request Government that if it is helpless to enact a measure for the welfare of such women then it should at least lay down that only such women should be eligible for admission to the Sikander Industrial School whose husbands have married a second wife. At present there is a large number of such women among the Hindus, Muslims and Sikhs. Had anything been done for the good of these poor women not only I but they also would have been extremely grateful to the Government. But what do you care about the welfare of these women? Your whole attention is at present concentrated on this thing alone as to how you can possibly deprive one party of its rights and bestow them on the other. Where such under-hand means are being employed nobody cares to learn good things. A government which is not capable of protecting its sisters and daughters is not worthy of being called a government. It is a pity that even the late Sir Ganga Ram banged the door of his school against these women by laying the condition that only widows in the strictest sense of the word can seek admission to it.

**Mr. Speaker :** The lady member is going too far. She should confine her remarks to the motion under consideration.

**Mrs. Duni Chand :** I am confining myself to the item of Industries only. My object in saying all this is that Sir Sikander Industrial School should be reserved for the training of only those women whose husbands have married a second wife. My submission is that if the Government is in right earnest to do anything for the good of women it should do so in a manner which may benefit women of all communities. In the end I would request the Government to refrain from spreading the poison of communal hatred among women as it has already darkened the general atmosphere of the province. With these words I support the cut motion moved by Sardar Sahib.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** Sir, I had an opportunity to read the Honourable Minister's speech which he was pleased to deliver on a day when I was absent from this House and as the speech was connected with the subject of industry, I would just try to meet a few points which he made in that speech. Our complaint is that industry on the whole in this province is not in a flourishing condition and that neither the previous Governments nor this Government have been able to do all that is necessary. There is, however, one difference to which I just made a passing reference the other day that the Government which was purely bureaucratic government, had very little sympathy with the country so far as the development of industry was concerned. Development of industry in this country means the starvation of Great Britain. Therefore, it is idle to expect that British people would come to the rescue of India so far as industry is concerned. Then we come to the stage of diarchy. Under that system there is no doubt that industry was a transferred subject but industry could not be developed as the Finance Department was not transferred. Therefore, many of our aspirations and desires and schemes remained unrealized. Now, however, there is a great difference. Now, every subject is transferred and if this Government fails to do anything substantial for the development of industry, the sin will lie on its head. Three years have passed now and we have to see what achievements this Government has to its credit. The other day speaking about the achievements of this Government the Honourable Minister was pleased to say that those achievements were three in number. One was that they had established a research fund which amounted to one lakh and fifty thousand. The second was that they had ordered an industrial survey of the province and the third was that they had established a Provincial Stores Purchase Department. My submission is that none of them is a real achievement of this Government at all. So far as the research department is concerned, everybody, who has any knowledge of the conditions in this province, would know that in fact the first research laboratory in connection with industries was established long before this Government came into power. I do not claim any personal credit, I simply say that it was in my time, and very early in my career as the Minister in charge of industries, that a research department was started and a research laboratory was established at Shahdara, which according to all reports has been doing very useful work. The fund, no doubt, has been started, but, as was pointed out by my honourable friend, we do not know for what that fund has so far been utilised and for what purpose, if at all, it would be utilised in future. In any case, so far as this matter is concerned it rests with the future and the Government will be judged, so far as this matter

is concerned, by what it does in future and not by what it has done in the past.

Now, I come to the industrial survey. Those who know anything at all about the Industries Department of this province, would know that there were six industrial surveyors already in existence. Their principal function was to carry on industrial survey in the province. The province industrially had been divided into 5 or 6 divisions and each division was under the charge of one industrial surveyor. They collected a great deal of useful information which is lying in the Director's office. So that, even this matter cannot be a matter of boast for this Government and they cannot claim it as their exclusive achievement. We shall see in future what they do with the sum of Rs. 1,50,000, whether it goes to certain favoured individuals or to a certain favoured class or whether it goes to people who are really competent to carry on the research work.

Now, I come to the third achievement, that is, the Provincial Stores Department, of which a great deal was made. In fact it was said with great gusto that Dr. Narang—my name was particularly mentioned and I came in for a good deal of criticism at the hands of the Honourable Minister—that Dr. Narang was there for  $7\frac{1}{2}$  years and that he was unable to establish a provincial stores department. I plead guilty to a certain extent that I was not able to establish a provincial stores department in the province. But if the Honourable Minister had been a little more candid and had spoken out the whole truth, he would have said that during Narang's time every effort was made to establish a provincial stores department, but as they could not get the sanction of the Finance Department, they could not establish a provincial stores department. If the Minister had come out with this truth nobody would have found fault with it. He referred to certain white masters who were in power then and were most reluctant to part with necessary funds. But he should have made it clear that the proposal was there and it had been brought up more than once and the Director had been emphasising and I had entertained it and yet on account of the Finance Department's opposition which was a reserved department at that time, that desire could not be achieved. He said that those  $7\frac{1}{2}$  years of my Ministry were like *sarhsati*. I do not know what led my honourable friend to say this. In the first place, I would submit that he exaggerated my period of Ministership by about 25 per cent. It is somewhat natural when one is very impatient to get something or to reach somewhere that every moment seems to be longer than it actually is. That is why probably  $6\frac{1}{2}$  years appeared to my honourable friend as long as  $7\frac{1}{2}$  years. There may be another reason and it may be this that he wanted to complete 12 years— $7\frac{1}{2}$  years of my period according to him and 4 years of the previous Ministry—because in the Punjab they say that after 12 years even a dunghill has a run of good luck! However, that is neither here nor there. Even in this respect the present Government cannot claim much credit. Of course, they are now in possession of necessary funds, the Finance Department is in their hands. The recommendation of the Director was there, the idea was there and as soon as they could get hold of finances, they carried out the idea. That is not a matter for which one should be so eloquent, or the Honourable Minister should claim so much credit. After all what is it? I may say without fear of contradiction that it is only a change of *arhtis*.

[Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang.]

We used to purchase our stores through the Indian Stores Department and it has been a commission agent of the Punjab Government up to this time. We have been purchasing all our stores through that department. Our complaint was that that department had not always paid sufficient attention to the Punjab produce and if we had our own provincial stores department, the Punjab produce would have a better chance. This is the utmost achievement so far as the present Government is concerned. The Honourable Minister did not mention anything else beyond these three achievements and he claimed a great credit for them. I do not deny them credit for what they have done. My only submission is that credit was being claimed for something most negligible and it was hardly worth any mention. The question really is whether that is all that he intends to do or whether he is going to do anything else in future. Now, among other things, the Honourable Minister the other day was pleased to say that the number of factories in this province had increased from 802 in 1936 to 887 in 1938-39. My submission is that that statement made by him was inaccurate. It was a wrong statement. It may be that the Reporter took it down wrongly, but if the Honourable Minister actually said this, then he was making a wrong statement. I do not say that he deliberately made that wrong statement. But the statement is surely incorrect. The fact is, according to his own report, that the number of factories working in 1936 was 798 and in the last report their number came down to 780. Instead of there being an increase, there has been a decrease of 18 factories. But that does not matter if there had been an increase of 18 or 30 or 50 factories. It would not solve the problem. In this list of factories even small printing presses and even roadside factories employing more than 20 people are included, because any workshop or factory with 20 or more workers comes within the definition of factory. Therefore, there is nothing to be proud of or to be very contented with this state of affairs. Similarly a wrong statement was made by the Honourable Minister with respect to the number of workers. What he stated was that the number of workmen in 1937 was 63,268 and in 1939 it was 72,268. Even this statement is incorrect and falsified by the report of his own department. It is just possible—again I say—that the mistake might have been made by the Reporter. But I am taking the figures as mentioned and I have no hesitation in saying that even those figures were incorrect. There is a difference of about 7,000. He overstated the figures for workers by about 7,000. Then we find it stated with great flourish of eloquence in the Honourable the Finance Minister's speech that in spite of misfortunes Government have placed Rs. 2,25,000 at the disposal of the Industries Department in excess of the previous year's grant. No doubt on the paper we find Rs. 2,01,000 to be accurate, have been added to the grant for Industries for the current year but the question is whether they are going to spend this money or they are going to treat even this figure as they treated 2 lakhs and odd which they had reserved for assistance under the State Aid to Industries Act. You will see that on the whole what has happened is this that whereas apart from anything else, the previous year's budget for industrial development was Rs. 4,88,900, it has come down to Rs. 3,21,500. There has been a decrease of about Rs. 1,62,000 in the budget for industrial

development. What has happened is this, that whereas the provision for assistance under the State Aid to Industries Act in the previous year was Rs. 2,70,000; it has now been put at Rs. 70,000. I believe that 2 lakhs in the previous year was not spent for the purpose for which it was earmarked and now the budget provision itself has come down from Rs. 2,70,000 to Rs. 70,000 only unless again it is a misprint—I speak subject to correction and I am not blaming anybody. Is this the way the present Government is developing the industries or proposes to develop industries in future? The only way in which industry can develop, as I said, is by giving grants to the people in the form of loans or by guaranteeing dividends and this is the only head under which money could be spent for the purpose. The grant has been reduced to about one-fourth of what it was in the previous year. Then again you will find that even the grant for research, of which the Honourable Minister boasted so much, even the grant under that head has been reduced. The previous grant was Rs. 40,600 and the present grant is Rs. 85,600. This is what the present Government intend to do with respect to research. I also find that there has been a decrease in the amount sanctioned for the development of sericulture, unless again there is a misprint. No amount has been reserved for encouraging the handloom industry, may be that they are depending on a few thousand rupees which they might get from the Government of India but the column of the present budget provision is empty so far as the development of handloom industry in the province is concerned. Sir, the other day it was said that the previous Government or the previous Minister could not do much. The Minister cannot claim much credit, the poor Minister was handicapped as he was under the thumb of the Reserved Department so far as the provision of funds was concerned, but even then with limited resources and in spite of the struggle and the fight that the poor Minister in those days had to put up even for getting 10 annas from the Finance Department, that Ministry could do much more than the present Government has done. The Honourable Minister referred to this particularly and I would like to give him at least a list of 12 things, big and small, which the Minister in those days did though he was handicapped in every way. The first thing he did was to revolutionise the system of industrial and technical education. I need not go into details as there is very little time at my disposal; but the Honourable Minister at least must know what the system of education was before my time and what it became after that. Then he should also know that it was during the time of the last Ministry that the State Aid to Industries Act was passed. There was not any provision worth the name for the development of industries or for giving assistance to those people who wanted to take up industry before that Act was passed. I personally consider that that was a big thing. If in six years any Government could do this much as to pass a measure like that, it would be considered to have done sufficient work for the development of industry in the province. It is for those who came after that to implement that Act; but how is that Act being acted upon? The grant under it is being reduced from Rs. 2,70,000 to Rs. 70,000 only. This is what one Government does and this is what the Government which succeeded it does in implementing the provisions of that Act. I have already referred to the Research Department which was started by that government. Then again that government was also responsible for having a rule passed that preference should be given to Indian



[Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang.]

made goods, and particularly Punjab made goods even at a little sacrifice. That was intended to encourage swadeshi and particularly the Punjab industry. Then, again, a communication went out from the Ministry to all the municipalities in the form of an advice that no octroi should be levied on hand-made cloth like khaddar. That was intended to encourage handloom industry in the province. Then that government established a tanning institute probably the first of its kind in the country. The Shahdara cloth mill became a paying concern for the first time during the time of that Ministry: the credit for that goes more to the Director and Mr. Marzban. A number of other institutions came into existence. The oil industry was suffering and an oil expert was imported. There were no arrangements for marketing, so a marketing officer was appointed. There was no arrangement for textile designs: a designs officer was appointed. Sericulture was dying: so sericulture was attached to the Industries Department.

**Sayed Amjad Ali Shah:** I thought we were discussing the present Ministry.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang:** I am discussing that Ministry because I want to show that the present Ministry could do a great deal but it has not done anything. It has got funds at its disposal but it has not been able to do what that ministry, which was handicapped, was able to do.

So much is being spent on agriculture. No one grudges your spending so much on agriculture. Government can spend as much as they like on agriculture. There should be canals everywhere and not an inch of land should remain dry: there should be irrigation everywhere, but the Honourable Minister should understand that agriculture alone can never raise the status of the province. It can never eliminate poverty in the province. Let the zamindar members also understand that if they want to be prosperous and get rid of poverty they must join hands with us in improving agriculture of the province and also the industry of the province; but for that the Minister will have to change his mentality. He will have to realise all this. If Government has raised 20 crores or 40 crores for irrigation schemes, let them take courage in both their hands and raise 50 crores of rupees for making the Punjab industrially prosperous and one of the richest provinces in India. It is quite possible to do so.

**Sir William Roberts (European):** If there is one cause more than any other which hampers industrial development in the province, it is the high rate of interest which is charged by financiers. In this respect I think the Government is trying to do something. It is trying to deflect the capital resources of the province from being used in lending money at high rates, to more constructive use. The honourable members of the opposition must bear their share in supporting this anomaly because we all know that when we were discussing the Debt Amendment Bill there were plenty of amendments brought forward objecting to the low rates of interest proposed. Unless we can change the mentality of the capitalists of this

province and make them realise that it does not help the progress of the province to charge a high rate of interest, we cannot remove the greatest obstacle in the way of industrial development.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** Is the honourable member not aware that for industrial enterprise it is the banks which finance and the banks that can finance have been exempted from the provision regarding reduction of interest? It is not the private financiers who can finance big industrial schemes.

**Sir William Roberts :** I am well aware of that. I myself proposed the amendment that from the date of the passing of the Indebtedness Bill all banking and industrial institutions should be brought within the 7½ per cent rate of simple interest. As you are all aware, it was my honourable friends opposite who did not agree to this being done. Though there was a slight change in the wording of the amendment still it was owing to the opposition of my honourable friends in the main that I did not move my amendment.

In this connection I may say that I do feel very strongly that a bank in itself has no right to expect particular protection unless its funds are being used in helping the development of the province, and I do not see any reason for protecting a bank as such. I would also ask Government not to exempt co-operative societies. It seems to me that when a co-operative member borrows at 12 per cent and perhaps finds great difficulty in meeting charges it is a cruel argument to say he gets back a share in the profit of the bank. There is no such thing. His main preoccupation is to pay his annual interest and he cannot talk of having a share. So I would urge upon Government to remove the anomaly, because unless Government itself places this definite condition on its own co-operative organisation, I cannot see how it can ask other institutions to come into line.

I would draw your attention to one or two industries, particularly the glass industry. I think it is an industry from which the province has suffered a great deal owing to the war. I believe we were importing six lakhs of dozens of bottles alone per annum. There are excellent sand deposits in Hoshiarpur and Ambala and one or two other places. I would like to see Government supporting this industry more freely.

One other point with regard to the State Aid to Industries Bill. I have been rather disappointed to find that Government have been giving very meagre support to new industries through the medium of this State Aid to Industries Bill which has been on the statute book now for five years. I suggest that there would be no harm done if Government were to risk at least 10 or 15 lakhs of rupees in the year in helping and trying to encourage new industries.

One other point and that is that in the main industry of the province, this Government has an excellent record. I refer to the provision of water for agriculture. In fact, if I fear anything it is that they are going too fast. We have already got the Haveli Project, now they are doing the Thal Project and the Bhakra Dam scheme is nearer realisation than it has been before, and they have in hand a big scheme for supplying water to Hissar. In that industry the record of the Government is excellent.

**Minister for Development** (The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram): Sir, the discussion on this motion has rambled over a very wide field; from references to my speeches at public meetings outside the House, a visit of Herr Hitler to a lunatic asylum, and Lady Maynard Girls' School down to the share in employment of the scheduled castes, all things have been brought in. Therefore, I shall find it very difficult to answer every criticism that has been offered. All that I can say is that I will do my level best to consider all constructive suggestions, and will try to answer some of the unjust criticism that has been offered by various members.

I feel that Punjabi critics of the Department of Industries were in an unduly denunciatory mood. To meet this criticism, instead of giving my own version of the working of the Department of Industries, I will quote certain opinions which ought to go a long way to convince critics that the Punjab is not in such a bad way as they would have the public believe. But before I draw the attention of honourable members of this House to the opinions of non-Punjabis, I want to say just one word with regard to what has been said by the honourable member, Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang. He says that he did a lot for the department. I give him full praise for whatever he was able to achieve. He was responsible for having the State Aid to Industries Act passed in this House. He deserves to be congratulated on this achievement. He also reorganised our industrial schools for which the fullest praise is due to him. I congratulate him on the changes he was able to introduce. But having conceded this much I am not prepared to admit further that he is right in claiming credit for mere ideas and intentions. Is not even hell paved with good intentions? He says that the idea of a stores purchase department was already there. Perfectly true, it was there. I never denied its existence. He tried his level best and I think his predecessor also tried his level best to have a provincial stores purchase department, but they failed. Reasons for the failure are immaterial. The fact is that they failed to achieve what they intended to achieve. The present Government can, with perfect justice, claim credit for having achieved what its predecessors had failed to achieve.

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

I will now proceed to quote a few opinions of non-Punjabis which ought to re-assure the honourable members of this House as to the progress of industries in the province. Here is an opinion expressed by the Prime Minister of Bihar in December, 1937.

The Punjab is growing faster than many of the Congress Provinces.

Again the Honourable Minister of Industries from Bombay, Mr. Patil, when interviewed by a special representative of the *Tribune*, speaking of industrial research, said—

The Punjab Government has no doubt done remarkably commendable work in this direction.

Now I will come to something more recent. Here is an extract from a letter of April last addressed by Mr. Kumarappa, Secretary, All-India

village Industries Association, written to Dr. Sarin who is in charge of Shahdara Laboratory—

I was glad of the opportunity of seeing your industrial research laboratory. I was specially interested to see the emphasis laid on the need to introduce scientific knowledge to improve village and cottage industries. We ourselves of All-India Village Industries Association are struggling to supply this great need and it was refreshing to find fellow workers in the field. Though the laboratory seems to have been in existence only for a short while, yet our fellow workers have done a good bit by sheer enthusiasm. I feel you are tackling our problem of economic development on the right lines.

Here is another extract from a pamphlet written by the same gentleman, Mr. Kumarappa, in April, 1939—

The Industries department of this province seems to be a little more active than most of the other provinces. The scientific research laboratory at Shahdara deserves mention. The tanning institute gives recognition to the existence of village tanneries while Hissar attempts to improve cattle and the quality of wool.

Here is an extract from comments which appeared in the editorial columns of the *Hindustan Standard* on a Report of the Defence Department in December, 1939—

The report also speaks of Government industrial schools in the Punjab training their students in the production of a variety of articles that are of interest to the defence department, defence services.

The workmanship and finish of goods were found satisfactory according to the defence service standards. It has been decided to continue the experiment to educate the students in the manufacture of defence department stores. Is there anything like this in the Bengal industrial school?

These opinions will serve to show that the Punjab is doing fairly well in the matter of industrial development and activities connected with that development.

I may also mention for the information of this House that the Industries Department of the Punjab won several medals and prizes at various exhibitions. At the Patna Exhibition the first prize for the best show was won by the Punjab. Eight medals and certificates were won at the Delhi Exhibition. The Punjab Department of Industries won four medals and two certificates at Karachi. All the papers of Karachi commented most favourably on the quality of our exhibits.

Sardar Sahib Sardar Santokh Singh made a reference to a supposed diminution in the number of factories, and Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang seemed to confirm him. While I might have made a slip in the figures relating to the number of workers in 1936, I do not think that I made any mistake in giving the number of factories. I will just read out the number of factories, both those which are registered and those which are actually working. The list from which I am quoting has been supplied to me by the Director of Industries.

Number of factories registered during various years—

1936	..	..	..	--	--	71
1937	..	..	..	--	--	98
1938	..	..	--	--	--	47
1939	..	..	--	--	--	81

[Minister for Development.]

Number of factories removed from the register during various years—

1936	..	..	..	..	23
1937	..	..	..	..	22
1938	..	..	..	..	..
1939	..	..	..	..	51

Number of factories on the register at the end of the each year—

1936	..	..	..	..	802
1937	..	..	..	..	862
1938	..	..	..	..	887
1939	..	..	..	..	917

So there has been an appreciable increase in the number of factories. (Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang: What is the number of factories actually working)? I am coming to that. I am not concealing anything.

Number of factories actually working during the year—

1936	..	..	..	..	747
1937	..	..	..	..	798
1938	..	..	..	..	780
1939	..	..	..	..	800

So the number has gone up from 747 in 1936 to 800 in 1939. This is not discouraging certainly. (Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang: Probably this is the list prepared after the report was published, because 800 is not mentioned in the report.) I have given him the figures for 1936, 1937, 1938 and 1939.

Another point to which attention was drawn was the budget provision for the Department of Industries with an added complaint that the Industries Department has been made to surrender a much larger portion of its money than other departments. I will give the figures which relate to reductions of expenditure which various departments had to make on account of unfortunate financial conditions resulting from a very severe famine in the south-eastern districts. The Education Department had to make a surrender of Rs. 1,89,000, the Medical Department a surrender of Rs. 3,11,000, the Public Health Department a surrender of Rs. 5,70,000, the Agriculture Department a surrender of Rs. 2,77,000, the Veterinary Department a surrender of Rs. 18,000, the Co-operative Department a surrender of Rs. 62,000 and the Industries Department a surrender of Rs. 2,87,000. Now it is obvious that not only the Department of Industries, but all other departments had been called upon to surrender a certain proportion of their budget provision. It was regrettable, but it could not be helped. The alternatives were either to withhold help from people who were starving in the south-eastern districts or to withdraw certain amounts from the budget provision of various departments, and I am sure the House will agree that Government came to a right conclusion, namely, that people should not be allowed to starve even though expenditure in certain departments had to be curtailed. This is a perfectly fair and straightforward statement of the position with which we were faced. I wonder

whether Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt or Dr. Gopi Chand or Sardar Santokh Singh will have the hardihood to suggest that people in the south-eastern districts might have been allowed to die of starvation, but no money should have been surrendered by the departments.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** No.

**Minister :** If they make any such suggestion I can only say that I disagree with them most violently.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** There was another alternative and that was to start industries in that area.

**Minister :** The subject of the budgetary provision made from year to year also came in for criticism. I will just draw the attention of the House to the figures of budgetary provision made from year to year for the Department of Industries. In 1933-34 the budget provision was Rs. 11,58,738; in 1934-35 it was Rs. 12,47,585; in 1935-36 Rs. 13,67,384; in 1936-37 the last year for which Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang was responsible, the figure stood at Rs. 14,88,035. The provision made in the next budget, that is, the first budget which was framed under the new Government, rose to Rs. 20,31,504 (*hear, hear*) a very large increase, about 45 per cent.

**Begum Rashida Latif Baji :** بے رشتہ کے رابطے

**Minister :** اگر مدد زدہ ہیں تو ضروری ہے ذمہ داری

In 1938-39 the actual expenditure was a little less than 20 lakhs. The reason why we were not allowed to spend the whole budgetary provision was that there were very bad famine conditions prevailing in the district of Hissar. The Revised Estimate of Expenditure in 1939-40 is Rs. 19,09,100. Here again, as I explained half a minute ago, we had to surrender Rs. 2,37,000. The budget provision in the budget which is now under discussion is Rs. Rs. 24,88,420.

**Begum Rashida Latif Baji :** وزارتوں کے رابطے کل کتنا زیادہ خرچ کیا گیا ہے

**Khan Bahadur Nawab Muzaffar Khan :** ایسی ایسی ایک سکول قائم کیا گیا ہے

**Minister :** Another criticism which was offered by Sardar Santokh Singh related to the taking over of a Muslim girls school by the Government. He said that he took very strong exception to Government having agreed to take over the responsibility of maintaining a purely Muslim institution.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** We need not spend any time over that.

**Minister :** I draw the attention of the honourable member to the fact that there is a school by the name of Lady Maynard School which was endowed by the late Sir Ganga Ram. This school has laid down in unequivocal terms that no girls and no women except those who belong to the Sikh or Hindu community will be allowed admission in this school. The Government unfortunately took over this school about fifteen years ago and made itself responsible for the maintenance of a purely communal school, the rules of which said in so many words that only Sikh and Hindu girls and women will be allowed admission to that institution. The subject seems to have formed a sore point of grievance with the Muslim community and in 1932 a question was put by Mr. Muhammad Din Malik and the Honourable Minister (Dr. Narang) who was then in charge of the Department of

[Minister for Development.]

Industries, in answer to that question, held out an assurance that if the Muslim community fulfilled the same conditions as had been fulfilled by Sir Ganga Ram Trust, he would be willing to extend the same treatment to the Muslim community. The Muslim community, through Anjuman-i-Himayat-i-Islam, made representations that their school should be taken over by Government. I demurred to it once, I demurred to it twice and I demurred to it thrice when ultimately my attention was drawn to the fact that Sir Ganga Ram Lady Maynard School was being maintained by Government and that my predecessor had given an assurance that if the Muslims fulfilled the same conditions as had been fulfilled by Sir Ganga Ram, Government would be willing to take over the Muslim Girls School and maintain it at Government expense. This is now being done. When my attention was drawn to the assurance given by my predecessor naturally I had to honour it. (*Hear, hear.*) I insisted that the Anjuman-i-Himayat-i-Islam must also come forward with a cash amount of Rs. 7,500, an amount which had been placed at the disposal of the Government by Sir Ganga Ram. They placed Rs. 7,500 at the disposal of Government. Was there any alternative left for me to refuse an offer of that kind? So, my friends need not have taken any offence. But curiously, with some people communalism is no communalism so long as it operates to the advantage of their own community, but as soon as it begins to operate to the advantage of another community, it becomes something of an anathema, something intolerable.

Sardar Santokh Singh also made a reference to another school in Rawalpindi. I am really sorry to find that without making sure of his ground, he stated that that school also was a Muslim school. (*Sardar Sahib Sardar Santokh Singh*: I never said that.) I am sorry if I mis-quoted the honourable member, but my impression was that he complained that both the schools were meant for the benefit of Muslims. If I am wrong in my impression I am very glad that I am wrong.

Two more charges were brought forward by Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Iutt towards the end of his speech. One of the charges was that the Bata Shoe Factory had been started somewhere near Amritsar or Lahore and that Government had made a free gift of a certain amount of land. The point of his complaint was that the present Government was very keen to help foreigners while it was reluctant to help indigenous industrialists or capitalists. Now, let me inform him that so far as I am concerned I had absolutely nothing to do with the making of a gift of land or anything else to the Bata Shoe Factory. I know nothing as to where they got their land from. I made enquiries from my own Secretary. He tells me that there is absolutely nothing in the files of the department relating to this question. He also made enquiries from Mr. Le Baille and the latter says that he does not recollect any Crown or forest land or nazul land having been given to the Bata Company, nor is there any record on the subject in the Department of Industries and Labour.

The second charge was that a certain amount of help was promised by Government to the new textile factory of which the managing agent is to be Sir Jawala Prasad. Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Iutt said that it was next

horrible that the Punjab Government should help a man who is a capitalist and who is an enemy of all that is democratic or nationalistic or patriotic. I hear very frequent complaints, unfounded complaints, that this Government in the matter of dispensation of its patronage takes political view also into consideration. Now, what is the complaint of my honourable friend to-day? It is that the Punjab Government is ready to help a man who is a capitalist himself, who is an enemy of the Congress, who is an enemy of kisans and who is an enemy of mazdurs. I might take the political views of a particular industrialist into account when the question of rendering any assistance to an enterprising capitalist arises. But I should be wrong if I did that. And yet I am being taken to task by a Congressman for my sin of agreeing to help an industrialist who does not happen to share my friend's political views. But the conditions on which any capitalist or industrialist of this province or of any other province who prefers to come here will be able to secure some measure of help from the Government were made public by means of a *Press Communiqué*. That gentleman and those associated with him in the business took advantage of this offer. They accepted our conditions. Among others one of the conditions is that fifty per cent of the capital should, in the first instance, be offered to the Punjabis, a very large proportion of skilled labour, if available, should be engaged from the Punjab, ninety per cent of unskilled labour at least should be recruited in the Punjab, and the Government should have the right to have two directors on the board of directors to look after the interests of the Punjab Government and of the province as a whole. That gentleman and his associates accepted these conditions. After the acceptance of these conditions I do not see how the Government could refuse him and his friends the normal help which it had offered publicly to all who were agreeable to those conditions.

I will now mention a few facts which will enable the House to judge how far the Department of Industries is going on right lines. I prefer just to enumerate them without making any comments on them. (1) The Punjab is the first province to undertake industrial survey; (2) The Punjab is the first province to institute a research fund; (3) The Punjab is the first province which has, since the inauguration of autonomy, established a Stores Purchase Department of its own; (4) The Punjab is the first British-Indian province which has been able to produce its own disease free silk seed; (5) Pottery works on a commercial scale have been undertaken in the province—it is an industry which at one time flourished very greatly in the Punjab but it was dying and Government has under taken to revive it; (6) A commercial section was added to the Hosiery Institute of Ludhiana which has worked with most satisfactory results—We invested a capital of barely Rs. 40,000 and within five or six months we were able to earn a profit of Rs. 7,000 or Rs. 8,000. (*Hear, hear*); (8) Shahdara Weaving Factory is marching from success to success. Last year's profit was fifty-six thousand and this year's profit is expected to be in the neighbourhood of seventy thousand rupees. (*Hear, hear*) (*Cheers*); (9) So far as schools are concerned, I have already drawn the attention of honourable members to comments which appeared in the *Hindustan Standard* of Calcutta; (1) Another thing of which we may reasonably be proud is that the Punjab is the only province which can manufacture seamless blankets on handlooms.



[Minister for Development.]

A few days ago there was a conference of Directors of Industries at Delhi. The Army Department seemed to be in need of blankets. The question of supply of blankets was discussed there. The Punjab was found to be the only province which could supply them any number of seamless blankets. No other province who could produce such blankets. (*Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt*: Where do you get the credit for this?) We get them at Panipat, we get them in Kullu valley, we get these in Kangra Valley. (*An honourable member*: Credit.) Why should I not claim credit? (*Premier*: He takes the credit for the province.) I was not speaking of myself. I was speaking of the Punjab. This is a fact of which any Punjabi can reasonably be proud. (*Interruptions*.) I may also be allowed to state that the Punjab has probably the largest number of travelling demonstration parties working in rural areas. They are no less than nineteen in number. They go about in the countryside and demonstrate their handicrafts and teach the handicrafts to villagers; (12) About research a reference was made by Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang. He said that he was responsible for starting a research laboratory at Shahdara. I do not grudge him credit for starting that laboratory. (*Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang*: I do not want credit.) But I feel that the present Government deserves some credit for setting apart a sum of one and a half lakhs specifically for the purposes of research. In this connection I may draw the attention of the honourable members to some of the results which have already been achieved. They are, production of (1) glue from tannery waste; (2) starch from cereals; (3) Jaukhar (Potassium Carbonate) from ashes; (4) Naushadar (Ammonium chloride) from brick kilns; (5) Berberines Sulphide from *rasaunt*; (6) Saphonine from soap nuts; and (7) Khus Attar from Khus roots. Work in these directions is proceeding steadily and we have received enquiries both from America and England asking us whether we could supply a sufficient quantity of Berberine Sulphide. This is something entirely new for which neither my friend Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang nor any one else can claim credit. (*Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang*: The credit goes to Dr. Sarin.) I never claimed to be a chemist myself. No Minister can claim to be an expert of all things. I am in charge of five or six departments. I am not an expert even in one of them. A Minister has simply to guide the general policy under which his departments are to work. If the departments work well, the Minister may or may not claim any credit but he cannot be discredited. (*Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang*: We feel happy.) May I be spared this running commentary after every sentence which I utter. We heard calmly the speeches made by the honourable members of the Opposition. Why should they try to interrupt me at every sentence?

Begum Rashida Latif Baji was very anxious to know what was being done for girls and women. I may tell her that when the Department of Industries was created as a separate entity somewhere in 1920 or 1921, the number of girls reading at the only girls' schools at Lahore—probably there was only one school at that time—was only 200. Now the number of girls who are receiving education in industrial schools is about three thousand—I am speaking from memory (*Hear, hear*) (*Cheers*). The expenditure on the industrial education of girls in the year 1920 was six

thousand while in the Budget which is now under discussion, the provision is for seventy-nine thousand rupees. (*Interruptions.*) Baji Sahiba will be very much pleased to learn that there are quite a number of scholarships for girls. Ten Silver Jubilee scholarships of rupees ten each are reserved for agriculturists. There are four Silver Jubilee scholarships of rupees ten each for scheduled castes. There are twenty-four scholarships of rupees three each for those girls who come to receive training with travelling demonstration parties. There are twenty stipends of rupees seven each and thirty-two stipends of rupees five each tenable at the Government Zenana Industrial School, Lahore.

I now come to a controversial point which was raised by certain representatives of scheduled castes. They stated that a certain number of boys had gone on strike and that they were not allowed to rejoin the Tanning Institute at Jullundur. The facts of this strike are these. On the 9th of November fourteen boys went on strike. Efforts were made to put a little sense into them so that they may come back to the Institute and learn the work for which they had been sent by their parents to it. Unfortunately, they seem to have fallen into evil hands who advised them not to go back to the Institute until their leaders in this House had had time to discuss the whole matter with the Government and wrested from the Government the concessions which they had asked for themselves. That is the general purport of the information which I received from reliable sources. In the first instance, they had put forward a few complaints for certain concessions in the hostel fees they had to pay or with regard to certain reductions in the scholarships paid to them. I had made a reference to the Education Department and asked the Director of Industries to assimilate the practice of the Tanning Institute in respect of Boarders and scholarship holders to the practice which obtains in the Education Department. I think something in that direction had already been done. But the students shifted their ground and began to make both wild and vile allegations against the principal of the Institute. In spite of this, the poor principal continued to try to persuade those students to come back. But they were prevented from coming back to the institute by certain agitators. In the end I had to direct the principal to serve the strikers with a notice that they should rejoin the Institute within 48 hours failing which their places would be offered to others. Three of the students rejoined the Institute. The remaining 11 refused to take advantage of that offer and the vacancies which had been caused by their going out of the Institute were filled with 11 other members drawn from scheduled castes. A grievance has been sought to be made of this action. Every day, both from the press and the platform we hear and read the writings of Mahatma Gandhi in the Harijan entreating the Congress people to observe discipline and suggesting the strongest possible action where Congress people fail to observe discipline. Ministers and Prime Ministers have been dismissed from office and turned out of the Congress Party. An ex-President of the Congress itself has been outcasted. Daily increasing emphasis is being laid on discipline by Mahatma Gandhi and by the Congress as a whole. With what face can members belonging to the Congress Party or their associates in this House take objection if the present Government takes strong disciplinary action against the misdeeds of certain misguided students? I took that

[Minister for Development.]

action, and refused to budge an inch from that position. (*Hear, hear*). Discipline is the supreme consideration. I will not spare anybody, whatever measure of support he may be able to canvas in this House, if he goes wrong and fails to observe the rules of discipline. Whether he is a student or a teacher, if he fails to observe due discipline, strongest possible action will be taken against him in spite of any adjournment motions, notices of adjournment motions or notices of motions for censure. My position will remain the same. (*Premier: And other lapses*). Other lapses I will not speak of. But when these representatives of scheduled castes and their helpers in this House say that the lives of 11 innocent scheduled caste youngmen have been ruined, they should not forget that it was not the Government or any representative of the Government or the principal of the institute, who is responsible for ruining those youngmen's lives, but the responsibility lies somewhere nearer home, nearer the door of those who represent the Opposition, than those who represent the Government Party.

I may also draw the attention of honourable members to certain legislation that has been passed by this House relating to the Department of Industries. There are members in this House who represent capitalist interests or who are industrialists themselves, who have taken objection to some of the legislation passed by or shortly coming up in this House. We have amended the State Aid to Industries Act. The object of the amendment was to promote the cause of village industries and to help in particular cottage industries, by making subsidy money available to those who are in cottage industries or village industries. Under the old Act the subsidy could be availed of only for the purpose of research work. It was not open to those who took to village industries or cottage industries. The scope of the relevant section has been widened so as to make subsidy money available to cottage industries and village industries. Another object which we had in view in making this amendment was that statutory agriculturists should be in a position to take loans on the security of their land. As the House is aware, under the Alienation of Land Act a member of a statutory agricultural tribe cannot offer his land in security except for a period of 20 years and in most cases the period of 20 years will not suffice as security. Therefore, it was thought necessary that these members of statutory agricultural tribes should be placed in a position to offer their land in an unqualified security, so that if they fail to repay the loan, their land may be taken over either for a longer period or may be even sold. Many members, who belong to statutory agricultural tribes had made very strong representations that the Act should be amended so as to enable them also to take loans from the Department of Industries and offer their agricultural land as security. It was on the basis of those representations that we sought to make a suitable amendment. We have now made that amendment with the result that members of statutory agricultural tribes also will be in a position to benefit from large funds which we provide every year under the head, "Loans," in the budget of the Department of Industries. The last point which we had in view was to make loans advanced to a member of a Hindu joint family quite safe. The amendment had been necessitated, perhaps, by some concrete cases in which money advanced

Why the Department of Industries to a member of a Hindu joint family could not be realised because other members of the family were in a position to repudiate their liability to pay. Therefore, we made a suitable amendment. Now that this amendment has been made, no member of a Hindu joint family can repudiate his liability to pay the loan which has been advanced to him or any other member of the family by the Department of Industries.

Another very useful piece of legislation which will come up shortly before the House for final passage is the Trade Employees Bill. In this Bill we have tried to do something to advance the interests and safeguard the rights of those who serve in certain types of concerns. As usual, the representatives of commercial classes, industrialists and capitalists are opposed to this Bill. But generally speaking the Bill has been very well received. Employees of commercial and industrial concerns, etc. stand to gain a good deal by this legislation. What we aim at securing by this legislation is that every employee should be able to get 52 holidays in a year and four holidays in every month . . .

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang:** I do not want to interrupt my honourable friend, but is he relevant? You were very meticulous about relevancy.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** There is nothing irrelevant.

**Minister:** Anything that seems to affect the vested interests of the capitalists is unwelcome to my friends and is irrelevant. (*Interruptions*). All that I want is that my honourable friend should behave when we are speaking as we behave when they are speaking. That is all I want.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang:** You can interrupt me hundreds of times. I do not mind.

**Minister:** I was submitting, Sir, that under this Trade Employees Bill we desire to secure that employees should be able to obtain leave with pay after they have put in a certain period of continuous service. That has also been done. Under that Bill we have also made a provision that the maximum hours of work should be prescribed: that has also been done. I am sure that trade employees will welcome this legislation and their contentment will conduce to the progress and development of industry in this province.

Apart from this there is another Bill which has gone to a select committee, which relates to the amendment of the Factories Act. Under that Act we seek to regulate the mushroom growth of factories so that there may not be cut-throat competition between factories which already exist and factories which may be started by fresh entrants in the field. The second object is to prevent congestion in a few selected towns so that workers may live in surroundings of greater sanitation and thus preserve their health. Another object which we have in view in introducing this legislation is to secure a little money from factory owners. These factoriwalas hardly make any contribution to the provincial exchequer and we have thought it prudent to take some sort of contributions from those who earn decent profits in the province by working these factories.

[Minister for Development.]

There is another legislation in contemplation which has not yet received its final shape. I hope we shall be able to bring it forward probably next October. This legislation aims at securing the welfare of workers in general. If the proposal materialises it will be a sort of omnibus Bill which will remove in part, a large number of complaints which are now made by workers against factory owners who refuse to provide any amenities for workers or agree to any concessions, however reasonable.

Now I may come to the question of communal and class proportions in the department of Industries. Certain Muslim members and certain representatives of schedule castes complain that they do not receive their proper share of employment in the department of Industries. In order to satisfy them that every reasonable effort is being made to protect their interests, I will draw their attention to the figures which relate to recruitment in my own time. The number of vacancies which have been filled from the 1st of April, 1937 up to date are as follows. (*Interruptions.*)

**Mr. Deputy Speaker :** No conversations please.

**Premier :** This is with regard to recruitment to the department about which you see so much criticism in the press. This is about appointments made since 1937.

**Minister :** Hindus have received 80 appointments with a total monthly salary bill of Rs. 5,415. Muslims have obtained 132 appointments with a total monthly salary bill of Rs. 7,621. Sikhs have obtained 34 appointments with a total monthly salary bill of Rs. 1,849, Christians have obtained 2 appointments, a third appointment having gone to a Parsee with a total monthly salary bill of these three posts of Rs. 299. Scheduled castes have obtained 8 appointments with a total monthly salary bill of Rs. 270. The net result is that 132 appointments have gone to Muslims and 125 have gone to non-Muslims. The number of posts which have gone to the Muslims is about 53 per cent. of the total. The salary bill of the posts held by Muslims is just 49.3 per cent., of the whole, that is, just a bit less than their number.

**Mian Abdul Aziz :** May I interrupt the Honourable Minister for one minute ?

**Mr. Deputy Speaker :** Only if the Minister gives way.

**Mian Abdul Aziz :** He has kindly given way. Out of these posts which you have been pleased to state, how many were filled by one and the same person ? Some persons may have filled the same post three times.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** Did any one ask for this information ?

**Minister :** Yes. There are certain people who are not interested in communal proportions ; but for those who are interested in communal proportions I have to place these figures before the House. Some of the members have become restive.

The question that has been asked by Mian Abdul Aziz is one which I have not been able to follow. Mian Abdul Aziz seems to suggest that the same appointment was offered to

various candidates at different times and was counted not as one, but as many as the number of candidates who were appointed to the same post at different times.

**Mian Abdul Aziz :** The question that I put to the Honourable Minister was whether it is a fact that in temporary posts when one and the same person was appointed for a short time in one post and then in another post, these were counted as two posts and not one, and similarly as three and four posts.

**Minister :** I am not absolutely sure, but I think I am right when I say that so far as these short temporary vacancies of two or three months are concerned, they are not included in this list at all.

**Khan Sahib Chaudhri Sahib Dad Khan :** Is the Honourable Minister convinced of the correctness of these figures?

**Minister :** Absolutely. There is no reason to doubt their correctness, and I think there ought to be some limit to this unhealthy desire to cast reflection on statements prepared by responsible officers of Government.

**An Honourable Member :** What about the sikh percentage?

**Minister :** The percentage can be calculated by my honourable friend. I have given the actual figures, and I feel reasonably sure that Sikhs have received their proper share so far as appointments during my time are concerned.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** May I put a question if the Honourable Minister gives way? The Honourable Minister has just now stated that 58 per cent of the posts were given to the Muslims and 47 to the non-Muslims. He also said that 49·3 per cent of the pay was allowed to the Muslims. My question is that last year a new department was opened and how many of the posts in the Stores Purchase Branch of the Industrial Department went to the Muslims and how many to the non-Muslims and what was the total pay granted to the Muslims and non-Muslims respectively appointed in that department?

**Minister :** I am dealing with the Department as a whole. It is impossible for any Minister, however obliging he may be, to secure precise arithmetical proportions to each community and class in every section of each department. I do not know what proportion of the posts in the particular section referred to by the honourable member has gone to Hindus, Muslims or Sikhs, or zamindars or non-zamindars. What I am responsible for is that a reasonably correct proportion should be maintained for the department as a whole. I am not prepared to accept the position that in every single section of the department an accurate arithmetical proportion should be maintained for each community and each class. Suppose there is a branch containing only four men. How can I have Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, zamindars and non-zamindars in an accurate arithmetical proportion? The thing is ridiculous.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** The figures are quite contrary to the statement made by the Honourable Minister. (*Interruptions*). His statement is not correct. (*Interruptions*).

**Mr. Deputy Speaker :** I would request the honourable member not to make any remarks. (*Interruptions*).

**Sardar Sahib Sardar Santokh Singh :** I am entitled to make a reply. If there are so many questions asked and replies given, there will be no time left for me to make my reply.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker :** The honourable member is undoubtedly entitled to give a reply, but there is no time limit fixed and it is not possible for me to ask the Honourable Minister to conclude his speech.

**Sardar Sahib Sardar Santokh Singh :** That would deprive me of my right of reply.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** Technically perhaps you are right that there is no time limit to such speeches. What is the Chair for if it is not to see that proceedings are conducted fairly? You know that he has a right of reply and you know that the Honourable Minister has said practically all that he had to.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker :** The Chair has no power to ask the Honourable Minister to conclude his speech.

**Minister :** A complaint was also made by Khawaja Ghulam Samad that so far as the Boiler Inspection Department and the Factory Inspection Department are concerned, Muslims have practically no representation. I am afraid that the complaint is correct, but he must recognise the fact that all the appointments so far as these two sections of the Department of Industries are concerned were made in 1925 or 1927. Nobody can expect either a Minister or a head of a department to dismiss those who are already in service. I have been confining my statement and figures only to the appointments which have been made after the 1st April, 1937. All the appointments in these two sections of the Department of Industries were made either in 1925 or 1927, that is, no appointments have been made in these sections since 1927. All the appointments had been made long, long ago.

It was suggested by certain honourable members that we have allowed some very important industries to decline and one of the industries suggested was glass industry. They think that this is a very important industry, that there is a great demand for glass things in the province and that the Punjab Government should do something not only to keep present factories alive, but also to promote still further the manufacture of glass in this province. All that I can say is that if any industrialist, one who has sufficient enterprise and commands sufficient capital, comes forward to start a factory for the manufacture of glass articles, Government will be most glad to give all reasonable assistance, whether it is by way of acquiring land for the factory or of supplying power or even of disposing of their produce. There may be certain articles produced by that factory of which Government itself may be in a position to take delivery. It may also be that Government is in a position to help the disposal of the produce in other ways even if it does not purchase those things directly. I promise that Government will make itself helpful in either case so that the field is clear for everybody. Let some enterprising capitalist come forward and start a glass factory. He will have not only the blessings of Government but also its active good will and help. (*Diwan Chaman Lall :* Particularly of the distilleries.)

A suggestion was also made by one or two members that Government ought to have taken a huge loan. Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang went to the extent of suggesting a loan of even 50 crores to start factories—state-owned factories or partly state-owned and partly state-managed factories. This is a very complicated question and involves a very vital principle. The question is to what extent the state should enter into competition with private enterprise and private capital. Whatever my own views may be, the House has not expressed formally and definitely what views on the subject will commend themselves to it. If the House once gets an opportunity of expressing itself in a clear manner that it favours state-owned industries or partly state-owned and state-managed industries, Government will give the fullest and most careful consideration to those views. But so far the House has not expressed itself in favour of it. But what does Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang mean by suggesting that Government should raise a loan of 50 crores of rupees to help the growth of industries? Did he mean simply that Government should raise a loan of 50 crores and then hand it over to Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang and other capitalists? (*Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang*: Thank you, I do not want). Then if he means that Government should start factories, that is a different thing. (*Mian Abdul Aziz*: They have not done so for the last three years). I was submitting that if the House once gives a mandate in favour of this principle, I will certainly place it before the Government and will do my level best to see that effect is given to the mandate of the House. But so long as that mandate is missing, I am not in a position to say that the House desires—.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang**: Have you tried to take it?

**Mr. Deputy Speaker**: The honourable Minister should not be interrupted.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang**: You are too meticulous, excuse me, Sir. We are not disturbing him. We are trying to get at something useful and you do not want any interruption. He wants guidance.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker**: I cannot allow any dialogue.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang**: You should know what happens in the Parliament. There is no such ban against casual interruptions. Let us not fight so shy of these interruptions. They make the debate more lively and useful.

**Diwan Chaman Lall**: Is it not a fact that my honourable friend commands a majority on the floor of this House and if he makes up his mind to put a proposal like this before the House, what is there to prevent him?

**Minister**: The difficulty is this, that the question has never come up formally before this House—.

**Diwan Chaman Lall**: You bring it.

**Minister**: And in the absence of a formal decision of the House I should be a little chary—.

**Diwan Chaman Lall**: Has my honourable friend ever taken the previous decision of the House in regard to any other legislation that he has brought before this House?

**Minister**: Oh yes.



**Diwan Chaman Lall :** His four Bills ?

**Mr. Dev Raj Sethi :** What about prohibition ?

**Sardar Sahib Sardar Santokh Singh :** Let the Minister of Development refer to his own speech made in 1938 wherein he said that this matter was being considered by the Government, regarding state-owned and partly state-owned industries.

**Minister :** I think honourable members will remember that notice of a resolution to the effect that a certain amount of money should be raised in order to be spent on state-owned or partly state-owned and state-managed industries, was given three or four times, but unfortunately the resolution, though balloted, did not come up for discussion.

**Diwan Chaman Lall :** What did you do ?

**Minister :** In a matter of this kind I should like to have a clear mandate from the House for the purpose. So far as my personal views are concerned—

**Diwan Chaman Lall :** Why not a clear mandate of the Cabinet ? What has the Cabinet got to suggest in regard to this matter ?

**Minister :** What the Cabinet should like to have before it is some indication of the wishes of this House.

Now I come to the last point which was raised by my honourable friend, Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt, and to which attention was also called by so many other members. Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt suggested that we had been very unfair in allowing Rai Bahadur Lala Ram Lal to go away from the Department of Industries prematurely and that there was nepotism at the bottom of the selection of his successor. Now let me make it quite clear that there is no question of Rai Bahadur Lala Ram Lal going away prematurely. There was no particular tenure fixed for this post. In the first instance he was appointed, I think, on probation or temporarily for eighteen months. After those 18 months were over, he was given an extension of two years. After those two years were over, he was given another extension of three years and when at last in February, 1937, the question came up whether he should get another extension, the proposal put forward by my predecessor was that he should be allowed to hold the post of Director of Industries until the time for his retirement from the service arrived. That proposal was not accepted by the Governor and Rai Bahadur Ram Lal was given an extension which was due to expire on the 18th of August, 1939. In February, 1939, I took up the question of his successor. Now in making a selection of his successor, there is absolutely no slur either on his character or his competence or his efficiency. I know he is a very keen, very competent, very conscientious, very independent and very honest officer (*hear, hear*). I pay him this tribute without any qualification of any kind.

**Diwan Chaman Lall :** Which officer are you referring to ?

**Minister :** Rai Bahadur Lala Ram Lal. Having paid this tribute I must be allowed to say that the question of premature retirement does not arise. There was no particular tenure fixed for this post. Extensions were granted to him from time to time and a time came when the question

of a permanent successor had to be settled. My friends say that as he is a very competent officer, he should not be allowed to go away. But there are so many other considerations to be taken into account. After all, it is very difficult for Government to allow the same officer to hold charge of a particular post or of a particular district for an indefinite period. He had already held charge for about ten years. We extended that period for another year. That period will expire in August, 1940.

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

Therefore the charge that he was made to retire prematurely is entirely wrong and without any foundation whatsoever. Now let us take the question of the selection of his successor. Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt grew very eloquent indeed in condemning the selection, not only in condemning the selection but in condemning the officer selected and he suggested that this officer had been selected because he happened to be related to our Premier, or because he happened to be related to a Parliamentary Secretary. There is absolutely no ground for this allegation. In the first instance I suggested to the Premier and the Chief Secretary that I should have an I.C.S. officer for this post. The Chief Secretary said that he could not spare an I.C.S. officer for me. I made another effort and suggested a particular officer whom I knew very well.

**Diwan Chaman Lall :** Why did you want an I.C.S. officer ?

**Minister :** Whatever the reasons may be, that is not a thing which is under discussion.

**Diwan Chaman Lall :** The House is entitled to know. Why get rid of an experienced officer and appoint an I.C.S. ?

**Minister :** Because I chose to have an I.C.S. officer, if I could have one.

**Diwan Chaman Lall :** Why ?

**Minister :** Because I wanted to have an I.C.S. officer whom I knew well and whose worth came up to the requisite standard. Therefore I wanted to have that officer from among I.C.S. officers.

**Diwan Chaman Lall :** Which officer was that ?

**Minister :** The Chief Secretary said he could not spare the particular one suggested by me or any body else and that meant that I had to fall back upon the Provincial Civil Service. I selected Shaikh Abdul Hamid. The Premier and Governor approved of my selection.

**Diwan Chaman Lall :** What has the Governor to do with it ?

**Minister :** He has to do a great deal.

**Diwan Chaman Lall :** Even under the new constitution ?

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** *Tao !*

**Minister :** An offer was made to Shaikh Abdul Hamid, but he refused to accept the offer. I, therefore, had to make another selection, and wanted to consult the Premier further but he said that he will not advise me any further because he was related to Hassan Mahmud. I consulted my own Secretary of the department, I consulted Mahmud's career as a student and as an officer, I found that he had had an excellent career as a student

[Minister for Development.]

both in India and in England. After his return to this country he had a splendid record (*hear, hear*) as an executive officer. I also had some personal knowledge of the manner in which he had worked as Under Secretary in the Local Self-Government, because he had served with me on a select committee, and I came to the conclusion that he was the fittest person who would be able to carry on the good traditions of the Department in an efficient manner. So I selected him. He is a first class officer about whose suitability I am thoroughly satisfied. I am thoroughly satisfied about his intellectual attainments and about his official career. Besides, he is a townsman. He belongs to Amritsar which is a very large commercial and industrial centre. Being a townsman he may be expected to have some business instincts and business connections which I lack. With all these qualifications in the officer is it seriously suggested that I should reject him simply because he happens to be related to the Premier, or because he happens to be related to a Parliamentary Secretary? I refuse to accept such an absurd proposition (*hear, hear*). If an officer is capable, and competent and honest, it should be no disqualification if he happens to be related to the Premier or to a Minister or to one of the members of the ministerial party or if he happens to be related to one of the members occupying the Opposition benches (*hear, hear*).

**Pandit Muni Lal Kalia :** What about him as a magistrate?

**Minister for Education:** All criminals hated him (*laughter*).

**Minister :** I had his record before me. I went through it very carefully and found that he had a splendid record as a magistrate. Certain criminals may have disliked him, probably he convicted them where conviction was deserved. Perhaps he passed a severe sentence where a severe sentence was called for. I selected him on merits and have no doubt that my selection is perfectly good. I feel absolutely sure that with his past record as a student and as an executive officer, he will serve the Department with credit, will bring credit to the Department, will bring credit to the Minister who selected him and will bring humiliation to those who, in a most unworthy manner, have chosen to attack him. With these words, Sir, I oppose the motion moved by Sardar Sahib Sardar Santokh Singh.

**Pandit Muni Lal Kalia :** May I refer to the strictures passed in 1936 A. I. R., Lahore 418 when the High Court held——.

**Mr. Speaker :** The honourable member is not in order to make a speech when the Hon'ble Sardar Santokh Singh has been called by the Chair.

**Pandit Muni Lal Kalia :** I only wanted to draw your attention to the——.

**Mr. Speaker :** It was not proper on the part of the honourable member to begin his speech without being called by the Chair and if he behaves like this in future I shall have to proceed according to rules.

**Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :** On a point of order. Is it not within the rights of any honourable member of this House to stand up and say something with your permission?

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

That the demand be reduced by Rs. 101.

*The Assembly divided : Ayes 25, Noes 81*

### AYES.

Abdul Aziz, Mian.  
Baldev Singh, Sardar.  
Bhagat Ram Choda, Lala.  
Bhagat Ram Sharma, Pandit.  
Chaman Lall, Diwan.  
Dev Raj Sethi, Mr.  
Gokul Chand Narang, Dr. Sir.  
Gopal Das, Rai Bahadur Lala.  
Gopi Chand Bhargava, Dr.  
Hari Singh, Sardar.  
Harjab Singh, Sardar.  
Jalal-ud-Din Amber, Chaudhri.  
Kabul Singh, Master.

Kartar Singh, Chaudhri.  
Kartar Singh, Sardar.  
Krishna Gopal Dutt, Chaudhri.  
Muhammad Nurullah, Mian.  
Muhammad Wilayat Hussain Jee-  
lani, Makhdumzada Haji Sayed.  
Muni Lal Kalia, Pandit.  
Prem Singh, Mahant.  
Sampuran Singh, Sardar.  
Santokh Singh, Sardar Sahib Sardar.  
Sant Ram Seth, Dr.  
Shri Ram Sharma, Pandit.  
Sita Ram, Lala.

### NOES.

Abdul Hamid Khan, Sufi.  
Abdul Haye, The Honourable Mian.  
Abdul Rab, Mian.  
Abdul Rahim, Chaudhri (Gurdas-  
pur).  
Abdul Rahim, Chaudhri (Gurgaon).  
Afzaalali Hasnie, Sayed.  
Ahmad Yar Khan, Chaudhri.  
Akbar Ali, Pir.  
Ali Akbar, Chaudhri.  
Amjad Ali Shah, Sayed.  
Anant Ram, Chaudhri.  
Ashiq Hussain, Captain.  
Badar Mohy-ud-Din Qadri, Khan  
Sahib Sayed.  
Bhagwant Singh, Rai.  
Chhotu Ram, The Honourable Chau-  
dhri Sir.  
Dasaundha Singh, Sardar.  
Faiz Muhammad Khan, Rai.  
Faiz Muhammad, Shaikh.  
Faqir Hussain Khan, Chaudhri.  
Farman Ali Khan, Subedar-Major  
Raja.  
Fateh Muhammad, Mian.  
Fazl Ali, Khan Bahadur Nawab  
Chaudhri.  
Fazal Din, Khan Sahib Chaudhri.  
Fazal Karim Bakhsh, Mian.  
Few, Mr. E.

Ghazanfar Ali Khan, Raja.  
Ghulam Mohy-ud-Din, Khan Baha-  
dur Maulvi.  
Gopal Singh (American), Sardar.  
Gurbachan Singh, Sardar Bahadur-  
Sardar.  
Habib Ullah Khan, Malik.  
Hans Raj, Bhagat.  
Hari Chand, Rai Sahib Rai.  
Harnam Singh, Captain Sodhi.  
Het Ram, Rai Sahib Chaudhri.  
Indar Singh, Sardar.  
Jagjit Singh Man, Sardar.  
Jogindar Singh Man, Sardar.  
Karamat Ali, Shaikh.  
Khizar Hayat Khan Tiwana, The  
Honourable Major Nawabzada  
Malik.  
Manchar Lal, The Honourable Mr.  
Mubarak Ali Shah, Sayed.  
Muhammad Alam, Dr. Shaikh.  
Muhammad Amin, Khan Sahib  
Shaikh.  
Muhammad Ashraf, Chaudhri.  
Muhammad Azam Khan, Sardar.  
Muhammad Faiyaz Ali Khan, Na-  
wabzada.  
Muhammad Hussain, Chaudhri.  
Muhammad Nawaz Khan, Major-  
Sardar Sir.

Muhammad Saadat Ali Khan, Khan Bahadur Khan.	Ram Sarup, Chaudhri.
Muhammad Sarfraz Khan, Chaudhri.	Ranpat Singh, Chaudhri.
Muhammad Sarfraz Khan, Raja.	Riasat Ali, Khan Bahadur Chaudhri.
Muhammad Shafi Ali Khan, Khan Sahib Chaudhri.	Roberts, Sir William.
Muhammad Yasin Khan, Chaudhri.	Sadiq Hassan, Shaikh.
Mushtaq Ahmad Gurmani, Khan Bahadur Mian.	Sahib Dad Khan, Khan Sahib Chaudhri.
Muzaffar Khan, Khan Bahadur Captain Malik.	Shah Nawaz Khan, Nawab Sir.
Muzaffar Khan, Khan Bahadur Nawab.	Sikander Hyat-Khan, The Honourable Major Sir.
Nasir-ud-Din, Chaudhri.	Singha, Diwan Bahadur S. P.
Nasrullah Khan, Rana.	Sultan Mahmood Hotiana, Mian.
Naunihal Singh Mann, Lieutenant Sardar.	Sumer Singh, Chaudhri.
Nawazish Ali Shah, Sayed.	Sundar Singh Majithia, The Honourable Dr. Sir.
Nur Ahmad Khan, Khan Bahadur Mian.	Suraj Mal, Chaudhri.
Pir Muhammad, Khan Sahib Chaudhri.	Talib Hussain Khan, Khan.
Pohop Singh, Rao.	Tara Singh, Sardar.
	Tikka Ram, Chaudhri.
	Ujjal Singh, Sardar Bahadur Sardar.
	Wali Muhammad Sayyal Hiraj Sardar.

**Mr. Speaker :** Question is—

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 21,23,900 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March 1941, in respect of Industries”.

*The motion was carried.*

*The Assembly then adjourned till 12 noon on Tuesday, 12th March, 1940.*

# PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

SIXTH SESSION OF THE FIRST PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Tuesday, 12th March, 1940.

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

## STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

### MUNICIPAL LIMITS OF SHARAKPUR.

**\*6226. Sardar Kishan Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

- (a) whether he is aware of the fact that the Sharakpur Municipal Committee in the Sheikhpura district has recently extended its municipal limits and has established terminal tax posts on the Lyallpur-Lahore Road ;
- (b) whether the new municipal limits of the Sharakpur Municipal Committee have been notified in the *Punjab Government Gazette* and if they have not been notified so far, the reasons therefor ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Shaikh Faiz Muhammad) :** (a) The municipal limits have not been extended. The octroi posts are within municipal limits.

(b) Does not arise.

**Sardar Ajit Singh :** Is it a fact that the municipal authorities have pitched up tents at a distance of one or two furlongs from the town and harass the passengers of the passing lorries with a view to charge one or two annas as a tax from them ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** No, it is not a fact.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know if the Lyallpur-Lahore Road passes through the municipal limits ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** There are so many roads which pass through the municipal limits. But in this particular case the position is this. Previously the octroi post used to be within the municipal limits and now it has been established at the farthest end of the municipal limits which in fact have not been extended.

**Mr. Dev Raj Sethi :** May I know whether the place at which the octroi post has been established now, is situated in the Lahore or Sheikhpura district ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** Sheikhpura district.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Is it a fact that the octroi post is situated at a distance of one furlong from Sharakpur town ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** It makes no difference. The limits of a municipality can extend to a number of furlongs.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know if the terminal tax was realised before the establishment of this present octroi post or it has been imposed now ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I have already stated that previously the octroi post was established within the municipal limits. As a result of this the people could smuggle in articles, and succeed in evading the tax. Now the said post has been established at the farthest end of the municipal limits which, as stated already, have not been extended.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Is it a fact that previously the octroi post was situated inside the municipal limits and now it has been established outside it, i.e., on the Lyallpur-Lahore Road ?

**Mr. Speaker :** That question does not arise. The Parliamentary Secretary has tried to explain more than once that the municipal limits and octroi limits were different at first, but that now they are the same.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** I want to know whether this particular place on the Lyallpur-Lahore Road, where the octroi post has now been located, was within the limits of the municipality ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I may inform the honourable member that this place where the octroi post has now been established was already within the municipal limits. I may tell him that law does not prohibit the shifting of an octroi post from one place to another within the limits of a municipality.

#### NOMINATION OF DEFEATED CANDIDATES TO MUNICIPAL COMMITTEES.

**\*6233. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :** Will the Honourable Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether the following gentlemen have been nominated to the municipalities noted against their names—

Qazi Mahbub Alam	..	..	Jullundur City.
Lala Lachhman Das	..	..	Nurmahal, Jullundur.
Sardar Har Raghunath Singh	..	..	Bunga (Jullundur).
Agba Zaighum Husain	..	..	Ludhiana.

(b) whether his attention has been drawn to the fact that all these four gentlemen fought elections and failed to be returned, and if so, whether before nominating them this fact was taken into consideration or not ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Shaikh Faiz Muhammad) :** (a) Yes.

(b) The fact was brought to the notice of the Commissioner regarding the case of the gentlemen mentioned first and fourth in part (a) and he was aware of it when he nominated them.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know whether Government have issued any circular or instructions to the effect that members defeated in elections should not be nominated ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** There was no such direction formerly but now the Government have issued instructions that in future no man who has contested any election and been defeated should ordinarily be appointed as a nominated member.

**Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :** May I know when those instructions were issued ?

**Minister :** It was some time ago. I would not be able to give the date. The instructions at present are that except for extraordinary circumstance, ordinarily a defeated candidate is not to be nominated.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** May I know on whose ticket the gentlemen in question sought elections ?

**Minister :** If notice is given, we will try to find out but the honourable member can find out from those members even.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Was it not the ticket of the Unionist Party on which they fought the election ?

**Minister :** We keep no record of political allegiances and if we did keep a record it would be a shifting one because political loyalties change from day to day.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Government does keep a record. You do not know what the Government is doing.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know whether the members in question were nominated before or after the instructions had been issued ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** If my honourable friend gives notice, I will be glad to supply the information.

#### ENFRANCHISEMENT OF WOMEN FOR DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS.

**\*6234. Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Will the Honourable Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government received any communication from the district board, Amritsar, about the enfranchisement of the women for purposes of district board elections ;

(b) if so, the reply given to the above by the Government ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Shaikh Faiz Muhammad) :** (a) Yes.

(b) Government were of the opinion that the time was not yet ripe for the extension of district board franchise to women and replied accordingly.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** May I know when in the opinion of the Government, the time would be ripe for enfranchisement of women for the purpose of district boards ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** It relates to a matter of policy and questions of policy cannot be dealt with in answer to a supplementary question.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know why Government feel averse to extend district board enfranchisement to women when they have already been granted a right of vote in the case of Assembly elections ?



**Minister :** That has been replied to.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** On a point of order. Is an Honourable Minister entitled to answer a question while sitting. He should get up and then give a reply.

**Minister :** I was not replying officially. It was just a side remark made for the convenience of the honourable member that the reply had already been given.

**Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :** Does silence mean that a Minister may say anything sitting and then it may be taken that the Minister is silent?

**Mr. Speaker :** The Honourable Minister is sitting in this House in his official and not private capacity. (*Hear, hear and Cheers.*)

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Have Government received any communication from any district board recommending the right of vote to women?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** So far as I am aware no district board has so far made the requisition.

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GOVERNMENT HIGH SCHOOL, AMRITSAR.

**\*6122. Dr. Sant Ram Seth :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the following funds exist in the Government High School, Amritsar; if so, how much is being charged per boy under the head of each fund;

(b) Red Cross Fund, (i) Medical Fund, (ii) Ink Fund and (iii) Punkha Fund?

**The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye :** (a) and (b) Of these funds only the Red Cross Fund and the Medical Fund exist in the school. The rate of subscription to the former is one anna per mensem per boy. For the latter nothing is being charged at present, but last year a subscription of Re. 0-2-0 per mensem was charged from each boy.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Is the making of a contribution to the funds referred to in the question compulsory or voluntary?

**Minister :** So far as I am aware it is voluntary in the case of Red Cross Fund and compulsory in the case of other funds.

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GOVERNMENT HIGH SCHOOL, AMRITSAR.

**\*6123. Dr. Sant Ram Seth :** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state—

(a) the total number of students on the roll in the Government High School, Amritsar, in the month of May, 1937, 1938 and 1939;

(b) the total number of students in the 10th class in the month of May, 1937, 1938 and 1939;

(c) the number of students in the 10th class detained in 1937, 1938 and 1939;

(d) the number of students sent up for the Matriculation Examination during the years mentioned in (c);

(e) the number of those who passed the Matriculation Examination during the years mentioned in (c)?

**The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye :**

(a) May, 1937	..	..	..	..	592
May, 1938	..	..	..	..	536
May, 1939	..	..	..	..	496
(b) May, 1937	..	..	..	..	66
May, 1938	..	..	..	..	62
May, 1939	..	..	..	..	61
(c) Nil.					
(d) 1936-37	..	..	..	..	58
1937-38	..	..	..	..	64
1938-39	..	..	..	..	57
(e) 1936-37	..	..	..	..	44
1937-38	..	..	..	..	52
1938-39	..	..	..	..	39

DETENTION OF STUDENTS GOING UP FOR MATRIC EXAMINATION.

**\*6209. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state—

(a) whether he is aware of the practice of detaining the weak students and not sending them up for the Matriculation Examination, obtaining in the schools of the province;

(b) the steps which have already been taken or are proposed to be taken to put a stop to this practice?

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

(b) A copy of Director of Public Instruction's C. M. No. 14244-G., dated the 17th June, 1939, on the subject, is laid on the table.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know whether the practice of detaining weak students and not sending them up for Matriculation Examination is followed in the Government as well as non-Government schools or not?

**Minister :** I think it is followed in all the schools.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know whether the headmasters are entitled to detain weak students or the Government have issued any instruction to them to do so?

**Minister :** On the contrary, I may inform the honourable member that the Government issued a circular in which they drew the attention of

[Minister for Education]

the headmasters that ordinarily they should not detain students from taking their Matriculation examination. Further, we have also instructed the Inspectors of Schools that while inspecting different schools they should particularly note the number of students of fourth high classes and the number of students of the fifth high classes and also to note down the number of students detained.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** When was the circular issued ?

**Minister :** On 17th June, 1939.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know whether after the issuing of this circular any appreciable decrease has taken place in the number of students detained from taking the Matriculation examination ?

**Minister :** This fact will be apparent in next June.

*Copy of circular from W. H. F. Armstrong, Esquire, M.A., Director of Public Instruction, Punjab, to the Divisional Inspectors and the Principals of Government Intermediate Colleges in the Punjab, No. 14244-G., dated 17th June, 1939.*

I have the honour to address you on the subject of the detention of students in classes leading to University Examinations.

Several complaints have been received about the detention of students in the upper classes and in some cases their correctness has been verified by further enquiries. It is believed that students are kept back in the 9th and 10th high classes and I and II year Intermediate classes in order to secure better examination results. This is very objectionable. When a student has reached the IX or a higher class his detention ought to be very exceptional. Detentions in the lower classes are comparatively less objectionable because the foundations of the higher work must be firmly laid. But even in these classes, with satisfactory teaching and with due care given to the backward boys, the number of detentions should be very small.

Very often weak students preparing for university examinations are made to leave their studies on one pretext or another. This practice should also be discontinued. If in an institution, the number of boys not promoted from the IX or 1st year Intermediate class, or detained from taking a university examination, or of those who leave the class preparing for a university examination is unduly large, the instructional state of the institution cannot be regarded as satisfactory.

As a remedial measure it is suggested that the Divisional Inspectors at the time of inspection of a school should make out a statement showing the percentage of promotions from class to class. They should draw up a comparative statement of these figures for Government, local body and privately managed schools separately, and adjudge the instructional efficiency of a school on the basis of these figures. For grading purposes also the Matriculation result should be calculated on the basis of the percentage of passes on the enrolment of the ninth class in the preceding year. This will be a much truer indication of the value of the work in the high classes than the percentage taken now. A similar procedure should be adopted by the Departmental Inspection Committee in respect of Government Intermediate Colleges.

#### SCHOLARSHIPS FOR SCHEDULED CASTES' STUDENTS OF B. A. AND F. A. CLASSES.

\*6216. **Bhagat Hans Raj :** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state the number of University and Government scholarships which are available for the students of the scheduled castes, in the F. A. and B. A. classes in the province with the number and the names of the students, who are receiving these scholarships this year ?

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

## GOVERNMENT HIGH SCHOOLS IN THE PROVINCE.

**\*6219. Dr. Satyapal :** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state—

- (a) whether it is a fact that the question of closing 15 Government High Schools in the province is under consideration and the list includes the name of Rupar School ;
- (b) whether it is a fact that municipal committee, Rupar, passed a resolution on 30th January, 1940, that the school may be continued as a Government institution and if it is to be closed, it should be handed over to the municipal committee, Rupar ;
- (c) whether it is a fact that at the time the school was transferred to Government control, the Rupar Committee was getting Rs. 1,500 yearly as special grant from the Government for this high school ;
- (d) whether it is a fact that condition between Government and municipal committee, Rupar,—*vide* transfer deed, dated 5th October, 1922, registered on 29th October, 1922, contains a condition that if the school is closed all building land, etc., will revert to the municipal committee, Rupar, without compensation ;
- (e) whether it is a fact that municipal committee, Rupar, sent a written representation to the Honourable Minister on the subject on 2nd February, 1940, on this subject ; if the reply of all the questions is in the affirmative, the steps Government intends to take on this representation ?

**The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye :** (a), (b), (c) and (d) Yes.

(e) Yes but the representation is dated 1st February, 1940. The matter is under the consideration of Government.

**Lala Duni Chand :** May I know how many of the 15 schools that are proposed to be closed down were taken over from municipal committees and district boards ?

**Minister :** I regret I am unable to supply this information. If the honourable member puts his question on paper I shall collect the necessary information.

**Lala Duni Chand :** Do I understand that the Education Department is going to hand over the Rupar high school to the Rupar Municipal Committee from which it was taken ?

**Minister :** I have already stated that the matter is under consideration and no decision has been arrived at as yet.

**Lala Duni Chand :** May I know under whose consideration it is ?

**Minister :** Under the consideration of Government.

**Lala Duni Chand :** Should I understand that it is under your consideration and if so, when are you likely to decide the question ?

**Minister :** I regret I am unable to give any date.

**Lala Duni Chand :** Is the Government aware of the fact that there is a need for a high school at Rupar ?

**Minister :** I would not express any opinion on the subject. The matter is under consideration. If there is need for a high school, this factor will also be taken into consideration. The honourable member is aware that there is another high school, besides the Government school, at present at Rupar.

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SCHEDULED CASTES' STUDENTS IN EMERSON COLLEGE, MULTAN.

**\*6221. Munshi Hari Lal :** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state—

(a) whether there are any students belonging to the Scheduled castes now reading in the Emerson College at Multan ;

(b) if so, how many and whether any of them is a scholarship-holder ?

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

(b) Does not arise.

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PRACTICAL PHYSIOLOGY IN GOVERNMENT GIRLS' SCHOOL AT MULTAN.

**\*6222. Munshi Hari Lal :** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state—

(a) whether there is any arrangement for the girls to learn practical physiology in the Government Girls' School at Multan and whether any of the students studying at present in that school have taken up this subject for the Matriculation Examination ; if so, how many ;

(b) if no arrangement exists for teaching practical physiology in the said school, whether it is intended to make up this deficiency ; if so, when ?

**The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye :** (a) Yes ; there is an arrangement for the teaching of practical physiology in the Government Girls' School, Multan, and 23 girls are taking this subject for the Matriculation examination.

(b) Does not arise.

**Munshi Hari Lal :** May I know what arrangements are there ? Is there any mistress or teacheress ?

**Minister :** It is quite obvious that there could be no arrangement without a teacher having been provided.

**Munshi Hari Lal :** I want to know if there is any teacheress specially for this purpose ?

**Minister :** I assume that there is.

**Munshi Hari Lal :** May I know the name ?

**Minister :** I cannot give the name.

**Munshi Hari Lal :** Will the Minister please make enquiries into the matter whether there is any special teacheress ?

**Mr. Speaker :** Disallowed.

**Munshi Hari Lal :** Sir, the answer is utterly wrong.

SCHEDULED CASTE STUDENTS IN GOVERNMENT HIGH SCHOOL, MULTAN.

**\*6223. Munshi Hari Lal :** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state—

- (a) whether there are any students in Government High School at Multan belonging to Scheduled castes ;
- (b) if so, what is their number and whether any one of them is a scholarship-holder ?

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

(b) Five. None of them is a scholarship holder.

GOVERNMENT HIGH SCHOOL, RUPAR.

**\*6230. Lala Duni Chand :** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state—

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Government High School, Rupar district Ambala, is one of the 15 schools proposed to be closed down ;
- (b) whether it is a fact that when the Government took over the said school from the Municipal Committee, Rupar, it was agreed that, should the Government at any time decide not to carry on the school, it would be handed over to the municipal committee ;
- (c) how many of the remaining 14 Government High Schools proposed to be closed down were taken over from their respective municipal committees or district boards and what Government proposes to do in regard to them in the event of their closing ?

**The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye :** (a) Government High School, Rupar, is one of the fifteen schools recommended by the Punjab Resources and Retrenchment Committee to be closed down.

(b) Yes ; the buildings, lands and furniture then existing.

(c) This information, it is regretted, cannot be furnished at this stage as it has not so far been considered which schools, if any, are to be closed down.

**Lala Duni Chand :** I understand that at the time when the school was taken over from the municipal committee, the agreement between the Government and the Rupar Municipal Committee was that if at any time the Government closes down the school, it will be returned to the municipal committee, and if so, whether the Government is willing to keep this agreement ?

**Minister :** If the agreement is there, the Government would certainly honour it.

**Lala Duni Chand :** Is the Honourable Minister aware of the existence of this agreement or not ?

**Minister :** I am not aware of it.

**Lala Duni Chand :** It is rather surprising.

STAFF OF PUBLIC HINDU HIGH SCHOOL, RUPAR.

**\*6235. Lala Duni Chand :** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state—

whether it is a fact that serious complaints of unnatural offences with certain boys of the school were made by one Lala Ram Sukh, B.A., of Rupar against Lala Lal Chand Gupta, Headmaster, and certain other members of the staff of Public Hindu High School, Rupar, to the Inspector of Schools, Ambala division, about six months ago ;

(b) whether it is also a fact that similar complaints have been made from time to time previously also ;

(c) what action, if any, has been taken thereon ?

**The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye :** (a) Certain remarks against the headmaster's character are reported to have been made by Lala Ram Sukh to the Inspector of Schools, Ambala division, orally.

(b) A poster was issued in 1933 and a written complaint was made against the head master by Lala Ram Sukh in 1935.

(c) In all these cases the complainant failed to substantiate the charge.

**Lala Duni Chand :** Is it true that only the other day it was observed by the Honourable Minister that he and his department would promptly deal with this question ? Is it not a fact that complaints have been made against this gentleman repeatedly for a number of years and they were also made publicly, in writing and also to the authorities concerned ?

**Minister :** I have already replied that complaints were made in the first instance in 1933 and then in 1935 and this time they were repeated orally and on all those three occasions the gentlemen making those complaints, when called upon to substantiate them, failed to do so.

**Lala Duni Chand :** May I know if the complaint has been made in the form of posters as admitted by the Honourable Minister and broadcast publicly ? Is it not a sufficient proof of the genuineness of the complaint and sufficient ground to proceed against the man ?

**Minister :** The honourable member should realise that it is a private institution and any such allegation made by way of posters should have been sufficient for the management of that school to take any action. But so far as the complaint made to the Inspector is concerned, the Inspector must require proof before any drastic action is taken.

**Lala Duni Chand :** May I know if it is not a recognised and aided school and may I further know if the Government owes a duty towards purification of the atmosphere of aided schools?

**Minister :** It is a recognised school, but I am doubtful about its being aided. The Government fully realises its responsibility in the matter and the Inspector of Schools gave ample opportunities to the gentleman concerned to substantiate his allegations but he failed to do so.

**Lala Duni Chand :** In view of the fact that the poster containing the charges has been published, may I know whether the Government ever called upon this headmaster to vindicate himself?

**Minister :** The honourable member must differentiate between the duties of the management of a private institution, whose employee the headmaster is, and the Government. I have already said that so far as Government is concerned, they are prepared to take action provided the gentleman concerned is in a position to produce some evidence against the man.

**Lala Duni Chand :** It appears that the Minister for Education has not caught the point. The point is that a poster has been issued, charges have been brought against him and specific cases cited, then why is it that in view of that poster a chance has not been given to him to vindicate himself?

**Minister :** I have already stated that the honourable member should approach the management of the Hindu High School and have his grievances redressed.

**Lala Duni Chand :** Do I understand that it is the policy—

**Mr. Speaker :** The position of the Honourable Minister is that if a poster is published, it is the duty of the managing committee and not of the Government to see whether it is right or wrong.

**Lala Duni Chand :** My trouble is that you have not been pleased to allow me to complete the question so that you could appreciate what I mean. Simply because I uttered the word policy I have been misunderstood; I did not utter the word policy in the sense in which you refuse to admit questions regarding policy. My point is whether it is the policy of the Government that in case of a private school it is not the concern of the Government to take any action.

**Mr. Speaker :** Disallowed.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** In reply to a supplementary question it was stated that the complainant did not substantiate the allegations. I want to know from the Minister whether any regular enquiry was made by the Department into the conduct of the headmaster and if so who was the officer who made the enquiry?

**Minister :** The headmaster is the employee of a private school. There was no question of instituting any regular enquiry against him. Verbal complaint was made. The complainant was offered an opportunity to appear before the Inspector of Schools to adduce such evidence as he possessed but he failed.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** The Honourable Minister has admitted in reply to a supplementary question that it is a recognized



school. May I know from the Honourable Minister whether Government has any control on the recognized schools or not?

**Minister :** Government has got ample control over these recognized schools. Government would hesitate to take any action simply because allegations have been made, allegations which were not substantiated.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** When the allegations were made by means of a poster, that is allegations were made publicly, was it not then the duty of the Government?

**Mr. Speaker :** Will the honourable member please quote the rule of the Education Department under which the Government is bound to take action?

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** So much I can say—

**Mr. Speaker :** I do not want arguments. If there is any such rule please read it out.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** This is a commonsense thing. My point is that the Minister has admitted that it is a recognised school and that complaints against the headmaster were made by means of a poster by a gentleman named Lala Ram Sukh. The question is whether it is not in the power of the Government to withhold recognition of such schools in which the headmasters are implicated in such crimes?

**Mr. Speaker :** That again is a question of rules.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** They must be known to the Minister and not to a layman like myself. I think I am entitled to ask this question. (*Interruptions.*)

**Minister :** A poster was issued in 1938. This gentleman again made a verbal complaint to the Inspector of Schools. No poster had been issued in the year 1939.

**Khan Sahib Chaudhri Sahibdad Khan :** Will the Honourable Minister please state whether in the case of aided schools such reputation is taken into account when granting a subsidy?

**Minister :** The Department would require it to be proved that the allegations against the headmaster were correct and would require the management to dispense with his services, and the Department may cancel his certificate also. But as I have already submitted before taking such a drastic action we would require some proof that the allegations were correct.

**Chaudhri Sumer Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister be pleased to state what action, if any, was taken by the Government for the protection of the headmaster?

**Minister :** The headmaster had ample opportunity to protect himself. The Government has no responsibility in the matter of protecting an employee of a private institution.

**Lala Duni Chand :** May I know whether, in view of the unanimity of the members of the Opposition and the members of the Unionist party on this question, he will be pleased to go further into the matter and do something?

**Mr. Speaker :** That is a request for action.

FINAL VERNAICULAR MIDDLE SCHOOL EXAMINATIONS.

\*6236. **Lala Duni Chand:** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state—

- (a) whether it is a fact that according to the circular issued by the Education Department at the time when the late lamented Sir Fazl-i-Husain, Minister of Education, was in charge of the department, students reading in unrecognised schools were permitted without any restriction to appear in the Final Vernacular Middle School Examination and after passing the same were allowed to join the 9th class;
- (b) whether it is a fact that restrictions have now been placed upon such students desiring to appear in the said examination, and if so, the nature of these restrictions?

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

(b) Yes. Now the students of only such unrecognised schools are admitted as were before the commencement of the school year informed by the divisional inspector concerned that their students would be allowed to take the examination to be held in that year.

**Lala Duni Chand:** Is it not true that the change in the rule now works in practice in this way that hardly any student of any unrecognized school is allowed to appear in the examination?

**Minister:** I am not prepared to subscribe to this proposition.

**Lala Duni Chand:** May I know if it is not a fact that a large percentage of the students, who ask for permission to appear in the examination, are refused permission by the Divisional Inspector of Schools?

**Minister:** Again I regret to say that I cannot answer this question without notice.

**Lala Duni Chand:** Has he got any figures in support of me or himself?

**Mr. Speaker:** Disallowed.

**Lala Duni Chand:** You do not see what the question comes to. Let me put the question. May I know if the change of rule has worked hardship or not and whether it has come to the notice of the Minister for Education?

**Minister:** This is a very salutary rule and I am unable to change it.

**Lala Duni Chand:** May I know the good that the Minister of Education had in view in changing it?

**Minister:** The good we had in view was some control over these institutions. In the case of unrecognized institutions we would require them to make their requests known to us in time.

MATRICULATION RESULTS OF THE M. B. HIGH SCHOOL, RUPAR.

\*6240. **Dr. Satyapal:** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to lay a statement on the table—

- (a) regarding the number of students who appeared in the Matriculation Examination through Municipal Committee High School, Rupar, from 1912 to 1922, and out of them how many were declared successful every year; and

[Dr. Satyapal.]

(b) a similar statement for the period from 1923 to 1939 when the school remained under the control of the Government?

**The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye :**

Year.				Number of boys appeared.	Number of boys declared successful.	REMARKS.
(a)						
1912	...	..	..	16	12	
1913	..	..	..	13	8	One scholarship.
1914	..	..	..	12	8	
1915	..	..	..	19	16	One scholarship.
1916	..	..	..	21	8	
1917	..	..	..	35	20	
1918	..	..	..	24	16	
1919	..	..	..	18	13	
1920	..	..	..	22	19	
1921	..	..	..	20	16	
1922	..	..	..	28	21	One scholarship.
(b)						
1923	..	..	..	36	29	
1924	..	..	..	36	25	One scholarship.
1925	..	..	..	38	27	
1926	..	..	..	45	39	Two scholarships.
1927	..	..	..	28	14	
1928	..	..	..	31	13	
1929	..	..	..	25	10	
1930	..	..	..	49	17	
1931	..	..	..	28	21	
1932	..	..	..	35	21	
1933	..	..	..	37	20	
1934	..	..	..	32	26	
1935	..	..	..	32	28	
1936	..	..	..	35	30	Three scholarships.
1937	..	..	..	26	20	
1938	..	..	..	28	22	
1939	..	..	..	24	18	

## OBSCENE PASSAGES IN TEXT-BOOKS.

**\*6243. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state—

- (a) whether the Vice-Chancellor, Punjab University, ordered in November, 1939, that a certain portion be expunged from the poem "Keats Last Sonnet" out of book "Bridges of Song" a course for Intermediate Class; if so, on what grounds was it done;
- (b) whether this order has been withdrawn; if so, when and why?

**The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye :** (a) Yes, as it was considered objectionable from the point of view of girl students;

(b) No. The matter is still under the consideration of the University.

## LAHORE COLLEGE FOR WOMEN.

**\*6255. Begum Rashida Latif Baji :** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state when the construction of the new building for the Lahore College for Women will commence and the period roughly which will be required for its completion?

**The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye :** Government has already under consideration the construction of new buildings for the Lahore College for Women, Lahore, on the new site, which is being acquired for the purpose, but it is not possible to specify the time by which the work is likely to be completed.

## EMPLOYEES IN THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT WITH WAR SERVICES.

**\*6257. Sufi Abdul Hamid Khan :** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state—

- (a) the names of persons employed at present in the Education Department who volunteered for military services out of India in the last Great War;
- (b) the names of War Theatres and the particular Units and Departments with which such officials served in the above War out of India and whether they are zamindars or non-zamindars;
- (c) the names of such persons who were among the combatants and who actually took part in the fighting or who had a chance to serve with the fighting forces;
- (d) whether any preferential treatment has been given to any of these persons after their return from War, in the Education Department for example in annual increments and promotions to next grades as provided for in Government notifications Nos. 23729 (Home and General) and 24588 (Home and General), dated 19th December, 1917, and dated 18th November, 1919, respectively; if so, the names of such persons with their designations;

[Sufi Abdul Hamid Khan.]

- (e) whether Government has any scheme now under consideration for giving preferential treatment in the matter of promotions and similar other matters to officials now employed in the province who have approved war services to their credit as specified in the notifications referred to in part (d) above ?

**The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye :** I regret I am unable to answer the question as the benefit to be derived will not be commensurate with the time and labour involved in the collection of this information.

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CONSTITUTION OF COMMITTEES BY THE CIVIL SURGEONS IN THE  
PUNJAB.

**\*6282. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state with reference to his reply to my unstarred Question<sup>1</sup> No. 961—

- (a) whether it is a fact that these committees include only those members who represent rural areas and the members representing towns of these districts are excluded from these committees ; if so, the reasons for not including members of urban areas ;
- (b) the names of members on such committees of the Hissar and Rohtak districts ?

**The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye :** (a) It has come to my notice that in some districts visiting committees have not been formed, and that some of the committees do not include all members of the Legislative Assembly representing the district. I am issuing instructions that a committee should be set up in every district containing a provincialized hospital and should include all members representing that district in the Punjab Legislative Assembly.

(b) A committee has not yet been formed in the Hissar district. A statement showing the names of the committee for the Rohtak district is placed on the table.

*Members of Committee constituted in the Rohtak district.*

1. Chaudhri Tikka Ram, M.L.A.
2. The Honourable Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram, M.L.A.
3. Chaudhri Ram Sarup, M.L.A.
4. Chaudhri Muhammad Shafi Ali Khan, M.L.A.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 5. Chaudhri Sardar Singh of Khewra                      | } Nominated by district board, Rohtak.      |
| 6. Chaudhri Khair Singh of Charra                       |   |
| 7. Lala Baij Nath                                       | } Nominated by municipal committee, Rohtak. |
| 8. M. Dost Muhammad Khan                                |   |
| 9. President, municipal committee, Sonapat              | ..  |
| 10. President, municipal committee, Beri                | } Nominated by Deputy Commissioner, Rohtak. |
| 11. The Head Mistress, Government Girls School, Rohtak. |   |

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know on what basis these names were selected ?

**Mr. Speaker :** Disallowed.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I enquire why none of the urban Hindu and Muslim M. L. A.s from that ilaga was taken in the committee

**Minister :** I have already replied to that question.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** The instructions issued by the Government were that the members of Legislative Assembly should be taken as members of these committees. May I know why the names of the members who are representing in this House from the urban areas are not taken in this committee of Rohtak ?

**Minister :** I have already stated in reply to this question that unfortunately the name of my honourable friend had been excluded originally and I have issued orders that it should be now included.

**Lala Duni Chand :** May I know why a public-spirited honourable member like Khawaja Sahib has not been made a member of that committee ?

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Was Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad not taken because the Honourable Minister did not want to include my name in that list ? Has he suffered on account of me ?

**Minister :** There is a world of difference between my honourable friend Khawaja Sahib and Pandit Shri Ram Sharma.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** In reply to my previous question the Honourable Minister said that "committees have been formed in each and every district and the Members of the Legislative Assembly have been taken as members thereof", but to-day the Honourable Minister says that committees have not been formed in all the districts. May I know from the Honourable Minister which statement of his is correct ?

**Mr. Speaker :** Disallowed.

## ARRESTS AND CONVICTIONS IN THE HOSHIARPUR DISTRICT.

**\*5121. Sardar Hari Singh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) number of arrests and convictions in the Hoshiarpur district under section 124-A, section 302/115 of Indian Penal Code and under the Criminal Law Amendment Act since the present Deputy Commissioner took charge of the district ;

(b) whether sanction of the Government had been obtained in all these cases ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) :** (a)

(i) Two persons were arrested under section 124-A, Indian Penal Code, one has been convicted and the other is being tried.

(ii) Three persons were arrested and convicted under sections 302/115, Indian Penal Code.

(iii) Eight persons were arrested and convicted under section 14 of the Punjab Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, II of 1935.

(b) The sanction of Government was obtained in all the cases under section 124-A, Indian Penal Code. It was not required in the other cases.

## ACCEPTANCE OF 'DALIS' BY GOVERNMENT SERVANTS.

**\*5124. Sardar Hari Singh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state whether the Government has issued any circular or instructions to Government servants on the subject of acceptance of "*dalis*"; if not, whether it intends doing it ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) :** Yes, in 1918 Government issued a circular prohibiting the acceptance by Government servants of *dalis*. These instructions have been included in Punjab Government Consolidated Circular No. 1.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Up to what extent has compliance been made by the local officers of the instructions issued by the Government in 1918 ?

**Premier :** That does not arise out of the question.

**Lala Duni Chand :** May I know whether it is a fact that like the prohibition of *malba* and *begar* the prohibition of *dalis* is also confined to paper and it goes on in practice ?

**Premier :** Has my honourable friend given any *dali* to anyone ?

**Pir Akbar Ali :** Has the honourable member Lala Duni Chand given a *dali* to any officer ?

**Lala Duni Chand :** I have not given, because there are so many Unionist members who are there to give *dalis*.

**Pir Akbar Ali :** Will he name any Unionist member who has given a *dali* ? Otherwise he should withdraw the allegation.

#### ARRESTS AND CONVICTIONS IN THE LAHORE KISAN MORCHA.

**\*5147. Sardar Hari Singh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

- (a) total number of arrests and convictions so far in connection with the Lahore Kisan morcha in various districts of the Punjab ;
- (b) arrests and convictions under sections 117/188 and 117/149, Indian Penal Code, in the same connexion so far ;
- (c) the number of " Kisan morcha " prisoners at present lodged in the Borstal Jail, Lahore, and the state of their health ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) :** (a) 2,108 including 1,963 convicted.

(b) 116 including 97 convicted.

(c) 22. In no case has the health of any prisoner deteriorated since his admission to the Borstal Jail.

**NOTE.**—The answer includes figures up to 14th October, 1939.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** How many persons convicted in connection with the kisan morcha are in jail at present ?

**Premier :** I do not remember the exact number, but of this much I am sure that only a very few of them are still in jail.

#### MUHAMMADPUR MINOR.

**\*5478. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state—

- (a) whether it is a fact that silt clearance in Muhammadpur Minor of the Sirsa Branch of the Western Jumna Canal has not been done for the last one year and a half and very little water reaches its tail and that several petitions to this effect have been made to the canal authorities without any result ; if so, the reasons for the same ;



{Pt. Shri Ram Sharma.}

(b) whether it is a fact that minors on the Sirsa Branch are closed by rotation in order that water may reach the tail of the main branch ;

(c) whether it is a fact that the above-named minor is kept closed mostly out of turn resulting in a heavy loss to the cultivators when in fact the main branch keeps running with full supply of water and balance turns ; if so, why ;

(d) the daily gauges of the minor in question and the days for which each minor of the Sirsa Branch was kept closed during the period from 1st April to September, 1939, for the purpose mentioned in part (b) above ;

(e) what steps, if any, Government proposes to take to remove the above-mentioned grievances of the cultivator on the Muham-madpur Minor ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan) : (a) Silt clearance has not been done for the last year and a half but the tail gets its share when the minor takes full supply at head. Two petitions were received in August, and investigations showed no shortage at the tail.

(b) No. They are closed in turn for equitable distribution of supply when the Sirsa Branch is closed or running low.

(c) No.

(d) A statement is placed on the table.

(e) Does not arise.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma** : Will the Parliamentary Secretary be pleased to state whether silt clearance takes place after a fixed period ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** : No.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma** : Is it a fact that on account of silt water cannot reach the tail ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** : It is not a fact.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad** : Have Government received any representation from the people of those places that the water does not reach the tail ?

**Premier** : But the tail can reach the water (*Laughter*).

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma** : Has the Irrigation Department or the Government received any representation from the zamindars in this connection ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** : So far as I know, no such representation has been received.

*Statement showing gauges of Mohammadpur Minor from 1st April, 1939, to 30th September, 1939.*

NOTE.—Authorized full supply gauge = 2.0.

Date.	April, 1939.	May, 1939.	June, 1939.	July, 1939.	August, 1939.	September 1939.	REMARKS.
1	2.0	1.9	2.0	2.0	1.65	..	
2	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	1.95	..	
3	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	1.7	..	
4	2.0	1.9	1.35	2.0	1.7	1.1	
5	1.2	1.65	Nil	2.0	1.5	1.9	
6	Nil	Nil	Nil	2.0	1.8	1.9	
7	Nil	Nil	Nil	1.9	1.85	1.9	
8	Nil	Nil	Nil	1.65	1.6	1.95	
9	Nil	Nil	Nil	1.8	0.9	1.9	
10	Nil	Nil	Nil	2.0	1.7	1.85	
11	Nil	Nil	Nil	2.0	2.0	1.7	
12	Nil	Nil	Nil	2.0	2.0	1.55	
13	Nil	Nil	Nil	2.0	1.85	1.0	
14	Nil	Nil	Nil	2.0	1.8	1.25	
15	Nil	1.9	Nil	2.0	1.55	1.55	
16	Nil	2.0	Nil	2.0	1.8	1.8	
17	Nil	1.9	Nil	2.0	Nil	1.75	
18	Nil	2.0	Nil	2.0	1.65	1.8	
19	Nil	2.0	Nil	2.0	1.95	2.0	
20	1.7	2.0	Nil	2.0	1.8	2.0	
21	2.0	2.0	Nil	2.0	1.75	1.95	
22	1.9	1.7	2.0	2.0	1.8	1.9	
23	2.0	1.65	2.0	2.0	1.85	1.9	
24	2.0	1.35	2.0	2.0	1.7	2.0	
25	2.0	Nil	2.0	2.0	1.7	2.0	
26	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	1.9	1.9	
27	1.9	2.0	2.0	Nil	1.7	1.3	
28	2.0	2.0	1.9	Nil	1.9	..	
29	2.0	2.0	1.9	1.7	1.95	..	
30	1.8	2.0	2.0	Nil	1.95	1.5	
31	..	2.0	..	1.75	1.85	..	

## CULTIVATION IN VILLAGES ON MUHAMMADPUR MINOR.

\*5519. **Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to lay on the table of the House a statement showing the area cultivated for *Kharif* 1938-39 and for *Rabi*, 1938-39 and 1939-40 in the villages on the Muhammadpur Minor of the Sirsa Branch of the Western Jumna Canal and also the area which should be cultivated in these villages according to the permissible percentage of irrigation on the said minor ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan)** A statement showing the required information is as under :—

*Statement showing areas cultivated and permissible.*

Particulars.	Crop (Season).	Area cultivated.		Permissible area.
		Acres, 1938.	Acres, 1939.	Acres.
Areas of villages on Muhammadpur Minor.	Kharif .. ..	3,614	3,584	2,313
	Rabi .. ..	1938-39. 2,398	1939-40. Information not yet available.	2,313

The above is information for the minor as a whole. Information for each village could not be collected as the revenue staff is particularly busy at this time of the season on Kharaba and other seasonal work which is more important.

## COMMANDED AREA ON BAHILBA MINOR.

\*5648. **Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state—

- the commanded area on the Bahlba minor in 1920 and after 1923 in Rohtak division ;
- whether the commanded area on the said minor has been very much reduced after 1923, and, if so, the reasons for this extraordinary reduction in the area ;
- whether any *chakbandi* was made between the years 1920 to 1923 and, if so, under whose orders and whether that *chakbandi* on the said minor was finally approved ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan) :** (a) The commanded culturable area on the Bahlba Minor from 1920 to 1936 was 2,454 acres.

(b) In 1986 the area was reduced to 2,362 acres by transfer of 92 acres to another channel called Bhaini Chanderpal Minor.

(c) No.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Is it a fact that the commanded area after 1923 is less than that before 1920 ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** The relevant figures have already been given in reply to the previous question.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** When did the *chakbandi* take place ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** No *chakbandi* has taken place.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Has there been any decrease in the area ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** From 1920 to 1986 there was a decrease of only 52 acres and reason for that has already been given in reply to the previous question.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Is it not a fact that before 1920 the commanded area was 22,000 acres, and that after 1923 it has been reduced to 12,000 acres ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** The original question relates to a period stretching from 1920 to 1923, and I have already given the necessary reply.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Has there been any decrease in this area after 1920 ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I have already stated that there was a decrease of only 52 acres and reason for that was that this area was made to be irrigated by another minor.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** In which year did this decrease take place ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I cannot say definitely.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Is it not a fact that the commanded area has decreased by 10,000 acres ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** Strictly speaking there was no decrease; as I have already stated a certain area was made to be irrigated by another minor.

#### MOHAMMADPUR MINOR OF THE SIRSA BRANCH.

**\*5662. Chaudhri Sahib Ram :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) when was Mohammadpur Minor of the Sirsa Branch of the Western Jumna Canal cleared of its silt last time ;

(b) whether it is a fact that silt clearance in Mohammadpur Minor of the Sirsa Branch of the Western Jumna Canal has not been done for the last one year and a half and very little water reaches its tail, and that several petitions to this effect have been made to the authorities without any result ; if so, the reasons for the same ;

[Ch. Sahib Ram.]

- (d) whether it is a fact that minors on the Sirsa Branch are closed by rotation in order that water may reach the tail of the main branch ;
- (e) whether it is a fact that the above-named minor is kept closed mostly out of turn resulting in a heavy loss to the cultivators when in fact the main branch keeps running with full supply of water and balance turns ; if so, why ;
- (f) the daily gauges of the minor in question and the days for each minor of the Sirsa Branch was kept closed during the period from 1st April to 30th September, 1939, and for the purposes mentioned in part (c) above ;
- (g) what steps, if any, Government proposes to take to remove the above-mentioned grievances of the cultivators on the Mohammadpur Minor ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan): The honourable member is referred to the reply to Assembly Question No. 5478.<sup>1</sup>

#### AREA UNDER CULTIVATION ON THE MOHAMMADPUR MINOR.

**\*5663. Chaudhri Sahib Ram :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to lay on the table of the House a statement showing the area cultivated for *kharif*, 1938-39, and for *rabi*, 1938-39 and 1939-40, in the villages on Mohammadpur Minor of the Sirsa Branch of the Western Jumna Canal and also the area which should be cultivated in these villages according to the permissible percentage of irrigation on the said minor ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan): The Honourable Member is referred to the answer given to Assembly question No. 5519.

#### REPORTING OF SPEECHES BY PATWARIS.

**\*6030. Lala Duni Chand :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the patwaris of this province in a conference held in January, 1939, at Lahore, passed a resolution against being required to report speeches made in public meetings ; if so, the action taken on that resolution ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan): *First part.* Copy of the resolution referred to by the honourable member has not been supplied to Government.

*Second part.* Does not arise.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Have the patwaris been ordered to report the speeches made in public meetings ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** It does not arise out of the original question.

<sup>1</sup>Page 361 ante.

<sup>2</sup>Page 364 ante.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** The original question shows that the patwaris have passed a resolution in this connection. This shows that the complaint is there. My question is whether or not the patwaris are required to make reports of speeches ?

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Is the Parliamentary Secretary prepared to give a reply to my question ?

**Lala Duni Chand :** May I know if a copy of that resolution has been supplied to the Head of the Department ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** Generally copies of the resolution are supplied to the Director of Land Records, but the Director of Land Records has not received any copy of the resolution containing the allegations made by my honourable friend.

**Lala Duni Chand :** What action is generally taken on such representations by the Head of the Department ?

**Mr. Speaker :** That is vague. Disallowed.

**Lala Duni Chand :** I want only information. I only want to know what action is taken.

**Mr. Speaker :** The question put by the honourable member is vague.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** My friend Pandit Shri Ram Sharma has put that question and I repeat it. I want to know whether the patwaris are required to report speeches made in public meetings.

**Parliamentary Secretary :** Patwaris are required to attend all such public meetings in the villages where they apprehend that something may be preached against law and order.

**Lala Duni Chand :** May I know if it is within the knowledge of the Government that this business is regarded by the patwaris as dirty and therefore their sense of honesty revolts against it ?

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

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** For how long have the patwaris been entrusted with this extra duty ?

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Has the Government issued instructions to the patwaris requiring them to report such speeches or is this matter left to their discretion ?

**Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :** May I know whether instructions have been issued to the patwaris as to how to find out whether there is going to be any preaching of disorder or against law and order ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** No special instructions have been issued in this behalf. It is expected of all law-abiding citizens in the province to bring to light any breaches of law or any preaching of subversive activity. He must keep the authorities informed of what is happening.

**Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :** May I know whether it is the particular duty of a patwari to report such speeches—as a patwari and not as a citizen ?

**Parliamentary Secretary:** The word 'duty' is too wide to be defined. But I think it is the duty of every citizen to inform the authorities concerned whenever somebody is preaching violence or doing something which is against law and order.

**Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava:** May I know whether the patwaris have to spend money on paper and pencil from out of their own pocket in order to submit these reports?

**Parliamentary Secretary:** I would like to have notice in regard to the pencil and paper.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh:** Were these instructions issued by this Government or its predecessor?

**Parliamentary Secretary:** No such instructions have been issued, and so this question does not arise.

PAUCITY OF BRIDGES ON JUMNA CANAL BETWEEN ABDULLAHPUR  
AND TAJEWALA.

**\*6106. Lala Duni Chand:** Will the Honourable Minister of Public Works be pleased to state—

- (a) the number of *pacca* bridges and the number of ferry boats, respectively on the Jumna Canal between Abdullahpur and Tajewala and also the distance between the two places;
- (b) the number of villages the residents of which own lands on both sides of the canal between the above-mentioned two places;
- (c) whether it is a fact that the people of the said *ilaga* and particularly the agriculturists are greatly inconvenienced on account of the paucity of bridges and ferry boats;
- (d) if answer to the above be in the affirmative, what action, if any, the Government proposes to take in the matter?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan):** (a) 3 ferries and 5 *pacca* bridges including one suspension bridge exist between Tajewala and Abdullahpur, which are 24·6 miles apart.

(b) 21 villages.

(c) and (d) Between Dadupur and Abdullahpur the ferries and bridges are at reasonable distances, but between Tajewala and Dadupur there is need for another bridge for which an estimate is being framed. In this connection the honourable member is referred to the answer already given to Assembly Question No. 5831<sup>1</sup> (starred).

**Lala Duni Chand:** May I know the source of information on the basis of which the Parliamentary Secretary has been pleased to say that there are five *pacca* bridges between these two places?

**Parliamentary Secretary:** May I know if my honourable friend challenges the figures given by me?

**Lala Duni Chand:** Yes I do. May I know whether any charge is made for crossing these ferry bridges over the canal?

**Parliamentary Secretary:** I would require notice for that question.

**WATERLOGGING OF LANDS LYING BETWEEN INDRI AND TAJEWALA ON  
THE JUMNA CANAL.**

**\*6115. Lala Duni Chand :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the lands lying between Indri and Tajewala and on either side of the Jumna Canal have become waterlogged, and that small lakes of water have sprung up in these lands which become several feet deep during the rainy season, making the lands uncultivable ; if so, the action taken or intended to be taken to reclaim these lands ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan) :** It is a fact that there are big depressions along the canal which have been collecting rain and seepage water for a very long time, and in each case the remedy most suitable is applied. Sometimes ordinary drains, sometimes drainage back into the canal, and in some places silting tanks are constructed.

**Lala Duni Chand :** Is the Government aware of the amount of damage that has been done by waterlogging ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** The Government is aware of every such matter of importance.

**Lala Duni Chand :** Is the Government aware that thousands of bighas of land on both sides of the canal have been rendered useless ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I do not know about thousands of bighas.

**Lala Duni Chand :** Has the Government taken any action so far in order to stop or minimize the damage ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I have already enumerated the different actions that the Government have taken in this direction.

**DECLARATION OF MALLAHS IN AMRITSAR AND GURDASPUR  
DISTRICTS AS AGRICULTURISTS.**

**\*6125. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state whether it is a fact that some time ago a promise was held out to the Mallahs, a tribe residing in the districts of Amritsar and Gurdaspur and cultivators by profession, that they would be declared as agriculturists ; if so, whether and when the Government intends to fulfil that promise ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan) :** No such promise was given. I may, however, inform the honourable member that on the basis of the report of the Deputy Commissioner, those Mallahs of the Amritsar district who are entered in the land revenue records as land owners, or occupancy tenants, and their descendants, have been declared an agricultural tribe.

**MAINTENANCE OF REGISTER OF VOTERS FOR THE ASSEMBLY  
ELECTIONS BY THE UNIVERSITY.**

**\*6150. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state whether any instructions have been given to the University



[Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava.]

by the Reforms Commissioner for the maintenance of a register of voters for the Assembly elections; if so, whether he will be pleased to lay a copy of these instructions on the table of the House?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah):** *First part.*—No.

*Second part.*—Does not arise.

**Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava:** Will the Parliamentary Private Secretary please state whether the Honourable Premier said in reply to question No. 2588<sup>1</sup> on the 7th of April, 1938, that separate registers are kept specifically for the purpose of our Assembly elections? May I know whether it is a fact?

**Premier:** The University has a statutory obligation to maintain a register.

**Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava:** May I know whether the same registers are used for election of fellows or whether there is a separate register for that?

**Premier:** Only those who are eligible on the University register are taken on to the other register.

**Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava:** May I know whether it is in accordance with the rules laid down by the law, because a voter for fellowship has to pay Rs. 2 and he must be a graduate of ten years standing and must be on that register while in the case of University elections a seven years standing entitles a man to a vote without any payment.

**Premier:** At least seven years standing. That question has been examined very thoroughly and we also made a reference to the Government of India and both of us have come to the conclusion that the Franchise Committee meant by these registers the University registers, and that practice will continue until it is changed by an Order in Council.

**Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava:** Do I understand that the law is that a graduate must pay Rs. 2 if he wants to acquire the right to vote?

**Premier:** It is not a question of law. It is a question of an Order in Council. The Order in Council mentions a register and after very careful consideration of the whole question we came to the conclusion that that register was synonymous with the register of the University, and that that was the interpretation of the Franchise Committee. We referred the matter to the Government of India and they also came to the conclusion that that was the meaning which the Franchise Committee intended and therefore no action could be taken by us unless the Order in Council is revised.

**Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava:** May I know whether any reminder was sent to the Government by the Senate that this matter be referred to the Federal Court for opinion?

**Premier:** I am afraid the Federal Court has nothing to do with the Order in Council. It has to be done in England.

**Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :** It is not a question of an Order in Council. It is a question of interpretation of that order, whether the interpretation put upon it by the Government is correct or that of the Senate is correct?

**Premier :** But there is no doubt about the interpretation. The Government of India is of the same view.

**Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :** Was it not laid down by the Delimitation Committee that a graduate of seven years standing has the right to vote?

**Premier :** Of at least seven years standing.

**Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :** The register maintained by the University is of graduates of ten years standing and of M. As. of no standing. This is against the recommendations of the Delimitation Committee.

**Premier :** I have already said that my honourable friend is perhaps unaware that we had a long correspondence with the University and we have also consulted experts, and we have come to the conclusion that so far as we are concerned we have not the *locus standi* to interpret it in any other manner and the Government of India have come to the same conclusion.

**Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :** May I know what recommendation the Punjab Government have made to the Parliament in this connection?

**Premier :** We have made no representations at all, because it is considered that the rule is in consonance with the interpretation which the Franchise Committee wanted to put.

**Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :** Therefore the Punjab Government have not asked the Parliament to change the Order?

**Premier :** The Order in Council is issued by His Majesty.

**Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :** May I know whether the Government in reply to a notice sent by a graduate who was eligible for voting has said that they have moved the Government to change this Order?

**Premier :** I have already informed the honourable member that not only the individual but the University also raised this question and after careful consideration we have come to the conclusion that no occasion arises for asking Parliament to change the Order.

#### STATE PRISONER SARDAR ARJAN SINGH 'GARGAJ'.

\*6168. **Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

- (a) when Sardar Arjan Singh 'Gargaj', Assistant Editor, *Alak*, was made a State prisoner;
- (b) the period for which it is proposed to treat him as such;
- (c) the amount he is given as allowance for food, clothing and books, respectively;

[S. Sohan Singh Joshi]

- (d) whether friends are permitted to interview him ;
- (e) the general condition of his health ;
- (f) whether any allowance is paid to his dependents, if so, how much ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah): (a) Arjan Singh (Gargaj) is not a State prisoner but is detained on an order issued by the Provincial Government under rule 26 (2) of the Defence of India Rules, dated the 19th January, 1940.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Government have sanctioned—

- (i) a monthly allowance of Rs. 16 per mensem ;
- (ii) a lump sum payment of Rs. 30 on account of initial expenditure on necessary articles.

The detenu is being given the same diet as a ' B ' class prisoner.

(d) Relatives are permitted to interview the detenu with proper sanction, and in some cases friends.

(e) When taken under arrest the prisoner was not in the best of health, but his condition has if anything improved and his weight has increased since his admission to the jail.

(f) No.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** May I know if the Parliamentary Secretary is aware of the fact that Sardar Arjan Singh ' Gargaj ' has an aged mother who entirely depends upon him and she needs support from the Government ?

**Premier :** What was her source of income previously ?

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Her son was the Assistant Editor of 'Akali' and used to support his mother.

**Premier :** He can even now give her a portion of his allowance.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** His allowance is Rs. 16 only. How can he support his mother from that meagre sum ?

**Premier :** In addition to his allowance of Rs. 16, the prisoner in question also gets some other facilities like daily allowances.

**Lala Duni Chand :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state specifically the acts of omission and commission on the part of this gentleman that led the Government to make him a State prisoner ? Was it merely the word Gargaj attached to his name that was responsible ? (Laughter).

**Premier :** I am aware that some people do run away by mere noise, but it is not so in this particular case.

**Lala Duni Chand :** May I know whether it is not true that the Government fears its own shadow ?

**Premier :** Only my honourable friend's shadow (Laughter).

## DEMANDS FOR GRANTS.

## IRRIGATION ESTABLISHMENT.

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

1 p. m.

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,01,24,500 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1941, in respect of charges on Irrigation Establishment.

**Mr. Speaker :** Motion moved—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,01,24,500 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1941, in respect of charges on Irrigation Establishment.

Will the Honourable Leader of the Opposition please say which cut motion the opposition has decided to move and discuss ?

**Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :** We would like to take up motion No. 23 standing in the name of Mian Muhammad Nurullah.

**Mr. Speaker :** In that case I would like to know what the honourable mover means by the expression 'overhauling of the irrigation system' occurring in the note to the motion.

**Mian Muhammad Nurullah (Lyallpur, Muhammadan, Rural) :** There are so many defects in the irrigation system which require to be gone into with a view to increase the revenues of the province and with a view to reduce abiana. Moreover I have got suggestions to make to increase the income and reduce expenditure. There are also certain other defects which require to be removed in order to remove the grievances of the zamindars and the public.

**Mr. Speaker :** How does the honourable member propose to overhaul the system ?

**Mian Muhammad Nurullah :** I will discuss the various aspects of the question in my speech and also give suggestions.

**Mr. Speaker :** What I like to know is whether the overhauling can be effected by administrative action or whether it shall require legislation.

**Mian Muhammad Nurullah :** In certain cases action can be taken by the department itself without coming to the legislature and in some other cases it will require legislation.

**Mr. Speaker :** If legislation is considered necessary, I shall have to rule the motion out of order.

**Lieutenant Sardar Naunihal Singh Mann :** Why not take up motion No. 83 which is a comprehensive motion ? It raises the question of general policy.

**Mian Muhammad Nurullah :** I shall take up motion 23 and I will try to avoid all references to legislation in my speech.

**Mr. Speaker :** If the object of the opposition is to raise a general discussion, why not take up motion 83 ?

**Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :** In that case the Opposition will not have the right of reply to the debate. The motion is in the name of a member of the Ministerial Party.

**Mr. Speaker :** I have no objection to motion 23 being moved provided matters relating to legislation are avoided. But I think it will be difficult for the honourable members to keep legislation out of their speeches.

**Mian Muhammad Nurullah :** The suggestions that I am going to make can be given effect to by the Government giving necessary instructions to the department. The question of legislation will not be raised. I move—

That the demand be reduced by Rs. 100.

(Urdu)—

Sir, before I proceed to offer my suggestions for the overhauling of the irrigation system and the Department, I would like to throw some light on the historical aspect of this system so that the House may find it easy to grasp the full significance of my suggestions. It is fifty years ago that the first canal, that is, the Lower Chenab was constructed in the Punjab followed by Lower Bari Doab and after that three more canals were dug the so-called Triple Project. Coming nearer to our own times, the Sutlej Valley Project and the Haveli Project are an accomplished fact. The work in connection with Thal Project has already been taken in hand and as soon as it is finished the work of the Bhakra Dam Scheme is expected to be commenced.

Sir, we are indebted to those engineers who conceived and executed the construction of these irrigation projects. It would be interesting for the honourable members to know that within ten years ending with 1922-23 canals yielded profits to the extent of about 40 crores of rupees. If we were to calculate the expenditure on our beneficent departments during this period it works out to about Rs. 40 to 45 crores. (*A n honourable member : question*). If my honourable friend is doubtful of the veracity of my statement I would like to refer him to the report of the Abiana Committee. I may read out some portion of a paragraph from the report for the information of the House—

Actually during the twelve years ending 1922-23 the Irrigation Department contributed nearly 46½ crores or 40 per cent. of the total provincial income of some 116 crores.....During these twelve years the province has spent on its beneficent departments and on roads and buildings about 45½ crores and it is no exaggeration to say that the material and moral progress of the Punjab has been financed by the profits earned by its irrigation system and that without these profits no such progress would have been possible.

You will observe, sir, that these canals have been to a much large extent responsible for the enhancement of the provincial revenues from Rs. 7½ crores to Rs. 12 crores. I, therefore, cannot help paying a warm tribute to the ability and talent of the engineers through whose efforts these irrigation facilities were provided to the zamindars. Now we have to see as to what changes which would prove beneficial to the province as a whole, should be effected in the Irrigation Department. If you cast a glance at the budget you would see that a deduct entry has been shown under the Head Irrigation. In this connection I may point out that when in 1930 I was returned as a member of the old Legislative Council, I drew the attention of the Government to the fact that budgeting of receipts and expenditure in regard to

Irrigation was very defective as it caused much misunderstanding. If you turn to page 4 of the Budget estimates you would find total receipts *i.e.* the whole income of the Punjab, given as Rs. 11,73,70,000. On page 3 the direct receipts from irrigation are put at Rs. 4,89,88,000 and the indirect receipts at Rs. 1,86,67,000. There is a minus entry regarding working expenses amounting to Rs. 1,60,06,000. This entry causes some misunderstanding. If we add this amount to the total income of the province, then the total receipts would amount to over Rs. 13 crores. If we work out the percentage of irrigation receipts to the total receipts it would come to 40 per cent. if the working expenses are excluded, and 47 per cent. if they are included in the total income. I am of the opinion that Government should remove this cause of misunderstanding.

Besides, I may point out that the canals have yielded tremendous returns on the total capital outlay. I have no mind to go into details, but in brief I may point out that the total cost on these canals in 1937-38 amounted to Rs. 34,49,72,000 and the interest charges were nearly Rs. 36,87,52,770. But the total revenues received amounted to Rs. 1,25,60,29,940 which in other words means that the net profit earned was to the extent of Rs. 89,22,77,662. I wish that these enormous profits could be subjected to the principle of "Damdupat". I would ask the Honourable Minister to give his serious attention to the matter. I fail to understand why Government should charge such high rates of abiana when they have already earned so much net profit which far exceeds all the costs incurred. I am sure if the Honourable Minister devises ways and means to decrease the working expenses, he might be disposed to make a reduction in abiana. But as I have already stated Government have charged very exorbitant profits which when worked out come to 15 per cent. I am of the opinion that if this department is run on commercial lines, Government would not be justified to charge high profits. Now in this connection I would like to make a constructive suggestion and that is that the Irrigation Budget should be separated from the main provincial budget. The honourable members are aware that Government of India have separated the Railway budget. I fail to see why the Punjab Government should not apply the same principle in the domain of irrigation. In this connection I would like to quote an extract from the Abiana Committee in support of my contention. It is as follows—

We will further recommend that a separate irrigation budget should be prepared and presented to the Council and the commitments of the Department of Irrigation to contribute to the general finances of the province should be restricted in their extent and regulated on some intelligible basis as is done in the case of the Railway budget in the Central Government. When the commitments and departmental expenses have been met the surplus, if any, should be used for building up a reserve, for expansion and development, for the benefit of the irrigator at its discretion by the Department of irrigation, subject, of course, to the general supervision and control of the Local Government in all essentials.

Well, Sir, the Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram had himself enunciated this principle, as the leader of the non-official group of the Abiana Committee, I wonder why the Honourable Minister who wields power, has not cared to get this recommendation implemented. I would appeal to him that now is the opportune time when he should endeavour to give this scheme a practical shape. I may point out that the arguments which were adduced at that time hold water even now. The position has not a bit

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changed. I am sure he would devote his attention to this problem when he is free from other matters, to which he is applying his mind at present. Hence if the Irrigation budget is separated, we would be in a position to know the income and expenditure of each canal and if there is any surplus, it would be utilised for building up a reserve, for expansion and development or for the benefit of the irrigator. In order to make the position clear, I would like to cite the history of the Lower Chenab Canal. Before I do so I think it would be better if I discuss the reduction of abiana.

Sir, I have pointed out that at that time the position which was taken up by the non-official members of the Punjab Legislative Council was very sound. Now it behoves those honourable members, who were on the Abiana Committee and who are at present siding with the Unionist party to urge their party to agree to the recommendations of that Committee. As a matter of fact to-day the Government cannot with any justification advance the same arguments which Mr. Calvert was in the habit of putting forward. Our capital outlay on canals is so much, interest so much and working expenses so much, therefore we cannot charge less than Rs. 4 per acre. Water being a commercial commodity we cannot charge less and reduce abiana. If the zamindars feel that they are being charged too high a price for the water they were at liberty not to take canal water. As for example if anybody goes to a bazar and finds that anything cannot suit his pocket he need not buy it. So should the zamindars do. Let me point out that these are merely talks, and nothing more. If we look to the other side of the question we would find that on account of the shylock like attitude of the Government there was a moga agitation in the Lyallpur District about a couple of years ago when the zamindars refused to take water. Government felt greatly disturbed. When they refused to have water the Government began to approach and later harass the zamindars in many ways and the result was that they were forced to take water. If the Government regarded this canal system as a commercial department they should have allowed the people to act according to their will. Similarly in the case of the Dipalpur Canal, on which my honourable friend Sardar Muhammad Hussain will throw a flood of light the zamindars refused to take water. Even the Muslim zamindars joined the agitation at the instance of my honourable friend Sardar Muhammad Hussain. But what happened. The Government began to trouble the zamindars in many ways and the result was that the zamindars were forced to take water. If water is a commercial commodity, as was pointed out by Mr. Calvert, why force a zamindar to take it at the point of bayonet? I ask, is this the freedom that is allowed to the zamindars? In the circumstances I would suggest that if the Government want to make this department a commercial one they should separate its budget from the rest of the Department.

Now I come to the question of reduction of abiana. I think it is the first and foremost duty of Government to reduce the present rate of abiana. The reason for this is, as I have already substantiated my point by quoting facts and figures, that the Government have, as a matter of fact, made a huge profit from these canals. In view of that the Government should reduce the rate of abiana. In addition there are many expenses which can be reduced and the money thus saved can be spent on providing relief to the

zamindars in abiana. There is no use saying that no reductions can be made in the expenditure of the department. On the contrary, I am definitely of the opinion that there is ample scope for effecting economies in the expenses of the Irrigation Department. Not to speak of effecting economies, one can point out a hundred and one ways in which the provincial revenues can be augmented and savings made. For that I refer the honourable members to the Report of the Abiana Committee. But before I quote certain passages I wish to bring one fact to the notice of the House that in the years 1932-33 and 1933-34 the revenues of the province were Rs. 10,22,00,000 and Rs. 9,87,00,000 and the expenditures were Rs. 9,89,00,000 and Rs. 9,91,00,000 respectively. It follows that in the year 1932-33 and 1933-34 the Government was quite able to maintain their efficiency by spending Rs. 989 lakhs and Rs. 991 lakhs respectively. There is no reason why the Government cannot now maintain their efficiency by an expenditure of Rs. 10 crores. I believe they can do so. But what are the real state of affairs? Now when the revenues of the province have gone up to Rs. 11,74 lakhs their expenditure has passed the figure of Rs. 12 crores and in fact a deficit budget has been presented to this House. If the Government continued to follow the same methods, I think, if some day their revenues increase to Rs. 15 crores, the expenditure of the Government would amount to 15 crores and 50 lakhs of rupees. It behoves the Government to remain within limits and not go on increasing their expenditure every year. Now I ask the Government if they cannot give any remission to the people in land revenue or abiana, what other relief they are providing to them. With what face can they say that they are bettering the condition of the poor people and that they are their well wishers? I ask the Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram if his private income were 1,174 lakhs of rupees would he spend the whole of it and even more than that? I do not think that he will spend the whole of it. On the other hand, he is not even likely to spend half of it. The honourable members should know that the plight of the zamindar is very pitiable. Although with the starting of war there has been an increase in the prices of the agricultural produce this has not made any difference. Since this war prices rose but within last two months have again fallen by 25 per cent. Their condition has not improved to any great extent. Under the circumstances, I would request the Government to cut their coat according to their cloth. They should not go beyond the limits of their revenues. As a matter of fact they should fix a standard beyond which they should not allow their expenses to go, say ten crores.

Now the question arises if any substantial reduction in water rates is granted to the zamindars where is the money to come from, for carrying on the administration of the province? I will not here discuss the twelve points that were urged by the non-official members of the Abiana Committee to have reduced the economic position of zamindars but I would like to bring certain points to the notice of the honourable members why and how abiana can be reduced. In this connection I would draw the attention of the honourable members to the Report of the Abiana Committee, page 32. Here the facts and figures have been given about the relative increase in culturable commanded area and establishment charges. From these figures it will be quite clear that the culturable commanded area has not increased in



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the same progression in which the expenses of the Government have increased. The figures are as follows :—

<i>Year.</i>	<i>Area in acres.</i>	<i>Establishment charges.</i>
1910-11 ..	.. 13,823,934	37,13,655
1920-21 ..	.. 17,084,220	89,93,178
1925-26 ..	.. 17,075,006	90,90,984
1932-33 ..	.. 18,807,261	92,38,977

Now if the honourable members consider the figures they would find that the expenses of the establishment are far in excess of the culturable commanded area. In view of these solid facts it has been rightly pointed out in the Report :—

“ It is clear that the expenditure of establishment has been moving upwards at a much quicker pace than the increase in the culturable area commanded. Expenditure has gone up by 148·8 per cent while the increase in area has been only 36·05 per cent.”

It follows that the establishment charges can be reduced and should not in any way be allowed to go upwards. Further they have also worked out the relative increase in commanded area and the cost of irrigation per acre. I want to place those figures as well before the House so that the honourable members should have an inkling about the real state of affairs as to how reduction can be made. Besides, my purpose in stating these facts and figures is to bring home to Honourable Revenue Minister, who often gets up and says that this cannot be done and that cannot be done, to consider them carefully before he rises to make a reply. In paragraph 66 a table is given about the relative increase in commanded area and cost of irrigation per acre. In the table the figures are given under five heads, i.e. working expenses, interest charges, aggregate cost of irrigation and cost of irrigation per acre. However, I will confine myself to mentioning only the cost per acre—

<i>Year.</i>	<i>Cost per acre.</i>
1910-11 .. ..	1·02
1920-21 .. ..	1·33
1925-26 .. ..	1·57
1932-33 .. ..	1·68

The business point of view is that if things are sold in large quantities the expenses are reduced relatively. But here in the Punjab the situation is quite the reverse of it. It is further stated in the report :—

“ It will be noticed that while increase in cost since 1910-11 has been only 36·05 per cent working expenses have gone up by 104·7 per cent. It is also significant that the cost of irrigation per acre which ought to have come down with the increase in area has risen instead and the pitch of rise (from 1·02 to 1·68) is clearly alarming in view of the huge acreage.”

The natural result of the increase of working expenses would be that the proportion in which the revenues would increase would be maintained by the expenditure as well. And this is highly objectionable from the point of view of national welfare. I think it is the duty of the Chief Engineer, the Technical Expert and the Honourable Revenue Minister to improve the situation further and get at the real remedy.

Now I want to draw your attention to cost of irrigation per acre and the profit per acre.

The average annual expenditure on our canals is Rs. 3,33,70,000. The average annual area irrigated we have found to be 10,919,160 acres. Dividing the former by the latter figure we get 3.05 as the result. Therefore the cost of irrigation per acre is Rs. 3.05.

In the same way the Committee have worked out the return per acre at Rs. 6 which means that the average net profit per acre of the irrigated area is 2.94. Is not this very high?

My submission is that the honourable Minister of Revenue should take these figures into consideration and to think, whether it will not be possible for the Government to reduce their expenditure. Because so long as that is not done, the Government will have reason to assert that remission of any kind is not possible. Anyhow so far as reduction is concerned it is the duty of the Government to do so.

Besides the question of expenditure, the Committee have gone into the prices of agricultural produce for the last ten years from 1920-21 to 1931-32. In a comparative table they have shown how the prices have been gradually falling. The Irrigation Department and the Government did not pay any heed to it then and even now they are not feeling concerned over it at all. In 1920-21 the prices per maund of gur, rice, cotton, wheat, rapeseed and bajra respectively were Rs. 8, 5, 9-8-0, 5-8-0, 9 and 5-11-0 while in 1931-32 they had come so low as Rs. 8-8-0, 1-9-0, 7-8-0, 1-14-0, 3-8-0 and 1-10-0, respectively. On page 38 of the report while commenting upon the fall in prices the Committee have blamed the Government for not taking any steps to bring about a reduction in their expenditure and even if any attention has at all been paid it is almost negligible. The Committee says :—

It is plain that in the case of three most important crops, sugarcane, wheat and cotton water rates have more than doubled themselves while in the case of the other three the lowest rise stands at 70 per cent. Prices on the other hand show an average fall (calculated over all the six crops) of 24.1 per cent. The combined effect of these two factors has naturally worked havoc in the economic position of the irrigator.

This enormous fall in the prices of commodities has actually adversely affected the economic position of the Province.

Sir, the Committee have furnished all the material needed for the reduction of abiana. They have enumerated those facts which justify a claim for the reduction of abiana under several heads :—

- (1) On the combined working of both productive and unproductive canals the gross return yielded by the average annual profit calculated over a period of ten years (1922-23 to 1931-32) on the total capital outlay (nearly 35 crores) as it stood at the end of 1931-32 is 18.9 per cent. This is a very high return on capital of these dimensions.

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- (2) If the gross return is calculated on the average amount of capital during the whole period of 1922-23 to 1931-32 it mounts up to 24 per cent which makes the claim for reduction still stronger.
- (3) The net average annual profit on the combined working of both sections is 9.77 per cent. The corresponding figure in the United Provinces is only 1.87 per cent.

The Government is in the habit of making a comparison between the Punjab and the United Provinces or the Central Provinces and saying that this has not been done there and that has not been achieved by them. Let us now see who is making greater profit. Is it those living in the United or the Central Provinces, or is it we living in the Punjab who are receiving greater benefit? I think that the figures are applicable in the same manner even now to the present conditions as they were at the time when they were worked out—

- (4) If the principle underlying (2) is applied, then the figures of net average annual profit rises to 11.8 per cent. In either case reduction can be claimed with reason.
- (5) Even a casual glance at statement No. 55 will make it plain that water rates are higher in the Punjab than in any other Province in India. . . . .

This is a matter worth considering. Those who are loud in blowing their trumpet that the other Provinces have not done this and not done that, should understand that the water rate in the Punjab is higher than any other province in India.

The same statement also shows that there is no other Province in the country where net profit is anywhere near the level of our own Province . . . . .

It means that the net profits in other Provinces are lower than those in the Punjab.

It is again a matter for some surprise that the value of produce of an acre of canal irrigated land is lower in the Punjab than in almost any other Province, and yet our Government seems to be reluctant to forgo a reasonable portion of its high profits.

And they also stated that the yield per acre in our province is lower than that in other provinces, while the Government says that it has been doubled—

In the period 1922-23 to 1931-32 the highest profit earned in the Punjab was 14.08 per cent (1925-26), and the lowest was 8.71 per cent (1930-31). In the United Provinces the highest level of profit stood at 4.20 per cent (1923-24) and the lowest 0.61 per cent (1931-32).

Is not that remarkable?

In 1924 when the Government was faced with a deficit the water rates were enhanced to make up the deficit. Now that zamindars are face to face with a deficit, why should not Government come to their help and reduce abiana?

The figures show that this state of affairs should not be continued any further and the rates must be reduced. Such high rates should not be charged on those canals which are giving greater profits. On the Lower Chenab Canal where the rate of profit in 1925-26 was 54.64 per cent the principle of damdupat should be applied or an excess profit tax should be levied upon them which should be utilised for benefit of the irrigators. There

the expenditure of about 4 crores has resulted in such a large profit as 54·64 per cent. I, therefore, make this request to the honourable Minister of Revenue that it will be worth while to spend a few thousand rupees on the eradication of 'thur' and water-logging evils, otherwise the zamindars will have a genuine cause for discontent.

I am told that it would require about Rs. 60,000 to survey the district of Lyallpur so that we may stop growth of 'thur' which would if neglected be a great menace. A stitch in time saves nine and I must press upon the Revenue Minister the necessity of sanctioning that for the benefit of those who pay about a crore and a half a year into provincial exchequer.

The Lower Chenab Canal is fetching more than 33 per cent profit on the total capital expenditure, and still you are refusing to afford any relief to the poor people of that ilaqa. In fact it is sheer loot and exploitation, and I would assert without fear of contradiction that the Government has no right to realize abiana at such a high rate from the poor agriculturists whose financial position is deteriorating day by day. The Honourable Minister would say that this canal is productive, and that the Government is incurring loss on other canals, and so it has to make up this deficiency. But I would say that it is due to the negligence and carelessness of the Government that some of the other canals are not proving profitable like the Lower Chenab Canal. The Government is in the habit of making purposeless adventures with the result that most of the public revenue is wasted on such attempts. For instance, lakhs of rupees have been spent on the Shahpur Branch of the Shahpur Inundation Canal. Various dāk bungalows and several bridges were built in this connection. In spite of all this water has not been supplied as yet. Probably the Government is afraid of some big guns residing in that part of the province. But it should know that by changing its mind it has done great injustice to the interests of thousands of poor and destitute agriculturists who were anxiously awaiting its opening up. I need hardly say that you can easily make this canal a productive one by spending another sum of 2 or 3 lakhs on it. It would be in the best interests of the public as well as the Government to start this canal. At present my honourable friend Chaudhri Muhammad Qasim, who hails from that ilaqa, is not present in the House, otherwise I would have asked him whether the zamindars of that ilaqa are or are not keen to get water. He would have explained how keen and thirsty the poor zamindars are to get water-supply in Shahpur Branch. That canal is not productive because of the fault of the Government and for no other reason. If you hand over to me the charge of this department you will see how all these canals in the Punjab become productive and profitable. If you are incurring 50 per cent loss on the Shahpur Canal for your own faults it is no justification for realizing abiana on the Lower Chenab Canal at the rate which enables you to get more than 33 per cent profit. You have been getting this profit ever since its opening in 1890, and now you have no right to go on charging at that very percentage of profit. In fact it is exploitation pure and simple. You should fix a maximum rate of profit on the total capital expenditure and not charge higher than that. You may fix it at 20 or even 25 per cent and utilize the remaining sum on devising means to counteract the evils of water-logging and *thur* or remitting abiana to local irrigators. In the words of Lord

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Lawrence—' If we wish to feed the thousands of human beings whom the change of rule must necessarily throw out of employment we cannot more readily do so than by cutting new canals and by improving the beds of the old.' Now, may I ask you whether you have still the same object in view? Do you still support the view held by Lord Lawrence that the construction of canals should be accomplished simply to feed the poor and penniless zamindars? How far, I ask, is the realization of such huge profits now consistent with the noble objects with which these canals were constructed? I would request the Government to create a separate development fund out of the sum that we pay over and above 25 per cent, and thus benefit the poor thereby. If you are not prepared to create any such fund then apply the sliding scale system to abiana also. In spite of its shortcomings it would, I admit, afford some relief to the zamindars. I think by reducing the incidence of abiana proportionately with a fall in prices you will be able to give the poor people a relief of temporary character. Now, Sir, I am sure the Honourable Minister would remark that if the Government reduces abiana to the extent of 25 per cent how will it be able to make up the deficiency that is likely to take place in its revenue receipts? I have never been afforded any opportunity to examine this important problem at any length. Government always tries to hoodwink the simple and credulous people by giving evasive replies in the matter. In this connection I would refer you to the recommendations of the Abiana Committee which has dealt with this under the caption "Where is the money to come from?" It says—

In view of the surprising disparity between the relative increase in the cost of irrigation and establishment charges on the one hand and cultivable commanded area on the other hand the Irrigation Department should be asked to scrutinize carefully its establishment charges and other sub-heads of expenditure under the head "cost of irrigation".

The second question which should have formed the subject matter of a separate discussion has fortunately come before me, and so I take this opportunity to deal with it just now. The report further says—

The Revenue Branch of the Irrigation Department should be amalgamated with the General Revenue Branch. But this should not be done experimentally on a single canal. The arrangement should be adopted as a part of the settled Government policy. If the arrangement is turned as an experimental measure the Irrigation Department will be interested in thwarting the successful experiment. When this experiment was tried on the Western Jumna Canal it was abandoned as a failure.

Sir, I am not saying this myself. This is stated by the non-official members of the Abiana Committee under the leadership of the Honourable Chandhri Sir Chhotu Ram—

But a very high Government official of the General Revenue Branch told one of us that the Irrigation Department worked deliberately to thwart the experiment.

Thus the proposal of amalgamating the Revenue Branch of the Irrigation Department with the General Revenue Branch requires particular attention of the Government as by materializing it the Government can effect a saving of lakhs of rupees. In short this is one of the sources of economies that may be utilized. But who cares to weigh such beneficial proposals?

Under the regime of the Honourable Sardar Sahib if I may say so, one can aptly apply the well-known Urdu saying—

یہاں تو اُلتی گنگا ، رہی ہے

**Minister for Revenue :** But that Ganges flows to Lyallpur. (*Laughter*).

**Mian Muhammad Nurullah :** Not to Lyallpur but to Majithia. (*Laughter*).

**Minister :** The Ganges that existed in Majithia has now ceased to flow (*Renewed laughter*).

**Mian Muhammad Nurullah :** Anyway, Sir, a reference to the arrangements that have been made on the Haveli Project canals would not be out of place. I refer to page 34 of Supplementary Estimates—

Prior to the construction of the Haveli Project the recording of canal irrigation and assessment of land revenue was done by the Revenue Department. The Chief Engineer, Irrigation Branch, represented that the work of assessment on the Haveli Project Canals in all the three districts concerned be transferred from the Revenue to the Canal Department. For the present it has been decided that with the exception of entirely new areas—whether proprietary or Crown waste—it would be inexpedient to make a change in the assessing agency at this stage when the new rates of abiana are exercising the minds of the local officers and irrigators.

We have all along been saying that the Government should very kindly transfer revenue establishment to the civil department. You might be well aware that some years ago the Senior Revenue Establishment Association of the Irrigation Department also passed resolutions to this effect. In addition, if we look to the Report of the Retrenchment Committee of 1922 we find that certain members of that committee too had come to this conclusion. Now let us see what does that Report say in this matter? In one word I may say that the said Report has recommended to the Government that if the Revenue Department is amalgamated with the Civil Department the saving will be something like 19 lakhs of rupees. I wish the Government had tried this proposal even once. But it is a pity that the Government has been sleeping over this matter of vital importance. The Report of the Retrenchment Committee says—

The amalgamation of the Canal Revenue Department (Deputy Collectors, Zilladars, Munshis and Patwaris, etc.), with ordinary Revenue Department is a question which has been drawing the attention of Government and public for some time. Besides giving relief to the Canal Engineering staff of the extra revenue duties which they cannot perform without sacrificing their more important technical work and saving the Zamindar public from double exactions and nuisance,

Although these words seem to be harsh but the truth of the fact is there. It goes on to read—

the amalgamation proposed will do away with a considerable amount of overlapping with improved efficiency and revenue.

The Director of Land Records stated that with the abolition of the writing of *Shudkar* and a little change in the dates of *Girdawaris* Revenue Patwari could easily perform both the functions. The work of checking is the same with a Zilladar as with a Qanungo or Tahsildar. The amalgamation of these two branches (Deputy Collectors with Tahsildars, Zilladars with Qanungos and Naib-Tahsildars and Canal with Revenue Patwaris) and bringing them under the direct control of Collectors will effect a saving of no less than 33 per cent in both the departments.

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I think it has been made clear to the House as to how a saving of 19 lakhs of rupees can be made. After this I do not think it is necessary for me to refer to the recommendations made by Retrenchment Committee of 1931 on which we find many a Unionist. These recommendations have been approved of by this House as well. I will not take much time of the House on this point. I shall take the grain out of the chaff to discuss it and try to keep myself away from discussing irrelevant things. I think it is necessary for the Government to work upon the lines which have been suggested by the said Committee. I submit that the Government should start this work on a large scale and see the results, which I am sure will prove beneficial both to the Government and the province. Expenses will be reduced, the Government will save money and the requirements of the people at large will be fulfilled. Now the Government might say where will the money come from? In this connection I would invite the attention of the Minister for Revenue to the Report of Abiana Committee. Now please listen to what Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram and Co. say in this respect—

The Buildings and Roads Branch of the Public Works Department should be directed peremptorily to lower its rates all round.

I am of the opinion that to amalgamate Buildings and Roads Branch with Irrigation Department is very necessary. It will prove very useful. May I give you a description of how canal bungalows are constructed by the Irrigation Department? May I be permitted to point out to the Minister in charge through you that at Lyallpur bungalows for Deputy Directors were constructed and I am sure if Mr. Brayne, Commissioner of Rural Reconstruction, were to look at those bungalows he would order them to be demolished or send the engineer to jail. You will be surprised to know that there were no ventilators in those bungalows. I have seen those bungalows myself. I can refer to many such instances; but due to the limited time at my disposal I need not do so, and I once again request the Government to amalgamate these two departments, i.e., Buildings and Roads Branch and Irrigation Department. By amalgamation of these departments a considerable saving would be possible. The said Report says—

All departments should be required to secure further retrenchments, more particularly in the direction of reducing all excess of staff and expenditure under "Supply and Services" which covers a good deal of speculation.

Besides, I would make another submission to the Government and that is this. Leave Rules should also be changed and the Government should bear in mind that a recommendation to this effect was made by the Abiana Committee, which says—

The Secretary of State should be moved to amend the present leave rules under which an officer off duty is in a better position than he would be, in certain circumstances, if on duty.

Then the Report says—

The amount spent on the Railway Police should be recovered from the Government of India.

But nothing has been done in this respect. The Government should, therefore, completely overhaul this system. They should bring the rates of District Boards to the level of provincial rates and then watch the result

which will be, I am sure, quite satisfactory. Then it has further been stated in the Report in the following words :—

But if Government insists that no further retrenchments or economies of appreciable dimensions are possible and that no further taxation is, for one reason or another, practicable, we can insist with much greater reason, in fact with complete justification, that with present price levels the irrigator is simply incapable of paying *abiana* at the present rates.

Even now the prices are not very high. I mean to say, that water rate is comparatively high from the zamindara point of view. And if the present war comes to an end to-morrow, as a newspaper to-day stated that it will be finished in April, the rates will go down again and water-rate will become proportionately high.

Now, let me place before the House the recommendations made by the Resources and Retrenchment Committee appointed by our Government. After a good deal of discussion it has recommended reduction of expenditure by five or six lakhs. I must submit that it is not satisfactory. It has been stated that the chief engineers may remain as before. Suggestions are made to reduce a few superintending engineers and executive engineers. A few reductions are suggested here and there. The question of increasing the charge of sub-divisional officers as recommended by the Retrenchment Committee of 1931 has again been suggested with a view to reduce their number. So is the case of overseers. A saving of Rs. 80,000 is suggested by the change in canal beldar's charge. Canal treasury system be done away with which might give you Rs. 1,32,000 annually. Canal dāk system might be replaced by the ordinary postal system, so on and so forth. The net savings are not very large and I am of opinion that savings of Rs. 25 to 30 lakhs can be effected instead of five or six lakhs that they suggest without impairing the efficiency in any way. As soon as our projects are completed we can re-organise and do away with one of the posts of chiefs. Reduce the number of superintending engineers from 16 or 18 to four or five—you may call them deputy chiefs.

Now, I should like to draw the attention of the House to the falling level in the wells in the Jullundur district. Last year Government appointed a reasearch department to go into this question. We are entirely in the dark as to what they have done so far. It is a pity that no provision has been made to go further into the problem whether a canal can be dug there, so that the level of water might be raised. This is an important question that must be thoroughly gone into as soon as possible.

Next point to which I want to draw your attention is the volumetric system. The Report of the Retrenchment Committee 1932 has also laid stress on this point and stated that this system if introduced would effect a good deal of saving. But it is a pity that the Government have not encouraged this system as recommended by the Committee. My submission, therefore, is that volumetric system should be encouraged. Government have many a time declared that it is their policy to encourage volumetric system. They welcome it. What happens in practice is quite different. Let me explain from an example which I know and in which I had an opportunity to explain the case of officials so that an experiment might be made and people round about that ilaqa take to this system. One gentleman Sardar Maghar Singh of 232-G.B., District Lyallpur, has been after it for



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about three years. He is afraid of waterlogging and he was successful in getting volumetric system for his twelve squares; he might have set up tube well also so that he may be free from all worries. Sometimes there is objection from the Department. Sometimes the patwari makes an objection probably afraid of losing *faslana* and another time the lambardar objects as he is afraid to lose *panchotra*. Now probably the chief has ordered that water less than a cusec may not be given. You have to charge for a cusec and if the fellow loses in absorption, etc., why stand in his way if it is your policy to encourage this system? That poor fellow is running after the offices. If this system were to be adopted it will lead to good deal of saving.

As I have only 15 minutes more at my disposal I will deal with other points very briefly. What I want to submit is that *abiana* should be fixed per square and then levied at a fixed flat rate like land revenue. The Government should calculate as to how much *abiana* they have realized from the zamindars of a certain *rajbah*. Then calculate it per square. Thus you might be able to reduce your establishment greatly and reduce expenditure tremendously. It is strange that so far our Government has not studied it from this point of view. It can easily be adopted. If there be any difficulties they can be removed. This would revolutionise the system. Apart from savings, it will do away with many difficulties and grievances of the zamindars.

Now I may be permitted to say a few words with regard to *kharaba*. A zamindar is not given any remission if his crop is more than four annas in the rupee. If you work out at the settlement yields and low prices you have to pay out of your pocket. If you must stick to it then change to old rule of half remission if yield is less than eight annas and full remission below six annas. It would be much better if you work out percentage of remission for the last five years and if it comes to 6 or 7 per cent give us 10 per cent of *abiana* and get rid of *kharaba* altogether. Zamindars would have been pleased if the recommendations made by the *Abiana* Committee with reference to *kharaba* had been given effect to by the Government. Let me refer to the Report of the *Abiana* Committee in which His Excellency the Governor of the Punjab has devoted a full page to discuss this point and I might read it to you—

There is another matter which is germane to the question of the reduction of occupiers' rates. The system of remission for failed crops, known as *kharaba*, has been a constant source of anxiety to the Governor in Council and of complaint in the Legislative Council. The present system has many patent disadvantages. It is almost impossible to work it properly. The inspection of thousands of fields scattered all over his division is a task beyond the physical capacity of an Executive Engineer in the short period at his disposal. The consequence is that *kharaba* is either not given where it is needed or is given where it is not needed. Too much is perforce left to the subordinate revenue staff. The system carries corruption in its train, both of those who give and those who receive, and one result of this is that length of purse is as often the measure of the amount of *kharaba* given as the deserts of the applicant. The small man probably receives less than his due, the big man more. This state of affairs is a source of anxiety no less to the officers of the Irrigation Department than to the Governor in Council himself, and they would not welcome the abolition or, if that is not possible, the radical modification, of the present system. Whichever course is taken the Governor in Council is prepared to return to cultivator in the form of a reduced schedule of occupiers' rates any gain which may accrue to the exchequer.

The best course of all, the Governor in Council believes, would be to abolish kharaba altogether. The saving to Government would be somewhere in the neighbourhood of 16 lakhs annually (the figure is subject to correction and must be considered for the present to be used only to illustrate the point), and it would be possible to return this sum to the cultivator by a further reduction in the ordinary schedule of occupiers' rates, of, for example, four annas on wheat, eight annas on cotton and four annas on rice. These reduced rates would benefit every one, and particularly the small zamindar who, the Governor in Council suspects, does not reap much benefit from the present kharaba system. The other advantages would be that a dangerous source of corruption would be cut off, the people would be free from the burden of faslans and other similar exactions, the time of the canal staff saved from crop inspections would be available for more important work, and a gradual, but certain, reduction in the numbers of the revenue staff would be possible. There is the disadvantage that abolition would weigh hardly on irrigators in villages where the water-supply is precarious. If this hardship for the few is considered to outweigh the advantage of abolition to the many there is another possible way in which the present system could be modified without sacrificing the more important benefits of total abolition.

This possible modification of the existing system of kharaba would be to abolish kharaba except in those Chaks in which the water-supply in the opinion of the Executive Engineer and Deputy Commissioner, is not up to normal. These would generally be at the tails of channels or where the command is poor. They would comprise a small portion of the whole area of a Canal Division, and the grant of kharaba in them could easily be supervised. In all these Chaks the existing kharaba rules would be retained. The great advantage of this scheme would be that the attention of the Executive Engineer and the Sub-Divisional Officer would be especially drawn to those outlets on which the supply is unsatisfactory and they would be likely to take every possible measure to improve the supply. These Chaks would be scheduled and in them only would kharaba be given on the present system, it being abolished elsewhere except in special widespread calamities. The removal of a Chak from the scheduled list would require the concurrence of the Deputy Commissioner and the Executive Engineer. The ordinary schedule of occupiers' rates would apply to these scheduled Chaks, while in the remainder of the province the saving to Government by the abolition of kharaba would be returned to the cultivator in the form of reduced occupiers' rates.

The abolition of kharaba, whether wholly or partially, would be a reform of a far-reaching effect which the Governor in Council would hesitate to introduce without knowing that it had the approval of the Legislative Council. He is gratified to learn that the Standing Committee of the Council, which deals with irrigation matters, has approved the principles of the proposal explained in paragraph 37. He will lose no time in affording to the Legislative Council an opportunity of discussing the proposal, and he believes that on consideration it will commend itself to all those who have at heart the purity of the Administration and the welfare and contentment of the users of canal water.

I wonder why the matter was not placed before the Council or the Assembly so far in spite of the views and recommendations of His Excellency the Governor in Council. The Assembly would approve it, I am sure. It is a matter of gratification that the Abiana Committee has recommended the taxation on new irrigated agricultural land. They have accepted this fundamental principle and applied it in the Thal area as embodied in the Increase in Value Bill for Thal Project which is before the select committee now.

In this connection, I think I should refer to the statement made by Mr. J. D. H. Bedford, Chief Engineer, Irrigation. He has recommended in the Report of the Resources and Retrenchment Committee that the levy of a lump sum tax should be imposed on the increase in the value of land. He says that enhanced rates are not sufficient. May I ask the Government why they have not imposed a tax on the increase in the value of land in Haveli Project area. This was not a matter that the Government should

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have neglected. The Government should have caught the time by the forelock. I may in this connection refer the Government to the recommendation made by the Resources and Retrenchment Committee. What do they say?

We have considered the above suggestion. We agree with the principle of this tax. It is a category of the tax on unearned increment in land values which has been considered above. The observations and conclusions made in that connection apply equally in this instance. Indeed, in this case the improvement in value is brought about as a direct result of State action and there is therefore at least an equal reason for appropriation of a part of such increase by the State.

I shall request the Government to apply this principle in the case of lands on the Haveli Project even now and in all cases in future. There is no reason why those who benefit and have a windfall from expenditure borne by the State should not yield a portion of that windfall—an unearned increment—to the State.

Another source of inconvenience to the zamindars is the repeated remodelling of mogas. The Irrigation Department indulges in this off and on. Far from removing the complaints of the zamindars, the remodelling of mogas leads to multiplying their grievances. Remodelling a moga itself does not cost much, but extra exactions are made and zamindars lose a considerable amount of money in this way. Even Professor Roberts would bear me out when I say that remodelling proves very inconvenient to the agriculturists.

There are many cases of leakage that occur in the Irrigation Department. I may mention a particular case which has been given to me by my honourable friend Sardar Partab Singh. A tree belonging to the Canal Department was stolen with the connivance of the Sub-Inspector of Police, Tarn Taran. Complaint was made by Sardar Malagar Singh of village Bath and in spite of the fact that very high canal officials were approached and proof given nothing has come out of it. The Sub-Divisional Officer, Canals, gave "superdair" of that stolen wood from a distance of two miles. It is said that people do not help and when they do help, they only create trouble for themselves. They make the police their enemy. How dare they come forward to help the Department in future? Leakage of income is frequent and if checked properly, the Irrigation Department will find that the income will go up appreciably. Serious action should be taken in the case referred to by me.

Now I come to '*warashikni*.' I do not know what the report of the Committee on the Canal and Drainage Act would be. I am afraid we will have to wait for a long time before that report is presented to us. But I cannot help remarking that the cases of '*warashikni*' must be attended to immediately. The time at my disposal is now very little. Only three minutes remain. Otherwise I would have thrown considerable light on the subject. Suffice it to say that the cases of '*warashikni*' lead to fights and murders among the zamindars. They are the main cause of litigation. I remember a case regarding which three suits were at the same time being heard before the same court. They had not finished the first while the second and third came in rapid succession from the same parties of zamindars. Tahsildars do not know what '*warashikni*' cases are and how important they

are. In fact a step-motherly treatment is meted out to the zamindars in this connection. A lot of money is spent by the zamindars and still there is no remedy of their grievances. No magisterial powers are given to the Canal officers to deal with these cases.

One word more and I have done. In fact the sight of the Honourable Speaker has reminded me of the subject of gardening in the province. I had a mind to speak about this, but had forgotten it for the time being. The idea has just struck me by looking towards the Chair. Mr. Speaker himself is the President of the Fruit Development Board and an address was recently presented by him to the Revenue Minister who along with the Premier had promised a sympathetic consideration of the complaints of the fruit growers. The whole affair is a long one to be related here. But it is noteworthy that nothing has so far been done by the Government in compliance of the generous promises made by the Revenue Minister and the Premier. At first fruit was regarded to be a luxury. But it is reassuring to note that now it is regarded as a necessity. I too had to put up a great fight in the defence of fruit industry. I would like to invite the attention of the House to the recommendation of the Fruit Development Board. Here are some of them :—

That the gardens as they bear fruit once a year, should be charged *malkana* and land revenue once a year and not twice a year.

That the enhanced supply of water for gardens should be on 'treble-wari' basis instead of 'double-wari'.

Moreover, the  $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent limit of garden area is too small and I am afraid the fruit industry will not be able to develop if this limit is enforced. If it is to be adhered to, the average of all the area under gardening on a certain canal should be taken.

In the end I would appeal to my zamindar brothers whether they sit on the Ministerialist benches or on the Opposition to carefully consider these proposals and vote with me in support of this cut motion in order to receive a reduction in the water rate. This was a pledge we gave to our voters at the time of elections and it must be implemented now.

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

That the demand be reduced by Rs. 100.

**Captain Sodhi Harnam Singh** (Ferozepore North, Sikh, Rural) (Urdu) : Sir, it goes without saying that all the zamindar members of this House whether they belong to the Unionist party or the Opposition desire a substantial reduction in the *abiana* as well as the land revenue. In fact our chief election pledge was that we would try our level best to relieve the poverty-stricken agriculturists from the crushing burden of the *abiana* and the land revenue. The Unionist Ministry need not be reminded of the time when the general elections were going on and when all the honourable members who now belong to this ministerial group had solemnly pledged before their electorates that they would scale down the Government dues to the utmost limit. But it is a great pity that when the Budget is presented, we find the usual difficulty of meeting all the expenditure of the administration of the province. In fact whole of the revenue is spent away. There is no surplus from which reductions in the *abiana* or land revenue may be granted at a liberal scale. So the whole problem comes

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down to this, how to make up the deficiency that would be caused in the provincial exchequer if abiana is reduced? That is the chief obstacle. Otherwise the Unionist Government is no less anxious to reduce abiana than the Opposition is. The difference is only this that whereas the Ministry is responsible for carrying on the administration of the province, the Opposition is not. But may I respectfully ask the Government if we are to wait for this much wanted relief till the day of resurrection when the whole order of this world will come to a stand still?

My honourable friend Mian Muhammad Nurullah has stated during his long speech that we have already paid back to the Government twice or thrice as much as the Government had spent on the canals. I entirely endorse the remark of my honourable friend. We have really paid back in the form of abiana three times the capital which the Government had spent on the construction of canals in the province. Nonetheless, the pertinent question remains, as to how to finance the provincial exchequer. If we had reduced our land revenue or the abiana, we would not have been able to afford any relief to the famine stricken district of Hissar, where we have now spent several crores of rupees. All the beneficent departments would have to be closed forthwith if the suggestions of Mian Nurullah were to be accepted. But I will make bold to say in spite of the handicaps and difficulties, that the Government ought to afford relief to the zamindars. A way must be found to fulfil our pledges that we had so solemnly given to our voters at the time of the general elections. (*Mrs. Duni Dhand*: Reduce the salaries of the Ministers and the allowances.)

I would make one suggestion and that is this that we should start a separate fund of the canals just as there is a separate Railway Board for the railways. The whole of the income from the Irrigation Department should be kept apart and its expenditure should be met from that income. The balance should be reserved and should not be spent on the other departments. It should only be spent on the extension of canals. At present the income of this department is about 4½ crores and the expenditure is one crore only. If we have a separate fund, we will have a surplus of 3½ crores of rupees. This annual surplus will multiply into a huge sum and would suffice for the completion of Bhakra Dam Scheme, and several other schemes. I am of the opinion that this would enable the Government to execute the construction of Thal and Bhakra Dam projects without resorting to borrowing. They would conveniently make use of this money with a view to provide irrigation facilities in the Punjab with the least possible delay.

Now coming to the question of fruit gardening industry, I want to emphasise the fact that more water should be made available to the people for developing this industry and thereby enhancing their income.

**An honourable member** : That would help the rich zamindars only and not the poor ones.

**Captain Sodhi Harnam Singh** : My honourable friend has remarked that my suggestion, if given effect to, would result in benefiting the big zamindars only. I beg to differ with him. I may point out that in villages

surrounding Kishenpura, tahsil Zira, almost all the small zamindars have grown ten or twelve fruit trees in their lands and consequently they make sufficient money out of the sale of fruits to pay off the Government dues including land revenue and abiana. I, therefore, urge upon the Government the necessity of providing larger quantity of water to the zamindars who are engaged in the fruit gardening industry. I am sure this would go a long way to ameliorate the condition of the small zamindars. Again if more water is made available to them they can grow fruit trees on boundary lines, watercourses and passages of their lands and add the proverbial second string to their bow.

Then my honourable friend Mian Nurullah was pleased to remark that the Shahpur canals were being run at a loss of 50 per cent. I really fail to understand how he has arrived at this conclusion. I may make a mention of Ferozepore Grey Canals. The Government have so far invested only 1½ lakhs of rupees in these canals, while the same have yielded a return of Rs. 70 lakhs. I am constrained to remark that Government have almost ignored these canals and have effected no improvements in them. In this connection I may point out that the Honourable Minister for Revenue has appointed a special officer for the sole purpose of reporting the condition of the Grey Canals and making suggestions for their improvement. I would request him to provide sufficient money from the provincial revenues with a view to giving effect to the useful suggestions to be made by him. The present state of affairs of these canals is not satisfactory. The water flows through them for a period of two or at the most 2½ months in a year. I would request the Honourable Minister for Revenue that he should kindly see that the present canal rules are properly amended and the poor zamindars get even-handed justice in the matter of supply of water. Then I may point out that the powers vested in the Superintendent, Grey Canals, are very wide, these are even not being enjoyed by the Chief Engineer. These ought not to have been vested in one man. (*Minister for Revenue: That Superintendent died some time ago.*) It makes no difference. Another person would replace him and he too, would begin to exercise those powers wrongly. The question is that these powers should be curtailed. They are so wide in scope that no body can interfere with his orders. He is fully empowered to make or mar anybody. In some cases no appeal for redress can lie against his decision. I request the Government to modify his powers. Then the Commissioner, Jullundur division, has been empowered in some cases to hear appeals against the orders of the Superintendent, Grey Canals from the zamindars. I am of the opinion that the Commissioner being a layman in regard to this matter, should not be invested with those powers which ought to have been vested in a Superintending or Chief Engineer. It would not be out of place to mention that during the last 25 years all the appeals which were preferred to him were rejected. The solitary exception was the one which was submitted by me. I suggest the power of hearing appeals should be vested in some Superintending Engineer or Chief Engineer who is well versed in the technicalities of irrigation.

Then, Sir, it is stated that the Grey Canals Department belongs to the zamindars themselves, i.e., they are the sole masters of the situation. But I may point out that the zamindars do not receive as much justice at the hands of this department as from that of the Irrigation Department which

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has set up advisory committees on every canal. But here in the case of Grey Canals there used to be an advisory committee but now it has been abolished for reasons best known to the department. Besides, a *jalsa bach* is held annually and its proceedings last only for 15 minutes. The rules provide that this meeting of zamindars would fix the water rates to be paid on the Grey Canals. But what generally happens is this. The officers announce the water rates to be charged and the meeting is dispersed in a few minutes. No zamindar is allowed to make any constructive suggestion for the common good of all. If anybody raises objection to this callous attitude on the part of officers, he is snubbed with the remark that the rules do not permit his doing so. But the fact of the matter is that it is specifically laid down in the rules that the meeting is to be convened for the purpose of fixing water rates and discussing useful suggestions. But I am constrained to remark that these rules are being honoured by the officers only in their breach.

Then I would like to mention the condition of services in the Grey Canals Department. In this case also I regret to say that the rules are being trampled under foot by the authorities. There is no dearth of educated persons in the Ferozepore district. I fail to see why a niggardly treatment is being meted out to them and why people from other districts are being appointed in their stead. Again the posts are not advertised and the vacancies are filled arbitrarily by the department. As a matter of fact non-agriculturists are appointed to the utter disregard of the rights of the agriculturists. Besides, it was laid down by Government that in the matter of recruitment to services in the Grey Canals Department, preference should be given to the zamindar candidates belonging to Ferozepore district. But this rule, too, has been thrown over board. I hope the Government would take suitable action to set the matter right.

Then I urge upon the Government to reduce the crushing weight of water rates on other canals. They should devise means to bring about a substantial reduction in abiana, so that when we go outside we may be able to give happy tidings to our electorate that we have succeeded in getting abiana charges reduced. If nothing else is possible then I may suggest that the Irrigation Department may be run on co-operative lines and the whole savings should be spent on providing better irrigation facilities.

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

Then, Sir, where irrigation is done by canals there the evil of waterlogging of land is working havoc. I suggest that in waterlogged areas, water pumps should be installed. The benefit of this suggestion would be twofold. On the one hand, the lands would be irrigated while on the other the rise of the level of the subsoil water would go down and the waterlogging would also be checked to a considerable extent. For instance, there are certain places in the Ferozepore district, the lands of which cannot be irrigated all the year round but for six months only. There water level is rising up with great strides. If irrigation by tube wells or by installation of water pumps is resorted to for winter months at least, I am sure the danger of that area being waterlogged would become much less as the rising level of the underground water would be kept checked while pumping the water. I may suggest that the hydro-electric energy can be

made use of in connection with setting up of pumps. If this suggestion is accepted it would not only increase the income of the Government but the zamindars would also derive great benefit from it. In addition the lands would be saved from being waterlogged. I, therefore, once again urge upon the Government to run the Irrigation Department on co-operative lines so that the difficulties which we have to face on account of paucity of funds may be solved. With these words I close my remarks.

**Khan Sahib Chaudhri Pir Muhammad** (South-East Gujrat, Muhammadan, Rural) (*Urdu*): Sir, the honourable member from Lyallpur has laid a great stress on the reduction of abiana. This is but natural. As a matter of fact nobody in this world would like to pay any tax willingly howsoever rich he may be. If any tax is levied on the rich they also complain against its imposition. No doubt abiana is levied solely from the zamindars and is a great burden on them, but where is the justification that it should be totally remitted? In the course of his speech my honourable friend tried to prove this fact by quoting facts and figures, which are given at length in the Abiana Report, that the income which the Government has derived from abiana in Lyallpur district was much more than the expenditure which they have incurred on the construction of canal in it, and that the Government had earned something like 90 crores of rupees in excess. He was also pleased to remark that in view of the income which the Government had received from the zamindars they should reduce the rate of abiana. Not only this but that it should be totally remitted. The honourable members are fully aware of the fact that the Abiana Committee met in 1934 and Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram was the leader of the non-official members on that committee. The result was that a lengthy report was submitted to the Government in which it was pointed out that the burden of the zamindars should be reduced by a crore. But the then Government did not accept this recommendation and consequently the burden of the zamindars was left where it was before. Now the circumstances are such that the present Government cannot dare to give effect to those recommendations. On the one hand, there is the Hissar famine which has been raging in that district for the last two or three years and the Government have been called upon to incur huge sums of money for the relief of the people of that area. On the other hand, war is going on. Now in the presence of these circumstances if the Government grants any remission in abiana to the people that would mean that they would be creating insurmountable difficulties for themselves. Besides, we will have to say good bye to the beneficent departments as well.

Again it was pointed out that the budget of the Irrigation Department should be separated from the Revenue Department. In this connection my submission is that if the budget of the Irrigation Department is separated from the Revenue Department that would mean that only those people should benefit whose lands are at present irrigated by canals. But against this a very cogent argument can be advanced and that is that the Irrigation Department belongs to the Punjab as a whole and not to any particular district. In view of this fact it is unreasonable to demand that the income of this department should be given to any particular district which is already receiving the benefits of irrigation. In order to elucidate my point I would quote an example for the information of the honourable members.



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Every body is aware of the fact that all the waste lands are the crown lands and any particular district or individual cannot be considered to own them. Similarly the income which the Government derives from the canals do not belong to any particular district and the sum so realised cannot with any justification be spent on a particular district or an individual. In fact the entire profit belongs to the province as a whole and justice and fairness demands that it should be distributed over the whole of the province.

Now so far as the question of the net income of 90 crores of rupees is concerned, I may point out for the information of the honourable member that the Government do not go on depositing their profits in any bank. On the contrary whatever money is received is spent on the beneficent departments. The Government have not concealed that sum anywhere. If they had done so then the honourable member would have every right to claim reduction in abiana. Now if we look at the budget we would find that Government have provided something like 346 lakhs of rupees for the beneficent departments. Against this there is a sum of Rs. 170 lakhs, which was originally spent on them. In the presence of these facts if any reduction is made in abiana that would mean that we would have to say adieu to the beneficent departments, i.e., schools, hospitals, roads, and similar other facilities which are at present provided to the people. Against this what benefit would accrue to the zamindars. So far as I think only Rs. 10 or so would go to the zamindar and he would be losing all the facilities which are at present provided to him. Besides, in view of the rising prices of the agricultural produce it is not justified to press for a reduction in abiana as recommended by the Abiana Committee.

Further it has been pointed out more than once on the floor of the House that unless and until new resources are tapped for increasing the income of the province to the extent of four or five crores of rupees, abiana cannot be reduced at all. This point has been raised by my honourable friend Mr. Harnam Singh Sodhi and even before that many honourable members have laid a great stress on it that the Government should levy these taxes as soon as possible. I would also request the Honourable Minister for Revenue to give his urgent consideration to this matter and bring forward a Bill in the House for levying new taxes on the urban people in order to afford relief to the poor. I think it is the duty of those honourable members who come here to put forward constructive suggestions before the Government and it is not proper for them to bring forward such proposals which can only be used for the purpose of their election propaganda. I think this mob mentality should not be adopted here on the floor of this House. As a matter of fact they should realise their responsibility and put forth constructive suggestions and not destructive ones. This Government is of the people for the people and not for any particular individual. After all the money that the Government realise from the zamindars is spent on them.

Besides, it was pointed out that there was room for making reductions in the expenses of the Irrigation Department. I do not think that we can make any reduction in this department. I ask the honourable member to point out any particular branch of the department where money is being spent unnecessarily. Now so far as the Engineering Department is

concerned I can say that not a single penny is wasted. As a matter of fact we are not paying any high salaries to the Engineers. If we look to other firms we would find that Engineers get much more pay than we are paying to our Engineers. They have very high qualifications and we are, as a matter of fact, paying them comparatively less. In the Tata steel works the Engineers get something like 7 or 8 thousand rupees a month. Against this a Chief Engineer in the Punjab gets only Rs. 3,000 a month. In the circumstances it is but reasonable that we should pay salaries to our Engineers in view of their high educational and technical qualifications. But if he does not get a salary in accordance with his qualifications and capabilities what work can be expected of him?

Sir, I am a zamindar myself and pay a considerable sum by way of water rate. I too would welcome a reduction in abiana as would my constituents. But I cannot suggest such reduction to the Government in the present circumstances when I know the Government is hard pressed for money. The opposition is in the habit of making such suggestions as the reduction of land revenue and water rates in order to embarrass the Government and hinder its work. They moreover want to turn public opinion against the Government by representing to the people that such beneficial suggestions were made by them for their benefit but they have been turned down by the Government. In my opinion the steadfastness of our Government in the face of such tactics is praiseworthy. They have, without caring for any opposition, enacted agrarian Bills which are already proving of immense benefit to the poor zamindars. When the financial condition of the province is improved all these things will automatically be done by the Government. Let me assure my honourable friends that so far as land revenue is concerned it will be reduced but it is rather difficult to reduce water rate.

Again, Sir, I wanted to say something with regard to Kharaba, but as the report of the Committee appointed in this connection is not yet published, I will only confine myself to a few remarks. As the zamindars have to humour the whims of the subordinate officials of the Irrigation Department and have to grease the palms of the Patwaris it seems meet and proper that Kharaba should be altogether done away with, if some reduction is made in the rate of abiana. The maximum yield for the purpose of granting Kharaba should be raised from 4 annas to 8 annas.

Sir, may I through you, make a special request to the Honourable Minister of Revenue? It generally happens that the canal officers take a long time in deciding applications which are addressed to them. Sometimes an application is not dealt with even for eight months. This causes a lot of trouble and worry to the poor zamindars. In my native district, for instance, we have a non-perennial canal and the applications that are made on the closure of the canal are not even decided till its reopening.

Besides this I have to bring another fact to the notice of the Government. The number of Divisions in Gujrat has been reduced from two to one and what is more the Executive Engineer has made Rasul as

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his headquarters instead of Gujrat, because it is said he gets a jungle allowance there. This is a source of great inconvenience and trouble to those people who have to go to Rasul, because there is no metalled road or railway line going to that place. In view of these difficulties it is very essential that his headquarters should be transferred to Gujrat. It will not involve any expenditure or loss to the department and the allowance can be given to the Executive Engineer even at Gujrat in order to persuade him to change his headquarters. The Sub-Divisional Officer also resides in the Dak Bungalow at Duggal in Tahsil Phalia instead of remaining in Gujrat. Here again there is the same difficulty on account of lack of good roads. His headquarters should also be transferred to Gujrat for the convenience of the public.

Now, Sir, I would like to say a few words in connection with the appointment of the zilladars. At present the appointments are being made very indiscriminately. The Superintending Engineers do not know the qualifications of the applicants. It would be better if they were to consult the Deputy Commissioners concerned as to the fitness of a candidate, and also as to his family services. Again it is said that a certain proportion of zamindars is taken as zilladars but it is very regrettable that instead of genuine zamindars, a number of bogus zamindars are being taken. It is for this reason that I urge upon the Government the necessity of the Superintending Engineers making enquiries from the Deputy Commissioners with regard to the candidates, so that the sons of persons having no services may not be selected.

Finally I have to refer to the question of gardens which was dealt with by my honourable friend Harnam Singh. Fruit trees cannot thrive without water and in the Nili Bar Colony a very small quantity of water is being given. It is meet that three times more water should be allowed to garden areas. I would submit to the Honourable Minister that more water should be given in Nili Bar Colony.

With these words Sir, I oppose the cut motion now under discussion.

**Chaudhri Suraj Mal** (Hansi, General, Rural): Mr. Speaker, I belong to that district which has been under discussion ever since the Budget was presented before this House. The Budget speech of the Honourable Finance Minister consisted of 27 pages and the name of Hissar District was mentioned on every page. You must have also read about this district in the newspapers. Sir, the district of Hissar is situated in a corner of the province and only 10 per cent of the total area of this district is irrigated by canals, the rest being all barani. The work of irrigation was at first started from this district, and in this connection I would like to mention that I have had an opportunity of studying the history of irrigation in this country, and I found that in 1352 the very first canal undertaken by Feroz Shah Tughlaq was started in this district. Again, on the advent of the British, the first steps taken by them towards canal building were started from this very district in 1821. Besides this, all kinds of operations start from Ambala Division and Hissar District but it is unfortunately a deplorable fact that whenever something is done by the Government for the benefit of this province, then this district for some reason or another is left out.

When the Unionist Government came into power, we thought that as this Government was a zamindar Government, something would most certainly be done to ameliorate the condition of the people of this district. Even the Honourable Premier and other Ministers during their tours of this district gave us an assurance to this effect that something will very soon be done for this district. I remember that when the Honourable the Premier, the Honourable Minister of Development and other Ministers paid a visit to Rohtak the Honourable Sir Sikander Hyat-Khan was pleased to declare in a meeting of some 50 thousand persons that he would pay his next visit to that district only when the Bhakra Dam would be started. But two years have passed and the Bhakra Dam Scheme has not made any progress whatever. When he went again to my district I reminded him of his declaration. Then he told me that two engineers were sent to America to make a special study of the construction of high dams. I told him that the sending of engineers to America was no satisfaction to us; what we want is water for irrigating our lands. In this connection I am reminded of a zamindar who wanted to sell his land. He demanded Rs. 12 per bigha while the prospective buyer offered Rs. 10 per bigha. But when the latter made up his mind to pay Rs. 12 per bigha the owner of the land raised his demand to Rs. 14 and when the other side decided to pay even that much he went up to Rs. 16 and so on. The same is the case with our Government. Let me make it clear that we are very thankful to the Government for its splendid efforts to afford us relief in connection with the famine. We know that a huge amount has been spent for our benefit. But I must submit to the Government as well as to the honourable members belonging to other parts of the province that so long as any permanent arrangements are not made our district cannot be immune from such calamities. This time the Government has made a stupendous effort to save us from the clutches of famine but if, God forbid, the district is visited by another calamity of this kind even the Government will not be able to save us.

This district has a population of 9 lakhs and out of this number as many as 8 lakhs have nothing left with them to keep body and soul together. If anybody wants to know the extent of their misery let him go to the Railway stations from Hissar to Bhatinda and he will be surprised to see so many people leaving their hearth and home in quest of livelihood. Only the other day when I was coming to Lahore I saw a man and his family being actually thrown out of the train. The poor fellow was crying that he had not a single penny with him and was going with his famished family in search of work somewhere. This shows that the situation in the district has become really desperate. Your engineers have reported that the Bhakra Dam Scheme is quite capable of proving a success provided there is the will to execute it and the Government has the necessary funds for the purpose. I know that the Government is anxious to afford us all possible relief but temporary relief cannot prove of much avail to us. You have to grant remissions in land revenue and to afford us other relief almost every year. If you had spent this money on relief of a permanent nature such a contingency would not have arisen and both Government and the people would have benefitted to a great extent. The work of temporary relief by means of such schemes as the Western Jumna Kharif Extension Scheme should have been taken in hand thirty years back. (*Pir khar Ali*: But

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this Government was not in office then). I know that. But I also know that my honourable friend the Pir Sahib was a member of the old Council for many years and as a neighbour he should have done something to help us. Anyway, Sir, I would request the Honourable Minister of Revenue to become our Bhagirath who by his *tapassiya* brought the holy Ganges from Heaven to the world below for the benefit of the inhabitants of our motherland. He is now nearing 68 and he has given us an assurance that he will see the scheme completed during his lifetime. Let him fulfil that promise.

Another point to which I would like to draw your attention is the general complaint of the Hindu zamindars of that ilaqa that they are not given their due share of services in this department. The consolidated statement of proportionate representation of the various communities shows that the number of Hindu zamindars in this department is absolutely negligible. When at the time of his visit to that ilaqa the attention of the Honourable Minister of Revenue was drawn to these figures he assured us that he would do everything possible to remove this grievance. But the trouble is that the officers of the Government are labouring under the thoroughly wrong impression that we are fit only for military services and not for civil departments. The Honourable Minister knows that there are a good many Hindu zamindars with necessary educational qualifications in that district, and, therefore, there should be no hitch in meeting this legitimate and reasonable demand of ours. With these remarks I resume my seat.

**Sardar Muhammad Azam Khan** (Dera Ghazi Khan North, Muhammadan, Rural) (*Urdu*): Sir, the ilaqa to which I belong is *barani* and here land is irrigated by rain water generally known as *raud-i-kohi*. This ilaqa entirely depends on the vagaries of nature. Sometimes for years together we fail to get a drop of water and at the other times rains fall so heavily that the whole ilaqa remains in the grip of wreck and ruin for a good many years. After realising the devastating effects of nature on our ilaqa the Government felt constrained to appoint an engineer for devising ways and means for redressing this long-standing grievance of the people. He worked for more than a couple of years but could not find any effective method by which the evil consequences of these heavenly visitations could be made a thing of the past. The prime need of the day is that suitable arrangements should be made for collecting rainwater when it is abundantly available, and utilising it at the time when rains are stingy in that part of the province. As you know, Sir, fixed system of land revenue is prevalent in my ilaqa with the result that when crops fail in a certain year the suspensions of land revenue add to the burden of payment in later years. The only crop that is raised in that ilaqa is maize and since it fetches quite an ordinary price the frequent suspensions of the payment of Government dues result in their accumulation, which renders it well nigh impossible for the zamindars to bear this ever-increasing financial burden. I would, therefore, request the Honourable Minister to grant remissions of land revenue instead of suspending its recovery. It is generally felt that the officers seldom tour about that part of the province. Probably it is due to the fact that my ilaqa is miserably wanting in roads fit for motor traffic, and that the present officers are not fond of horse ride. In short nobody cares to pay a visit to our ilaqa and thus the official machinery

remains entirely unaware of the conditions prevailing there. I, therefore, take this opportunity to make a respectful submission to the Honourable Minister that he should make a note of it that the zamindars of my ilaqa deserve remissions and not suspensions.

Again, Sir, my ilaqa is not far off from the river Indus, and when the herds of wild animals come out of the adjoining jungles they play a havoc with the green crops. I would request the Government to give gun licences to all the inhabitants of my ilaqa free of charge. As the zamindars are awfully poor they should not be called upon to pay the licence fee. Besides, the grant of such licences is absolutely necessary for the protection of human life and property.

Then, Sir, the zamindars of my ilaqa are being ground under the heavy weight of indebtedness. I would urge upon the Government the advisability of giving necessary relief to the poor people steeped in debt. I think it would go a long way to lighten their financial burden if the Government directs the Debt Conciliation Board for effecting an immediate settlement of the debts of tahsil Sanghar.

Again, the population of my ilaqa is mainly constituted of the Baloches. But it is a pity that they are not given their due share in the Government services. I would request the Government to accede to this legitimate demand of theirs by giving them proportionate representation in all the Government departments. In fact this ilaqa is hopelessly backward in the matter of education. I hope the Honourable Minister of Education will see that illiteracy is entirely banished from that part of the province. In the end I would again request the Honourable Minister of Revenue that he should not effect any delay in redressing our grievances as he has delayed in matter of presenting the Darling Report to the House. With these words I resume my seat.

**Chaudhri Ali Akbar** (Gurdaspur East, Muhammadan, Rural) (Urdu): Sir, the question now before the House relates to the reduction of abiana. I can assert without the least fear of contradiction that there is not a single member in this House who is not in favour of a reduction in the water-rates. I should like to put forward a proposal in this connection and it is this. Reduce your expenditure first and the abiana can be automatically reduced. If, however, the reduction in abiana precedes the reduction in expenditure, the machinery of Government will come to a stand-still. However, I will proceed with the suggestions I have to make. My first proposal is that Government should take steps to amalgamate the revenue and canal departments. The Government will probably say in answer to this suggestion that this experiment was tried a few years ago on the Western Jumna Canal, but it did not prove a success. But I know it for certain that the officers themselves were responsible for the failure of this experiment. The *Lalas* interested in this matter resorted to all kinds of subterfuges and made the people send requests and representations to Government praying that this experiment be withdrawn inasmuch as it was causing hardship to the people concerned. The real reason for this storm of protests was that the *Lalas* were afraid of losing their lucrative jobs and that is the genesis of the failure of this experiment.

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Moreover, a number of canals have silted up owing to the fact that they have been running for a pretty long time. For instance, take the case of the Uppar Bari Doab Canal. It is one of the oldest canals in the province. What is the state of affairs on that canal? Suppose there are 100 acres of land in a village irrigated by this canal. The zamindars concerned are obliged to pay the abiana but they are always complaining that they are not getting enough water for their lands and consequently their crops have failed and what is worse they do not get kharaba in proportion to the loss sustained by them. My suggestion is that a quinquennial average be taken. From the figure thus arrived at 10 per cent for kharaba and 10 per cent on account of reduced water supply should be remitted. In addition to that 20 cent of the abiana may be reduced and this may be added on to the land revenue. Having done that a permanent *parta* may be enforced. This proposal, if carried into effect will redound to the benefit of the zamindars and the Government will at the same time be spared the trouble of revising the rates. Another advantage which will accrue from this system will be that the number of staff will have to be reduced, and there will be a reduction of at least 20 per cent in establishment charges. The zamindars' burden can thus be reduced by about 40 per cent provided you have the will and the inclination to do so. You might try this experiment in one of the divisions, but let me warn you that if this experiment is entrusted to the canal department it is sure to prove a failure. Let this experiment be tried by district officials and I can assure that it will succeed. I am prepared to go so far as to say that in this way you can remit the abiana up to 50 per cent. You should not lose sight of the fact that the principal reason for the zamindar's sad plight is the heavy burden of abiana and not the land revenue, which has brought him as near death and extinction as can be possible in this world.

There are two other contributory causes of the ruination of the zamindars, firstly the fall in the prices of agricultural produce and secondly reduction in the produce of the soil due to over cultivation or to some other unknown causes. This loss of fertility has not been satisfactorily explained by any of the experts in the Agricultural Department. I may tell you that the lands irrigated by canals are especially prone to this gradual loss of their fertility.

Sir, when the flood water comes down the hill-sides it contains the refuse of the Chamba sheep which serves as a fertiliser but the Irrigation Department have set their face against the use of flood water by the zamindars on the ground that this water contains stones, etc., which do a lot of harm to the canal head-work. But my contention is that the zamindars should be allowed to make use of flood-water. As I have already stated flood-water serves as a fertiliser. If a piece of land is once watered by floods, it will not need any fertiliser for many years to come. So far as the question of stones, etc., brought down by flood water is concerned, it is the duty of your experts to find means for dealing with this menace. Why cannot your highly paid experts discover some means by virtue of which all danger to head-works may be avoided? I would request the Honourable Minister of Revenue to give his attention to this at his earliest convenience. Formerly

we were under the thumb of the Britishers but now we hold the reins of Government. The Honourable Minister of Revenue will have to attend to our requests and adopt means for redressing our grievances. The public are awakening and in four or five years' time they will be wide-awake. It is, therefore, incumbent upon the Government to devise ways and means for redressing our grievances. If the Government acts upon my suggestion regarding the amalgamation of the canal and revenue departments a good many of the complaints regarding the grant of *kharaba* will be removed. If the Honourable Minister of Revenue is pleased to give his attention to my suggestions, viz., that land revenue should be fixed and *abiana* should be reduced by a figure which I have already stated, I am sure that he can do a lot for the benefit of the zamindars.

There is another suggestion which I want to make and it is this. There are as many as four sub-divisions on the old canals. Their number can conveniently be reduced to one sub-division for each canal apart from the head-works sub-division. Similarly sub-divisions may be established in place of divisions and thus the expenditure can be reduced to a large extent.

Again, Sir, if you consider that the amalgamation proposal is not feasible you would do well to separate the executive from the engineering department. Under the present circumstances if the zamindars complain against the inadequacy of water supply the superintending engineers and executive engineers do not care one jot or tittle for such complaints, but if the two departments are separated they will have to attend to such complaints. My contention is that shop-keepers who deal in water should be separate entity from the representatives of the purchasers. At present the same set of people are responsible for the repairs, etc., and for levying the *abiana*. These people can spend as much as they like and can also impose any burden they like upon the zamindars in the form of *abiana*. Not only that, they give water to the zamindars as the whim of the moment dictates them. There is no third person to question their behests. If the zamindars protest against such arbitrary impositions these people turn a deaf ear to their complaints. If the two departments are separated the expenditure can be reduced and at the same time the prevalent system of organized looting can be stopped to a large extent, and what is more you can reduce the *abiana* up to 50 per cent. Formerly nobody cared a hang for the zamindars. The motto of the canal department was "let the zamindar sweat and go to dogs but one must have eggs and hens to eat", but now the administration is in the hands of the "sweaters", therefore, there should be a change for the better in the state of affairs prevailing up till now.

Then there is another thing to which I wish to draw the attention of the Government. The lands in the vicinity of canals have become water-logged. When the zamindars raise their voice of protest, no heed is paid to the same, and if they make representations to Government they are consigned to the waste paper basket. The lands in which formerly sugarcane and vegetables were grown have now become unfit for any other crop except rice and that too is possible only if the canal is running. And the worst of it is that even the rice crop is not of good quality and does not fetch money enough to pay the land revenue and other dues. Supposing a zamindar has prepared four acres of land for rice cultivation and has



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obtained seed or *paniri* for this area, and suppose that he had already finished his work when heavy rain falls in the hills during the night and the river is flooded what would happen in such a case. The canal department will close the head-works reducing the canal to a mere drain. This would result in partial or complete drying up of the water-logged land in which *paniri* had been sown. Under these circumstances the zamindar loses his seed and his labour, which he had expended in preparing the land and sowing the seed, is also wasted. The zamindar thus loses all along the line. I therefore, request that such water-logged lands in which rice can be cultivated may be declared 'water-logged area'. The labour of ploughing that land is wasted along with the valuable seed sown therein. Neither the labour nor the seed bears fruit. I wonder if the big officers realise how this land is ploughed. The soil remains submerged into water and looks like a veritable lake. We adopt the "kaddu" method of ploughing it, that is, we use the plough when the water is knee deep. But the fashionable officers can hardly imagine what it is like. This business is very difficult and involves risks as the plough share is not visible and wading through water and mire is troublesome both for men and bullocks. In short the zamindars stand face to face with hardships, but the officers imagine that the value and capacity of our land have increased on account of canals. In fact they have decreased. We deserve compensation for that. Why is it not being given to us? The reason is that the Canal and Drainage Act is as old as 1873 and has become unsuitable for the present times. It cannot meet our difficulties. A considerable time has passed when a committee was set up to modify it. But that Committee consisted of big persons only and the poor can expect little benefit from its deliberations. Anyway it is not for me to discuss it at present. I was going to say that prior to the construction of a canal, we used to cultivate sugar-cane and various vegetables in our land. But now nothing of the kind grows there. Notwithstanding that, the Government says that this land does not come within the definition of waterlogging. May I respectfully ask that if marshy-lands do not come under this definition, what else will?

**Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan :** The honourable member should have appeared as a witness before the committee.

**Chaudhri Ali Akbar :** Sir, those persons who are likely to speak the truth are not called for evidence. Only the "toadies" are summoned (*Cheers*). The members of the Committees remain busy taking their tea and lunch at the headquarters of the districts, and do not visit the poor in their cottages (*cheers*).

Adverting to the question of retrenchment, I may be allowed to submit that instead of retrenching the big officers of the Government, only the poor *chaukidars* and *peons* are retrenched by the heads of the Departments. The officers of the Irrigation Department, likewise, use their axe of retrenchment on the *beldars* and *chaukidars*. That adds to unemployment in the province. If a big officer is turned out, more money would be saved at the expense of one person's unemployment. But when we turn out *beldars* and *chaukidars*, several families are made to starve and the saving effected is very small. I would, therefore, urge that petty officials should not be retrenched.

**Mr. Dev Raj Sethi :** May I know what language the honourable member is speaking in ?

**Chaudhri Ali Akbar :** It is a hilly dialect. I am not a graduate and cannot use flowery language and express far-fetched ideas. I speak the truth straight away. I need not indulge in exaggeration. On the other hand I would like to mention facts.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker :** I would request the honourable member to proceed with his speech.

**Chaudhri Ali Akbar :** I would not say things beside the point like the graduates. I confine myself to relevant facts only.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker :** The honourable member should go on with his speech.

**Chaudhri Ali Akbar :** Sir I do not make any allegation against the Government. That is the business of the Congressites. I am ventilating my grievances. The Government have satisfied me about several of them and I am yet to be satisfied with regard to some of them. I had sent, last year, a few suggestions to the Chief Engineer, Irrigation, who had kindly consented to adopt some of them. He satisfied me on some points and I was not satisfied about some of the remaining points, which I have now submitted. I hope the Government would act on these suggestions during the coming year.

In the end, I would respectfully request the Government to sympathetically consider the proposals that I have made to-day and carry them into effect. At the time of the next Budget, I will again make the necessary observations. With these words, Sir, I oppose the cut motion, in view of the existing circumstances.

**Sardar Ajit Singh (South-West Punjab, Sikh, Rural) (Punjabi) :** Sir, I would like to make it clear at the very outset that next to the Police, the Department of Irrigation is the greatest source of trouble for the ignorant zamindars. The chief reason is that the Canal and Drainage Act is too old to suit the present conditions and requires overhauling. With that object in view a committee was appointed by the Government to suggest modifications in that Act. But we do not know if the report of this committee would be really to the good of the zamindars. It may turn out to be worse for them. What is really wanted is that a substantial reduction in abiana should be granted by the Government forthwith. This point has been very ably argued by my honourable friend Mian Nurullah. I will only say that there is not a single zamindar member in this House who had not given a solemn pledge to his constituents to try his level best to obtain a reduction in the abiana and land revenue. But three years have passed and yet the promise of all the zamindar members has not been fulfilled. The time has come that every honourable member should strain his every nerve to redeem his pledge.

I had also given notice of a few cut motions asking the Government to reduce 25 per cent abiana but to my bad luck the leader of my party has not allowed me to move them. It is obvious that the Irrigation Department is one of the chief sources of income to the Government. In fact they have been deriving enormous profits from the capital outlay on the

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canals. I am sure Government realise this fact that reduction in abiana is the pressing need of the agriculturists. It would not be out of place to mention that the total capital invested in Indian railways amounts to about Rs. 148 crores and after deducting all the working expenses the net profits earned by this department come to only 2·5 to 3·5 per cent. Now the total expenditure which the Punjab Government have incurred in connection with the construction of canals amounts to Rs. 33 or 34 crores, but the net profits derived by them come to 15 or 16 per cent after paying all the expenses incurred on the Department's establishment and maintenance. You will observe, Sir, the profits derived by the Punjab Government from the canals far exceed the net profits of even the most flourishing concerns in the country. I may also point out that the returns so far yielded by the canals show that our Government have realised profits which are three times larger than the principal amount invested by them in the canals. This comes to about Rs. 108 crores. This fact is substantiated by the Abiana Committee which was constituted in 1934 to go into the abiana question. But I am constrained to remark that inspite of earning huge profits and the recommendations of the Abiana Committee, Government have taken no steps to reduce the water rates. You will remember, Sir, that whenever we brought forward any measure to effect a reduction in abiana, the Government invariably negatived our proposals on the ground that owing to paucity of funds and limited sources of income they could not see their way to accept them. A few days ago the Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram challenged the Opposition that Government were contemplating to introduce measures imposing taxes to the tune of Rs. 6 crores. We accepted the gauntlet and we are looking forward to the day when these Bills will be introduced in the House. As a matter of fact we would be glad if with one stroke of the pen the Zamindars are relieved of the crushing weight of land revenue and abiana amounting to Rs. 7/8 crores and the loss is made good by taxing the banias and moneyed classes. I assure the Honourable Minister that he will have our unstinted support in passing such measures, provided the revenues earned through taxation are used solely for the benefit of the Kisans in the shape of reduction in abiana and maliana. But in view of the fact that Government have made huge profits to the extent of 10 to 15 per cent from the canals, I cannot help calling them Shylocks. They are even worse than banias whom the Honourable Minister for Development condemns in season and out of season for their rapacity. In this connection I may point out that in our province a bania might have charged or endeavoured to charge at the most 10 or 12 cent rate of interest from the zamindars. It is possible that the zamindar, being unable to pay such an exorbitant rate of interest, might repudiate the debt. The utmost the bania can do is that he can get that defaulter imprisoned for four months and that too at his own expense. But our so called Zamindar Government put the poverty-stricken and half starved zamindars to great hardships for non-payment of abiana. They continue to harass them till they pay off the government dues by some means or the other. As a matter of fact the poor zamindars even sell their daughters in order to pay up abiana, etc. This is a very deplorable state of affairs. I think the time has come when the Irrigation Department should cry a halt and the zamindars should be exempted from payment of

abiana. I would ask the Government that having already earned so much profits they should think over the matter dispassionately and say whether they are justified in charging abiana.

Again it has been argued that abiana charged by the Punjab Government is much less than that charged by other provinces. I beg to differ with this view. It would be interesting for the honourable members to know that the United Provinces Government after deducting working expenses and other expenditure incurred in connection with the irrigation schemes, make only two per cent net profits on their capital outlay. But the Punjab Government derive 10 to 15 per cent net profits. I am therefore of the opinion that it would be in the fitness of things if Government exempt the zamindars from the payment of water rates.

Then my honourable friends over there have advanced an argument that one acre of well irrigated land costs about 2 rupees per watering, and if it is to be watered 6 times the cost will come to Rs. 12 per acre but the Government charges, i.e., water rates amounting to Rs. 5-4-0 only. The argument is plausible as this figure has been worked after taking certain averages of well irrigation which in the case of canal irrigation are meaningless, and these averages are very dangerous. In this connection I am reminded of a story which aptly applies to the situation. A clever but miserly bania, who had to cross a rivulet, could not strike a bargain with the boatman. He sounded the depth of the rivulet at six or seven places and worked out the average. It came to  $3\frac{1}{2}$  feet. He thought it easy to cross as the average depth according to him was only  $3\frac{1}{2}$  feet. He crossed the rivulet safely but his whole family was drowned one after another. He was perplexed and verified his calculations again and again. The average was quite correct but he could not solve the riddle and uttered the following maxim :

حساب جوی کا تری کتبہ دوبا کیوں

(Laughter). This example aptly applies to the Punjab Government who refuse to make a reduction in abiana and want to satisfy the unsophisticated zamindar with a plausible argument regarding the costly irrigation of wells.

I would, therefore, request the Honourable Revenue Minister that he should try his level best to lighten the burden of the zamindars, either by levying new taxes or by making reductions in the expenses of the Government. I am constrained to remark that for the last 80 years the major part of the expenses of the Government have been borne by the zamindars in the form of land revenue and abiana rates. Now it behoves the Honourable Minister to exempt the zamindars for at least 80 years to come from the payment of abiana and land revenue, and the expenses of the Government can be borne by the new taxes and by decreasing the expenditure of the Government. I may add that if the Government want to levy new taxes for providing relief to the poor zamindars I will have no objection. But what is needed is that the burden of the zamindars should be lightened. If my friends cannot levy any new taxes for providing relief to the zamindars, I would like to put forth four or five suggestions, which if adopted would help the Government to save Rs. 1 to  $1\frac{1}{2}$  crores and this amount will be at the disposal of the Government to reduce water rates by 25 per cent.

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My first suggestion is that at present three Chief Engineers are working in the Punjab. I do not think that there is any necessity for three of them. In fact they are merely signing machines and practically do not do anything else. I for one cannot bring myself up to believe that three chief engineers are needed. Only one can suffice. If my honourable friends consider the working of the subordinate staffs of all the departments they would find that from the senior clerks down below to the junior clerks and the chaprasis, all work for 10 or 12 hours, but nobody cares a hang for them and in spite of this they are low paid. On the contrary the chief engineers who practically do nothing are given emoluments to the extent of Rs. 4 or 5 thousands per month. There is no earthly reason why the zamindars should be compelled to pay such huge salaries such those officers who are doing very little work. In the circumstances my submission is that at least one post of chief engineer should be abolished.

My second suggestion is, as was pointed out in a resolution which was moved in the House, that the posts of Commissioners and superintending engineers which are superfluous should be abolished altogether. In my opinion the only duty which the superintending engineers perform is that they act as positive hinderance in the working of the department. They, as a matter of fact, do not do any work. These are not my personal whims but I can cite many examples in support of my contention. I can say without any fear of contradiction that if any executive engineer prepares any scheme and sends it to the superintending engineer at Lahore or his headquarter or Simla as the case may be, he keeps such papers for months and months regardless of the fact that many chits denoting the urgency of the case are attached to the papers. These officers have only to write yes or no. But for this small matter they take months. Now if these posts of superintending engineers are abolished that would make a saving of Rs. 5 to 7 lakhs and will quicken the working output of the Department.

My third suggestion is that the circles of Executive Engineers should be increased. The last Land Retrenchment Committee Report which was published in 1931 set down a circle of 430 miles of channels and about 300,000 of acreage of irrigated area for an Executive Engineer. Now if this suggestion is adopted that would result in the abolition of many posts of Executive Engineers and thus much money would be saved. For example I may point out that the Executive Engineers of Upper Jhelum and Gujrat have practically no work to do and they are only drawing their salaries. Such posts where the quantity of work is equal to zero should be abolished. I may also point out that on Upper Jhelum, Upper Chenab and Grey Canals, Ferozepore, the Executive Engineers have very little to do and I would suggest that the Honourable Minister can abolish those posts of Executive Engineers as well. In this connection I would like to point out particularly that the Gujrat division should be closed down because there is practically no work to do. Similarly I may point out that every Sub-Divisional Officer should be in charge of 200 to 300 miles of channel. Not only this but I would suggest that their circle should be extended still further. At present there are many sub-divisional officers who have been appointed merely for the sake of providing them with employment; otherwise they are doing nothing. I would, therefore, request the Honourable Minister

that he should dispense with the services of such sub-divisional officers who are superfluous. Similarly the circles of overseers should not be fixed less than 150 miles. If all these suggestions are adopted the Government can very easily save about 20 to 25 lakhs of rupees.

My fourth suggestion is that there are certain allowances which were allowed to the officers in the past but they are being continued even now. For example, there was an allowance known by the name of "Jungle allowance". This allowance was suggested, as the history shows, because at the beginning of the projects the officers had to stay in jungles, and many officers are getting this allowance even now. I think there is no justification for paying such allowances to officers when they are not residing in jungles for which it was proposed and they should be abolished at once. This can also save a lot of money.

Besides, I may point out that at present the greatest complaint which the zamindars have against the canal department is against the canal patwaris. They trouble the zamindars too much in order to squeeze out something for themselves. I think that they are to some extent justified in doing so because their salaries are very meagre. I suggest that this difficulty can be solved very easily. If out of the three chief engineers one is dismissed, this would provide money for increasing the emoluments of the patwaris of the canal department. I think if this reduction is done the pay of the patwaris can be increased by 5 to 7 rupees and thus they would cease troubling the zamindars as well.

Then there is a further point of importance. It is about the corrupt working of the Department. That is that if any application is sent to the canal authorities, say for example for increasing the size of an outlet, so much time is taken by the canal authorities that one despairs of getting water at all. In this connection I can quote an example from my own personal experience. I applied last year in the month of July 1939 to the Executive Engineer, Pakpattan Division, Sutlej Valley Project Canal, that water outlet should be increased of chak No. 100/2-B. R. to which water was not given according to the proportion of the area allotted for the outlet. The Executive Engineer was very obliging and after making certain enquiries he got prepared the relevant papers and sent them to the Superintending Engineer that the outlet should be increased to the applicant without any avoidable delay. These papers went to Simla. I had sown cotton crop and as the water discharge was much below the required discharge my kappas crop was failing and I was reminding the Executive Engineer every now and then and the Sub-Divisional Officer was also requested about the urgent necessity of water and these officers were very keen to get the outlet increased. Although the application was sent in August, the reply was not received till November in which it was written that as there was some defect in the previous report a new report should be made. Thus my cotton crop suffered heavily and the fact was disclosed at the end that the head draftsman was not prepared to spare even the Members of the provincial legislature, not to speak of the poor zamindars, in getting something out of them, no matter if this delay may cause them any amount of loss. This is how the zamindars are being treated in the matter of supplying water. In this connection I am reminded of an anecdote which, although on the face of it, appears

[S. Ajit Singh.]

to be wrong yet in this case aptly applies to the Irrigation Department. It is said that a certain bridge of a rajbah caught fire. The chaukidar reported the matter to the Sub-Divisional Officer that a bridge was on fire and the Sub-Divisional Officer sent this report to the Executive Engineer and he in his turn sent the report to the Superintending Engineer who sent it to the Chief Engineer. The Chief Engineer ordered that the fire should be extinguished by sprinkling water on the fire. Similar is the treatment that is accorded to the persons who apply for canal water and I can only say :

تا تریاق از عراق ارده شد

The urgency of the water-supply in time is not felt by the canal authorities and they do not care if the water is supplied in time or not, no matter if their crops are destroyed meanwhile. So long as this is not stopped the zamindar cannot have anything like real peace. The Government want to conform to their own way of doing everything through proper channel, even if in the meantime the evil is done with. But what does that matter? The Government have anyhow to realise their revenue.

Then there is still another matter to which I want to draw the attention of the Government. This year *tela* and *tirak* have worked havoc with the crops in the Ganji Bar, Montgomery district. The Deputy Commissioner and the Superintending Engineer visited the affected area and especially Kassowal area and inspected the crops themselves and they found that not even one chhatank of cotton could be gathered from the whole crop. At some places the zamindars were asked by the officers to cut down their crops which they did as they could not gather anything out of these fields, but even then zamindars were not given full remissions. Again the Superintending Engineers visited some villages as well as others and at some places promised at least 25 per cent remission but the result in every case has been that not a single pice has been remitted so far. Now God knows whether the recommendations were refused by the Chief Engineer or the Honourable Minister or else the money was appropriated by the higher officers. I was convinced by the local officers that the remission in abiana was certain ; it is refused by the Department. I can safely say that our remission is eaten up by the Honourable Minister in charge. In the whole of the village Kassowal not a maund of cotton has been picked from acres upon acres of crops. I fail to understand, Sir, why the Government could spend about 2½ crores of rupees in Hissar district either on account of the seriousness of the situation or because they wanted to please the Honourable Minister of Development and they could not remit abiana in an area where even their own officers admitted that the situation was really very serious. This is a partial and step-motherly treatment which we regret very much.

With these words, Sir, I support the cut motion moved by my honourable friend Mian Muhammad Nurullah.

**Rai Sahib Chaudhri Het Ram** (Hissar South, General, Rural) : Sir, my honourable friend Chaudhri Suraj Mall has already expressed the sentiments of the people of our district but I want to avail myself of this opportunity for saying one or two things.

In spite of the fact that attempts have been made to increase the means of irrigation, the plight of our districts is still the same. Although the Honourable Minister of Finance says that no less than 24 crores of rupees have been spent during the present famine, yet the people of that unfortunate area are still in need of their daily bread and their misery is so great that this huge sum does not seem to have been of any benefit to them.

The Muslim Rajputs of Sirsa Tehsil have been reduced to desolation. People say that since the Honourable Minister of Revenue visited that area last summer, no other remission of land revenue has been granted. It is very essential that some permanent arrangement like that, which has been made in Tehsil Hansi should be made. We are being informed that Engineers have been sent to America for getting necessary training in constructing irrigation works. But the Government should for the time being make temporary arrangements till the end of war. Let the Honourable Minister of Revenue accompany me—I will arrange for camels to carry him to that area—and he will see the miserable plight of the people with his own eyes. It is really very kind of the Government to have given 3 crores for famine relief but the thing most needed is a permanent remedy of this great affliction.

The people in the Punjab think that the districts of Hissar and Rohtak are mainly populated by the Hindu Jats but they are mistaken because there are a large number of Muslim Rajputs who have also been rendered homeless by this common catastrophe. This famine is the acutest since 1856. The people are dying of starvation and lack of drinking water. It is the duty of the Government to make arrangements for the supply of drinking water without any delay. Three years have already passed in mere talk and neither a scheme in connection with Bilaspur nor one from Kangra has reached fruition. Bhakra Dam seems to be a wild dream incapable of being put to practice. Had the Honourable Minister of Finance visited the area, he would have himself witnessed the pitiable condition of the people. We the people of Hissar have never been behind anyone in contributing our quota of men and money in any war, but the difficulty is that now we have not enough to keep ourselves from starving to death. Therefore we want the Government to spend something in this time of distress on our district. Give us only food to eat and we will not ask for anything else.

**Khan Sahib Chaudhri Sahib Dad Khan (Hissar, Muslim, Rural):** Sir, the name of Hissar is synonymous with 'famine'. The conditions prevailing in that unfortunate area are even worse than have been presented by my honourable friends Chaudhri Suraj Mal and Chaudhri Het Ram. If the Honourable Ministers of Finance and Revenue were to visit that area even now the seriousness of the situation will dawn on them. They will find the public starving in spite of the fact that the Government spent so much for their relief. The residents of the famine-stricken area, young and old alike, are thankful to the present Government for coming to their rescue. But all that the Government have so far done has been as a temporary measure of relief and no step has been taken for providing a permanent means of overcoming the greatest affliction of those districts, namely, famine.



[K. S. Ch. Sahib Dad Khan.]

So long as permanent arrangements for irrigation are not made by the Government these temporary measures and a little shower of rain will not minimise the troubles of those people. Bhakra Dam Scheme is hanging in the balance. Roheln is also a long way off but why do not the Government make some arrangements for taking out a Kharif extension canal from Jumna or Sirhand as they had intended to do? This would be instrumental in irrigating a large part of this area and the trouble of the people will be reduced to a great extent. Even if they are not able to raise food crops they will at least be able to raise fodder crops which would enable them to feed their cattle and would thus relieve their distress. This much about the famine relief.

Now I would submit that if you want an example of the best department working according to the worst possible rules, it is the Department of Irrigation. Its rules are as defective and harmful from the point of view of zamindars as the canals are useful. The rules regarding abiana are absolutely out of date and in certain respects their working is nothing but ridiculous. You know, Sir, that while there are some honest officers in the department there are others who are thoroughly unscrupulous, unsympathetic and corrupt. Now the decision whether a zamindar's harvest in a bad year has been 4 annas or 3 annas and 9 pies is left in the hands of the patwari. If he says it is 4 annas in the rupee the zamindar is given no remission while if his award is that it is three annas and nine pies, a remission is granted. You can very well imagine how much advantage a corrupt patwari can take of this power. Another difficulty is that if a zamindar has harvested his crop the canal officer refuses outright to recommend any remission even though the yield may be 3 annas in the rupee.

As regards the amendment of the rules regarding kharaba, I would submit that the Government should bring the amended rules before the House only when it wants to enforce them. They should not be allowed to remain unenforced for a long time like the agrarian Acts. Such a practice creates a very bad impression on the public mind and the people are put to much unnecessary trouble. People come to me complaining that they have spent so much money but have not heard anything in connection with the applications made under the provisions of these laws. All that I can say to them in reply is that there is not sufficient establishment and that is the cause of the delay. Let not the same thing happen in respect of these rules.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker :** The honourable member is not speaking to the motion.

**Khan Sahib Chaudhri Sahib Dad Khan :** I am just coming to the motion. I have mentioned by the way the fact that the Canal Act and the rules of kharaba may be enforced at once by the authorities.

Then, Sir, my honourable friend Chaudhri Suraj Mal has complained that the Hindu Zamindars of Ambala Division are not given their due share of posts in the Irrigation Department. May I ask as to who can be a greater champion of the cause of the Hindu Zamindars than the Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram? If even now they have not got their due share then they never will. Then they have a champion of theirs in the

Public Service Commission too. There if any community from the Ambala Division can have a legitimate grievance in this respect it is the Muslims.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker :** The honourable member is not speaking to the motion.

**Khan Sahib Chaudhri Sahib Dad Khan :** That honourable member spoke on the point and so I also have to speak on it.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker :** I would request the honourable member to speak to the motion.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Yesterday the Honourable Speaker did not raise any objection at all if any member spoke on communal representation in the services. To-day the discussion is general, so he is not speaking communally.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker :** It is a question of relevancy and not of communalism.

**Khan Sahib Chaudhri Sahib Dad Khan :** Sir, I was submitting that the Muslims of the Ambala division are not given their due share of posts in this department. They have no representative in the Ministry or on the Public Services Commission. Not even a zilladar has been recruited from amongst the Muslims of Hissar district. As regards the ratio of the Muslim community as a whole in this department instructions were issued even by the previous Government that Muslims should be given 50 per cent of the posts in every department, but the officers of the Irrigation department have always treated such instructions with contempt. The reason for this attitude on their part is that no such officer has ever been taken to task for disregarding the instructions issued by the Government.

Another complaint is with regard to the remodelling system. The situations of outlets are being changed constantly with the result that the people are put to a great trouble. Then nobody cares to find out as to whether there is any increase in the total yield along with an increase in the area cultivated and irrigated with canal water. As regards remissions, I may mention for the information of the Government that last year remissions were granted for cotton only and not for *urd*. But one patwari entered *urd* along with cotton in his papers as the crop cultivated in certain fields. The result was that *abiana* was levied on those people. When this matter was brought to the notice of the higher authority the *abiana* was remitted but people had to undergo a good deal of botheration and worry.

Then a great havoc is being played by certain landlords with the help of canal officials with regard to occupancy rights of village Mangali Jhara, Hissar District. Certain landlords managed to obtain an order to deprive their tenants of occupancy rights. The matter was brought on appeal to the notice of the Deputy Commissioner who very kindly set aside that order. But then the landlords began to harass those poor people by getting outlets remodelled and removed from one place to another with the help of the Sub-Divisional Officer who is their friend and co-religionist. Both Hindus and Muslims are affected by this remodelling and I request the Government to do the needful in the matter.

[K. S. Ch. Sahib Dad Khan.]

In the end I would submit that the rates at which abiana is being charged are too high. The water rates were increased in 1924 on the plea that the prices of agricultural produce had risen very high. But now that those prices have fallen very low no reduction is being made in these rates. If you read the speeches made by high officials at that time you can have no justification for not reducing the water rates under the present circumstances. You should also bear in mind that many simple zamindars try to augment their income by cultivating more area but, unfortunately, the total yield does not increase to any appreciable extent and the poor fellows come to grief. In view of these circumstances I request the Government to effect a reasonable reduction in water rates.

**Chaudhri Abdul Rahim** (Shakargarh, Muslim, Rural) (Urdu): Sir, the ilaqa to which I belong is *barani* and here agricultural lands are not irrigated by canal water. And that is why I have always been pressing for a reduction in the land revenue and abiana of my ilaqa. I have on several occasions invited the attention of the Government to the fact that there is marked scarcity of water in that part of the province but as nobody cares to tour about my ilaqa, the Government remains in the dark about the conditions obtaining there and hence no remission is granted to the poor zamindars of my tehsil. It is a pity that the Government has never paid heed to our submissions. To say the truth nobody is prepared even to recognise tehsil Shakargarh as a part of the province. The Honourable Minister of Revenue has been returned from my district but since he is not a resident of my ilaqa he has got no sympathy with our legitimate demands. In fact my tehsil deserves help of all descriptions at the hands of the Government as here neither grain nor fodder can be raised in large quantities. My tehsil is not a land of big landlords; only petty zamindars holding at the most 50 or 60 *ghumaons* of cultivable land are found here. In the Shakargarh tehsil canal water is not available and the land is irrigated only by wells, but still we are made to pay abiana to the Government. In fact it is sheer injustice to the zamindars of my ilaqa. I am free to admit that the Government incurs colossal expenditure in connection with the construction of canals and hence the justification for realizing abiana, but may I ask as to how the sinking of the private wells justifies the Government to collect *chahi rates*? It is the poor zamindar and his family members who work day and night for sinking their own wells. But in spite of the fact that they incur great expenditure and labour on raising water for irrigation purposes, they are made to pay *chahi rates*. I would, therefore, request the Government to effect a reduction in the *chahi rates*, and I am sure, the Government will lose nothing by doing so.

Now, Sir, the honourable members from the Opposition have repeatedly pointed out that they had made commitments with their electorate before returning to the House that they would bring pressure to bear upon the Government for effecting reduction in the incidence of abiana and malia. But let them understand that in spite of the fact that not a single Unionist member had given such an assurance to his voters, still all of us are prepared to lend our fullest support to any reasonable demand put forward by them in this connection.

Sir, recently the Government has started several irrigation projects in the Punjab namely Haveli Project, Thal Project and Bhakra Dam-Scheme. But in view of the marked scarcity of water in my ilaqa I would impress upon the Government the necessity of starting a "Shakargarh Project" for my tehsil. Since the sub-soil water level has gone down as far as 300 feet in my ilaqa, the water for irrigation purposes is obtained with great difficulty. Then, Sir, in spite of the fact that crops had failed last year the Government granted no relief to the Shakargarh tehsil, but when it was represented to the authorities that the wheat crop had totally failed and therefore, reduction in land revenue was needed, they replied that nothing could be done now as the land revenue for the crop had already been assessed. Now this time again it is feared that crop would fail and I, therefore, take this opportunity to request the Government to do the needful and thus save the poor zamindars from utter ruination.

In the end I would point out to the Government that the Kashmir State has constructed Tawai Canal for letting out surplus water after fully irrigating the Jammu State. I would, therefore, request the Government to make some efforts for getting this surplus water for the use of the Shakargarh tehsil. I hope this scheme would effectively solve the problem of water in my ilaqa. I would request the Honourable Minister to pay full attention to this particular submission of mine. With these words I oppose the cut motion under discussion.

**Sardar Rur Singh** (Ferozepore East, Sikh, Rural) (*Punjab*): Sir, I rise to support the cut motion moved by my honourable friend Mian Nurullah. A similar motion stands against my name on to-day's list of business. It goes without saying that we the members of this august House have come here with a definite purpose. We have to fulfil the commitments which we made to our electorate before returning to this Assembly. We would be failing in our duty if we do not acquaint the Government with the conditions obtaining in our constituencies. The general practice is that only prominent members are permitted to make speeches on the floor of the House. But it is the discussion of budget that affords opportunity even to the back benchers to place the grievances and difficulties of their masters, that is voters, before the Honourable Ministers. There is no doubt about the fact that our voters have to bear a heavy burden of land revenue and water rates, and in fact nine-tenths of the total revenue receipts of the province are coming from their pockets. But it is a pity that the Government does not pay any attention to the requirements of this section of population which actually finances it. I have not got up to level a scathing criticism against the policy of the Government. My only object is to place before the House the legitimate demands of this poor and helpless community.

Four crops have not been successful on account of failure of rains. Requests were often made to reduce waterrate. But the Government have not complied with our wishes as they have a majority at their back and they do not care to listen to the Opposition. The Honourable Minister, therefore, should take notice of it and I may tell him that the poverty is becoming more accute and consequently the condition of the province will become critical. If the Government takes pains to remove poverty from

[S. Rur Singh.]

the province they may remain at the helm of affairs for a bit longer because it is poverty which sweeps away everything advantageous from the province. In fact the Government have earned a lot by irrigation. The income as compared with expenditure is greater. It has been mentioned in Government's report that by spending 38 crores of rupees they have had a profit of one hundred and three crores. I may, therefore, submit that if Government are really sympathetic to zamindars they should now provide zamindars with water without realising a pie from them as they have already realised enough amount of money from them. If the Government do not agree to it they may realise as much water rate as it is due and it must not be more than 25 per cent. I may remind the Government that many a time resolutions to this effect were moved in this House but nothing was done by the Government. I would again respectfully request the Honourable Minister for Revenue to look into this matter, as zamindars cannot afford to pay abiana more than 25 per cent. If the Government do not comply with my requests I am afraid the zamindars will become poorer and consequently the number of crimes will increase. Do you know what will be the result of it? The result is evident. The people of the province will become more desperate. My submission therefore is that water rate should be reduced by at least 25 per cent. Now let me point out certain irregularities that are committed in this department. Water is only allowed once to pass over the land and abiana is charged from the owners of that land. Generally speaking, water must be given to fields at least four times, but I know certain cases where water has not been sufficiently supplied to fields. If any political worker comes forward and does something solid and practical for the poor zamindars, the Government set the Criminal Investigation Department after him and subsequently sends him to jail. Under these circumstances how can the poor and down-trodden zamindars voice their grievances? My submission is that the Government should establish a department which should enquire from zamindars their grievances and difficulties with regard to irrigation. That department should also deal with the cases of corruption which is very prevalent. I do not want to condemn the Government. But in fact I want to place before you hard facts. I know fully well and I have seen with my own eyes that sometimes it so happens that a man is going on a *pagdandi* and his foot strikes unconsciously a side of a field and water escapes and rushes to other fields. In such cases the village in whose *ilqa* that land is situated is fined and sometimes the villagers realise that fine from the labouring classes. Thus the brunt falls on the labourers. Let me cite another instance from village Kishan Pura, District Ferozepore. There was a breach in the canal. The inhabitants of that place ran to stop the water which had resulted in ruination of most of the houses in that village. Their crops were also damaged. But how did the Government treat them? The poor people were heavily fined. It is very unjust on the part of the Government to fine them so mercilessly. They do not feel where the shoe pinches. The Government have not tried to look into the matter. The reason is this that the land of that village is lower than the water-level of canal and the water can easily break the banks of canal and rush to other sides. As I have made it clear, the fault is not of the zamindars of that *ilqa*. But

anyhow they had to bear the brunt. Sometimes on account of party-feelings a person gives bribe to one of the officers in order to involve another party. And sometimes the officer himself offers them an alternative either to bribe him or to pay the fine. Besides, they charge one rupee per plough. I, therefore, once again submit that the Government should not sleep over the irregularities of this department which is so much paying on one hand that it has no equal to it and on the other hand it provides comforts and conveniences both to the province and the Government. It will not be incorrect if I say that this department is the backbone of the Government's exchequer. I, therefore, hope that the Government will give due consideration to this Department and will do their best to redress the grievances of the zamindars. The budget shows that the Government intend to construct a distributary in my district. If it is really so, I would request the Minister in charge to expedite this matter. It appears that it is to be completed this year. But I am afraid the undertakings of the Government have never proved to be certain and definite. Nobody can, therefore, say as to how long it will hang fire. The Government seem to be aware of the hardships of my district where canal water is scarce and the water of wells not good for agriculture. My submission is that the Government should look into this matter as soon as possible. Before I resume my seat I should like to submit that the Government should not be selfish any longer. They should look to Australia and New Zealand where water rate is charged on measured and weighed quantity of water. But what does our Government do? They try to realise as much water rate as they can, no matter whether zamindar's crops are successful or not. What they want is that their treasury must be full. With these remarks I support the cut motion moved by my honourable friend Mian Muhammad Nurullah.

*The Assembly then adjourned till 12 noon on Wednesday, 18th March, 1940.*

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# PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

## SIXTH SESSION OF THE FIRST PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Wednesday, 13th March, 1940.

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

### STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

#### SEARCH OF THE PERSON OF SARDAR TRILOK SINGH GULSHAN.

**\*6169. Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Will the Honourable the Premier be pleased to state—

- (a) the place where the person of Sardar Trilok Singh 'Gulshan', of Montgomery, was searched ;
- (b) whether anything was found as a result of this search ; if so, what ;
- (c) whether Government intend returning the articles found on the person of Sardar Trilok Singh 'Gulshan', if so, when ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) :** Government have no information about the alleged search. If the honourable member will give more details, enquiries will be made.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** How is it that the Government that had ordered the search does not know the place of search ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** The honourable member had asked about the search and I have already replied that no such thing took place. If he wants further information, he may give details and the information will be supplied to him.

#### SEARCH OF THE HOUSE OF SARDAR BAKHSHISH SINGH.

**\*6171. Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Will the Honourable the Premier be pleased to state—

- (a) whether it is a fact that the house of Sardar Bakhshish Singh, Accountant of the Punjab Provincial Congress Committee, was searched on 25th January, 1940 ;
- (b) if the answer to (a) be in the affirmative, whether anything incriminating was found there ;
- (c) the reasons for searching his house ?

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

**(b)** No.

**(c)** He was suspected of being in possession of unauthorised literature.



## SHARE OF SCHEDULED CASTES IN SERVICES.

**\*6186. Seth Kishan Das :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to lay down on the table of the House a copy of the instructions recently issued to the various Government Departments for their guidance in making fresh appointments from among candidates belonging to various communities with special reference to the scheduled castes ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) :** Separate orders are issued for different departments. The gist of them has been given in the answer to Assembly Question No.\* 5699<sup>1</sup>.

CHARGING OF EXCESS LAND REVENUE BY LAMBARDARS IN  
LYALLPUR DISTRICT.

**\*6225. Sardar Kishen Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) the number of representations received by the district authorities in the Lyallpur district in the year 1939 against any of the lambardars in the Lyallpur district for charging excess land revenue ;

(b) whether any inquiries were held into the matter on the receipt of these representations ; if so, the result thereof ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan) :** (a) Ten.

(b) Yes. Eight representations were found baseless. In one case the excess recovery was refunded and one case is still under enquiry.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know what action is taken against those lambardars who charge land revenue in excess ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** If excessive revenue is charged deliberately by a lambardar, action is certainly taken against him.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** How many cases of deliberate excessive charges by the lambardars have been dealt with by the Government ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I have already said that inquiry is going on regarding one case.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** The question is not of one, two or three cases.

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I have already pointed out that eight cases mentioned by him proved to be false and inquiry is going on about one. In one other case the lambardar had charged an excessive amount by mistake, and he was made to pay it back.

**Mr. Dev Raj Sethi :** What amount was involved ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I do not remember the amount.

## CASES DISPOSED OF BY FINANCIAL COMMISSIONERS.

**\*6229. Chaudhri Ali Akbar :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state the number of various kinds of cases including appeals and revisions that came up for disposal before each of the two Financial Commissioners in their capacity as Revenue Courts during the years 1933-34 and the years 1938-39 ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan) :** A statement is laid on the table.

	AFFAIRS.		Total.	REVISIONS AND REVIEWS.			Grand Total.
	Under the Tenancy Act.	Under the Land Revenue, Land Alienation and other Land Acts.		Under the Tenancy Act.	Under the Land Revenue, Land Alienation, Court-fees, Stamp and other Land Acts.	Total.	
Year 1933-34.							
Financial Commissioner, Revenue.	7	38	45	60	268	328	373
Financial Commissioner, Development.	..	28	28	6	111	117	145
Total ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	518
Year 1938-39.							
Financial Commissioner, Revenue.	4	56	60	81	389	470	530
Financial Commissioner, Development.	1	42	43	1	73	74	117
Total ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	647

## GRANT OF LANDS TO SCHEDULED CASTES.

**\*6231. Bhagat Hans Raj :** Will the Honourable Minister for Revenue be pleased to state whether any lands have been granted to the members of the scheduled castes in the province either permanently or on a temporary basis since 1st April, 1937; if so, the total area so granted and the conditions on which it has been granted, and, if no such grants have been made so far, whether it is intended to make such grants now?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan):** *First Part.*—Yes.

*Second Part.*—1,384 acres in the Nili Bar Colony and the Lower Chenab Colony Extensions in the Lyallpur district on temporary cultivation terms. Information about other Colonies is not readily available.

*Third Part.*—Does not arise, but I may inform the honourable member that Government have under consideration a proposal to grant fourteen rectangles of land in the former Yusafwala cattle farm on seed producing terms on ten year leases to selected members of the depressed classes and Christians.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** With what object in view is this land being granted?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** In order to obtain good cultivators who would agree to produce agricultural seeds.

## DANGER TO JAMPUR TOWN ON ACCOUNT OF WATERLOGGING TROUBLE.

**\*6244. Khan Bahadur Sardar Muhammad Hassan Khan Gurchani :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state—

- (a) whether he is aware of the fact that the Jampur town in district Dera Ghazi Khan is, on account of the waterlogging of the lands, in danger of being effaced and that most of the buildings of the town have already collapsed and others are collapsing one after the other ;
- (b) whether he is aware of the fact that a portion of the building of the Veterinary Hospital, Jampur, suddenly collapsed recently as a result of which five men lost their lives ;
- (c) whether he is also aware of the fact that on the night of 30th or 31st January, 1940, at 11 p.m., the big and valuable house of Sardar Bahar Khan, a member of the Gurchani clan, situated in *Gol Sarak*, Jampur, collapsed and his two grown up sons Ghulam Sarwar Khan and Nawab Bakhsh Khan who were present in the house at that time with their servants had a very narrow escape ;
- (d) whether the Government buildings situated in the Jampur town are free from the danger referred to above ; if so, the names and particulars of the buildings ;
- (e) whether he is aware of the fact that the public of the Jampur town are eager to be removed and shifted to some safer and better place as on account of the overflowing of the river Indus the

whole town and its surrounding area up to several miles is under filthy water which is highly injurious for health and the town is now unfit for habitation ;

- (f) if answer to the above be in the affirmative, the steps Government intend to take to save the town and its residents from being destroyed ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan) : (a) The town of Jampur is in danger on account of the rise of the subsoil water level due to the granting of rabi supplies to the Sohan Distributary and other Government channels in the vicinity of Jampur. Certain buildings on the outskirts of the town have been affected.

(b) One servant's quarter attached to the Veterinary Hospital collapsed suddenly at night recently and caused the death of 5 persons.

(c) The house of Sardar Bahar Khan collapsed recently at night and 2 persons narrowly escaped.

(d) The Government buildings including the thana and \*tahsil buildings, which are in the outskirts, are affected and are not free from danger. The Government High School and the Public Works Department Rest House are the only buildings not seriously affected.

(e) The public of Jampur seems to have no desire to be shifted but wants drainage to be arranged.

(f) The Deputy Commissioner and the Executive Engineer, Irrigation Department, inspected the buildings and the surroundings of the town and discussed certain remedies with a deputation from the town.

The first step taken was to close down rabi supplies in the Sohan Distributary, which necessitated zamindars working the open wells round the town, and this had the immediate effect of lowering the subsoil water level by more than 1 foot, thereby averting any immediate damage to other buildings.

Proposals for a permanent remedy are under examination and include :—

- (a) the closing down of rabi supplies to all channels in the vicinity of Jampur town, thereby necessitating the working of open zamindari wells during the rabi season.
- (b) Remodelling and re-aligning certain Government channels in the vicinity of Jampur town in order to avoid excessive water being brought into the vicinity of that area.
- (c) Pumping the subsoil water into the Sohan Distributary.

#### RESIGNATION BY GOVERNMENT SERVANTS TRYING FOR NOMINATION TO P.C.S.

**\*6272. Chaudhri Abdul Rahim** : Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government servants, whether they be clerks, tahsildars or zilladars, trying for nomination to the P.C.S. (Executive Branch) on Register 'C' have to resign the posts held by them before they can be considered for nomination, but that the Government servants in the ministerial

[Ch. Abdul Rahim.]

- service, whose rolls for nomination to the said service are forwarded by the heads of departments, are not so required to resign; if so, the reasons for this differential treatment;
- (b) whether there is any provision made for allowing those Government servants, who may have resigned for trying to be nominated to the P.C.S. and who may have failed to be so nominated to return to the posts held by them at the time of resignation; if not, why not, and if so, whether the period of absence in their case adversely affects their seniority among their fellow servants?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah): (a) All Government servants of whatever department must resign their posts before they are eligible for nomination to the Punjab Civil Service (Executive Branch) on Register C.

(b) The matter is under consideration.

#### HAZARA SINGH OF VILLAGE MANDHALA.

**\*6273. Master Kabul Singh:** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

- (a) whether Hazara Singh, son of Natha Singh, Jat, of village Mandhala, tahsil Nawanshahr, district Juliundur, was detained in the Lahore Fort in November or December, 1939; if so, under what law;
- (b) if reply to (a) is in the affirmative, when is his release from detention due;
- (c) if released, has he been further detained by the police; and, if so, under what law and where is he kept?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah): (a) It is presumed that information is sought regarding Hazara Singh, son of Natha Singh of Mandhala village, if so, the answer is yes; under section 2, Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1935.

(b) & (c) He was released on the 1st December, 1939, but was re-arrested under the provisions of Rule 129 of the Defence of India Rules, on suspicion that he was about to act in a manner prejudicial to the public safety. It is not in the public interest to say where he is being detained.

**Master Kabul Singh:** May I know where he is nowadays?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary:** I have already replied to this very question, viz., "It is not in the public interest to say where he is being detained".

**Master Kabul Singh:** May I know what particular public interest is involved?

**Mr. Speaker:** He is the sole judge of it.

**Master Kabul Singh:** I only wanted to know what public interest was involved in this matter.

**Mr. Speaker :** I donot think the honourable member can expect the Minister or the Parliamentary Secretary to divulge the particular public interest.

**Master Kabul Singh :** May I know if the detenue in question is still alive or has been murdered ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** Yes, he is alive.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know under what law the whereabouts of a detenue are being concealed ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** The honourable member may give fresh notice.

#### HAQ-I-ABPASHI IN JHANG DISTRICT.

**\*6275. Sayed Mubarik Ali Shah :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that *Haq-i-Abpashi* in the case of certain proprietary villages in the Shahpur district on the Lower Jhelum Canal has recently been increased ;

(b) whether the proprietary area in Jhang district and on the Lower Jhelum Canal are still suffering from lower reaches of the meagre percentage of *Haq-i-Abpashi* ; if so, why ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan) :** (a) and (b) In the Ara Tract which falls partially into the Shahpur and partially into the Jhang districts the intensity had been increased by the last Government as water was available at that time.

Government does not agree that the villages referred to in paragraph (b) of the question are suffering. They continue to receive water at the same intensity of irrigation as they received since the canal opened and which is the standard fixed for such areas.

#### BENAMI CASES IN JHANG DISTRICT.

**\*6276. Sayed Mubarik Ali Shah :** Will the Honourable Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) the total number of *benami* cases brought so far before the Tahsil-dar on special duty in the Jhang district ;

(b) the number of cases out of them so far finally disposed of with the number separately of cases decided in favour of the applicants and those decided against the applicants ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan) :** (a) 432.

(b) 135, 63, and 72 respectively.

**Mr. Dev Raj Sethi :** How much area has been affected ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** The area cannot be stated as much time and labour would be entailed in ascertaining it.

## RESTITUTION OF MORTGAGES IN JHANG DISTRICT.

**\*6277. Sayed Mubarik Ali Shah :** Will the Honourable Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

- (a) the total number of mortgages to be affected by the provisions of the Punjab Restitution of Mortgaged Lands Act, 1938, in the districts where special officers have been appointed to decide these cases giving the area of land mortgaged and to be restituted in each such district ;
- (b) the number of such mortgages to be affected in Jhang district and also the area to be restituted under the Act ;
- (c) whether it is a fact that no special officer has been appointed in the Jhang district to deal with cases ; if so, the reasons therefor ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan) :** (a) Information regarding the number of mortgages is not readily available. The area under mortgage and likely to be restored in these districts is as follows :—

				Ares.
Hoshiarpur	..	..	..	15,990
Ludhiana	..	..	..	7,563
Amritsar	..	..	..	14,438
Gurdaspur	..	..	..	21,783
Sialkot	..	..	..	35,572
Gujrat	..	..	..	24,438
Muzaffargarh	..	..	..	91,374

(b) Information regarding the number of such mortgages is not readily available. The area likely to be restored is 61,728 acres.

(c) Yes. Almost all the applications received so far are incomplete, the number which has been completed being 95 only ; for the present, the number of applications is not large enough to require the appointment of a special officer to deal with them.

## REMOVAL OF BAR TO THE RECRUITMENT IN ARMY AGAINST SAYEDS OF GUJRAT DISTRICT.

**\*6278. Sayed Mubarik Ali Shah :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state whether it is a fact that representation was recently made by Sayeds of the Gujrat district and a deputation also waited upon him not long ago to request him to move the Central Government for the removal of the bar to their recruitment in the army ; if so, the action taken by him so far in the matter ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) :** A representation was recently made by certain prominent Sayeds. This was forwarded to the Defence Department. The reply received, which shows clearly that no restrictions whatever are placed on the enlistment of Sayeds, has been communicated to the honourable member of this House who sponsored the representation. I do not think that I ought to say more here, as the subject is essentially a central one.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know if Defence is also included in the portfolio of the Premier of the Punjab and is a provincial subject?

**Premier :** So far as the question of Defence concerns the Punjab, the reply is in the affirmative.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Is there any army which is under the Premier?

**Mr. Speaker :** Disallowed.

# REPRESENTATION OF CHAMARS OF TOHANA.

**\*6283. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state with reference to reply to my unstarred question<sup>1</sup> No. 792,

- (a) whether it is a fact that the poor *chamars* have to sleep in winter in the open on account of the inadequacy of the area in their possession ;
- (b) total area of the land of *Parao* for the acquisition of which the *Chamars* applied to Government ;
- (c) the number of important works of public utility for which the plot is to be utilized ;
- (d) whether the whole area is required for the purpose mentioned in (c) or a part thereof ;
- (e) action the Government intends to take in the matter ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan) :** (a) Government have not received any reports to this effect ;

(b) Approximately 15 bighas ;

(c) four (Veterinary hospital, Girls school, High school and play grounds) ;

(d) it will be determined when the schemes are sanctioned ;

(e) does not arise.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Is it a fact that the previous deputy commissioners had made a recommendation to the effect that the land in question may be granted to the Harijans ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I require notice for that.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** May I know whether Government have arrived at a decision to build the public utility works, namely, the school, etc., in Tohana ? If so, when ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** No. The Deputy Commissioner, Hissar, in view of the hardships of the Harijans had recommended that the land be granted to them. But with regard to this matter there is no proposal at present under consideration of the Government.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Is it a fact that when a representation was submitted to the Deputy Commissioner, he considered it necessary to grant the land in question to the Harijans ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** In my opinion my honourable friend would be well advised not to press for a final reply at this stage. I am sure the Deputy Commissioner would visit the place with a view to decide whether the Harijans should be granted that land.



**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know whether Government intend to utilise the place for building all the four public utility works referred to in the question or any of them ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I have nothing to add to the answer already given.

PERCENTAGES FIXED FOR AGRICULTURISTS AND NON-AGRICULTURISTS  
FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

**\*6285. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** With reference to the answer given on 2nd February, 1940, to short notice question<sup>1</sup> by Sardar Bahadur Sardar Gulbachi Singh with regard to percentages fixed by the Financial Commissioners, will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state the percentages, if any, fixed for agriculturists and non-agriculturists, division-wise for appointment to posts in the Revenue Department ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan) :** It was not necessary to fix fresh percentages for agriculturists and non-agriculturists since orders already exist prescribing such percentages for the services in the Revenue Department as in other departments.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** In view of the fact that the Parliamentary Secretary has refused to throw sufficient light on the matter, and in view of the verbal replies of officers of the Revenue Department in regard to the recruitment to services of non-agriculturists in their offices referring to the instructions issued by the Government prohibiting recruitment of non-agriculturists, may I know whether we should consider the reply of the Parliamentary Secretary as correct or that of the officers ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** My reply is to be considered as correct in every respect.

**Lala Duni Chand :** May I know if the new percentages fixed division-wise will in any way affect the percentage, namely, 50 and 50, already fixed ?

**Premier :** It will not affect the provincial percentage.

**Lala Duni Chand :** Am I to understand that so far as the percentage of 50 and 50 is concerned, it will not be affected adversely in any way ?

**Premier :** It will not be affected in any way throughout the province as a whole.

**Lala Duni Chand :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to satisfy and assure us that it is not merely devised to affect the percentage already fixed ?

**Mr. Speaker :** Disallowed.

**Lala Duni Chand :** Sir, I want the information whether it is genuine.

**Mr. Speaker :** Does the honourable member wish to collect information or to make an insinuation ?

**Lala Duni Chand :** You will make me wiser by pointing out to me how this question amounts to insinuation.

**Mr. Speaker :** The honourable member himself is very wise.

**Lala Duni Chand :** I want to know whether it is not merely devised to affect the percentage already fixed and whether it is *bona fide*.

<sup>1</sup>Vide Debates of 2nd February 1940—Vol. XL.

**Mr. Speaker :** As the question amounts to an insinuation, I disallow it.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know whether the percentages for recruitment of agriculturists and non-agriculturists to services vary in different divisions of the Punjab ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** The percentages fixed for the whole of the province are uniform.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** In view of the fact that the communal representation in services in each division has been fixed separately, may I know whether Government had considered the advisability of fixing the percentages division-wise for agriculturists and non-agriculturists ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** The question relates to a part of the province, but this rule would be applicable automatically to all parts of the province.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** May I know if Government have issued instructions to the Financial Commissioner regarding the appointment of agriculturists only in the Revenue Department ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** So far as I am aware, Government have issued no such instructions.

**Lala Duni Chand :** May I know the reasons why the new percentages were fixed and why the necessity for fixing new percentages arose ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** No new percentages have been fixed.

**Lala Duni Chand :** May I know if it is not a case of robbing Peter to pay Paul ?

**Mr. Speaker :** Disallowed.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the Parliamentary Secretary please tell us the present percentage of the agriculturists and non-agriculturists ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I do not remember the percentages. I require notice for that.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** If communal representation is fixed on population basis why do not the Government fix the percentage of agriculturists and non-agriculturists for recruitment to services on the same basis ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** It is a very wide question. However I may tell my honourable friend that while fixing the percentages we have to consider many factors. Population, too, constitutes one of the factors.

#### ASSESSORS IN AMRITSAR DISTRICT.

**\*6188. Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state—

- (a) the total number of assessors at present in the Amritsar district ;
- (b) the necessary qualifications which a candidate must possess to be eligible for appointment as an assessor ;
- (c) the number of assessors among them who do possess the requisite qualifications ?

**The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal :** (a) 295.

(b) No definite qualifications have been laid down for the appointment of assessors but in general it may be said that they should be influential and respectable persons between twenty-one and sixty years of age and have an independent position in life.

(c) All the persons on the existing list possess the qualifications given in (b).

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** May I ask if there is no educational qualification for the appointment of an assessor?

**Minister :** I have already said that no definite qualifications have been laid down.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** May I know whether it is a fact that illiterate persons are appointed as assessors?

**Minister :** May be.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know whether only 'yes' men of the Government are appointed as assessors?

**Mr. Speaker :** The honourable member is referred to the Criminal Procedure Code under which assessors are appointed by sessions judges and district magistrates.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** In reply to my question whether illiterate persons are appointed as assessors, the Honourable Minister, said, 'May be'. I want to know from him whether these illiterate persons if appointed as assessors, can understand the proceedings of the sessions court in murder cases?

**Mr. Speaker :** Disallowed.

#### HONORARY MAGISTRATES IN AMRITSAR DISTRICT.

\*6189. **Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state the number and names of the honorary magistrates, tahsilwise, in the Amritsar district with the names of the places where they hold courts?

**The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal :** The honourable member will find this information in Part II of the January issue of the Half-yearly Civil List.

#### CASES DISPOSED OF BY DEBT CONCILIATION BOARDS AT KARNAL, ROHTAK, GURGAON AND HISSAR.

\*6245. **Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the Honourable Minister of Development be pleased to state—

(a) the number of cases and the amount of debts involved in these cases and settled as payable by the debtors by the Debt Conciliation Boards in Karnal, Rohtak, Gurgaon and Hissar districts, respectively, since their establishment;

(b) the number of cases out of them in which the creditors failed to appear, or produce correct copies of their accounts districtwise, and the amount of debts settled as payable by the debtors in such cases?

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

Statement showing the number of cases, the amount of debts involved and settled as payable by the debtors by the Debt Conciliation Boards in Hissar, Rohtak, Gurgaon and Karnal districts, etc.

Serial No.	District.	Number of cases disposed of by the Board.	The amounts of debts involved.	The amounts of debts settled as payable by the debtors.	The number of cases out of which the creditors failed to appear or produce correct copies of their accounts.	The amounts of debts settled as payable by the debtors in cases mentioned in column 6.	REMARKS.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Hissar	497	Rs. 4,48,868	Rs. 82,432	Rs. 160	* ..	*As the cases mentioned in column 6 were finally filed either on account of the failure of creditors to appear before the Board or produce correct copies of their accounts no settlements were effected between the parties and therefore there is no amount of debts settled as payable by debtors.
2	Rohtak	1,167	12,03,730	3,48,382	Not available.	..	†All the debts were discharged.
3	Gurgaon	821	7,30,652	1,50,711	253	†..	†As the creditors failed to appear or produce correct copies of their accounts, the amounts of debts were discharged.
4	Karnal	2,724	24,17,588	13,49,241	23	†..	

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know the reason why the number of cases in which creditors failed to appear or produce correct copies of their accounts is 258 for one year in the Hissar district, while the number of such cases in the Karnal for two or three years is only 23 ?

**Minister :** I could not answer this question.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know what is the reason for not giving information about the Rohtak district ? Was the number of cases so large that the Honourable Minister could not state it on the floor of the House ?

**Minister :** I refuse to answer this question.

#### CRIMINAL TRIBES IN ROHTAK, GURGAON, HISSAR AND KARNAL EXEMPTED FROM OPERATION OF CRIMINAL TRIBES ACT.

**\*6247. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the Honourable Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

- (a) the names of criminal tribes and their respective numbers in the districts of Rohtak, Gurgaon, Hissar and Karnal ;
- (b) which of these tribes have been exempted wholly or partially from the operation of the Criminal Tribes Act during the last ten years, giving separately the names of the tribes exempted after 1st April, 1937 ?

**The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal :** I regret that this information cannot be collected without an expenditure of time and labour out of all proportion to the results.

#### SHRI GURU RAMDAS'S BIRTHDAY AS A PUBLIC HOLIDAY.

**\*6250. Lala Harnam Das :** Will the Honourable Finance Minister be pleased to state whether he has so far received a number of resolutions passed at public meetings in the Punjab recommending to the Government to declare the birthday of Shri Guru Ramdas as a public holiday ; if so, the action he has taken in this matter ?

**The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal :** One such resolution was reported to Government in 1938. As regards the notification of the day as a public holiday I have nothing to add to the reply given by the Premier to the honourable member's question \*2329<sup>1</sup> in the spring session of that year.

#### LATHI CHARGE ON UNDER-TRIAL PRISONERS IN MIANWALI JAIL.

**\*6254. Lala Duni Chand :** Will the Honourable Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

- (a) whether it is a fact that about a month ago a lathi charge was made on about twenty under-trial prisoners in Mianwali Jail ; if so, the reasons for the same ;

- (b) whether it is a fact that the District Magistrate visited the Jail immediately after the occurrence and held inquiry on the spot ; if so, the result thereof ?

**The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal :** (a) No.

(b) No.

**DEHAT SUDHAR TRAINING SCHOOL, MUSLIM TOWN, LAHORE.**

**\*6256. Begum Rashida Latif Baji :** Will the Honourable Minister of Development be pleased to state whether it is intended to close the Dehat Sudhar Training School opened at Muslim Town, Lahore, some time ago, for imparting training to women in the rural uplift work ; if so, the reasons therefor ?

**The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram :** The present term of the school expires in June, 1940. The question of its further continuance will be considered after reviewing the whole position in the light of the work done this cold weather by the lady welfare workers trained in the first course who have been posted to their various districts.

**SARDAR UJAGAR SINGH, POLITICAL PRISONER.**

**\*6267. Dr. Satyapal :** Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state—

- (a) whether he is aware that the state of health of Sardar Ujagar Singh, a political prisoner in Ferozepore Jail and now on hunger-strike, is getting serious ; if so, what steps are being taken to improve his condition ;
- (b) whether he is also aware of the fact that the political prisoners confined in Ferozepore District Jail are being subjected to insults and indignities at the hands of jail officials ; if so, the steps he proposes to take to redress this wrong ?

**The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal :** (a) Prisoner Ujagar Singh gave up hunger-strike on the 3rd February, 1940, when his weight was 104 lbs. He was then fed on milk, egg flip, orange juice and tea and as a result his condition has greatly improved. His weight on the 12th February, 1940, was 115 lbs. and his general condition is satisfactory.

(b) The allegations are incorrect.

**Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :** May I know what was his weight on admission before he started hunger-strike ?

**Minister :** I could not say. If the honourable member wants that information he should give notice. I might, however, say that he has recently improved very rapidly.

**Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :** He gave up hunger-strike on the 3rd February and his weight was taken on the 12th February. What was the diet given to him during these 9 days ?

**Minister :** That is what I have said. He had milk, egg flip, orange juice and tea.

**Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :** What was the diet given during the hunger-strike ?

**Minister :** I have answered the question. I do not carry with me the diet of every prisoner during the whole period of his confinement.

**Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :** Some diet was given to him during his hunger-strike. When he gave it up was it another diet ?

**Minister :** I have no reason to think that he was not given milk during this period. During the hunger-strike he had, of course, to have forced feeding.

**Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :** I want to know when he was put on the ordinary scale of diet ?

**Minister :** I must require notice.

**Lala Duni Chand :** May I know the reason for putting so serious an emphasis on the articles tea, etc. ?

**Minister :** The reason is perfectly obvious, because the question demanded this answer to be given with emphasis.

**Lala Duni Chand :** May I know the reason why the Honourable Finance Minister did not ascertain the obvious and relevant facts, namely what was his weight before he entered on the hunger-strike ?

**Mr. Speaker :** Disallowed.

**Lala Duni Chand :** You can disallow this question, but may I know the reason for disallowing it ? I say it is a very relevant question.

**Mr. Speaker :** I do not think so.

**Lala Duni Chand :** The point is, did he ascertain the reasons for the decrease in his weight ? He is unable to say what his weight was before he resorted to hunger-strike. These are relevant facts and I want to know the reasons for not ascertaining the relevant facts. You should not disallow questions in this way. This is my request to you.

**Mr. Speaker :** The honourable member's remark is not parliamentary. What I objected to was the form in which the question was put. Instead of asking the Honourable Minister to make enquiries the honourable member asked him to give reasons, etc.

**Lala Duni Chand :** I did not use the words why this has not been done (*interruptions*).

**Mr. Speaker :** I request the honourable member not to make any remarks.

**Lala Duni Chand :** If any remarks were made asking you to reconsider it I think it is the right of every member to persuade you. . . .

**Mr. Speaker :** Not without my permission.

**Lala Duni Chand :** Will the Honourable Minister please answer that question ? What was the reason for his inability to ascertain the fact, namely, to ascertain his weight before he resorted to hunger-strike ? I want to know why his weight was reduced.

**Minister :** The question did not demand it. There is a limit to the amount of information which I possess. I have not all knowledge of my province.

MAULANA QAZI AHSAN AHMAD.

\*6268. **Dr. Satyapal :** Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state—

- (a) whether he is aware that Maulana Qazi Ahsan Ahmad, first Dictator of All-India *Majlis-i-Ahrar*, now undergoing his sentence in Rawalpindi Jail, is losing weight rapidly;
- (b) if the reply to (a) be in the affirmative, the action he proposes to take to restore that gentleman to his normal health;
- (c) whether it is a fact that he, in spite of his having a broken arm, is made to do hard labour; if so, why;
- (d) whether it is a fact that in spite of his high social status he is being treated as a C class prisoner; if so, why?

**The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal :** (a) It is correct that this prisoner lost some weight when he was originally confined in the Subsidiary Jail of Amritsar, but since he has been in the Jail at Rawalpindi he has regained a considerable amount of weight and now weighs 135 lbs. against a standard weight of 118 lbs.

(b) He has been given all necessary medical treatment and his general health is reported to be quite satisfactory.

(c) He has got partial fibrous ankylosis of the left elbow as a result of an old injury. He was therefore classified as fit for medium labour only and he has been working on spinning wheel and making envelopes. This labour is within his capacity.

(d) He has been classified as a B class prisoner.

TEACHERS IN GOVERNMENT INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS.

\*6274. **Bhagat Hans Raj :** Will the Honourable Minister for Development be pleased to state—

- (a) the names of the teachers working in the various Government Industrial Schools, who are weavers by caste;
- (b) the dates, when they joined the Government service and their present grades of pay;
- (c) whether there are any teachers, among them who have not received any increment for the last 12 years or so; if so, the reasons for not giving them any increments?

**The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram :** The time and labour involved in collecting the necessary information will not be commensurate with the results obtained.



## RADIO SETS SUPPLIED TO RURAL AREAS.

\*6281. **Lala Duni Chand :** Will the Honourable Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(a) the number of radio sets supplied by Punjab Government to the rural areas in the province so far ;

(b) their cost ?

**The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram :** (a) Nineteen.

(b) Rs. 14,945 out of the Government of India grant for rural development.

**Lala Duni Chand :** May I know the districts to which these radios have been supplied ?

**Minister :** If my honourable friend gives a fresh notice, I will supply the information.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Will the Honourable Minister please state whether these radios are supplied to the villages on their making an application or without it ?

**Minister :** It is very difficult to give a radio set even on an application being made. In my opinion, it would be doubly so without any application. A radio may, however, be supplied even without an application when the village selected happens to be situated in a central position.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Are the radios supplied on the recommendation of the Rural Reconstruction Department ?

**Minister :** The Commissioner himself decides as to which village should be supplied with a radio.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** What is the number of sets supplied so far ?

**Minister :** Nineteen.

**Lala Duni Chand :** Have any instructions been issued by the Government regarding the use of these radios ?

**Mr. Speaker :** That question does not arise.

**Lala Duni Chand :** May I know if any report has been received regarding the working of these radios ?

**Minister :** It has not been received by me ; it may have been received by the Commissioner of Rural Reconstruction.

**Lala Duni Chand :** What is the main object that Government has in view in supplying these radios ?

**Minister :** I cannot answer that question without fresh notice.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know if these radio sets are meant for amusement or for propaganda ?

**Minister :** I would advise my honourable friend to go and listen into their programme. He will then know whether it is propaganda or something else.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Has the Honourable Minister replied after having listened in to such programmes ?

**Minister :** I have not done so because I am not perhaps, so keen to listen into a radio set as my honourable friend is.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Has the Honourable Minister elicited this information departmentally that I am fond of listening into a radio ?

CONFIRMATION OF SUB-INSPECTORS IN THE INDUSTRIAL BRANCH OF THE CO-OPERATIVE DEPARTMENT.

\*6287. **Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Will the Honourable Minister for Development be pleased to state whether it is a fact that some of the Sub-Inspectors in the Industrial Branch of Co-operative Department have been confirmed ; if so, whether it is a fact that there are some juniors who have been confirmed in preference to their seniors ; and if so, the reasons for overlooking their claims based on grounds of seniority ?

**The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram :** Yes. Some Sub-Inspectors of Industrial Co-operative Societies have been confirmed over their seniors, the reason being that the work of the senior candidates was not found satisfactory. Confirmation is not based only on the candidates position on the list, but also on other factors such as efficiency, good work and good conduct.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** May I know whether any loophole was found in the work of M. Fazal Karim ? If so, what was it ? He is a sub-inspector in the Co-operative Department.

**Mr. Speaker :** This question does not arise out of the answer given.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Will the Honourable Minister please state whether all the cases of persons who have been superseded were seen or gone through by him himself ?

**Minister :** The Minister is not concerned with the promotions of sub-inspectors.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** On whose information did he depend ? On the information of the Registrar ?

**Minister :** In answering this question or in any other matter ?

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Were the sub-inspectors who have been superseded found unfit by the Registrar ?

**Minister :** That is the presumption.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** May I know whether the presumption is true or wrong ?

**Mr. Speaker :** Disallowed.

## FINANCIAL ADVISER TO THE CO-OPERATIVE DEPARTMENT.

\*6288. **Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad** : Will the Honourable Minister of Development be pleased to state—

- (a) whether any advertisement was issued by the Public Service Commission, Punjab and North-West Frontier Province, for the post of the Financial Adviser to the Co-operative Department ;
- (b) the pay advertised for the post ;
- (c) the requisite qualifications for the post as prescribed by Government ;
- (d) the total number of applicants ;
- (e) the number and the names of applicants called for interview ;
- (f) the result of interview ;
- (g) whether any advertisement was issued by the said Public Service Commission for the post after the result of the interview ; if not, the reasons for appointing a retired officer not possessing the qualifications prescribed by Government and published in the advertisement ;
- (h) whether it is a fact that the person appointed to the post has been given more than the advertised pay ; if so, the reasons therefor ?

**The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhetu Ram** : (a) Yes.

(b) Rs. 1,000—50—1,500.

(c) The qualifications required for this post were :—

- (1) At least 10 years' working experience in a commercial bank of standing in India,
- (2) Some touch with rural people and practical knowledge of agricultural finance.
- (3) A sound knowledge of Urdu.
- (4) Good health as the post involved regular touring.

(d) Thirty-nine candidates applied in England and 20 in India.

(e) Nine were summoned in England and 4 in India. Eight were interviewed in England, 8 in India. It will involve considerable labour in finding out their names.

(f) None of these candidates was selected for appointment.

(g) No. As the candidates interviewed both in England and in India were found unsuitable, the post was filled by the appointment of a senior officer of the Indian Audit and Accounts Service, who had retired recently. The Public Service Commission were consulted and they reported that he was suitable.

(h) No. He was only given the maximum of the grade advertised.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** May I know in reply to part (c) of the question whether the gentleman appointed possessed all the qualifications enumerated in reply to that part ?

**Minister :** Except in respect of qualification no. (1), which he did not fully possess he was fully qualified in all other respects.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Did the gentleman have any banking experience ?

**Minister :** The nature of the work he was required to do in the various important and responsible positions which he held was quite sufficient to convince the Public Service Commission that he possessed the requisite qualification, even in respect of banking.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Can the Honourable Minister say with certainty that an Accounts Officer or an Accountant-General can possess the experience of banking work also.

**Minister :** It really depends upon the nature of work that he had been doing in the various posts which he held. I am given to understand that the various posts which he held gave him a good inkling of bank finance.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Will the Honourable Minister please say whether none of the persons that were interviewed by the Public Service Commission possessed the important qualification of banking experience.

**Minister :** There are nearly a dozen items of the qualifications laid down. If a candidate possessed the qualification of finance, he probably did not possess other qualifications such as a knowledge of the Punjabi or that of Urdu. There were so many other things.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** One of the qualifications required for the post as stated by the Honourable Minister was good physical health. May I know whether the Honourable Minister can expect an officer who has retired at the age of 55 to possess a good health ?

**Minister :** I would advise my honourable friend to have a look at the officer. *(Laughter).*

**Premier :** And also at the Speaker ! *(More laughter).*

**Mian Sultan Mahmud Hotiana :** Did the Government offer him Rs. 1,500 in the first instance, or did he refuse to accept Rs. 1,000 ?

**Minister :** I do not exactly remember whether the offer was made by me or in some other manner, but I may remind the honourable members that his predecessor was drawing a little more than Rs. 2,500 in all.

**Mian Sultan Mahmud Hotiana :** Did you offer Rs. 1,000 or not ?

**Minister :** No.

#### INSPECTORS OF CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES.

\*6289. **Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Will the Honourable Minister of Development be pleased to state—

- (a) whether it is a fact that the present Registrar of Co-operative Department has recently recommended the names of some Inspectors, Co-operative Societies, to be included in the

[K. S. Khawaja Ghulam Samad.]

approved list of candidates for appointment as Assistant Registrars of Co-operative Societies; if so, their number and names, with the qualifications of each of these persons and the past record of service;

(b) whether in making the selection the claims of some senior inspectors have been ignored; if so, why and the action intended to be taken in the matter;

(c) the criterion for selecting such candidates whether they are selected on the basis of seniority or not?

**The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram :** (a) Part (i) It is not customary to disclose the recommendations made by Heads of Departments to Government.

Part (ii) It is not in the public interest to disclose the names of any officers other than those accepted. Those accepted are (1) Khan Ghulam Saddiq Khan, (2) Chaudhri Musa Khan, (3) Sardar Balwant Singh and (4) Kanwar Pitambar Singh.

Part (iii) Entries in personal files or character rolls being confidential cannot be disclosed.

(b) The claims of all the Inspectors senior to those accepted were considered with the greatest possible care and were found not to be good enough to justify the selection of those Inspectors, at least for the present. The discussion of any further details will be contrary to public interest.

(c) Selection proceeds on seniority combined with good record.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** May I know whether seniority combined with merit of the person selected was taken fully into consideration when selecting these persons for bringing them on the approved list?

**Minister :** More fully than my honourable friend is in a position to do.

#### SHARE OF PROFITS TO STUDENTS IN INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS FOR THEIR HANDI-WORK.

\* 6295. **Sardar Hari Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that some years ago Government issued a circular to the effect that the students of Industrial Schools and Institutes managed and controlled by the Government would be paid 60 per cent of the profits on the sale-proceeds of the handiwork done by them while under training and whether that circular is still in force and is being acted upon in all such schools and institutes including the wood-working Institute at Jullundur; and if not, why not?

**The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram :** In 1936 Government sanctioned a scheme for a period of two years in the first instance whereby 60 per cent. share of the profits on the sale-proceeds of articles was to be distributed among students who manufactured those articles. The scheme has now been extended upto the 10th February, 1943 and is therefore still in force. The scheme is applicable to all Government Industrial schools and Institutes including the Wood Working Institute at Jullundur. The profits so far realised have not been distributed among the students and the entire sale price of articles has been credited into Government treasury under the advice of the Accountant-General, Punjab, as the rules governing the scheme were under preparation. These rules have now been approved by Government and profits will be distributed shortly with retrospective effect.

**HOSTEL ATTACHED TO WOOD-WORKING INSTITUTE,  
JULLUNDUR.**

**\* 6296. Sardar Hari Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister for Development be pleased to state—

- (a) the sanitary condition of the hostel of Government wood-working Institute, Jullundur City, its lighting and conservancy arrangements ;
- (b) the distance of the said hostel from the building in which the institute is located, the distance of the play-ground of the institute from the hostel ;
- (c) the number of working hours in the said Institute ;
- (d) the arrangement that has been made for the supply of drinking water in the hostel and whether a separate kitchen has been provided in the hostel for cooking meals ?

**The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram :** (a) Generally satisfactory.

(b) One and a half miles in both cases.

(c) From 15th April to 14th October—36 hours per week. From 15th October to 14th April—40 hours per week.

(d) The hostel has its own well. Separate kitchens have been provided.

**WOOD-WORKING INSTITUTE, JULLUNDUR.**

**\* 6297. Sardar Hari Singh :** Will the Hon'ble Minister for Development be pleased to state—

- (a) whether instructions in the wood-working institute at Jullundur are being given in accordance with the prospectus ;

3. Hari Singh.]

(b) whether all the students who pass out of the wood-working institute every year are being absorbed in service ;

(c) whether there is any restriction imposed on the number of annual admissions to the said institute if so, the nature of this restriction ?

**The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram :** (a) No prospectus has been published but instruction is imparted at the Institute in accordance with the scheme of studies approved by Government.

(b) A statement is laid on the table.

(c) Not more than 25 students are admitted in the Institute every year. This limitation is imposed by the space and equipment available in the Institute.

*Statement showing the number of students who have passed from the Wood working Institute, Jullundur, and as to how they are employed.*

Year.	Number of students who obtained diplomas from the institute.	Number known to be in private employment.	Number known to have started their own business.	Number known to be in Government State service.	Number untraceable.	Number known to be studying further in the Mayo School of Arts or other technical institutes.	Number known to be un-employed.
1935 ..	22	3	13	1	3	..	2
1936 ..	19	6	8	5	..	..	..
1937 ..	4	1	1	2	..	..	..
1938 ..	14	3	9	..	..	2	..
1939 ..	19	4	9	4	..	2	..

#### EXEMPTION OF MAHTAM SIKHS FROM THE APPLICATION OF CRIMINAL TRIBES ACT.

**\*6299. Captain Sodhi Harnam Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister for Finance be pleased to state whether there are any Mahtam Sikhs of the Ferozepore district who have not so far been exempted from the application of the Criminal Tribes Act; if so, how many and of how many villages in the said district, and the reasons why they have not so far been exempted ?

**The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal :** Three hundred and fifty-two Mahtams, all Sikhs, of 21 villages in the Ferozepore District have not so far been exempted from the operations of the Criminal Tribes Act on account of their continued criminal activities.

**HEALTH OF KISAN MORCHA PRISONERS, GIANI SARDARA SINGH  
AND COMRADE SHIV SINGH.**

\* 6301. **Master Kabul Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

- (a) the present state of health of the two kisan morcha prisoners Giani Sardara Singh and Comrade Shiv Singh now confined in the Rawalpindi Jail ;
- (b) the respective weight of the two prisoners at the time of admission in Jail and at present ;
- (c) whether Giani Sardara Singh is keeping indifferent health ;
- (d) if the answer to (c) be in the affirmative, the steps that the Government have taken or propose to take in the matter ?

**The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal :** (a) The present state of health of Sardara Singh and Shiv Singh is satisfactory.

(b)	Weight on admission into the jail.		Present weight.
	lbs.		lbs.
Sardara Singh ..	106		99
Shiv Singh ..	107		116

(c) Giani Sardara Singh was classified as of 'indifferent health' on account of his being under weight. He is not suffering from any disease which requires treatment as an indoor patient in the jail hospital. Occasionally he complains of pain in the joints for which appropriate treatment is given.

(d) As he was losing weight he was placed in the convalescent gang from time to time and his diet was supplemented with an extra lb. of milk daily.

**VETERINARY DISPENSARIES IN AMRITSAR DISTRICT.**

\*6304. **Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Will the Honourable Minister for Development be pleased to state the number and names of the places tahsil-wise in the Amritsar district where veterinary dispensaries have been opened up-to-date with the number separately of such dispensaries opened in 1939 in the outlying parts of the district stating whether the dispensaries opened in the outlying parts of the district are fully equipped as the other dispensaries are ?



**The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram :** There are 20 veterinary dispensaries in the Amritsar district at the following places :—

Serial No.	Place where the veterinary dispensary is located.	Tahsil.
1	Amritsar City (Hathi Gate)	Amritsar.
2	Amritsar City (Chatiwind Gate)	Do.
3	Kathunangal .. .. .	Do.
4	Beas .. .. .	Do.
5	Jandiala .. .. .	Do.
6	Tarsika .. .. .	Do.
7	Tahli Sahib .. .. .	Do.
8	Butala .. .. .	Do.
9	Attari .. .. .	Tarn Taran.
10	Kasail .. .. .	Do.
11	Tarn Taran .. .. .	Do.
12	Fatehabad .. .. .	Do.
13	Cholassahib .. .. .	Do.
14	Kairon .. .. .	Do.
15	Ramdas .. .. .	Ajnala
16	Ajnala .. .. .	Do.
17	Raja Sansi .. .. .	Do.
18	Chogawan .. .. .	Do.
19	Vachhoa .. .. .	Do.
20	Bhindi Syvedan .. .. .	Do.

(NOTE.—Veterinary dispensaries at Nos. 7, 8, 14, 19 and 20 are manned by trained compounders under the control and supervision of the ilaqa Veterinary Assistants concerned).

The dispensary at Cholasahib (Serial No. 13) was opened in the outlying parts of the district in 1939. All the dispensaries opened in the outlying parts of the district are fully equipped like other dispensaries.

In addition to the above, there are about 40 outlying dispensaries which are periodically visited by the Veterinary Assistant or Veterinary Assistant Surgeon of the ilaqa veterinary hospital.

#### INQUIRIES INSTITUTED AGAINST LAMBARDARS AND OTHER VILLAGE OFFICIALS IN CONNECTION WITH GENERAL ELECTIONS TO DISTRICT BOARD, HOSHIARPUR.

**\*5078. Sardar Hari Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister for Public Works be pleased to state the number of cases in which inquiries have so far been instituted against Lambardars and other village officials for offences committed by them in connection with the last general elections to the District Board, Hoshiarpur, and the action taken in each case after such inquiries giving in each case the nature of the offence committed ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Shaikh Faiz Muhammad): No such inquiries were instituted.

**Sardar Hari Singh**: May I know whether it is a fact that on account of certain allegations made against certain lambardars at the last district board elections, some lambardars were suspended or dismissed?

**Parliamentary Secretary**: No inquiries were instituted in connection with the general elections.

**Sardar Hari Singh**: May I know whether after the last general elections some lambardars were dismissed by the Deputy Commissioner?

**Parliamentary Secretary**: No lambardars were dismissed in connection with the general elections.

**Sardar Hari Singh**: Is it a fact that they were dismissed?

**Parliamentary Secretary**: They may have been dismissed for some other reasons?

**Sardar Hari Singh**: Why? What were the reasons?

**Parliamentary Secretary**: I cannot say. The question relates general elections and I have stated that no lambardars were dismissed in connection with the general elections.

#### SUPRESESSION OF THE PANCHAYAT OF VILLAGE LAMBRA, DISTRICT HOSHIARPUR.

**\*5159. Sardar Hari Singh**: Will the Honourable Minister for Public Works be pleased to state the reasons for the recent supersession of the Panchayat of village Lambra, district Hoshiarpur?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Shaikh Faiz Muhammad): The panchayat has not been superseded.

#### INQUIRIES AGAINST ZAILDARS, SUFEDPOSHERS, LAMBARDARS AND PENSIONERS IN DISTRICT OF HOSHIARPUR.

**\*5182. Sardar Hari Singh**: Will the Honourable Minister for Public Works be pleased to state how many inquiries were instituted, and how many are still proceeding against zaildars, sufedposhes, lambardars and pensioners since March, 1939, i.e., since the last elections to the District Board in the district of Hoshiarpur?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Shaikh Faiz Muhammad): Certain lambardars, etc., who have been taking part in subversive movements, have been punished, or inquiries are proceeding against them. But these inquiries have no connection with the last district board elections.

**Sardar Hari Singh**: What was the nature of the subversive activities?

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

**RELIEF TO HARIJANS FROM THE BURDEN OF PROFESSIONAL TAX  
IN DISTRICT ROHTAK.**

**\*5243. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the Honourable Minister of Public Works be pleased to state—

- (a) the number of attachments and arrests made in default of payment of professional tax levied by the District Board, Rohtak, in respect of the Jhajjar tahsil and of the whole district during the last one year ;
- (b) what steps were taken to relieve the Harijans from the burden of professional tax, during the last famine year, if no such steps were taken, reasons for the same ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Shaikh Faiz Muhammad) :** (a) A statement giving the required information is laid on the table .

(b) No recovery is made from persons who on enquiry are found to be too poor to pay the tax.

*Statement.*

	Number of attach- ments.	Number of arrests.
In respect of Jhajjar tahsil .. .. .	2	77
In respect of the whole district of Rohtak, includ- ing the Jhajjar tahsil.	63	172

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** The statement supplied to me shows that 63 arrests and two attachments were made in the Jhajjar tahsil and 77 attachments and 172 arrests have been effected in the whole district of Rohtak for default of the payment of professional tax. May I know whether these figures include mostly Harijans ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** What if they do ? If a man can pay, how can we exempt him simply for the reason that he is a Harijan ?

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know the justification for making arrests of Harijans in Jhajjar, especially when a severe famine has been raging there for the last 2½ years ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** If any one is in a position to pay in spite of the famine why should he be let off ?

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know whether Jhajjar is the same place from where the Honourable Minister of Development hails and which constituency he represents ?

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know whether Harijans have been arrested because they did not vote in favour of the Honourable Minister in the last general elections ?

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** With reference to the answer given to a question of mine the other day when the Parliamentary Secretary was pleased to remark that the District Board would consider the deserving cases for postponing the realization of professional tax in view of the severity of the famine, may I know how far it was justified in making these arrests and attachments?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** The honourable member has made a brilliant speech.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** I am referring to the answer given to my question.

**Mr. Speaker :** May I request the honourable member to read the answer to which he refers?

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** I have asked in my original question the number of attachments and arrests made for default of payment of professional tax levied by the district board, Rohtak, in respect of the Jhajjar tahsil and of the whole district during the last one year, what steps were taken to relieve the Harijans from the burden of professional tax during the last famine year, if no such steps were taken, reasons for the same?

The statement supplied to me shows that two attachments and 68 arrests were made in the Jhajjar tahsil and 77 attachments and 172 arrests have been effected in the whole district of Rohtak. Now I want to ask whether the District Board considered the conditions before deciding to take such actions.

**Mr. Speaker :** May I ask the honourable member to read out the reply to which he is referring?

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** I have not got the reply with me, but I can assure you that such a promise was made.

**Mr. Speaker :** But assurances must be proved.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I ask the Parliamentary Secretary whether or not a promise was made that the District Board would consider the deserving cases?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I am not in the habit of raking old fires.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Then does he rake only new fires?

#### PANCHAYAT AND ASSISTANT PANCHAYAT OFFICERS.

**\*5247. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the Honourable Minister for Public Works be pleased to state the names of the Panchayat and Assistant Panchayat Officers posted in the southern districts of Rohtak, Hissar, Gurgaon and Karnal with their special qualifications for the job?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Shaikh Faiz Muhammad) :** A statement showing the names of the panchayat and assistant panchayat officers is laid on the table. Apart from their educational qualifications, they were selected because they possessed necessary aptitude for the work to be performed by them.

[Sh. Faiz Mubammad.]

*Statement.*

District.	Panchayat Officer.	Assistant Panchayat Officer.
1	2	3
Hissar ..	Todar Singh, B.A., LL.B. .. Madan Mohan Singh, B.A., LL.B.	Chandan Singh. Ram Kishan, F.A. Amir Singh, B.A., LL.B. Mohammad Shafi, F.A. Yaqub Khan, Matric.
Rohatak ...	Ved Mittar, B.A. ..	Bishambar Sarup, B.A. (Hons). LL.B. Ude Singh, B.A. Baldev Singh, Matric. Mul Chand, F. A.
Gurgaon ..	Amin-ud-Din, B. A. ..	Shivraj Singh, B.A. Risal Singh. Shankar Singh. Mustaqim Ali Khan. Hakim-ud-Din. Jai Narain Singh, B.A.
Karnal ..	Rajendar Pal, B.A., LL. B...	Brahm Singh, B.A. Ram Kishan Verma, B.A. Randhir Singh, B.A. Muhammad Yahya Khan, B.A.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know the considerations that were taken into account at the time of selecting panchayat officers ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** The main consideration is that they have missionary zeal for rural uplift.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know the criterion by which you judged the missionary zeal of these candidates ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** They were called upon to appear before a selection board which put various questions and ascertained their views with regard to the requirements of the rural areas.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know the names of the gentlemen who constituted the board ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** The Honourable Premier, the Honourable Minister of Development and the Honourable Minister of Public Works.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Was every candidate called upon to appear before the board ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** Yes, every candidate.

**Lala Duni Chand :** May I know whether any of them is a non-agriculturist ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** There were many non-agriculturists and some of them have been taken.

**Lala Duni Chand :** Will the Parliamentary Secretary be pleased to state the number of agriculturist and non-agriculturist candidates who were taken ?

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

**Lala Duni Chand :** Did any of them belong to the Harijan class ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** A number of them belonged to that class and some of them have been taken.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** The statement shows that 24 panchayat officers have been taken. May I know how many of them belong to the Harijan class ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I cannot give the exact number off-hand.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Has any non-agriculturist been taken as a panchayat officer ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** Certainly.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Do I take it that no Harijan has been taken as a panchayat officer and that is the reason why evasive replies are given in this respect ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** That assumption is wrong. The caste of the candidates is not given here and, therefore, I cannot give a definite reply in this connection.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Can the Parliamentary Secretary say definitely that the number given in the statement includes any Harijan ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I cannot say definitely with regard to this number, but I can assure the honourable member that Harijans have been taken as panchayat officers and assistant panchayat officers.

**Lala Duni Chand :** May I know if it is not a fact that the main object in making these appointments was to carry on propaganda of the Unionist party ?

**Mr. Speaker :** Disallowed.

#### ATTACK ON BRAHMCHARIS OF GURUKUL BHAINSWAL AT ROHTAK.

**\*5267. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether he is aware of the fact that an attack was made on the Brahmcharis of Gurukul Bhainswal at Rohtak on 18th May, 1939, if so, the facts about it;

(b) in brief the respective reports lodged in the police by either side;

(c) the number and names of injured persons admitted in the hospital;

(d) the result of police investigation and the action taken ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh) :** I regret that the answer to this question is not yet ready.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** On a point of order. May I know what is the cause of the delay in answering this question ?

*(At this stage the reply to this question was handed over to the Honourable Minister, who directed the Parliamentary Secretary to read it out.)*

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** How did he say that the reply is not ready when he is now going to read it out ?

**Minister :** It is to accommodate the honourable member that he is going to read it out.

**Diwan Chaman Lall :** May I draw the attention of the Chair to the methods of business adopted by the honourable members opposite ?

**Lala Duni Chand :** Why should we belie our eyes when we know that since the refusal nobody came to hand over the reply to the Honourable Minister ?

**Minister :** Apparently the honourable member did not see that I received the answer just now and handed it over to the Parliamentary Secretary.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** On a point of order. Is it open to the Parliamentary Secretary, under the rules to say that the reply to a particular question is not ready when he is already in possession of it ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** The reply has just been received by me. It was not in my possession when I gave an interim reply.

*(The Parliamentary Secretary then read the reply to the question as follows.)*

**Parliamentary Secretary :** (a) Yes. Some members of an Arya Samaj procession persisted in shouting offensive communal slogans in front of a mosque during prayer time. On this some Muslims attacked the processionists.

(b) Neither side lodged a report with the police.

(c) 39 persons were admitted to hospital but only 5 were detained. It is not in the public interest to give names.

(d) Cross cases were registered and investigated but as a peace committee reached agreement, the cases were filed in the hope of facilitating the restoration of good will.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know whether the Parliamentary Secretary is sure that the Arya Samajists were moving in a procession ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** That is the information we received from the authorities.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Is the Parliamentary Secretary sure that it was prayer time when the Arya Samajists were attacked ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I have no further information beyond what Government has received from its local officers. I was not present at the time of the procession and I cannot say anything further.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know the reason for making the attack on the Arya Samajists ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I require notice, besides I do not think it would be parliamentary to repeat such slogans on the floor of the House.

**Lala Duni Chand :** Will he be pleased to disclose the nature of the objectionable slogans?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I require notice.

**Lala Duni Chand :** Was not the notice necessarily implied in the question already put?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** Not the nature of the slogans.

**Lala Duni Chand :** How does he say that the slogans were objectionable when he does not know anything of the nature of the slogans? Before he characterises certain slogans as objectionable he must be in a position to know what those slogans were.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** I would draw the attention of the Parliamentary Secretary to part (a) of my question which runs as follows :—

Whether he is aware of the fact that an attack was made on the Brahmcharis of Gurukul Bhainsawal at Rohtak on 13th May, 1939, if so, the facts about it.

Now, may I ask him whether he is in a position to state the reason that led to the attack on the Arya Samajists?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I have already given the answer to part (a).

**Diwan Chaman Lall :** May I ask my honourable friend as to what the position is now? Has a compromise been effected or not?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** Our information is that it has been effected.

**Diwan Chaman Lall :** Do I take it that in all such cases when a compromise is effected, Government are not going to take action against people who take the law into their own hands?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** Every case is considered on its merits, but Government would certainly welcome compromises in communal matters.

**Diwan Chaman Lall :** What was the nature of the compromise?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I require notice.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Is it a fact that the compromise was made by the people themselves or is it that the Deputy Commissioner and Superintendent, Police, Rohtak, compelled them to do so?

## DEMANDS FOR GRANTS.

### IRRIGATION ESTABLISHMENT (*concluded*).

**Mr. Speaker :** The Assembly will now resume discussion on the cut motion of Mian Muhammad Nurullah that the demand be reduced by Rs. 100.  
1 P. M.

**Sardar Kartar Singh (Lyallpur East (Sikh) Rural) (Punjabi) :** Sir, the House has been discussing the demand for irrigation since yesterday and the Opposition has urged the Government to reduce abiana by 25 per cent. Besides, certain members from the treasury benches have also joined hands with us in requesting the Government to reduce water rates. I submit that



[S. Kartar Singh.]

every kind of argument is there to impress upon the Government to do so. When this is the position, what can we conclude but this that the Government itself is not prepared to reduce water rates in the face of cogent reasons submitted by the opposition and by some members of the treasury benches as well? My honourable friend Mian Nurullah has given the details of the profit that has been derived by the Government from canals by realising water rate. I may tell the House that the Government have spent more money on railways than on canals. But the Government are running the Railway Department at a loss, while by spending less amount of money on canals they are receiving much profit out of it. I may also draw your attention to the Relief of Indebtedness (Amendment) Bill that has recently been discussed by this House. The object of that Bill is that no one should charge interest more than  $7\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. per annum. But where the Government is concerned, as in the case of canals, it charges higher rates than  $7\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. It is evident that the greed of Government has not decreased as yet. I submit that abiana has been increasing from the very beginning. The people raised a hue and cry and the Government appointed an Abiana Committee. Some of the members who signed the report of that committee are even now present on the Government benches. I should like to remind the Government of those days when the prices rose and the abiana was increased by 75 lakhs of rupees. The Honourable Revenue Minister was Revenue Member in those days. In regard to the increase of abiana the argument advanced by him was this, that as the prices had gone up the abiana ought to be accordingly increased. Now that the prices have fallen, may I ask the Honourable Minister in charge as to how it is that the abiana has not been decreased? In certain cases the prices fell to the extent of 50 per cent, but abiana on the other hand has been increased to the extent of 80 and 90 per cent. The rules were not made to the effect that when the prices were high, abiana should be realised at the usual rates. But when the prices fell abiana should also decrease accordingly. My submission is that the rules should have been framed by the Government and abiana should have been realised according to the rise and fall of the prices. The facts and figures with regard to rise and fall of prices and increase and decrease of abiana have been given in the report of the Abiana Committee. If we look to the recommendations made by the Abiana Committee we will find that the Committee has asked the Government to reduce abiana at least by a crore of rupees. But it is a pity that the Government have been sleeping over this matter for the last so many years. In addition, I may also point out that the Department of Irrigation has not paid any heed to the districts of Lyallpur and Sheikhupura which have been adversely affected by waterlogging, *kalar* and *thur*. In previous years 5 lakhs of acres of land have been destroyed by *thur* and 25 thousand acres are further being destroyed annually. If *thur* increases like this, I am afraid it will spread all over the province. The Government seems to take pains in colonising the unpopulated areas of the Punjab by spreading the net of canals, but I would request that they should colonise only those areas which might prove useful to the Government and the province as well. Otherwise, it will be sheer waste of time and money. The Government should also pay more attention to this matter. I am sure if the Government takes it up seriously, the complaint will be removed with a little effort provided something is done imme-

diately. Besides the grievance that *abiana* is unbearable, the zamindars of the Punjab have other grievances which I would place before the Government one by one. The first grievance is in regard to *kharaba*. The rules of *kharaba* are so stringent that the poor zamindars of the Punjab cannot stand them. Not to speak of their income, sometimes they do not get sufficient produce which may be used as seeds. But they have to pay the full land revenue by borrowing money from other people and they do not get any concession of *kharaba* from the Government.

It should be laid down in the *kharaba* rules that if a crop fails to the extent of 10 annas in the rupee, it should be considered as a complete failure for the purpose of charging land revenue. If it fails to the extent of 6 annas in the rupee, half failure should be counted. That is the only way to enable the zamindars to pay the land revenue, otherwise they will get bankrupt.

Another defect in the Land Revenue Act and the Canal and Drainage Act is that if excessive charges are wrongly entered in the Dhal Bachh and recovered from the zamindars by mistake, there is no provision to have the money that was recovered in excess of the real demand, refunded. An eminent barrister Gurdip Singh who fell a victim to this hardship could not find any provision in the said Acts under which a refund of such money might be claimed. It is a great pity that if a single pie is due to the Government from a zamindar, his property including his bullocks and land can be attached and even he himself can be thrown behind the bars. But if on the other hand, officials charge excessive demands, there is no provision under which refund may be claimed. This calls for an immediate modification of the various Acts. There is yet another defect in the Land Revenue Act which I want to point out. There is a great anomaly in the *barani* rates of revenue which differed from one area to another. *Barani* rates are different in the canal-irrigated areas to those in other areas. If the rate is from 3 annas to 5 annas in the non-canal areas, then in the canal area the rate is from 20 annas to 82 annas per acre. It is particularly so in the Lyallpur district. This discriminative treatment should be done away with at the earliest opportunity. All the *barani* areas should be treated alike whether they are situated in the canal areas or not. It goes without saying that some crops require 10, some 15 and others 20 waterings to be ripe. But I concede that at the average 5 waterings are needed for every crop. Now the water rate is said to be the price of the water given for the crops to mature. If zamindars sow a certain crop after only one watering and do not water it again till it is matured, the Government still charges full water rates for that. That is highly unfair and unjustified. Only one-fifth the *abiana* should be charged in such cases according to the water used for the crop. The present unjust method should be changed at once.

The list of the grievances of the zamindars is by no means exhausted yet. There are several other acts of highbandedness that are committed everyday against them. The land is rapidly coming under *thur* in certain areas. If it appears even to the naked eye that an acre of land has five patches of *thur* in it amounting to  $\frac{1}{2}$  or even  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the field and nothing is growing there, the patwari makes no mention of it in his girdwari and charges *abiana* and land revenue for the whole acre. The lame excuse in such clear cases is only this that the zamindar has not demarcated the *thur* patches by *watbandi*.

[S. Kartar Singh.]

May I point out that when the naked eye clearly sees the *thur*-stricken area and no crop grows there, is not that sufficient for doing justice to the zamindar? It is sheer injustice to charge revenue for the whole field when two-thirds of it has completely failed. The patwari can approximately estimate the damaged area and subtract it from the total area. I hope the Government will take the necessary action in the matter.

The zamindars are suffering various other hardships at the hands of the Irrigation Department. It sometimes happens that the zamindars sow in a field of wheat a little carrot or radish or onion for their own use. But the Irrigation Department makes it a pretext for charging more *abiana* than is due. The fact is that the *abiana* per *kanal* of wheat is eight annas while the rate for vegetables is eleven annas per *kanal*. The Irrigation Department takes advantage of this and imposes the high rates of vegetables on the whole field of wheat in which a small area is under vegetable. That is not fair at all. Here again the lame excuse offered by the Irrigation patwaris is that *waibandi* is lacking. May I ask if the patwaris cannot see with their eyes open that only a small area is under carrots and the rest of the field is full of wheat crop?

There is yet another wrong use which the Irrigation Department makes of the difference in the *abiana* rates of vegetables and the fodder. It is a patent fact that the rate for vegetables is higher and that for the fodder is lower, inasmuch as the vegetable fields are charged at the rate of eleven annas per *kanal* and those of fodder at the rate of five annas per *kanal*. Now a new type of *sarson* which is known as *gobi sarson* has been introduced in the Punjab and the zamindars grow it for feeding their cattle only. But the Irrigation Department charges *abiana* for its fields at the rate of eleven annas per *kanal* as if it were a vegetable. I would request the Government to issue instructions to the Irrigation patwaris that this particular crop should be counted as fodder and not as vegetable. It is strange that on the one hand Government induces us to introduce new and better seeds and if we do that, we are punished for doing that by enhanced rates of *abiana*.

I now want to invite the attention of the House to a very important matter, and it is this. The rates of *abiana* are the same for the poor agriculturists as well as the big landlords. But in point of fact more water is used by the landlord per acre than the poor agriculturist. The reason is that landlords can well afford to use the whole of their water supply in smaller areas, for maturing only a limited area. For instance water meant for 1,000 acres is given to 500 acres. But poor agriculturists have to irrigate with their limited water supply as much area as they own or as much as it is possible to irrigate. The result is that if the water supply of the petty zamindar is really sufficient for five acres, he applies it to ten acres in the fond hope that rains will come and the whole area will mature. Rains cannot always make up the deficiency. The crops do not mature fully but the poor fellow has to pay *abiana* for ten acres. Thus it is that the big landlord applies the maximum quantity of water to the minimum area of land and the small holder of land applies his limited water supply to the maximum area in the hope of getting sufficient produce to make his both ends meet. He has generally a large family to support but has small area of land to cultivate. He cannot afford to let any part of his small area remain uncultivated

But the big landlord can leave out a big area and still a very large area is left with him to cultivate. He applies the maximum quantity of water to the minimum area and reaps the maximum quantity of harvest. He should, therefore, be made to pay more *abiana* than the petty cultivators as he uses more cusecs of water for every matured acre than the poor small holder of land.

Now I turn to the question of enhanced water supply for the gardens. This is a just demand. Gardens really require more water than ordinary agricultural fields. But may I point out that hitherto the advantage of this enhanced water supply has been derived by the big zamindars as they have been planting gardens while the small holders could not afford to do so. The time has come that the Government should reserve enhanced water supply for the gardens which are planted by the poor zamindars. This benefit should not be extended to the big landlords because they have already got sufficient water supply. I assert with the fullest confidence that the great hue and cry for grant of increased quantity of water to develop fruit gardens, is being raised only by certain interested persons who want to flourish at the cost of small zamindars. As a matter of fact this propaganda is meant for the benefit of big zamindars. I am sure small zamindars would not be benefited at all if my proposal is not accepted by Government.

Besides, I would like to make a few observations in regard to the difficulties and hardships experienced by the zamindars in connection with the breaches which occur in the canals. It so happens, Sir, that when a breach takes place in a canal, the canal authorities, instead of making efforts to trace out the delinquent, inflict a heavy fine on the whole *ilaga* or village in order to make good the loss and the damage done by the breach. I consider this action on their part as most reprehensible and devoid of equity and justice. You will observe, Sir, that in cases of illicit distilling of liquor the police spare no efforts to trace out the culprits and bring them to book. But here the canal authorities conveniently ignore the offender and make the whole village or *ilaga* suffer for his misdoings. Generally breaches occur in canals due to bad repairs. But what is the result? The canal authorities try to attribute the breach to the villagers and impose a collective fine on them. Now these canal officers are very corrupt. They misappropriate large sums of money allotted to every division for repairs, upkeep and maintenance of canals. This results in neglect of repairs and frequent breaches. And what do they do? They, in order to save them from the charge of embezzlement, inflict fines on the zamindars for offences which were never committed by them. They employ very unfair means to squeeze out money from the pockets of the poor zamindars. They try to involve them in false cases. In this connection I may be permitted to cite an instance. In Lyallpur a breach took place between milestone No. 253000 and 254000 of Jhang Branch. The canal authorities endeavoured to lay the blame for the breach at the door of the zamindars of the area and consequently involved them in a case on the charge of wilfully causing the breach. The investigations were started. The Sub-Divisional Officer visited the place but his car got stuck between milestone No. 252000 and 253000 of the same canal because the canal bank or the canal road was in a deplorable state of disrepair. The zamindars in order to prove that it was negligence on the part of the canal department in not keeping the canal banks in good repair,

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showed that a six feet long staff could easily penetrate through the *patri*. But all efforts to prove their innocence were of no avail. The canal authorities were bent upon inflicting a fine upon them and they did impose a fine of Rs. 14,000. It would not be out of place to mention that all the zamindars of the area were asked to assemble in a gurdawara and swear whether they were guilty or not. They did swear about their innocence but the authorities thought fit to impose the above-mentioned fine. I am of the opinion that the canal rules should be amended so that the whole *ilaga* or village should not be made responsible for the misconduct of a single person. I think the canal department should not adjudge the cases. They should rather be referred to courts of law for adjudication. Then I would like to make a mention of *warashikni*. This is a great nuisance to the zamindars. In villages some zamindars persistently commit this offence and they continue to do so for years together. The canal rules lay down two months imprisonment and a fine of fifty rupees for an offence of *warashikni*. This punishment does not prove a deterrent to the delinquents. They pay up the fine and continue their nefarious activities. The difficulty is that the courts after giving their verdict do not stop *warashikni*. I suggest that powers should be vested in the canal officers to issue an injunction against the offender and give severe punishment to him. (*Interruption*).

**Mr. Speaker :** Order, order. The honourable member should proceed with his speech. He is suggesting legislation which he should not do.

**Sardar Kartar Singh :** Very well. Then, Sir, a committee was appointed to suggest improvements in the Canal and Drainage Act. I may point out that irregularities in law can only be rectified by new legislation.

**Mr. Speaker :** Please discuss the department according to the law and rules in force, that is, what the law is at present and not what it should be in future.

**Sardar Kartar Singh :** I bow to your ruling. Then zamindars experience great difficulties when minors are remodelled or shifted from one place to another. When representations are made to the canal authorities to set matters right, they are rejected straight away. Sometimes ten representations are submitted but they prove to be of no avail, and it is the eleventh one that is accepted. Here again the difficulties of the zamindars do not end. The officer concerned is empowered to fix dates for hearing the case and he more often than not fixes distant dates. I, therefore, suggest that Government should lay down that the interval between the dates should not be more than a fortnight and that the officer should settle the matter within the shortest possible time. But after he has given his verdict, it should not be altered or tampered with in any manner. It should be strictly adhered to. Then, Sir, I would like to make a mention that some areas get more water while the others get very little water though they are situated on the same canal. In this connection I might mention something about the Lower Chenab Canal. As for example, the Lower Chenab has got seven divisions and Lyallpur division is one of them. Water in this canal flowed from the 16th December up to 6th March. In the Jhang division, water flowed for a month, on the other hand, in the Nasrana Rajbah and Madoana water flowed for 19 days and in the minors of these Rajbahs water flowed for 17 days only. In the Rakh Canal water flowed for 45 days, in Lower

\*Chenab Gogera Branch for 45 days and in the Jhang Canal for 31 days. In the Nasrana and Madoana Rajbahs of Jhang canal water flowed for 19 days. What is the reason for this shortage of water supply in these two Rajbahs? My submission is that the head of these has been constructed in a way that when only a small quantity of water flows in the canal, then these distributaries can not get any supply of water. Let me point out that the Department of Irrigation can control the water supply in many ways and it does not befit the officers of this department to construct the head of the distributaries in a way which should give cause of complaint to everyone. I think a rajbah should get water for the same number of days during which the main channel flows. But in the case of Nasrana and Madoana Rajbahs this was not so. In my opinion inquiry should be instituted in the matter whether or not it is correct that in Rajbahs Nasrana and Madoana water flowed only for 19 days, when the main channel ran for more than a month. I think the reason why water flowed for 19 days in these rajbahs is that the head of the rajbahs has been constructed in a way which prevents water from flowing in when actual quantity is small. I think the Government should institute inquiries about the matter and should take necessary action to rectify the mistake.

Besides, the most objectionable thing in the canal system is the constant remodelling of outlets. I think it is here that officers get bribes. In my opinion the Government can very easily check the evil of corruption if they so desire. In the first place, they should fix metallic plates on every outlet on a rajbah on which the area commanded by the outlet should be clearly stated. Secondly, the permissible discharge should be stated and, thirdly, the date of remodelling should be set down. Last but not least, the Government should keep a metallic cube in every canal bungalow and the zamindars should be taught how to measure the discharge water of outlets. This can be very easily learnt. If it is found in the case of any outlet that the water is less than the permissible quantity, in that case the officer responsible for remodelling the outlet should be adequately punished. If this suggestion is adopted, it will go a long way in putting an end to corruption in the department. Besides I may point out that the loss that has accrued to the zamindars so far should be made good. If in some cases the Government find that the quantity of water supplied is more than the required quantity, they should decrease it gradually and not immediately. I can say with confidence that in the Lyallpur district at least 10 per cent. outlets get less water than the required quantity. On the contrary, there are some which get more water. In this connection, I may point out that more water is supplied only to those outlets where the zamindars are influential and who even do not shrink from giving bribes to the canal officers. In the circumstances, I suggest that the Government should try to put an end to this state of affairs. But what is needed most is to somehow or other lighten the burden of the poor zamindars. I would request the Honourable Revenue Minister in whose time as Revenue Member, *abiana* to the extent of Rs. 75 lakhs was increased, to mete out justice to the zamindars and reduce *abiana* substantially. On behalf of the zamindars of this province I say to the Honourable the Minister for Revenue,

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Sir, with these words I resume my seat.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad** (Southern Towns, Muham-

ہم کہیں محروم رہ جائیں اور تیری بزم میں  
نام سفلے آئے ہیں اے پیر مرخہ تو

madan, Urban) (Urdu) : Sir, it will not be an exaggeration to say that the relief which the present Government have provided to the famine stricken people of the Hissar district has no parallel in the history of the world. (Hear, hear). The Government by helping the people of the Hissar district at the time when they were caught in the grip of a severe famine have imprinted their name on the pages of history. (Hear, hear). I can say without any fear of contradiction that no Government before them has shown so much generosity and so large heartedness as the present Government has done. All the same I am constrained to remark that the amount of 2½ crores of rupees which the Government has incurred on the famished people by way of granting suspensions, remissions and other relief works has not been spent in the way in which it should have been done, so much so that many deserving persons have not received this relief from the Government and on the contrary many undeserving people obtained it.

**Mr. Speaker :** The honourable member is not relevant.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Sir, I am only developing my argument. I was submitting that the Government have not spent this sum of 2½ crores of rupees in a proper manner. If they had done so the relief so provided would have greatly relieved the sufferings of the famished people. Since long have we been hearing about the Bhakra Dam Scheme that it would be taken in hand and when completed it would irrigate the thirsty areas of Rohtak and Hissar districts by which the troubles of the zamindars of that *ilaga* would vanish away for ever. But according to the old adage

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(Minister for Revenue : Not *janunast*). The Honourable Minister says that it is quite practicable. If that is so there is some hope still left. And according to the common saying

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I will also wait and see. Now, Sir, the manner and speed in which the Punjab Government completed the Haveli Project all go to the credit of the Government. After completing that project they have taken in hand the Thal Project. If this project materializes, as there is every hope that it will, in that case the people of Thal area will derive a great benefit out of it and they deserve it. In this connection I may point out that the districts of Mianwali and Muzaffargarh proposed to be irrigated by these canals are also among those unfortunate districts where rains have not fallen for the last four years. There the people have also suffered a lot. As a matter of fact famine is prevailing in Thal area as well. But so far Government have not provided any relief to these people, may be on account of the fact that Government thought that the troubles of these people would be removed for all times to come. Now there is every likelihood that after completing this project Government may try to redeem their pledge which they held out to the people of the Hissar district inasmuch as that Bhakra Dam Scheme would be taken in hand with a view to supply water to the thirsty and parched areas of Hissar and Rohtak districts.

It would have been better if Government had adopted the other methods instead of giving relief as they have done. It would have been far better, if they had taken those steps earlier which they now say they intend to take so long as the best scheme for the Bhakra Dam is not evolved. It would have been of greater benefit to the people of that area resulting in large savings to the Government if they had given a practical shape to the idea of getting water from the Jumna or the Saran or of increasing the number of channels long before they started giving relief.

I request the Honourable Minister of Revenue to take immediate steps and evolve a scheme of supplying water for irrigation purposes. Why not give a trial to tube well irrigation? I hope this method of irrigation by tube-wells will be a great success so far as our districts are concerned. Let it not be understood that I am jealous of the idea that the districts of Hissar and Rohtak will be provided some means of irrigation. On the contrary, I feel sorry that nothing has been done with regard to Ambala, Karnal and Gurgaon districts which are in the Ambala division. In this connection I would like to mention that there are two canals, namely, the Sirhind Canal and the Western Jumna Canal which flow in the Ambala district and for the construction of these canals many lakhs of bighas of land were acquired from the zamindars of Ambala. You will be surprised to know, Sir, that only an area of 52,000 *bighas* (*kham*) is being irrigated by these canals, which means that even that much area is not commanded by these canals which was acquired for their construction. But even here nothing has been done. Some time back I learnt that the construction of a lake in Morni Hills was being considered, in which the water from numerous chos and inundation streams would be collected for the purposes of irrigation but that too has remained an unfulfilled dream and the scheme has not been put into practice. Some effective steps may kindly be immediately taken to irrigate the Ambala district.

During the last two days the main question under discussion has been that of the necessity of a reduction in *abiana*. The case has been very ably put by my honourable friend Mian Muhammad Nurullah who has taken great pains in supplying facts and figures in regard to the income and expenditure of the Irrigation Department. He has also worked out the net profits that the Government makes and has suggested that if these profits are exhausted in granting reduction of land revenue and other remissions, this action on the part of Government will go a long way in removing the complaints of the zamindars. I whole-heartedly concur with all that my honourable friend has said.

There is another fact in connection with the districts of Ambala and Rohtak which I would like to mention. It is that a very limited area in these districts is being irrigated by canals. In the area where canals exist and where a comparison is made while realizing *abiana* there is a far flung village called Mahem whose case will not be without interest here. Here whenever water runs in the channel cases of *warashikni* occur and the people are deprived of water, but when the time of realizing their dues comes, the zamindars are assessed in the same way as if their lands were irrigated by canals. Numerous complaints have been addressed by the zamindars of that place to the Honourable Minister but a deaf ear has always been turned to them. Tahsi.



[K. S. Khawaja Ghulam Samad.]

Gohana in which Mahem is unfortunately situated has quite wide channels and here the *rajahs* are very narrow but in spite of it the water rate is equal in both cases.

The other difficulty is that whereas *barani* lands have been granted remissions in land revenue and water rates, those lands which do not get a drop of canal water but are commanded area only in name, no suspensions or remissions are granted and the canal officials compel the zamindars on pain of torture to pay their dues. This is not all. In these days of famine another affliction has beset Mahem. Some miles up the stream lie the lands of a Gosain who happens to be the guru of the Sub-Divisional Officer of that *ilaga*. A cut was made somewhere in the channel and the Gosain's lands did not get any water. He told his *chela*, the Sub-Divisional Officer that the zamindars of Mahem have made that cut. In actual fact Mahem is situated down the stream. The Sub-Divisional Officer believing his guru's words as gospel truth and without making any inquiries imposed a penalty on the zamindars of Mahem. Now the already famine-stricken people were penalized without any rhyme or reason. They said that an enquiry should be instituted and if it were proved that they had done it they would pay the penalty even if they had to sell their children.

I would submit that the Government should try to eradicate frauds and malpractices of the officials of the Irrigation Department and should utilize the saving thus affected in benefiting the poor zamindars in the shape of reducing the revenue and water rates.

**Sardar Jagjit Singh Man :** Sir, is there any time limit to-day for the speakers? There should be a time limit because there are several members who want to participate in the debate.

**Mr. Speaker :** I have no power under the rules in force to fix the duration of speeches, but the House may.

**Sardar Jagjit Singh Man :** Mr. Speaker has in the past fixed a time limit.

**Mr. Speaker :** The honourable member is not right. I have power to fix time limit in the case of a general discussion of the Annual Budget ; but not when demands are discussed.

**2nd Lieutenant Bhai Fatehjang Singh :** You might then put it to the House, because the time is very short and there are many members who want to speak. It is most important that some time limit is fixed.

**Mr. Speaker :** If the House is unanimous in fixing the time limit, I have no objection.

*(At this stage the sense of the House was taken and it was decided that a time limit of fifteen minutes should be fixed for each speaker.)*

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Now I will give certain instances by way of illustration. There is a Research Branch attached to this department in which appointments are made temporarily. The Director of the Branch, Mr. Mackenzie, is a very honest and well meaning gentleman. But let us have a look at his subordinate staff. There are 11 gazetted officers and all of them with the exception of 2 belong to one community. Out of 20 Research Assistants only 3 are

Muslims. As regards their salary bill, Rs. 415 a month are received by Muslims while the huge amount of Rs. 4,100 goes to the pockets of non-Muslims. There are four gazetted posts of Assistants and in this cadre the Muslims receive only Rs. 800 a month. The Government has provided Rs. 80,000 for survey and 18 lakhs for reclamation of land. But let us see how the money is being wasted by the Research Branch. They prepare Fall and Weir models which are destroyed after the necessary departmental procedure has been gone through. But this work of destroying the models is in the hands of the Assistants and it is up to them to destroy them or keep them for future use. The amounts spent on preparation of these models are taken into account but there can be no check in case the models are destroyed. I submit that if an account kept in respect of these models be checked and scrutinized by the auditors along with experts of the department there can be a substantial saving. These models should not be destroyed till accounts are audited. But the staff being of the same community and disposition, a regular loot is going on in the department and their misdeeds and malpractices do not come to light. But that is not all. One Kaka Ram died on the 10th December, 1938, but his pay was drawn up to the 21st January, 1939. The matter was brought to the notice of the officer concerned but no action was taken against the man responsible for this fraud. Enquiry is necessary in this case and the culprit should be brought to book.

Then I want to draw the attention of the Government to the nepotism and jobbery that is going on in this branch. All the Assistants belong to one community and whenever anyone of them wants a job for some friend or relative, a report is made to the Director that a clerk is required for such and such a work and in this way a good many clerks have been employed needlessly. If a proper inquiry is made, the truth of my statement will be established beyond the shadow of a doubt. Is that not fraud and dishonesty?

These instances can be multiplied, but I will now turn to the General Branch. The storekeeper of Trimmu head, Faqir Muhammad by name, was a very honest man and brought a good many malpractices of certain officers to the notice of higher authorities but no action was ever taken. The muster roll of labour kept in the department, of which I possess a photograph copy, has many entries relating to the private work of officers done at public expense. For instance, if there was the marriage of the daughter of an officer he got chairs, tables as well as labour free of charge. Similarly many other officers defrauded the Government in other respects.

**Mr. Speaker :** Will the honourable member please place these documents on the table of the House?

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Yes, after finishing my speech.

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

There are many instances of the kind. It is the duty of the store keeper to supply various articles from the stores and the poor fellow had to meet the demands of his greedy and corrupt officers. But to save his skin he used to keep a private record of the articles taken away by the Executive Engineers and other officers for their private use. When he took that record to the

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overseer, the latter entered those articles under various items and that was the end of it. Then a record in respect of labour is kept with the Accountant. But when an auditor from the office of the Accountant-General asked for it the reply was that there was no such register.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker :** The honourable member has already spoken for more than 15 minutes. He can have only one minute more.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Sir, I have yet to say a good deal which will prove of advantage to the House as well as the department.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker :** One minute more.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Here I have a long list of such frauds, malpractices and misappropriations. I want the Government to order a thorough inquiry into what I have said about Kaka Ram and Faqir Muhammad. It is a pity that you are depriving me of this opportunity of bringing to light the misappropriations and malpractices that are rampant in this department. Perhaps, it is because truth is always unpleasant and unpalatable.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker :** Order, please. The honourable member's time is over.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** On a point of order. At the time I began my speech there was no time limit. During my speech the point was raised that there should be a time limit. At that time the time limit was fixed.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker :** The honourable member has had more than 15 minutes. The time limit has been fixed and it does not rest with me to give the honourable member more time.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** When you apply the time limit on me, you can also extend the time.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker :** I am sorry I cannot give the honourable member time.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** I request you to kindly give me more time.

*(At this stage Mr. Deputy Speaker called Chaudhri Anant Ram's name.)*

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** On a point of order. You have not decided my point of order. And since you are unable to decide it, I shall walk out as a protest. I have been experiencing for several days that you never allow me full time.

**Chaudhri Anant Ram** (Karnal South, General, Rural) (Urdu) : Sir, the policy of the Government with regard to the Irrigation Department has been under discussion since yesterday, and all the honourable members who have taken part in the debate have impressed upon the Government to effect a reduction in *abiana*. Different members have suggested different percentages of reduction. And in support of their contentions they have advanced very interesting arguments. My friend Mian Muhammad Nur-ullah was pleased to remark that the total capital outlay on the canals was 34 crores of rupees, on which they have not only paid 26 crores as interest but also afforded profit amounting to 90 crores. What he meant to say is

that the Government is running the Irrigation Department on commercial lines. In fact I fail to understand the logic of their demand for reduction in *abiana*. They should know that 25 per cent reduction would mean a loss of more than a crore of rupees to the exchequer. Personally I am also in favour of reducing the incidence of *abiana* but one thing which cannot be lost sight of is that the probable deficiency in the public revenue would be well nigh impossible to make up. Unless there are new resources of income we cannot seriously press our demand. As my friends are aware the Haveli Project has been completed and the Thal Project is well in hand. These projects would soon begin to yield 50 or 60 lakhs yearly and on the completion of the Bhakra Dam Scheme it would also pay 40 or 50 lakhs of rupees. Thus by augmenting its resources the Government would be able to effect an appreciable reduction in *abiana*. Supposing under the present circumstances the Government accedes to the demand of reduction by 25 per cent and thus foregoes its revenue to the tune of one crore of rupees. But since it has to adjust its budget in any case it would be constrained to proportionately reduce the sums provided for Health, Education, Industries and other beneficent and nation building activities. It is easy to suggest that the Government should lighten the burden of the zamindars, but the question of questions is where is the money to come from. One may suggest that the Government should have a recourse to taxation for making up the probable deficiency, but for that purpose also you shall have to increase the earning capacity of every individual. Unless you afford irrigation facilities to all parts of the province you cannot increase the standard of living and purchasing power of the zamindars. The other day the Honourable Finance Minister was pleased to remark that the Government is in a position to float necessary loan for starting the Bhakra Dam Scheme, but may I ask what is the hitch for doing the same? It should no longer waste time on further deliberation, as it is high time to start this project. The problem of raising loans for the purpose should not stand in its way. The United States of America have often raised loans three times more than their total revenue receipts. I hope the Punjab Government would also decide to float loans without further hesitation. Yesterday Mr. Khosla the engineer who was sent to America for getting further training in the construction of high dams told us that the Bhakra Dam Scheme is quite feasible and he too is competent to start this big enterprise.

Then my honourable friend over there has stated that the rules of *kharaba* are defective. I entirely agree with him and request the Government that a radical change should take place in this matter. My honourable friend Sardar Kartar Singh has rightly stated that if the crop fails to the extent of six annas in a rupee, it should be considered as 50 per cent failure for the purpose of charging land revenue. He also said that if *kharaba* and income equalize, in that case too the land revenue should not be charged. I fully agree to this proposal and hope that the Honourable Minister in charge will set it right. Another point to which I want to draw the attention of the Honourable Minister in charge is this. When the Government is of the opinion that zamindars are privileged to claim for service in the Irrigation Department, I would request the Government to look into the number of Hindu zamindars appointed in the Irrigation Department. I submit that due representation has not been given to Hindu zamindars in this Depart

[Ch. Anant Ram.]

ment. The Government should see to it as well. Then my honourable friend Mian Nurullah has suggested that the Department of Irrigation should be a separate department. I have no objection and I do not think there is any harm in it. I may, therefore, submit to the Government that they should not reject this proposal for the reason that it has been put forward by the Opposition. Let me submit that before the Government take any step in this direction, they should do their level best to increase the income of the province. It has been stated in the budget that extension will take place in the Western Jumna Canal. I may point out that my district's share of the canal water is being given to other *ilagas*. The other day we were told by the canal authorities that they were prepared to supply water, but the week would be of six days instead of ten. The Honourable Minister for Development might remember that I made this complaint to him when he happened to go on tour in my district, and he replied that it was due to lack of water in the river. May I through you ask the Minister in charge to make it clear and assure us that insufficient water will not be supplied to my district for a permanent period?

Now I come to the Bhakra Dam Scheme. Sir, if this scheme is taken in hand it will irrigate more than 10 lakh acres of land in Ambala division. I, therefore, request the Punjab Government to declare that the Bhakra Dam Scheme will be completed within this year and temporary measures will not be adopted to irrigate a small area of land. The Government should assure us that they will expedite this scheme as soon as possible and will do its level best to redress the grievances of the zamindars of Ambala division. With these words, Sir, I resume my seat.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** May I have your ruling on the point of order raised by me?

**Mr. Deputy Speaker :** No ruling is called for as no point of order has arisen.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** I shall repeat my point of order. When a time limit is fixed in the course of a speech of one honourable member, will that time limit apply to the member then speaking? At the time he began his speech there was no time limit fixed.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker :** If the time limit is fixed in the middle of a speech that will apply to the honourable member then speaking.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Then, as a protest I walk out of the House.

*(The honourable member accordingly left the chamber).*

**Sardar Muhammad Hussain** (Chunian, Muhammadan, Rural) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, I do not agree with the Government so far as their policy of irrigation is concerned. The defects in this department have compelled me to express them on the floor of this House. First of all, I would like to make a few observations with regard to Dipalpur Canal which irrigates the Lahore and Montgomery districts. And this *ilaga*, I would say, is very weak, I mean to say most of it is sandy. Some of the *ilaga* which is not sandy is *kallar*. So this *ilaga* on account of being weak has been separated from the *ilaga* of *Maga* by the settlement officers at the time of

assessment. Besides, the settlement officers have assessed less land revenue as compared with the *ilaga* of *Maga*. I may also point out that before Dipalpur Canal was opened, the said *ilaga* was irrigated by three canals, namely, Katora, Khanwah and Suhagh. Sir, when these three canals were stopped and Dipalpur Canal was opened, the Government doubled the *abiana*. For instance, they imposed Rs. 10 *abiana* per acre of sugarcane. Apart from this the zamindars of that *ilaga* have to pay, *khush-hasiati* tax.

On account of this sudden rise in the *abiana* the zamindars made a hue and cry and the Government was pleased to reply that *abiana* was the price of water and not the price of land. My submission therefore is that if *abiana* is the price of water provided to the lands then in those *ilagas* where water is not sufficiently supplied the *abiana* should be decreased according to the quantity of water.

This non-perennial canal does not supply water in time. If at all, it is supplied late in the day. One is never sure when water will be available. In the beginning of the kharif sowings the zamindars have to depend upon well irrigation. And the crops are not mature when the supply in the canal ceases. The zamindars have, therefore, to depend upon the well irrigation even at the time of the last waterings. If the claim of the Government that *abiana* is nothing but the price of water provided through canals, has any justification in fact, it should levy less *abiana* in this *ilaga* because its kharif crop does not mature through canal water. But the Government follows its own rules of arithmetic while taking something from others or while giving something to others. For instance, if it is to take anything, it calculates thus: three minus one is equal to four. And if the Government has to give something to others, the method of calculation is this: four plus one is equal to three. Similarly the zamindars have been demanding ever since 1930 that the *abiana* be reduced but all their representations made through their deputations before high authorities have fallen on deaf ears. At last the zamindars were driven to the desperate step of refusing to take canal water. This happened in 1939. The Government is aware that on this canal, the *abiana* comes out of the pockets of the tenants and not out of the pockets of the proprietors. The poor tenants had to dispose of their clothing and all the jewellery they had in order to meet the *abiana* demand. When they had nothing left with them, they refused to take canal water. Thus they rid themselves of the *abiana* demand. They told the Government to keep their canal closed for ever. The zamindars of Chunian and Kasur tahsils, especially, refused to take canal water. I myself brought the situation to the notice of the Government officers several times but nothing was done. I was, therefore, compelled to join the agitation. And many zamindars followed my example. Then the Government put pressure on the zamindars to compel them to take canal water. But the zamindars were adamant. Their resistance was really wonderful as in spite of the highhandedness of the authorities, they continued in their refusal to take canal water. This state of affairs lasted for well nigh three months. The fact of the matter was that the people were angry with the Government. There is no doubt that if the Government is honest, it is looked upon by the people with an affection which children have for their parents. If the children are angry

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with their parents, they always try to please and placate them. But this Government did nothing of the kind. Lakhs of men closed their outlets and hundreds of thousands of petitions were addressed to Government, but the Government would not listen. When I tried to see the Honourable Revenue Minister at Lahore I was told that he had no time to see me, as he was going to the hills. The people were very much disappointed with this answer. Not to talk of the officers' going to the people to listen to their grievances, here was a Minister who was not prepared to listen to people when they came to his door to put forward their grievances before him. The Government went to the length of terrorising people through the police. It was done on the plea that some people want to take canal water but certain others do not let them do so. The fact of the matter was that a large body of zamindars did not want to take canal water but certain others who were nothing more than sycophants were prepared to utilize canal water. When the authorities found that even here they had failed to achieve their object they told the people to put forward their demands in writing. The zamindars, therefore, put forward a few demands like these :—

- (1) That the water rate be reduced by fifty per cent.
- (2) That the *khush hasiyyati* tax be abolished.
- (3) That the acreage rate be abolished and the amount already levied be refunded.
- (4) That the cost of building culverts be not levied from the zamindars.
- (5) That no *abiana* be charged for *wadh wattar*.
- (6) That in certain circumstances and on the application of the zamindars separate outlets be sanctioned for every hundred acres.
- (7) That *abiana* be reduced in accordance with the periods of canal closures.
- (8) That no excess *abiana* be levied where zamindars agree among themselves to irrigate lands on a certain outlet from another outlet.

Now, I propose, Sir, to dwell a little on these demands. A very strong reason for reducing *abiana* is that the areas commonly known as lowlands (*Athhār*) are much inferior to the lands in Lyallpur and Montgomery. It is, therefore, necessary that assessment on these lands is made a second time and *abiana* on this canal is reduced to a considerable extent. On the opening of the Dipalpur canal the *abiana* has been doubled. The *abiana* was half the present rate when this land was irrigated through other canals. At that time the prices were high. The Government ought to have reduced the water rate with the reduction in prices, but it has done nothing of the kind. It has, on the other hand, enhanced the *abiana* demand.

So far as the *khush hasiyyati* tax is concerned, it may be pointed out that a part of the land was not under cultivation before the opening of this canal. That part of the land, therefore, was free from land revenue. With the opening of the canal, that area was assessed to *khush hasiyyati* tax, as

now the land had come under cultivation. Further, when the settlement was done, the area was assessed to land revenue also. The Government dues, therefore, have reached a limit so far as this area is concerned. In these circumstances there is no sense in levying *khush hasiyyati* tax in these areas. It is *zulam* pure and simple.

Acreage rate is levied to defray the charges of *killabandi* and construction of watercourses. But the zamindars have never asked for *killabandi*. The Government inflicted *killabandi* on them. The Government did it for its own advantage. It is not, therefore, fair to levy acreage rate on the zamindars. Similarly it is not proper for the Government to recover the cost of the culverts from the zamindars. And then there is no justification for charging *wadh wattar*. If *abiana* has been charged on a field and then the zamindar sows something more and does not take more water from the canal, the Government has no right to levy further *abiana*. There is no justification, I would submit, to make two charges for water supplied only once. If a customer buys a thing from a shopkeeper and pays him for the commodity, the shopkeeper cannot demand the price a second time. If he does it, that would be a most unfair demand.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker :** Only one minute more.

**Sardar Muhammad Hussain :** Sir, I was going to wind up my speech. The Honourable Premier held out a promise to the people in this *ilaga* that if they put forward their demands in black and white they would be listened to. He further told them that all the reasonable demands would be met. But so far his Government has done nothing. It seems that his promise was only a trick to finish off the agitation. In the end, I would read out a verse which runs thus :—

رواب سے بیدار ہونا ہے دہکتی مہ و م  
یہر سلا دہکتی ہے اس دہ کی سحر

**Premier** (The Honourable Major Sir Sikander Hyat-Khan) (*Urdu*) : Sir, though a reply to the main debate is due from my honourable colleague, the Minister for Revenue, who will meet the objections raised by my honourable friends opposite, yet I feel inclined to participate in the discussion, for the all important question of *abiana* has been brought in. It had been a moot point in the old Legislative Council. It is now attaining importance in the present Assembly too. No doubt it is a matter of gratification that my honourable friend Mian Nurullah has seen his way to suggest the application of the sliding scale system to the assessment of water rates—a system which my honourable friend had vehemently condemned the other day saying that it was unfair to assess land revenue according to this system.

**Mian Muhammad Nurullah :** I did not say that. I said that it was full of defects.

**Premier :** That may be so, but another friend of mine from Lyallpur also most emphatically condemned it as a worthless and defective system for assessing land revenue. Yesterday, although I did not have the privilege of hearing my honourable friend, yet I felt gratified at the newspaper reports that he had at last seen fit to subscribe to the principle of the sliding scale being applied to the assessment of water rates. But I should say that



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the question of water rates and that of land revenue are different and that they should be treated differently. The honourable members know that the land revenue affects all the zamindars whether they possess well irrigated, *barani*, waterlogged or canal irrigated lands. But so far as *abiana* is concerned, only those zamindars are affected by it, who use canal water. My honourable friends must be fully aware of the fact that crores of rupees have been invested in the construction of the canals. This huge amount of money did not belong to one person, nor did it come from the pockets of those who utilise canal water. The amount spent on the construction of canals belonged to the State. Again it is the Exchequer which has to bear the burden of interest on the loans raised for this purpose. I am, therefore, of the opinion that it would be absolutely fair to treat this department as a commercial concern. My honourable friends over there have remarked that *abiana* should be abolished because it is an inequitable, unreasonable and unnecessary charge. My honourable friends should know that when water rates were enhanced, it was the Unionist Party who strove hard and succeeded in getting a reduction of Rs. 80 lakhs in *abiana* from the previous Government. Even before this Government came into power, a reduction of about Rs. 35 lakhs was made in *abiana*. Besides, the Honourable Minister for Revenue will give facts and figures to show how much reduction has been granted in *abiana* by this Government. I assure this honourable House that Government will be prepared, as before, to grant reductions in *abiana* if and when necessity arises.

Now may I know if honourable members want to treat *abiana* in the same way as land revenue? If a reduction is made in *abiana*, Government in order to make good this loss in income will have to resort to fresh taxation, the incidence of which would fall on all and sundry whether or not they reside in canal areas and derive benefit from canals. If my honourable friends can suggest a scheme by which the loss likely to be incurred because of reduction in *abiana*, could be met by people in the canal irrigated areas, I would gladly consider it. But it is well nigh impossible to suggest any such scheme. I may point out that fresh taxation to relieve one section of the people from a burden would mean an extra burden on another section. I would, therefore, ask my honourable friends to confine their efforts to obtaining a reduction in the land revenue. It is obvious that if a reduction is made in land revenue it would do good to a much larger number of zamindars, while in the case of reduction in *abiana*, only those zamindars who enjoy facilities of canal irrigation would be benefited. In this connection I may point out that if we compare the financial condition of a zamindar in canal irrigated areas with that of a zamindar of a *tarani ilaga*, we find that the former is very well off and can easily manage to pay off land revenue and *abiana* besides meeting his own and his family's requirements. The position of the latter is really far from satisfactory. In case of failure of rains it becomes difficult for him to keep body and soul together. I would, therefore, ask my friends from canal irrigated areas not to press for a reduction in *abiana* nor to ask for temporary benefits while ignoring the welfare of the entire province. If they want to get certain facilities, they should try to get this through reduction in land revenue. Again it should be noted that any reduction in *abiana* would saddle future Governments

with difficulties. They would not be able to borrow for the purpose of embarking upon new irrigation projects. It is obvious that no Government would like to undertake a project if it cannot meet the interest and working charges, in other words, if the project is to be an unproductive one. I would advise my honourable friends to press for reduction in land revenue rather than in *abiana*. I would emphasise the fact that no amount of reduction in water rates is likely to solve the difficulties of the zamindars. Let me sum up the reasons which prompted me to participate in the debate; they are threefold. First, only those zamindars would derive benefit from this reduction, who live in canal irrigated areas. Secondly, this would necessitate fresh taxation or, in other words, would further burden the poor people of the province, who are already groaning under the crushing weight of taxes. Lastly, it would become difficult for Government to raise loans. I, therefore, suggest that the question of reduction in *abiana* should not be pressed further. It should be left to us. I assure the House that we will certainly reduce *abiana*, if and when necessary, to afford relief to the zamindars. I consider the demand for 25 per cent. reduction in *abiana* as unreasonable. It would not add to the riches of the zamindar. I hope my honourable friends will appreciate the point of view placed before the House by me. With these words I close my remarks.

**Sardar Sampuran Singh** (Lyallpur West, Sikh, Rural) (*Punjabi*): Sir, before I say something with regard to the motion under consideration I would like to congratulate the House that save one or two honourable members all others have supported the view that the *abiana* should be reduced. I think this is a unique day in the history of this Assembly when most of the members are united and they have presented their demand with one voice. I appreciate the spirit of the honourable members who are courageous enough to say what they wanted to say with regard to the question of *abiana*. At the very outset of my speech I would like to make it clear that the recommendations which the Resources and Retrenchment Committee has made for reducing the expenditure of the Irrigation Department to the tune of Rs. 5 lakhs are not worth the paper on which they have been written. As a matter of fact they are useless and equal to nothing.

(At this stage Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair).

Sir, there is one thing which I have not been able to understand and that is that we have never seen two Governments functioning at one and the same time in any country nor have we seen two presidents of any one society functioning at one and the same time and to carry this simile further nor did we ever have two Speakers in our Assembly. Everywhere there is only one master. But I am at a loss to understand why there should be three Chief Engineers in the Department of Irrigation. So far as I know the duty of the head of any department is only to lay down the policy and to supervise the department, the rest of the work solely consists of carrying out that policy. I fail to understand why there should be three Chief Engineers or three Heads of the Irrigation Department. Even man possesses one head and not two or three. On principle this thing is absurd on the very face of it, that there should be three heads of a department who possess the same powers and perform similar duties. If the Government say that the quantity of work in the Department of Irrigation is so

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much that one Chief Engineer cannot cope with it, that difficulty can very easily be solved. Government can appoint any old and experienced Superintending Engineer to do extra work. I for one do not see any reason for appointing so many heads in one and the same department. This simply amounts to wasting the public funds.

Again I wish to point out that the canals and for the matter of that the Irrigation Department has not been opened to lord over the zamindars. On the contrary, this department has been opened for serving the poor zamindars. But it passes my comprehension that although the plight of the poor zamindars is pitiable, yet the canal officers whose sole duty is to distribute canal water should be given such high salaries. After all there should be some proportion between the pay of the distributors of water and the income of the zamindars for whom the department exists. Even a man in the street knows that the pay of servants is fixed in accordance with the income of the masters. But the Government have ignored this matter altogether. It is really very strange that in a country which is very poor and whose people are deeply embedded in poverty, there the distributors of canal water should be paid thousands by way of monthly salaries. This is highly objectionable. The time has come for the Government to do reparation for the neglect of the past. In this connection my suggestion is that the salaries of all the officers of the Irrigation Department should be reduced considerably. I think if my suggestion is adopted in conjunction with the recommendations of the Resources and Retrenchment Committee a great economy will be made and 33 per cent pay of the canal officers should be reduced forthwith. Let me make it clear that I am not urging that this axe of reduction should fall on low paid employees of the Irrigation Department as well. My suggestion is confined to officers who draw fat salaries.

There is yet another suggestion which I would like to make and that is that the establishment of the canal patwaris should be reduced. The posts of the revenue patwaris and canal patwaris should be amalgamated. The truth of the matter is that the canal patwaris do the same work which the revenue patwaris do. I do not see any reason why two kinds of patwaris should be appointed by Government to do one and the same work.

I may here as well point out that corruption is rampant in the Irrigation Department. Despite the fact we have so often urged upon Government that they should leave no stone unturned to root out corruption from this department, yet it is a matter of great regret that this matter stands where it was. The fact of the matter is that Government have not the courage to root out this evil and to punish the corrupt officers. This is the reason why it is increasing day by day in the province. There is no denying the fact that the canal officers who come into contact with the zamindars have become all the more corrupt. It is high time that Government should take courage in both hands and destroy this evil root and branch.

I may as well mention another evil which is prevalent in the Irrigation Department, and that is the remodelling of outlets. A few days ago I was sitting in the company of some of my engineer friends—

**Minister for Revenue :** This matter has been discussed threadbare. If the honourable member wants to say anything let him make a new point.

**Sardar Sampuran Singh :** If that is so, I will leave it here. Now I wish to bring one very important point to the notice of the honourable members. That is, that in canals breaches ordinarily occur at places where banks are weak or at curves which are prone to yield under pressure of water. There is no gainsaying the fact that such breaches have been occurring on all the canals and the experience of the irrigation officers corroborates this fact. Yet whenever any breach occurs, the whole blame is thrown on the poor zamindars and breaches which occur on account of the fault and neglect of canal officers are turned and twisted into cuts, and penalty to the extent of four to five thousand rupees is levied on them, in spite of the fact that on account of such breaches their crops are destroyed and sometimes even their houses collapse due to the sudden onrush of water. While I say these things I am reminded of Chak No. 49-J. B. and the surrounding villages on the Nasrana distributary, where some time ago a breach occurred in the canal and the result was that the crops of many villages were destroyed but up till now the Irrigation Department is trying to lay the blame on the zamindars so that no blame should come on any canal officer. As a matter of fact the officers have been trying and are even now trying somehow or other to turn this breach into a cut. So far as I know the breach took place on account of the neglect of a canal officer. Now what will be done? Canal authorities will impose penalty on innocent and starving zamindars. I think this method of assessing penalty by one who is responsible for not repairing the breaches properly is highly objectionable. As a matter of fact the canal officers should not be given such wide powers.

There is yet another point which I wish to bring to the notice of the Honourable the Revenue Minister, that is that there are some outlets which are fixed in the main channel and some are fixed in the distributaries and some in the minors. The amount of water which is allowed to outlets is one cusec per 264 acres. Now no difference is maintained between these outlets in three kinds of channels, notwithstanding the fact that the average period for which the main channel, distributaries and minors flow is 24, 19 and 14 days respectively. If one cusec of water is supplied to all these outlets that is sheer injustice. This disparity in the number of days for which the outlets remain closed on the main channels, distributaries and minors, works to the detriment of the zamindars whose lands lie on the minors, because they get about half the quantity of water received by those whose lands are situated on the main channels. But nothing has so far been done to remove this disparity and I would request the Honourable Minister to do the needful in the matter.

There is another important matter which I want to bring to the notice of Government and it is this that formerly water was allowed at the rate of one cusec per 250 acres, and now for the first time in the history of the whole colony the number of acres for one cusec of water has been increased from 250 acres to 264 acres. This is rank injustice in view of the fact that the lands have become less fertile than before and *kallar*

[S. Sampuran Singh].

has appeared on the surface of the soil, which requires more water to keep it down. Most of the land in this province is being laid waste by the prevalence of *thur* and water-logging. The whole of the Sheikhpura district is affected by *thur* and the menace is becoming common in Montgomery, while patches of *thur* have appeared in Lyallpur district also. A survey of these districts would not have cost more than 25 or 30 thousand rupees but Government have not thought it worthwhile to incur even that much expenditure for a district which lays a gold egg for them. Practically nothing is being done to prevent the lands from being affected by *thur* or from being water-logged. The Government are not doing what they ought to do in combating this menace. If they do not take immediate steps in this connection, there is a danger that the whole of the canal irrigated area of the province will be turned into waste land. Now I will give definite instances of certain chaks in order to show that the department of irrigation is not paying any attention to the removal of all these evils in spite of the fact that representations have repeatedly been made to them.

Moranwala chak in Hafizabad division and chaks Nos. 305, 356, 35, 113 and 88 Gill Jhang branch, have been clamouring for a very long time for more water, being situated on the tail and on account of defective rajbah heads, water does not reach them. The residents of these chaks have been making representations for the last 30 years and in spite of the fact that the officers concerned do feel that something ought to be done and some have actually made enquiries into their case, no progress has so far been made and no relief is granted.

In the end I would say a few words by way of reply to the remarks made by the Honourable Premier in the course of his speech. He said that the question of land revenue was quite different from that of water rates in so far as the land revenue was common to the whole province while water rate was charged only from those having lands in canal irrigated areas. I have never heard such logic before, that because a certain matter relates to comparatively fewer persons, therefore no justice should be done to them. The zamindar does not earn as much as he has to pay in the form of land revenue and *abiana*. By virtue of their having spent a few crores of rupees on the construction of these canals, Government are extorting profits at an exorbitant rate. No money-lender exacts so high a rate of interest as Government are charging. I am at a loss to understand this queer logic.

**Khan Bahadur Mian Mushtaq Ahmad Gurmani :** You can never understand logic.

**Sardar Sampuran Singh :** Again the Honourable Premier has said that *barani* areas are no doubt worthy of special consideration and that they deserve generous concessions, because in these areas even fodder crops cannot be raised. But I beg to ask that when they are not able to raise even fodder crops, why is land revenue realized from them at all? You are only strengthening our case by citing such instances and you

would do well to do something substantial to remove our grievances instead of advancing such arguments.

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

**Sir William Roberts (European):** Sir, it is impossible for those who are engaged in agriculture not to be in sympathy with the motion moved by Mian Nurullah, but we all know and the Premier has explained already that the budgetary position of the Government is such that it is impossible to give this concession. But I do think that the Honourable Revenue Minister might on behalf of Government give us a definite assurance that there will be no increase, either general increase or individual increase, in water rate without the sanction of the House. I make this point because memories are short in India. About 1924 there was a very substantial increase in water rates on account of high prices of agricultural produce, and though we have had very severe depression since 1929, very little of this increase has been given up. In fact if exact figures are given, it will be seen that only comparatively a small percentage of this increase has been taken off. In other words an increase put during the period of high prices has been retained. I should like to ask the Revenue Minister to give an assurance that in future this increase by executive action will not be resorted to. I may remind the House that after a great deal of fighting the old Assembly secured a concession in regard to land revenue that it would not be increased more than once in thirty years or in the case of canal colonies after ten years. It is no use having gained that if at the same time it is possible for the Government to increase the water rates. It will be doing away with the advantage we have gained on the other point. It is the same thing whether the zamindar pays money as water rate or land revenue and I think we should gain one definite base line of attack, if we could have an assurance on this point.

3 P. M.

My second point is with regard to the sliding scale. I am very glad to see that my honourable friend, the mover, is in favour of it though he has been in the past a severe critic. I do not think any reform will give as much satisfaction to the zamindars as a reasonable sliding scale for water rate.

The other point that I wanted to mention is with regard to a separate budget for irrigation. I do not think myself it is practicable, but I wish to mention the suggestion made to me by a distinguished irrigation officer quite recently and that is that there should be a body appointed in this House, an *ad hoc* irrigation committee, which should be an active and alive one, and which should be kept in touch with new expenditure and with problems of administration. It is impossible to expect constructive and reasonable criticism if we do not associate honourable members with the work of a big department of this kind; and that can only be done by having an active committee which will be given the opportunity of doing some real work. I commend that to the Honourable Minister's attention and I hope he will accept it.

**Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan) (Urdu):** Sir, I am extremely indebted to the Honourable Minister of Revenue for allowing me to speak on this demand in the capacity of an ordinary member of the House. I do not mean to give any reply to the criticism levelled

[Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan.]

in the course of these two days by various honourable members against the demand under consideration, as I know it full well that the Honourable Minister is quite competent to offer justification for the Government's policy in the matter and he is about to speak at length on this very subject. Moreover, I do not intend to touch the sliding scale system as the Honourable Premier has himself already sufficiently dealt with it.

There are, Sir, three kinds of members in the House. First, those who belong to *ilagas* which are irrigated by canals. Secondly, those who hail from districts where no canal water is available and the zamindars of which are irrigating their lands by means of wells. Then lastly, those who belong to *ilagas* where there is neither a canal nor a well. In fact these *ilagas* wholly depend on the vagaries of nature. And as you know, Sir, one of such *ilagas* is the Ambala division where scarcity of water has become an acute problem. I need hardly say that this part of the province deserves sympathetic consideration at the hands of Government, and I most emphatically urge upon Government the advisability of starting the Bhakra Dam Scheme as soon as possible. I am fully alive to the fact that the relief measures started in connection with the famine raging in the South Eastern districts are proving a great strain on the finances of the province. So I think the only way out is to afford permanent irrigation facilities to the famished people by carrying out this scheme. I hope Government will do the needful and help the poor people by supplying them canal water.

As you know, Sir, I come from a district through which that particular river is flowing which is famous for irrigating lakhs of acres in other districts. Although this river is called the Jhelum, yet not a single inch of lands of the Jhelum district is irrigated by its water. It seems as if the engineers who have worked on it were all one-eyed. (Laughter). All the canals that have been so far constructed for drawing water from this river are on its left side and there is not a single canal on its right. I hope this time Government will send there a two-eyed engineer, so that he may be able to see that the *ilaga* stretching on the right side of the Jhelum also requires canal water. In the *ilagas* of Khushab and Thal as many as 50,000 acres of land have been rendered uncultivable by *Shor*. In fact all this loss is due to the apathetic attitude of the Government of India and the indifference of our engineers. It is a pity that the Government of India which puts the whole of salt revenue amounting to 40 lakhs of rupees into its own pocket, is not prepared to spend a single penny for the reclamation of that area. Water is brackish in the salt range and so it is not suitable for irrigation purposes. There are undoubtedly streams of cold and potable water but when they flow past the Khewra Mines the water becomes saltish. Thus thousands of acres of land in those *ilagas* have been laid waste through which these streams of brackish water are flowing. It is said that the Punjab Irrigation system is the most perfect and elaborate of its kind in the whole of India, and in fact we are perfectly justified in being proud of it, but may I enquire whether there is no engineer in the Punjab who can remove our long standing grievance by changing the direction of these streams? Is it not possible that streams may come down without touching

the salt mines? In fact without making such arrangements you cannot effectively remove poverty from that *ilaga*.

Now, Sir, I would like to make a few remarks with regard to the suggestions made by my honourable friend Mian Nurullah. He is of the opinion that a separate budget of the Irrigation Department should be presented to the Assembly, and in this connection he was pleased to cite the example of the Railway Budget which is separately presented in the Central Assembly. I would advise him not to compare the Irrigation Department with the Railway Department. In spite of the fact that the Railways are fetching a colossal profit, the Central Government is going to increase the fares by 12½ per cent, whereas my friend opposite is raising a hue and cry for a decrease in the *abiana*. Moreover, I cannot agree to his suggestion with regard to the creation of a separate Development Fund out of *abiana*.

**Mr. Speaker :** The honourable member's time is up.

**Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan :** Only a minute, Sir, and I have done. Government should not always spend money on productive schemes; it should some time pay heed to the necessities of constructing protective canals also. The Jalalpur Pumping Scheme is one that constitutes the latter type, and I would request the Honourable Minister to see that work on this scheme is expedited. I hope it will go a long way to remove the distress and poverty of the people of that *ilaga*. We are prepared to pay *abiana* at the same, or even higher rate if you give us a canal for irrigating our lands. I am not one of those who bring pressure to bear upon Government for effecting a reduction in *abiana*. I hold that by reducing it you would only benefit the rich. But if you want to save the poor from the grip of death and starvation you should see that they are given sufficient canal water for irrigation purposes. This would not only improve their lot but also save Government from any financial embarrassment that it is likely to face, by effecting reduction in *abiana*.

**Shrimati Raghubir Kaur** (Amritsar, Sikh, Women) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, I rise to support the cut motion under consideration. The question of *abiana* has been under discussion since yesterday and some honourable members have made speeches simply to express their personal opinions in the matter, and the others have done so in order to win the favour of their electorate. But I would like to bring some concrete facts to the notice of the House. In the district of Sheikhpura a vast area of land has been laid waste by water-logging. Similarly a number of houses have been collapsed in Chuharkana. I am told that a rousing reception was accorded to the Honourable Chaudhri Chhotu Ram on the occasion of his visit to that *ilaga*. In fact the simple-minded people of the district were under this hopeless delusion that Chaudhri Sahib would see to it that their legitimate grievances are redressed forthwith. Probably they were under the impression that the soles of Chaudhri Sahib's shoes were damp proof and the moment they touched the land they would instantaneously remove water-logging. What I want to impress upon Government is this that the heavy burden of *abiana* is breaking the back of the poor zamindars. It is the height of injustice that you realize *abiana* even from the zamindars of those *ilagas* which are not irrigated by canal water. There is not a single canal in the districts of Kangra, Jullundur, Hoshiarpur and Hissar, but still Government does not hesitate to replete its exchequer by charging *abiana* from those dry lands.



[Shrimati Raghbir Kaur.]

Some honourable members have showered praises and encomiums on the Honourable Minister of Revenue by saying that he had earmarked a huge amount of money for affording relief to the inhabitants of the Hissar district, but I would like to prick the bubble of this relief by placing some concrete facts before the House. When I in the company of Master Kabul Singh visited a village Patri by name in the district of Hissar we were much disappointed to see the queer method of affording relief to the famished people. We saw poor and destitute people along with a large number of half-naked and underfed young girls who were carrying baskets full of earth for the purpose of road making.

**Mr. Speaker :** I would request the honourable lady member to speak to the motion.

**Shrimati Raghbir Kaur :** All right, Sir. I would confine myself to *abiana* only. In the Amritsar district when the outlets were being remodelled in order to let out the surplus water to some other *ilagas*, the poor zamindars sought an interview with the officers concerned. But instead of redressing their grievances the authorities ordered the police force posted on the Railway Bridge to make an effective *lathi* charge on those poor deputationists. Then Government promulgated section 144 in Amritsar. You always claim to be the only well-wishers of the zamindars but when their deputation seeks an interview with you in connection with *abiana*, you do not hesitate to get their heads broken by 6 feet long *lathis* of your callous and light-hearted police. You send them behind the bars by saying, 'why have you brought a complaint about *abiana*?' Similarly several persons who were arrested in connection with the Lahore Kisan Morcha are still rotting in the jails. In fact you cannot give better proof than this of your being well-wishers of these dumb-driven people. Government never gets tired of saying that it has considerably reduced land revenue and *abiana*, and it has made strenuous efforts to scale down agricultural debts, but I would request Government not to hoodwink by giving such empty assurances, those destitute people who keep body and soul together by eating only *bathu ka sag*. These sweated workers toil day and night to fill the coffers of Government. The Jats of the Amritsar district do not allow their children to sip a single drop of milk. Depriving them of their share they go as far as 20 miles to sell that milk to pay Government dues in the form of *abiana* and *malia*. Sometimes they have even to sell their trinkets and daughters in order to enable you to balance your annual budget. In short their plight is extremely pitiable and they deserve all kinds of help at your hands.

Now, Sir, I take this opportunity to make a few submissions to the Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal. It is not proper on his part to promulgate section 144 against these poor kisans who replete his exchequer by the sweat of their brow. How strange it is that the poor sweater who is indeed the backbone of this whole social and economic system, if arrested, is awarded 'C' class in jail, but when a *Lala* or a wealthy man is convicted he is offered all the amenities of 'A' or 'B' class. The other day when the Honourable Minister was asked to acquaint the House with the state of health of Kesar Singh and others, he replied that they were enjoying good health. My submission is that he should not say ditto to his subordinates like those 'lambardars' of

jails who, when asked '*Kia das nambar achcha?*' almost invariably reply '*Ji achcha, naun nambar bhi achcha.*' Justice demands that the Honourable Minister should faithfully represent such people on the floor of the House.

Now, Sir, I would like to say a few words to the Honourable Baba Ji—I mean the Minister of Revenue. He has been returned from the Batala tahsil in the district of Gurdaspur. At the time of his election he held out several false promises to his voters. He told them that an old man like him, if elected would see to it that their *abiana* is considerably reduced. Rather he assured them that he would remit the whole *abiana* with a single stroke of his pen. It is stated in the manifesto of the Khalsa National Party that efforts will be made for the reduction of *abiana*. I do not like to make it a party question, but what I want to request these responsible Ministers is this that they should redress the legitimate grievances of these poor kisans and lighten the burden of their *abiana* and *malia*.

Here I may be allowed to mention about 42 Mauranwala Rajbah where water is not made available to the zamindars. I hope Government will see to it that some satisfactory arrangements are made in this connection. It is a pity that people, who are the real feeders of the whole world, are to-day unable to make both ends meet. I am sure the Honourable Minister of Revenue would remark in the course of his reply that such and such a speaker knew nothing about the conditions obtaining in the province, but let me tell him that we are perfectly aware of the present state of affairs prevailing here. Do not try to teach others. They know where they stand. Just ask these people who have a woeful tale to tell and they will acquaint you with their pitiable plight. They do not require your lengthy speeches; what they really want is reduction in *abiana*. With these words, I support the cut motion under consideration.

**Lieutenant Sardar Naunihal Singh Mann** (Sheikhupura West, Sikh, Rural) (*Urdu*): Sir, it would be the height of ingratitude if I do not admit on the floor of the House that the Punjab Government has, by starting various irrigation projects in the course of these years, made sincere efforts to increase the wealth and prosperity of the province. The Punjab irrigation system is unique in India and it has attained a degree of perfection which is unparalleled throughout the country. It is a matter of gratification that the capital expenditure usually incurred on various canals in the Punjab has never increased out of proportion. If you kindly go through the administration reports you are sure to find that this department has made considerable progress during these years.

In the year 1887-88 two and a half crore acres of land were irrigated but in 1937-38 more than 12 crore acres of land were being irrigated. Does it not go to the credit of Government? With the introduction of Haveli Project the irrigated area has increased to the extent of 13 crores of acres. The result is that owing to the irrigation facilities, the people are colonising the land in large numbers. Let me also submit that 50 years back insufficient water was provided to lands and therefore the revenue of Government was limited and expenditure was also small. It was for that reason that the financial position of Government at that time was not satisfactory. Now we see that the financial position of the present Government has much improved

[Lt. S. Nannihal Singh Mann.].

and it is evident that the credit for that goes to the Irrigation Department. If you cast a cursory glance on the Memorandum, you will find that the income shown in the budget is as much as 11 crores and 74 lakhs of rupees, out of which 4 crores and 69 lakhs of rupees have been realized because of these canals. Moreover the fact that a similar amount of money, that is, 3 crores and 46 lakhs of rupees, has been earmarked for beneficent departments this year is simply due to these canals. I may also point out that the amount of one crore 70 lakhs of rupees was given to these departments in the year 1921-22. Now in this year double the amount of money has been earmarked for the same departments. It is no gainsaying the fact that the Punjab Government have strained every nerve for the benefit of peasant proprietors. On the other hand, I regret to say that the engineers appointed by Government in order to do away with water-logging have not succeeded in doing so. Unfortunately the district of Sheikhupura has fallen a victim to water-logging and it is very lamentable that no satisfactory results have come out of the attempts made by Government in this respect so far. I may be permitted to read out a few lines from the Punjab Public Works Administration Report, 1937-38, in order to place before this House certain facts and figures with regard to my district.

The Reports are :—

“The number of estates surveyed since the girdawari of 1935-36 has increased by 262, the largest increase being in Sheikhupura and Lyallpur districts.

The following table compares the number of estates surveyed in each district in rabi, 1935-36, and kharif, 1937 :—

Name of district.	NUMBER OF ESTATES.		Difference in number of estates.
	Rabi, 1935-36.	Kharif, 1937.	
Sheikhupura .. .. .	372	530	+208
Gujranwala .. .. .	543	557	+14
Sialkot .. .. .	19	49	+30
Gujrat .. .. .	250	252	+2
Shahpur .. .. .	107	104	—3
“ .. .. .	*	*	*
Lahore .. .. .	145	136	—9
Gurdaspur .. .. .	36	35	—1
“ .. .. .	*	*	*
Montgomery .. .. .	8	18	+10
Lyallpur .. .. .	40	51	+11

The chief increase was in Sheikhpura district, i.e., 208, Sialkot, Gujranwala, Lyallpur and Montgomery following with an increase of 90, 14, 11 and 10 estates, respectively. Nine estates were excluded in Lahore and three in Shahpur districts respectively.

The girdawari of kharif, 1937, indicated that the total area recorded a *sem* was about stationary while an increase of about 70,000 acres of *thur* was recorded. The special checking staff continued to be employed during the year under report.

*Absorption losses in Irrigation Channels.*—During the year under review the serious problem of water-logging, particularly in respect of damage to land by the rise to the surface of injurious salts received even more attention than had hitherto been devoted to it. It was suggested that the drainage policy which had largely held the field for some years could not solve the problem, and that it was essential to stop the large volumes of water which find their way from irrigation channels to the sub-soil by lining the larger channels."

**Mr. Speaker :** I may point out that the Honourable Minister for Revenue gave way because the honourable member said that he wanted to speak only for five minutes. But he is taking more time.

**Lieutenant Sardar Naunihal Singh Mann :** I will not take more than three minutes to finish my speech.

I do not want to make a lengthy speech. One word more and I will finish it. I may point out that if Government will hesitate to spend money on lining the old canals which have been paying to Government's exchequer for the last fifty years, as it has been suggested in the Report, which I have just referred to, I am afraid this attitude might prove obnoxious and harmful both to the zamindars and Government. My submission, therefore, is that where a large amount of money has been spent on Haveli Project for lining this canal, to avoid water-logging Government should not shrink from spending money on lining the old canals by which most of the land in my district is being rendered waste. I happened to visit Holland in 1937 and I was surprised to find that Government of that country had reclaimed a large area of land from the sea and cultivated it for the benefit of the zamindars. But it is a matter of regret that the engineers appointed by our Government should have failed to do away with water-logging. Before I finish my speech I would request the Honourable Premier to look into this matter which, I think, is of a serious nature so far as the welfare of zamindars is concerned. The condition of my district is becoming worse on account of water-logging. I, therefore, once again submit that Government should do something substantial and practical for the zamindars of that *ilaga* before their land is rendered waste. With these words, Sir, I resume my seat.

**Dr. Sant Ram Seth :** May I put one question to my honourable friend Sardar Naunihal Singh ? Is it not a fact that village Bhurani Wala situated on the tail of the canal is in a bad condition ?

**Minister for Revenue** (The Honourable Dr. Sir Sundar Singh Majithia): I have listened with great interest to the debate that has taken place in regard to the cut motion moved by my honourable friend Mian Nurullah. Mian Nurullah and other friends who have spoken on this motion have expressed much sympathy for the poor zamindars. I may say that I have also great sympathy for them and I have expressed it several times before. I may even say that the Punjab Government has done its best to serve the zamindars of this province and particularly the poor zamindars and I may assure the House that it would not in future also be lacking in its sympathy for the poor zamindars any more than my honourable friends opposite. But the question that is before us requires some deeper thought, some careful consideration as pointed out by the Honourable Premier the other day. I may say at the outset that the bases of fixing water rate in the canals of this province are the amount of water used by a crop, the scarcity or plentifulness of water at the time—for, water in the rabi is less plentiful than in kharif—and the value of individual crops obtained from irrigation. These are the three points which weigh in fixing the rates. If those points are not kept in view the whole administration of the canal department would fall into chaos. I do not think my honourable friend or anybody else would like that state of affairs to take place in a department which has done such useful work in the past. Some of my friends and particularly the honourable member opposite who called me names the other day said that in my time an increase of 80 lakhs was made in *abiana* in 1924. I admit that *abiana* was increased in that year to that extent. It was absolutely necessary to do so, because the financial position of the province at that time demanded that we must balance our budget and that we should do something to put our finances in proper order.

But my critic has conveniently forgotten that during my time, something like 46 lakhs were reduced out of the increase of 80 lakhs. (Hear, hear) Since then another Rs. 48½ lakhs have been further reduced. I may inform my friend, if his curiosity is in any way to be satisfied, that the Punjab Government who raised, at the time of necessity, the *abiana* rates to 80 lakhs of rupees, have reduced the same *abiana* rates to nearly a crore of rupees. (Cheers). That is my reply to the charge that my honourable friend has laid and this is the sort of charges that they were making when I was standing for election. This charge is altogether untrue. They say things which took place in 1924 but they conveniently ignore a thing which took place after that so far as the reduction of *abiana* is concerned. Let us see the present position regarding water rate, working expenditure and the net profit. The average income from the canals for the last three years comes to about 4.14 lakhs. This is the average which has been worked out. The expenses come to 1.69 lakhs and interest charges on capital come to about 1.30 lakhs. If you add these last two figures, they come to 2.99 lakhs. If you reduce this amount from 4.14 lakhs, it leaves in your hand a sum of 1.15 lakhs, as net profit. My honourable friend Mian Muhammad Nurullah has suggested that we must cut down the water rates to the tune of 25 per cent. What does it mean? It means that 1.03 lakhs of rupees have to be cut down. (Interruption.) This is the condition at the present moment. The average income for the years 1921, 1922 and 1923 was 3.20 lakhs. The working expenditure was 1.72 lakhs. At the present moment it is 1.69 lakhs. While

the working expenditure was 1,72 lakhs the interest charges were 75 lakhs. It means that if you take out 2,47 lakhs out of 3,29 lakhs, it leaves in your hand only 82 lakhs. Since 1926 Sutlej Valley Canal has started working and now, with God's grace, the Haveli Project has started working. The increase in income, if it is there, is not due to any increase in *abiana* rates but the increase is due to the development that has taken place in the province on account of canal irrigation. (*Hear, hear.*)

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

Everybody who has studied the Budget knows that our expenditure on the canals up to this time comes to about 35 crores. If we take the expenditure at 35 crores and charge interest at the rate of 4.2 per cent, honourable members would be able to calculate the profit at Rs. 1,23,75,000. But leaving that question aside I say that even if we get net profit of 1,15 lakhs, is it possible for us to give up 1,03 lakhs? I think the House would realise that it is putting Government in a very difficult position if we have to accept this suggestion of my friend Mian Muhammad Nurullah and others who have expressed the same idea in this House. No doubt it is a very catching phrase for people outside and catching phrase for members in this House, that is, to ask members to vote on the question of the reduction of *abiana* that will benefit the zamindars. So far as that goes, it has got my sympathy but I have my responsibilities on my shoulders and I cannot lightly accept this suggestion. I may also inform the House that these water rates that are being charged at the present moment are the same water rates that have been charged during the last eighteen years. We have not added anything to these water rates except in one case, when a notification to that effect was issued, and it was in Muzaffargarh district on account of the Haveli canal. Coming to the question of reduction of expenditure, I noted that statements were made in this House that the amount of expenditure on canals has been very heavy. My friend Mian Muhammad Nurullah has tried to quote figures but he has conveniently missed out the last few years from his speech because much more reduction took place in those years than before. Here is a statement with me which has been prepared and which gives the figures from the year 1909-10 to 1938-39. I do not wish to detain the House but the House might be interested to hear that the total working expenditure in 1909-10 was 1.4. In later years it was as follows:—

1.3, 1.2, 1.3, 1.3, 1.3, 1.5, 1.4, 1.5, 1.4, 1.4, 1.6, 1.8, 1.7, 1.6,  
1.7, 1.7, 1.8, 1.8, 1.9, 2.3, 2.2, 2.5, 1.7.

It rose only in the years 1929-30 to 1931-32. Then it went on falling down. In 1931-32 it was 1.5, then 1.7, 1.6, 1.7, 1.6, 1.5, 1.3 and 1.18. My honourable friends can now see whether the expenditure on the working of the canals has gone up or has gone down. There is a decrease of 30 to 40 per cent.

Another statement was made on the floor of the House that the *abiana* rates are higher in this province than in the adjoining United Provinces. This is the statement which my honourable friend made. I think

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it is my duty on the floor of this House to repudiate that statement as strongly as I can. I will give you the comparative figures in the United Provinces and the Punjab. The *abiana* per acre assessed in the United Provinces in 1936-37 comes to 4.53 and the *abiana* per acre assessed in the Punjab is 3.24. The working expenses in the United Provinces in 1936-37 were 2.55 and in the Punjab they were 1.18 in 1938-39 and 1.5 in 1936-37. My honourable friend ought to remember that during this time the Sutlej Valley Project has also come into action and now we have the Haveli canal which is going to come into action and later on other projects will also be coming into action and when they come into action, naturally it means that the expenditure must increase. In the United Provinces, the direct receipts credited to the canals are very small, being only 20 per cent of the amount of *abiana*, hence the low profit on the United Provinces productive canals as compared to the Punjab. I am giving you these figures to show that the charge made against Government is not substantiated by figures.

**Mian Muhammad Nurullah :** Has the Honourable Minister seen the *Abiana* Committee's report from which I quoted ?

**Minister :** My honourable friend has very kindly suggested to me the *Abiana* Committee's report and he has read out some figures showing the cost of irrigation per acre of culturable area in 1910-11, 1920-21, 1925-26 and 1932-33, that is, 1.02, 1.33, 1.57 and 1.68 respectively. But he has very conveniently forgotten that these figures include the interest charges as well. If you take out the interest charges, the amount would come to .64 in 1910-11, 0.90 in 1920-21, 0.99 in 1925-26 and 0.97 in 1932-33. So he very conveniently gave figures which included the interest charges just probably to gain sympathy of other people in the House. That is the result of my reading of the *Abiana* Committee's report.

**Mian Muhammad Nurullah :** Will you kindly read page 45 ?

**Minister :** You can quote it in your reply. Now, Sir, I may inform my honourable friends what is happening outside this province. I have given you the figures about the United Provinces. In Madras the *abiana* is 4.38.

Now I will take my honourable friends a little bit outside India and tell them what is happening in Egypt and the United States of America which have a similarly important canal irrigation system. In the Punjab the average in 1937-38 comes to about 8.8, while the maximum so far has not been more than 10 or 12 per cent, but in the United States of America it is 16 per cent to 20 per cent and in Egypt it is 14 per cent. I think my honourable friends have mentioned that canal irrigation is becoming very costly to the zamindars. I may just have the privilege of comparing what is the actual cost of irrigating the lands by means of wells, by means of tube-wells and by means of canal water. In the canals, the expenditure comes to 2.5 per acre irrigated, while the cost of irrigation by wells ranges from Rs. 8-6-0 to Rs. 41-14-6 per acre. The cost of irrigation by tube-wells is not accurately

known but it is likely to be somewhere between the cost of irrigation by canal water and irrigation by wells. Therefore, my honourable friend would see whether it is better for people to get canal water or to use well water. The well water has got its advantage just as well and tube-wells have got their advantage, but my honourable friends would know what advantage people get from canal irrigated areas in the United Provinces, where they have got great areas where tube-wells are worked by means of electricity. They used to have wells in the same vicinity. Somehow or other, the United Provinces Government sunk tube-wells in many cases in the middle of those wells with the result—as my relative and friend Sardar Bahadur Sardar Gurbachan Singh will bear me out from his experience when he started irrigation by tube-wells—that the water in adjoining wells went down. This was one of the greatest objections that was raised against him by the Commissioner, Jullundur division.

**Sardar Bahadur Sardar Gurbachan Singh :** I repudiate it. The water in the wells round my tube-well had not fallen down because I did not draw water from the upper strata. I raised water from a strata 260 feet below spring level. The Commissioner appointed patwaris to watch the water level in the surrounding wells when my tube-well was working and even they reported that the water in the wells did not fall down by the working of my tube-well.

**Minister :** That is the experience which has been gained in the United Provinces, and the experience gained in Hoshiarpur and Jullundur districts speaks very well as to what has happened in lowering of water level of the wells. Everybody knows that water level in Hoshiarpur and Jullundur districts has fallen down and the anxiety of Government is how this fall in the water level should be stopped.

Now, Sir, I have great sympathy with my honourable friend, Sardar Naunihal Singh when he says that a good deal of *thur*, *kallar* and *shor* is taking place in Sheikhpura. It is taking place in Sialkot, Gujranwala, Sheikhpura and Lyallpur and it is spreading to Montgomery district as well. We are not in any way unmindful of this evil. We are looking after it and we are devising plans to stop this evil. We are doing our best to raise water level in Bist Doab and we are doing our best to meet with the evil of waterlogging in these places. My honourable friends would know that in trying to stop waterlogging, drains have been dug in different parts of the *ilaga*, particularly in that part where waterlogging takes place, and I think, I have informed the House before that something like two crores of rupees or near about it, have been spent by the Government on digging the drains and on seeing that they work satisfactorily. We are also providing money in the budget as well and so far as it lies in our power we are trying to meet this evil.

**An honourable member :** What about '*thur*'?

**Minister :** Land is being reclaimed, as the result of our giving more water, in the Sheikhpura district. It has been reclaimed in some places; it is being reclaimed in the Montgomery district as well. Another point that



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requires consideration is whether we should give up this *abiana* for the benefit of the irrigators. Do my friends know that the total number of irrigators in the Punjab is only  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the population of the province? Do my friends like Government to give up all the *abiana*? It has been suggested: do not charge any *abiana* because you have earned so much on your investment. Have they ever thought that Government loans and guilt-edged securities have provided the investing public with some gains? Has anybody thought that the guilt-edged securities should be wiped off altogether? Nobody has thought that such a step should be taken. Here our friends say, you have gained more than *damdapat*; you have gained more than this and more than that and you should come forward and take away all the *abiana* and give water free to the irrigators. Do you know that the Canal Department is a commercial department? Do they expect that we should not charge any water rates? Has it ever been done in India or outside? Nobody has done that up to this time. My friends over there cannot expect that  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the population of the province should benefit at the expense of the remaining  $\frac{2}{3}$ .

I was giving you figures of our expenditure on drains. One crore and 50 lakhs had been spent up to 1938-39. For 1939-40 there was a further expenditure of 9·7 lakhs and in 1940-41 it will be 28 lakhs and for 1941-42 to complete the scheme it will be another 10 lakhs.

I was mentioning just now that it has been proposed to give up water rate as Government have derived sufficient benefit from the canals. Have they ever considered that the whole of the canal system is not paying 54 per cent? Perhaps my honourable friend was only looking nearer home. You have inundation canals; you have other canals which are not paying; you have productive and protective canals. Here we have productive canals; we have also protective canals which do not pay. Are we expected that these canals which do not pay and which are a drain on the provincial finances should be stopped? Do our friends want that the benefit which we get from these canals—about 1 crore and 15 lakhs yearly—should go only to irrigators. Then how are the difficulties of my friend from Jullundur to be solved? Those two friends are absent to-day who were suggesting about the Bist Doab. How are their difficulties to be solved and how shall we be able to solve the difficulty of the eastern parts of the province where people are thirsty? One of my friends has just come back. He will be interested to know that we have got the best interests of Jullundur and Hoshiarpur in our mind; we are mindful of the interests of the eastern districts of the Punjab as well. My friends from the eastern districts of the Punjab have said that we have taken so much time in coming to a conclusion about the building of the Bhakra Dam. I have so far refused to give further information to the House on account of the delicacy of the question. I can only assure my friends that the object which they have in view, that is to supply water to the thirsty arid areas of Ambala division, will be fulfilled. We will try our best to fulfil that object (*hear, hear*) whether by means of the Bhakra Dam or by any other dam about which my friends were active and always trying to obstruct the survey operations and asking me why the

survey party had gone into the houses. Therefore I say that we have to manage all these parts of the province where these difficulties occur. In one place there is water-logging; in some places water level has gone down. All this money would go into the pockets of people who irrigate their land and who get benefit from the canal irrigation who would not try to refuse to take water from the canals. Some of my friends said that they tried to persuade people to refuse water from the canals. I know some of my friends in the Lyallpur district, whom I would not name, tried to keep up the agitation which was started there, but after the agitation came to an end those very people said that they were misled and they were very sorry for stopping water and that they were instigated by some people to stop water. (*An honourable member*: They were mischief-makers.) Whatever it is I do not want to mention that and have a quarrel with my friends on this side or that side, but what I am sure of is that an endeavour was made also in the Pakpattan canal. Some of my friends, I would not again like to give their names, got up the agitation. We watched the agitation carefully. As a result of their instigation those people also stopped to take water. But eventually the agitation collapsed. Some of my friends who have repeated their story here again were probably the persons who were anxious to keep up this agitation. Where were they when the agitation stopped? People have now started taking water. Irrigation from canal water costs Rs. 2·5 per acre which is much less costly than the water from wells or tube-wells. People do not refuse to take canal water. If they choose and if they are persuaded by certain persons to give up the use of canal water, we cannot force them to take canal water. They can give it up. We have got other clients who will take up this commodity and will derive benefit out of it. But let me remind them that once they stop taking water at the instigation of some people, they shall never get it again. It will be sold to somebody else. We will not suffer, but they will suffer. Now, Sir, while I am talking about the Bhakra Dam and other canals I think my friends would realise that we have got a scheme for increasing supplies in the Western Jumna Canal. Some of my friends on this side asked: why should we not explore the Sirhind Canal and see whether the Sirhind Canal could give more water? They must remember that the Sirhind Canal irrigates also a greater part of the area in the Phulkian States. The water from this canal cannot be used for irrigation purposes without getting the concurrence of the rulers and chiefs of those States. On the other hand, we have to see whether there is any spare water in the river during those months which may give some water to the people for irrigating small areas. The Western Jumna Canal will provide irrigation for 3½ lakhs of acres. We have not been able to get the machinery from Europe which we thought we would get. If unfortunately the ship which was to bring that machinery to India had not been sunk, and if we had got that, we should have carried out the tube-well scheme which could give some additional water for the purpose of these arid tracts, but risks due to war are such that we are not able to get the machinery which we want. As soon as the machinery is available we will take it up. The American machinery is much more costly than the machinery which we get from elsewhere. Unfortunately India is not yet able to produce the machinery that is required. Perhaps some of my friends on the other side would suggest to me that if we could

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make big oil engines then that would solve the difficulty. Electrically-driven engines would solve the difficulty and not oil engines. As soon as we get the machinery and as soon as we are in a position to carry out the scheme we will do our best to expedite it. This will afford relief to the districts which require relief, which, I know, experience difficulty in getting even a glass of water to drink. People there have to go over a distance of 14 or 15 miles to get a glass of water or a pitcher of water. Supposing that pitcher breaks on the way those people alone can realise the hardship they suffer. In olden times canal water was used for drinking purposes. Therefore if we give up this rate, there will be a serious inroad not only on the beneficent departments of the province but also on the new schemes which we have for the development of the province. My friends know that unless the building of the headworks of the Thal Canal is finished the only other alternative left for us is to build big dams and for that purpose my friend should know that we sent two of our best engineers to America and they have come back with knowledge and literature on the subject which will be very handy in the preparation of the dam schemes which we have got in hand. I may inform my friends that the dam schemes are being rapidly pushed through and as soon as these estimates are sanctioned by Government and are placed before the House for sanction of funds, no time will be lost in building the necessary dams for bringing water to the thirsty lands of the eastern districts of the province. I can assure my friend that we know the plight of the people. We have done our best in the past and we are doing our best to find means for saving human and animal life. I am grateful for the help given by some charitably disposed societies to help the people of this province, but after all the endeavour that was made by these societies would appear to be a flea bite as compared with the 2 crores and 75 lakhs that has been spent by Government. That hard cash has gone and that has crippled the finances of my friend the Finance Minister. Had that cash been available, I would have been free from all these difficulties.

4 p. m.

My friends have stated that Government has been very unmindful of the requirements of the people and it has done nothing to afford relief. In 1930, I think, we gave some remissions on account of fodder rates and those special remissions cost Government 12½ lakhs during 1938-39 in one canal circle alone. Special remissions in other circles during 1938-39 on account of failure of cotton and damage to wheat by rust amounted to 6½ lakhs. If the budget of the water rates were kept low and there was no surplus in hand, it would be difficult for Government to find money to meet such calamities and sufficient relief would not be given to the sufferers or it would have been given at the cost of other departments. Government has never treated the question of the assessment of water rates purely from the commercial point of view. The water rates have always been kept within the paying power of the cultivator and perhaps I may be pardoned for saying that on account of the fall of prices before this Government took charge, nearly a crore of rupees was given up and since this Government took charge the amount that has been remitted in *abiana* comes to Rs. 78,68,976. Now besides this, we have lately reduced fodder and barley rates which would mean about Rs. 1,24,000 remission which we are giving to the irrigators.

This means that Government is going to suffer a loss by this one reduction alone to the tune of 88.46 lakhs. I will read out the figures with your permission.

	Special re- mission.	Ordinary <i>kharaba</i> remission.
	Rs.	Rs.
Rabi 1937 .. .. .	12,19,000	12,70,000
Kharif 1937 .. .. .	4,06,000	11,50,000
Rabi 1938 .. .. .	56,000	4,60,000
Kharif 1938 .. .. .	11,99,000	9,35,000
Rabi 1939 .. .. .	6,79,000	4,96,000
Total for five years ..	85,59,000	48,11,000

That amounts to the total figure that I have already stated. Another point which I may mention is this. In July, 1938, a committee was appointed to examine and report upon the best means of readjusting the existing water rates to the present prices of agricultural produce. As a result of the recommendations of the committee, the Governor in Council has temporarily sanctioned a reduction amounting to a little over 37 lakhs per annum. The rates for sugarcane, rice, cotton and wheat (perennial) were reduced by Re. 1 per acre, and for maize and wheat (kharif channels) by 12 annas per acre and wheat (non-perennial Sutlej Valley Project) by 4 annas per acre. The fodder rates were slightly increased. This combined with the other figure that I have just told you about barley, etc. (about 1.24 lakhs) brings the total loss to the Government of 88.46 lakhs. Now with these figures before us could anybody say that we have not the interest of the zamindars at heart?

We have done our best and God willing we will continue to do our best for the zamindars. (*Hear, hear and applause.*) Mian Nurullah asked me to read page 41. (*Interruption.*) I only said that he might give a reply after I finished. My friend will never be satisfied with me. In 1921—28 the highest profits here were 14.08 per cent and the lowest .87 and in the United

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Provinces the highest was 20 and the lowest 61. This is my reply to my friend. I think I have sufficiently replied my honourable friend Mian Nurullah. I cannot ignore my other friends who mentioned many things. Mian Nurullah asked us why we should not start volumetric system. Perhaps my friend does not know that we had started that system and contracts for supply of outlets so far given are 49 including special single outlets to zamindars and municipalities and I may say that I welcome this suggestion of the application of volumetric system of water rates. But my honourable friend should understand that it is not easy under volumetric system where there is a large number of irrigators who cannot come to an understanding between themselves. If they come to an understanding between themselves, Government would certainly welcome it. The thing that happens is everybody takes a small quantity of water and probably gambles on rain to increase his income. If the canal has an intensity of 50 per cent the man ought to cultivate 50 per cent of his land. But what do we find? We find that the man irrigates more than 100 per cent. in some cases and even larger areas. They do this because it is impossible for them to do otherwise with a large family depending upon them and if rain comes they will have enough water along with the canal water and if the rain fails, they do get their advantage by means of *kharaba*. As regards *kharaba*, *warashik-ni* and other things mentioned by my honourable friends, so much emphasis has been laid by them. Perhaps my friends forget that recently we appointed a canal committee which has reported to the Government and its report is now in the press. As soon as that report is ready, it will be published for the purpose of inviting criticism so that Government may benefit by the advice that they receive from the members of this Assembly and from public outside and come to a final decision on the recommendations that are made by that committee. All these questions mentioned by my honourable friends are mentioned in that committee's report and I think it will be anticipating the report of that committee if I were to deal with them now here. Therefore I would request my honourable friends to rest assured that as soon as that report is considered by Government these questions which are of a very delicate nature will receive the best consideration of the Government.

I think my friends have also said something about water for gardens. I tried to explain the position a few days ago. The position is that while we wish to give water to the smaller zamindar for the purpose of gardens, we do not wish to deprive the bigger zamindar from the benefits of water for gardens because we know that the bigger zamindar can afford to spend more money in putting the gardens than the smaller zamindar. There has been another idea in the mind of Government and that is to set aside a certain area perpetually for the purpose of a garden and giving it water so that it may become handy for the use of the village people as a whole. That is a question which must require considerable thought and the file is at the present moment with me and I am giving it due thought and very soon I shall be able to come to a decision on this subject.

**Khan Bahadur Nawab Muzaffar Khan :** Do I understand you correctly that you mentioned a common village garden?

**Minister :** The idea is to set aside a certain area common for the whole village.

**Khan Bahadur Nawab Muzaffar Khan :** That would be nobody's land.

**Minister :** You can well realize the difficulties that we have, but this is also a suggestion which has been made and which is to be considered by the Government. Sodhi Harnam Singh made a reference to the Grey Canals. As I have tried to assure him before, the matter of the Grey Canals is receiving the best consideration of the Government. On the other hand, I may point out to him that the income from the Grey Canals does not form part of the Budget of the province. Whatever is charged to these people is charged for the upkeep of the canals and for their management which is there for their benefit and the committee is there simply for the purpose of assessing the rates for the Grey Canals. Government does not gain anything out of them excepting that it gets the advantage of the canal, advantageous rates for the use of the waters of the river which does not belong to them but to the State (*Hear, hear*).<sup>5</sup> Therefore my honourable friend should not go away with the idea that he can pocket the whole of the income from the canals and not share with the Government or the provincial exchequer.

Chaudhri Suraj Mal and a few other friends said something about Bhakra Dam. Of course I have dealt with that question of Bhakra Dam. He said that the Hindu zamindars do not get their due share. Of course they should get their due share and I am anxious that all communities and all people who are suitable for employment in the canals should get their due share. Government has fixed that share and have not only fixed that share for the whole of the province on the basis of 50 per cent. for Muhammdans, 25 + 5 per cent for Hindus and others, i.e., depressed classes and 20 per cent for Sikhs. These are the averages which we are working out and these averages are distributed divisionwise so that in a division which is mostly populated by Hindus, the Hindus should get more share and divisions which are mostly populated by Sikhs should get more share for the Sikhs and those divisions which are mostly populated by Muhammdans, should get more share for the Muhammdans. Thus my honourable friend should know that in future in the Ambala division, I speak from memory—they will get 60 or 65 per cent.

**Captain Sodhi Harnam Singh :** This should be followed in all departments.

**Minister :** We are trying to do that. As regards the question of zamindars we have appointed in 1935—39 four Hindu Jats and two Muslim Rajputs from the Rohtak and Hissar districts.

My honourable friend Chaudhri Abdul Rahim from Gurdaspur said that the *chahi* rates should be abolished. That has nothing to do with the Irrigation Department though, but I may just mention as he did in passing that the Government shall have to give up something like 45 lakhs of income if *chahi* rates are done away with.

Coming to the speeches of my other honourable friends, I do not think I need detain the House any longer excepting to make a mention of the few

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things which have been said by Sir William Roberts. Sir William said that I should give an assurance on the floor of the House that the *abiana* rates would not be enhanced or, if I may say so, would not be reduced, without bringing the matter to the notice of this Assembly. May I ask my honourable friend Sir William Roberts what would happen if a question like that arose at the time when this Assembly is not in session? Are we to wait till the Assembly meets and then take action? Is the executive Government going to be stopped from taking action for the betterment of the province as a whole till the Assembly meets? Therefore my honourable friends under these circumstances would not expect that I should give an assurance of that kind on the floor of the House which we may not possibly be able to keep on account of the difficulty that I have suggested. As regards the other question that we should set up an *ad hoc* committee, when a general question like that arises, we do appoint an *ad hoc* committee and that committee advises the Government on matters of this nature, but coming to the other committee that he has suggested to be associated with the Canal Department to suggest improvements, I shall consider if I can agree to that suggestion. (*Interruption.*) My honourable friend Raja Ghazanfar Ali says that I have not said anything about him. The possibility is that when I was out he said something that I could not hear, but I may tell him that we have received something like Rs. 50,000 from the Government of India for a small canal and I think the Assembly has probably sanctioned a supplementary grant for that purpose and he must rest assured that that scheme would be taken up very soon. As regards the committee which my friend has suggested, I think it is a question which requires some deep consideration and I have no doubt that that would certainly be kept in view and we will try to take advantage of that suggestion. I need not detain the House any longer on the subject though I could take another 15 minutes to talk on the points that I have not touched.

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

That the demand be reduced by Rs. 100.

*The Assembly divided : Ayes 40, Noes 74.*

AYES.

Ajit Singh, Sardar.  
Baldev Singh, Sardar.  
Barkat Ali, Malik.  
Bhagat Ram Choda, Lala.  
Bhagat Ram Sharma, Pandit.  
Bhim Sen Sachar, Lala.  
Chanan Singh, Sardar.  
Dev Raj Sethi, Mr.  
Duni Chand, Mrs.  
Faqir Chand, Chaudhri.  
Gopi Chand Bhargava, Dr.  
Hari Singh, Sardar.  
Harjab Singh, Sardar.  
Jugal Kishore, Chaudhri.  
Kabul Singh, Master.

Kapoor Singh, Sardar.  
Kartar Singh, Chaudhri.  
Kartar Singh, Sardar.  
Kishan Singh, Sardar.  
Krishna Gopal Dutt, Chaudhri.  
Muhammad Abdul Rahman Khan,  
Chaudhri.  
Muhammad Hussain, Sardar.  
Muhammad Iftikhar-ud-Din, Mian.  
Muhammad Nurullah, Mian.  
Muhammad Raza Shah Jeelani,  
Makhdumzada Haji Sayed.  
Muhammad Wilayat Hussain Jeelani,  
Makhdumzada Haji Sayed.  
Mukand Lal Puri, Rai Bahadur Mr.

Mula Singh, Sardar.  
Muni Lal Kalia, Pandit.  
Partab Singh, Sardar.  
Prem Singh, Mahant.  
Raghubir Kaur, Shrimati.  
Rur Singh, Sardar.  
Sampuran Singh, Sardar.

Santokh Singh, Sardar Sahib Sardar.  
Sant Ram Seth, Dr.  
Shri Ram Sharma, Pandit.  
Sohan Singh Josh, Sardar.  
Sudarshan, Seth.  
Wali Muhammad Sayyal Hiraj, Sardar.

NOES.

Abdul Hamid Khan, Sufi.  
Abdul Haye, The Honourable Mian.  
Abdul Rab, Mian.  
Abdul Rahim, Chaudhri (Gurdaspur).  
Abdul Rahim, Chaudhri (Gurgaon).  
Afzaal Ali Hasnie, Sayed.  
Ahmad Yar Khan, Chaudhri.  
Akbar Ali, Pir.  
Ali Akbar, Chaudhri.  
Amjad Ali Shah, Sayed.  
Ashiq Hussain, Captain.  
Balwant Singh, Sardar.  
Bhagwant Singh, Rai.  
Chhotu Ram, The Honourable Chaudhri Sir.  
Faiz Muhammad Khan, Rai.  
Faiz Muhammad, Shaikh.  
Faqir Hussain Khan, Chaudhri.  
Fazal Din, Khan Sahib Chaudhri.  
Fazal Karim Bakhsh, Mian.  
Few, Mr. E.  
Ghazanfar Ali Khan, Raja.  
Ghulam Mohy-ud-Din, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.  
Ghulam Qadir Khan, Khan Bahadur.  
Gopal Singh (American), Sardar.  
Gurbachan Singh, Sardar Bahadur Sardar.  
Habib Ullah Khan, Malik.  
Hans Raj, Bhagat.  
Harnam Singh, Captain Sodhi.  
Het Ram, Rai Sahib Chaudhri.  
Indar Singh, Sardar.  
Jagjit Singh Man, Sardar.  
Joginder Singh Man, Sardar.  
Karamat Ali, Shaikh.  
Khizar Hayat Khan Tiwana, The Honourable Major Nawabzada Malik.

Kishan Das, Seth.  
Manohar Lal, The Honourable Mr. Muhammad Akram Khan, Khan Bahadur Raja.  
Muhammad Amin, Khan Sahib Shaikh.  
Muhammad Ashraf, Chaudhri.  
Muhammad Azam Khan, Sardar.  
Muhammad Fayaz Ali Khan, Nawabzada.  
Muhammad Hussain, Chaudhri.  
Muhammad Nawaz Khan, Major Sardar Sir.  
Muhammad Saadat Ali Khan, Khan Bahadur Khan.  
Muhammad Sarfraz Khan, Chaudhri.  
Muhammad Sarfraz Khan, Raja.  
Muhammad Shafi Ali Khan, Khan Sahib Chaudhri.  
Muhammad Yasin Khan, Chaudhri.  
Mushtaq Ahmad Gurmani, Khan Bahadur Mian.  
Muzaffar Khan, Khan Bahadur Captain Malik.  
Muzaffar Khan, Khan Bahadur Nawab.  
Nasir-ud-Din, Chaudhri.  
Nasrullah Khan, Rana.  
Naunihal Singh Mann, Lieutenant Sardar.  
Pir Muhammad, Khan Sahib Chaudhri.  
Pohop Singh, Rao.  
Ram Sarup, Chaudhri.  
Ranpat Singh, Chaudhri.  
Riasat Ali, Khan Bahadur Chaudhri.  
Ripudaman Singh, Rai Sahib Thakur.  
Pritam Singh, Siddhu, Sardar.



Roberts, Sir William.

Sadiq Hassan, Shaikh.

Shah Nawaz, Mrs. J. A.

Shah Nawaz Khan, Nawab Sir.

Sikander Hyat-Khan. The Honour-  
able Major Sir.

Singha, Diwan Bahadur S. P.

Sultan Mahmood Hotiana, Mian.

Sumer Singh, Chaudhri.

Sundar Singh Majithia, The Honour-  
able Dr. Sir.

Suraj Mal, Chaudhri.

Tara Singh, Sardar.

Tikka Ram, Chaudhri.

Ujjal Singh, Sardar Bahadur Sardar.

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

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,01,24,500 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1941, in respect of charges on Irrigation Establishment.

*The motion was carried.*

*The Assembly then adjourned till 12 noon on Thursday, 14th March, 1940.*

# PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

## SIXTH SESSION OF THE FIRST PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Thursday, 14th March, 1940.

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

### STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

#### FILING OF OBJECTIONS AGAINST HOUSE TAX ASSESSED BY LAHORE MUNICIPALITY.

\*6153. **Mian Abdul Aziz** : Will the Honourable Minister for Public Works be pleased to state whether it has come to his notice that in consequence of the absence of the Administrator of the Lahore Municipality from Lahore on 20th August, 1939, the day fixed for recording the objections of the assesses to house tax in Lahore, and on account of certain other handicaps a large majority of the objectors were not able to have their objections recorded on that day ; if so, whether any opportunity has so far been afforded to these objectors to have their objections filed or recorded ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Shaikh Faiz Muhammad) : The presence of the administrator was not necessary for receiving written objections or for recording the objections made orally. Several clerks were made available, for the purpose on the 20th August, 1939, and also on the 21st August, 1939, because the 20th August happened to be a Sunday. Objections were received in large numbers on these two days. Some were received afterwards. All objections, which are found to be justified, will receive due consideration.

#### ABOLITION OF POST OF PERSONAL ASSISTANT TO EXECUTIVE OFFICER, RAWALPINDI MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE.

\*6154. **Mian Abdul Aziz** : Will the Honourable Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

- (a) whether it is a fact that at the meeting of the Rawalpindi Municipal Committee held on 8th November, 1938, the proposal for the abolition of the post of Personal Assistant to the Executive Officer was allowed to be taken up by the President of the Committee in spite of the repeated protests from the Executive Officer himself ;
- (b) whether it is a fact that the matter was neither on the Agenda, nor had the proposal been sent to the Secretary of the Committee in advance of the meeting as required by business by-law 15 of the said municipality ;
- (c) whether it is a fact that motion for taking up the question of Personal Assistant moved by Lala Ram Chand Chadha, was put to vote by the President of the Committee without the same having been seconded by any other member as required by business by-law 16 of the said municipality ;

[M. Abdul Aziz.]

- (d) whether it is a fact that the statutory requirements of Rule XII-14 of the Municipal Account Code had not been fulfilled before the proposal was entertained direct in the meeting ;
- (e) whether it is a fact that five or six members of the said committee subsequently informed the Deputy Commissioner as well as the Commissioner that they had withdrawn from the meeting under protest, and that the records of the meeting showing the proposal as having been passed unanimously by all the members whose presence is marked in the Minute Book, was both misleading and incorrect ; if so, the action proposed to be taken by Government in the matter ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Shaikh Faiz Muhammad) : (a) There is nothing on record to show that the Executive Officer protested against the resolutions being taken up.

(b) Yes.

(c) The matter was taken up for consideration under by-law 3 of the business by-laws with the assent of a majority of the members present.

(d) It was not necessary in this case to comply with the rule referred to by the honourable member.

(e) There is nothing on record to this effect. Nor has the Deputy Commissioner any recollection of any members informing him of their withdrawal under protest.

#### HAISIYAT OR PROFESSIONAL TAX.

**\*5176. Mr. Dev Raj Sethi :** Will the Honourable Minister of Public Works be pleased to state—

- (a) which of the district boards in the province have so far levied haisiyat or professional tax ;
- (b) the proportion or percentage such tax bears to the total revenues of each of these district boards, respectively ;
- (c) the amount of such taxes realised by each district board during the last three years ;
- (d) whether Government have received from any of the assesses complaints during this period about the arbitrary methods of assessment, illegal exactions and high-handedness by assessors and tax collectors ; if so, whether Government has made any inquiry into the veracity of such allegations ; if so, with what result ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Shaikh Faiz Muhammad) : (a) and (b) A statement, giving the required information for the year 1937-38 is laid on the table.

(c) For the years 1935-36 and 1936-37, I would invite the honourable member's attention to statement II appended to the Reports on the working of District Boards in the Punjab for these years, copies of which are available in the Assembly Library.

(d) Complaints have, from time to time, been received against the method or the agency for assessment, and have, where necessary, been forwarded to the local officers concerned for disposal.

Serial No.	Name of district board.	INCOME FROM TAX (1937-38).		Total income.	Percentage of columns 3 or 4, to column 5
		Profes- sional tax.	Haisiyat tax.		
1	2	3	4	5	6
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
1	Hissar .. ..	..	18,401	5,36,511	3.4
2	Rohtak .. ..	15,352	..	7,74,324	5.6
3	Gurgaon .. ..	..	21,219	6,07,914	3.5
4	Karnal .. ..	..	21,927	6,07,911	3.5
5	Ambala .. ..	..	*27,905	5,70,861	5.0
6	Kangra .. ..	15,074	..	7,94,447	1.9
7	Hoshiarpur .. ..	40,649	..	9,57,044	4.2
8	Jullundur .. ..	45,746	..	8,08,308	5.6
9	Ludhiana .. ..	5,449	..	6,45,798	0.8
10	Ferozepore .. ..	22,746	..	9,03,949	2.5
11	Lahore .. ..	48,593	..	6,94,995	6.9
12	Amritsar .. ..	..	*29,862	6,92,619	4.3
13	Gurdaspur .. ..	..	13,656	6,49,262	2.1
14	Sialkot .. ..	12,058	..	7,48,862	1.6
15	Gujranwala .. ..	..	*7,464	5,58,894	1.3
16	Sheikhpura .. ..	25,978	..	7,44,129	3.5
17	Gujrat .. ..	..	8,189	6,22,326	1.3
18	Shahpur .. ..	..	33,084	9,18,805	3.6
19	Jhelum .. ..	8,236	..	7,00,305	1.2
20	Rawalpindi .. ..	..	*	7,80,529	0.0
21	Attock .. ..	9,665	..	6,39,187	1.5
22	Mianwali .. ..	..	11,774	4,63,285	2.5
23	Montgomery .. ..	..	*38,129	10,08,499	3.7
24	Lyallpur .. ..	41,660	..	16,16,157	2.6
25	Jhang .. ..	..	27,127	6,02,700	4.5
26	Multan .. ..	25,726	..	9,84,539	2.6
27	Muzaffargarh .. ..	10,763	..	4,91,069	2.2
28	Dera Ghazi Khan .. ..	..	15,844	6,73,869	2.3
	Total (1937-38) .. ..	8,54,822	2,47,454	2,08,86,292	..

\*Profession tax is now imposed in these districts.

**SUBSCRIPTION BY LOCAL BODIES TO THE TURKISH RELIEF FUND.**

**\*6177. Chaudhri Sahib Ram :** Will the Honourable Minister of Public Works be pleased to state the number and the names of the local bodies which have so far subscribed to the fund for the relief of the Turkish sufferers with the amount subscribed by each local body and whether the necessary sanction was obtained before subscribing to that Fund ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Shaikh Faiz Muhammad) :** So far only the Municipal Committee of Moga has subscribed Rs. 200. This was done in anticipation of Government sanction, which has not yet been accorded.

**MURDER OF NAURANG SINGH, LAMBARDAR, AND HAMELA, JAT, OF RUPAR TAHSIL.**

**\*6241. Lala Duni Chand :** Will the Honourable Minister of Public Works be pleased to state—

- (a) whether it has been brought to his notice that Naurang Singh, Lambardar, of village Samrauli, tahsil Rupar, and Hamela, Jat, of village Panj Koha, tahsil Rupar, district Ambala, have recently been murdered ;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that a serious dacoity at the house of certain money-lenders of the village Jhakian Beli, Rupar tahsil, accompanied by murder has been committed ;
- (c) if answers to (a) and (b) above be in the affirmative, whether Government has so far ascertained the reasons for this abnormal increase in such heinous crimes and whether any special steps have so far been taken by the police to put an end to the activities of the murderers and dacoits in the said tahsil of the Ambala district ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh) :** (a). Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) The causes of the increase in crime, which is more or less general over the districts of the Eastern Range, and the action which is being taken to deal with it, have been described in the answers given to other recent questions : for instance, Question \*6126<sup>1</sup>, put by the honourable member for the Jullundur East (Sikh) Rural Constituency a few days ago.

**Lala Duni Chand :** May I know if the murderer of this lambardar has been arrested so far or not ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I have no information.

**Lala Duni Chand :** Has the Government taken any particular steps since this outrageous murder took place ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** Every possible step is being taken.

**Lala Duni Chand :** What particular steps have been taken to prevent recurrence of such a crime ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I have already stated in reply to several questions that the Government is taking vigorous steps to check these crimes. A special body of police has been appointed under the supervision of a special Superintendent of Police.

**Lala Duni Chand :** Has the Government realized up to this time the seriousness of the situation, namely, that neither official nor unofficial life is safe in Ambala district ?

**Minister of Public Works :** The Government is fully aware of the circumstances and I might add for the information of the honourable member that we are already considering the question of sending additional mounted police, cycle police and special officers to cope with these gangs of dacoits. The steps will be taken in the near future.

**Lala Duni Chand :** May I know if some time ago some sort of miniature conference was held between the Inspector-General of Police and local authorities of Ambala district ; if so, what has been the outcome of this conference ?

**Mr. Speaker :** It does not arise out of the answer given.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know if arrangements of mounted police and cycle police have been made particularly in Ambala district and that other districts where dacoity is prevalent have been neglected ?

**Minister :** The mounted police and the additional officers put on duty will deal with these gangs in the districts where dacoities are taking place and they will pay particular attention to Ambala district.

**Lala Duni Chand :** Is it not true that murders and dacoities have been rife in the Ambala district for the last twelve months or so (*Interruptions*) ?

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know which is the disturbed area ?

**Minister :** Few surrounding districts of Ambala where dacoities have taken place.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know whether Rohtak and Karnal districts are also included in the disturbed area ?

**Minister :** Yes.

**Chaudhri Kartar Singh :** Is the Honourable Minister aware of the number of proclaimed offenders getting shelter in Mianwali district ?

**Mr. Speaker :** Disallowed.

#### TERMS OF OCTROI DUTY IN PATHANKOT.

\*6251. **Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Will the Honourable Minister for Public Works be pleased to state the agency through which the octroi duty is being collected within the municipal limits of Pathankot and whether it is a fact that it is realised through private individuals ; if so, what are the terms of the contracts ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Shaikh Faiz Muhammad) :** The Committee levies terminal tax and not octroi. The collection of the tax was leased to a private individual under section 88 of the Punjab Municipal Act for one year with effect from the 1st April 1933 on payment of a sum of

[Sh. Faiz Muhammad.]

Rs. 96,250. He is allowed to collect the tax according to the rates sanctioned by Government.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** May I know whether it is the policy of the Punjab Government to allow the local bodies to transfer their responsibility to private individuals?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** Matters of policy cannot be dealt with in answer to questions.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** May I know whether the Punjab Government is aware of the fact that the contract which was given to the private individuals was increased by four thousand rupees this year as compared with the figures of the last year?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** May have been.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** May I know whether there were any special circumstances under which the octroi duty of that particular ilaqa was increased as compared with last year?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** The question is based on an assumption. Unless that assumption is proved and I am satisfied that there has been increase as compared with other municipalities, I cannot possibly answer it.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Is not the Punjab Government aware of this fact that these individuals to whom it is transferred, mis-use the rules and realise more money by illegal means?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** So far the Government has received no complaint of the sort.

#### THIRD CLASS ROADS IN AMRITSAR DISTRICT.

**\*6252. Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Will the Honourable Minister of Public Works be pleased to state—

- (a) the number and names of the third class roads under the control of Public Works Department in the Amritsar district;
- (b) the average amount spent yearly to repair them;
- (c) the amount spent in the year 1939 to repair or maintain the Amritsar-Vachhoa road;
- (d) whether it is intended to place the above-mentioned road in the category of second class roads; if so, when?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Shaikh Faiz Muhammad) :** (a) There is no third class road under the control of Public Works Department in the Amritsar District.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) There is no direct road from Amritsar to Vachhoa. There is, however, a third class (unmetalled) road from Amritsar to Fatehgarh Churian and Vachhoa is about 3 miles from Fatehgarh. The District Board has incurred an expenditure of Rs. 812 on its maintenance during the year 1939.

(d) The District Board does not intend to make the Amritsar-Fatehgarh road a second class road.

**RECRUITMENT OF ACHHUTS FOR SERVICES UNDER THE DISTRICT BOARD, AMBALA.**

**\*6253. Chaudhri Jugal Kishore :** Will the Honourable Minister of Public Works be pleased to state—

- (a) whether he is aware of the fact that on 28th April, 1938, the District Board of Ambala adopted a resolution to the effect that no non-agriculturist should be recruited to any department under the District Board in future unless the number of agriculturists in the employ of the District Board became equal to that of the non-agriculturists employed thereunder ;
- (b) whether Government proposes to take any action to ensure that the recruitment of *Achhuts* to the District Board is not affected by the resolution referred to in (a) above ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Shaikh Faiz Muhammad) :** (a) The District Board, Ambala, has passed no such resolution. Possibly the resolution to which the honourable member is referring is the one in which the said board has decided that 88 per cent of the posts should be allotted to agriculturists and 12 per cent to non-agriculturists and that no non-agriculturists should be recruited until this proportion is reached.

(b) Government will draw the attention of the local authorities to the fact that the resolution as it stands is likely to affect prejudicially the interests of the scheduled castes, a class which Government particularly wish to encourage, and a request will be made that the board should revise its resolution accordingly.

**RESTRICTIONS ON THE NAGAR KIRTAN OF ARYA SAMAJ, AMBALA.**

**\*6266. Lala Deshbandhu Gupta :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

- (a) whether it is a fact that some innovations have been introduced in the licence of *Nagar Kirtan* of Arya Samaj, Ambala city, this year without a precedence ; if so, what are the innovations and the reasons for the same ;
- (b) whether it is a fact that, Arya Samaj, Ambala city, has been taking out its *Nagar Kirtans* regularly for many years without any such restrictions as are sought to be imposed this year ;
- (c) whether it is a fact that although the application was made on 22nd December, 1939, orders were passed on 17th January, 1940, only two days before the due date on which *Nagar Kirtan* was to be taken out thus causing great inconvenience to the organisers who had to abandon their entire celebrations at the eleventh hour as a mark of protest ;
- (d) whether it is a fact that the said Arya Samaj offered to pass the mosque on the route that the procession was to take at a time which is not the time of any prayer as a compromise for this year but the local authorities did not accept even this friendly offer ;
- (e) whether Government has recently received any representation from the Secretary of the Arya Samaj in the matter ;



[Lala Deshbandhu Gupta.]

(f) if so, the action, if any, that has been taken on the same ;

(g) whether Government are aware of the strong resentment which the introduction of these innovations have caused amongst the Hindus and Arya Samajists of the locality ; if so, what action Government propose to take to allay the feelings of resentment in the matter ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** (Sayad Amjad Ali Shah) : (a) Yes. In the licence for 1940, the police with the approval of the district magistrate, inserted the following three new conditions in the licence :—

(i) The procession should pass the Lotharan Mosque in gali Jattan between 4-30 p.m. and 5 p.m.

(ii) Harmonium music should be stopped 20 paces on each side of the Lotharan Mosque if prayers were in progress when the procession passed.

(iii) Harmonium music should be stopped (i) for 30 yards on each side of the Khojgan mosque and (ii) from the eastern corner of the Sain Lakhi Shah tomb to the western corner of Lakhi Shah's mosque.

Condition No. (i) was imposed with the consent of the processionists themselves.

Condition No. (ii) was imposed in view of the fact that on 25th November, 1939, when the Guru Nanak Birthday procession was passing this mosque Muslims took exception to the playing of music and serious trouble was narrowly averted. It was, therefore, considered necessary in the interests of public peace and safety to guard against a recrudescence of this situation.

Conditions 3 (i) and (ii) merely regularised and defined practices which were already in existence.

(b) Yes, with the exception of 1939, when no licence was applied for on account of the Arya Samaj being engaged in the Hyderabad agitation.

(c) Yes, during the period from 22nd December, 1939 to 17th January, 1940, efforts were made to bring about a compromise between the Muslims and the Arya Samaj.

(d) Yes, a suggestion was made and as stated in answer to part (a) was accepted and a time fixed accordingly.

(e) Yes.

(f) Reference is invited to the answer to part (g) below.

(g) Government are aware that the introduction of these innovations has occasioned protests from Hindus and Arya Samajists of the locality. It is the policy of Government that the *status quo* is to be maintained in all religious processions and that no innovations are to be permitted without the general agreement of the parties concerned. If any innovations on which there is no general agreement are necessary in the interests of public peace they are to be regarded only as temporary and to be abolished as soon as circumstances permit. The conditions governing the taking out of this procession in future will be framed strictly in accordance with this policy.

**Lala Duni Chand :** May I know the reasons as to why the request of the Arya Samaj to the effect that they were prepared to take out the procession at the time when there would be no prayer was not accepted?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** I have given the reasons in detail, and if my honourable friend had carefully listened to them he would not have put this supplementary question.

**Lala Duni Chand :** May I point out that he has given no reasons?

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

**Lala Duni Chand :** I want to know as to why the request of the Arya Samaj to the effect that they were prepared to take out the procession at the time when there would be no prayer, was not accepted. The answer to this has not been given by the Parliamentary Private Secretary.

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** I draw my honourable friend's attention to parts (i), (ii) and (iii) of my answer where he will find the answer to his question.

**Lala Duni Chand :** I do not find any answer therein. Will he please repeat the answer?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** That part of the answer runs as follows:—

“(a) Yes. In the licence for 1940, the police with the approval of the district magistrate, inserted the following three new conditions in the licence:—

- (i) The procession should pass the Lotharan Mosque in Gali Jattan between 4-30 P.M. and 5 P.M.
- (ii) Harmonium music should be stopped 30 paces on each side of the Lotharan Mosque if prayers were in progress when the procession passed.
- (iii) Harmonium music should be stopped (i) for 30 yards on each side of the Kohjagan mosque and (ii) from the eastern corner of the Sain Lakhi Shah tomb to the western corner of Lakhi Shah's mosque.

Conditions No. (2) was imposed with the consent of the processionists themselves.”

**Lala Duni Chand :** Am I not right, I think, that the reasons for not accepting the request of the Arya Samaj have not been given?

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** May I know whether it is not a fact that the Arya Samaj persisted in taking their procession at the prayer time?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** The two communities agreed upon certain conditions which I have already stated.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know if some new conditions have been imposed with regard to this licence?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** That is what I have been explaining for the last 10 minutes and yet my honourable friend is as ignorant as before.

## DRAFT RULES UNDER THE MOTOR VEHICLES ACT.

\*6269. **Diwan Chaman Lall** : Will the Honourable Minister of Public Works be pleased to state—

- (a) whether the draft Motor Vehicles Rules, 1940, prepared under the Motor Vehicles Act, 1939, will be laid on the table of the House for a period of 14 days ; if so, from what date will this period commence ;
- (b) the number of days which Government intends to allot for the discussion of these rules, in case it has been decided to allow a debate on the rules as on any other substantive motion ;
- (c) whether it is or it is not intended to enforce these rules before they have been discussed by the Assembly ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Shaikh Faiz Muhammad) : (a) It is hoped to publish the new rules in the Gazette during the next few days. Thereafter they will, with the permission of the Honourable the Speaker, be laid before this House for the fourteen days period prescribed in section 133 (3) of the Act.

(b) The question of allotting time for discussion will not arise unless and until some member gives notice of a motion to modify one or more of the rules.

(c) In the normal course the rules would have come into operation from the date of their publication in the Gazette, but in the present case it is intended, as a matter of administrative convenience, to include a provision directing that they shall not come into force until the 1st April.

**Diwan Chaman Lall** : May I ask my honourable friend whether there is no statutory duty imposed upon the Government to lay these rules before the House before they are promulgated ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** : My reading of the section is that it is not a statutory duty of the Government to lay these rules before the House before enforcement. They become law as soon as they are published in the Gazette. It is, however, open to the House to suggest such modifications as it likes.

**Diwan Chaman Lall** : May I ask my honourable friend whether it is not a fact that it would be illegal to give effect to these rules without getting the previous sanction of the House ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** : I have said that this is the interpretation of law as it is.

**Diwan Chaman Lall** : May I ask why these rules were not placed on the table of the House so that the House could give its opinion regarding them before they are promulgated ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** : I have said that they will be shortly published and will be laid before the House to enable the House to express its opinion and if any honourable member would suggest any modification, it will be considered.

**Diwan Chaman Lall** : Is it a fact that these rules will be placed on the table of the House after they have been enforced. Is it not a fact that

my question related to the undesirability of promulgating them without giving this House an opportunity of considering them by virtue of section 188 ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** The position as I understand is that under subsection (2) of section 188, the rules become law as soon as they have been finally published and thereafter they have to be laid before the House for consideration and if some honourable member proposes some amendment, then those rules will come up for discussion ; otherwise they become law as soon as they are published ?

**Diwan Chaman Lall :** Do I take it that these rules will become effective in spite of the fact that the House may—after my honourable friend has placed them on the table of the House—disagree with them ?

**Minister of Public Works :** There is no question of seeking the permission of the House. They will be published in the Gazette and they will be brought before this House and if the honourable members feel that any particular rule is unsuitable, they can amend it ; otherwise I do not think that the framers of that section ever contemplated that sanction of the House was necessary for each rule. They can become law when they are published.

**Diwan Chaman Lall :** May I ask my honourable friend whether the procedure which he has adopted is not inconvenient and undesirable ?

**Minister :** The procedure is most convenient. In Parliament it is never contemplated that each rule should be brought before the House for its sanction. The language of the section is quite clear.

**Diwan Chaman Lall :** May I ask him what would happen if the House does not give its assent to a particular rule ?

**Minister :** That particular rule will be amended.

**Diwan Chaman Lall :** May I ask him whether the procedure that I have suggested was not more convenient ?

**Minister :** I am afraid not.

**Mr. Dev Raj Sethi :** Will the rules be placed on the table of the House before the 1st of April ?

**Minister :** Yes.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** May I know whether in view of the fact that the Act is already in force in the province, it was not essential for Government to place the rules framed thereunder before the House ?

**Minister :** It was never contemplated.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** May I know whether in view of the importance of the motor vehicle industries and the fact that the rules will affect thousands of people of the province, it was not essential for Government to put the rules on the table of the House ?

**Minister :** The rules have been framed according to the Act and the honourable members will have a chance of modifying any important rule that they find would be to the advantage of the industry concerned.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** May I know whether it would serve any purpose to place the rules on the table of the House after they have been put in force ?

**Minister :** They have become law, but it is just to pointedly draw the attention of the honourable members to the rules that we are placing them on the table.

**Mr. Dev Raj Sethi :** Will Government give some time for the consideration of those rules ?

**Mr. Speaker :** That question does not arise.

#### DRAFT RULES UNDER THE MOTOR VEHICLES ACT.

**\*6270. Sardar Ajit Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister for Public Works be pleased to state whether and when he contemplates bringing the Draft Rules made under the Indian Motor Vehicles Act, 1939 and expected to be enforced from 1st April, 1940, before the Assembly for its consideration ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Shaikh Faiz Muhammad) :** This has been answered in the reply to the preceding question. I should make it clear that Government will not themselves move any resolution. The question of a debate here will arise only if some non-official member gives notice of a resolution for modifying one or more of the new rules.

#### BARARA-SADHAURA ROAD.

**\*6284. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Will the Honourable Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

- (a) whether the road between Barara and Sadhaura is a Public Works Department road or a District Board road ;
- (b) whether it is a fact that there is a considerable lorry and cart traffic on this road ;
- (c) whether it is a fact that this road is and has been in a very bad condition for a long time ;
- (d) the action proposed to be taken by the Government in this respect ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Shaikh Faiz Muhammad) :** (a) The road is in charge of the District Board.

(b) Yes.

(c) Government's information is that the road on the whole is in a fairly good condition. About eleven miles of it have been tarred this year, and one mile has been consolidated. The Board, in consultation with the Executive Engineer, Ambala Provincial Division, has drawn up a road programme according to which that portion of the road which is in a bad condition will be put right during the year 1940-41.

(d) Does not arise.

**CUT IN THE SALARIES OF EMPLOYEES OF THE MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE,  
JHAJJAR.**

**\*6286. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Sarnad :** Will the Honourable Minister for Public Works be pleased to state whether the cut of 25 per cent. applied to the salaries of municipal employees under orders of the President, Municipal Committee, Jhajjar, has not so far been restored despite a protest against it by some members of the said committee and the recommendation by the Deputy Commissioner to the effect that the cut was too heavy in these days of rise in the cost of living ; if so, the reasons therefor and the action Government intend to take in the matter ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Shaikh Faiz Muhammad) :** The cut referred to by the honourable member was restored on the 1st November, 1939.

**ROBBERIES AND OUTRAGE OF WOMEN ON THE ROAD BETWEEN AMBALA CITY AND NAGGAL.**

**\*6290. Lala Duni Chand :** Will the Honourable Minister of Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that on the road between Ambala City and Naggal several cases of robbery and outrage of women have taken place recently and consequently the road has become unsafe for travellers ;

(b) what special steps or precautions the Ambala district police have taken or intend taking in order to prevent similar occurrences on this road and make it safe for travellers ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh) :**  
(a) No.

(b). Does not arise.

**Lala Duni Chand :** May I know the source of information on the strength of which the Parliamentary Secretary has been pleased to say that no occurrences have taken place on this road ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** Official source.

**Lala Duni Chand :** May I know if it has been brought to the notice of the Parliamentary Secretary that a number of men including myself made a representation as regards the occurrence of several cases of crime on that road ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I require notice.

**NOTICE DEMANDING CASH FROM NATHU RAM AND OTHERS  
OF KESARI TOWN IN AMBALA DISTRICT.**

**\*6291. Lala Duni Chand :** Will the Honourable Minister of Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that two notices were recently found pasted on the walls of Kesari, a town in Ambala district, demanding:

[Lala Duni Chand.]

• in one notice Rs. 700 from Nathu Ram, Hira Lal, Sada Nand and Kithali Mal and in the other notice demanding Rs. 125 from one Sant Singh ;

(b) whether it is a fact that in the said notices it was also stated that in case of failure to comply with the demands by the said persons dacoities will be committed in their houses and shops ;

(c) whether it is a fact that the local authorities including the Superintendent of Police were informed without delay of the posting of the said notices ;

(d) what precautionary and protective measures, if any, have been taken by the Ambala police in this connection ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh) : (a), (b) and (c) On the evening of the 24th January, one Sant Singh brought to the Station Officer, Mullana, a letter from Nauharla Ram of village Kesari, along with a poster found pasted on the walls of the latter's house on the previous night. Sant Singh also produced some scraps of paper said to be pieces of another poster pasted on the walls of one Nathu Ram's house. The posters were illegible, but it was stated in Nauharla Ram's letter that they had been pasted by dacoits, who demanded Rs. 700 within eight days under threat of a dacoity.

(d) Since the 24th January extensive patrolling by day and night in this and the surrounding village has been undertaken by the local police. Voluntary *Thikri Pahra* has also been started in the village and I am glad to say that so far nothing untoward has happened in Kesari.

**Lala Duni Chand** : May I know whether any of the persons who demanded the black-mail money have been traced ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** : I have no information on that point.

**Lala Duni Chand** : Do the local authorities wait up to the actual time when the dacoities are committed ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** : There is no question of that. The local police had no authentic information. They took every precaution with the result that no dacoity took place.

**Lala Duni Chand** : Is it a fact that it was given out in the notice that if a certain amount of black-mail money is not paid by a certain time, dacoities would be committed ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** : That is why the police took all the precautions and no dacoity took place.

#### MURDERS AND DACOITIES IN JULLUNDUR DISTRICT.

\*6302. **Master Kabul Singh** : Will the Honourable Minister of Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) the number of murders and dacoities committed in the Jullundur district from 1st April, 1937, to 31st December, 1939, year-wise ;

- (b) how many of these cases remained untraced ;
- (c) the findings of the courts in such of these cases of murders and dacoities as were challaned by the police and the period for which the police inquiry and the trial of each of these cases lasted ;
- (d) the names of the police stations in the district of Jullundur in the jurisdiction of which the number of such murders and dacoities comparatively increased during this period with the reasons for this increase ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh) :

(a) *Cases reported and admitted as true cases—*

		<i>Murders.</i>	<i>Dacoities.</i>
1st April 1937 to 31st December 1937	..	21	..
Calendar year 1938	.. ..	21	1
Calendar year 1939	.. ..	21	13

(b) *Cases untraced—*

1st April 1937 to 31st December 1937	..	7	..
Calendar year 1938	.. ..	10	..
Calendar year 1939	.. ..	7	4

(c) I do not think that any useful purpose would be served by giving the particulars of all these cases, but if the honourable member desires information regarding any individual case I shall be glad to furnish it.

(d) It is difficult to answer this, as there is no standard against which a comparison can well be made. So far as the year 1939 is concerned the police stations reporting an unusual number of murders are Banga and Phillaur, with five and three, respectively. As regards dacoities, Nakodar registered six cases, Banga two and Rahon two. The increases are symptomatic of the rise in crime which is fairly general over the districts of the Eastern Range—a state of affairs to which reference has been made in the replies to other questions.

**Master Kabul Singh :** May I know what action has been taken by Government in regard to the untraced cases ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** All efforts are being made to arrest the criminals.

**Lala Duni Chand :** May I know if the record of crime as disclosed by the answer is taken by Government to be abnormal and alarming ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** My honourable friend ought to be satisfied with the answer given to several questions that Government is taking all possible steps to trace the cases and to arrest the criminals.

**Lala Duni Chand :** I want to know whether the Government consider the state of affairs as alarming or not ?

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



## POST OF SUB-REGISTRAR, MONTGOMERY.

**\*6303. Sardar Ajit Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

- (a) since when the post of the Sub-Registrar, Montgomery, has fallen vacant ;
- (b) whether the vacancy has since been filled and if not, when it is likely to be filled ;
- (c) whether any decision has so far been arrived at as to whom this post should go—whether to a military pensioner or to a civilian ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Shaikh Faiz Muhammad) :** (a) The sub-district of Montgomery was created with effect from the 10th May, 1938.

(b) Yes.

(c) A person who is not a military pensioner has been appointed.

## ARRESTS OF DACOITS IN AMBALA AND KARNAL DISTRICTS.

**\*6308. Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** Will the Honourable Minister of Public Works be pleased to state whether the dacoits who assaulted and killed a police constable in Ambala district in February, 1940, and also the dacoits who assaulted and injured another police constable in the Karnal district in the same month have so far been arrested and if not, whether any raids were arranged to round up these dacoits and if not, why not ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh) :** I am sorry to say that the criminals responsible for these dastardly outrages have not yet been arrested, but I can assure the honourable member that the most vigorous action is being taken by the police to bring them to book.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** Has that gang been traced so far ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** If the gang had been traced, certainly the criminals would have been arrested.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** Has the police traced the gang which was responsible for the killing of these two police constables in Ambala and Karnal Districts ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** The police has certain information regarding the culprits, but they have not been arrested so far.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** Is it a fact that this gang was also responsible for the killing of a head constable in the Ludhiana district in October, 1939 ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** May have been. I cannot answer that question without notice.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** Is it a fact that these dacoits have not been arrested on account of the cowardice of the police shown in October, 1939 ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** No. My honourable friend should not make such uncharitable remarks about the police who have often to perform their duty at great personal risk.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** Is it a fact that the policemen have themselves committed dacoities in the raids arranged by the district police ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I repudiate that insinuation and I may add for the information of the honourable member that one of the dacoits has since been arrested also.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** Is it a fact that the Honourable Minister is not in a position to give the number of raids that have been arranged in which policemen also committed dacoities ?

**Mr. Speaker :** Disallowed.

**Lala Duni Chand :** May I know for how long this gang has been carrying on its operations ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** No body can give the information as to how long a bad character has been roaming about.

**Lala Duni Chand :** In view of the fact that the various murders and dacoities recently committed are taken by the Government to be the work of this gang, is Government not in a position to say for how long they have been carrying on these operations ?

**Mr. Speaker :** Disallowed.

**Lala Duni Chand :** Is it not a fact that similar dacoities and murders have been committed during the last eight or nine months ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** But there is a number of gangs and no one can say what particular gang is operating in a particular place.

**Lala Duni Chand :** Is it the view of Government that there are several gangs which are committing these dacoities and murders ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** At least four main groups.

**Lala Duni Chand :** Can I congratulate the Government on this ?

**Mr. Speaker :** Disallowed.

#### ABNORMAL INCREASE IN CRIME IN LUDHIANA, AMBALA, KARNAL AND FEROZPORE DISTRICTS.

\*6309. **Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** Will the Honourable Minister of Public Works be pleased to state whether it is a fact that there has been of late an abnormal increase in the number of dacoities and murders in

[Ch. Muhammad Hasan.]

Ludhiana, Ambala, Karnal and Ferozepore districts and if so, the reasons therefor, and whether Government has so far ascertained these reasons?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh): Yes. As regards the reasons for the rise in crime, which is more or less general over the whole of the Eastern Range, I can only refer to the reply which was given on the 11th March to Question \*61261, by the honourable member for the Jullundur East (Sikh) Rural Constituency.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan**: Has it come to the notice of Government that the district police of these districts do not co-operate with the additional police that has been posted now?

**Parliamentary Secretary**: No, my honourable friend's information is not correct.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan**: Is it one of the reasons that the district police of these districts do not co-operate with additional police?

**Minister**: No.

**Sardar Lal Singh**: Has it come to the notice of Government that in some cases the policemen have actually joined the dacoits and looted?

**Minister**: If any such thing is brought to the notice of Government, Government will take most serious action against such men.

**Sardar Lal Singh**: Is it not a fact that in some cases the dacoits disguise themselves as policemen and in some cases—

**Parliamentary Secretary**: That is quite a different thing. It is not the same thing as the policemen co-operating with the dacoits.

**Sardar Lal Singh**: Does it not occur to Government that it is a very serious state of things that people openly urge that the police actually bring about these dacoities and not only that but they actually commit them?

**Parliamentary Secretary**: That is wrong information, I am afraid.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan**: Is the Government in a position to inform the House since how long these abnormal number of dacoities and murders has been taking place in the districts mentioned in my question?

**Parliamentary Secretary**: I cannot give the exact period, but crime is on the increase since last six or seven months.

**Sardar Lal Singh**: Does Government consider it advisable to hold a special enquiry into the extraordinary increase in crime in the Eastern Range?

**Parliamentary Secretary**: Government has held a conference of Police Officers, as a result of which special measures have been adopted.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** Is it a fact that it is on account of relaxation of control that the increase in crime has taken place in these districts ?

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

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know the reason for the increase in crime in spite of the fact that vigorous efforts are made by the Government to stamp it out ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** It is only recently that the Government has appointed a special Superintendent of Police with about 200 constables, and my information is that they have been able to arrest two or three very dangerous criminals and they are after other criminals. I hope that within a short time they will bring to book a large number of them.

**Sardar Ajit Singh :** Is it a fact that since the appointment of this special staff there has been an increase in crime, specially in the Ambala district ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** That is incorrect.

**Sardar Ajit Singh :** Will the Parliamentary Secretary please state how many absconders or dacoits have been arrested by the additional police since the posting of that additional police ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I require notice for it, but I know that a number of criminals has been arrested.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** Is it a fact that no suspect or dacoit has been arrested by the Punjab Police but by the Patiala Police ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** They are all co-operating with each other.

**Lala Duni Chand :** May I know if Government is unable to discharge its elementary duty of protecting life and property ?

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

**Khan Bahadur Nawab Muzaffar Khan :** Is it a fact that the public including the lawyers do not co-operate with and help the police ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** That is unfortunately so.

#### ENFRANCHISEMENT OF WOMEN FOR LOCAL BODIES.

\*6313. **Mr. Dev Raj Sethi :** Will the Honourable Minister for Public Works be pleased to state which of the municipalities and the district boards in the Punjab have so far passed resolutions recommending enfranchisement of women and which of them have negatived this proposal on such a motion being brought before them ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Shaikh Faiz Muhammad):** A statement containing the information is laid on the table :—

Serial No.	Names of Municipal Committees or District Boards which have considered the enfranchisement of women.	Result of consideration.
1	2	3
1	Municipal Committee, Bhiwani .. .. .	Negativd.
2	Municipal Committee, Karnal .. .. .	Passed.
3	Municipal Committee, Kaithal .. .. .	Negativd.
4	Municipal Committee, Shahabad .. .. .	Do.
5	Municipal Committee, Hoshiarpur .. .. .	Passed.
6	Municipal Committee Ludhiana .. .. .	Do.
7	Municipal Committee, Jagraon .. .. .	Negativd.
8	Municipal Committee, Raekot .. .. .	Do.
9	Municipal Committee, Ferozepore .. .. .	Passed.
10	Municipal Committee, Fazilka .. .. .	Negativd.
11	Municipal Committee, Zira .. .. .	Do.
12	Municipal Committee, Chunian .. .. .	Do.
13	Municipal Committee, Amritsar .. .. .	Passed a resolution in general terms.
14	District Board, Amritsar .. .. .	Passed.
15	Municipal Committee, Gujranwala .. .. .	Negativd.
16	Municipal Committee, Wazirabad .. .. .	Do.
17	Municipal Committee, Sharakpur .. .. .	Do.
18	Municipal Committee, Sargodha .. .. .	Passed.
19	Municipal Committee, Pind Dadan Khan .. .. .	Negativd.
20	Municipal Committee, Jhelum .. .. .	Passed.
21	Municipal Committee, Kamalia .. .. .	Do.
22	Municipal Committee, Jhang .. .. .	Passed.

DRAIN OPPOSITE GOWSHALA ON GRAND TRUNK ROAD, LAHORE.

**\*6317. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :** With reference to the answer to starred question No. 5789<sup>1</sup> asked by me on 2nd February, 1940, will the Honourable Minister for Public Works be pleased to state whether any recommendation or instructions were recently issued by the Medical Officer of Health, Lahore Municipality, for setting the drain opposite Gowshala near "Kesari Dal" Office on the Grand Trunk Road, Lahore right; if so, the action, if any, taken after the issue of those instructions?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Shaikh Faiz Muhammad):** Yes. The matter is still under consideration. The problem will not be easy to solve until the comprehensive scheme for the Ravi Road area (Part III of the sewerage scheme) has been taken in hand.

**Munshi Hari Lal:** When did the Municipal Health Officer inspect this locality last?

**Parliamentary Secretary:** I am afraid I cannot reply to this question off-hand.

**MORTALITY FIGURES IN THE DISTRICT OF HISSAR.**

**\*4871. Sardar Hari Singh:** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state—

(a) the mortality figures in Hissar district in the month of January 1938, and the causes thereof;

(b) the mortality figures for the same period in 1939 in the same district and causes thereof?

**The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye:** (a) and (b) A statement giving the required information is laid on the table.

*Mortality figures in District Hissar.*

(a) and (b) 2,052 and 3,885.

Causes of Death.		January, 1938.	January, 1939.
1		2	3
	Smallpox	28	146
Fever	Enteric fever .. .. .	27	14
	Measles .. .. .	4	17
	Other fevers .. .. .	1,318	2,836
	Dysentery .. .. .	7	6
	Diarrhoea .. .. .	4	17
Respiratory Diseases.	Pneumonia .. .. .	227	368
	Phthisis .. .. .	32	33
	Whooping cough .. .. .	12	10
	Other Respiratory diseases .. .. .	74	142
	Suicide .. .. .	1	5
Injuries.	Wounding .. .. .	4	6
	Accident .. .. .	80	5
	Snake-bite and killed by wild-beasts .. .. .	1	..
All other causes	Deaths from child birth .. .. .	8	4
	Other causes .. .. .	297	257
Total from all causes .. .. .		2,052	3,885

**Sardar Hari Singh :** May I ask what is the major cause of this mortality ?

**Minister :** I have on two or three previous occasions given the various reasons. The major cause appears to be famine.

**Sardar Hari Singh :** May I know the number of deaths due to actual starvation ?

**Minister :** I am afraid I do not carry these figures in my head. If the honourable member gives me notice, I can supply the information.

**Sardar Hari Singh :** May I ask what is the percentage of deaths caused by deficiency disease ?

**Minister :** I have no information.

**Sardar Hari Singh :** May I know what steps have been taken by Government to remedy the causes of this mortality ?

**Minister :** The steps taken were detailed in this House on two previous occasions and *communiqués* were also issued. I do not think the honourable member wants me to recapitulate those facts.

**Sardar Lal Singh :** May we assume from the Honourable Minister's reply that there have been actually some deaths by absolute starvation ?

**Minister :** No, Sir. I would not subscribe to that proposition.

LETTER FROM SARDAR KIRPAL SINGH, FATHER OF SARDAR TEJA SINGH  
"SWATANTAR," M.L.A., URGING THE RELEASE OF THE  
STATE PRISONERS.

\*5082. **Sardar Hari Singh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

- (a) whether he has received a letter from Sardar Kirpal Singh, father of Sardar Teja Singh 'Swatantar', M.L.A., urging the release of the State prisoners ;
- (b) contents of the said letter ;
- (c) whether the question raised in the said letter has been considered afresh by the Government ; if so, with what result ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) :** (a) I recollect that a letter was received on this subject.

- (b) It is not in the public interest to discuss its contents.
- (c) The cases of all State prisoners are carefully reviewed by Government at short intervals and none of them will be kept in confinement longer than is absolutely necessary.

**Sardar Hari Singh :** May I ask the Parliamentary Private Secretary whether the question of release was considered after the receipt of this letter ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** As I have already stated, it is periodically considered.

**Sardar Hari Singh :** I want to know whether it was considered ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** Yes, it was considered.

**Sardar Hari Singh :** May I know whether on account of the outbreak of war the question of the release of State prisoners is out of the question or are the cases being considered even now ?

**Premier :** Not necessarily.

**Sardar Hari Singh :** May I take it that after the outbreak of war the cases of these prisoners were considered ?

**Premier :** They are considered periodically and I believe that the case of Sardar Teja Singh Swatantar was considered after the outbreak of the war.

**Lala Duni Chand :** May I know if there is any other instance anywhere in India or for the matter of that anywhere in the world where a member has been elected to a legislature and has been detained and not released for as long as three years ?

**Mr. Speaker :** Disallowed.

WARNING TO MR. KHUSHI NAND PRASHAR, BY THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, HOSHIARPUR,

\*5160. **Sardar Hari Singh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Deputy Commissioner, Hoshiarpur, summoned Mr. Khushi Nand Prashar, of Ambota, district Hoshiarpur, on the 17th June, 1939, and warned him that his pension would be confiscated if he took part in Congress activities any more, if so, reasons therefor ;

(b) whether he is aware that the said Khushi Nand Prashar is a member of the District Board, Hoshiarpur ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary (Sayad Amjad Ali Shah) :** (a) The pensioner named was warned by the Deputy Commissioner on the 17th June in consequence of a number of disloyal speeches made by him.

(b) Yes.

**Sardar Hari Singh :** May I ask the Parliamentary Secretary whether he has seen the contents of those speeches which are alleged to be disloyal by the deputy commissioner or by the person who framed this answer ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** I may inform my honourable friend that after the warning was given to Mr. Khushi Nand Prashar, he made a speech where he dissuaded his hearers from joining the army and the army authorities have withheld his pension.

**Sardar Hari Singh :** May I know whether he made that speech after the outbreak of the war or previous to that ?

**Premier :** Notice is required for that question. But it is immaterial whether the speech was made after the outbreak of the war or before the outbreak of the war.

**Sardar Hari Singh :** May I ask the Premier to state whether Mr. Khushi Nand Prashar was given the opportunity of disproving the allegation made that he asked the people not to enter the army ?



**Premier :** He was warned as my honourable colleague, the Parliamentary Secretary, has just now stated.

**Sardar Hari Singh :** The Parliamentary Secretary has stated that after the warning had been administered, he made a disloyal speech. May I know whether the action taken consequent on his making that speech, namely the stoppage of his pension, was taken after he had been given an opportunity to disprove the allegation which I think is wrong, that he was preaching disloyalty—an opportunity which ought to be open to every citizen of this province?

**Premier :** It is not a question of the honourable member's thinking. It is a question of fact, that he did make the speech and the pension was stopped.

**Sardar Hari Singh :** I want to know whether he was given an opportunity to disprove the allegation made against him?

**Premier :** I cannot give that information off-hand.

**Sardar Hari Singh :** May I now ask my honourable friend whether he feels satisfied that the action taken against him is justified?

**Premier :** No action is taken unless the Government is satisfied.

#### INQUIRY INTO THE CONDUCT OF DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, HOSHIARPUR.

\*5161. **Sardar Hari Singh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Commissioner, Jullundur Division, recently instituted an inquiry into the conduct of the Deputy Commissioner, Hoshiarpur, who was alleged to have helped the Congress in the last elections to District Board, Hoshiarpur;

(b) if the answer to (a) above be in the affirmative, the result of the inquiry?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) :** (a) No regular enquiry was held. The Commissioner was asked to report on certain allegations.

(b) The allegations were found to be baseless.

**Sardar Hari Singh :** May I know the nature of those allegations?

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

**Sardar Hari Singh :** May I ask the honourable member on what date the enquiry was held even though it was an informal enquiry?

**Mr. Speaker :** I think these questions are unnecessary after the answer given.

**Sardar Hari Singh :** The answer is that the allegations were found to be baseless. I want to know whether a proper enquiry was held.

**Mr. Speaker :** It was stated that on enquiry the allegations were found to be baseless.

**Sardar Hari Singh :** I want to know the mode of the enquiry. It is stated that no formal enquiry was held and I want to know what the nature of that enquiry was.

**Mr. Speaker :** The man was not found guilty. The matter ends there.

**Sardar Hari Singh :** The enquiry may not have been held in a proper manner and therefore the allegations may have been found baseless. I want to know whether the procedure was the correct one.

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** I have already stated that the Commissioner was asked to report on certain allegations. That was the nature of the enquiry.

**Sardar Hari Singh :** Will the honourable member be pleased to state whether he has read the report of the Commissioner?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** I have already stated that the allegations were found to be baseless.

**Sardar Hari Singh :** I have already heard what the honourable member has stated. What I want to know further on the point is whether the Honourable Premier has read the report of the Commissioner.

**Sardar Hari Singh :** Do I take it that he has not read the report?

**Premier :** The honourable member can draw any inference he likes.

**Sardar Hari Singh :** I draw the inference that he has not read the report.

#### SEARCH OF THE HOUSE OF MR. RAJBANS KRISHAN.

**\*6172. Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

- (a) the date on which the house of Mr. Rajbans Krishan, student, V year, Forman Christian College, Lahore, was searched;
- (b) the names of the books and articles recovered from his house;
- (c) the names of the proscribed books out of them;
- (d) whether the Government intend returning those books, etc., to the owner?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) :** (a) 25th January, 1940.

(b) and (c) It is not in the public interest to supply this information.

(d) This matter is under consideration.

**Sardar Hari Singh :** The answer to parts (b) and (c) is that it is not in the public interest to supply this information. May I know if it is considered objectionable by the Government if the names of books and articles recovered from his house is supplied to the public and to this House by the man himself?

**Premier :** Yes.

**Mr. Dev Raj Sethi :** What was the reason for confiscating books other than those which had been proscribed ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** I have already stated that it is not in the public interest to give a reply to parts (b) and (c).

**Mr. Dev Raj Sethi :** If we get a list of the confiscated books the House would be able to know where the public interest comes in.

**Munshi Hari Lal :** May I know if any book other than the proscribed book was confiscated and was seized by the police ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** I have already given the answer in reply to Mr. Dev. Raj Sethi's question.

#### SEARCH OF THE HOUSE OF COMRADE FAZL ILAHI QURBAN.

**\*6173. Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to lay on the table of the House a copy of the search warrant on the authority of which the house of Comrade Fazl Ilahi Qurban, General Secretary of the Lahore City Congress Committee, was searched on 25th January, 1940 ;

(b) whether anything incriminating was found there ;

(c) the reasons for the search ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) :** (a) The house of Comrade Fazl Ilahi Qurban was searched in connection with the investigation of a case registered under Rule 38 of the Defence of India Rules. The search was made under the provisions of Section 165 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, and no search warrants were obtained.

(b) No.

(c) He was suspected of being in possession of unauthorised literature.

**Sardar Hari Singh :** May I know the grounds on which that suspicion was based ? Who supplied the information to the Government which justified the suspicion that he might be in possession of incriminating literature ?

**Premier :** I am afraid I am not in a position to satisfy my honourable friend's curiosity.

**Sardar Hari Singh :** Was it some police informer, some police constable or some other citizen ?

**Premier :** Or it may be one of my honourable friend's friends.  
(Laughter.)

#### SEARCH OF THE HOUSE OF SARDAR BALWANT SINGH GIYANI, BARRISTER-AT-LAW.

**\*6174. Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether the police entered the house of Sardar Balwant Singh Giyani, Bar.-at-Law, Lahore, in his absence on 25th January, 1940 ;

- (b) whether on his return the said Sardar refused to search the police party before allowing them to search his house as a protest ;
- (c) the names of the articles recovered from his house ;
- (d) whether the Government intend returning any of these articles ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah):** (a) and (b) No.

- (c) It is not in the public interest to supply this information.
- (d) This matter is under consideration.

CLOSURE OF MIDDLE AND PRIMARY SCHOOLS.

**\*6230. Lala Duni Chand :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education be pleased to state—

- (a) whether it is a fact that thirty-two middle and primary schools, the list of which is enclosed herewith, have been closed down since 1st April, 1937, up to the present time in the Jullundur Division ;
- (b) reasons or causes for closing down these schools ;
- (c) the number and names of other middle and primary schools, if any, closed down in Jullundur division within the same period and the reasons for which they have been closed ?

**The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye :** (a) None of the schools except two, viz., D. A.-V. Middle School, Rozmazara and D. V. Primary School, Tauri, in the Hoshiarpur District have been closed down.

(b) Both the schools were quite unnecessary.

(c) 1. D. A.-V. Middle School, Urmar.

2. Arya A.-V. School, Apra.

3. Arya A.-V. School, Bilga.

4. Arya A.-V. School, Basti Ghuzan.

5. Public A.-V. School, Pharala.

6. A.-V. Lower Middle School, Kamam.

7. Arya Primary School, Sarhala Rawan.

8. Elementary School, Sohal Jagir.

9. Khalsa A.-V. School, Khan Khanan.

10. Basti Tarkanwali Branch Primary School of M. L. M. High School, Ferozepore City.

These schools were quite unnecessary.

*List of Schools referred to in part (a) of the question.*

1. D. A.-V. High School, Mahilpur.

2. Anglo Sanskrit High School, Dera Gopi Pur.

3. D. A.-V. Middle School, Jadla.

4. Ditto Rozmazara.

5. Ditto Jaijon.

6.	D. A. V. Middle School, Bera Talwara.	
7.	Ditto	Teuri.
8.	Ditto	Bhera, tahsil Una.
9.	Ditto	
10.	Ditto	Dumewal.
11.	Ditto	Raipur.
12.	Ditto	Nadon.
13.	Ditto	Sujanpur Teera.
14.	Ditto	Nagrota Surian.
15.	Ditto	Tikkar Aryan, tahsil Hamirpur.
16.	Gopi Mal Anglo Sanskrit Middle School, Harori.	
17.	D. V. Primary School, Teuri.	
18.	Ditto	Nagghi.
19.	Ditto	Ramgarh Panyami.
20.	Ditto	Nandpur, Tahsil Una.
21.	Ditto	Delan, Tahsil Una.
22.	Ditto	Lodhi Chak.
23.	Ditto	Janwal, P. O. Chintpurni.
24.	Ditto	Badhsali.
25.	Ditto	Mahilpur.
26.	Ditto	Shergarh.
27.	Ditto	Bhera, Tahsil Una.
28.	Charagmal Arya Primary School, Calcut.	
29.	Arya Kanya Pathshala, Talwara.	
30.	Ditto	Mahilpur.
31.	Ditto	Bhangla.
32.	Ditto	Basi Ghum Hossain.

#### INSECURITY OF LIFE IN MIANWALI DISTRICT.

**\*6293. Rai Bahadur Mukand Lal Puri:** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

- the number of raids by trans-frontier people that have taken place during the last six months in the Mianwali district;
- the number of raiders in each case and the amount of loss in property suffered by each of the victims;
- how many persons from the said district have been kidnapped during this period and how many released on payment of ransom;
- whether the Government is aware that raiders numbering 250 to 300 recently raided the houses in Isakhel town, the headquarters of a tahsil, and also a police station there;
- whether Government is also aware that a strong feeling of insecurity of life and property exists among the Hindu population in particular of not only the villages in the district but also among the residents of towns and even of the headquarters of the district; if so, what special steps Government intends taking for the protection of the life and property of the people and in particular the Hindu population of this outlying district of the province?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh) :**

(a) Three.

(b) and (c) A statement is appended.

(d) Yes.

(e) A reference is invited to the reply given a few days ago to a short notice question<sup>1</sup> put by the honourable member for the Ambala and Simla (General) Rural Constituency on this subject.

Date of occurrence.	Place of occurrence.	Number of raiders.	Value of stolen property.	Persons kidnapped.	Persons released on payment of ransom.
1	2	3	4	5	6
30th January, 1940..	Village Kaluanwala, Police Station Isakhel.	30	Rs. 4,114	A boy and a girl.	NH
12th February, 1940	Isakhel ..	Between 200 and 300.	NH.	NH.	NH.
15th February, 1940	Makarwal, Police Station Kamar-Mashani.	18	About Rs. 60.	NH.	NH.

#### ARRESTS UNDER DEFENCE OF INDIA ACT IN JULLUNDUR DISTRICT.

\*6300. **Master Kabul Singh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) the number and names of those arrested under the Defence of India Act in the Jullundur district up to the end of January, 1940;

(b) the number and names of those arrested in the said district under section 124-A and 153 of the Indian Penal Code, during the same period;

(c) how many of the persons arrested were convicted with terms of imprisonment in each case;

(d) whether any of the so convicted persons have been placed in A or B Class in the Jail, and if so, how many?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) :** (a), (b) and (c) 21 persons have been arrested under the Defence of India Act. Of them, 15 have been convicted and sentenced to various terms of rigorous imprisonment ranging from 6 months to 2½ years. Two were discharged on tendering apologies and the cases against 4 are pending.

<sup>1</sup>Vide Debates of 26th March, 1940 *infra*.

[S. Amjad Ali Shah.]

During the same period one person was arrested under section 124-A, and one under sections 124-A, and 153-A, of the Indian Penal Code. The former was sentenced to one year's rigorous imprisonment. The case against the latter is pending.

It is not in the public interest to disclose the names of the persons concerned.

(d) None.

#### INTERMENT OF BAKHSI RAM OF LAHORE.

**\*6305. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state whether Bakhshi Ram, son of Darbari Ram, Kucha Chah Tilian, Lahore, has been interned within the Municipal limits of Lahore; if so, since when and why and whether he will be pleased to lay a copy of the order on the table of the House?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) :** Bakhshi Ram was restricted to the municipal limits of Lahore with effect from the 4th December, 1939, for having acted in a manner prejudicial to the public safety or peace; it is not in the public interest to lay a copy of the internment order on the table of the House.

**Mr. Dev Raj Sethi :** What was the particular act of Mr. Bakhshi Ram which was found objectionable and for which he was interned?

**Premier :** I am afraid there again I am not prepared to satisfy my honourable friend's curiosity.

**Munshi Hari Lal :** May I know if one of the conditions of the order is that he has to report daily to the police at about 10 a.m.?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** I have already stated that I am not prepared to lay a copy of the internment order on the table or supply any information connected with it.

**Munshi Hari Lal :** Was this order not served upon the person interned?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** Yes.

**Munshi Hari Lal :** Mr. Speaker, when the order has been served where is the difficulty in disclosing the terms of the order?

**Mr. Speaker :** That question is disallowed.

#### ADMISSION OF WOMEN STUDENTS TO KING EDWARD MEDICAL COLLEGE, LAHORE.

**\*6311. Khan Haibat Khan Daba :** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state—

- (a) the number of boys and girls separately who were admitted into the King Edward Medical College in the years 1936 to 1939 year by year and also the number of girl students who were refused admissions;

(a) the steps Government propose to take to meet the increasing demand for medical education of the girl students?

**The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye :** (a) A statement is laid on the table.

(b) Ten women students are admitted annually to the King Edward Medical College, Lahore, and 25 to the Medical School, Amritsar. One Punjabi student is nominated almost every year by Government for admission to the Lady Hardinge Medical College for Women, New Delhi, over and above the Punjabi students who may secure admission by competition in the usual way. In addition at least half of the 80 students admitted annually to the Punjab Medical School for Women, Ludhiana, in the Licentiate Class and 15 in the M.B., B.S. Class are Punjabis. The existing facilities for medical education for women are therefore not inadequate.

*Statement showing the number of boys and girls who were admitted to the King Edward Medical College, Lahore, in the years 1936 to 1939 and also the number of girl students who were refused admission.*

	1936.	1937.	1938.	1939.
1	2	3	4	5
Boys admitted .. .. .	79	77	80	84
Girls admitted .. .. .	8	11	10	8
Girls rejected .. .. .	3	9	13	12

(Ten seats in the communal proportion of 40 per cent Muslims, 20 per cent Sikhs and 40 per cent others are reserved for the admission of women students to the King Edward Medical College subject to the proviso that if a sufficient number of women students of any community does not apply for admission, the resultant vacancies should be filled by men students of that community. In the years 1936 and 1939 the number of Muslim women applicants was less than the percentage prescribed for them) ; consequently all the ten seats could not be filled).

**Lala Duni Chand :** Is it not true that the number of girl candidates for admission is much larger than those actually admitted every year?

**Minister :** Every effort is being made to admit as many girls as possible. When this Government took over in 1937, the Medical School, Amritsar, used to admit 10 girl students the number is now 25 and a further increase would be made if suitable girls are forthcoming. In the Ludhiana School, more Punjabi girls are now being admitted.

**Lala Duni Chand :** May I know why the Honourable Minister for Education has not been pleased to answer the question that I put, namely whether the number of girls who desire to be admitted is much larger than those admitted?

**Minister :** It is not much larger.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** May I know what the Honourable Minister means by the words 'suitable girls'? (Laughter.)

**Minister :** Qualified for admission.



**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** May I know whether any communal proportion has been fixed for admission in the Medical School, Amritsar, and Medical College, Lahore ?

**Minister :** Yes, the orders apply to both the institutions.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** May I know if the number of boys applying for admission to these institutions is smaller whether girls are taken ?

**Minister :** It is quite the other way. The number of boy candidates is always larger than those admitted. In the case of girls sometimes the requisite number is not forthcoming and then boys of the same community are admitted.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** May I know whether any proportion is fixed for boys and girls in these institutions ?

**Minister :** I have already said that ten girls are admitted in the Lahore College and 25 in Amritsar School.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** May I know when the number of girls is not sufficient for admission in the school or college then benefit of this deficiency is given to the community to which the girls belong or to other communities ?

**Minister :** I have already answered that.

#### PUBLICATION OF ADVERTISEMENTS IN DAILY NEWSPAPERS OF LAHORE.

**\*6314. Mr. Dev Raj, Sethi :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

- (a) the names of all the daily newspapers published in Lahore ;
- (b) the total publication and circulation of each ;
- (c) the names of the dailies which are at present getting Government advertisements along with the schedule of rates at which payments are made to them for publishing the advertisements ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary (Sayad Amjad Ali Shah) :** (a) The names of the daily newspapers published in Lahore are :—

- (1) Civil and Military Gazette ;
- (2) Tribune.
- (3) Daily Herald.
- (4) Partap.
- (5) Vir Bharat.
- (6) Hindu.
- (7) Milap (Urdu).
- (8) Milap (Hindi).
- (9) Zamindar.
- (10) Inqilab.
- (11) Ehsan.
- (12) Shahbaz.
- (13) Akali (Gurmukhi).
- (14) Hindustan.
- (15) Evening News.

(b) and (c) The publishers of newspapers object to the disclosure of such information as Government may have about the circulation figures of their newspapers or the rates charged by them for the publication of advertisements.

**Mr. Dev Raj Sethi :** Let the papers object, the Government should not object.

**Mr. Speaker :** That is a statement and not a question.

**Lala Duni Chand :** May I know if the object is not to demoralize them?

**Mr. Speaker :** Disallowed.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Are these advertisements given on the basis of circulation or on some other consideration?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** All considerations are kept in view.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Is it the chief consideration?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** That is one of the considerations.

## RESOLUTION.

### CAXTON HALL INCIDENT.

**Premier :** Sir, I was shocked to read in the papers to-day the report of the Caxton Hall incident. I am sure that this incident will be deplored by India as a whole, for these acts of violence constitute a stigma on the fair name of our motherland, and are against the established traditions, both cultural and religious, of this country. I therefore trust that I am voicing the feelings of the House in moving this motion—

1 p.m.

This House records its deep abhorrence and condemnation at the dastardly outrage reported to have been perpetrated by some Indian at Caxton Hall, London, and expresses its profound sympathy with Lady O'Dwyer and other members of the family. It further expresses its thankfulness at the narrow escape of Lord Zetland, Lord Lamington and Sir Louis Dane from more serious consequences.

**Mr. Speaker :** Motion moved—

This House records its deep abhorrence and condemnation at the dastardly outrage reported to have been perpetrated by some Indian at Caxton Hall, London, and expresses its profound sympathy with Lady O'Dwyer and other members of the family. It further expresses its thankfulness at the narrow escape of Lord Zetland, Lord Lamington and Sir Louis Dane from more serious consequences.

**Diwan Chaman Lall (East Punjab Non-Union Labour) :** It is well-known that the Congress Opposition is pledged to the creed of non-violence and so far as any action is taken by anybody which is contrary to the spirit of non-violence it is patent that it is not acceptable to the Congress. In the presence of death, naturally, all controversies are stilled. On behalf

[Diwan Chaman Lal.]

of the entire Opposition let me make it clear that the terms of the motion are not ours nor is the Opposition a party to those terms. I need not, therefore, say anything more in regard to the incident referred to by my honourable friend, the Premier, except that we in the Opposition to a man cannot be a party to the Resolution moved by the Premier but that we say no more simply for the reason that there should be no controversy in a matter of this description.

**Mr. Speaker :** The question is—

This House records its deep abhorrence and condemnation at the dastardly outrage reported to have been perpetrated by some Indian at Caxton Hall, London, and expresses its profound sympathy with Lady O'Dwyer and other members of the family. It further expresses its thankfulness at the narrow escape of Lord Zetland, Lord Lamington and Sir Louis Dane from more serious consequences.

*The motion was carried.*

## DEMANDS FOR GRANTS.

### GENERAL ADMINISTRATION.

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

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 93,02,800 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1941, in respect of General Administration.

**Mr. Speaker :** Motion moved—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 93,02,800 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1941, in respect of General Administration.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma** (Southern Towns, General, Urban) (*Urdu*) :  
Sir, I beg to move—

That the demand be reduced by Rs. 100.

This demand relates to General Administration and the matter will be discussed for two days. But may I ask whether there is any general administration at all in this province? In the course of his Budget speech the Honourable Finance Minister complained that 'nature has not smiled on us during the past two years, and heavens have hidden their face from us.' I want to tell him why the heavens are displeased with the province. You cannot find any explanation for their displeasure in his speech. But it is not far to seek. It is on account of the wrong, defective, repressive and criminal methods adopted by the present Government that the province has incurred the displeasure of God Almighty. But in spite of all these calamities the Government is not prepared to mend its ways. On the contrary it adopts the policy of *توبہ کی بجائے تلافی* and throws the blame for its own misdeeds on others. Almost every day questions are put with regard to the increase in the number of thefts, dacoities, murders and other crimes but the same stereotyped reply is given that the Government is doing everything possible to eradicate crime. I assert with the fullest sense of responsibility that this loot and lawlessness is due to the policy and doings of the Government itself, but they are throwing the blame on others. Towards the close of the general discussion of the Budget the Honourable Premier made a speech. I was not present here at the time but I have read it as reported in the newspapers.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** The Premier said :—

An increase of crime is most noticeable in Rohtak district (Lala Duni Chand's own constituency).

Now I do not know whether it is the Premier or the newspaper that is responsible for the mistake, but I want to make it clear that this is not Lala Duni Chand's constituency but that of Sir Chhotu Ram and two of his lieutenants. Then he is reported to have said :—

And no other factor was responsible to a greater degree than the irresponsible speeches of political agitators for this lawlessness. These agitators indulged in indiscriminate abusing of Government officials, which in turn resulted in lowering the prestige of these officials and lawlessness.

The report goes on to say :—

He (the Premier) admitted his weakness in not having brought the offenders to book 2½ years earlier. But he had decided now to impose the severest punishments and not to spare anyone. In the past, he revealed, he had issued special instructions to Government officials to waive the provisions of the law in the case of M. L. A.s who indulged in political activities.

This report is, most probably, a brief resumé of his lengthy speech. Anyway, he ascribed the lawlessness prevailing in the province and particularly Rohtak district to the activities of political agitators. I do not know whether the reference was to all Congress workers or to myself. He is not here at present to throw some light on the point. But as I have already said it is a case of—

اے جی کے قاتل کے خلاف

He blames the political workers for the faults of his own Government.

As regards the freedoms given by him to M. L. A.s I cannot say whether he had given them a licence to commit murders and dacoities or crimes of a less serious nature like gambling and pick-pocketing. But how does he reconcile this statement with his usual boast that law is no respecter of persons and that his Government metes out uniform treatment to all? This is another example of—

خود کے بدرا بہانہ بنانا

After 2½ years he comes forward to tell us that the increase in crime was due to the misuse of this so-called freedom of speech by the M.L.A.s. I submit that no more unconvincing and absurd reply could be given by a government which claims to be autonomous, responsible and popular. Then the bubble of this concession of favour to M. L. A.s is pricked when you look at the treatment meted out to my honourable friends Sardar Hari Singh and Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma. The former was handcuffed on the plea that when told that he was under arrest he became intemperate while in the case of the latter we were told that he ran away to his house in order to avoid the service of the warrants for his arrest. These two instances are enough to show the absurdity of the claim that special favour was shown to M. L. A.s

[Pt. Shri Ram Sharma.]

With regard to the declaration that he has decided now to impose the severest punishment in order to eradicate crime in the Rohtak district I would say that this object cannot be achieved so long as you do not realize that your own activities are responsible for the increase in crime. You throw the blame for the general state of lawlessness on the Congress workers and claim the credit not only for all that is good in this province or the whole of India, but even for defending the independence of Poland, Finland and many other lands. I will confine myself to the state of affairs in Rohtak leaving it to other honourable members to expose the hollowness of his claims in respect of their districts.

Rohtak is one of those districts where according to the admission of the Premier himself crime has increased recently. Murders are committed there in a most scientific manner. No trace is left after the crime has been perpetrated. The presumption is that the murderers consult some lawyers beforehand who assure them that if murder is committed in a certain manner, they would be able to secure their release even in the High Court. That is why there has been a record number of murders in this district and yet some murderers have been arrested and hardly few hanged. Sometimes the dead bodies are burnt to ashes. Again, if five or six persons commit a murder, one of them offers himself for arrest and the others abscond away with the object of intimidating any one who would like to appear as a witness against the one that has been arrested. Such are the terrible ways in which murders are planned and the murderers go scot free.

To my mind the main cause of this lawlessness are the speeches of the Honourable Minister of Development, who preaches class hatred against non-agriculturists and especially against banias. In his very presence songs of hatred against the banias are sung by league bhajan parties while they play at harmonium and Dholak in a very melodious manner. He exhorts the zamindars to be ready for their fight against the non-agriculturists. It is therefore easy to imagine the mentality of zamindars who listen to the inflammatory speeches of the Honourable Minister of Development who preaches violence. Examples are not far to seek. I know an incident which took place in the Gurgaon district. A zamindar got hold of a police constable and shouted wildly. "Now the zamindar raj has come: we do not fear the police or anybody else." This perverted mentality has been directly created by the speeches of the Minister of Development. When songs of hatred are dinned into their ears day and night, it is not possible to expect them not to lose their reason. In fact the dacoits openly declare in a village which they visit that they have nothing to do with the zamindars; they have only to loot the banias, and the zamindars should not be afraid of them and risk their lives for non-agriculturists. Moreover, when the zamindars come to know that the dacoits will not plunder them and will only loot the banias, they thank their stars and do not bother themselves about what happens to the banias. That is why they do not risk their lives by attempting to save the banias against the dacoits. Non-agriculturists money-lenders are being systematically murdered in the Rohtak district. But now that the dacoits have tasted blood, they do not spare even the Jat money-lenders. A Jat

sahukar was murdered near Rohtak in the village Karontha. Again, in Ratangarh which is situated in the sub-division of Sonipat, dacoity was committed in the house of a Jat sahuakar. The dacoits have after tasting blood, forgotten the distinction between zamindars and non-zamindars and between different castes and creeds. I may here refer to some of the typical sentences which the Minister of Development uses in his speeches before the ignorant zamindars. Some of them are as follows:—

- (۱) کامریہی! ڈالے کتے میں  
(۲) جب لڑکیلی توہی دالے نہ رہے گاؤں میں اٹھیں تو دھکی مار کر دھر نکال دیو گے۔  
(۳) بٹکر جو ایک ایک کے ذمہ دل کر کے جاؤں گا خیر جو لے ہیں۔  
(۴) وہ جاٹ کا بیج نہیں ہے جو میری برائی سن کر برداشت کر سکتا ہے۔

I leave it to the House to judge the evil effect of these sentences on the illiterate and ignorant villagers. If the Honourable Sir Chhotu Ram were the only Minister to preach this hatred, one would not mind very much because it has become his second nature. But the pity is that the Premier himself encourages crime in the province by preaching class hatred. The dacoity which took place in Balochpur is an instance in the point. This dacoity took place at 12 o'clock in the broad daylight and continued till 5 p.m., and the people in Rohtak and Jhajjar came to know of it but the police of the Police Station Beri which was only 5 miles off could not become aware of it till the Chaukidar reported to them at 9 p.m., the next day. This shows the dutifulness of the local police. It is interesting to note that exactly at that very time the Minister of Development was delivering his speech in a public meeting at Bahadurgarh. This dacoity was being committed at a distance of 30 miles. (*Shaikh Sadiq Hassan*: They might have asked the dacoits to commit the crime.) You can well imagine the true state of affairs in the Rohtak district. I have no reason to believe that the condition of general administration might be better in other districts than it is in the Rohtak district. There is general lawlessness in the province. It is mostly due to the Honourable Minister of Development. He may be a diseased person. I would not talk much of him now. But the pity is that the Premier who should try to improve Sir Chhotu Ram has himself come under his evil influence. He recently went to Rohtak to perform the opening ceremony of the Cassal Hall in the Jat High School which is called after the name of the late Commander-in-Chief in India. I had also asked a question about this incident but a round about reply was given in the usual manner by the Government. In that speech the Premier observed—

میں نے بہونکے والے کتے کے ذمہ من رسی ڈال دی ہے۔ وہ کہتے ہاتھ میں  
ہے جب چاہو لگا آئے کہینچ لوگا اور اُنکا دم نکل جائیگا۔

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang** : Did Sir Sikandar Hyat-Khan say so ?  
I wonder.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma** : A report of this meeting was published in the "Jat Gazette" as well. You may see it there.

**Mr. Speaker :** The honourable member should not be personal. Impersonality is one of the fundamental principles, not only of advocacy but also of Parliamentary debates.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Sir, the Premier can refute the charges. Blame is often laid at our door and I am only replying to that.

**Mr. Speaker :** The honourable member should not state things which have not been proved or corroborated up till now.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** I am only quoting what Sir Sikander Hyat-Khan had said.

**Mr. Speaker :** Please do not be personal.

**Chaudhri Kartar Singh :** On a point of order. Is it tantamount to being personal if we quote in the House what was said by the Premier in his speech in a village?

**Mr. Speaker :** I do not think that is a point of order.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Sir, I am not casting aspersions on anybody.

**An honourable member :** On a point of order. My honourable friend has repeated the words alleged to have been spoken by the Honourable Premier. But may I know how it is indicated that they were meant for my honourable friends opposite?

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** I challenge the Honourable Premier and his protagonists to deny that these words, namely, 'I have put a noose round the neck of barking dogs and I would tighten it if they barked,' were not meant for Congressmen. I have no mind to dwell upon the matter at length. But the pity of it is that the Honourable Premier did not stop here. He further said that he warned the subordinate officers not to be intimidated by barking dogs. He administered a warning to them that he would give black marks in their personal files or would degrade them if they were influenced by them. To be brief the sum and substance of these instructions was to the effect that if the officers treated the Congressmen with fairness or behaved with them humanely, they would be severely dealt with. This is a glaring instance how the responsible Ministers of a government intimidate their subordinate officers and exhort them to do injustice to their political opponents.

Now I come to the conditions in Rohtak district where lawlessness is rampant. The responsibility for this wave of crime solely lies on the shoulders of the Government. In this connection I would suggest to the Honourable Premier that he should enquire from the Deputy Commissioners and Superintendents of Police who had been in charge of the district 10 years before the introduction of provincial autonomy, as to what had been the state of affairs in respect of law and order during their tenures of office in the district. I go a step further and ask the Honourable Ministers to go through the files of the last 15 years concerning the deplorable conditions obtaining in the Rohtak district. They would be surprised to read the remarks made by the previous district authorities. They would come to know of those persons who were responsible for the increase in crime in Rohtak but now consider

themselves to be the responsible and important members of the Government. I say that any officer who has worked in that district for 3 or 4 months, would in private tell you about the persons mainly connected with the crimes. He would also inform you how the perpetrators of crimes are being protected by those who now-a-days exhort the ignorant zamindars to do whatever they like as they are the rulers of the province. I may point out that this is a wrong statement that lawlessness is due to the speeches delivered by Congressmen.

**Mr. Speaker :** Some honourable members may rise to-morrow or this afternoon and urge the necessity of fixing the duration of speeches. If that is to be done at all, it should be done now.

**Rai Bahadur Mr. Mukand Lal Puri :** Not for the first speech. This is the first speech ; the time limit may be fixed for other speeches.

**Mr. Speaker :** Time limit, if at all, should be for all speeches. Should there be a time limit ?

(Voices : No time limit.)

**Lala Duni Chand :** As regards other speakers there should be time limit but not as regards the first speaker.

**Shaikh Sadiq Hassan :** There should be some time limit.

**Mr. Speaker :** I have no power and the House is not prepared to fix a time limit. So, the matter ends.

(At this stage the Honourable Premier entered the Chamber.)

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Well, Sir, it is a matter of gratification that the Honourable Premier has just come. It is he who is responsible for the maintenance of law and order in the province. Now I would like to bring this fact to his notice that the speeches made by him and the Honourable Minister for Development have strengthened the hands of the forces of crime in Rohtak district. I also want to point out to him as to how they have been responsible for creating lawlessness in that district. As you will remember, Sir, the present Government came into power on the 1st April, 1937. After five or six months of the new regime had elapsed an incident took place in Sonapat Sub-Division. In a fair of Jamna Bath held in village Menhdipur, two constables were beleaguered by the people. (Interruptions.) I would request the Honourable Premier to bear with me and hear the facts patiently. I was submitting that two constables were beaten in that fair. The police were informed but they did not turn up in time. When the police approached, there was none on the scene of occurrence. What did they do ? They arrested and challaned all the presidents, secretaries and other important political workers of the Congress Committees situated within a radius of five or six miles. And who were the witnesses called upon to tender evidence against them ? The teachers and students of the Jat High School, Sonapat. This case was instituted in a manner reminiscent of martial law days. The persons involved in the case were asked to put off their shoes and stand in the court bare-footed in the cold wintry days. They were harassed and all sorts of indignities were heaped upon them. I asked several questions on the floor of this House as to why the police had entangled these innocent persons. At last they were let off, as the



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police failed to make out a case against them. But a prosecution witness who was produced by the police was afterwards involved in a murder case. Such was the type of police witnesses in that false case against Congress workers.

Then let me mention the utter lawlessness experienced by the people during a procession. On October, 8, 1938, the Unionists arranged to take out a procession through the streets of Rohtak in honour of the Honourable Premier and the Honourable Minister for Development. They were seated on an elephant and the procession started with great pomp and show. On the previous evening a bhajan party made a round singing songs of a most objectionable and provocative nature. They sang that the time was not far off when the womenfolk of banias would be seen plying scythes in the fields of agriculturists. So the people apprehended mischief and they closed down their shops when the procession was passing through the bazars. As a matter of fact they observed hartal as a protest against the bellicose attitude of the supporters of the Unionists. But the latter inflicted a severe beating on the people of the town and looted the shops. It is a thousand pities that while the protagonists of the Unionists were committing such high-handedness the Honourable Ministers were quite unmindful of what was in front of their procession. They were marching on as if they had come to invade the city of Rohtak (*Laughter*). You will see, Sir, I am only giving instances to show how the Unionist Government or for the matter of that the Honourable Ministers try to establish a reign of terror in the province. As a matter of fact many people saw that the people were looted in broad daylight but the police authorities did not even move their little finger to put a stop to this state of affairs. I do not like to dilate on this point but I would state one more incident for the information of honourable members. Within the compound of the pandal where the meeting of the Zamindara League was to take place, there was a shop of a sweet-meat seller. But before the meeting started and the procession approached, the band of hooligans went to that shop and looted it and ate all the sweetmeats and beat the sweetmeat seller's servant so much that for seven or eight days he remained in hospital. His camp and all his utensils were looted by the *gundas*. But when I asked a question with regard to that matter I was informed that the allegation was baseless. In short this fact cannot be denied that when people gather together in tens of thousands in the district and the Honourable Premier and the Honourable Minister for Development are taken in procession the result is that people are incited and they indulge in open loot and hooliganism. But what do the police do? It simply goes on witnessing these scenes and does not budge an inch from their place to put a stop to this loot. This is not all. The corrupt and dishonest police officers instigate the looters still further, and a bit better officers like the then Deputy Commissioner run away from the spot.

Besides, I may point out that in the district of Rohtak lawlessness has taken the place of law and order. As a matter of fact the Congress workers and volunteers were brutally attacked in the broad daylight in the open meetings but nobody cared a fig for them. On the other hand the Unionists go with the badges of the Unionist party on their breasts and indulge in hooliganism but nobody prevents them from creating disturbance. The affairs

have assumed such proportions that for three months the Congressites were not allowed to hold any meeting at Asouda. But when this question was raised on the floor of the House the Honourable Premier replied that as the population of pro-Government zamindars was much in excess of those in favour of Congress in Asouda therefore Congress supporters had no right to hold a meeting on the common land. Thus indirectly he admitted that the *goondas* of the Unionist party were entitled to create disturbances in the meetings of the Congress people. At this I wrote a letter to Mahatma Gandhi asking his advice and pointing out to him what Sir Sikander Hyat-Khan, the Premier of the Punjab, had stated that as the number of Congress supporters was less than the Unionist party supporters in Asouda, they had no right to hold a meeting. The Mahatma replied that he did not think that anybody of the position of Sir Sikander Hyat-Khan could say this and asked me to send him the speech of Sir Sikander Hyat-Khan in which he had said this which I did. Then the Mahatma came to know that the Premier of the Punjab, who made much of the Congress oppression in the other provinces was himself acting in a manner which was contrary to all laws of fairness and equity. I then informed Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru that the Unionist Government in the Punjab was treating the Congressites in this way. He was surprised and he remarked whether responsible members of Government could go to such lengths. Now I may point out that it is a matter of coincidence that the leader of the hooligans in Asouda was one by name Chhotu. He is the very person who had already been punished by a court for dacoity, and he is as a matter of fact the tout of the pleader agent of the Unionist party at Rohtak. Such are the persons through whom my honourable friends instigate the zamindars. In this connection I may point out that many honourable members of the central legislature who in the beginning never believed that such things were happening in the province, came all the way from Delhi to Asouda conference on 19th February, 1939, and my friend Lala Duni Chand was also there and they saw with their own eyes the deeds of the Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram. In the beginning they could not bring themselves to believe that responsible Ministers of the Punjab Government could act like that. As a matter of fact they saw with their own eyes that at the place where the Deputy Commissioner was standing and many other officers were standing, the same people who two hours before had made murderous assaults on innocent Congress workers stood there with the flags of the Unionist party in their hands amongst the officers. Fancy the dare devilry of these people who three hours before beat the people mercilessly out of whom 35 were lying in the Bahadurgarh hospital, came there and stood amongst the officers. Now after seeing the procession of the Honourable Ministers and after witnessing the scenes at Asouda the people became certain that in the district of Rohtak lawlessness was the order of the day and the Unionist Government wanted it for their party purposes. As a matter of fact the people who created disturbances were made to believe that they would be granted remissions in land revenue and that they would be given squares of land. But I assured them that no such thing would happen. Even the Honourable Minister for Development went to Asouda. He was accompanied by his lieutenants and he delivered speeches encouraging such violent doings. I do not want to repeat them here. But I would only point out that the Honourable Premier stated the other day that the responsibility for the increase in crimes

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in the district lay on the members of the Opposition and that for two and half years he had been dealing very politely with them and that now he would take severe action. Let me point out that crime had not increased on account of us but on the other hand the speeches and instigations of the Honourable Ministers and the indifference rather complicity of the district authorities and the police was mainly responsible for it. Besides, there is another reason for the increase in crime in the Rohtak district and that is that the officials who are posted there are generally officiating and temporary people and if they prove to be the supporters of the Unionist party or at least make a show of it, they are kept there; otherwise, they are at once transferred. Such officers when they go there, remain always under the risk of incurring the displeasure of the ministry if they do not support the Unionist party. If any officer goes there who does not carry out the behests of the supporters of the Unionist party, he is threatened or at least is afraid that he would not be confirmed in his appointment. I asked certain questions with regard to this matter and I was told that all the officers from the Deputy Commissioner down below to the sub-inspector of police were mostly officiating and temporary people in the Rohtak district. It follows naturally that such officers cannot act independently and strongly. And this is another reason why crimes are increasing in that district. As a matter of fact the agents of the Unionist party go to such officers and threaten them that if they do not agree to their demands their cases would be reported to the Honourable Ministers. If in confidence these officers are asked, they would tell that they are treated like that. When I inquired from the late Deputy Commissioner that in the Rohtak district the courts were no longer independent and that the magistrates had to put up with the objectionable attitude and illegal demands of the agents of the Unionist party he replied, that what to speak of other magistrates even he was treated by them in the same manner, inasmuch as they go to him and threaten to approach the Honourable Ministers if he did not accede to their demands. I inquired from another magistrate as to what was his experience about the administration of the Punjab Government. He remarked that before 1st April, 1937, he felt that he was a servant of the Government but now he was the servant of an individual. I happened to see a third magistrate who also told me that he had to endure the improper behaviour in the court of a certain pleader, chief agent of the Unionist party. At present I am not prepared to disclose their names, but if the Honourable Premier takes me into his confidence I can give him information about the words used by those officials and their names as well. In short such are the state of affairs in that district.

Now so far as the police is concerned I may submit that it is very corrupt. One of the last superintendents of police at Rohtak amassed something like Rs. 1½ lakhs from that district. (*Hear hear from the Opposition benches.*) Another superintendent of police who was sent there was much afraid of the henchmen of this party. As a matter of fact he was completely under their influence. This is how he discharged his functions. When such is the state of affairs it is but natural that crimes should increase in that district and they are increasing. The officers are afraid of the agents of the Unionist party and nobody dares to do anything against

their will. A sub-inspector of police told me that affairs have assumed such a serious proportion that agents of the Unionist party go to him and offer him illegal gratifications and then they tell him if he wanted to take the money he could do so, but in any case crime they would certainly commit. In the presence of such hard facts it is but natural that such crimes increase in the district.

Again, Sir, it is admitted by the Government that lawlessness is the order of the day in Rohtak. Let me inform the House that this state of affairs is not due to political agitators, as the Government would have us believe, but it is on account of their own unjust and high-handed policy which is being pursued in that district and the intimidation implied in the remarks of the Honourable Premier. That I am speaking before you and that I am not behind the bar is a mere chance. Moreover, unfortunately, the Rohtak Police have now got a reporter who knows Urdu Short-hand and in his case the new-fangled instructions that are being given to other reporters for leaving space in between the notes cannot be given. Formerly my own speeches used to be reported by patwaris and police constables. I remember that in 1930 when a false case was instituted against me for delivering a speech, the reporter was asked by the Sub-Inspector to fabricate quite a different speech from the one that I had delivered. He has retired now and would bear me out in all that I have said. As a consequence of this fabrication I was convicted and was sent to jail.

We hoped, that these unlawful activities of the Government would end from the 1st April, 1937, but our hopes have been dashed to the ground. (*Interruptions.*) Mr. Speaker, may I know from the honourable members as to why they are getting excited? Formerly these illegal methods were adopted by the lower rank of police officials. Sometimes even the deputy superintendents took to these underhand means and very rarely did the superintendents stoop so low as that. But nowadays very highly placed persons issue instructions to the police to leave space in between the notes of speeches for making additions.

**Premier :** On a point of order. May I know to whom the honourable member is referring when he says that very highly placed persons issue those instructions? If he were more explicit in his statement the House would be in a better position to know what he means.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** It means nothing more or less than what I have said. Why does the Honourable Premier feel so perturbed? Is it a case of guilty conscience?

**Premier :** On a point of order, Sir. The honourable member has made grave insinuation.

**Mr. Speaker :** The insinuation, objected to, is not justified, specially when the case is pending in a court of law.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** But was that a point of order, Sir? I have not given way to the Honourable Premier?

**Khan Bahadur Nawab Muzaffar Khan :** When the honourable member is making such insinuations we have also the right to say that the reporter in question was bribed into saying what he is referring to.

**Mr. Speaker :** I stated at the very outset that no speaker should be personal, but unfortunately the honourable members do not observe the rules of Parliamentary practice. There is a limit and that limit is being exceeded. Tales are being told and special references are being made to a matter which is pending in the High Court. That is unfair and unparliamentary.

**Pandit Sri Ram Sharma :** Sir, I did not make any reference to any particular person. What I said was that these things happened in the past and are happening even now.

**Shaikh Sadiq Hassan :** Lies are spread. You are spreading lies.

**Chaudhri Kartar Singh :** Say that again if you have any courage.

**Shaikh Sadiq Hassan :** I will say it.

**Premier :** On a point of order. The honourable member has said that such illegalities were formerly indulged in by the subordinate officials, but now these things are being done by highly placed persons meaning thereby that the Ministers are doing so. This is clearly an insinuation in regard to the Honourable Ministers and is a very serious insinuation.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** No, I did not mention the Honourable Ministers.

**Premier :** The honourable member should repeat what he has said and should name the person whom he calls a highly placed person.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** I did not make any false allegation. Those who described my remarks as lies are themselves liars.

**Shaikh Sadiq Hassan :** You are a liar.

**Mr. Speaker :** Order please.

**Shaikh Sadiq Hassan :** Swine.

**Pandit Muni Lal Kalia :** Swine.

*(Up roar and cries of order, order.)*

**Mr. Speaker :** The honourable member has used the word "liar."

**Shaikh Sadiq Hassan :** And he has been telling lies about the Premier.

*(Cries of withdraw.)*

**Chaudhri Kartar Singh :** You are not a 'Thekedar' for the Premier *(Up roar).*

**Mr. Speaker :** The honourable members have exceeded all limits of propriety. *(Cries of withdraw.)*

**Shaikh Sadiq Hassan :** But there is one person who exceeded without provocation.

**Mr. Speaker :** Who is he ?

**Pandit Muni Lal Kalia :** If my friend is not that person then it must be I. If he is prepared to withdraw, I will also withdraw.

**Mr. Speaker :** The honourable member should withdraw.

**Pandit Muni Lal Kalia :** I withdraw it, but he should also withdraw..

**Mr. Speaker :** The honourable member should withdraw.

**Shaikh Sadiq Hassan :** I do not withdraw unless Pandit Shri Ram Sharma withdraws.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Let him withdraw first.

**Shaikh Sadiq Hassan :** I do not mind. I withdraw.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Now having dealt with this matter at some length and in an effective manner I need not say anything more than that the responsibility for the existence of a state of lawlessness in the province in general and in the district of Rohtak in particular lies with this Government, its ministers and responsible officers. Then I turn to civil liberties. Their main factors are freedom of speech and freedom of the Press. I can assert without fear of contradiction that the intensity of repression in this respect under the present Government cannot find a parallel in any country of the world. I need not take the time of the House in quoting examples because this contention has already been proved beyond the shadow of a doubt in the case of a Congressite newspaper the name of which the Honourable the Finance Minister must be very anxious to know. I refer, of course, to the *Haryana Tilak*. In a leading article in that newspaper it was shown by means of unmistakable instances that it is the desire of the present Ministry that the Rohtak district should remain in the grips of lawlessness and chaos. For this *bona fide* and legitimate criticisms three warnings were issued to the paper and then the Government demanded a security of Rs. 1,000 from the paper and of another Rs. 1,000 from the press in which it was printed. Now the proprietor of this paper was neither a capitalist nor a sycophant. He could not furnish a security of Rs. 2,000, nor had he the means to take up the case and move the High Court in the matter. Again he could not stoop to attain his object by flattery, and the result was that the publication of the paper had to be discontinued. Then this benign Government ordered the forfeiture of the press. The police went there to carry out the order but had to return empty handed because there was no press to be found. It was a very small press and the owner had thrown away everything.

After some time the *Haryana Tilak* appeared from Meerut in the United Provinces. At that our Government which was still smouldering with a feeling of revenge issued an order to its officers, and perhaps to the police also, that the *Haryana Tilak* should be treated as an unauthorised newspaper. Now I assert, Sir, that under the Government of India Act and the Press Act neither a minister nor the whole ministry nor yet the Governor has the power to declare a newspaper as unauthorised. According to law the matter has in the first instance to be referred to a magistrate and the proprietor has the right of appeal to the High Court. But the Government knew that even if a magistrate were made to declare the *Haryana Tilak* an unauthorised newspaper the High Court would set aside that order. Hence it resorted to this high-handed and unlawful method. Under the law a newspaper can be declared unauthorised only if it is published without the necessary declaration or it does not furnish the security if and when demanded. But no such question arose in this case because the declaration

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was duly made and no security had been demanded by the District Magistrate of Meerut. The Government, therefore, resorted to this shameful course of getting an arbitrary and illegal order issued by the Chief Secretary to the effect that the *Haryana Tilak* be treated as an unauthorised newspaper in the Punjab.

**Sardar Tara Singh :** On a point of order. I request that a time limit be fixed as many members want to speak.

**Mr. Speaker :** This question has been decided by the House in the negative.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Thus the Government has acted in this high-handed manner setting at naught all provisions of the law of the land. When some questions were asked the Parliamentary Secretary kept mum and his attitude was aptly described in your remarks, 'you cannot get milk out of a stone.' We asked whether the paper was declared as unauthorised or whether any security was demanded from it by the District Magistrate, of Meerut. But there was no reply. In fact there could be none. Now compare this high-handedness with the treatment meted out to the *Jat Gazette* of Sir Chhotu Ram. The circulation of this paper is no more than 1,000, two-thirds of which are supplied free to the people. Its monthly expenses are Rs. 200 only, but it gets three thousand rupees a year as payment in respect of advertisements from the debt conciliation boards. This sum amounts to  $1\frac{1}{2}$  times its expenditure. This is the difference between the treatments meted out to an independent paper and to the patently so-called popular paper of one of the so-called popular ministers of this so-called popular Government. The Honourable the Premier described this paper as very popular, but you can judge its popularity from the fact that two-thirds of its issues are distributed free of charge and the remainder is thrust on people against their will. Even the Government officials do not like it but they have to subscribe to it for fear of incurring the wrath of the party in power. For instance, an article was written against the tahsildar of Jhajjar for having the temerity to refuse to take this so-called popular paper though free of cost was being sent to him.

I have said enough about Rohtak as an instance with regard to the freedom of the press. It is evident that the Government is pleased with those papers which are working on the lines chalked out by the Government. I think you might be well aware that papers which are in the good books of the Government publish articles and photos in order to give prominence to the Honourable Ministers. The function of those papers is to believe everything said by us and to declare everything correct which the Government may give out. It is, therefore, clear that the Government is very much against those nationalist papers which protested against the hooliganism which took place at Asaudha at the instance of the Unionist party. I do agree with the Honourable Minister of Development when he condemns the Punjab press; but my reasons are different. The press is to be condemned for gradually coming under the undue influence of the Unionist Government and the party in power.

My next submission is in regard to local self-government. I submit that this department came into existence before the advent of even the old

legislature. This department being very old would have commanded the respect of one and all. But unfortunately it has fallen into disrepute and disgrace under the charge of the present Government. I will explain how far I am justified in saying so. Let me point out first of all that it was the Congress candidate who had been elected as the President of Faridabad Municipal Committee in the district of Gurgaon and similarly an elected member was elected in the Panipat Municipal Committee for presidentship. But at both the places this Government thrust official presidents. This is the treatment meted out to elected presidents. For instance, Rao Mangali Ram was asked by the Commissioner as to whether he would go on making speeches against the Government. He replied in the affirmative. For this reason, Sir, his name was not easily gazetted and the papers relating to the gazettement of his name were kept pending in the department of Local Self-Government for five months. But when the department found no way to get out of it the name of the elected president was gazetted. Now I place before you the instance of Rohtak Municipal Committee. The Congress won six out of the eight non-Muslim seats. The seventh candidate was also Congress-minded and he sought this election on an understanding. Only one Unionist was elected and soon he was involved in a murder case. He is still in jail. Most of the Muhammadan members are not Unionists. The Government feared that the Congress party would capture the municipal administration and that there was a likelihood of a Congress President being elected. So they adopted an underhand policy which was not consistent with fairness and justice. In order to suppress the voice of the Congress in the municipality the Government decided to increase nominations. It was said that the Government wanted to nominate one representative of the depressed classes. In reality there was not an iota of truth in making this excuse. The fact of the matter was that the Government wanted to suppress and curb the power of the Congress majority by increasing the strength of the nominated members in the Rohtak municipality. Then another trouble arose. There were four or five candidates from the depressed classes and one of them was selected by the Commissioner. He was of the opinion that he was the fittest person of all the candidates. But the defect which the candidate possessed according to the Government's opinion was that he did not have the yoke of slavery round his neck. (*Cheers from the Opposition.*) He was liberal-minded. And so the Government tried its level best to let him down. Absurd and silly suggestions were made by the Government to the Commissioner. The Punjab Government had been communicating with the Commissioner of the Ambala division for 8 months with the result that the papers of his nomination were kept pending and the name of commissioner's nominee was not allowed to be gazetted. The Commissioner, as a matter of fact, was in favour of another candidate and he tried to keep up his independent view in this matter and he was entitled by law to do whatever he thought fit. But the Government did not agree with him and asked him to communicate his choice to the Government before sending for the Gazette. When the matter came to such a pass the Commissioner told that candidate that he thought him the best and the fittest candidate but the trouble was that the Government was standing in his way. Sir, by citing this instance I want to point out that this is how deserving candidates are being discouraged by the Punjab Government and that even a senior I. C. S. officer is compelled to withdraw his decision because the



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Government do not want such and such a person. So far as other provinces are concerned, I may submit that nominations have been discarded. For instance, in the United Provinces, the Central Provinces and the Frontier no nomination is made. But the Government of our province which always indulge in tall talks and say that the Punjab leads other provinces, have increased the nominations. The reason is evident. The Punjab Government want to patronise their redoubtable henchmen who kiss their threshold and sell their conscience for material gains. I wish it had been made clear as to what sort of local self-government the Punjab is enjoying. Further, the Press is being demoralised, the papers are suppressed and I wonder if the Government is still proud of its good administration. In fact when we observe the present administration very minutely we come to this conclusion that it is nothing but general lawlessness. I must submit that the people are now wide awake and they can discriminate between good and bad. The Government, therefore, can no longer exploit the masses. They should make the most of the remaining one and a half years and should do away with this idea that they will remain at the helm of affairs for five thousand years more. They are deceiving themselves if they are building castles in the air like that. Take it from me that the Government cannot win laurels by hooliganism. The Government have exposed themselves. Strictly speaking the Unionist Government is a spent-up force and now they are making efforts to maintain their position. Before I resume my seat I want to make one more submission. As the Honourable Minister for Development is very fond of quoting facts and figures relating to election campaigns I would request him to hold the district board election at Rohtak and see whether the Congress sweeps the poles or the Government defeats the Congress. Nobody can deny facts. I wonder why the Honourable Minister for Development is losing sight of hard facts. He should see the result of the Karnal District Board election where six Congress candidates have turned out successful. *(A voice from the Government benches : Only one.)* My honourable friend says only one. Five or six candidates were successful ; Chaudhri Ghulam Hussain, Chaudhri Yahaya Khan and the names of other three candidates I do not remember. Now let me take Hissar for instance. Seven Congressmen came unopposed and the Government found no way to face the music and hence postponed the election under the plea of cholera. In Gurgaon also a Congressman has defeated the Unionist. Then it has been said by the Government that they are more successful in the countryside and in order to prove it they have cited the instance of Haryana. My submission is that when the honourable members occupying the Ministerial benches were not born the zaildars and sufedposhes used to become the representatives in district boards. Even to-day the same practice is in vogue. I ask, what extraordinary success have they achieved ? *(Laughter from the Opposition.)*

If the Honourable Minister for Development leaving aside the prejudice and bias takes into consideration the successes that we have achieved in the districts of Karnal, Hissar, Ambala and Gurgaon he will be convinced that our strength is increasing in that part of the province. Before I close my remarks I would submit to the Honourable Minister for Development through you, Sir, that empty words of tradition cannot win battles and that it is something else that counts.

**Mr. Speaker :** Demand under consideration, motion moved—  
That the demand be reduced by Rs. 100.

**Minister for Development** (The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhota Ram) (Urdu) : Sir, I have no official concern with the department which is being discussed to-day but I deem it necessary to give a proper reply to the speech just made by my honourable friend Pandit Shri Ram Sharma. The reason for doing so is that the honourable member, while speaking on the cut motion made a reference to my and the Honourable Premier's speeches made in the Rohtak district (*Interruptions*). The mover of the cut motion complained that the Honourable Premier in the course of his speeches outside the House occasionally uses improper and provocative words and that I do nothing but abuse my opponents in a most unbecoming language. The honourable mover has also attributed the lawlessness in the district of Rohtak to the speeches made by me and the Honourable Premier there. I am afraid the intention of the honourable mover is to mislead the honourable members of this House into a belief or suspicion that the present lawlessness is the result of those speeches which we, I mean the Honourable Premier and myself, have been delivering in our various party meetings. I beg to repudiate the stupid or malicious charge levelled against us. I must submit that the allegation is devoid of any scintilla of truth. Then another member of the Opposition, Lala Duni Chand, has also accused the poor Minister for Development of creating lawlessness in many districts of the province by his irresponsible speeches. I need hardly say that there are many causes of the present lawlessness. It is a pity that the time at my disposal is short. Otherwise I would have dwelt comprehensively on this point. However, I have no hesitation in saying that if speeches are to be accepted as the sole and exclusive cause of the increase in violent crimes then the responsibility for the increase must lie at the door of the Opposition. A Minister cannot address public gatherings frequently, but the Congress workers are holding weekly meetings in the district of Rohtak. It is the Congress then, not the Ministry which is responsible for the outburst of lawlessness in the country side. (*Interruptions*.) Please do not interrupt my speech. You must listen to me dispassionately.

The Opposition has hurled another charge at us. It has been said that the workers of the Unionist party and the Zamindara League have, by their objectionable speeches, created bitterness between agricultural and non-agricultural classes of the province. This mutual bitterness has been further claimed to be the immediate cause of an increase in the number of dacoities. What a malicious charge ! If my honourable friend's allegation had been well founded surely dacoities and murders would have affected only non-agriculturists. But this is not what has happened. My friend, while relating instances, has mentioned a case of a dacoity committed in the house of a Jat at Rattangarh and another case of murder where the victim was a Jat of Karontha. These instances show that the increase in the number of dacoities is not due to the alleged enmity between agriculturists and non-agriculturists. Its cause must be found somewhere else. The truth is that those who have money will be the victims of dacoities and robberies. This fundamental truth does not admit of any distinction between agriculturists and non-agriculturists. Cruel and callous money-lender whether agriculturist or non-agriculturist is occasionally killed by his debtors. I

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wish to know from my honourable friends over there as to how many non-agriculturists have been murdered by agriculturists. If my honourable friends sitting opposite make a careful and impartial inquiry they will find that recently in all cases of murder the victims belonged to the Unionist party. In the face of these events it is certainly a distortion of facts to say that murders were committed at the incitement caused by the speeches of the members of the Unionist party. If my friend, Pandit Shri Ram Sharma, had said similar things outside this Chamber he would have been in the clutches of law by now. He has showered a perfect rain of abuse against us in his long speech. We have kept quiet and refrained even from raising a point of order, because we do not want to waste the time of the House. But now that I have replied to two of his complaints I may as well deal with some of the rest.

My honourable friend over there has narrated the incident of a meeting of the Zamindara League held at Rohtak. He says that obviously in consequence of the speech of a Minister delivered at this meeting a shop was looted in the vicinity. Let me disillusion my friends in the House that the said shop belonged to a man of our Zamindara League.

I must bring another fact to the notice of my friends sitting on the opposite benches. This might help them to understand the tactics of Rohtak Congressmen. Mrs. Sarojani Naidu was invited to speak at a Congress meeting at Rohtak. She found that the local Congress Committee had insisted upon holding their meeting just opposite the site which was long before selected by the Zamindara League for their meeting and on the same day as the Zamindara League was holding a meeting in honour of the Premier's visit. The local Congress members were obstinate and would not listen to any argument. The situation became very tense and the local officers had no course open but to refuse to give permission to the Congress to hold their meeting on the disputed site. As soon as Mrs. Sarojani Naidu was apprised of these facts she made a public declaration that the attitude adopted by the Congressmen was not in conformity with the high principles of the Indian National Congress and as a mark of her protest against these tactics she left the meeting without finishing her speech. (*Cheers.*)

Then, my friend referred to the well-known incident at Asoudha where, he said, a Congress meeting was prevented in a high-handed manner. This is not an honest version of facts. Let me give a true genesis of this incident. There had been a death in the village. When the residents of that village came to know that the Congress wanted to hold a meeting in that village, they brought this matter before the local panchayat. Townspeople probably do not know that it is entirely opposed to normal rural traditions to hold a meeting during the period of mourning. The panchayat, therefore, decided that the proposed meeting should not take place. When Pandit Shri Ram Sharma arrived with his proteges from Rohtak and learnt of this decision he was deeply offended. He shouted that whatever the decision of the panchayat the meeting must take place on that very day and at that very site. A villager told the Panditji that a man had died recently in the village and therefore it was only proper to postpone the meeting. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma did not accede to this legitimate demand and insisted upon holding the meeting. He also observed that the Congress had spent Rs. 25 on arrangements incidental to the meeting and he was not going to suffer the

loss of the money. The villager offered on behalf of the village that if the meeting was postponed to another date Panditji would be received with honour, collections would be made which would more than cover this amount and the Congress Committee would be allowed to enrol members. The redoubtable Pandit would not yield and held out a threat that if anybody ventured to stand in the way the village would be "reduced to ruins." This threat put up the back of the inhabitants of the village who refused point blank to allow the meeting. Several attempts were made to hold a meeting at Asoudha, but they were frustrated. Ultimately an amicable settlement was arrived at with bigger Congress leaders from outside allowing a meeting to be held on condition that Pandit Shri Ram Sharma would not be allowed to attend that meeting, because the elders of the village declared that Pandit Shri Ram Sharma was responsible for the whole mischief. The Pandit knows that the meeting was held in spite of his protests against this condition and that he was not allowed to attend that meeting. (*Cheers.*)

I may also inform the House that Chaudhri Baldev Singh who was the President of the District Congress Committee of Rohtak for two years and a member of the Congress for the last 20 years had now resigned from Presidentship and left the organisation for good. He stated at a public meeting that he had been fed up with the underhand methods adopted by the Congress in general and at Asoudha in particular. He has, he says, been obliged to leave the Congress on account of their anti-zamindara activities and their defiance in practice of the principles of truth and non-violence which they preach in the abstract. He says :

”میری زندگی آج کھل رہی ہے۔ تمام کی اچھٹاچھٹ سے بیس برس پہلے کھل گئی تھی۔“

My honourable friend Pandit Shri Ram Sharma often asserts that the Government is out to crush the ever increasing influence of the Congress in the Rohtak district. But may I point out to him that on account of the misdeeds of Congressmen the influence of the Congress is definitely on the wane and the Government does not bother about the matter? The House will be interested to know that Pandit Shri Ram Sharma himself contested the recent municipal election at Rohtak and far from sweeping the polls, he had his security forfeited. (*Cheers.*) This is the influence which he commands in the *ilaga* and yet he has the audacity to indulge in tall talk about the popularity of the Congress in Rohtak. If he has still any doubt, let him resign his seat in the Assembly and seek fresh election. It will serve him as an eye-opener. It was by a sheer accident that two Mahajans happened to oppose each other in the last general elections and my honourable friend succeeded in consequence of that friction between the two capitalists. Otherwise there were no prospects of his success even then. It was merely a case of ”بلی کے ہانکے چھینکا تو؟“ as they say in Hindustani, a rare stroke of luck, a mere fluke and no more.

Further, my honourable friend Pandit Shri Ram Sharma had quoted the opinions of some magistrates and sub-inspectors and head constables of police in order to condemn the Unionist Government. He has not mentioned any names. So his allegations cannot be put to the test. One wonders how Congressites in the Punjab violate the principles which they preach.

[Minister for Development.]

I had thought that true Congressites would not stoop so low as to seek interviews with ordinary servants of the Crown like magistrates, tahsildars, thanedars and head constables. I had an impression that they considered it below their dignity to do so. I definitely doubt that there are any magistrates who would care to take men like Mr. Sharma into their confidence and become so frank in their expression of views against the Government which they serve. If there were any references to specific individuals one could test the veracity of such allegations. But who would believe such wild and fantastic stories? Any number of them might be concocted by any person. If there could possibly be three such magistrates, the House can well judge what kind of persons they would be. I for one would not give any credence to such reckless allegations for the simple reason that they cannot be put to the proof.

Again, my learned friend had the temerity to suggest that we had issued instructions to the police reporters to implicate Pandit Shri Ram Sharma somehow or other by distorting his speeches. What should I say against this utterly baseless charge? Suffice it to say that Pandit Shri Ram Sharma is of the count in the eyes of the Government. Thanks to the discreditable record of local men even the big guns of the Congress, like Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru and Mrs. Naidu were not able to produce any tangible impression in the Rohtak district. Who is Pandit Shri Ram Sharma? The rock of the solidarity of Rohtak Jats has already wrecked many a big vessel of the Congress. Several socialists and terrorists have tried their hard in the district of Rohtak and received definite rebuffs there. The lamb of Pandit Shri Ram Sharma dare not face the lion of the Rohtak Jat.

It is really strange that Pandit Shri Ram Sharma should have the impudence to talk of the great influence and popularity of the Congress among the masses of this province, in spite of the complete failure of the Congress in all recent district board elections. Only a single seat was successfully contested by a Congressman in Gurgaon and the seat was one for which no Unionist was standing. Otherwise all other seats were captured by the Unionists, and the Congress was completely routed. Three or four Congressmen had their security forfeited. Not a few refused to stand on the Congress ticket while many others gave up the Congress ticket and applied for the Unionist ticket. This is the solid truth. Let the learned Pandit indulge in any amount of futile talk in this House; that would not change facts. The district board elections of Rohtak are yet to take place. I would invite Pandit Shri Ram Sharma to prepare for that coming fight. May I also remind him what happened to the Congress in the Karnal elections where Congress leaders from Lahore had gone to make a search for candidates for the Congress ticket? Is it not a fact that no person came forward to accept the Congress ticket, with the exception of one Rajput? Even his success was due to the fact that he was a Rajput and the Rajput population had a great preponderance in the area. I challenge the Congress to put up non-agriculturist candidate from any rural constituency in the districts of Rohtak, Karnal and Gurgaon and see if he can succeed.

Sir, the abusive language which my Congress friends use on the platforms is too indecent and filthy to quote here. They know no restraint or forbearance. They fail miserably to observe non-violence in thought or word.

They observe non-violence in action, because they lack physical courage and not because they have any respect for non-violence. Thank God, they are incapable of violence in that respect. The only form of violence that is open to them, is violence in thought and violence in word, and in this respect they have no equal. One example will do. A meeting was held at a place in the Karnal district and a police sub-inspector happened to be on duty there. One of the Congress workers got up and began to hurl abuse at the sub-inspector, and challenged him to do whatever he could. The long arm of the law had to be moved and the worker in question was prosecuted. At this stage he began to whine and beg for pardon. But who would pardon such a fellow? He said: "Please excuse me this time, I will go out of the Punjab." Incidentally I may make it clear that he did not belong to this province. One really feels ashamed even in referring to such indecent things about the Punjab Congress. It leaves one aghast to find that the greatest political organisation of the country has sunk so low in the Punjab.

My honourable friends over there think that Congress is their monopoly. They are sadly mistaken in this idea. It is an all-India organisation whose membership is open to all communities. Its basic principles are undoubtedly laudable. If they are strictly adhered to, I am sure, my honourable friend would never stoop so low as to use foul language. However, I cannot help saying that my friends of the Punjab Congress have by their conduct forced me to come to the conclusion that there is a world of difference between their professions and actions. The proverb *ہم نے دیکھا ہے اور دکھائے ہیں* aptly applies to them (*hear, hear*). That is, the Punjab Congress is like an elephant which possesses two sets of teeth, one to show and the other to eat.

In fact one feels distressed to find that this great organisation is being brought into disrepute by the peurile actions and low tactics of some of its representatives.

Then my honourable friend over there remarked that a dacoity was committed at a certain fair. But he had the audacity to say that the speeches made by myself and the Honourable Premier at the Zamindara League Conference held at Sonapat two days before this fair were responsible for this deplorable occurrence. This is indeed a disgraceful insinuation and I regret to find that the floor of the House should be selected for such insinuations. If he had uttered these words outside the House, he would have been hauled up. But knowing that he was protected in this august House from the hold of the law he took an unworthy advantage of this protection to indulge in this malicious talk. Now, I should state facts. My friends of the Congress held a meeting at a place separated by a low mud partition two or three feet high from the premises of the Zamindara League Conference. They are fully aware of the attendance at both the conferences. The representatives of the newspapers who were present there would bear me out that the mammoth meeting of the Zamindara League was attended by no less than lakh of people while the attendance at the *چھوٹی* (contemptibly small) meeting of the Congress was ridiculously thin.

(*Laughter.*) My honourable friend cannot gainsay the fact that Pandit Neki Ram Sharma rebuked the Congress workers for holding that meeting simultaneously with the Zamindara League Conference and thereby bringing the fair name of the Congress into disrepute. The initial intention of the

[Minister for Development.]

Congressmen in holding that meeting was to create a diversion and, if possible, to demonstrate their hold on the people. But they miserably failed to achieve their object. They also wanted to create dissensions among the zamindars so that the latter might fritter their energies in internecine disputes and wranglings while they should grind their own axe. But why go far? Chaudhri Baldev Singh's recent statement presents a complete exposure of the low mentality of Congress workers. The Chaudhri has stated that he left the Congress field in disgust because he found that the members tried to create divisions among classes and communities with a view to seizing power. This shows which way my honourable friends are drifting. They behave in a petty and mean manner which does not become members belonging to a great organisation like the Congress. I cannot help saying that the cat is out of the bag. The real intentions of the Congressmen have now been unmasked.

Besides, my honourable friend remarked that the Commissioner had told him that the Government did not permit him to nominate to a municipality a person of his own choice. It is a pity that the Commissioner is not here categorically to deny this baseless charge. Again why should a Commissioner complain before a person like my honourable friend over there? (*Laughter.*) It really surpasses my comprehension. The fact is that the Government issued instructions to the Commissioner that while making nominations he should allot one seat to a member of the Scheduled Castes with a view to safeguarding their interests. That is all. Government never put any limitations on his discretion with regard to the selection of a suitable individual. All that was impressed upon him was that the nomination of a Harijan member was essential. This is why a Harijan has now been nominated to the municipality. Government have no ulterior motive beyond safeguarding the interests of Harijans. It is so uncharitable on the part of my honourable friend to impute motives.

One word more and I have done. My honourable friends have more often than not charged the Unionist Party with having developed a slavish mentality. The fact is that they themselves are suffering from this malady and judge others by their own standard. In order to serve their own ends they flatter the sub-inspectors of police, the tahsildars, the deputy commissioners and others. They play a double game. When they are not on good terms with an officer they ask questions in the Assembly so that an enquiry may be instituted to harass him. But when they have private ends to serve they are prepared to lick the shoes of an officer. They pose to be independent even to a morbid extent but for selfish purposes they go to the extent of supplicating all officers high and low.

In the end let me repeat with the fullest confidence that whatever their tactics, my Congress friends cannot succeed in getting the upper hand in Rohtak. With these words I close my remarks.

**Shaikh Sadiq Hassan** (Amritsar City, Muhammadan, Urban) (*Urdu*): Sir, the Honourable Premier has always stood for amity and reconciliation among all the communities and the political parties in the province. He has more often than not appealed to them that all have equal claims over the Punjab. They should, therefore, act in perfect unison and work

for the good and welfare of the province together. But it is a matter of regret that his appeal has invariably fallen flat on my honourable friends opposite. They have levelled a baseless charge against the Honourable Premier that he has been guilty of using indecent words in his speeches against his political opponents. I for one fail to understand that a cool-headed person like the Honourable Premier could ever use them. But so far as my honourable friends are concerned the cat is out of the bag. They themselves do not fight shy of indulging in vilification of the Government. I may point out that it is easy to use abusive language in answer to vituperations, but I consider it beneath my dignity to do so. Then my honourable friends opposite are always out to pick holes in everything but they would never speak well of even admittedly good things and yet they call themselves as the torch bearers of Indian culture. There is a saying in Persian

عیش بگفتی هنرش نیز ؟

It means that if you find fault with a thing, it becomes of you to state its good points also. But this is what my honourable friends feel averse to do. In fact they have developed a slavish mentality of criticising the Government day in and day out for things done by Government in good faith and in the best interests of the province. If I speak highly of Government, I am sure, I will not have the slightest hesitation in criticising it where it has fallen short of our expectations. In the first place I may point out with some pride that the present Government is an ideal Government. It represents all the communities in the province. This is a phenomena which is not to be witnessed in other provinces. (*An honourable member* : Question.) My honourable friend questions my statement. Has he the courage to hear as to what has been taking place in the Congress governed provinces ?

Sir, I may point out that before the present Government assumed office the conditions of the zamindars, who form 90 per cent population of the Punjab, was very bad. Not to speak of selling the land of zamindars, sometimes they were even forced to mortgage or sell their daughters in order to pay up their debts. Such was their miserable plight when the present Government assumed office. But the same Government have rid the poor zamindars of the curse of indebtedness by enacting golden Bills. They have, in fact practically freed them from paying interest which amounted to Rs. 25 crores per annum. Not only they provided the zamindars this relief but they have taken in hand many irrigation projects, as for example the Haveli Project and the Thal Project. They have already completed the former by an expenditure of 4½ crores of rupees. Now they have started work on the Thal Project. When this project materializes it will provide water to a very large area. Besides, the Government have granted remission to the extent of Rs. 75 lakhs in abiana and similarly they have remitted land revenue as well, which I am sure will certainly benefit the zamindars. The Agriculture Department of the Punjab is also doing very good work and I can say without any fear of contradiction that its parallel cannot be found in any other province. Then the Government have established veterinary hospitals for animals. Besides, the Relief of Indebtedness (Amending) Bill which has been introduced in this House by the Government would provide relief both to rural and urban debtors. Further I may point out that in olden times there was a panchayat system in India and the people



[Sh. Sadiq Hassan.]

took pride in this institution. But latterly this system fell into abeyance and now this system has again been revived by the enactment of the Panchayat Act. There is another Bill, I mean the Primary Education Bill, which is also before the House and when it is enacted into law it will go a long way in driving out illiteracy from our province.

Many a time it has been pointed out on the floor of the House that the Honourable Sir Chaudhri Chhotu Ram has no sympathy for the urban people. But let me point out that he has done so much work for the encouragement of which even Sir Gokul Chand Narang, who at present is not in the House, could not do. In the face of these facts, how does it lie in the mouth of my honourable friends to say that he is the declared enemy of the urban people when he has done so much for the encouragement of industry in the province which comparatively will benefit the urban people more than the rural people? The fact of the matter is that the Industries Department is making progress all round. Industrial schools have been opened in the province to teach industries to the people. A stores purchase department has been set up. Now all the requirements of the Punjab would be purchased through this department. I may add that so far the Punjab Government have purchased most of the things from outside the province, but now we hope that articles worth one crore of rupees would be purchased from within the Punjab. Besides, an Industries Research Fund has been started and also the Government is helping the industrialists to start industries in the province. Again 10 or 12 demonstration parties have been appointed which tour the province and give practical education to the rural people about industries. There is no doubt that the Industries Department has paid attention to all kinds of industries, as for example, spinning, weaving and dying, etc. As a matter of fact the Government have not neglected any branch of industry and it has been their endeavour to promote the cause of industry in this Province.

After alluding to these achievements of the Government I wish to draw the attention of Government to one very important fact to which so far they have not paid any attention. That is the question of unemployment. In this connection I may point out that Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram has more than once stated on the floor of the House that he wanted to levy taxes to the tune of six crores of rupees on the rich urban people. I ask him when he will redeem his pledge. Why does he not enact a law and levy this tax? (*Hear, hear.*) My submission is that by levying taxes to the tune of 5 or 6 crores of rupees we can better the condition of the poor people of both urban and rural areas. I think there can be no better proposal than this one. My honourable friends opposite in season and out of season declare on the floor of the House that the expenses of the Government have outrun their revenues. But I fail to understand why they do not welcome such a proposal by which the revenues of the province can be increased. I would therefore advise them to support the proposal of the Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram so that money so realized should be spent on the welfare of the poor people. There is no gainsaying the fact that unemployment has increased to a very large extent. This is not a question of educated or uneducated or

rural or of urban people. The main reason for this increasing unemployment is that the population of the Punjab is increasing at a very rapid rate. At present the population of the Punjab is 255 lakhs, and within the next ten years it will assume alarming proportion. It is a matter of great regret that although the population has increased at such a rapid rate the amount of culturable land cannot increase in the same progression. I think there is only one remedy for this increasing population and that is that great encouragement should be given to industries in this province. I think the present Government by enacting the agrarian Bills have given a death blow to the blood-sucking money-lenders. One result of this legislation will be that the money would be directed towards industries. Now the money lenders who used to lend money to the zamindars would instead of lending to them any more invest it in industries. In fact that money is now free. Now it behoves the Government to float a loan of Rs. 10 crores for encouragement of industry in this province and they should set up different kinds of factories in the province. Though many kinds of factories have been opened in the Punjab still there are so many things which we import from abroad. For that I would suggest that the Government should send technical experts to, say for example, Japan who should learn as to how artificial silk, small machines, etc., are manufactured. After learning industries these people will come here and start industries. If the Government were to consider this matter in this way and were to take the development of industries in its own hands the problem of unemployment would be solved in no time.

Then the question arises, wherefrom is the Government to get funds for such development and how will the interest on that amount be paid? I beg to submit that the money market is cheap in these days and the Government can very easily float a loan at 3 or 4 per cent per annum. The interest accruing on this sum will be paid from the earnings of the industries that will be started. A Government-owned industry is sure to make a profit, let us say a ten per cent profit, and besides earning a profit the Government will be able to remove unemployment. There are other schemes such as those of housing and road construction which they can undertake and give employment to young men and women who are dying of starvation.

Sir, as you are consulting your watch time and again, I would not take any more time of the House.

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

3 P. M.

Sir, in discussing this motion I would not indulge in any personal recrimination nor shall I compare the strength of the Unionist party with the Congress nor pay compliments or the reverse of compliments so far as the party in power and the party in Opposition are concerned. I shall try to confine my remarks in as condensed a form as possible and shall try to put them in a general way. The first thing that would strike any student of the Punjab conditions would be that the administration of the Punjab right from the top to the bottom is one-sided. Starting with the constitution of the Assembly and coming down to the humblest services one would find with very few exceptions that the whole administration is predominantly one-sided. When I say 'one-sided,' I am not referring to religious divisions. In the Punjab it would interest student

[Dr. Sir. Gokul Chand Narang.]

from outside the Punjab, the cleavage is now not so much on religious and communal lines as ordinarily understood but a new form of cleavage has been introduced in this province. It is this, whereas the constitution is based on communal representation in the sense that various religious communities are represented in the legislature, the practical constitution of the legislature in this province has assumed an entirely different form. The distribution of seats in the Assembly as is well known has proceeded, in addition to that communal distinction and discrimination, on urban and rural divisions. In the Punjab the urban population is about 10 per cent of the total population and therefore it has been provided in the constitution that the seats in the Assembly assigned to the urban population should be about 10 per cent of the total number of seats. Then again another line of cleavage has sprung up in the Punjab during the last three years, at least during the last three years it has come into greater prominence and that is this, that whereas previous distinction was firstly religious and secondly urban and rural, a third distinction which has now over-shadowed the other two kinds of distinction is the one between zamindars and non-zamindars and strangely enough, as you know in the Punjab the zamindar is a born zamindar and not necessarily one who is engaged in the occupation of agriculture. We have here hereditary zamindars, hereditary land-holders so to say. It is not necessary that they should own even one acre of land or even an inch of land and yet if they are born in certain castes they are zamindars and certain other people who are not born in those castes are not zamindars or agriculturists although they may hold or till hundreds of acres of land. This is one great distinction. That distinction in practice leads to this. As you know, the born agriculturists who are called statutory agriculturists in this province, have the right of acquiring more land, any amount of land, in spite of the fact that they may already be very big landlords, while those who are not statutory agriculturists are debarred from acquiring land even if they have no land at all and are in a position to purchase land and may require it for purposes of cultivation with their own hands. This is one thing.

Then as we come to the constitution of the Government itself, we find that out of the six ministers in this province, five are statutory agriculturists, although not one of them, so far as I can see, has ever touched a plough except by chance or in any case, has never been forced to earn his livelihood by cultivation or by ploughing the land. Some of them are big landlords. Some are lawyers and not one of them is a person who has ever followed agriculture as his occupation. There is only one minister out of the six who is not an agriculturist. He has just walked out of the chamber. I was not going to say anything against him and I assure him that my feelings towards him are those of compassion and in any case of no malice or hatred, so that he need not have feared anything.

I consider and I am speaking impersonally again, even if he was somebody else, some X, Y, Z, I would say that his position in the Cabinet is extremely pitiable. He has absolutely no voice against five other ministers and his position is simply that of one who at best may be described as an expert. There was a time when he was supposed to be the representative of the Hindu non-agriculturist classes or Hindu urban population of this province, but owing to certain circumstances which I need not repeat here,

he has been deserted by his own followers so far as the non-agriculturists are concerned. They found that certain laws were passed in this province in spite of his presence in the Cabinet and he was either unable to prevent those laws being passed or was totally indifferent to the interests of the very class which he was supposed to represent, in the Cabinet. Therefore finding that either he was helpless and therefore did not deserve any support or that he was callous and totally indifferent to the interests of the classes which he was expected to represent, the non-agriculturists deserted him and he sits there now in solitary glory as representing himself. I understand, and you may have also come to know, that in order to meet this strange and unhappy position he is trying to assume the role of an expert and it has been said that he is there not as the representative of any class or community but as an economic expert, without whom it is presumed the Punjab ministry is incapable of framing a budget or making a budget speech.

**Khan Sahib Chaudhri Sahib Dad Khan :** On a point of order. May I ask the honourable member whether no agrarian legislation was made during his tenure of office as a minister ?

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

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** That is the position of the Cabinet of this province and that also shows that in the Cabinet there is practically no representation of the urban classes or non-agriculturist classes for reasons which I have just given. As the Finance Minister is here, I may repeat one sentence for his benefit so that it may not be said that I said anything uncomplimentary in his absence. I would simply repeat that he is there, as we understand that he is now giving it out, as an expert and not as a representative of any particular community or class so that it goes without saying that so far as the urban population and the non-agriculturists of this province are concerned, they have no representation whatsoever in the Cabinet.

Then, Sir, coming to the legislative part of the Government, if I may say so, you know that the Speaker is also a zamindar, we are proud of you personally but the fact remains that you are a zamindar and so is your Deputy Speaker. This in fact has been the usual practice almost ever since the Punjab Legislature had elected Speakers. I need not emphasize that. I am only mentioning this that so far as one class of the people of the Punjab is concerned, it is totally unrepresented in the departments which matter and in whose hands the welfare of the province is entrusted. Then, Sir, as we come down we find that so far as the activities of the Cabinet are concerned, they are also all one-sided. Now it has been said and said with a great flourish of eloquence in the countryside that it is the zamindars who now rule the Punjab and right from the Prime Minister down to every member of the Unionist Party, I may say it without meaning any disrespect, it is proclaimed from house-tops that the zamindars rule the Punjab. The Prime Minister was pleased to say the other day, I think it was last week or 8 or 10 days ago, that the ministers were nothing but the agents of the zamindars sitting at Lahore to anticipate and carry out their wishes. No minister has ever had the courtesy even to say that they are holding this power in the interests of and for the benefit of all classes of the Punjab. Instead of giving out that they are there in order to help and guide and protect all

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classes of the people in the province, they take pride in repeating time after time that they are zamindars and they are the agents of the zamindars, that this is a zamindara Government and the zamindars have after all come to their own. I do not mind this but the fact is that one half of the population of the province which consists of non-agriculturists have come to believe that they have nobody to whom they can look up to for guidance or protection. And the conviction is daily growing in their minds that the Punjab Government exists only for one class of people in this province and not for all classes of people. I sometimes wonder what would happen if the Government were composed entirely of Muslims and the ministers were to go out and say "brother Muslims, now the Government consists entirely of Muslims it is Muslim Raj now" or supposing in Madras or the Central Provinces ministers were to go out and say, "it is Hindu Raj now and we shall anticipate and carry out the wishes of the Hindus." There may be Hindu Government but it would be most obnoxious on the part of the Hindu government to say to the people that are assembled in their thousands from countryside that this is a Hindu government and they are Hindu ministers and they are there to anticipate and carry out their wishes. How would the Muslims feel? And if the Muslims on the other hand were to go out and say "We are Muslims and the Government is Muslim and we are the agents of the Muslims and we are there to anticipate and carry out the wishes of the Muslims," how would the Hindus feel? I consider that there is absolutely no difference of any kind between the one thing and the other. If the zamindar ministers go out and tell the people "we are your servants, we are your agents, we have done so much for the zamindars and we will do so much for the zamindars and we do this and we do that," the effect on the minds of the non-zamindars can very well be imagined. They not only feel like step children, but as if they do not have even a step-mother to look after them. This is the position to which the Punjab has been reduced during the last three years. Then again in addition to these announcements and proclamations which are made practically all over the province, the achievements of this ministry, the actual deeds of this ministry are all entirely one-sided. During the last three years this ministry has passed a series of Bills which have now become laws and some of them have been enforced. All these laws have been entirely one-sided. We had first the Registration of Money-lenders Bill which has become law under which, as you know, all the money-lenders have to register themselves and take out a licence, for, even their pending suits and pending applications for execution of their decrees cannot proceed unless they get themselves registered and take out a licence and that licence has to be taken out by them every year and on payment of a prescribed fee. Then again, there is another Act passed under which the mortgagees who took out mortgages in this province before 1901 have practically all been dispossessed and all these lands have been taken away from them either without compensation or on compensation which practically amounts to nil. This has happened so far as the non-agriculturists are concerned. It might be said that no distinction is made between agriculturist mortgagees and non-agriculturist mortgagees before 1901. But a little intimate knowledge of the laws of the Punjab would make the position clear that it is the non-agriculturist who was aimed at when this law was passed. Before 1901 there was no such thing in the province as the Alienation of Land Act, so that before

1901 most of the lands taken on mortgage were by money-lenders, mostly of non-agriculturist classes. After 1901 the non-agriculturists were debarred from taking out any mortgages and therefore all those mortgages were taken by statutory agriculturists. The Government has made a law that the mortgages executed after 1901 would not be touched and the mortgages executed before 1901 would practically all be set aside. This clearly means that the Government again acted in a one-sided manner and was deliberately partial to the statutory agriculturists even if they were money lenders, and wanted to hit only the non-agriculturist mortgagees who had taken out mortgages before 1901.

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

Then, in order to avoid the provisions of the Alienation of Land Act under which non-agriculturists could not take any land either by sale or mortgage, certain transactions had been entered into which were called benami. The money-lenders took mortgages in the names of their friends in lieu of the debts which were owned to them by the zamindars. Now, by another Bill which has been passed into law all those transactions have been set aside without any compensation whatsoever. Although in certain cases those lands had changed hands perhaps twenty times before this Bill was passed into law, no attention was paid to any of these considerations. Then, again, we find that the Punjab Government passed another Bill which has not yet been enforced but which has received the assent of the Governor. I am referring to the Marketing Act. Under that Act the markets have been brought or sought to be brought under the control of Government. It has been provided that market committees should be appointed and you will not be surprised to know that the constitution of those committees is such that a majority of the members will be statutory agriculturists, or at any rate growers which comes to the same thing. Artis, commission agents, shopkeepers, weighmen and others who carry on business in the markets would be a minority in those committees. This is another Act passed by this Government which is clearly one-sided. Further, it has been proposed that shopkeepers other than those who generally carry on business in the markets should also be brought under control and their business hampered and with this end in view the Trade Employees Bill has been brought forward. The result of this Bill or at least of some of its provisions will be serious friction between the shop-keepers and the trade employees. I may, however, make it clear that I am not opposed to any provisions which may be conducive to the comfort or convenience of trade employees or for a reasonable compensation for their services. But I feel that the Bill in its present form is bound to lead to a certain amount of friction between the employees and the employers. Then there is a proposal that ordinary sales should also be taxed so that shop-keepers whose business is not at all of a substantial size or character will also be attacked. Then come the factories in the province. They are mostly controlled by the non-agriculturists. A Bill has been brought forward to bring those factories also under the thumb of the Government. They are not only required to register themselves but they cannot carry on work unless they take out a licence from the Government (or from an officer that the Government may appoint in this behalf) on payment of a prescribed fee;

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and this licence will have to be taken every year. Unless the Bill is substantially modified in the select committee its effect will be to bring the factories under the thumb of the Government. The result of all these measures is that all the avenues of livelihood which were open to non-agriculturists have either been entirely closed or are being closed or they are being very considerably curtailed. All these measures clearly indicate that the attempts of the Government have been to favour one class at the expense of the other. I may refer to one more measure. Even the Civil Procedure Code, section 60, has been amended or has been sought to be amended in such a way that nothing should be left for the realisation of the debts by salukars. This is the position.

Now, as if the work of destruction of one class was not entirely completed, several conciliation boards were brought into existence. I do not object to these boards. But what I object to is the way they are constituted. It has been provided so far as the personnel is concerned that the majority of the members of the boards shall be agriculturists. Perhaps it is not so provided in the Act which was passed a few years ago, but that has been the policy of the Government that out of three members of a board two are invariably statutory agriculturists and representatives of the debtor class and only one a representative of the money-lending classes which means that the money-lending classes will always even in those boards be at the mercy of the statutory agriculturists. I might multiply instances, but I fear I may exceed the limit which has been suggested for speeches. I shall therefore stop here so far as this aspect of the matter is concerned.

The second item, if I may so put it, of the general analysis of the Punjab Government's policy is that the Punjab Government during the last three years has been trying to substitute executive action in place of judicial functions. In almost every Bill efforts have been made to curtail the jurisdiction of the judiciary and to add to the powers and functions of executive officers. What the sub-judges were required to do and what they could do with their judicial training and legal knowledge and their knowledge of procedure and of evidence has now been entrusted to people who may be good executive officers but who cannot be expected to take a purely judicial view of things. So far as the Mortgages Act is concerned, so far as the Benami Act is concerned, so far as the Alienation of Land Act is concerned, all these measures have been entrusted for administration to executive officers and the powers have been taken away from judicial courts. This is another very objectionable feature of the General Administration of the Punjab which has been emphasised and carried beyond proper lengths during the last three years.

Another feature of the general administration of this province is that a feeling has grown that there is really no general administration but there is general maladministration in this province. The sense of security which prevailed in the Punjab under the old form of Government, I extremely regret to say and it pains me when I say this, has well nigh disappeared. In the villages particularly and to a certain extent even in towns, the feeling is growing that the lives, property and honour of the non-agricultural classes of the Punjab are not safe. Only yesterday an old lady came to see me. I asked her about her relations and how her business was going on. She said that everything has been spoiled. She is about seventy-five years of age

and she could not remember the names properly but she said, "*Koi Hayat Khan te Nikku Mal othe ae te Kujh Kah gar.*" I laughed when she said,

کوئی حیات خاں تے کوئل اقمے اے تے کج کہ گار۔

"Nikku Mal." (*Interruption.*) I sincerely tell you—I am not in the habit of inventing things—that she used the word Nikku Mal. By Hayat Khan she meant our Premier and by Nikku Mal she meant the Honourable Minister of Development. She said that they came to Hafizabad—I was not even sure when they had gone to Hafizabad—and they told people that nothing is to be paid and all the *bahis* might as well be wiped out. She told me that if no advances are made to the zamindars, the sahkars are in danger of being looted by them or their houses being burgled at night, and if they advance them, they know fully well that they can get back nothing. This is the feeling which has been created generally in the province. I quote this instance because it is not even twenty-four hours old yet but I know of so many cases in this province where people have come and told me that absolute panic prevails in the villages and they know that it is the case of *bar* eating the *khet* as they say. The Ministers, to whom they look for protection and safety, are making themselves responsible for this lawlessness and for insecurity in the villages. Last Sunday I happened to be in Jhang on a social function and I was told that since the enforcement of these Acts and owing to the impression which has been created by the speeches of the various Ministers in the countryside, many zamindars, whose lands were under mortgage with non-zamindars, have taken forcible possession of their lands. (*Premier*: Where?) In Jhang district. A mortgage of eighty thousand rupees was subsisting in favour of a non-agriculturist sahkara there. The whole of that land has been taken away by a zamindar who is described as a Syed. I do not know who this zamindar or zamindars were—I was not making an inquiry—but if the Honourable Premier is interested in knowing about these cases, he had better send for the pamphlet which was published by the Jhang Association and in which a number of instances are given as a supplement to that pamphlet. He will find quite a large number of instances where zamindars have taken forcible possession of land mortgaged with the sahkars. Another case occurred in Garhshankar in the Hoshiarpur district. I am not absolutely certain about the village but the district is certainly Hoshiarpur. I would not say anything of which I am not quite certain. Actually forcible possession was taken of some land—

**Premier**: May I point out that according to the arrangement arrived at, the Opposition has already taken five minutes more than they should have taken? I want to draw your attention to the fact that our time has been curtailed already by five minutes.

**Diwan Chaman Lall**: May I, on a point of order, ask for your guidance in regard to this matter? In regard to the discussion of Budget demands I take it that the time is unlimited and there is no limit to speeches.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker**: There is no time limit for speeches but it is the other party's time that is being taken up. The honourable member has already taken up thirty five-minutes. The time taken by the honourable member will be deducted from the time that—(*Interruption.*)



**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** The other day when Sardar Sahib Sardar Santokh Singh was not allowed even half a minute to make a reply, the Honourable Minister for Development stood there for one hour and forty-five minutes or so. (*Interruption.*)

**Mr. Deputy Speaker :** The honourable member may go on with his speech.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** I just wanted to tell these gentlemen through you that they should not be so sensitive about this matter. I do not want to be unfair. It is a strain on me to speak and I am not fond of speaking. I am speaking as a matter of duty and I will not take more than a few minutes. I will not take anybody's time. (*Premier :* You have already taken seven minutes out of our time). It is your fault.

**Subedar Major Raja Farman Ali Khan (Urdu) :** Time may be given to us as well. We do not want to sit mum in our seats. The honourable members who speak in English should be given less time and the members who speak in Urdu should be given preference.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** I was just submitting that in the villages people, who directly or indirectly happen to be instigated to acts of lawlessness, have been taking forcible possession of land and I was going to quote another instance. I do not say for a moment that Sir Sikander Hyat Khan could have been capable of telling anybody that he should go and take forcible possession of anybody else's land, but I tell him that the propaganda which he and his redoubtable henchmen, in which is particularly included the Honourable Minister of Development, have been carrying on in the province has had a most regrettable effect. That party took forcible possession and the owners went to court and said that they had been forcibly dispossessed of the land and I am told that in the First Information Report they said that Sir Sikander Hyat Khan and another Minister—whose name I have now forgotten but it must be Chaudhri Sir Chhottu Ram—had come and they had said that they could take possession. They said, "*Jab ham ne Sarkar ke kahne se qabza lia hai to hamen kistara nikala ja sakta hai.*"

جب ہم نے سرکار کے کہنے سے قبضہ لیا ہے تو ہمیں کس طرح کلا جا سکتا ہے

This was the statement made. This is the case from Hoshiarpur and things came to such a pass in the Gujranwala district itself that the Deputy Commissioner had to go out of his way, convene a public meeting and tell the zamindars that they should not take it for granted that the Ministers want them to take forcible possession of their lands, and that if anybody took forcible possession of any land under pretence of being the mortgagor or being otherwise entitled to it, he would be severely dealt with.

Now, Sir, this is the effect which the propaganda of the Minister is producing in the province. The result is that security of life and security of property has disappeared from certain districts and is fast disappearing from other districts. If the Honourable Premier really wants to rule or if his party wants to rule justly and in the interest of all the parties concerned, he should do two things. He should stop at once saying anywhere in the province that there is zamindar *raj* in the province or that he is the servant of zamindars. He should say that it is the Punjabees' *raj* in the province and that he is the

servant of the Punjabees, of the jats as well as of the population as a whole, instead of saying that he is the representative only of the zamindars and the Government is of zamindars or it is a zamindar Government and that he is only the agent of the zamindars to carry out their behests. He should stop that. About 2½ years ago, I think in July 1937 at the garden party which my honourable friend, Malik Khizar Hayat Khan, gave at Simla, immediately after that incident in which Sir Chhotu Ram had compared the Congress people to mad dogs, I requested Sir Sikander as a friend—I still claim his friendship—at that time I respectfully submitted to him and said—if you do not mind my using the words—that he should bridle the tongue of so and so; otherwise *woh khwar honge*, and he said that he would see that Sir Chhotu Ram would not make such speeches. But it is regrettable that instead of bridling him, he himself has become to a certain extent unbridled.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker :** May I point out to the honourable member that he has taken up 114 minutes?

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** There are two days. The Honourable Leader of the Opposition says that he would give them time.

**Premier :** We must have half the time.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** I know what I am saying is most unpleasant. But let me assure them that I am speaking most sincerely and earnestly because one thing that I love and our class loves is peace and they will not have peace in the province if the Ministers go on like this creating trouble all over the province and sowing seeds of discord and hatred between class and class as they have been doing during the past 3 years. That is what I wanted to tell him clearly. Then, Sir, the second thing that he should do is that he should give some positive proof of the fact that non-agriculturists also have a place in his heart and that he is prepared to do something for them. All the activities of the Government, he would agree, have been one-sided. We do not grudge any help that the Government may give to the zamindars or any reasonable relief that the zamindars may deserve. Give them, but not at the expense of other classes. They also have a right to live and the Government, which is responsible for the protection of all communities, should do nothing and say nothing which should create an impression that the Government in this province exists only for one party or for a certain class and not for other classes. There should be no division in the province into wolves and sheep. If he is just, he should try to prove that he is not really developing the mentality of his own redoubtable lieutenants. With respect to what the Honourable Minister for Development has been doing outside, that is now common knowledge in the Punjab. Non-agriculturists in his eyes are mosquitoes, they are bloodsuckers, they are dishonest and all sorts of bad names that he could recall have been showered upon non-agriculturists of this province. He has been saying that he will not be satisfied unless he makes every *sahukar* and every non-agriculturist—in his eyes every non-agriculturist is a *sahukar*—to salaam every zamindar of the Punjab twice every day. That is what he preaches before the ignorant masses assembled in thousands and thousands in the countryside. What can the effect of such preachings be on the peace of the country? Is it surprising that crime in the province has increased? The other day a question in a half serious manner was put with respect to increase

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in crime in this province and I must say that what I said was very true that these dacoities and other violent crimes in the province were only the echo of what was being done in this Chamber. The spirit which has been shown by the Government in this Chamber is being reflected in the activities of dacoits, burglars and other law-breakers in the province. The idea has gone round in speeches made by some of the Ministers that it is all fair and there is nobody to check them if they loot non-agriculturists, if they murder them and if they commit any violence on them. The Honourable Minister for Development, when speaking just now about Rohtak, said that in Rohtak it was the zamindars who have been murdered and that dacoities have also been committed on zamindars. That may be. But can the Honourable Premier forget that scores and scores of money-lenders in this province have already been murdered? There is hardly a day—and if one wants to be more accurate—there is hardly a week or ten days when some report of murder of a money-lender or a sahuakar does not come from one part or another of the province. The mere fact that two Jats have also been looted does not show that the mentality or spirit which has been propagated in this province is only against those people who are Jats and have got money. That is not the real analysis of it. The real reason is that owing to these preachings against money-lenders, against sahuakars and generally against non-agriculturists, the spirit of violence has been engendered against them and naturally sometimes even zamindars fall victims if they happen to have something of which they can be deprived. Raiders from tribal areas confine their activities mainly against Hindus. But as they have tasted blood sometime they commit some atrocities even on Muslims. But generally when they enter a village, they tell the Muslims that they would not touch them and they loot the Hindus. In the same way as these people in villages have already tasted blood, their mentality has been spoiled and the atmosphere in the province has been poisoned and hatred against non-agriculturists has been created in the province. Sometimes where 90 sahuakars are looted, one or two Jats are also looted who probably carry on the bania's occupation or business. That is the position which has been created. It is not an achievement of which any Government can be proud. I would not go into individual cases of civil liberty and action against the members.

I want to say one thing more and that is with respect to the press. I feel and I declare here most earnestly and sincerely that since this Government came into power the Punjab press has grown very weak and it has been demoralised to a certain extent.

**Premier :** You are trying to provoke—

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** I do not want the press to be rabid. I do not want a rabid press, not in the least. I want the press to be reasonable. I want a steady press and I want the press to be independent. (*Hear, hear from the Opposition benches.*) And simply because any of the Ministers may be connected with any paper or any particular paper may be deriving one advantage or another from the Government, it should not get demoralised. The Government has taken one serious step to demoralise the press—I shall simply mention one thing and then sit down—and that is that one officer, who is

comparatively of low standing, has been entrusted with the task of distributing advertisements to newspapers. That was the highest, the worst kind of jobbery that the Government could practise and that was the most potent weapon that the Government could wield to demoralise the press in this province. Barring two or three, these papers are not rich, and sometimes they have to depend upon advertisements for their very existence, and to make them dependent on the sweet will of one individual is nothing short of demoralising them and taking all independence out of their spirit. That is what has been done in the province. The press is supposed to be the guardian of the liberty of the people, and if for one reason or another it is intimidated and demoralised a great disservice is done to the civil liberty of the province. It is a common knowledge that sometimes when something serious or important, which is not pleasant to the Ministry, happens in this House or outside, instructions are sent out to the press not to publish any information on this matter.

**Premier :** No.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** You deny it?

**Premier :** Absolutely.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** Do you?

**Premier :** Absolutely.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** You deny that you do this indirectly?

**Premier :** What do you mean by indirectly?

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** I am simply questioning the Honourable Premier. I do not think he would go himself to the newspapers and say, do not publish this. He has got so many minions and agents and underlings who know his wishes and who can convey his wishes and do this dirty work. That is certainly the case.

**Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt :** You cannot deny that you have specially brought the new Associated Press man for that purpose. Everybody knows it.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** I am prepared to admit that the Honourable Premier's denial, so far as he is concerned, is genuine and correct; but does he deny that his agents, his underlings and his subordinates interfere with the press? Let him deny that.

**Premier :** No.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** He does not deny that. I take it to mean that he admits.

**Premier :** I deny that.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** Is the Premier in a position to deny that the Director of Information Bureau is one of his subordinates?

**Premier :** No.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** He cannot deny that.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker :** I would request the honourable member to address the Chair.

**Diwan Chaman Lal :** On a point of order. My honourable friend Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang is perfectly relevant. He is asking the Premier a question which he is entitled to ask. When he is asking it all the rules of debate are being followed. I do request that you do not interrupt him.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker :** I am not interrupting the honourable member. I am only inviting his attention to the fact that he should address the Chair.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** I tell you that there is a very strong feeling in the province that the press of the province is being demoralised and that deliberate efforts are being made to demoralise the press. It is being demoralised. Some of the members of the fourth estate might be even under that influence. I would not say that. What I feel is that the strength which the press of the Punjab possessed three years ago is not visible now and the reason is patent. We know it. As a matter of fact we have sometimes seen some one going to the press gallery and talking to the press people. We are guessing : we may be wrong. But is it not a fact that paid servants of the Government have been interfering with the press ? It would have been much nobler if the Premier had got up and said "every government does it and I do it."

**Premier :** How can I say 'yes' to every lie ?

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** He should have said that. But there are limits to indecency.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker :** I would request the honourable member to address the Chair.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** I am addressing you. It is open to the head of any government to say, "Yes, it is my duty in self-protection, self-interest and self-defence to approach the papers" and he should say, "well, every government does that." In Europe some governments bribe the press ; but he does not bribe : he tries to influence them. Assuming for the sake of argument that it is legitimate, it should have been done in a decent and honourable manner. Their position should be explained to the press and the press should be told 'your criticism on such and such point was misinformed: our position is this and we shall be obliged if you will publish this correction.' If any underhand method is adopted then the limit is exceeded. It cannot be said that an underhand attempt to influence the press is an honourable and decent attempt. This is what I want him to admit ; and when I say this I am voicing what is passing in the minds of most of the people in the Punjab that the press of the Punjab has changed for the worse. I have got honourable and respected friends who are connected with the press and I would not say a word in this respect about them. Some of them I hold in great respect. But it is most unfortunate that this Government during the last three years has made systematic and deliberate efforts to weaken the power of the press. It is open to them to explain their position and their point of view and so on but not to adopt underhand methods to disgrace and insult their adversaries and to win credit which they do not deserve, or in any way to mislead the public.

I would not go over matters of civil liberties. It is well known that so many members of the House have been subjected to imprisonment

and indignities at the hands of the police, they have been handcuffed and so on under the very nose of the Government. One of these members, who was elected unopposed, is still in jail without any trial and without any charge being framed against him for the last 2½ years. Is this an achievement to boast of and is this something of which any government could be proud? They say it is the government of the Punjabi, by the Punjabi and for the Punjabi. Certainly not: it is the government of the zamindar, by the zamindar and for the zamindar, (*Interruptions*) not the poor zamindar but these *turradars*.

Before I sit down I would say just three or four sentences to explain my position. They have passed so many laws against the money-lenders, against the merchants, against the market people, against the factory owners and so on; but have they passed or brought forward one Bill to curtail

4 p.m.

the fees which the landlords extort from the poor peasants, their tenants? Has one Bill been brought forward for these dumb and ignorant people who toil from morning till evening in the heat and in the cold, who are still suffering as they used to under the previous Government, while these landlords sit at home comfortably? If they are really the lovers and helpers and well-wishers of the poor zamindars, they should have done something to help them and to save them from the rapacity of the big landholder who sucks their blood more than the most blood-sucking of the banias in the province. With these words I would strongly support the motion.

**Dewan Bahadur S. P. Singha** (East Central Punjab Indian Christians): Mr. Speaker, I can very easily give an hour-long reply to the Honourable Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang who has spoken against the *turradars*, but for the moment I do not stand here as a representative of the *turradars* but as the representative of a very poor community. Before I say anything else I would like to thank you for at last letting me catch your eye. I very seldom try to catch it and when I do, you are usually indulgent, but somehow at budget time the super-spectacles of my friend Amjad Ali's list are apt to make me invisible. That is why I had tabled a cut motion, so that I might make certain that I did not fail to catch your eye, even though it may seem odd to some that a person belonging to these benches should move a cut motion. To these benches such cut motions are an ordinary matter. They are considered a very healthy exercise. Our party is broad-based; it is composed of all classes and religions, bound by a common programme and one leadership. We are free to criticise in a friendly way either in the House or in the party. Though I am perfectly at liberty to criticise, I have not stood up to criticise and I have no desire to criticise for there is nothing much to criticise. If our community has some legitimate grievances, it is not because our Government is loath to remove them or lacks in sympathy or the desire to remove them, but because our social structure is such that until the mentality of our people is so changed that they are imbued with new ideals of human values, no Government can do very much. But there are some things in which Government can take the initiative, and I think if the initiative is not being taken or my colleagues in this House are not making it possible for Government to take those steps, it is because certain facts about our community are not properly known or appreciated.

[Dewan Bahadur S. P. Singha.]

Our Government has done a lot. Sandwiched between the variety of problems which have to be faced on the one side and the wall of limitations raised by the Government of India Act on the other, I think they have done wonders in these three years. I shall not repeat the oft-repeated and recount the various achievements of Government, but I would like to draw the attention of the House to the speech recently made by Sir Chhotu Ram in which he has given in detail the various measures and steps taken by Government to ameliorate the conditions of the poor and scheduled castes. It is a record of which any Government may be proud—a record which is unsurpassed so far in any part of India. I joined this party because I had faith in Sir Sikan-der's leadership. My faith has been justified. This Government started well, has gone to do better and is going to better the better, and it is because I believe in this that I am trying to draw their attention to certain facts. The main fact and our chief trouble is that it is generally not realized what a poor community ours is. One is apt to judge the condition of our community by the top layer in which we see doctors, lawyers, magistrates, judges, professors and all the other variety of the fortunate ones of this world. But underneath this top layer there is poverty which becomes more and more appalling as one goes down deeper and deeper until one reaches the solid rock of dependence and everlasting want. And this wide base is the real community. Ninety-five per cent of our people form this base, and it is for them that I raise my voice. The top layer is only a veneer. We are proud that we have in this top veneer even members of the heaven-born class, the Indian Civil Servants. We are proud of them. But, Sir, they and their like do not form the community. They are our ornaments. Even the humblest hand-maiden loves to wear a jewel, and God in his goodness has vouchsafed our humble community its ornaments. We look at them and rejoice, but the rejoicing does not fill our stomachs. The stomach of our community as a whole is everlastingly empty. Ninety-five per cent of the Punjabi Christians live in villages. This fact is not realized. And what kind of an existence do they lead? There are only a few Christian villages and these came into being because some Governors' hearts were touched by our misery. The majority of the Christians live in villages as tenants, *sepias* and *kamins*. They are the sons of the soil, born and bred there. Their lot is cast with the zamindars. Call them zamindars or not; their existence is inseparable from the zamindars. The prosperity of the zamindar is the prosperity of the poor Christian in the village. When the condition of the zamindar is so bad and when the zamindar is shouting *mar gaya*, you can well imagine what the condition of these poor dependents of these poor *mar gayas* must be. The number of Christian tenants is dwindling down because the landlords have multiplied, the land has got divided and sub-divided and there is no room for tenants. And as for the rest, even the *haqs* of the village workers, the *sepias* and *kamins*, are being cut down. Whenever I go I hear the cry *sada haq sanun dawa deo*. This is killing the old spirit in which you had loyalty between the masters and the servants, when these poor dependents in the village in loyalty to their masters used to be willing even to go to the gallows for their sake, taking upon their shoulders the crime of their masters in full assurance that their dependents would be looked after. But the present conditions are undermining all these traditions which enabled the villagers to live together as in a well adjusted family.

We are quite accustomed to hearing tirades against big zamindars and we often thank God that the Punjab is a land of small zamindars. But, Sir, human nature remains the same. The landlordish mentality does not get changed. It is very much the same, be the zamindar big or small. Our landlords are undoubtedly better than the landlords elsewhere in India. Our inquiries show that the Christian villagers in other provinces are worse off than here. But the fact remains that conditions here are pretty bad and if our friends the landlords in the Punjab want to know what more they can do, they should get their credentials not from fellow members of a mutual admiration society, but from those who are dependent on them, because only the toad beneath the harrow knows where each tooth pricks.

These poor men cannot get even their dues. Whatever dues are stipulated are often afterwards denied. I am having these reports every day from those who have not received their agreed dues. Then there is the difficulty about wells. We have the same difficulty in regard to wells as the scheduled castes have. What difficulties the scheduled castes have in the Punjab, we too have. With regard to village watch, we have to give *pehara* for others. The *begar*, in spite of instruction to the contrary, still continues. The manure which these people collect and which should be a source of income and sustenance to them, is snatched away by force without any compensation being paid. No *kamin* of the village, be he a Christian or a member of the scheduled castes, dare open his mouth. He has no right to that manure. On the other hand the *haq* of the zamindars still continues. Then with regard to trees also, I have had instances where trees planted by the ancestors of these Christians in front of their houses, in their own enclosures, are cut down by landlords and there is no compensation paid and they cannot even question the high-handed act. Then, Sir, we have very great difficulty in finding land on which to build our places of worship. In some places we do not have graveyards. This may seem exaggerated, but it is true that in some places we have to take our dead miles away in order to bury them in places where there is more tolerance or on the wayside. It may seem strange, but it is not strange. In this respect we are worse off than the scheduled castes, because the scheduled castes have existed there for a long time and out of necessity they have had to be given places for worship and places for burning or burying their dead. But when some one gets converted to Christianity, then that family becomes an innovation and they do not have the same facilities as the scheduled castes. Then just like the scheduled castes, we too fear the panchayats. We are worse off in those villages where the panchayats exist. Everywhere we are at the mercy of the village notables. The man who incurs the displeasure of a member of the privileged class is punished or is harassed through the police. In the panchayat villages action can be taken with greater impunity. If the panchayats cannot send them to prison they can at least give them *dands*. We cannot get justice even in ordinary money matters. If there is any money owing to us and the amount does not come under the jurisdiction of the panchayats, they adopt the method of splitting it up, so that it comes under their competence and they then decide the case against the poor man. Such instances are many and I think every member of the scheduled castes here and the Christian members will be able to give many instances where such things are happening under the panchayats. I am bringing this to the notice of the Government for the



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simple reason that when the rules for the establishment of new panchayats are made, the system of "cumulative voting" or "one man one vote" may be adopted so that one party does not come into power, and the poor of the village may also be able to have a representative on the panchayat. But, Sir, of all our ills, the worst is this, that we can be turned out of our houses at any moment though we may have lived there for generations and even built them ourselves. And if there is one thing which the scheduled castes and the Christians want, it is this, that the sanctity of their homes should be protected. A period of residence may be fixed, if necessary, that they must have lived there for so many years. But when once that limit is fixed for a certain period it must be respected. This security of our homes must be recognized as a right. Something must be done to make it impossible for us to be turned out of our ancestral village homes.

The poverty of our community may be judged from the figures of income, etc., that we have been able to collect. Investigations in various villages have been made and we have found that our average income is somewhere between Rs. 17 and 19 per annum *per capita*. About 20 years ago we had a similar inquiry and then it was about Rs. 24. The poor have become poorer. In two typical tahsils it was found that our debt per family is equal to our cash income for three years, two months and 12 days, or the total income of a family for 1 year and 11 months. The interest on that debt came to 79.68 per cent of the annual cash income of the family. I mention this in the hope that when you think of giving relief to zamindars in regard to debt and mortgages, you may also think of giving relief to those who are dependent on the zamindars and those who are not called zamindars, but are nonetheless sons of the soil, whose sweat sweetens the earth and whose groans induce it to bring forth its plenty.

Sir, the time at my disposal is short and I will now finish my speech after making a few constructive suggestions. My suggestion number one is that when the lambardars and zaildars are selected their solicitude for the scheduled castes and the Christians should be considered an essential qualification. The deputy commissioners when appointing them should make enquiries to ascertain whether these people are the *zalims* of the poor or their well-wishers. If the lambardars and zaildars consider themselves the guardians of the poor then half the trouble will be over. Number two: I have already made a suggestion about the panchayats. The voting qualification and the system of voting should be such as to make it possible for the poorer section of the village to be represented on the panchayat. Number three: I am glad that the Government have decided to grant Rs. 10,000 for wells for the scheduled castes last year and this year. Our problem is not at all different and Christians are even poorer. I therefore suggest and request that a sum should be reserved along with that for the scheduled castes or separately from them for Christians, for our problem in regard to the wells is exactly similar to theirs. Number four: I suggest that somehow the law should be amended that it should be possible for us to get land for our burial places and for building churches in every village wherever the Christians reside. Even when we arrange with a zamindar to purchase a piece of land for building a church, the Deputy Commissioner may not agree to it and may not sanction the sale. We had a case last year and it was brought to the notice

of the Premier. It occurred near Jullundur, where the Deputy Commissioner at first sanctioned the sale, but some people held meetings and protested against the sanction and the Deputy Commissioner cancelled the sanction. There should be some legislation about it. It is not an easy question. It is a question which must be considered carefully and I am pressing for such consideration. My number five concerns the right to buy land. I have not yet been able to understand, though I have been on these benches for three years and am a friend of zamindars and a zamindar myself and though I have discussed the matter with my zamindar colleagues, I have not yet been able to understand, what real objection there is to these people in the villages buying land. The Land Alienation Act should not forbid the buying of land by these people. They cannot be a menace to the welfare of the zamindars. After all they can buy only a few bighas. To the zamindars it is a flea-bite. But, for these poor men, it is their Eldorado, the fulfilment of a dream one day to possess a little land of their own. If the zamindars permit them to buy it, they would not get poorer for it. They are their own *kamins* and tenants and if they were to be permitted to own land no structure of society would tumble down. The hunger for land is an obsession, an obsession which takes no note of reality. 999 in a thousand may never possess money to buy even a marla with. But the fact that they are by law disqualified to buy land, which is to them the most intimate thing in the world, is galling. It is a grievance which sears their heart. It is a disability which makes them feel as though God had deserted them. So my number 5 is this (a) that the deputy commissioners be instructed not to be chary in sanctioning sale of land to *bona fide* tenants and *sepias* or *kamins*, and (b) that all those who live on agriculture should be regarded zamindars for purposes of the Land Alienation Act.

In this connection I would like to mention that even in the Haveli Project we have not heard of any land being reserved for the poor people. The Premier in reply to an address from our community said "*Apko apka hissa milega aur zarur milega.*" I just want to draw his attention to his promise that our people should also have their share in the Haveli land. Government need not be afraid that we shall not pay our dues. We have a scheme. The Punjab Indian Christian Association is willing to raise a public fund of the amount of one lac of rupees in loan contribution of Rs. 10 a unit. If Government gives us a thousand rectangles of land we shall get the latest agricultural implements and secure the services of a missionary agricultural expert to develop that land and we shall run it on a co-operative basis. Our estimate is that in thirty years we shall be able to pay off to Government the cost of the land, pay off the loan of assistance raised in the community and a thousand poor families will be established as owners of one rectangle each. Poor men have a handicap in working on new land. We shall by the co-operative method and our fund solve all these problems for the poor.

In my number seven, I would like to take up the question of temporary cultivation. The scheduled castes and the Christians are poor people and cannot bid against others. A certain area of land should be reserved for them and they should be allowed to bid against themselves only. Others who are richer bid higher and take away the lands for which in fact they pay out of their tenants' pocket. My proposition is that some land should be reserved for Christians and scheduled castes.

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My number eight is in regard to services. We have now no special grievances about this because by the allotment of five per cent for us with the scheduled castes in the new block system we shall have our due share, but there are certain departments where we have very much of a grievance. In the police we have only 0·2 per cent and only 0·5 per cent in the Forest Department. In the Forest Department, recently there were some vacancies which were reserved for Muslims and Hindus. I do not object to Muslims, because they are only 14 per cent in that cadre, but the Hindus hold 51 per cent of the posts. Even here I plead only for a fair chance. Permit a Christian also to apply for vacancies in the post of Extra Assistant Conservators. If a Christian is good enough in competition with others, let him be taken, but if he is not deserving on merits, you need not take him on just because he is a Christian. Can I make a more sporting proposition?

I must also say this in regard to the block system. It is fair, as far as it goes, but it will be unfair if our turn comes towards the end and even in departments where we are at present under-represented. Our place in the block must be determined by the existing percentage in a particular department. There are only a minute or two left and I have so much more to say. I owe a grudge to Sir Gokul Chand for taking away so much of my time but I shall try to put in a few words what I have in mind.

**Lala Duni Chand :** Say something pungent.

**Dewan Bahadur S. P. Singha :** I shall not say anything pungent, but I shall say something very constructive. We are thankful for all the considerations which the Premier and the other Ministers always show to us. But these are cases dealing with justice to individuals and doing the right thing in particular matters. What we need is to establish confidence in the minds of the poor and to remove the root causes of our grievances. In my ninth point, I will indicate the path to this. It is that we should have a Minority Bureau which would receive all complaints and investigate them. And we should appoint a committee to consider our grievances and drawbacks and disabilities and then suggest legislation and other steps which the Government may adopt to remove these grievances and disabilities. This will be a constructive piece of work which would give a lead to the rest of India and will be worthy of our Premier.

*The Assembly then adjourned till 2·30 p. m. on Friday, 15th March, 1940.*

# PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

## SIXTH SESSION OF THE PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

*Friday, 15th March, 1940.*

*The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber at 2-30 p.m. of the clock.  
Mr. Speaker in the chair.*

### QUESTION HOUR.

**Premier :** Sir, it has been suggested by my honourable friend the Leader of the Opposition that we should dispense with the question hour to-day and adjourn the Assembly an hour earlier. I have no objection to that proposal and I will be glad to accommodate my honourable friends. I move—

That the question hour be dispensed with and the House adjourned one hour earlier than the ordinary time.

*The motion was carried.*

### PUNJAB MOTOR VEHICLES RULES.

**Minister of Public Works :** I beg to lay on the table of the House a copy of the Punjab Motor Vehicles Rules 1940 together with a copy of two subsidiary rules framed under section 41 and subsection (4) of section 38 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1939.

**Pandit Muni Lal Kalia :** On a point of order. May I know if the period of recess of ten days will also be included in the days for which they are to be laid on the table, because under the rules they are to be here for fourteen days. When will the discussion take place on these rules?

**Mr. Speaker :** That matter is not now before the House.

### ADJOURNMENT OF THE ASSEMBLY.

**Premier :** I move—

That this Assembly at its rising this day be adjourned till Tuesday, the 26th March 1940.

*The motion was carried.*

### DEMANDS FOR GRANTS.

#### GENERAL ADMINISTRATION.

**Mr. Speaker :** The Assembly will now resume discussion on the demand for grant for General Administration.

**Malik Barkat Ali (Eastern Towns, Muhammdan, Urban) :** The first question that I propose to discuss is that of the growing emphasis which is sought to be laid on the distinction between what are called zamindars and those that are called non-zamindars. This House will remember that this

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distinction was introduced as far back as the year 1900 when the Punjab Land Alienation Act was enacted. The object of this distinction at that time was to save the peasant proprietors of this province, being the actual tillers and cultivators of the soil, from their expropriation at the hands of the money-lending classes and to prevent their consequent reduction to the status of serfs. Since then this distinction has been extended to spheres into which it should not have been introduced and has led to results which all true friends of the progress of this province must deeply deplore. This distinction was first exploited in the year 1919 by the then Government of this province, and the constituencies that were then carried out for the purposes of the diarchical constitution that was being then forged, proceeded on this pivotal distinction. This distinction was again kept up at the time of the delimitation of the constituencies under the Government of India Act of 1935. This distinction has created, on a very large scale, the feeling that there is a radical and irreconcilable conflict between the interests of those people who live in the villages and the interests of those people who live in the urban areas. I propose to discuss and to raise my voice in protest against the recent introduction of this distinction in the sphere of the services—whether provincial or subordinate. Not that I am opposed to the association of the people living in the countryside with the administration of the province, but it appears to me that we are allowing our zeal in this direction to outturn the dictates of fairplay and justice. Considerable feeling exists in the urban areas that their interests are not being watched with that jealousy and with that sympathetic attention which they deserve, and if we turn to the definition that has been adopted of the expression 'zamindar' for the purposes of recruitment to the public services, we find that there is a good deal of substance behind this grievance. The expression 'zamindar' for the purposes of public services has been defined to include (1) the members of the notified agricultural tribes, (2) persons who are not members of the notified agricultural tribes but who are hereditary proprietors or tenure holders of agricultural land mainly depending thereon and residing in rural areas. I draw attention of the House to this very important qualification, namely, that in the case of those persons who are not members of the agricultural tribes but are hereditary proprietors or tenure holders of agricultural land, they must, if they want to take advantage of this category—of this distinction of being zamindars—actually reside in the rural areas. Boiled down, it comes to this that if these gentlemen who are not members of the agricultural tribes, happen to transfer their residence from the countryside to the cities, then they lose the benefit of this privilege or protection. I draw the attention of the Honourable Premier to this anomaly and I submit that this proviso really creates a sort of disqualification for and imposes a ban on persons who reside in urban areas. It is, therefore, necessary that this feeling of uneasiness that exists among the residents of urban areas should be removed as early as possible and that the people of the urban areas should be given the confidence and the assurance that they can rely on the present Government for the full protection of their legitimate rights. While speaking on this subject, I desire to dissociate myself completely from a certain observation which fell from the honourable member representing the town of Amritsar (Muslim) to the effect that the present Government should lose no time in imposing on the residents of urban

areas the contemplated extra taxation of six crores of rupees. An appeal was made by this honourable member to the Honourable Minister for Development, Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram, to proceed to this taxation at once. I trust that this appeal will fall on deaf ears and the Honourable Minister of Development will not be the means of involving this province into the throes of a most relentless agitation.

The next matter to which I wish to draw attention is the policy of the present Government so far as Local self-Government is concerned. At the time when the present Government came into power, the municipalities were under the grip of that soul-killing piece of legislation, namely, the Executive Officers Act, which was passed in the regime of my friend, the Honourable Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang. My contention is that the Executive Officers' Act of 1931 really killed all initiative on the part of these public bodies and it is time that the present Government took seriously into hand the question of the repeal of that measure. I remember that when that measure was on the legislative anvil and was being discussed on the floor of the then Legislative Council, it fell to the Honourable Sir Chhotu Ram to fight that measure. I remember to this day the words that he used on that occasion. In May 1931, speaking on that measure he said that the Executive Officers' Act had put the whole committee, the President, the Vice-President and all, entirely on the shelf. There can be no better description of that measure. It is time that the present Government, which is certainly a popular Government, should take in hand the immediate repeal of that most obnoxious measure which still stands on the Statute Book. In this connection I wish to draw the attention of the Government to certain observations made in the Simon Commission's report, Volume I, page 301. In this report the question of local administration in India prior to the Reforms associated with the names of the late Mr. Montagu and Lord Chelmsford, was considered and it was said that the system of local administration as it existed in India prior to those Reforms was really not the system known to the British people. The system of local administration in vogue in India prior to those Reforms, dominated as it was by the personality of the district officer, was thus described in this monumental book :—

Systems of local self-government fall into one or other of two well-defined types which we may call the British and the Continental. In the former government is decentralised. Local bodies with wills of their own exist. They initiate and carry out their own policies, subject only to such powers of direction and control as are retained by the Central Government. They appoint, subject, it may be, to regulations as to qualifications, their own staff, and raise in the main their own revenue. They form, in fact, a detached system. They are not a mere subordinate part of the government machine. Under the Continental system, on the other hand, government is deconcentrated. The principal local official is not the servant of the elected representatives of the locality, but is essentially an official of the Central Government, sent down to a particular locality to carry out part of the work of the Central Government. He may or may not be assisted by an advisory council, to which, perhaps, a few powers of deciding policy have been conceded, but the will that operates in the sphere of local administration is that of the Central Government, not that of the people of the locality. Now, prior to the Reforms, local self-Government in India belonged essentially to the second, or deconcentrated, type; it resembled the French, rather than the British, system. The District Officer in India, like the French Prefect of a Department, was an officer of the Central Government operating in a particular district. As Chairman of the District Board and often of one or more municipalities, he was carrying out the will of his official superiors. He was just as much

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the eyes, ears and arms of the provincial government as when functioning as revenue officer or district magistrate. Local self-government was just one of his many activities. He regarded his staff as available to assist him in all branches of his work. A single will operated in all spheres of activity in the district.

The result of this was that real and substantial progress in political and popular education in the art of self-government was rendered impossible. Thus the authors themselves observe :—

It is obvious to us that in the vast majority of districts local self-government continued to be, as in the past, one of the many functions of the district officer. No real attempt was made to inaugurate a separate system amenable to the will of the local inhabitants. Even in many towns, the municipality continued to confine its activities to approving the decisions of the official chairman, and where duties were entrusted to the vice-chairman he generally followed the instructions of the official. It is of the highest importance to bear this in mind in any attempt to appraise the effects of the Reforms in this sphere. In effect, outside a few municipalities, there was in India nothing that we should recognise as local self-government of the British type before the era of the Reform.

Accordingly, in 1918, the Report known as the Montagu-Chelmsford Report, laid down that there shall be as far as possible complete popular control in local bodies, and the largest possible independence for them of outside control. It will be recognised that the appointment of an executive officer under the conditions laid down in that Act is certainly incompatible with the establishment of complete popular control in local bodies, since in the words of the Simon Report, he will not be a servant of the elected representatives of the people, but he will be a servant of the government, whose will will be operating in the sphere of local administration, his will being the will of the government who has appointed him and not the will of the inhabitants of the locality. In this connection I wish to draw the attention of the Government once more to the system of nomination that they have still retained. How would the Government regard nominations, if nominations were also introduced by the English Parliament into this House, which at present is a popular House consisting completely of elected representatives of the people? If into this House were to be introduced a nominated element to the tune of 25 per cent, the occupants of the Treasury benches will at once recognise that the paramount authority which they now possess and derive as representatives of the largest party in this House would receive a serious check and diminution. I submit that the time has come when this popular Government should immediately do away with this method of nominations. In this very report it is stated that soon after the introduction of the Montagu-Chelmsford Scheme, nominations had been done away with substantially in all the provinces of India except in the Punjab, and that even in those places outside the Punjab where it had been retained on a very small scale, it was retained to afford the experts an opportunity to enter the local bodies with a view to help those local bodies with their expert advice but without having the right of vote.

One other matter in connection with municipalities to which I wish to draw the attention of the present Government is this: When the present Government came into power, there were 117 municipalities out of 121 which had the right to elect their own non-official presidents. The remaining four municipalities which could not exercise this privilege were the municipalities of Simla, Kasumpti, Dalhousie and Marree. I for one see no reason why a municipal town like Dalhousie should be deprived of this right which

should belong to all municipalities in the real sense of the term. Dalhousie is a town which has been furnished with the apparatus of a municipality. Its inhabitants are some of the biggest persons of the province. The Speaker of the Assembly, in your person, Sir, is a permanent resident of this town during the summer period. A judge of the High Court has his permanent house there. A Parliamentary Secretary is also a resident of this place. The ex-Mayor of Lahore is a permanent resident of this place during summer. Is there any reason why this municipality should be under the charge of an official president who is a civilian of 2 or 3 years standing? Why should the administration and affairs of that municipality remain in the hands of a civilian who has no experience of local administration in the province?

There is another important matter connected with municipal administration which requires discussion. It relates to the trial of election petitions. Before this Government came into power, a very serious inroad had been made into the rules relating to the trial and disposal of election petitions. The rule prior to 1980 was that the Government of the province could not interfere with the report of the reporting officer. It was practically final. If the local-Government agreed with that report, it issued orders in accordance with that report. But if it was not satisfied with the report, it could not itself set it aside; it had to refer the matter to the district judge, an outside judicial authority, for his opinion, and the district judge's orders were final and bound the Government. Similarly, under these rules it was open to an aggrieved party, if it felt dissatisfied with the Report, to ask the local-Government within a certain period, to refer the matter in dispute to the district judge and the Government was bound so to refer. It could not refuse. And the district judge heard the matter as a case and his orders were final. Unfortunately, in the time of my honourable friend, Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang, a serious inroad was made into this very salutary rule. The first thing that Dr. Narang did was that he took away certain rights which vested in the parties to the election dispute. According to the rules, as already stated, if any party felt itself aggrieved by the report of the reporting officer, it had a right to move the local-Government within 15 days of that report to refer the matter to the district judge whose decision was final. The first thing done was that this right of the aggrieved party to have the matter referred to a civil court was taken away. The second thing, that was done in 1988, was that complete power was taken by the local-Government to accept or reject the report of the reporting officer. Even if the reporting authority reported that the election must be set aside, it was open to the Government to say, 'No, the election is a perfectly valid one.' I know of instances where this interference on the part of the local-Government with the report of the reporting officer was based more on party politics and party manoeuvres than on justice and merits of the case. I think that the time has now come when this vicious rule should be done away with and that the present Government should make a rule that the report of the reporting authority shall be final and shall bind the hands of the Government.

**Mr. Speaker :** I have more than once ruled from this Chair that in discussing the budget or demands for grant, no legislation should be discussed or suggested; nor should matters involving legislation be discussed. The honourable member has called certain rules as vicious and the Executive Officers Act an obnoxious measure. This is unparliamentary.



[Mr. Speaker.]

So, I request him to withdraw his remarks. The rule, which he called vicious, and the Act, which he called obnoxious were passed by legislature. Therefore, such remarks should not have been made about them.

**Malik Barkat Ali :** I have absolutely no intention to cast any slur on the legislature, but as it is your wish that I should withdraw the words 'vicious,' etc., I have not the least hesitation in withdrawing those words. I should like to point out that I was referring not really to the working of any legislative enactment. Under the Municipal Act the local government has got the right to make rules and all these various matters to which I referred are governed by rules made by the executive government in advancement of its policy and as a matter of administrative action.

**Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt :** On a point of order. With regard to those rules I want to know whether it is open to any honourable member of this House to criticise the Government or to put it in other words, to urge the Government to consider that there is a strong public opinion in the province, and to reconsider a particular legislation which has done so much harm. Is it open to the members to place that point before the Government during the budget discussion?

**Mr. Speaker :** According to May's Parliamentary Practice, page 538—

The administrative action of a department is open to debate, but the necessity for legislation and matters involving legislation cannot be discussed.

You can criticise the Government for acts done against the law in force, but you cannot suggest what the law should be.

**Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt :** For instance, there are certain grievances which may have come to our notice during the working of the Act. Is it open to an honourable member—

**Mr. Speaker :** Rule No. 138 of our own rules of procedure says—

Debate on motions must be confined to the administrative matters for which the Government is responsible and not deal with matters requiring legislation.

**Malik Barkat Ali :** Leaving the municipalities, I will just for a few minutes deal with the position of district boards. Before the coming into power of the present autonomous government, there were only four local boards which had the right of electing non-official chairmen. The rest had official chairmen, the district officer. On account of certain reasons, the number of district boards electing non-official chairmen has been reduced by the present Government from 4 to 3. Here I would like to draw the attention of the House to what the Simon Commission in its Report has said regarding the efforts made since 1918 to make district rural boards free as far as possible from official control. They say on page 305 of the Report—

Almost everywhere the Chairman is now an elected member, except in the Punjab where although the option to ask for the privilege of election exists, only two Boards have exercised it.

You will be pleased to see that in between 1918—30 only two boards in this province were given the right of electing non-official presidents. Between 1930 and 1937 two more district boards were given this more important and essential right. So far as the policy of the present Government

is concerned, I have been told that at the time of every general election, the provincial Government intimates to the various district boards who do not enjoy this right to have an elected non-official chairman and says that, if they pass a resolution by a bare majority to have an elected non-official chairman, Government would at once interfere and withdraw the district officer as an *ex-officio* member of the district board. Well, if this method continues in force it comes to this that no district board shall get this right till even the Greek calends. How can the members muster courage to offend the district officer by passing a resolution that they want an elected non-official in his place? You cannot in this manner at all expedite the replacement of official presidents by elected non-official presidents. I would therefore request and beg the Government kindly to reconsider its administrative policy in this matter and lay down a rule, irrespective of any resolution passed by the district board, that deputy commissioners and other executive officials shall not be *ex-officio* members of the local boards.

Finally there is one other matter to which I wish to draw the attention of the House and that relates to the Public Services Commission. Not that I am going to discuss the policy of recruiting public servants through the medium of the Public Services Commission; this matter stands settled so far as this House is concerned; but there is a subsidiary matter which can be discussed, namely that of the importance to be attached to interviews on the part of the Public Services Commission. It is said that an interview enables a member of the Public Services Commission to form a correct judgment as to the suitability of candidates. To a certain extent this is so. At the same time it must be recognized that this method of interview is a very illusory and deceptive test. Being based as it is on the impressions formed in the course of a few minutes, it does introduce an element of great uncertainty, and unless restricted within reasonable limits, might prove the very means of frustrating the real object of instituting competitive examinations, namely the elimination of the imponderous personal factor dependent on the whims and feelings of the interviewing officers. That the necessity for the imposition of a real check on this method is needed, is established by the cases that have come to light. The *viva voce* test gives much discretion to the members of the Public Services Commission to award unduly large number of marks to the candidates. Instances have occurred where people who had done very well in the written examination have been thrown down irretrievably and people who had done little in the written examination have been pushed up artificially. Surely, such instances ought to be eye openers and do make out a strong case for imposing some reasonable check on these arbitrary methods. I am prepared to admit that sometimes a person who has done indifferently in the written examination later on turns out to be a successful and excellent officer. But I would like the Government to remember that instances like these are but rare and constitute what are called happy accidents. Every system has its happy accidents, but if you are asked to judge a system, you judge it not by its happy accidents but by its general tendency. Despotism even has its happy accidents and yet who would like to place himself under the rule of an arbitrary master and take his chance whether he be a Caligula or a Marcus Aurelius? We read in ancient history that a very able king was elected by the neighing of his horse, but we shall scarcely adopt that

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method of election to-day. In one of the most celebrated republics of antiquity, senators and magistrates were chosen by the method of the lot and sometimes the lot fell fortunately. By lot Socrates came into office. Yet, who would have officers appointed by lot, because the accident of the lot might have given a good and great man a power which he would probably never have attained in any other way? Therefore my contention is that no body of persons, even if they be Public Services Commissioners, should be armed with the absolute power of seriously disturbing the result of a competitive test by the award of unusually high marks at their pleasure and in their discretion. As a concrete suggestion, I propose that the maximum number of marks awarded by the Public Services Commission should not exceed 50 or 75. I feel, Sir, that I have already trespassed too far on your indulgence and therefore, after an expression of thanks to you for the kindness you have shown to me, I bring my observations to a close.

**Minister for Public Works** (The Honourable Major Nawabzada Malik Khizar Hayat Khan Tiwana): Sir, I want to say a few words in reply to what the preceding speaker has said about local self-government. The honourable Malik Barkat Ali was pleased to say that the Executive Officers Act has killed local self-government and he quoted Sir Chhotu Ram as one of the opponents of the Act when that measure was being passed. I know that the Unionist Party at that time was bitterly opposed to the passage of the Act but there are Acts that are placed on the statute book which must be given a trial, and whatever was the form of government then we are now working under a different form of government. Powers given to an irresponsible government might be resented by the public, but when the same powers are given to a responsible government, it is not necessary that the Act which was opposed previously must be thrown away without being given a trial. The Act does not kill local self-government in any sense. It first of all gives the local body concerned power to elect an executive officer by a requisite majority.

**Malik Barkat Ali:** Will he state that majority?

**Minister:** Five-eighths. If that body fails to do so, then and only then can Government come in and make the appointment. And still the Executive Officer is also liable to removal by the five-eighths majority. I would here say that a number of local bodies have either appointed executive officers or have dispensed with their services.

**Malik Barkat Ali:** Could he give us the number of such bodies?

**Minister:** The Executive Officers are the agents of local bodies and not their masters as the honourable member would like us to understand. I would mention one thing more. The recent trend of public opinion in this province and also in other provinces is to separate the deliberative functions from the executive functions in the local bodies. As a matter of fact legislation on those lines is contemplated in a number of provinces. The Executive Officers Act is a measure which gives certain powers to the executive officer to carry on the general lines of policy laid down by the local body.

concerned. All that I have to say is that whatever might have been the views in the past, I have heard no serious complaints against this Act now and I have every reason to believe that in the way in which it is being worked, it is doing good to the local bodies concerned. The Act is only extended to a local body when it is apparently being mismanaged, and no local body which is functioning well can have this Executive Officers Act forced upon it. The honourable member went on to quote Mr. Montagu and said that complete freedom should be given to local bodies. I entirely agree with that point of view. But that freedom can never be allowed to degenerate into licence. It is up to the provincial Government to see that the local bodies manage their affairs well and do not harm the tax-payers. As far as municipalities are concerned, in every important municipality at present they have a non-official president. The district boards too have ample powers to elect a non-official president if they care to do so. When a new board starts functioning, the orders are that the non-official members are to meet together and no official is allowed to be present at the meeting, and in that meeting they have to elect one of their own members to be the president, or to decide whether they would like to ask Government on behalf of the board to give them an official president. If the board decides to have an official as their chairman, all credit to the officials, and if there is any complaint it should be against the retrograde electors who return such members as decide to have the official chairman, and the charge cannot be laid at the door of the provincial Government. We give them complete freedom in the matter and it is for them to decide.

Then the honourable member was pleased to cite one instance where a particular district board which had a non-official president has gone back and again desired to have the deputy commissioner as its chairman. When that board elected a non-official as chairman, the Government did not stand in its way. For reasons best known to the members of the board—and we do not know who voted which way, after all there is the secret ballot—they have decided to have an official again, and it is a matter which should be left to the electors and the members concerned. The honourable member went on to bring in nominations, and said that it was not a good principle of choosing representatives. He knows as no one does the communal situation in the province, and he is an advocate of separate electorates.

**Malik Barkat Ali :** Are you not ? You are a Muslim Leaguer.

**Minister :** At present the position is that we have got in the local bodies the system of joint electorates, and there are sometimes anomalies as a result of the elections. Would the honourable member like me to leave those anomalies as they are, and not give due right to the community that has suffered ? He has, as a matter of fact, been taking keen interest to get rights for his community wherever it is entitled to them and now he tells me that nomination should be done away with. Would he have got those rights if the power of nominating was not with the Government ? If the power of nomination had not been left with the Government, some of the communities would never get their rights.

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Then the case of Rohtak was quoted on the floor of the House in which the scheduled castes did not get their representation in the ordinary course of election, and the Government had to resort to nomination. One of the members said that Government used influence with the Commissioner to get a particular member nominated. Government did interfere to the extent of reserving one seat for Muslims and one for the scheduled castes because that was due to them, but no other interference took place in that connection.

The honourable member stated that the disposal of election petitions is working hardship. That is far from being the case. Why the law was amended in the past, I do not know. That is for the legislators of the time to say. They certainly had some good reason to make that change. Under the law as it stands the practice is that a commission is appointed to dispose of the case, but it sometimes happens that we refer the matter to legal officers.

**Malik Barkat Ali :** Why not to the district judge ?

**Minister :** I know that my honourable friend who happens to be a lawyer would like litigation to increase, as it means some occupation for lawyers, while on the contrary Government positively wants to decrease litigation and to save people from spending money on law suits. I would not be a party to sending these election petitions before a court.

Then the honourable member went on to cite the case of Dalhousie. As he knows the local bodies of hill stations stand in a category of their own and here, as you know yourself, there are places where there is no permanent population. The major portion of the population is migratory and if we merely leave the elections to the residents, it means that the visitors' interest would be sacrificed. So we have to hold the balance between the house proprietor and the visitors and it is for that reason that we have to keep sufficient official element in order that the visitor does not suffer and the house owner does not get an undue advantage.

After dealing with these matters I shall just briefly refer to one or two things that were said the other day. Reference was made by Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang to the attacks that are being made on sahu-kars as a class. Attacks are made by desperate criminals on people whoever they may be and wherever they may be if they have any wealth about them. They would not go to a poor man's house. As the story goes, once robbers went to the house of a poor man and the man asked how, when he had not been able to find in that house anything even during daylight, the robbers could find anything at night ! It is only the wealthy that are attacked and if the sahu-kars have wealth, they would be attacked.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** Do they not need to be protected ?

**Minister :** They should be protected, but these attacks are not due to either class hatred or any special dislike for sahu-kars. In the same strain the honourable member said that law and order had deteriorated. We know the reasons why law and order had deteriorated in certain tracts and I would like to say something about it later. But I would merely give here the steps taken by Government so far in that connection. As soon as we

came to know that dacoities were on the increase in the south-east, may be for irresponsible speeches made in certain quarters or may be for economic reasons, or may be for the psychological effect on the minds of some people due to the disturbed state of affairs in the world, we at once took steps and sent contingents of additional police to these districts—

	Sub-Inspectors.	Head Constables.	Constables.
1	2	3	4
Ludhiana .. .. .	1	4	30
Jagraon .. .. .	1+4 A. S. I	6	50
Khanna .. .. .	..	2	20
Gurgaon .. .. .	1	2	25
Thanesar .. .. .	..	2	30
Ambala .. .. .	1	2	20

In all 175 foot constables, 18 head constables and seven sub-inspectors have been detailed to these places. When we realised further that perhaps even this force may not be able to cope with the situation, we at once reviewed the whole situation and at a conference it was decided to strengthen the contingent by one Superintendent of Police, two inspectors and 6 sub-inspectors, one assistant head clerk, 12 muharrirs and another body of additional police. As these dacoits have been going from place to place, it has not been easy for these detachments to round them up. Efforts have been made to get police stations connected by telephone and to offer rewards to people who can give information leading to the arrest of these dacoits. The Superintendents of Police have been warned and local officers are also taking part and village patrol scheme is being organized and over and above that recently we again discussed matters and we think perhaps it would be possible to further strengthen the force in that tract. I have now to state for the information of the House that subject to the concurrence of the Finance Department steps are being taken to appoint an additional Deputy Inspector-General of Police.

**Lala Duni Chand :** We are concerned more with the effects that they have produced.

**Minister :** I am coming to effects. We are shortly going to depute an additional Deputy Inspector-General of Police to take charge of these matters. He will have under his command besides the number given by me above, 100 mounted police and 75 additional mounted police on bicycles. With this force and other officers appointed specially for the purpose I have every reason to believe that before long we will be in a position effectively to curb these dacoits and bring them to book. The honourable member wanted the results. Results are sometimes difficult to achieve. It takes time before criminals can be hunted down, but I have one thing to say.

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Honourable members are very keen to run down the police officials. If their prestige is less and if they have not been able to be effective, I think some responsibility lies on the honourable members. There was a time when the police officers created a certain amount of fear in the minds of the *badmashes*. But now according to the present regulations, our orders are that the police officer is not to touch anyone. He has not to take him to task in the usual way. What is the result? He has to address him 'Chor ji, can you say anything about this particular crime?' Naturally the thief will say he has nothing to say. Unless you catch a man redhanded, nothing more can happen these days. If the *badmashes* are handled in a different manner, questions are asked and adjournment motions moved in the House. The result is that the prestige of the police officials has gone down. Every effort is being made to tell the police officer to be efficient on just and proper lines and take action against the dacoits. As regards the harbourers I may state that we have warned them that if they give protection to dacoits they will also be dealt with according to law. I hope with these steps before long the honourable member will be able to see that law and order improves in the south-eastern districts.

One word more before I sit down. One honourable member called people on these benches as the Government of *turradars*. I claim that turban is the national dress of the Punjab and the *turra* is a sign of its martial prowess and self-respect (*hear, hear*). Some people might look upon it with jealousy, others might not bear the sight of this *turra*, but it will go on increasing as the Indian nation progresses to achieve emancipation (*laughter*). This national emblem will also go on getting popular and popular as the province marches on the road of progress. Sir, certain people have adopted a headgear which does not belong to this province and which has been brought here from across the Jumna. We do not intend adopting that headgear because it is foreign in this province and we will stick to our own headgear as we are not in the habit of aping others (*hear, hear*).

**Mian Sultan Mahmud Hotiana** (Pakpattan, Muhammadan, Rural) (*Urdu*): Sir, before I say anything with regard to the general administration I would like to give a brief reply to my honourable friend, Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang. The allegations which he brought forward against the Government were as follows. In the first place he pointed out that in the past there was the question of Hindus, Muslims and Sikhs and now another question has been brought to the forefront by the present Government and that is that of agriculturists and non-agriculturists. But let me point out to him that since times immemorial zamindars have been present in the world and in the Punjab as well. Previously they were not conscious of their rights and their identity. Now they have begun to feel that they have some status and some position. It is therefore natural that when they have realized their identity they should also raise the question of their rights which my honourable friend opposite has been trouncing under foot. Let me point out to him that when two brothers of whom one is a minor, live together the elder brother would naturally take the share of his younger brother as well. But when the younger brother comes to his own and demands his rights from his elder brother, the latter would naturally feel that the former demanded some thing from him while as a matter of fact he was only demanding his just rights.

Now the agriculturists are only demanding their just rights from Sir Gokul Chand Narang who is their elder brother and who had usurped their rights so far. But it is a pity that Dr. Sahib thinks that the zamindar is snatching away something from him. Not at all. I beg to submit that we have not found a new party that did not already exist which is pinching my honourable friends opposite. All that we have done is that we have taken what by right was ours.

The second objection raised by the Dr. Sahib was that because the party in power is a zamindar party and the majority of the Ministers are agriculturists, hence a zamindar 'raj' has been established in the Punjab. May I ask if the coming into power of the Congress in other provinces amounted to a Hindu Raj? All that they say is that it is a Congress Government and that is exactly what we say.

**Dr. Sant Ram Seth :** The honourable member is irrelevant.

**Mian Sultan Mahmud Hotiana :** The third charge levelled by my honourable friend against this Government was that the agrarian legislation was discriminatory. Let us take each of them separately, and see how far the contention of my honourable friend is correct. Take for instance the Debtors' Protection Act. It is beneficial both for the money-lenders as well as the zamindars. Again the Money-lenders' Registration Act is solely to your good and instead of thanking the Government you are accusing them of passing discriminatory Acts. So far as the Act for the Restitution of Mortgaged Lands is concerned, my honourable friend complains that the zamindars are forcibly taking possession of lands. According to this Act the mortgaged lands ought to have been returned to their original owners but that is not being done. The clerks who are generally Hindus try to nullify the law by delaying the applications made by the zamindars for the restitution of their lands. Sir, it is a common occurrence that even if a Hindu has the upper hand in a fight and has pinned down his adversary underneath himself he is wont to cry for help. You are the oppressors and we are the oppressed, but still you are crying that great injustice has been done to you. I would like to point out here that the Restitution of Mortgaged Lands Act is not being given effect to and that the Government should take necessary steps in this connection so that the lands of the zamindars should be handed over to them.

The fourth complaint against the Unionist Government was that the feeling of insecurity and unrest among the population of this province is on the increase. The reason for this as given by the learned Doctor Sahib was the speeches delivered by the Honourable Premier and Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram all over the province. I am reminded here of the story of an old villager who solved the mystery of the footprints of an elephant. An elephant passed by a village during the night. Early next morning some villagers (who had never seen an elephant) were surprised to see his huge footprints. They came back to the village and recounted the tale of a monster's footprints. A hoary old man who was bed-ridden on account of his old age, asked them to carry him to the place and he would solve this mystery for them. When he reached the place and saw the footprints, he began to cry. The villagers asked him the reason for his crying. He said, 'I weep because I am sorry that I will not be spared long to solve your problems for you.' On being asked as to whose footprints they were, the



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old man replied that a 'Chattu' seems to have been tied to the hoofs of a goat. Exactly the same is the case with my honourable friend when he says that the speeches made by the Honourable Premier and Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram have caused unrest in the province. May I enquire from my honourable friend if they have ever asked the people to steal and plunder and have also assured them that no harm will come to them? In my opinion it is high time that the honourable member resigned his seat because he is not fit to take part in the deliberations of the House. He should better consult a doctor or get himself admitted to a mental hospital. When all is said and done I cannot refrain from saying that since the coming into office of the present Government the cases of theft and dacoity have increased. If they had tried to diagnose the trouble as a doctor diagnoses a disease, this stage would never have reached. The Honourable Minister has just now stated that the Government is increasing the police force in the province. But the number of policemen is already very large and I do not see any reason why it should be increased further. What is needed is a real diagnosis. My submission is that it is the law in force that is at fault. The present law with regard to theft and dacoity was effective 40 years ago but it is not so now. So long as the stolen property is not found the thief cannot be convicted. Moreover now people like my honourable friends opposite say that the suspects should not be touched. A criminal naturally tries to conceal his crime and he cannot be expected to come forward and say that he had committed a theft or murdered a person and he should be punished accordingly. Now the criminals are not forced to admit their guilt whereas formerly they were coerced by the police and under pressure they admitted their crimes. If the police uses force to find out the person who commits a crime, my honourable friends on the opposite benches table adjournment motions. This encourages the criminals and results in their cases of theft and murder remaining untraced. Those who are actually sent up to stand their trial, are either let off by the subordinate courts or else are acquitted by the sessions judge or the High Court. Every one is aware of the fact, how the Chief Justice treats the prosecution in the cases challan- ed by the police.

**Mr. Speaker :** Please withdraw your remarks about the High Court.  
**Mian Sultan Mahmud Hotiana :** It is a fact, but I withdraw.

**Mr. Speaker :** The Honourable member is casting reflections upon the High Court. So he should withdraw.

**Mian Sultan Mahmud Hotiana :** I withdraw. I was submitting, Sir, that the present law is defective and if we intend to eradicate crime from this province, we cannot hope to do so unless we first of all remove these defects from our law. Besides this, there is another matter which demands the most serious consideration of the Government. It concerns the administrative head of a district. Deputy Commissioners are now-a-days being appointed from among I. C. S. men. Passing a competitive examination is one thing and controlling the administration of a district is quite another. The importance of this post calls for special aptitude in matters of administration and most of the fresh recruits in the I. C. S. have little or no experience or aptitude to fit them for such a responsible position. For instance, both you and the Deputy Speaker perform

the duties of presiding over this Assembly but when Mr. Deputy Speaker takes the chair, he being a perfect gentleman, cannot control the proceedings, and the honourable members very seldom obey his orders.

**Mr. Speaker :** The honourable member has made an insinuation, which he should withdraw.

**Mian Sultan Mahmud Hotiana :** I withdraw. Sir, my submission is that whether a person belongs to the I. C. S. or the P.C. S. it requires special aptitude and experience on his part to discharge the duties of the head of the district. This aptitude is found in several selected few and that too not necessarily in the Indian Civil Service Officers. There are certain Indian Civil Service men who are fit only to do the office work and there are others who are eminently suitable to hold judicial posts, and a few who can acquit themselves with credit as administrative heads of the districts. In my opinion while selecting heads for the administration of a district, the Government ought to have a list of such persons before them who possess a special aptitude in administrative matters. There are at present many efficient and suitable persons from these services who are rotting in the offices. It is in the power of a deputy commissioner to put a stop or at least bring about a reduction in the cases of crimes in a district. Mr. Moon, for instance, is an officer who, experience shows, can head the administration of a district with signal success, but it is a matter of misfortune that such an able officer has been lost to the administration by having been appointed as a Personal Assistant to His Excellency the Governor.

**Chaudhri Kartar Singh :** Why not give the portfolio of law and order to Mr. Moon ?

**Mian Sultan Mahmud Hotiana :** Then there is another experienced and able provincial service officer Chaudhri Nasir Ahmad.

**Premier :** Names should not be given.

**Mian Sultan Mahmud Hotiana :** In short, Sir, only those persons should be appointed as Deputy Commissioners who have special aptitude for administrative control.

As regards promotions I would submit that if you want peace and tranquillity in the province honesty and efficiency should be the only two considerations while promoting an officer to the higher grade or rank. If, for instance, there is an increase in crime when a certain sub-inspector of police is posted to a particular station nobody cares to demand an explanation from him. Similarly, if a sub-inspector succeeds in effecting decrease in crime there is no encouragement. This state of affairs should not be allowed to continue. Similarly, I would request the Honourable Premier to discourage continual transfers of officers at short intervals. I may mention for his information that in the course of three years six different sub-divisional officers have been posted to Pakpattan and six magistrates have been transferred in the same period. I would submit that a period of six months is not enough for an officer even to acquaint himself with the conditions prevailing in a certain ilaqa. Therefore, this practice of transferring officers at random and unnecessarily should be abandoned.

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Then the Honourable Premier was pleased to say in the course of his speech on the Irrigation grant that the canals should be considered a commercial concern.\* We accepted that position and voted against the cut motion in respect of reduction in abiana. But I would request him to keep this commercial concern within bounds. You have invoked the principle of *damdupat* in the case of *sahukars* and placed many other restrictions on them so far as the rate of interest is concerned but the Irrigation Department is allowed to exact as much profit as it can. Here I would like to draw your attention to the manner in which this commercial concern is carrying on its business. Supposing a certain zamindar irrigates his land with canal water before sowing the seed and then he gets no water from the canal and is obliged to irrigate his field from his well, the Irrigation Department will not show him any consideration on that account but charge abiana at the full rate. Then there is *wadhawattar*. If a man has irrigated his field with canal water for one crop but he sows another crop after cutting the first one without any extra supply of water abiana is charged on this second crop too. May I ask whether this practice is not against all tenets of justice and fair play expected from a department of the Government? Again, the canal water is to be supplied up to the 15th October, but in actual practice not a drop of it is supplied after the first day of that month. Now if you call it a commercial concern the department should be made to make a proportionate reduction in its abiana demand in such a case.

Another complaint to which I want to draw the pointed attention of the Government relates to the dual policy followed by the Government in the canal colonies. For instance, in other colonies a grantee is required to pay Rs. 1,000 for acquiring proprietary rights while in our colony he has to pay Rs. 2,500 in spite of the fact that the land in our colony is inferior and the supply of water is so defective and irregular. Then people are granted lands in other colonies for horse breeding and such other purposes. There are so many *ghoripals*, *darachtpals*, etc., in those colonies but there is no such *pal* in our *ilaqa*. We are thankful to the Government for the consideration shown to us in respect of the lands spoiled by river action but the other complaints also must be looked into.

Then there are no adequate arrangement for vaccinating our cattle. You know, Sir, that while the effect of vaccination lasts 6 or 7 years in the human bodies the period of such immunity in the case of animals is not longer than 6 months. It is, therefore, absolutely necessary to appoint a number of vaccinators for this purpose.

As regards the supply of pure ghee I would suggest that the Government dairy farms should be asked to prepare and supply pure ghee instead of selling milk. In this connection I would draw the attention of the Honourable Minister of Education to his promise that the Bill providing for the colourisation of artificial ghee would be enacted in the month of January. That month has passed now. May I know, whether he meant the January of the year 1941 or 1942? Anyway, we are prepared even to wait till 1942. Let us see what happens.

In the end I would like to draw your attention to the veritable looting going on in the Mayo Hospital. For instance, Colonel Mirajkar is drawing—

**Mr. Speaker :** Order, order. No names, if possible.

**Mian Sultan Mahmud Hotiana :** All right, Sir. I shall let names alone. My submission is that while the medical men employed there are drawing fat salaries amounting to Rs. 2,000 or more a month their income from fees is not less than Rs. 1,000. It may be said that their fees are fixed in the schedule but I would submit that when a poor fellow goes to an expert for an operation he cannot be expected to go through your schedules and to pick up a quarrel with the said expert if the latter demands as his fee a higher amount than that prescribed in the schedule. I would, therefore, request you to do the needful to put a stop to this loot.

**Pandit Muni Lal Kalra** (Ludhiana and Ferozepore, General, Rural) (Urdu) : Sir, yesterday most of the time of the House was utilized by my friends Pandit Shri Ram Sharma and the Honourable Minister of Development in making lengthy speeches with regard to the state of affairs prevailing in the Rohtak district. Now as the duration of speeches has been limited by the Chair I would confine myself only to one or two important matters in respect to General Administration in the Punjab.

My first submission is that wherever the Honourable Ministers go people make representations to them to dissuade the sub-judges from collecting subscriptions for the Boy Scouts Movement. In fact they should not be entrusted with this work. When these subordinate judges ask the litigants to contribute something towards the fund most of them manage somehow or other to achieve their end. But those litigants who express their inability to contribute anything begin to apprehend that since they have failed to fulfil the desire of the court the cases pending in it would not be decided in their favour. Thus in order to create a sense of security in the minds of the litigants it is absolutely essential that the subordinate judges should be stopped forthwith from collecting such subscriptions. If the Government really wants to finance the Boy Scouts Movement it may increase the official grant but should not subsidise it by raising subscriptions through the civil courts. In fact there is no moral justification whatsoever for shifting this financial burden on to the poor litigants. Recently when it was found that the Sub-Judges of Jullundur had sent a sum amounting to Rs. 2,300 to the managing body of the movement, a local doctor represented to the authorities to the effect that the said officer had collected the amount by undesirable methods. But as was expected nobody cared a hang for his representation. When the Honourable Chief Justice visited Jullundur, the same doctor sought an interview with him in this connection but it is a pity that it was not granted. I, therefore, take this opportunity to request the Government that it should remove this legitimate grievance of the people, if it can, by issuing necessary instructions to the sub-judges.

Sir, to-day the item of General Administration is under discussion, but may I ask whether there exists any administration whatever in the Punjab? The present stalwarts of the Punjab Government have by their own words and actions defamed the very name of general administration. When the Honourable Ministers go on tours they by their own deeds give credence to the belief that there is no administration in the province. The other day when the Honourable Minister of Development was pleased to visit Karnal, a notice was circulated in the Bar Room under the signature of

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the Deputy Commissioner that if any agriculturist lawyer wanted to seek interview with the Minister he could do so on such and such a date and time. Now may I ask in all fairness as to whether it was politic on the part of a member of the Cabinet to draw such an invidious distinction between the agriculturist and non-agriculturist lawyers even in interview? Is it not likely to import class hatred in the Bar rooms and judiciaries? Then, Sir, different kinds of tactics are resorted to for inducing the municipalities to present addresses to the Ministers on the occasion of their visits. If any municipality refuses to present an address and give a rousing reception to the Minister it is made to reconsider its decision in the light of the Government's policy as in the case of Jagraon Municipal Committee. And those members who make no scruples to dance to the dictates of the ministry are adequately compensated at the time of nominations. They approach the Ministers with their certificates of loyalty in the form of subscription receipts for the contribution they made to the fund raised for giving welcome to the Ministers and thus press their claims to the nominated seats of the local bodies. I am not jealous that the Ministers should not draw travelling allowances for the visits they pay in connection even with their private affairs, but what I want to submit is that they should not allow the administration of the province to be deteriorated for party ends. Instances are not lacking when some of the Ministers attended marriages of their relations at Government expense.

Then, Sir, the only consideration taken in view at the time of appointing, promoting and transferring high officials is whether a particular officer would be suitable for the party propaganda at a particular place and whether he would be in a position to help the favourites of the Government in the next general elections. The qualifications of an officer and the requirements of the place have nothing to do with such postings. The other day my honourable friend Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt was pleased to remark that under the present circumstances the Government should not have favoured a relative of the Premier for the post of the Director of Industries. We do not take exception to a relative of the Honourable Sir Sikandar Hyat-Khan being given any post but we want to enquire as to whether he possesses qualifications necessary for this high and responsible office. In this connection I would refer the House to the strictures passed in 1936 by the Honourable High Court against the person proposed to be appointed incumbent of this post—I mean Mr. Mahmood. I would only say that these strictures were passed by a divisional bench consisting of Mr. Justice Munroe and Mr. Justice Rangi Lal and are given in a ruling reported in All-India Reporter, 1936, Lahore, page 409; the matter is discussed on pages 412, 413 onwards.

**Minister of Public Works :** Justice Munroe was the presiding judge, but what did he actually say?

**Pandit Muni Lal Kalia :** It is a lengthy ruling and I have not time enough to read it out.

**Minister of Public Works :** Because you have nothing to say.

**Pandit Muni Lal Kalia :** If my friend is so anxious about it, then let him have it. I would read out only a few sentences of the ruling which covers as many as eight pages. On page 410 (d) the Judges say—

“The presumption in favour of official acts being properly done is destroyed when it is established that the investigating officers have not acted in straight forward manner and have clearly made false statements in court.”

The Honourable Judges of the High Court in the course of judgment remark on page 418—

“We are prepared to believe that this substitution was made with Indar Pal's consent but the emphatic denial of the Magistrate on this point throws a great doubt in our minds on his fairness as a magistrate and his veracity as a witness.”

One can raise discussion on anything he likes and defend any action good or bad by means of fallacious arguments but one thing which we must have to consider most dispassionately is whether Mr. Mahmood possesses the qualifications and reputation necessary for this post. So far as his reputation as a fair-minded and straightforward officer is concerned, the ruling of the High Court speaks for itself. And now with regard to his qualifications one can safely refer to the editorial note published in the *Civil and Military Gazette* under the caption “Punjab Industrial Control.” In this article the editor of the paper advised the Honourable Minister of Development to the effect that the post of the Director should be given only to an expert on the subject of industries and that at the time of making the appointment he should not allow himself to be swayed by any family considerations. But in spite of all this the post has been given to a gentleman who is a relative of the Premier.

Now, Sir, the proofs of the deterioration of the administration in the Punjab may be multiplied. When we ask the reason for the increase in the number of crimes in the province we are told that it is all due to the speeches of the Congressites which have lowered the prestige of the police. But I can assert without fear of contradiction that it is the frequent use of defective, repressive and criminal methods on the part of the police that have given a moral set back to its own prestige. I make bold to say that the atrocious and tyrannical police of the Punjab has nothing in common with the police of the foreign civilized countries. The Punjab police has always, with the connivance of the administrative authorities and village zaildars, made it well nigh impossible for responsible lawyers and magistrates to arrive at the truth in any criminal case. The only object which the police has always in view is that in almost all Crown cases the accused should be convicted. At present several cases under the Defence of India Act are pending in various courts. Only a few of them have been disposed of as yet. Here I may be allowed to mention two cases from amongst the cases already decided. A man was arrested under the Act at Kaloor Kote, district Mianwali, on the report of an illiterate constable and a patwari, but when the magistrate proceeded with the case he found that the notes of the speech made by Fazl Hussain, the accused, were not taken down on the spot, rather the report was prepared by the patwari on the following day. And thus he thought it fit to dismiss the case summarily. Similarly, at Ludhiana, in connection with the case filed against Giani Inder Singh Moar, the Magistrate held that the report prepared by the police was absolutely false and he

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further expressed his opinion to the effect that it was so prepared simply to please the higher authorities. These are a few instances which I have given by way of illustration in order to show as to how the fair name of administration is being soiled under the present regime. The Government has enacted several measures during these years, but only a few of them were of any use and what is most painful is this that not all of them have been properly given effect to. The Honourable Ministers have been anxious to give effect only to repressive measures like the Defence of India Act.

With these few words, Sir, I support the motion moved by my honourable friend Pandit Shri Ram Sharma.

**Mir Maqbool Mahmood** (Parliamentary Secretary): We have listened to some very interesting speeches criticising the general administration of the Government. We have been told that the Government should spend much more money than they have been spending on certain beneficent activities, and we have been asked to remit 50 per cent. or even more in land revenue, *abiana* and other taxation. At the same time we have been asked to launch a big scheme of expansion of industrial development of the province. These are measures which are not peculiar to this province. Similar demands and similar requests have been made in other provinces also and I think in one sentence I would answer all such criticisms, and that sentence also has got behind it no smaller a person than Mr. C. Rajagopalachariar, the Premier of Madras. Speaking on the general discussion of the budget in 1938 he summarised various objections which had been levelled against the Government of that province and curiously enough he repudiated exactly the same arguments which have been cited against the present Government of this province. He said—

“ I tell you, Sir, this is impossible for Congress Ministries. I know that the old Government might do wonders, that the old order of things might probably make all such things possible. But it is not possible for us; we cannot disobey the laws of nature. If we have to spend we have to raise money, if we should raise money we must raise taxes. If we have to spend quickly, we must raise taxes quickly; if we have to spend without notice we must raise taxes also without notice. It is impossible to do things other than according to the laws of nature. . . . ”

I submit, Sir, that is a point which is to be borne in mind by all those who put always such impossible propositions.

The whole basis of the position of my honourable friends on that side as well as on this side against the policy of the Government is the question of mentality and that question was pointedly put by my honourable friend, Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang, when he asked what common line of action and what common policy and what common angle has the Honourable Finance Minister in sitting with the Ministry of zamindars. He even used the words, when the Honourable Finance Minister was leaving, that he had his compassion. He may have his compassion and there may be various compassions which he may have, but there is also a compassion which is born of jealousy, a compassion that savours of jealousy and that is the compassion of my honourable friend opposite. But I think I need not go into that argument. All that I can say is that it is the common angle or the common line of action which prompted the Honourable Finance Minister, when he

was sitting in the Opposition as a member of the old Council sitting side by side with my honourable friend, Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang, it was at that time that the Honourable Finance Minister, then Mr. Manohar Lal, had the courage of his conviction to support the Relief of Indebtedness Legislation, which we discussed in this House. There are people who do not take parochial considerations into account, who can stand for a principle and who can fight for a principle and it is this principle or mentality that recounts with that common policy which we work out on this side of the House. What is the difference between the position levelled on that side and the line of policy taken on this side? I would submit that in one sentence. We stand for the protection of the backward people and for the uplift of those who are left behind. We stand to demolish monopolies. We stand for fair play to all. There are others who differ from us. There are some who have a difference of opinion with regard to certain matters and who want to see that the car of progress of the Punjab does not move forward and that the exploitation that has been going on must continue. That shall not be. The Punjab is our motherland and it must be protected. (*Hear, hear.*) In this connection let me cite a few specific points that have been raised. I was submitting that the main difference on all sides was the question of exploitation and the question of the continuance of that *status quo*. I submit that throughout the whole speech of my honourable friend, Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang, on every point that he raised, he has been suffering under that mental illusion. There is one point where I feel it my duty to support his point of view and I can say without fear of contradiction that it is the duty of this Government—and we are in common agreement on it—to protect all classes, whatever their views may be, to whatever community they may belong, so far as the maintenance of law and order is concerned. I can assure him that if any specific instances are brought to the notice of the Government with regard to any class, be it agriculturist or non-agriculturist, pro-Government or anti-Government, they would be considered by the Government, and if they do not receive due protection of law, then the Government would stand committed not to give full protection and support.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** What was done in Jhang ?

**Mir Maqbool Mahmood :** If any specific case is brought to the notice of the Government, I can assure him that it will receive the consideration it deserves.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** More than 20 cases have been cited.

**Mr. Speaker :** I cannot allow a dialogue.

**Mir Maqbool Mahmood :** My honourable friend is in the habit of opposing everything where protection and justice is given to the people. But I can assure him that the Punjabis will not be allowed to be exploited only because they have been exploited in the past. (*Hear, hear.*) What are the objections? He said that the Government had brought forward agrarian legislations. I will not go into the details of those legislations which have given protection to the people of the province. But I am sure that if the honest critics would put their hands on their hearts they would say that the Government deserve to be congratulated on those measures.



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What was the second charge? He said that the Government is discriminating throughout their policy against non-agriculturists. That was the complaint that he raised. I ask him, who was it who brought forward the provisions of the Relief of Indebtedness Bill for the protection of the scheduled classes and for the protection of those people from urban areas whose assets were not more than Rs. 5,000? Who opposed it? Not this Government, but my honourable friends there. I claim that if a measure is brought forward by the Government for the protection and safety of non-agriculturists, my honourable friends opposite are opposed to it because they want the exploitation to continue. (*Hear, hear.*) Not only that; if a Government claim fair play for those who have been oppressed before and want to pull up those who have been left behind, that Government will be the best Government of the world. My honourable friend went so far in his zeal for the protection of capitalist exploitation that is going on in the province, even to condemn the Employees Wages Bill that has been put forward. There again, I submit that we took the attitude that we should hasten through that Bill so that due protection should be given to employees. What was the attitude of my honourable friend? He said that even that Bill should not be rushed through as has been done. It is useless to argue with that mentality that refuses to see any progress or would not give any honest opinion with regard to the improvement of the province. I submit that the time has come when Rip Van Winkle story should not be repeated and we should join our heads together in the interest of the province.

My honourable friend in his zeal went to the extent of attacking the attitude of this Government towards the press and he even said that some officer of this Government had been flirting with the press gallery. I submit that it is the right and duty of every Government—and he was doing it himself when he was a member of the previous Government—to inform the press what is happening in the province and what is proposed to be done with regard to the policy of the Government in the form of *communiqués*. Surely, my honourable friend did not mean that and if he did, then his speech was a waste of time. But if he implied that the press here had no sense of honesty and decency, then I would submit that he is wrong. The press of the Punjab is honest and decent in its criticisms.

One word more and I have done and it is this that the essence of good government is by test. Nobody can deny the fact that in the last three years we in the Punjab according to the percentage of money we have spent on the beneficent departments stand highest among all other provinces except the United Provinces. In the United Provinces if you look up, the *per capita* expenditure on the beneficent departments is Re. 1-13-0 per head while we have spent Re. 1-7-0 per head. In the last three years the government has increased the expenditure on the beneficent departments by 60 lakhs. These are facts which speak for themselves. More than that I am sure that when the history of the Punjab comes to be written the contribution which this province has made for maintaining law and order and trying to defend the country at this time of the crisis and in trying to improve intercommunal relations the Punjab Government will stand second to none and will be entitled to the gratitude of the coming generations (*applause*).

**Chaudhri Kartar Singh** (Hoshiarpur West, General, Rural) (*Urdu*): Sir, a few days ago it was demonstrated by a cinema show in our Committee Room as to how dams were constructed in America. The Punjab Government had sent its Engineers to America in order to receive this training in connection with the Bhakra Dam Scheme. But I wonder if the Government would really extend its benevolence to the Ambala division even as it has benefited certain other districts by completing the Haveli Project and by taking in hand the work of the Thal Project. I would observe in this connection that the policy of the Government depends on the Premier and it goes without saying that the Premier of the Punjab Government has joined the Muslim League. Now the policy of the Muslim League is laid down in the following words in a book called, "Confederacy of India," which has been published by Nawab Sir Muhammad Shah Nawaz of Mamdot who is the President of the Muslim League in the Punjab—

The Punjab Muslims should also take care that their Government should not create complications to make separation a difficult affair by undertaking such expensive irrigation schemes as the Bhakra Dam Project, to afford irrigation facilities to the Ambala Division at their cost.

Proceeding further, the following remarks are given in the said book :—

It may be said that by the materialisation of the Bhakra Dam Project at least two third part of the Ambala division will become an asset instead of a liability as at present and will pay more than what is spent on the whole division. But the question is how long it will take before the debt incurred in connection with Bhakra Dam Project is discharged. Moreover, their remaining within the Punjab will not serve the purpose for which separation is necessary. Communal balance in the Punjab has to be destroyed at any cost in the interests of the Muslims. The Ambala division Hindus are notoriously orthodox.

Now, will the Honourable Premier kindly say if he agrees with what the President of the Punjab Muslim League has said? He should clearly tell us if the Bhakra Dam Scheme will be carried out or not. I hope he will give up diplomatic language for a while and speak in unequivocal terms.

Then, Sir, it is generally claimed that the Unionist Party is composed of agriculturists as well as non-agriculturists, as my honourable friend Mian Sultan Mahmud has just now mentioned. But the fact of the matter is that Sir Sikander Hyat-Khan has joined the Muslim League. The Honourable Sir Sunder Singh Majithia belongs to the Khalsa Nationalist Party. If there is any real Unionist, it is Sir Chhotu Ram. Does he honestly like to keep the Hindu Jats within the fold of the Muslim League? At least that appears from his conduct.

Now I come to the general administration and would in this connection invite your attention to the Khaksar movement. Mr. Speaker, the flames of war are rising to-day from every nook and corner of the world. The British Empire is already at war with the Nazi Germany. The question before me is that if the British Empire is defeated in this war, what will happen to India? This country will have to defend itself and the responsibility would fall mostly on the Punjabis. It is the first and foremost duty of the Punjab Premier to prepare the Punjab to be able to defend against all foreign aggression. If the Punjab would repulse these invasions, the rest of India would become safe. On the other hand if the Punjab is defeated, and the invaders reach Delhi, the inhabitants of the area beyond that, would not be

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able to repulse the attacks as they are not descendants of martial races. (Minister of Public Works : Non-violence.) The danger that confronts me is that a capable and learned man has established a military organisation. I am in possession of a file in which the aim of the Khaksar movement is given in the following words :—

The aim of the movement is the establishment of Muslim domination and sovereignty in India by military power and use of sword. This aim is clearly given out in the 9th point of the Khaksars which runs as follows :—

The aim of the Khaksar soldier is the establishment of sovereignty over the whole world and the political domination of the nation as a body by his good conduct.

This is a big file and contains the aims and objects of this large political organisation, that is, the Khaksar movement. Only a few days ago Allama Mashriqi, the founder and head of this movement, had issued a pamphlet. But I wonder if the Government was satisfied with its proscription only. Violence was openly preached in that pamphlet. Had it been published by some other organisation, a case like the Meerut Conspiracy Case would have been started against that body. But the pity is that the Parliamentary Secretary of the Punjab Government respectfully bows before the said Allama at his residence. On the one hand the Government have banned the *quasi*-military parades of this organisation and on the other, we find that when the Honourable Premier recently proceeded on a tour of the North-West Frontier Province, his treatment of them was rather friendly. An account of this is given in the Zamindar of 18th March, 1940, in the following words :—

*The ban imposed on the Khaksars in the Punjab is temporary.*

*The announcement of the Punjab Premier before the Khaksars at Peshawar.*

Peshawar, March 10, (by post) Dr. Kazmi, the Nazim of Peshawar, informs from Kohat that hundreds of Khaksars accorded a warm reception to the Right Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari and the Honourable Premier of the Punjab at the Railway station of the city, and presented a military salute. A number of organised Khaksar parties and a thick crowd were present at the station.

After the arrival of the train, Sir Akbar Hydari and Khan Mughal Baz Khan alighted on the platform. The Khaksars gave a salute with a melodious band. They were watching with pleasure the construction of the shattered fabric of the nation and exclaiming "Well done, Well done."

After them a military salute was offered to the Honourable Sir Sikandar Hyat-Khan, the Punjab Premier who after receiving the guard of honour said :

"My Khaksar brothers, I have had to impose a ban, in view of some local circumstances on the *quasi*-military organisations. Some of these restrictions apply to you as well. I value your social service. The ban imposed on you in the Punjab is temporary. You need not worry about it."

Besides, I may point out that only recently a *communiqué* was issued by Government to the effect that no organisation donning uniforms and carrying weapons would be allowed to parade or march in the streets in military formation. But to-day at 10 a.m. when I came out of the Lohari Gate I was surprised to find that no less than nine khaksars were marching along the road. They appeared to be Pathans and were wearing uniforms. Four of them were marching on one side of the road and the remaining five on the other. I fail to understand why this marching is being permitted in the face of the Government *communiqué*. Besides, I may add that this is one of the biggest organisations. It is openly laid down in the rules and

regulations governing this body, that its members are pledged to set up a religious government by force. This organisation has been training and imparting instruction to the Khaksars on military lines for the last several years. I would not be exaggerating facts if I say that it is purely a military organisation. I would, therefore, suggest that effective steps should be taken by Government with a view to ask them to refrain from making parades in military formation. To tell them merely that military parades in streets are prohibited under law, would have no effect on them. Then as I have already stated that whereas in the event of a defeat of the British in the present war there is a likelihood of the Punjab being attacked from outside, there exists this danger also that organisations of this kind might start a civil war. I do not know what the Honourable Premier has to say in this connection. But through you, Sir, I would like to ask him that he should devise ways and means to save the province from the inroads of the foreign invaders and internecine civil war. I think in order to meet this eventuality the Government would be well advised to grant licences of rifles to Hindus, Sikhs and Muslims alike so that if unfortunately the province is confronted with such a danger, all the communities may unite to make a common cause and face their adversary as one nation.

It has been brought to my notice that proceeds of lakhs of maunds of *bhusa* (fodder) which was left in Hissar undisbursed, have been handed over to the leader of the Khaksar movement. I am not aware whether this rumour is correct or otherwise. I wish it were incorrect. However, I request the Honourable Premier to clarify his position in regard to these matters. I may again point out at the risk of repetition that Khaksar movement is a gigantic movement. Hundreds of thousands of people are on the rolls of this organisation. The Khaksars are parading the streets of Lahore in spite of the fact that marching in military formations has been banned under law. This naturally creates suspicion as to why the Honourable Premier has thought it fit not to take any action with a view to curbing their unlawful activities. Again I fail to understand how in the presence of Sir Chhotu Ram, as member of the Cabinet, the Honourable Premier can embark upon this dangerous policy of ignoring the maintenance of law and order in the province. I think the Honourable Premier is busy in his work relating to war and perhaps that is why he has handed over the portfolio of law and order to another Minister. But he has entrusted this important department to the charge of a young and inexperienced Minister. Perhaps he considered the senior member of the Cabinet too old to perform the onerous duties in regard to this department. But honourable members can easily realise that the danger of which I have already made mention can confront us any moment. But I fail to understand why even Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram does not pay his attention to this serious matter. The thing is that he would not listen to my observations, even if I draw his pointed attention to the gravity of the matter, because, he himself is a staunch Unionist while his colleagues are Muslim Leaguers.

I would like to draw the attention of honourable members to another important matter. The Honourable Sir Sikander Hyat-Khan had declared before the outbreak of hostilities that the armies of India would not be sent to overseas countries. But when the war actually broke out the Central

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Government, which is part and parcel of the British Government, without consulting the central legislature or the Honourable Premier, deputed Indian troops to overseas places for the purposes of war.

**Mr. Speaker :** The honourable member's time is up.

**Seth Kishen Das** (Jullundur, General-Reserved seat, Rural) (*Urdu*): Sir, I understand that sufficient time would not be allotted to me, otherwise I would have refuted the misstatements made by my honourable friend Chaudhri Jugal Kishore. However, I would request the Chair to be a little indulgent to me and grant me a few minutes more so that I may be able to give categorical answer to the remarks of the honourable member preceding me and also ventilate the grievances of those unfortunate people whose interests I am here to represent. First of all I would like to place the grievances of the scheduled castes before the House. Last year the Government had budgeted an amount of Rs. 22,000 for the purpose of awarding scholarships to the students belonging to the scheduled castes. But it is a thousand pities that at the time of award all these scholarships were given to students other than those of the scheduled castes. I brought this fact to the notice of the Honourable Minister for Education and the Honourable Premier several times and told him that when these scholarships were primarily intended to be awarded to the students of the scheduled castes, I saw no reason why the same should be granted to students belonging to other classes. In this connection I may also point out that four scholarships were provided for the scheduled caste students in Ludhiana Government College. But it is regrettable that three of the scholarships were awarded to students of other classes while only one was granted to a scheduled caste student. I am of the opinion that only a sum of Rs. 4,000 out of Rs. 22,000 was received by the scheduled caste students while no less than Rs. 18,000 were distributed among the students belonging to other classes. I would request the Honourable Minister to see that in future the scholarships reserved for the scheduled castes should be awarded to them only and to none else.

Then I would like to make a submission in regard to the condition of the Achhuts in the local bodies. Last year after the municipal elections of Jullundur, when the matter of nominations came up before the Government, the people of Jullundur held a meeting and passed a resolution to the effect that at least one person from amongst the scheduled castes should be nominated to the municipality. Copies of this resolution were sent to the Deputy Commissioner, Commissioner and to the Honourable Minister for Public Works. But I must say with regret that the recommendations contained in the resolution proved a cry in the wilderness. I would appeal to the Honourable Minister to make arrangements for providing adequate representation to the scheduled castes in the Jullundur Municipality, and redress their legitimate grievances in this respect. I may also point out that a similar treatment was meted out to the scheduled castes by Government in the case of Banga Municipal Committee. I requested the Honourable Minister several times to grant proper representation to them in this particular municipality.

Next, I have to make a submission in regard to an important matter, and that is this. The Government have passed a few agrarian measures known as "golden Bills" for the benefit of the zamindars. My submission

is that when we always co-operate with the zamindars inside and outside the House in every matter and specially when we are on very cordial terms with them, it is proper and fair for the Government to do something substantial for the betterment of Achhuts whose 95 per cent population invariably stands by the zamindars through thick and thin.

**An honourable member :** May I know if the Achhuts form part and parcel of the Hindu community ?

**Seth Kishen Das :** My honourable friend has asked whether or not we are with the Hindus. I may state for the information of the House that we do not subscribe to Hinduism nor is it enjoined upon any member of my community to be called a Hindu. We constitute a separate entity. We want separate representation.

I may submit that at least the proprietary rights of the lands within the four walls of the houses in which these people have been living since many generations may be transferred to them. I know the Government can do this provided they have a will to do it. I think it is their duty that they should take great care about the poor people and leave no stone unturned to improve their hard lot.

Next, I shall say a few words with regard to Government services. A few days ago the Government fixed a proportion setting out the share of the different communities. The Muslims were given fifty per cent and similarly Hindus and Sikhs were also given their respective shares but only five per cent was given to others among whom Achhuts, Christians and many other castes are included. I think the maximum that the Achhuts can get is only 2½ per cent of the Government services. But against this if we take into consideration their population we would find that it comes to something like 19 lakhs. I have every hope that in the census of 1941 it would amount to forty lakhs. Even if we take for granted the population of the Achhuts as 19 lakhs even then the proportion to which we are entitled comes to 7½ per cent. If the Government cannot give us so much we can rest content with 2½ per cent provided we get it.

Now, I would like to say a few words with regard to the panchayats. When the Panchayat Bill was being considered by the select committee I pointed out that single vote system should be adopted for the elections to the panchayats. But this was not accepted. In the first place I insisted on having separate electorates in the panchayats but the Government did not agree to it. It is, therefore, my submission that at least one or two representatives of Achhuts should be included in every panchayat on the basis of their population and I would request the Government that while framing rules and regulations under the said Act they should keep this point in view.

Coming next to the question of consolidation of holdings, my submission is that at the time of consolidation of holdings great injustice is done to us. In the beginning places where the Achhuts deposited their refuse or which they used as their burning grounds were not included in the arable lands but now at the time of consolidation of holdings such lands are included in that category. In fact no lands are allowed to them for these purposes. I may add that we have sent many representations to the Government to the effect that at least the burning grounds and the places where

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the Achhuts deposit their refuse should not be included in the arable lands. But so far nothing has been done to remove our complaints. Let me point out to them that if no lands are left for the Achhuts as burning grounds that would lead to great hardship to them. In the circumstances I would request the Government to give their sympathetic consideration to this matter and try to remove the just complaints of the Achhuts.

There is yet another matter which I wish to bring to the notice of the Government and that is that now-a-days professional tax is illegally being levied on us in the rural areas.

**Mr. Speaker :** The honourable member's time is up.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma** (Kangra West, General, Rural) (*Urdu*) :

Sir, we were under the impression that with the inauguration of provincial autonomy the condition in the province would become better. But I am sorry to say that even the freedom that we enjoyed in the pre-autonomy period has now been taken away from us. As a matter of fact we have been deprived of our liberty. I will give you examples to show as to how far our liberty of speech and press has been suppressed in the Punjab after the inauguration of provincial autonomy. The honourable members are fully aware of the fact that within the space of three years many times we have brought this matter to the notice of the House in the form of adjournment motions and it has been pointed out that liberty of press and speech has been denied to us. When Acharya Narendra Dev wanted to come here his entry was banned. What was the reason for banning his entry in the province? The reason was that he wanted to come here and deliver a lecture and meet the people. But the Government did not like it. After him the entry of Professor Ranga, a member of the Central Legislative Assembly, was banned in this province. That is not all. Not only the entry of men has been banned in this province but this democratic Government of the Punjab regarded women also as dangerous. Shrimati Satyawati wanted to come to the Punjab but on her way she received the prohibitory order banning her entry into the province. I know heavens would not have fallen if she had been allowed to come here. We are at a loss to understand this attitude of our Government.

I would like to point out that the way in which the Government have behaved in the past two or three years, amply shows that they have misused their power. In this connection I may submit that Lala Desh Bandhu Gupta asked certain questions with regard to demanding of securities from the presses and papers and I will now quote those facts and figures which were supplied by the Government in answer to the question referred to above, so as to show to the honourable members as to how far liberty of press and speech has been granted to the people of the Punjab. It was stated by the Honourable Premier that securities to the extent of Rs. 2,22,000 were demanded from 300 papers and presses in the space of two years. That is not all. The forfeited securities amounted to Rs. 15,500. This is how the press has been treated by the democratic Government of the Punjab. Now when Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang challenged the Honourable Premier whether or not he had demoralised the press, he did not even dare to contradict him. These facts and figures are a positive proof that the Government has attempted to intimidate and demoralise the Press. Further, the

Honourable Premier was not only content with demanding of securities and forfeiting them, but he went to the length of framing a Bill and then he invited the pressmen and told them that he would give them only six months of grace and if during that period they did not better their record he would take drastic action against them and would enact that Bill into law. I ask him, is this not an attempt at demoralising the press? If not, in what other way can the press be demoralised? Such was the state of affairs in normal days. Again I may submit that the Defence of India Ordinance was promulgated on the 3rd September, and before it was given due publication through the Government Gazette, the Punjab Government, which is always ready to carry out the behests of their white masters, arrested people under that Ordinance on the 4th September and sent them to jail. Then cases were started but after two or three months the Government withdrew them. So far as my district is concerned I can say without any fear of contradiction that Mr. Brij Lal was kept for four months in jail and then the Government withdrew the case against him. This is how the Government troubled the people.

With your permission I would like to state two or three facts for the information of the honourable members. There is a village named Narwana near Dharmasala wherefrom a zamindar along with a blacksmith was arrested under the Defence of India Ordinance Act. They were alleged to have delivered speeches and in spite of the fact that respectable people vouched for their innocence and made representations, no action was taken by the Government. It was the duty of the Government to punish those who had given a false report against these persons. Government officials are not supposed to drag innocent persons into jail. Again a cow-herd by the name of Maolu of Batran, Tahsil Hamirpur, was hauled up before a magistrate. On being asked by the Magistrate what he had done the poor illiterate man said, "They say that I am a lecture." Just imagine the callousness of the authorities that a person who does not even know what the word "lecture" means, is arrested under the Defence of India Act. If this is the way in which they intend to run the administration it is high time that they should pay heed to the verse—

قریب ہے یارو روز محشر      چھپکا کشتوں کا خون کب تک  
جو چپ رہی زبان خانہ      لہو کاریگا آستین کا

Let me warn the Government that there still exist such persons who would never forgive the Government for their mal-administration and would not permit them to go on with this tyranny and Sikander Shahi. The young men and the poor people of the province would not tolerate this kind of rule and you will have to govern in accordance with principles of equity and justice.

Besides this there is another matter to which I want to draw the attention of the House. It is in connection with the way questions are answered in the Assembly. It is quite well known that while answering questions, the facts are twisted and evasive replies are given. The Honourable Premier is so much intoxicated with power during the last three years that he does not permit direct interviews even to the members belonging to his own party except through my honourable friend,



[Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma.]

Sayed Amjad Ali Shah. Is this what they call Democracy? Such things do not happen anywhere in the world.

**Mir Maqbool Mahmood :** On a point of order. I submit that the honourable member cannot make such charges without facts against members who are not here.

**Diwan Chaman Lall :** May I know what is the point of order?

**Mr. Speaker :** There is no point of order.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Again, Mr. Speaker, the Government flouted the Rules of Procedure laid down by the Central Government with respect to the enforcement of the Punjab Motor Vehicles Rules. These rules have been framed and laid on the table of the House, when there are fifteen days left for their enforcement. These rules are coming into force on the 1st April without discussion by us. Some persons who were interested in motor transport tried to see the Honourable Minister in this connection, but he refused to give an interview on the contention that it was not necessary. May I ask whether this is the way how a Government ought to be run?

A notification issued in July, 1939 announced that there were no restriction on the licensing of motor vehicles. As a result of this many people bought motor lorries on instalment system, but after a few months the Government issued a *communiqué* on December 4, 1939, declaring that no new licences will be issued after the 1st of April, 1940 for plying lorries, and only those who already possess such permits will have the right to ply their trade. Now both these contradictory orders have caused a great loss to the poor people who had bought lorries on instalment basis. The automobile firms who sold these lorries could not be paid and therefore they captured the lorries under the contracts and caused great loss to people. Mr. Speaker, such acts of highhandedness are a daily occurrence but no amount of protest on the part of the people has moved the Government into redressing their wrongs.

I would like to mention the incident of 9th November which occurred in village Gangath, Tahsil Nurpur, District Kangra. On the night of the 9th when a meeting in connection with village uplift was in progress 4 constables from Nurpur police station came to the spot and forcibly snatched Rs. 500 which were being collected for village uplift work. The Deputy Commissioner and the Superintendent of Police, Dharamsala were informed and a representation by respectable persons was sent to the Deputy Commissioner. But up till now, when 6 months have elapsed, the officers concerned have not been able to spare enough time for making an inquiry into the matter. May I know when the administration will wake up from its slumber to make necessary inquiries in regard to this highhandedness of the Nurpur police?

**Captain Sodhi Harnam Singh** (Ferozepore North, Sikh, Rural), (Urdu): I need not recount the achievements of our ministry during the past three years during which it has been in office. Suffice it to say that what they have achieved is more than enough. The Governments in other provinces have not been able to accomplish one-tenth of what they have done here. Still there

are certain points to which I would invite the attention of the Honourable Ministers which I hope, if remedied, would go a long way in bettering the condition of the people and would be conducive to further progress.

The deputy commissioners in the various districts of the Punjab are so overworked that they cannot possibly give as much attention and devote as much time to each and every work as it deserves. What is needed is that their duties should be distributed in such a way that they may be able to do justice to the work that is left with them. I beg to submit that the districts should be divided into sub-divisions and the work in those sub-divisions should be given to their respective sub-divisional officers who should control those sub-divisions. In this way the work of the deputy commissioners will be lightened to a great extent.

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

Moreover instead of the deputy commissioner being also the chairman of the district board a paid chairman who may be an extra assistant commissioner should be appointed, so that a greater amount of supervision and control can be maintained over the boards' affairs and thus corruption and mismanagement may be eradicated. Again although the Government have done a great deal in tackling the evil of corruption yet it cannot be denied that a great deal more effort is still needed to uproot this canker of corruption from the body of provincial administration.

The Government has not so far made any attempt for separating the executive from the judiciary. It is high time that the Government should begin to effect this separation by gradual degrees. It is a pity that the Congress which claims to be the originator of this idea of separation has not taken any stride whatsoever in this direction. The United Provinces Congress Government expressed its desire to meet the popular demand of separation but this also miserably failed to translate its promises into action. I hope and trust that the Punjab Government which has always given lead to other provincial governments in different spheres of administration would take initiative in this matter also, and make an effective attempt to remove this long standing grievance of the public.

Now, Sir, it is generally felt in the province that while making appointments best qualified persons are not sometimes given the posts applied for. My submission is that the system of nomination should be immediately discontinued as it has in most cases proved to be detrimental to the interests of the administration. A better qualified officer can do a lot to improve the administration of the province, and he can prove more useful to the Government.

It is a matter of satisfaction that the Government has fixed proportionate communal representation divisionwise in the services of the Revenue Department. But my respectful submission is that this should be done in all the departments so that the communities which have been sparsely represented should have their due share in all the Government services.

Again the atmosphere in the jails should be changed so that they may be rightly styled as veritable reformatories. The criminals should be given

[Capt. Sodhi Harnam Singh.]

opportunities to mend their ways and improve their habits so that when they are released we may safely count upon them to be peaceful and law-abiding citizens.

Furthermore, several cases of making counterfeit coins, importing unlicensed arms and distilling illicit liquor are daily coming to light. These crimes are on the increase especially in the district of Ferozepore which is surrounded on all sides by the Indian States. The arms are imported from these States and distributed in the province and hence the increase in the number of murders, dacoities and thefts. The Government should take stock of the situation and make an effective attempt for putting an end to these crimes.

There is no gainsaying the fact that the engineers of the Public Works and Irrigation Departments are receiving considerable commissions from the contractors. First, they themselves increase the amount of estimates and then take back the surplus sum from the contractors and put it into their own pockets. In fact lakhs of rupees are yearly lost to the state exchequer for no fault of the Government. I hope it would take necessary action in the matter and try to minimise the possibilities of thus playing with the estimates.

In the end, Sir, I would request the Government to bring into operation the Panchayat Act and the Marketing Act recently passed by the Assembly. It is generally felt in the province that the other Golden Acts have not proved beneficial to the rural community. The Government should immediately appoint an officer to see that they are properly given effect to. With these words, Sir, I resume my seat.

**Minister of Education** (The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye) (*Urdu*) : My friend Seth Kishen Das has in the course of his speech invited the attention of the Government to the fact that the number of scholarships and stipends reserved for the Harijan children is not sufficient for their need and that all of them are not given to the Harijans. According to him some of the stipends are given to the children of other communities. I have on several occasions inside as well as outside the House tried to clarify the position of the Government in the matter.

**Lala Harnam Das** : You reserve these stipends for the children of the Achhuts but distribute them among the children of your special classes.

**Minister** : I am free to admit that according to the existing sanction given under article 182 of the Education Code stipends have been provided for the children of all the depressed classes including weavers and shoemakers. But in spite of all this most of these stipends are given to the children of the Harijans. And in this connection I have already given necessary facts and figures in a previous speech of mine. Just as I have remarked in a speech outside the House I would like to submit that the Government has decided that another sum of Rs. 10,000 should be devoted to scholarships and stipends for the children of the Achhuts. I would assure my friends that not a single penny out of this sum would be paid to any non-Achhut. (*Cheers*).

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Sir, according to rules we have a right of reply but our experience is that the Ministers usually make it a point not to leave any time for us to exercise that right. I would, therefore, request you to see that I get some time to reply to the debate.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker :** If the Honourable Premier finishes his speech and there is time left, then the honourable member can exercise his right of reply. Otherwise not. It is not in the power of the Chair to stop the Honourable Premier in the middle of his speech.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** My submission is that the Opposition should not be deprived of the right of reply. We on this side have taken comparatively less time so far as the debate on this demand is concerned.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker :** The Opposition has had more time than the other side and, therefore, it can have no complaint on that account. So far as limiting of time for speeches is concerned, no such limit has as yet been placed on speeches.

**Lala Harnam Das :** May I submit to the Premier that if they act up to the assurance given by the Honourable Minister—

**Mr. Deputy Speaker :** Order please.

**Lala Duni Chand :** I rise on a point of order. As the custodian of the rights and privileges of the House it is your duty to see that the Honourable Premier finishes his speech sometime earlier so that my honourable friend, the mover of the motion can have an opportunity to reply.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker :** I have already stated that it is not in my power to stop the Honourable Premier in the middle of his speech. There is no time limit placed on speeches.

**Lala Duni Chand :** You should appeal to his sense of fairness.

**Premier** (The Honourable Major Sir Sikander Hyat-Khan) (*Urdu*) : Sir, my honourable friend Pandit Shri Ram Sharma, who opened the debate on this demand yesterday, spoke for an hour and twenty minutes. A good many other members have also discussed various aspects of general administration of the province. And now my honourable friends of the Opposition want me to take no more than an hour to deal with all the points raised by the honourable members and to leave some time for the mover of the cut motion to exercise his right of reply. You will agree with me, Sir, that this demand is anything but reasonable. They should remember that it is my duty to give a satisfactory reply in respect of all the complaints and allegations, some of which are absolutely unfounded and baseless, contained in the various speeches so that there may not be any misapprehension in the House or outside it with regard to the policy of the Government. I may, however, assure them that if it is possible to deal in an hour with all the points raised by them I shall be only too glad to accommodate them.

Before I proceed with my reply to the debate I should like to make a respectful but earnest appeal to my honourable friends opposite to modify their attitude and behaviour in the House and to exercise some control over their tongue so that the prestige and dignity of the House may not be impaired. I am sorry to observe that most of the speeches delivered yesterday were not in keeping with the dignity of this august House. My

[Premier.]

Honourable friends tried to turn the Assembly into a *bhangar khana* or *changar khana*. The traditions of this House are not unknown to you. The level of debate here has always been kept high, and I am glad to find a distinct improvement in the tone of the debate to-day. My request is particularly addressed to those who profess to have accepted non-violence as their creed, who call themselves the torch-bearers of stayagrah and who rejoice in owing allegiance to that great organisation, the Indian National Congress. If they do not want to see the Congress find its grave in the Punjab, they should change their mentality. These so-called Congressites have besmirched the fair name of the Congress by using such expressions in the course of their speeches as no responsible person, be he a Congressite or not, would stoop to use or approve of. Does the Congress teach you to call a person a swine and hurl abuses at your political opponents? If this is your standard of morality then God help the Congress! I warn my honourable friends that if they do not modify their attitude the Congress which commands so much respect in other provinces, is sure to lose all prestige and to receive a serious set-back in the Punjab.

Now coming to my honourable friend, Pandit Shri Ram Sharma, I feel constrained to remark that although he spoke on general administration, yet his speech can aptly be described as a glaring example of general vilification. My honourable colleague, the Minister of Development, has given a satisfactory and effective reply to every point raised by him and I need not labour those points at any length. But I may be allowed to say that the speech which lasted for an hour and twenty minutes was confined to only three items, viz., Pandit Shri Ram Sharma himself, his Haryana Tilak and the Honourable Minister of Development. He hurled abuses at the Honourable Sir Chhotu Ram and I also came in for a liberal share of the same in the tirade because I had the good fortune or misfortune to pay a visit to Haryana. Well, Sir, so far as my honourable friend Pandit Shri Ram Sharma is concerned, I pray to God that he may be spared for a long time to grace that ilaqa with his presence. But when he begins to talk of the "Haryana Tilak" and its sufferings in the cause of the Congress, I feel constrained to say **چہ دہلیز است دزدے کہ کف چواغ دارن**. He tries to blame others for the consequences of his own objectionable activities. I know, Sir, that there is a section of the Press which, for some reason or other, tries to accommodate my friends opposite in vilifying the Government in season and out of season. I do not object to that section of the Press being of the same mind as my honourable friend. But why should he insist on saying over and over again that the Haryana Tilak has suffered on account of its allegiance to the Congress? Its relations with the Congress are an open secret known to everybody. I have in my possession a statement of the President of the District Congress Committee of Rohtak which leaves no room for doubt as to the allegiance which the Haryana Tilak owes to the Congress. But of that, later on.

My honourable friend was very anxious to have us believe that the disorder and lawlessness prevailing in that ilaqa was the direct result of the speeches delivered there by the Honourable Minister of Development and myself. The Honourable Minister of Development knocked the bottom

out of this contention by a single remark, if that was the case how did it happen that all the victims of assaults were the Unionists? Let the honourable member pause to think over this neat and effective reply. My contention is that if my honourable friend Pandit Shri Ram Sharma were to exercise a little control over his tongue and desist from his subversive activities the lawlessness in that part of the province would disappear in no time. I am all the more surprised at the attitude of my honourable friend Lala Duni Chand. He is an experienced and venerable gentleman reputed to be a seasoned leader and an eminent lawyer. But, somehow or other, he always manages to be led astray and to identify himself with such baseless contentions.

**Lala Duni Chand :** If you can disprove what Pandit Shri Ram has said I shall become a convert to your side. But you should stick to the points raised by him and should not indulge in irrelevancies.

**Premier :** My honourable friend is just like an ostrich which buries its head in sand and considers itself immune from all danger. Anyway he should know that the Honourable Minister of Development has already given an effective reply to all those points. (*A voice : It was no reply.*) I know that you can never be convinced, but remember that truth will always remain truth and that it will be out in spite of you. You say that the state of lawlessness is created by Sir Chhotu Ram and other Ministers and not by Congressmen. On the other hand my contention is that the lawlessness prevailing there is not the result of the speeches or other activities of responsible congress leaders but it is the irresponsible pseudoa—Congressites who are responsible for the present state of affairs. I admit that responsible Congress leaders exercise restraint in respect of their activities and try to avoid anything likely to create a state of lawlessness. But they are helpless in the matter of exercising any control over the activities of the rank and file. Even here in this House two or three responsible leaders of the Congress party are so much disgusted with the behaviour of the back benchers that they prefer to remain out of the Chamber for most of the time. Let me warn my honourable friends that if this goondaism is not put a stop to, the Congress will receive its death blow in the Punjab. Honest and responsible Congressmen will be obliged to say good-bye to this province in utter disgust and shift the scene of their activities to some other province. Anyway, let me give you an example of the conduct and behaviour of those who accuse us of irresponsible behaviour and creating a state of disorder in the province. Here is a statement of a Congressite lady published in one of their own newspapers under the caption :—

"Akalis indulge in filthy abuse at the presidential election of the Punjab Congress Committee."

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** What paper is that?

**Premier :** Dr. Satya Pal's "National Congress".

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Oh!

**Premier :** What does the honourable member mean by that exclamation? Is Dr. Satya Pal not a Congressman? Are you going to disown him too? (*Laughter.*)

[Premier.]

Well, here is the statement of that respectable lady named Sultan Bibi—

I have been working for the cause of the freedom of my country for a long time and I have never tried for or desired any office in the Congress. When recently Dr. Satya Pal issued a statement calling upon the public to elect a respectable Muslim for the Presidentship of the Punjab Provincial Congress and proposed the name of Maulana Abdul Qadir Kasuri for that, I thought that it was high time for the Muslims to come forward and fully share the responsibility of running the Congress organisation in this province. Consequently I became a Congress delegate and attended yesterday's meeting. I must say, without any reservation, that what I saw in yesterday's meeting was enough for any true nationalist to hang his head in shame and sorrow. There was a feeling of suppressed excitement from the very beginning and the atmosphere was surcharged with unrest. The Akali members were using filthy language in the presence of ladies. I tried to remonstrate with them but to no purpose. They seemed to be devoid of all scruples and continued as before. I sought permission of the Chairman of the meeting to protest against such shameful behaviour on the part of the Akalis but he would not allow me to do so for reasons best known to him. I thought the atmosphere there was not suitable for a lady or for the matter of that even of a gentleman but I had to do my duty as a member of the Provincial Congress Committee. I left the meeting after casting my vote. The fight that took place after my departure proves the veracity of my statement. I would request my sisters to refrain from attending a meeting where the dirty Akali element is present.

This is the opinion of a member of the Punjab Provincial Congress Committee published in a Congress newspaper. I need not add anything to it. I have got many more documents and writings to which I can refer, but I do not want to waste the valuable time of the House by reading out every document here. I would, however, like you to listen to a statement issued by Shrimati Lila Vati, daughter of Mahasha Rattan Chand. This statement is published in a newspaper, the proprietor of which was at one time the President of the Punjab Provincial Congress Committee and is now an influential member of the Working Committee of the Punjab Provincial Congress. The statement in question is published under the caption:—

*By kooliganism, a rival party may be defeated but not the British Government.*

*Statement of Shrimati Lila Vati, daughter of Mahasha Rattan Chand, regarding the Bradlaugh Hall meeting.*

Lahore, 31st January, Shrimati Lila Vati, daughter of Mahasha Rattan Chand ex-Martial Law prisoner has issued the following statement for publication:—

I learnt from the newspapers that the election of the president of the Punjab Provincial Congress Committee was to take place on the 29th January at 1 o'clock in the Bradlaugh Hall. It occurred to me that I should watch the election. Consequently I reached the Bradlaugh Hall at 1.20 p.m. and found a number of prominent leaders of the Punjab Congress present in the meeting as delegates. I know many of them personally. I have heard their speeches in public meetings. They have always been asserting non-violence as their creed. While the ballot papers for the presidential election were being counted a man ran away with a few ballot papers. A hue and cry was raised and great confusion prevailed. The Hall began to resound with cries of "Catch hold of him, beat him." Swords were unsheathed. Lathi blows and fisticuffs were exchanged. The combatants abused each other to their heart's content. It became impossible for the ladies even to retain their seats in that confusion. I along with my little daughter aged four years, tried to run away. The doors were blocked. The people from outside were rushing into the hall. I could not find my way out. I stood in a corner of the hall and seated my daughter on a chair. In the meantime a lady delegate rushed towards me and snatched away the chair on which my daughter was sitting with the result that the poor baby fell on the ground and the lady delegate threw the chair at some other delegate. (Laughter from the Government benches). I was extremely grieved to see this

sight. I have seen the police making a lathi charge but I had never seen the "Kirpan Charge." I had the misfortune to see this in the Bradlaugh Hall. Is it not shameful that such acts of barbarism should be committed at a gathering at which the most prominent Congress Leaders of the Punjab were present? Even granting that a mischiefmaker had run away with a few ballot papers, there was hardly any reason for the uproar that prevailed at the meeting. We could have punished the man by expelling him from the Congress. Moreover when a candidate for the presidentship was being supported by a large majority and his success was certain, where was the necessity for creating a disturbance? By such behaviour a rival party may be defeated but the British Government cannot be overthrown. This lawlessness has produced a very bad effect on the minds of the public. People are losing confidence in their leaders. I strongly condemn such hooliganism as was witnessed on the 29th January.

Now please listen to the opinion of Master Tara Singh, the Leader of the Akali Party. My honourable friends sitting over there may say that Master Tara Singh too has no connection with the Congress as they have just said in the case of Dr. Satya Pal. (*Laughter from the Government benches*).

**Diwan Chaman Lall :** On a point of order, Sir. Is it permissible under the rules of procedure of this House to let an honourable member read extracts from a newspaper?

**Premier :** Which particular rule is my honourable friend referring to?

**Mr. Deputy Speaker :** The Honourable Premier is quite relevant and he can read from a newspaper.

**Diwan Chaman Lall :** I am not asking whether he is relevant or not? All I am asking is whether the reading of newspapers is permissible under the rules and whether it is parliamentary?

**Mr. Deputy Speaker :** It is permissible.

**Premier :** The opinion expressed by Master Tara Singh about this unpleasant affair is as follows:—

Laure, 2nd February.—Even our most implacable foes would admit that the Akali delegates were quite calm and non-violent at the meeting held in connection with the Presidential Election in the Bradlaugh Hall on 29th January. The fact is that Jang Bahadur, a supporter of Comrade Dev Dutt, tried to pull Jathedar Tara Singh Thattar's beard. The Jathedar, in order to defend himself, caught hold of Jang Bahadur. I believe that the greatest insult one can offer to a Sikh is to lay hands on his beard. If, therefore, the responsibility for beating Jang Bahadur is to be laid at the doors of any Akali I gladly take it upon my own shoulders.

I have some more extracts in my possession but as my friend Diwan Chaman Lall is feeling ill at ease I would not read them out. The extracts which I have just read out before the House clearly show, where the shoe pinches and whose speeches are responsible for creating a spirit of lawlessness in the province—the speeches delivered by Sir Chhotu Ram and myself or the speeches made by the so-called Congressmen. If the honourable members opposite are unable to hold their tongues I would ask them not to become personal. My honourable friend Pandit Shri Ram Sharma, transgressed all limits of decency yesterday on the floor of this House. It is just possible that he may not be returned at the next general election. I would, therefore, appeal to him that he should not lose sight of the fact that Sikander Hyat and Sir Chhotu Ram are responsible persons and hold very responsible



[Premier.]

positions as members of the Government and that if not for anything else at least for the sake of their honour and prestige, he should give up his bad habit of abusing them day in and day out. But if he sticks to this objectionable attitude I am sure a day will come when he and his friends will be found responsible for giving the Congress its death blow in this province and the bier of the Congress will be resting upon his shoulders and that of his friends. *(Cheers from the Government benches and uproar from the Opposition).*

I may now be permitted to say a few words with regard to the Rohtak Congress Committee. My honourable friend, Pandit Shri Ram Sharma, is considered to be a prominent member, nay a leader, of the Rohtak Congress Committee. If such are the leaders of the Congress, goodness knows what might happen to the Congress in this province. Let me now read out the statement of the President of the Rohtak Congress Committee. I may point out that this statement was not made by Sir Chhotu Ram, or Sikander Hyat or Rao Pohop Singh or Chaudhri Tikka Ram; on the other hand it is the statement of a person who was a Congress worker for 20 years and went to jail for one year on account of his Congress activities and who after his release was elected President of the Rohtak Congress Committee and occupied that position for two years. Now let me read out the statement of that person, viz., Chaudhri Baldev Singh, President of the Rohtak Congress Committee. If any honourable member opposite has any doubt about the accuracy of the statement, he may enquire from Pandit Shri Ram Sharma who is well aware of the facts because they concern the district which he represents. Chaudhri Baldev Singh made the following speech :—

I would like to point out what is the condition of our own ilaqa and, for the matter of that, of the rest of the world. You should prepare yourself for the change that is impending. I would exhort you to do away with your old bickering and try to live peacefully with your fellow countrymen. Your own peoples have now risen to the highest positions of trust. But it is a matter of regret that there are others who are making efforts to remove them from their exalted offices and thereby make room for themselves. With this sinister object in view, they are creating factions amongst the zamindars in order to keep them under their heels. It is being said that Congress is a great national organization and that the Zamindars League is good for nothing. I have been in the Congress for the last 20 years. I had once the privilege of going to jail and I have been opposing my brethren throughout my life. Before I joined the Congress, Chaudhri Chhotu Ram had already been a member of that body. He asked me not to join the Congress. But I did not listen to him.

I have been President of the District Congress Committee for the last two years. I have now resigned my office. I am convinced that Jats are being invited to join the Congress with a set purpose, viz., that of making them a scape-goat. They want to overthrow Chaudhri Chhotu Ram and take his place. But I did not like to work against Chaudhri Chhotu Ram in contravention of Congress principles. The fundamental principle of Congress is non-violence. The next principle is satyagraha, according to which one has to carry on one's activities by fair means always sticking to the truth. But the Punjab Congress is a mere farce and always acts fraudulently.

I was not in favour of holding a meeting at Assaudha against the wishes of the zamindars. But Pandit Shri Ram Sharma was adamant and wanted to hold a meeting there. Panditji insisted that satyagrah should be resorted to at Assaudha but I did not agree with him. While dissociating myself from this move, I told him in clear terms that he and his friends had already appointed a dictator for the purpose and it would be better for them to consult him. As a matter of fact

I had absolutely no connection with this move. Whereas the poor satyagrahis were starving or were content with eating grama, Pandit Shri Ram Sharma was busy making money by issuing supplements of his newspaper thrice a week and charging the expenses for the same to Congress funds."

Is my honourable friend Pandit Shri Ram Sharma in his seat or has he gone out?

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma:** I am here, Sir, and I strongly repudiate the charge.

**Premier :** The speech goes on—

This source of income was given up to some extent through my intervention. The wrong policy adopted by the Congress at Assandha led to an open fight and 45 Jats were injured. The so-called Congress leaders including Bharat Singh, Diwan Singh, Anand Sarup and Mangli Ram ran away leaving the satyagrahis to shift for themselves. Later on the Government demanded security from "Haryana Tilak". In this connection Pandit Shri Ram Sharma asked me for help. I arranged for a subscription of Rs. 1,200 on condition that this newspaper should be handed over to the Congress. But after realising the money, Pandit Shri Ram Sharma retracted. Thereupon I told him that as he had not spent a single pie on the newspaper and had not handed over the paper to the Congress in accordance with his agreement, he had no right to keep this sum of Rs. one thousand with him. But he paid no heed to it and kept the money with himself.

The next thing that requires consideration relates to Rohtak Municipal elections. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma came to me and said that Jat Gazette had remarked that the candidates put up by the Congress would not fare well in the elections, but we would ask rich people to contest the elections, people who can afford to spend money and succeed in capturing the seats. To this I did not agree because I was not in favour of purchasing votes for the simple reason that Congress is against corruption of any kind and my friend wanted to purchase membership of the Municipal Committee. He replied that it was difficult for Congress candidates to succeed without spending money on elections. I told him that I would not mind even if the Congress was defeated but I for one did not want to bring a bad name to the Congress in that way. But Panditji said that he hoped to achieve success surreptitiously. I, however, would not consent, and made it clear to him that I would not attend any meeting connected with elections. So, I was never invited to attend any meeting. A sum of five hundred rupees was given to the Chumars on behalf of the Congress candidates; the money was, however, returned. Was it not a bribe? Funds were raised for another Congress candidate to the extent of five hundred rupees from among the people in the Mandi. This money was distributed among the voters. I protested against this and said: "If you cannot get votes for the Congress without paying for them in cash then why continue this farce of using the name of the Congress?" I made it clear that if any thing, it showed that Congress had no real influence. This was just like putting up something for auction. Congress help or no Congress help, the highest bidder would carry the day.

I apprised the Secretary of the Provincial Congress Committee of the situation in writing, and communicated to him the names of people who had disgraced the name of the Congress by offering bribes. I hoped that disciplinary action would be taken against them. But no reply was vouchsafed to me. I knocked at the door of the Congress High Command, but there was no response even from that quarter. I came to the conclusion that the organisation was rotten to the core and so I decided to bid farewell to it.

These people have no particular liking either for *khaddar* or *ser chaslla*. A large body of Congressmen is of the opinion that it is mere humbug. Mahatma Gandhi is being duped by such Congressmen. For a time I myself was duped. Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram knows these Congressites only too well. He came to know of their fraudulent dealing and hypocrisy long before I did. The time for my disillusionment came a little later. But when truth dawned upon me, I lost no time in saying good-bye to the Congress."

This, Sir, is the statement of the President of the Rohtak District Congress Committee of which my honourable friend is only a member.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I speak by way of reply?

**Mr. Deputy Speaker :** No interruptions please.

**Diwan Chaman Lall :** May I ask my honourable friend whether he is still the president of the Congress committee or has he joined the party of the Minister for Development ?

**Premier :** Not only he : he is only one of the members who will soon leave that party.

**Diwan Chaman Lall :** Has he joined your party ?

**Premier :** Yes, he has now come back to the fold of the zamindara party and so is Dr. Alam who has left that party.

**Diwan Chaman Lall :** How many have left the Unionist party ?

**Premier :** Not one, ask any one of them.

**Diwan Chaman Lall :** There was Mian Nurullah : did he not leave the Unionist party ?

**Premier :** Ask him whether he has joined the Congress party.

**Diwan Chaman Lall :** Has he not left those benches ?

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** On a point of order. May I know if all this debate or dialogue is relevant to the debate on General Administration ?

**Mr. Deputy Speaker :** I would request the Premier to confine his speech to the motion.

**Mian Muhammad Nurullah :** I have not joined the Congress party, but I know the defects of both the parties.

**Diwan Chaman Lall :** What about Dr. Alam? Has he joined the Unionist party ?

**Premier :** I am afraid I am not in a position to satisfy my honourable friend's curiosity. I am afraid my honourable friend Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang possesses a short memory. He does not seem to remember even his own speech which he delivered yesterday in connection with the demand for General Administration. But since he is now over seventy, I would not press this point any further. I only want to say that it has become a habit with him to make speeches in the most irresponsible manner as he has done in the present case. He observed that a Superintendent of Police had recently retired from Rohtak after having amassed a fortune of about 1½ lakhs of rupees. When I asked him the name and address of the person concerned, he declined to give an answer. What can the Government do under such circumstances? Sometime back a complaint was made against another officer and when an enquiry was started by the Government, a prominent member of the Congress party in this House, was found to be tampering with the witnesses.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker :** I would request the Honourable Premier to address the Chair.

**Diwan Chaman Lall :** The Honourable Premier has asked Lala Duni Chand to get up and support him. He is now getting up to support or contradict him.

**Lala Duni Chand :** I have not quite understood the Honourable Premier. I am prepared to answer him.

**Premier :** I merely ask whether we had that conversation or not.

**Lala Duni Chand :** I may tell you that I am prepared to admit that in the whole world of the Congress there may be one or two black sheep, but in the entire world of your Unionist Party I want to know how many black sheep are there. The proportion is 1 to 99. (*Uproar*).

**Premier :** Now, Sir, you know the real facts. Truth always prevails. All of us may be black sheep according to my honourable friend, but he has admitted that there are at least one or two black sheep among them. We take it as a valuable confession on his part.

Now I would like to meet the points raised by some of my honourable friends. I would try to dispose of their objections briefly because I have to deal at length with the charges brought against us by my honourable friend, Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang. One of my honourable friends on this side of the House complained about the paucity of veterinary hospitals and said that inoculation arrangements did not exist there. I may point out to him that there are already about 315 regular veterinary hospitals and that 1,200 first aid centres have been opened in the province. They are working to the entire satisfaction of the people. Then my honourable friend objected that surgeons in this province were drawing fabulous salaries. In this connection he specially referred to Colonel Mirajkar who is receiving a salary of two thousand rupees per month. I would say that if a surgeon of the calibre and experience of Colonel Mirajkar is paid twenty thousand rupees a month even then his services would be very cheap. I can assert with the fullest confidence that Colonels Barucha and Mirajkar have no equal in the domain of surgery, in the whole of India. They are surgeons of world-wide reputation and are well known even in Germany and America. In fact they are well versed in the most modern methods of surgery. This province is fortunate in having at its beck and call the services of surgeons of whom any country in the world may well feel proud.

Then my honourable friend Seth Kishen Das referred to the grant of scholarships to Harijans. I need not touch this point as my colleague the Honourable Minister for Education has already given a suitable reply to it. He also said something about the numerical strength of the scheduled castes. Probably he was referring to the census figures which are being compiled. In this connection I may point out that I wrote to the Government of India saying that I had no objection to the exclusion of sub-castes from the census statement, but I was certainly in favour of main castes being retained therein. I considered this arrangement most desirable and conducive to the best interests of the communities. Some of my friends would like to do away with the caste system altogether but in practical politics it is not possible to get rid of it with one stroke of the pen. I may add that if all of us get ourselves recorded as Punjabis no useful purpose would be served thereby in so far as census operations are concerned because in that case no distinction could be maintained between different communities. Some of my honourable friends perhaps think that by doing away with the distinction of scheduled castes they would be bringing about the social uplift of Harijans. But there I do not agree. We know Mahatma Gandhi

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has been straining every nerve to uplift these down-trodden and backward people. We, too, are doing our little bit to ameliorate their condition. It is gratifying to note that the question of untouchability in the Punjab is not so acute as it is in other provinces because the Punjabis are by nature large-hearted and in addition to that the contact of different cultures in Northern India is to some extent responsible for it. However, I feel that the correct strength of the scheduled castes must be recorded in the census report. My friends cannot deny that some of them do treat the scheduled castes as untouchables, although personally I do not take them as such. I consider them as my brethren. I have no hesitation in taking food with them. But so long as this discrimination exists, it would be sheer injustice to the Achhuts if they are not recorded in the census register as such. My friends want to include the Achhuts amongst themselves with a view to increasing their voting strength but they would discard them as a different unit in the matter of rights. I would, therefore, fight for them to the last ditch and see that their correct strength is recorded in the census report. But if somehow I find myself helpless, I shall fight to the bitter end and would not allow the census to be completed until the exact strength of scheduled castes is recorded. (*Cheers*).

Besides, my honourable friend Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma—these Sharmas are a veritable nuisance—said things which do not call for a reply. But he particularly remarked that the Premier was so much intoxicated with power that he would not see even the members of his own party. I fail to understand what has made my honourable friend take up cudgels on behalf of the members of my party. He should have complained if I had turned down his request to see me. As regards the members of my party, they are at liberty to see me at any time. They are my brethren. My doors are always open to them. My honourable friends know that a day consists of only 24 hours. I cannot enhance it to 48 hours so that I may be able to see and please everybody and disappoint nobody. My honourable friend would certainly oblige me if he can suggest a scheme by which I could see everybody and also attend to my administrative duties. I would, therefore, ask my friend not to worry about the members of my party. If sometimes I do not see them, I am sure they would not mind because they realise my position full well. (*Hear, hear*). As a matter of fact they have a right to see me and they can do so at any time.

**Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma :** Through Mr. Amjad.

**Premier :** My honourable friend may rest assured that I do not grant interviews through anybody. But I may make it clear that it is one of the duties of a Private Parliamentary Secretary to act as a liaison between a minister and the members. Mr. Amjad has to perform many duties as a Private Parliamentary Secretary. He does not act like my honourable friend who simply comes to the House, indulges in vituperations and then goes away.

Again my honourable friends opposite remarked that owing to the inefficiency or weak-kneed policy of the present Government as also due to the inflammatory speeches made by Chaudhri Chhotu Ram and myself, crime and lawlessness are on the increase in the province. I have time

and again made it clear that my speeches or those of the Honourable Minister for Development have nothing to do with the increase in crime or lawlessness. It is mainly due to irresponsible speeches made both inside and outside this House, and when they are published and circulated among the general public, they tend to produce a baneful effect on the public mind. I cannot help saying that my honourable friends do not realise their responsibility and indulge in irresponsible talk and use abusive language. But I think that there are several other causes for this increase in lawlessness, the most important of which is that democracy is passing through a period of transition in this province. It is a pity that my honourable friends create obstacles in the way of those who want to run the machinery of this Government on democratic lines. I may also add that I have requested my honourable friends on several occasions to co-operate with me in putting an end to this state of lawlessness, crime and communal strife. But my requests have fallen on deaf ears. They try to exploit the situation without realising the dangers it involves to the peace of the province. When they hold party meetings they invariably think of ways and means of embarrassing the Government. If they continue to act like this the province, God forbid, will receive a serious set back.

My friends should try to effect a change in their mentality. I should warn them that so long as they do not do that, they will not be able to oust us from these benches and take their seats here. When honourable members opposite begin to feel their responsibility, and I believe it is a simple thing and there are some members there who do feel their responsibility, a time may come when they would be in a position to occupy these benches. It is, therefore, all the more necessary for my friends over there to feel their responsibility and try to change their ways of doing things, so that some day they may be able to occupy these benches. In fact it is in their own interest that they should not try to embarrass the Government simply for the sake of some temporary or transitory gain. On the contrary they should lend a helping hand to the Government. I have repeatedly requested them and I request them once again that they should realize their responsibility and give up their present tactics. If they do so they will not only be serving the best interests of their own province but those of the whole of India.

My honourable friend pointed out that crime was on the increase in the Punjab. I think he has not cared to take cognisance of what is happening in the neighbouring province. I mean the United Provinces where Congress has been in power for the last two and a half years. With your permission I will quote figures which I have been able to collect regarding murders, dacoities, robberies, and burglaries committed in the Punjab and compare them with those committed in the United Provinces. I do not think it is necessary for me to compare these figures with those of the North-West Frontier Province for the simple reason that on the Indian border where hardy and warlike people reside the number of crimes should naturally be much larger than elsewhere as my honourable friend, Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang, rightly observed yesterday. My honourable friends are fully aware of the conditions obtaining in that province and they also know that they are not similar to those prevailing here. I will, therefore, compare the crime figures in the Punjab with those of a big and a neighbouring province like the United Provinces and see as to what is going on there. I will place

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those facts and figures before the House and the honourable members would be able to judge for themselves whether or not the administration in the Punjab is superior to that in the United Provinces, where the Congress has been holding the reins of Government for the last two and a half years. In the first place I will give facts and figures about 1936 so that my honourable friends should be in a position to know how matters stood before the inauguration of provincial autonomy. I think the increase in crime in the Punjab since 1936 is mainly due to the transitional period through which democracy has been passing in this province. However the number of murders committed in the Punjab in 1936 was, 1,007 while in the United Provinces this number was 939. In this connection it should be borne in mind that it is only on one side of the United Provinces that some warlike jats are residing while the other side, I mean the Bengal side, is almost entirely inhabited by law-abiding people and in that part of the province murders are seldom committed. The case of the Punjab is quite different. In spite of all this the number of murders committed in the Punjab and the United Provinces stood at 1,007 and 939, respectively. The number of dacoities committed in the Punjab was 114 against 450 in the United Provinces. The number of robberies committed in the Punjab was 688 while in the United Provinces it was 503. The number of burglaries committed in the Punjab was 14,540 against 28,473 in the United Provinces. These figures relate to major crimes committed in both the provinces in 1936. Now I will place before the House the figures relating to 1938. The number of murders committed in the Punjab was 1,007 in 1936 and it increased to 1,215 in 1938. In other words there was an increase of 200 murders in the Punjab in 1938. I think this increase calls for immediate action and I assure the honourable members that we are already making strenuous efforts to put a stop to this and I expect that my honourable friends opposite would also co-operate with us in stamping it out. In the United Provinces during the same period the number of murders increased from 939 to 1,196. It seems to me that some Pandit Shri Ram Sharma in the United Provinces had incited the people to commit murders and that is why there has been an increase in the number of murders committed there. (*Interruptions.*) My friends are very restive. I have given facts and figures about 1936 and now I am giving figures about 1938 in order to bring home to the honourable members the state of crime in 1936 and the situation as it is at present. I will not conceal anything. I will give you the percentages as well. The number of robberies in the Punjab increased from 688 in 1936 to 999 in 1938 and in the United Provinces it increased from 503 to 686 during the same period. The number of dacoities in the Punjab increased from 114 to 147 in 1938 while in the United Provinces the number increased from 450 to 750 during the same period. The number of burglaries in the Punjab increased from 14,540 to 17,508 while in the United Provinces the number increased from 28,473 in 1936 to 34,871 in 1938. These are the figures relating to different kinds of crime in the Punjab and the United Provinces, respectively. If my honourable friends want that I should give them the percentages as well, here they are. The percentage of increase in 1938 over figures for 1936 is: Murders: 20·7, dacoities: 28·9, robberies: 46·3 and burglaries: 20·4 per cent in the Punjab, while in the United Provinces the figures are 27·4, 68·2, 36·4 and 22·5 for murders, dacoities, robberies and burglaries, respectively. These

in short are the figures about major crimes in the Punjab and from these my honourable friends can judge for themselves whether the administration in the Punjab is superior to the United Province or not. If they are just and fair-minded they would admit that the Punjab Government deserves praise rather than condemnation for not permitting lawlessness to have the upper hand in the Punjab as has been alleged by my honourable friends opposite. I may also add that if my honourable friends had read the answer given to a question in the Central Assembly the other day regarding troops requisitioned by the provincial governments, they would have found that during the three years of provincial autonomy services of troops were requisitioned only in three provinces. In the United Provinces troops were called out as many as 29 times. As compared with this not even a single occasion arose when the aid of the military was sought by the Punjab Government. And for this I do not want to claim all credit for myself, but I give the credit to the people of the Punjab who in spite of the fact that they are a warlike people have not indulged in things which would compel the Government to have recourse to the military. Let me make it clear that during the time we have been in office, some mischief-mongers tried to create trouble in the province but with the co-operation of the honourable members we have succeeded in nipping in the bud all such attempts. I may take this opportunity of striking a note of warning that if in the future some mischief-mongers take it into their head to start trouble, it shall be my duty in the interest of law and order and the dignity of the province that I should crush them with a heavy hand, and I assure my honourable friends that I shall not rest contented until I have done my duty.

I now turn to another point. A number of my honourable friends made references to the press and I also want to say a few words with regard to it. I am really very sorry to say that my honourable friends Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma and Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang made irresponsible attacks on the press. They directed their tirades against the press which has been indulging in honest and dishonest criticism about us ; which has been turning and twisting facts to our detriment ; which has been exhibiting the falsehoods of my honourable friends as gospel truths ; which has been supporting them through thick and thin and which has failed even to give us their fair support. Against such a press they remarked that it has been demoralised and intimidated. It is possible that according to my honourable friends the press has given up its tendency of criticising us very severely. I am definitely of the opinion that the tone of the press has changed for the better and this is what is being construed by the honourable members opposite as weakness or demoralisation of the press. This is what they do not want. But they should bear in mind that the press has become more responsible and feels that it is now under an essentially democratic system of Government. However, I assure my honourable friends that no pressure has been brought to bear on it. The suspicions of my honourable friends would have been justified had the Punjab Press become in any way less critical of the policy of the Government. If they care to read any of these papers, the *Tribune* for instance, they would find that it is the severest critic of our policy, yet it cannot be denied that it is a paper which has always strictly adhered to its policy, and would not sell its conscience for the sake of my



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honourable friends opposite, or for the sake of Government at any time and at any price. It would not be out of place to mention here that in spite of the fact that one of its Trustees happens to be an Honourable Minister, the Government have never tried to put undue pressure upon their most severe critic, for changing its policy towards them. My honourable friends are well aware of the attitude the Punjab Press has adopted towards me or my Government. Notwithstanding the fact that it has made me the target of their most pungent criticisms I would candidly admit that it has never taken sides. On the other hand my honourable friends whom the papers sometimes go out of their way to support have hurled abuses at them in the course of their tirades against the Government. They have made no distinction between a friend and a foe. I would like to say to the Press, "This is the reward for the services you have rendered to these gentlemen and these are the people for whom you have gone to the length of killing your conscience."

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** Do they "Kill their conscience"?

**Premier :** That is what my honourable friend himself said. Now that he has retired from practice and is no longer working as a member of the legal profession his memory seems to be giving way and it is no longer as sharp as it used to be. My honourable friend said that the Government had corrupted the Press and the same thing was echoed by my honourable friend Lala Duni Chand.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** I said, I would not say that. Lala Duni Chand said that.

**Premier :** Anyway if the Press has been corrupted, the responsibility for it does not lie upon the Government. As a matter of fact the boot is on the other leg and my honourable friends are themselves responsible for it. We have never tried to do anything of that sort. It was also said that the Government was corrupting the Press by holding out the bait of advertisements to them. I would submit that the papers cannot be corrupted by these methods. After all what is the number of advertisements that they get? We are not giving them bags of money in the form of court notices and other advertisements. I think no paper can be corrupted by a paltry sum of Rs. 50 or at the most Rs. 100 per month. Does my honourable friend think that the *Tribune*, the *Milap*, the *Partap* and the *Vir Bharat* can be corrupted at that price? I am confident that the Muslim papers at least cannot be influenced or bought by such methods. Moreover, we have followed the example of the United Provinces and the Bihar Governments in this respect. The information Bureau there "controls the distribution of Government advertisements and contributions to the Press." This method was first adopted by the United Provinces Government and later on it was followed by Bihar. When our Director of Information Bureau went there, he was informed that it was better and more convenient to have such an arrangement. The reason given was that the officers concerned or the Heads of the Departments did not know the circulation of any particular paper nor did they know their advertisement rates and therefore

sometimes those canvassing for advertisements on behalf of even third rate papers with a very limited circulation got these advertisements, and the Government was a loser all along the line.

Now Sir, I would proceed to give facts and figures and you will be surprised to know that the allegation of corruption made against me by my honourable friends Lala Duni Chand and Dr. Gokul Chand Narang—

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** Intimidation.

**Premier :** and of intimidation by Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang is quite unfounded. (*Interruptions.*)

**Mr. Deputy Speaker :** No interruption, please.

**Lala Duni Chand :** Remarks are made only to sharpen the wits of the Premier.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker :** It would give rise to the same sort of dialogue to which I objected.

**Premier :** Lala Duni Chand, will you kindly let me proceed as the time at my disposal is very limited? I will give a reply to both the charges of corruption and intimidation at one and the same time. You will be sorry as well as glad to know that since the coming into force of provincial autonomy the total circulation of the papers in this province has increased by 25 per cent.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** Since when?

**Premier :** Since provincial autonomy came into operation. Dr. Narang was pleased to remark, that the Press was eating out of my hand and was completely under my thumb. Let me assure him that there is a certain section of the Press which in spite of always finding fault with the Unionist Government realises that they too are as much patriots and well-wishers of the people as others claim to be and that it is a truly democratic form of Government. Even if they condemn the Government for its sins of omission or commission they do not want to injure the spirit of democracy. But you on the other hand use dictatorial methods like dictators.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** That is Mr. Jinnah.

**Premier :** You are in no way a lesser dictator than he is. Now try to listen to what I have to say. From June, 1939, that is, from the time when this new method of distributing advertisement was started, to December, 1939, the total amount paid through the Director of Information Bureau for advertisements to the *Tribune*, the *Partap*, the *Milap* and the *Vir Bharat* was Rs. 10,000 whereas the amount paid to all the other papers for the same period was only Rs. 7,000. I assure my honourable friend that no discrimination was made in doing so and that the advertisements were given on the basis of the respective circulations of those papers. Does my honourable friend think that only Rs. 50 thousand worth of Government advertisements out of a total income of Rs. 7 or 8 lakhs from commercial and other advertisements could corrupt the Punjab Press? I do not think the Punjab Press is so cheap or so mean that it can sell its conscience for this paltry sum of money.

**Diwan Chaman Lall :** This is what you said about the Punjab Press.  
(*Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :* The gutter press.)

**Premier :** I for one am not prepared to deny the existence of the gutter press. It is not, however, the Government but my honourable friends who are the supporters of the gutter press.

Let us now see what the Punjab Press has to say with regard to the allegations made by my honourable friends. The Press representatives have strongly protested against the remarks made by them. With your permission, Sir, I will read out their written protest before the House.

**Diwan Chaman Lall :** Is it something new ?

**Premier :** Yes.

**Diwan Chaman Lall :** What is it supposed to be ?

**Premier :** Have patience and you will hear for yourself what they have to say—

It was with a good deal of pain and regret that we heard the remarks made in the House on Thursday in the course of the debate on general administration when Opposition members made a baseless and malicious attack against the Press as a whole and particularly the members of the Press gallery. The tirade came mainly from Sir Gokul Chand Narang but some members of the Congress party also joined him and made some most objectionable remarks against the honesty and professional integrity of the members of the Press gallery. It was a most regrettable exhibition, particularly when the members knew that their attack could not be refuted and condemned in the strongest terms by the Press representatives on the floor of the House and they were obliged silently to listen to the indignities and insults heaped upon them.

We the members of the Press gallery, take strong objection to the malicious lies uttered in the House. We feel that the libellous manner in which our honesty and integrity were challenged should not go to the public without a protest on our part. The general Press, which was also attacked, is quite capable of defending itself.

We have only to tell those members of the House who attacked us in that most unwarranted fashion that we know our business and how to carry on the high traditions of our profession. Information is from time to time supplied to us not only by the representatives of the Government, but to a larger extent by members of the Opposition. We welcome all such information, but we naturally exercise our discretion in the choice of what we should or should not use. The insinuation that we allow any representative of the Government or any party to dictate to us what we should or should not write is unwarranted and irresponsible. If the reference made by Sir Gokul Chand Narang was to the occasional visits of the Director of Information Bureau to the Press gallery, we would like to say that we always welcome him not only as a likely source of information, but also as a personal friend and old co-worker of most of us. Let us assure everybody that we will not brook, as in the past, any interference in the honest discharge of our duty whether it comes from the Ministerial or the Opposition side and we will carry on our duty to the public without fear or favour.

As to those who very timidly alleged that the Press representatives were victims of corruption and were easily intimidated, we have only to say that perhaps it is a case of everything looking yellow to their jaundiced eyes.

We appeal to the Speaker, the Leader of the House and the Leader of the Opposition to save us from such malicious and unworthy attacks to which we cannot reply on the floor of the House. The business of the Opposition is to criticise the Government and not to utilise the opportunity to malign the Press.

**Lala Duni Chand :** May I put one question to the Honourable Premier ?

**Premier :** I do not give way.

**Diwan Chaman Lal :** May I know the names of the signatories ?

**Premier :** I pass this on to the honourable member for his perusal. So far as the representatives of the Press are concerned I can assert with the fullest confidence that they have upheld the highest traditions of journalism. I am always prepared to help them and if anybody makes any malicious attack on them they can rely on my support in vindicating their honour.

My friend Pandit Muni Lal Kalia made certain references to the collection of subscriptions by sub-judges for subsidising the Boy Scouts Movement. But let me tell him that this is not the proper way to bring such matters to the notice of the Government. I may assure him that if he brings any particular case to my notice in writing I would be only too glad to move the Honourable Chief Justice to take necessary action in the matter.

Then, Sir, I need hardly say anything with regard to the remarks made by certain members opposite in connection with the appointment of the Director of Industries. It was indeed highly uncharitable on their part to make such uncalled for remarks about me. Let me assure my friends that I had absolutely no hand in the matter. In fact whenever the question of the appointment or promotion of my friends or relatives arises I scrupulously keep myself aloof and adopt quite an indifferent attitude in the matter. I am fully alive to the idea that in such cases one is apt to err and as the maxim goes, to err is human, and I do not claim to be an exception to this general rule. Moreover, I am always afraid lest any mistake on my part should bring a bad name to my colleagues or besmirch the fair name of the Ministry. I know the Congress Governments made such blunders and so were rightly accused of jobbery and nepotism, but I can assert without fear of contradiction that so far as my Government is concerned no such accusation against us can hold water.

Then, Sir, my friend Malik Barkat Ali was pleased to remark that the Public Services Commission is not properly looking after the legitimate interests of a particular community and that it should be asked to give the Muslims their due share in Government services. Let me submit for his information that constitutionally speaking the Punjab Government has nothing to do with the said Commission, and it is not open to the former to issue instructions to a body which is not under its control.

Now, Sir, I come to the objections raised by my friend, Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang, against the agrarian measures that the Punjab Government has recently placed on the Statute Book. In the course of his lengthy speech he was pleased to make a very interesting revelation namely that on account of these enactments a state of complete lawlessness is prevailing in the province, and according to him certain mortgagors have forcibly occupied their mortgaged lands in various parts of the Punjab. But when he was asked to cite instances in support of his contention he could give only two and even about them he was not quite certain. At first he said that an incident occurred at Shakargarh and then he corrected himself and said that the name of the town was Shankargarh. In fact he himself had serious doubts about the genuineness of the incident and that is why

[Premier.]

he could not recall the correct name of the place. Then, he remarked that in the Jhang district land worth Rs. 80,000 had been forcibly taken possession of by the mortgagor. But may I enquire from him as to whether there is any money-lender who will relinquish his land worth Rs. 80,000 without demur? I doubt very much. When even a large-hearted person cannot smilingly submit to the loss of 80 pice, how can we expect a calculating money-lender to let go a vast area of agricultural land without raising his little finger against this loot, for it is nothing but loot pure and simple? Had anything of this kind happened the aggrieved person would have approached some court of law by this time.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** Please read the pamphlet.

**Premier :** I would advise my friend not to place too much reliance on the contents of such pamphlets.

Now, Sir, I come to the incident, which occurred in the Gujranwala district to which my friend referred in his speech, and which was also brought to my notice by the Deputy Commissioner. When I enquired into the matter I found to my great surprise that no such thing had happened at Hafiz abad. Certain interested persons had created such a wrong impression on the public mind that the Deputy Commissioner of the district considered it desirable to hold a meeting for removing the doubts and misunderstandings lurking in the minds of the people.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** Why do you not hold an enquiry into the Jhang case?

**Premier :** If my friend brings any particular case to my notice I would be only too glad to institute an enquiry into it.

Then, Sir, my friend Dr. Sahib complained of some imaginary *zulum* perpetrated by the present Government on the non-agriculturists and was pleased to remark that he wanted to see true Punjabis and not the zamindars at the helm of affairs in the Punjab. But let me point out to him that I do not discriminate between an agriculturist and a non-agriculturist. (A voice : Question.) Far be it from me to do so. To me the first and foremost consideration is justice and fairplay. But if he thinks that justice means criminal negligence on the part of the Government in not safeguarding the rights and interests of an overwhelming majority in the province, I feel constrained to say that I would be the last person to uphold such a novel principle of justice and equity. And if he holds the Government justified in acceding to the legitimate demands of these people then let him come forward and help me in running the administration of the province, and abstain from joining hands with those friends of his who are rank communalists masquerading under the cloak of nationalism. In fact they have made the Congress a stalking horse. If to-morrow, God forbid, the Punjab Congress comes into power these people who have nationalism on their lips and communal venom in their hearts would not be justified in claiming to be running a national and democratic Government in the province. (Cheers.)

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

That the demand be reduced by Re. 100.

*The Assembly divided: Ayes 80, Noes 79.*

# AYES.

Abdul Aziz, Mian.  
Bhagat Ram Choda, Lala.  
Bhagat Ram Sharma, Pandit.  
Bhim Sen Sachar, Lala.  
Chaman Lall, Diwan.  
Chanan Singh, Sardar.  
Duni Chand, Lala.  
Duni Chand, Mrs.  
Faqir Chand, Chaudhri.  
Gokul Chand Narang, Dr. Sir.  
Gopi Chand Bhargava, Dr.  
Hari Lal, Munshi.  
Harjab Singh, Sardar.  
Harnam Das, Lala.  
Jalal-ud-Din Amber, Chaudhri.  
Jugal Kishore, Chaudhri.

Kartar Singh, Chaudhri.  
Krishna Gopal Dutt, Chaudhri.  
Muhammad Abdul Rahman Khan,  
Chaudhri.  
Muhammad Nurullah, Mian.  
Mula Singh, Sardar.  
Muni Lal Kalia, Pandit.  
Raghubir Kaur, Shrimati.  
Rur Singh, Sardar.  
Santokh Singh, Sardar Sahib Sardar.  
Sant Ram Seth, Dr.  
Shrimati Shanno Devi.  
Shri Ram Sharma, Pandit.  
Sita Ram, Lala.  
Sudarshan, Sethi.

# NOES.

Abdul Hamid Khan, Sufi.  
Abdul Haye, The Honourable Mian.  
Abdul Rab, Mian.  
Abdul Rahim, Chaudhri (Gurgaon).  
Afzaalali Hasnie, Sayed.  
Ahmad Yar Khan, Chaudhri.  
Ali Akbar, Chaudhri.  
Amjad Ali Shah, Sayed.  
Anant Ram, Chaudhri.  
Ashiq Hussain, Captain.  
Bhagwant Singh, Rai.  
Chhotu Ram, The Honourable Chaudhri Sir.  
Faiz Muhammad Khan, Rai.  
Faiz Muhammad, Sheikh.  
Faqir Hussain Khan, Chaudhri.  
Farman Ali Khan, Subedar-Major Raja.  
Fateh Muhammad, Mian.  
Fazl Ali, Khan Bahadur Nawab Chaudhri.  
Fazal Din, Khan Sahib Chaudhri.  
Fazal Karim Bakhsh, Mian.  
Few, Mr. E.  
Ghazanfar Ali Khan, Raja.  
Ghulam Mohy-ud-Din, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.  
Ghulam Qadir Khan, Khan Bahadur.

Gopal Singh (American), Sardar.  
Gurbachan Singh, Sardar Bahadur Sardar.  
Habib Ullah Khan, Malik.  
Hans Raj, Bhagat.  
Harnam Singh, Captain Sodhi.  
Het Ram, Rai Sahib Chaudhri.  
Indar Singh, Sardar.  
Jafar Ali Khan, M.  
Jagjit Singh Man, Sardar.  
Joginder Singh Man, Sardar.  
Khizar Hayat Khan Tiwana, The Honourable Major Nawabzada Mahk.  
Maqbool Mahmood, Mir.  
Muhammad Akram Khan, Khan Bahadur Raja.  
Muhammad Amin, Khan Sahib Shaikh.  
Muhammad Ashraf, Chaudhri.  
Muhammad Azam Khan, Sardar.  
Muhammad Faiyaz Ali Khan, Nawabzada.  
Muhammad Hussain, Chaudhri.  
Muhammad Jamal Khan Leghari, Nawab Sir.  
Muhammad Nawaz Khan, Major Sardar Sir.

Muhammad Saadat Ali Khan, Khan Bahadur Khan.	Ram Sarup, Chaudhri.
Muhammad Sarfraz Khan, Chaudhri.	Ranpat Singh, Chaudhri.
Muhammad Sarfraz Khan, Raja.	Rashida Latif Baji, Begum.
Muhammad Shafi Ali Khan, Khan Sahib Chaudhri.	Riasat Ali, Khan Bahadur Chaudhri.
Muhammad Yasin Khan, Chaudhri.	Ripudaman Singh, Rai Sahib Thakur.
Mazaffar Khan, Khan Bahadur Captain Malik.	Roberts, Sir William.
Muzaffar Khan, Khan Bahadur Nawab.	Sadiq Hassan, Shaikh.
Nasir-ud-Din, Chaudhri.	Sahib Dad Khan, Khan Sahib Chaudhri.
Nasir-ud-Din Shah, Pir.	Shahadat Khan, Khan Sahib Rai.
Nasrullah Khan, Rana.	Shah Nawaz, Mrs. J. A.
Naunihal Singh Mann, Lieutenant Sardar.	Shah Nawaz Khan, Nawab Sir.
Nawazish Ali Shah, Sayed.	Sikander Hyat-Khan, The Honourable Major Sir.
Nur Ahmad Khan, Khan Bahadur Mian.	Singha, Diwan Bahadur S. P.
Pir Muhammad, Khan Sahib Chaudhri.	Sultan Mahmood Hotiana, Mian.
Pohop Singh, Rao.	Sundar Singh Majithia, The Honourable Dr. Sir.
Pritam Singh Siddhu, Sardar.	Suraj Mal, Chaudhri.
	Tara Singh, Sardar.
	Tikka Ram, Chaudhri.
	Ujjal Singh, Sardar Bahadur Sardar.

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

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 93,02,800 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1941, in respect of General Administration.

*The motion was carried.*

*The Assembly then adjourned till 12 noon on Tuesday, 26th March, 1941.*

# PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

## SIXTH SESSION OF THE FIRST PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

*Tuesday, 26th March, 1940.*

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

### STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

#### INTERNEES IN LAHORE FORT.

**\*6315. Master Kabul Singh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

- (a) the number of persons confined in the Lahore Fort by the Special Branch Police since the 1st April, 1937 ;
- (b) the number of those among them who returned from foreign countries ;
- (c) the number of those among them who were tried in the courts of law ;
- (d) the number of those among them who were (i) made State prisoners ; (ii) interned within certain areas ; (iii) externed from the Punjab ; (iv) released after detention in the Fort.
- (e) the arrangement of ration, clothing and lodging made for them during their detention in the Fort ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Mir Maqbool Mahmood) :** (a) 34. These persons were confined in the Fort under the orders of the Punjab Government.

(b) 21.

(c) Nil.

(d) (i) Nil.

(ii) 7.

(iii) 4.

(iv) 18.

Of the remaining five persons, two are in the Fort, two are in Jail under Rule 26 of the Defence of India Rules and one is in military custody.



[Mir Maqbool Mahmood.]

(e) Prisoners confined in the Lahore Fort are permitted to use their own bedding and clothes. The diet provided is required to be of a standard not lower than ordinarily provided for persons in police custody. In practice, it is usually of a higher standard.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** May I know the name of the person who is alleged to be under military custody ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I am afraid I cannot answer that question.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** In reply to part (d) (iv), it has been said that 18 persons were released after detention in the Fort. May I know whether they were apprehended on false reports ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** If my honourable friend gives notice of the question as to the reasons why they were let off later, I shall be prepared to answer that question.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** May I know whether or not the quality of diet supplied to persons under police custody is better than that given to A class prisoners ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** The diet is better than that of A class prisoners.

**Lala Deshbandhu Gupta :** May I know if there is any time limit as to the period for which they are to remain confined in the Fort ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** If my honourable friend gives me notice I will be prepared to go into details of the question but it all depends on the events and circumstances.

**Lala Deshbandhu Gupta :** May I take it that there is no time limit and they are to remain there indefinitely ?

**Mr. Speaker :** Disallowed.

**Lala Duni Chand :** May I know if the reason for not putting them in a court of law is that if cases are started against them, the Government will not be able to make out any cases against them ?

**Mr. Speaker :** Disallowed.

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I repudiate that insinuation.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** In reply to part (b), the Parliamentary Secretary was pleased to remark that there were as many as 21 detainees who had returned from foreign countries. May I know whether they are other than those 18 persons who have been released after detention ?

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

**Mr. Speaker :** The next question.

**SARDAR IQBAL SINGH.**

**\*6316. Master Kabul Singh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

- (a) the reasons for which Sardar Iqbal Singh has been detained ;
- (b) the class for purposes of treatment in jail given to him ;
- (c) allowance, if any, fixed for his diet, personal requirements, games, etc.;
- (d) the period for which the Government intend to keep him confined in jail ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Mir Maqbool Mahmood) :** (a) To prevent him from acting in a manner prejudicial to public order.

(b) He is being treated in the same way as a State prisoner.

(c) Government have sanctioned an allowance to him of Rs. 32 per mensem. He is being dieted at the rate of Re. 1-6-0 per diem.

(d) This will depend on events.

**Mr. Dev Raj Sethi :** What kind of events ? International situation or—

**Parliamentary Secretary :** Events in and outside India.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Is he going to be detained as long as the War lasts ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** Not necessarily.

**WEAVING INDUSTRY IN GOVERNMENT HIGH SCHOOL, BAHADURGARH.**

**\*6318. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state—

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Headmaster, Government High School, Bahadurgarh (district Rohtak), has introduced weaving industry as an optional subject in the school ;
- (b) if so, whether it has been done under the instructions of the department ?

**The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye :** (a) and (b) Weaving has been introduced in the school only as a hobby and not as an optional subject. The question of getting departmental sanction, therefore, does not arise.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Has Government any objection to encouraging this hobby in the schools ?

**Minister :** The Government has no objection to it.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Has Government any objection to introducing such hobbies as optional subjects in the schools ?

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know whether this fact was brought to the notice of the Director of Public Instruction and the Inspector of Schools, Ambala division, that such and such a hobby has been introduced in the Government High School, Bahadurgarh ?

**Minister :** It is very difficult to answer this question without notice.

**Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :** Is it wool weaving or cotton weaving ?

**Minister :** Rather cotton weaving.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know whether this hobby has fetched any income to the students ?

**Minister :** I have no farther information except what I have already stated.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know whether the answer read out by the Honourable Minister was submitted by the Inspector of Schools or the Headmaster of that particular institution ?

**Minister :** The enquiry is made through the proper channel and the Inspector is required to report. He makes the necessary enquiries from the officer of the institution concerned.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Is Government prepared to introduce such hobbies as optional subjects in the schools especially when they have proved to be a source of income to the students ?

**Minister :** This question has not been considered.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Is Government opposed to the idea of encouraging such hobbies in the schools ?

**Minister :** So far as the hobbies are concerned, we see no objection.

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GOVERNMENT HIGH SCHOOL, RUPAR.

**\*6319. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has decided not to close down Government High School, Rupar, from 1st April, 1940 ;

- (b) whether it is also a fact that the Rupar Municipal Committee has expressed its readiness to resume the management of the school, *vide* its resolution adopted on the 6th of February, 1940 ;
- (c) the action Government propose to take on the resolution of the Rupar Municipal Committee mentioned in (b) ?

**The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye :** (a) The whole question is under consideration.

(b) No copy of a resolution said to have been passed by the municipal committee on the 6th February, 1940, has so far been received but a copy of a resolution passed on the 30th January, 1940, has been received and in this they have merely made a request that the Government High School may not be closed.

(c) Does not arise.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Has Government definitely decided to close down as many as 15 high schools in the province ?

**Minister :** The matter is still under consideration.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** For how long will this matter remain under consideration ?

**Minister :** It is well nigh impossible to give any specific date in this connection.

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GOVERNMENT HIGH SCHOOL, RUPAR.

**\*6320. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state—

- (a) whether it is a fact that the question of closing down 15 Government High Schools in the province is under consideration of Government and the list of such schools includes the name of Government High School, Rupar ;
- (b) whether it is a fact that municipal committee, Rupar, passed a resolution on 30th January, 1940, recommending to the Government that the school may be continued as Government Institution, failing which it may be handed over to the said municipal committee ;
- (c) whether it is a fact that when the school was transferred to Government control, the Rupar committee was getting Rs. 1,500 yearly as special grant from the Government for the maintenance of this high school ;

[Pt. Shri Ram Sharma.]

- (d) whether it is a fact that the transfer deed, dated 5th September, 1922, registered on 29th September, 1922, contains a condition that if the school is closed down all buildings, land, etc., attached to the school will revert to the municipal committee, Rupar, without any compensation being given to Government ;
- (e) whether it is a fact that municipal committee, Rupar, sent a written representation to the Honourable Minister on the subject on 2nd February, 1940 ;
- (f) if the reply to the foregoing parts be in the affirmative, whether the Government will consider the question of returning the school buildings, etc., to the municipal committee, Rupar, if the school is not continued ?

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

(b) Yes. The committee has requested Government not to close down the school but has not so far asked for its being handed over to them in case Government decides to close it.

(c) Yes.

(d) Yes.

(e) Yes, but the representation is dated the 1st February, 1940.

(f) The question, if and when it arises, will be duly considered.

#### OMISSION OF CASTE COLUMN IN CENSUS REPORT.

**\*6322. Mrs. Duni Chand :** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state—

- (a) whether a representation has been made by the *Jat Pat Torak Mandal*, Lahore, to the Punjab Government asking them to recommend to the Central Government the omission of the entry of caste in regard to the Hindus in the forthcoming Census Report and to substitute for caste entry the two categories of castes and schedule castes ;
- (b) what recommendations, if any, the Government has made to the Central Government in regard to the request made in the representation of the said *Mandal* ;
- (c) what recommendations, if any, apart from the said representation the Punjab Government has made in regard to the entry to be made in the column of caste ?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Punjab Government have expressed the view that they are opposed to the elimination of entries relating to castes from the census returns, although they have no objection to the omission of sub-castes.

**Lala Duni Chand :** May I know if it is a fact that the Government of India enquired from the Punjab Government if they had any objection to the omission of caste in the census papers ?

**Minister :** The answer is in the affirmative.

**Lala Duni Chand :** Was any such communication received by the Punjab Government from the Government of India and if so, what reply was given by the Punjab Government to the Government of India ?

**Minister :** The communication was received and the reply has been given as I have stated in reply to part (c) of the question.

**Lala Duni Chand :** Is it not true that the Government of India have no objection to the omission of caste in the census papers but that the Punjab Government raised objections ?

**Minister :** I have no information as to the decision of the Government of India. Our opinion was asked which we gave.

**Lala Duni Chand :** May I know what are the views of the Punjab Government with regard to the activities in regard to abolition of castes ?

**Minister :** I do not understand what the honourable member means by "activities in regard to abolition of castes". It is for the people of India and perhaps a particular community to decide whether caste is to be abolished or not.

**Lala Duni Chand :** Does the Government approve of the activities of such institutions as the *Jat Pat Torak Mandal* ?

**Minister :** That is a very big question and I would not like to answer it here.

**Lala Duni Chand :** What is the opinion of the Punjab Government with regard to the desirability or otherwise of the omission of castes in census papers ?

**Minister :** So long as the caste system exists in social life, I see no objection to its being recorded in the census papers.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** Is it a fact that out of all the provincial Governments, it was the Punjab Government alone that objected to the omission of the column of castes in census papers ?

**Minister :** I have no information as regards the opinions given by other provincial Governments.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** Is it a fact that the Punjab Government did oppose the omission ?

**Minister :** I have already stated it.

## OMISSION OF CASTE STATISTICS IN THE FORTHCOMING CENSUS.

**\*6357. Mr. Dev Raj Sethi :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Punjab Government recently received a circular from the Government of India proposing that *inter alia* the tabulation of caste be omitted in the Census Reports of 1941 and that in the columns of caste the two categories of High caste and Scheduled castes be allowed ; if so, the action taken thereon ;

(b) whether the Punjab Government has sent a representation to the Central Government on the above subject ; if so, will the Government be pleased to lay it on the table of the House ?

**The Honourable Mian Adbul Haye :** (a) and (b). The Government of India forwarded for the views of the Punjab Government a suggestion that entries relating to castes need not be made in the census returns. The Punjab Government opposed this suggestion. I regret I am unable to place a copy of the correspondence on the table.

**Mr. Dev Raj Sethi :** What were the reasons for opposition ?

**Minister :** Ethnological, social and administrative.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** What was the ethnological reason ?

**Minister :** It is desirable to know what races exist in this country and what their origin is.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** Does my honourable friend understand the true connotation of an ethnological question ? What bearing in the opinion of the Honourable Minister has the recording of persons as Khatrias, Aroras, etc., on ethnology ? Does he know what ethnology is ?

**Minister :** I have already stated my views.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** He has not stated his views. He said that there were ethnological, social and administrative questions. I have proceeded to examine him on those three points. My first point was what bearing the entry of persons as Khatrias, Aroras, Mahajans, etc., has on an ethnological question. Ethnologically they are all the same. Will he tell me what administrative reasons there were in opposing the omission of the entry of castes ?

**Minister :** I have already said that so long as caste system exists in our social life, it is desirable from the administrative point of view to have this return in census report.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** Is not the Honourable Minister aware that there is a strong movement for the abolition of various ramifications of castes such as Khatrias, Aroras, Baniyas, Tirkhans, Lohars, etc. ?

**Minister :** There is some movement, but it is difficult to say whether it is strong or weak.

**Lala Duni Chand :** Should I understand from the attitude adopted by the Honourable Minister that the Government wants to perpetuate caste system ?

**Minister :** It is for you to decide and abolish it.

**Lala Duni Chand :** What have you decided ?

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** May I ask the Honourable Minister whether the opposition to this proposal was based on the considerations on which the Punjab Alienation of Land Act is based ?

**Minister :** It may be one of the reasons.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** It means that the Punjab Government wants to perpetuate the castes by means of the Alienation of Land Act.

**Mr. Speaker :** That is an inference.

#### OMISSION OF CASTE STATISTICS IN THE FORTHCOMING CENSUS.

**\*6362. Sardar Hari Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state—

(a) whether Punjab Government has made any representation to the Government of India against the omission of caste statistics in the forthcoming census of 1941 ;

(b) if the answer to (a) above be in the affirmative, what actuated the Government to make the said representation ?

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

(b) The collection of such statistics is important from the ethnological, administrative and social points of view.

#### SCHEME OF THE EXTENSION OF WESTERN JUMNA CANAL.

**\*5649. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether an extension of the Western Jumna Canal is under consideration for the irrigation of lands in Jhajjar tahsil of Rohtak district and also lands in some parts of Hissar district ; if so, the details of the said scheme ;

(b) how far this scheme has progressed so far and when this scheme is likely to mature ;

(c) wherefrom and how this additional water is being arranged ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan) :** (a) and (b) The honourable member is referred to the answer given to question No. \*5922<sup>1</sup>.



[Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan.]

(c) The surplus flood water in the river in the flood season is proposed to be utilized for this scheme.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know the total area which is likely to be commandable by this scheme ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I cannot give off-hand the exact area.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know whether the total area commandable by this scheme in the district of Hissar is greater than that of tahsil Jhajjar ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I think the total area is about 350,000 acres.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know if the area of land in the Hissar district is equal to that in the district of Rohtak ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I am sorry I am not in a position to give all the details.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know if the work of survey in this connection has been finished.

**Parliamentary Secretary :** Survey has been completed, but the plans and estimates are in the course of preparation.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know if the digging work has been started ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** Estimates are being prepared and alignment is being made according to the plans. As soon as funds are available, the work will be started.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Can the Parliamentary Secretary tell us approximately when this work will be started ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I am not in a position to give a definite time.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will he be pleased to state what will be the sources of surplus water as stated in his reply ?

**Minister of Revenue :** It will come from heaven.

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I have said in my answer that the surplus flood water will be utilised for this scheme.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Does he think that the Government will be in a position to provide surplus flood water every year ? Has the Government estimated the surplus quantity of flood water ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** It would be better if the honourable member leaves this point for the engineers to decide.

**Minister :** I will suggest to my honourable friend to pass an examination in engineering first and then discuss this question.

**Lala Deshbandhu Gupta :** Has the Honourable Minister passed that examination ?

**Minister :** I have not passed it, but I have got my advisors.

**Lala Duni Chand :** Will the Ambala and Karnal districts get any benefit of this scheme or not ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I am afraid I cannot give all the details of the areas through which the water will pass.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Is the scheme for extension of Western Jumna Canal connected with Bhakra Dam scheme ?

**Minister :** I am afraid I cannot satisfy the curiosity of my honourable friend unless the Bhakra Dam scheme is completed.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** There is no question of satisfying one's curiosity. I put the question to the Honourable Minister and he should reply to it.

**Minister :** I do not wish to add further to the reply.

**Lala Duni Chand :** It is all right that the Honourable Minister would not satisfy the curiosity of Pandit Shri Ram but has he any desire to improve his own knowledge or not ?

**Mr. Speaker :** Disallowed.

**Parliamentary Secretary :** May I inform the honourable member that in reply to the question I have invited his attention to Assembly<sup>1</sup> question No. 5922 ? I shall read out that answer :—

“(a) Yes. Government has sanctioned detailed surveys to be carried out and an estimate prepared ;

(b) A copy of the plan showing the approximate alignments of the proposed channels is placed on the table. The Irrigation boundary as shown in this plan is only tentative, final boundary will be fixed when the scheme has been completed after surveys when it will be definitely known how far the area can be commanded. The construction will be taken in hand immediately after estimates are completed and the House sanctions funds.”

Now, the position is exactly the same.

#### ENGINEERS SENT TO AMERICA TO STUDY THE BHAKRA DAM SCHEME.

**\*5792. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether the two engineers sent to America to study the Bhakra Dam Scheme, in the light of the experience of experts in that country with regard to such schemes, have returned so far ;

[Pt. Shri Ram Sharma.]

if so, whether they have submitted their report, and, if so, whether he will be pleased to lay a copy of the report on the table of the House ;

- (b) whether Government, on consideration of that report, has arrived at any conclusion with regard to the practicability of the scheme and its estimated cost and also the stage at which the negotiation with the Raja of Bilaspur have reached ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan) : The attention of the honourable member is invited to the reply given to question No. \*5557<sup>1</sup>.

**Lala Deshbandhu Gupta** : How long will this state of affairs continue ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** : I cannot give you any idea.

**Lala Deshbandhu Gupta** : The reply which the Parliamentary Secretary has just read out was given several months ago : I want to know whether this state of suspense is to continue indefinitely ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** : I have said that the position is exactly the same as it was when the reply was given.

**Lala Deshbandhu Gupta** : And it will remain the same for ever.

**Mr. Dev Raj Sethi** : Has Mr. Khosla submitted some new scheme ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** : I do not think it arises out of the question.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma** : May I know if the negotiations between the Punjab Government and the Raja of Bilaspur are still going on or have they been postponed or abandoned for good ?

**Mr. Speaker** : Disallowed.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma** : Why is it being disallowed ?

**Mr. Speaker** : Because the consent of the Governor has not been obtained under Rule 4 of the Governor's Rules.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma** : I want to submit that we were told that negotiations were going on between the Government and the Bilaspur State. Now I only want to ask if those negotiations are still going on or have been postponed or abandoned ?

**Mr. Speaker** : To that extent there is no objection.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma** : I therefore, ask, whether these negotiations are still going on or have been postponed or abandoned ?

**Mr. Dev Raj Sethi** : May I know what scheme Mr. Khosla has presented before the Government ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** It does not arise out of the question.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know when these two engineers presented any scheme ?

**Minister of Revenue :** No such scheme has been presented to Government.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I draw the attention of the Parliamentary Secretary to part (a) of the original question ? It reads as follows :—

“ Whether the two Engineers sent to America to study the Bhakra Dam Scheme in the light of the experience of the experts in that country with regard to such schemes, have returned so far ; if so whether they have submitted their report and if so whether he will be pleased to lay a copy of the report on the table of the House ? ”

In view of this, may I now ask if any scheme has been submitted by the engineers ?

**Minister :** A demonstration of that was shown to the honourable member here.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Did the Minister see no more than that demonstration ? Has the Government been presented with nothing else, with no other scheme than the demonstration ?

**Minister :** I have already answered.

#### ERADICATION OF BEGAR BY DRUM BEATING IN ROHTAK, AND OTHER DISTRICTS.

\*5795. **Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the Honourable Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

- (a) the number and names of villages and rural areas in Rohtak, Gurgaon, Hissar and Karnal districts where drum beating has been resorted to during the last few months as a means of putting an end to the *begar* evil ;
- (b) whether the method was employed under the orders of the Deputy Commissioners concerned, and, if so, whether he will be pleased to lay a copy of each of these orders on the table of the House with the names of the officers to whom these orders were given for compliance ;
- (c) the measure of success that has attended this method in preventing *begar* being taken ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan) :** (a) In all villages of the Rohtak, Gurgaon, Hissar and Karnal districts.

(b) The method was resorted to in compliance with Government instructions contained in Punjab Government letter No. 1896-E., dated the 16th May, 1939.

(c) There has been no complaint of exaction of any kind of *begar* since the proclamation of these orders.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I ask the Parliamentary Secretary to state the agency through which the beating of the drum was effected ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** It was done through the department concerned, that is, the Revenue Department.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Does it mean the patwaris, the lambar, gars and the zaildars ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** Proclamation was made in all the villages of the district by the beating of drum.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Did the Deputy Commissioner instruct the patwaris and lambar dars to do the needful ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I have already answered that the proclamation was made in every village in the district. How it was actually done, I cannot say.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** I want to know how it was arranged.

**Parliamentary Secretary :** My answer was complete and I have nothing to add to that.

**Lala Duni Chand :** Has Government received any report to the effect that the proposal of Government regarding the *munadi* had been carried out or not ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** May I inform the honourable member who is repeating the question over and over again that Government have ascertained from all the deputy commissioners that this proclamation was made in all the villages in the districts ; and if my honourable friend is more curious to know about it, I have in my possession letters which I have received on the subject from the deputy commissioners of all the districts.

**Lala Duni Chand :** I want to know whether the *munadi* was confined only to the paper or whether it has been as a matter of fact carried out ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** May I state what the deputy commissioners have done with regard to this matter ? The Deputy Commissioner of Karnal writes—

“Out of 1,468 villages in this district, proclamation by beat of drum enforcing Government orders prohibiting the exaction of *begar* was made in 1,389 villages, as the rest are not inhabited. A list of the villages is enclosed.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the Parliamentary Secretary please say if any remuneration was paid to those who made this proclamation by beat of drum ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I cannot tell without a fresh notice.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** After all, what amount was spent on this item ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I cannot say.

**Lala Deshbandhu Gupta :** The Parliamentary Secretary just read out an extract wherein he says that the rest of the villages are not inhabited. May I know if they are empty?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** Yes, when they are not inhabited.

**Lala Deshbandhu Gupta :** Is that as the result of the Unionist rule? What has happened to these villages?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** They may have been deserted.

**Lala Deshbandhu Gupta :** Due to the excesses of the Unionist Government?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** Through the kindness of my honourable friends who some time have the misfortune of visiting these villages.

**Lala Deshbandhu Gupta :** What is the number of such villages?

**Mr. Speaker :** Disallowed.

**Lala Deshbandhu Gupta :** The question about the number of villages which have been deserted is a serious one.

**Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :** What is the number of such villages?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** May I give the number of such villages. I have said that the number of villages in the districts is 1,468. If you will kindly deduct from it 1,889, you will have the number of villages which have been deserted.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Is the Parliamentary Secretary satisfied that *begar* cases have decreased after this circular letter?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** Thank God, *begar* has nearly disappeared on account of the enforcement of Government instructions.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Have the complaints of *begar* diminished?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** Some people are still suffering from this obsession of *begar* although it has disappeared.

**Chaudhri Sumer Singh :** Was this pronouncement made in the villages of Gurgaon district and especially in the Jhingi village?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I can say about Gurgaon that this beating of drum was done in all the villages.

**Chaudhri Sumer Singh :** I want information [with regard to this particular village?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I require notice for that.

**Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :** Have Government got their officers medically examined in order to know if their minds have been cured of the obsession of taking *begar* from the poor people?

**MANNER IN WHICH THE FODDER ADVISER, HISSAR, RECEIVED DELIVERY OF THE FODDER.**

**\*5842. Chaudhri Sahib Ram :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state—

- (a) the manner in which the Fodder Adviser, Hissar, received delivery of the fodder at the railway station and whether it was taken according to the entries made in the invoice or by actual weighment in his presence ;
- (b) if the delivery was taken by the entries made in the invoice, the total weight of the fodder entered therein and the weight as entered in the account books ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan)** (a) By actual weighment.

(b) Does not arise.

**TRAVELLING ALLOWANCE PAID TO PATWARIS FOR COMING TO THE TAHSIL HEADQUARTERS FOR DISTRIBUTION OF TACCAVI, ETC., IN CONNECTION WITH THE FAMINE RELIEF WORK, HISSAR.**

**\*5843. Chaudhri Sahib Ram :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state—

- (a) whether it is a fact that, for distribution of taccavi, etc., in connexion with the Famine Relief in the Hissar district, the patwaris are called to the tahsil headquarters ; if so, the rate according to which travelling allowance is paid to them for such journeys undertaken by them ;
- (b) the amount of travelling allowance given to the patwaris so far in connexion with the relief work in the Hissar district ; if no travelling allowance has been given, the reasons therefor and the action the Government propose to take in the matter ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan) :** (a) *First part.* Yes, when necessary.

*Second part.* The rates of travelling allowance are given in paragraph 3·40 of the Punjab Land Records Manual.

(b) *First part.* Rs. 50-2-0.

*Second part.* Does not arise.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know if the amount of Rs. 50-2-0 drawn by the patwaris represents the amount given to them during the whole period of famine ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** For my friend's satisfaction I will read out a sentence from the Deputy Commissioner's letter. He writes :—"I have the honour to..... and were paid Rs. 50-2-0 as travelling allowance."

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** I want to know whether only a small number of patwaris was called upon to distribute taccavi during the whole period of famine? Can he tell us the exact number of patwaris?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I am sorry I cannot give the exact number.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Should I take it that in the whole famine-stricken district of Hissar only a few patwaris were employed in connection with famine relief work, as only a small amount of money was paid to them during this long period of famine?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** This is an inference by the honourable member, which I am not going to endorse.

#### DEDUCTION OF WAGES OF LABOURERS EMPLOYED IN RELIEF CENTRES, HISSAR.

\*5946. **Chaudhri Sahib Ram :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state whether it has been brought to his notice that the labourers and workers employed in Relief Centres at Hissar are made to work beyond their endurance and the wages of those who fail to cope with the amount of assigned work are deducted indiscriminately; if so, the reasons therefor and the steps the Government propose to take in the matter?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan) :** No. The work done and wages paid to labourers are in accordance with sections 119—121 of the Punjab Famine Code.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Is it in accordance with the Code that if a labourer fails to do the assigned work, the wages of the gang as a whole should be deducted?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** It is wrong. But I may state for the information of my honourable friend that there are four categories of labourers according to the Code. A labourer doing normal work is expected to do three-fourths of the assigned work under class 1, two-thirds under class 2, and one-third under class 3, and the weaker ones are given dependence allowance.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** But what I want to know is that if in a gang of men employed to do a certain piece of work, a labourer fails to cope with the work assigned to him, should that particular labourer be made to suffer or the wages of the whole gang should be deducted?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I may point out to the honourable member that if ten workmen are engaged to finish a certain work assigned to them, they must finish it because they are jointly responsible. If they are unable to complete it, it is obvious that a certain amount of their wages would be deducted from the whole amount due to them.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** I want to know if one workman out of the ten is unable to carry out the work assigned to him, should all the workmen be paid less for the failure of that particular workman?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** These are times of joint responsibility.



**Khan Sahib Chaudhri Sahib Dad Khan :** Is it a fact that the treatment meted out to the labourers by the Engineering Department is very harsh ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** Government is not aware of it. If it is a fact, then it is really very regrettable.

**Khan Sahib Chaudhri Sahib Dad Khan :** Is Government prepared to institute an enquiry in the matter ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** If the honourable member or for the matter of that any other honourable member formally brings this fact to the notice of Government, the latter would certainly take action in the matter.

**Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :** May I know whether the labourers are jointly responsible for a certain work or the responsibility for that work lies on the shoulders of the mate ? Are there any rules in regard to this matter ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** No hard and fast rules exist in this respect. Sometimes individual workers are made responsible for a work and sometimes the whole party or group is required to shoulder the responsibility. It all depends upon the nature of the work. Besides, Government have to take administrative convenience into consideration as well. For instance, if three thousand workers are employed by Government, it would be really difficult for its officers to measure the quantity of work done by an individual workman. So, the officers appoint a party or a group of workers and a particular work is assigned to them collectively. In this way no difficulty is experienced either by the employer or the employees.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know why the officers are not made responsible for the work when it is they who appoint a gang and assign work ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I have nothing more to add to the answer already given.

CANAL FOR IRRIGATING HISSAR DISTRICT AND COMPENSATION FOR  
ACQUISITION OF LAND THEREFOR.

**\*6116. Lala Duni Chand :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state—

- (a) whether it is proposed to cut a small canal out of the Western Jumna Canal for irrigating certain parts of the Hissar district ;
- (b) the number of villages in Karnal district through which the small channel will pass and the area of land that is estimated to come under this channel ;
- (c) how does the Government propose to compensate the owners of the lands to be acquired for the purpose ;
- (d) what is the attitude of the owners of these lands towards the question of their lands being acquired for this purpose ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan): It is regretted that the answer to this question is not yet ready. The honourable member will be given a reply when information has been obtained.

**Lala Duni Chand**: Is it not a fact that only a few minutes ago the Parliamentary Secretary answered a similar question?

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

• IRRIGATION OF VILLAGE DEVDHAR IN AMBALA DISTRICT FROM JUMNA CANAL.

**\*6237. Lala Duni Chand**: Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state—

- (a) whether it is a fact that about 318 bighas of land situated within the area of the village Devdhar, tahsil Jagadhri, district Ambala, has been irrigated for the last 25 years or so, from the Jumna Canal;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that on 14th October, 1939, notices were issued by the Sub-Divisional Officer, Canal, Tajewala, calling upon the landowners of the said land to pay Rs. 480-8-0 over and above the amount of abiana due from them and if so, the reasons for this extra demand;
- (c) whether such a demand was ever made during the last 25 years or so?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan): (a) Records prior to 1938 are not available. This area is outside the Canal chak and irrigation boundaries. Between 1938—1939 unauthorized irrigation has been done and two warning notices issued.

(b) Yes, such notices were issued because the irrigation was unauthorized. Actually only  $\frac{1}{4}$ th of the special rates were levied.

(c) No, but two notices for unauthorized irrigation were issued in May, 1930, and October, 1938.

**Lala Duni Chand**: May I know if it is not a fact that during the last twenty-five years no claim was made upon the owners of this land? If so, why is it that after twenty-five years a claim has been made in 1939 or so?

**Parliamentary Secretary**: May I inform my honourable friend that *na-jai* irrigation has no doubt been done from time to time, but particularly in recent years when the rainfall has been deficient—ordinarily rainfall in this area is about 13 or 14 inches a year—it is not the intention of Government to allow *na-jai abpashi* in this tract, as every drop of water is required for canal extension into the famine area.

**Lala Duni Chand**: Is it not true that the case of these people is that they are not liable to pay anything on account of irrigating this land?

**Parliamentary Secretary**: The case as stated by the honourable member is perfectly true.

**Lala Duni Chand :** What are the reasons for Government saying that they are liable to pay when no claim has been made before ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I have stated that *na-jaiz abpashi* is not to be allowed, specially when we require water for famine-stricken areas.

**Lala Duni Chand :** The question is whether Government has been satisfied that it is a case of *na-jaiz abpashi* or *na-jaiz demand* ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** The Government is thoroughly satisfied that it is case of *na-jaiz abpashi*.

#### LANDS OF VILLAGES GULGARH AND NYAMATABAD SUBMERGED IN RAVI.

**\*6292. Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the whole area of villages Gulgarh and Nyamatabad, tahsil Ajnala, district Amritsar, has been submerged in the Ravi River ;

(b) whether any Government official visited the above-mentioned area in 1939 ;

(c) if so, what action, if any, does Government intend to take in the matter ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan) :** (a) No ; only a portion of these villages has been submerged.

(b) Yes.

(c) The matter is under consideration.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Is the Parliamentary Secretary aware of the fact that Messrs. Abdur Rahim, Niaz Beg, Mohammad Beg, and other residents of Gulgarh waited on the Honourable Premier in deputation when he visited Ajnala and requested him that lands may be given to the zamindars whose lands have been submerged in the river Ravi ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** Yes. The residents of these village<sup>s</sup> must have waited on the Honourable Premier and that is why Governmen<sup>t</sup> is considering this question.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Is the Parliamentary Secretary aware of the fact that the Honourable Premier promised that the zamindars of these villages would be given lands on the Haveli Project ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I am not aware of any such promise, but this much I know that the question of giving lands to the zamindars of these villages is under consideration. It is expected that the decision will be made in a short time.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Is the Parliamentary Secretary aware of the fact that the Deputy Commissioner also visited these villages twice and held out a promise to the zamindars that they would be given lands ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** This matter is receiving the consideration of Government. So long as it is under consideration, I cannot give any information about it to the honourable member.

REMISSION OF LAND REVENUE IN HOSHIARPUR DISTRICT.

**\*6294. Sardar Hari Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state whether the Government has recently received a copy of the resolution passed by the District Board, Hoshiarpur, recommending remission in land revenue in the district of Hoshiarpur on account of failure of *kharif* crops this year and scarcity conditions now prevailing in that district ; if so, the action proposed to be taken on the said resolution ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan) :** *First part.*—Yes.

*Second part.*—None, as the crop statistics do not justify any remission, moreover the *kharif* demand has been collected.

**Sardar Hari Singh :** May I know if along with the resolution of the district board, the local collector or the deputy commissioner made any remarks ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I have no doubt that such a resolution might have been passed by the district board.

**Sardar Hari Singh :** Was a copy of it received by the Government ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I have not seen the endorsement, but I know the conclusion.

**Sardar Hari Singh :** Was a copy of the resolution received ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** It would not make any difference. A resolution was passed and the matter was considered in accordance with the rules and it was discovered that no case for remission was made out.

MAZHABI SIKHS NOTIFIED AS STATUTORY AGRICULTURISTS.

**\*6298. Sardar Kartar Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that Mazhabi Sikhs of Lyallpur, Sheikhpura and Montgomery districts, have been notified as statutory agriculturists under the provisions of Land Alienation Act, recently ;

(b) whether the question of notifying Mazhabi Sikhs as statutory agriculturists in the districts other than those referred to in (a) above has ever received the attention of the Government ; if so, with what results ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan) :** (a) They were notified in Lyallpur district in 1911, Sheikhpura in 1921, and Montgomery in 1925.

(b) Yes. The Mazhabi Sikhs were notified in Multan district in 1925 and Ferozepore in 1939.

## LANDS HELD BY BRAHMINS AND SAYEDS IN SIALKOT DISTRICT.

**\*6310. Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** With reference to question No. 62, printed at page 370 of Volume I (21st June, 1937) of the Punjab Legislative Assembly Debates, will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) the total land held in the Sialkot district by Brahmins and Sayeds respectively as occupancy tenants ;

(b) the total number of Brahmin and Sayed zaildars, sufedposhes, lambardars, respectively, in the Sialkot district ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan) :** The following statement gives the required information :—

District.	Caste.	Land held as occupancy tenant.	Zaildar.	Sufedposh.	Lambardar.
		Acres.			
Sialkot ..	Brahmans .. ..	2,935	1	..	57
	Sayeds .. ..	1,674	..	..	50

## SUPERSESSION OF CLERKS IN THE OFFICE OF DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, GURGAON.

**\*6312. Chaudhri Sumer Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) the names of the junior or senior clerks in the office of the Deputy Commissioner, Gurgaon, given promotion during the last two years ending 31st December, 1939 ;

(b) whether any of them were promoted to a higher grade and then to the next higher grade during this period without their having completed the first higher grade ;

(c) whether, while giving these promotions, any of the clerks in the said office were superseded ; if so, why and what action is intended to be taken to right the wrong done to them ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan) :** (a) In accordance with the policy of Government as enunciated in clause (e) of paragraph 427 of Chapter XVI of the Secretariat Instructions it is not in the public interest to give names of the officials.

(b) No.

(c) *First part.*—Yes.

*Second part.*—Inefficiency.

**Chaudhri Sumar Singh :** May I know whether the promotion of any clerk was stopped on account of inefficiency?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** If any clerk is found to be inefficient his promotion is stopped. The clerks in this case who were superseded were those who were found to be inefficient and that is the reason why they were not given any promotion.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know whether there is any time limit for the promotion from the lower grades to the higher grades according to which clerks are promoted?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I do not want to waste the time of the House by giving answers to questions pertaining to grades of the clerks.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** I protest against this attitude of the Parliamentary Secretary. I want to know whether there is any time limit after which the clerks are promoted to the higher grades or not?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I am afraid I cannot add a word to what I have already said regarding this question.

#### IRREGULARITIES IN THE WORK OF CONSOLIDATION OF HOLDINGS.

**\*6323. Master Kabul Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister of Development be pleased to state—

(a) whether he has received a representation from zamindars of Talwandi Araian, district Jullundur, on the subject of irregularities in the work of Consolidation of Holdings in their village;

(b) if so, action taken in the matter to redress their grievances?

**The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram :** (a) An application was received by the Registrar, Co-operative Societies, in January last. It is pending action as the records are being completed. Any discrepancy found therein will be considered by the Committee of the society.

(b) Does not arise.

#### DISTRIBUTION OF MONEY FOR TACCAVI PURPOSES.

**\*6325. Khan Muhammad Yusaf Khan :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) the amount of money, if any, allotted for *taccavi* purposes during the year 1988-89;

(b) the amount of money actually distributed district-wise;

(c) the object for which this money was disbursed to different persons in different districts;

(d) the amount, if any, out of this allotment that has lapsed to the Government due to non-disbursement district-wise?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan): A statement**  
*Statement showing amounts of taccavi allotted, disbursed and lapsed to*

\* LAND IMPROVEMENT LOANS ACT XIX OF 1883.

Division.	District.	Amount allotted.	Amount actually distributed.	Object for which distributed.	Amount lapsed to Government.
		Rs.	Rs.		Rs.
Ambala	Hissar*	10,300	5,300	Well sinking	5,000
	Rohtak*	8,000	8,000	Ditto	Nil.
	Gurgaon*	28,100	28,100	Well sinking and repairs of wells.	Nil.
	Karnal*	2,700	2,652	Well sinking	48
	Ambala Simla	3,000	3,000	Ditto	..
	Kangra	100	..	..	100
Jullundur	Hoshiarpur	..	..	..	..
	Jullundur	..	..	..	..
	Ludhiana	7,130	6,875	Well sinking	255
	Ferozepore	6,140	6,140	Ditto	..
Lahore	Lahore	4,000	3,860	Ditto	140
	Amritsar	4,000	3,500	Ditto	500
	Gurdaspur	12,000	12,000	Ditto	..
	Sialkot	8,000	6,000	Well sinking and repairs of old wells.	2,000
	Gujranwala	6,500	6,500	Well sinking	..
	Sheikhupura	4,000	4,000	Ditto	..
	Gujrat	5,000	4,670	Well sinking	330
	Shahpur	3,000	2,650	Well sinking and repairs of wells.	350
Rawalpindi	Jhelum	8,000	8,000	Well sinking. Bands and boring.	..
	Rawalpindi	3,000	100	Land improvement	2,900
	Attock	8,000	2,775	Ditto	5,225
	Mianwali	10,000	10,000	Well sinking and repairs of wells and breaking of lands.	..
	Montgomery	10,000	8,055	Well sinking	1,945
Multan	Lyallpur	2,800	2,300	Ditto	500
	Jhang	2,600	..	..	2,600
	Multan	10,350	10,350	Well sinking and repairs of wells.	Nil.
	Muzaffargarh	3,000	2,200	Well sinking	800
	Dera Ghazi Khan	2,000	400	Ditto	1,600
	Total	1,71,720	1,47,427	..	24,293

\*In addition to the amounts actually distributed in Hissar, Rohtak, Gurgaon and Jullundur in kind in these districts.

is laid on the table :—

*Government in all districts of the Punjab during the year 1988-89.*

AGRICULTURISTS LOANS ACT XII OF 1884.

Amount allotted.	Amount actually distributed.	Object for which distributed.	Amount lapsed to Government.
Rs. 8,85,000	Rs. 8,09,118	Seed, fodder and agriculture implements.	Rs. 75,884
7,15,873	4,54,670	Seed, fodder and bullocks ..	61,203
4,10,323	4,02,836	Ditto ditto ..	7,487
1,45,000	90,601	Ditto ditto ..	54,399
5,500	530	Ditto ditto ..	4,970
.. 100	..	..	100
..	..	..	..
..	..	..	..
68,700	66,300	Bullocks and fodder ..	2,400
2,200	1,900	Bullocks ..	300
4,000	4,000	Do. ..	Nil.
2,000	1,000	Do. ..	1,000
8,000	7,512	Bullocks and seeds ..	488
6,000	4,500	Bullocks ..	1,500
6,000	6,000	Do. ..	Nil.
8,500	8,500	Do. ..	Nil.
3,000	1,400	Do. ..	1,600
28,500	4,025	Bullocks and seeds ..	24,475
1,04,000	1,04,000	Seed, bullocks and fodder ..	Nil.
2,000	100	Bullocks ..	1,900
10,000	8,300	Bullocks and seeds ..	1,700
40,000	40,000	Ditto ..	Nil.
3,800	3,800	Bullocks ..	Nil.
15,800	15,652/10/0	Bullocks, fodder and seeds ..	147/6/0
1,500	..	..	1,500
16,500	16,500	Bullocks ..	Nil.
1,500	799	Seeds ..	701
1,500	350	Bullocks ..	1,150
24,95,296	20,52,391/10/0	..	4,42,273

Karnal districts a sum of Rs. 5,46,266 was distributed through the Fodder Adviser for distribu-



## CONSTRUCTION OF A HEAD AT TALE BHINDAR.

**\*5327. Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state whether the zamindars of village Wain Poin, Tahsil Tarn Taran (Amritsar), sent a petition to the Chief Engineer, Punjab Irrigation Department, Lahore, against the construction of a head at the end of Tale Bhindar on February 26, 1940, as being detrimental to their interest; if so, the action, if any, taken thereon?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan) :** Reply to the first part of the question is in the negative. Rest of the question does not arise.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** May I know whether Government has received any representation?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** The answer to the first part of the question is in the negative. Consequently the second part does not arise.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Will the Parliamentary Secretary please consult the relevant papers and tell me whether any application on behalf of the zamindars was not received on the 26th February in the Chief Engineer's office?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I require notice for it.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Has the Parliamentary Secretary inquired about this matter from the Chief Engineer?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I have not inquired anything from the Chief Engineer as regards this particular letter, but the answer that I have given to him in reply to his question is based on the information that I have received from the Chief Engineer.

## NOMINATED AND ELECTED MEMBERS OF MUNICIPAL COMMITTEES OF SOUTH-EASTERN DISTRICTS.

**\*5268. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the Honourable Minister of Public Works be pleased to state the respective proportion of nominated members to the elected ones in the municipal committees of south-eastern districts of Rohtak, Hissar, Gurgaon and Karnal?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Shaikh Faiz Muhammad) :** A statement giving the required information is laid on the table.

*Statement showing the proportion of nominated to elected members in the municipal committees of the Hissar, Rohtak, Gurgaon and Karnal districts.*

Name of district.	Name of municipal committee.	Proportion of the nominated to elected members.
Hissar .. .. .	Hissar .. .. .	2-10
	Hansi .. .. .	4-8
	Bhiwani .. .. .	4-12
	Sirsa .. .. .	2-9

Name of district.	Name of municipal committee.	Proportion of the nominated to elected members.
Rohtak .. .. .	Rohtak .. .. .	3.15
	Jhajjar .. .. .	2.8
	Beri .. .. .	2.6
	Bahadurgarh .. .. .	1.7
	Gohana .. .. .	Under suspension.
	Sonepat .. .. .	2.6
Gurgaon .. .. .	Bewari .. .. .	2.11
	Palwal .. .. .	2.6
	Firozpur-Jhirka .. .. .	2.7
	Hodal .. .. .	2.10
	Ballabgarh .. .. .	2.7
	Faridabad .. .. .	2.6
	Karnal .. .. .	4.12
Karnal .. .. .	Panipat .. .. .	2.12
	Kaithal .. .. .	4.10
	Shahabad .. .. .	2.8
	Thanesar .. .. .	2.6

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** The statement shows that in the Municipal Committees of Hansi and Kaithal, the number of nominated members is more than one-fourth of the elected members. In view of this fact, may I know from the Parliamentary Secretary the rule or the authority under which this thing has been done when it is laid down in the Municipal Act that the number of nominated members should not be more than one-fourth of the elected members?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** If the honourable member studies the Municipal Act, he will find that there is a provision there wherein it is laid down that in special circumstances Government can nominate more than one-fourth of the elected members.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know under what special circumstances Government issued a notification that more than one-fourth of the elected members should be nominated in the Municipal Committees of Hansi and Kaithal?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** If the honourable member gives me notice, I will try to supply the requisite information.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** I have already given notice of this question. The question is, what were the special circumstances under which the Government nominated more than one-fourth of the elected members in the Municipal Committees of Kaithal and Hausi as nominated members?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** If the honourable member reads his question carefully, he will find that he has not asked for this information. However, if he gives notice I will try to supply the required information.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know the names of the municipal committees in which Government has increased the number of nominated members?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I require notice for it.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** It is evident from the statement that two municipal committees are such in which the number of nominated members is more than one-fourth of the elected members and there are six municipal committees in which there is maximum number of nominated members and there are 11 municipal committees in which the number of nominated members is less than the maximum number. In view of this, may I know the reason for this apparent disparity?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** This is an analysis of the answer I have given. It is not a question.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know whether Government is considering the question that the practice of nominating members to local bodies be discontinued?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** That does not arise out of the question.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Is Government aware of the fact that other Governments—United Provinces, Central Provinces and the Frontier—have completely given up the system of nominating members to local bodies?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** We do not feel the necessity of copying other governments.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Is it the considered policy of the Government that they should not copy the good things of other governments but copy old bad things?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** We are not prepared to copy any government.

**Khan Bahadur Nawab Muzaffar Khan :** May I know from Government whether the precious time of the House is not wasted in asking unnecessary questions?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** Government is aware of the fact, but it is up to the honourable members to put a stop to this state of affairs.

**Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :** May I know if it is for the Parliamentary Secretary to say whether a certain question is unnecessary or not or is it open to you to declare a question as unnecessary?

**Lala Duni Chand :** I want to know from you whether Nawab Muzaffar Khan has got any right to usurp any of the functions of the Speaker. Here he is attempting the functions of the Speaker.

**Mr. Speaker :** How ?

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** I beg to submit, Sir, that I was asking supplementary questions when Nawab Muzaffar Khan asked if it was not a fact that the time of the House was being wasted in asking such unnecessary questions.

**Khan Bahadur Nawab Muzaffar Khan :** Sir, I only asked that if such questions were being put, whether it would not be depriving the rest of the members of their right to ask questions. Important questions of other members are delayed in this manner.

**Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :** May I know whom is that question being put to ?

**Mr. Speaker :** Probably he meant to raise the point of order that if supplementary questions of this nature are allowed to be asked the time of the House shall be wasted.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the Parliamentary Secretary please state if it is not a fact that Nawab Muzaffar Khan has wasted the time of the House by asking this question ?

ASSAULT BY GOONDAS ON SHAIKH ABDUL GHANI OF ROHTAK.

\*5271. **Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the Honourable Minister of Public Works be pleased to state—

- (a) whether it is a fact that one Shaikh Abdul Ghani of Rohtak has been assaulted and victimized by the *goondas* of the locality several times as reported by him to the police on 26th May, 1939 ;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that the said Shaikh Abdul Ghani made similar reports to the police twice before and has since approached the Superintendent of Police, Rohtak, and Deputy Inspector-General of Police, at Ambala, with a view to seeking protection from the *goondas* ;
- (c) if answers to (a) and (b) above be in the affirmative, the action that has been taken or is intended to be taken in the matter ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh): The person named made reports of the kind mentioned at Rohtak Police Station on the 17th January last, at Bahadurgarh Police Station on the 3rd March and again at Rohtak Police Station on the 26th May.

On the 31st May he sent copies of a written complaint to the Deputy Commissioner, the Deputy Inspector-General of Police and the Superintendent of Police. Inquiries revealed that the complaints were the outcome of a personal dispute between Abdul Ghani and another resident of Rohtak, and the alleged offences being clearly non-cognizable Abdul Ghani was advised to file a complaint in court, if he so wished.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know if this personal dispute was in connection with the fact that Shaikh Abdul Ghani complained against misappropriating the public funds in the distribution of *taccavi bhoosa* ?

**Mr. Speaker :** Disallowed. The honourable member may ask what was the reason for the dispute.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Sir, the Parliamentary Secretary had replied that it was due to the personal dispute that Shaikh Abdul Ghani was assaulted and I enquired what was the personal dispute on account of which that assault was made.

**Parliamentary Secretary :** So far as my information goes, in all the reports that Abdul Ghani made at Police Station, Rohtak—

**Diwan Chaman Lall :** Mr. Abdul Ghani or Shaikh Abdul Ghani ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** Shaikh Abdul Ghani alleged that the assault made on him was by the members belonging to the party of Chaudhri Jan Muhammad with whom he had some enmity. That is all I know.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Have these three complaints come to the notice of the Parliamentary Secretary ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** Yes. All these complaints were non-cognizable and an enquiry was made by the local authorities, witnesses were also produced and that enquiry showed that the complaints were of a non-cognizable nature and the complainant was asked to lodge a complaint in the court if he so wished.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Was it alleged in those complaints that a complaint of corruption in regard to the taccavi of *bhusa* was the cause of that assault ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I do not remember the contents of the complaints, but I have tried to reply to the honourable member's question that whatever the complaints were, they were of a non-cognizable nature and the complainant was asked to file a suit in the court. The police could not interfere in it.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Did the police enquire into these matters ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** Definitely. I have stated that full enquiry was made and the complainant was asked to produce the witnesses, who were produced.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Were all these three complaints proved to be incorrect ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I have never stated that the complaints were proved to be incorrect. I have said that they were of a non-cognizable nature and that if the complainant wanted to pursue the matter further, he was advised to lodge a complaint in the court.

#### GAMBLING DENS AT ROHTAK.

**\*5647. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the Honourable Minister of Public Works be pleased to state—

- (a) whether it is a fact that in the town of Rohtak big gambling dens are run and owned by very influential men in the town whom the district and police officers dare not displease ;
- (b) whether the fact mentioned in paragraph (a) has several times been brought to the notice of the local officers and also to the higher authorities by public men of the locality and, if so, what action has been taken or is intended to be taken in the matter ;

- (c) whether in this connection the Government has ever considered the question of deputing a special C.I.D. officer to find out the root cause of this scandal and suggest the means to stop it ; if not, why not ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh) :

(a) No.

(b) No. Gambling is prevalent to a certain extent in every city. The police in Rohtak are fully alive to the need for watchfulness and are taking all possible measures to keep abuses in check. For instance, during the year 1989 seven cases under the Public Gambling Act, 1867, had been registered, out of which five have ended in conviction and two are pending in court. No less than 63 persons have been arrested under section 5 of the Act, of whom 28 have been convicted, 6 acquitted and 29 are awaiting trial.

(c) The local police are fully competent to deal with the matter and no special measures are contemplated.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma** : The Parliamentary Secretary has admitted that this evil is prevalent in almost every city. Has it come to the notice of Government that this evil is more prevalent in Rohtak ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** : There is nothing special about Rohtak. I have stated that it prevails in almost every city.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma** : Is it not a fact that the Deputy Commissioner and the Superintendent of Police know that influential people, having intimate connections with the Honourable Ministers, are managing *satta* dens, and is not that the reason why they are not taking any action ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** : No. I have already stated in reply to this part that my honourable friend's allegations are not at all correct.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma** : Has the Parliamentary Secretary enquired whether the reason for the prevalence of this evil is what I have stated ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** : Enquiries are made by local authorities and the information is received by Government from the local authorities and Government is satisfied that no influential people are at the bottom of this.

#### SHORT NOTICE QUESTION AND ANSWER.

**MIGRATION OF PEOPLE FOR ISAKHEL TO SEEK PROTECTION FROM RAIDS.**

**Lala Duni Chand** : Will the Honourable Minister of Public Works be pleased to state—(a) whether it is a fact that a number of persons belonging to Isakhel in Mianwali district have recently migrated from there to seek protection elsewhere from the apprehending raids at Isakhel ; if so how many of them have so migrated ;

(b) what steps, if any, the Government has taken so far to stop this migration and to restore confidence and sense of security among the inhabitants of Isakhel ?

**The Honourable Major Nawabzada Malik Khizar Hayat Khan Tiwana :** (a) Figures are not available, but it is a fact that a number of the inhabitants have temporarily removed themselves from Isakhel and the other towns in the trans-Indus area of the Mianwali district in consequence of the recent raids.

(b) During the last month the police in the tahsil have been strongly reinforced and a battalion of Indian infantry is co-operating with them. Police and troops are acting in close touch with the civil and military authorities in the North-West Frontier Province, where similar measures are being taken. The honourable member may be assured that the Punjab Government are alive to the importance of this question and the need for vigorous action. I might further add that the main lashkars have since dispersed.

**Lala Duni Chand :** Has Government taken any steps to recall those people who migrated from Isakhel?

**Minister :** There is no question of recalling them back. Every effort is being made to protect them but if they are nervous and themselves leave, then who should get them back?

**Lala Duni Chand :** May I know if it is not a fact that it was on account of apprehension that they migrated and, if so, in what way has the Government removed that apprehension which was responsible for their migration?

**Minister :** One raid was repulsed. Adequate forces have been stationed and normal conditions prevail. If people are still nervous, then it is their own look out and not that of Government.

**Lala Duni Chand :** If it is not the business of Government to restore sense of security, whose business is it?

**Minister :** The honourable member may go and teach them *ahimsa*. It is not the job of Government.

**Khan Bahadur Captain Malik Muzaffar Khan :** Will the honourable member, Lala Duni Chand, be pleased to give the names of those persons who have migrated from Isakhel?

**Lala Duni Chand :** I take it that Government will reward them who stood for law and order.

**Minister :** Services of all those who have done creditable work will be duly considered and they will be adequately rewarded.

**Rai Bahadur Mukand Lal Puri :** Will Government take steps to punish those persons who assisted the trans-border people?

**Minister :** Provided proof is forthcoming they will be adequately dealt with.

**Lala Duni Chand :** Is it within the knowledge of Government that it was published in the *Tribune* that an unusually large number of people belonging to Isakhel have migrated?

**Mr. Speaker :** Disallowed.

**Lala Duni Chand :** Is it within the knowledge of the Government that, according to reliable information received from that town, an unusually large number of people have migrated and, if so, what steps has Government taken?

**Mr. Speaker :** Disallowed.

## UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

INADEQUATE REPRESENTATION OF MUSLIMS ON SMALL TOWN COMMITTEE,  
KAHROR PACCA.

**1069. Makhdumzada Haji Sayed Muhammad Wilayat Husain Jeelani :** Will the Honourable Minister of Public Works be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the *Muslims* with a large population in Kahror Pacca in the Multan district are not adequately represented on the Small Town Committee, Kahror Pacca ; if so, the steps Government propose to take to ensure a fair representation to the Muslims in the Committee ?

**The Honourable Major Nawabzada Malik Khizar Hayat Khan Tiwana :** According to the formula prescribed by Government for representation of various communities on local bodies, Muslims are adequately represented on the town committee of Kahror Pacca.

## APPOINTMENT OF JUNIOR CLERKS IN THE OFFICE OF DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, GURGAON.

**1070. Chaudhri Sumer Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state—

- (a) the names of the persons appointed as junior clerks in Deputy Commissioner's office, Gurgaon, during the time of the present Deputy Commissioner, with the names of the communities to which they belong ;
- (b) whether any of those appointed are related to persons already serving in the office of the Deputy Commissioner, Gurgaon (both Vernacular and English sections) and whether any of the new Hindu recruits belong to Jat, Ahir, Rajput and Gujar agriculturists of the Gurgaon district ;
- (c) whether the Government instructions fixing certain proportions for recruitment to services have been observed in making these appointments ;
- (d) whether any of these appointed during this period were such as had never worked as apprentices in the office, if so, their number ?

**The Honourable Dr. Sir Sundar Singh Majithia :** (a) No direct appointment was made but four officials (three Hindus and one Muslim) already in permanent Government service were promoted to posts as junior clerks. As regards the giving of names attention is invited to the policy of Government enunciated in the volume of Secretariat Instructions, Chapter XVI, paragraph 427, clause (e).

(b) *First part.*—Only one official promoted is related to the Head Vernacular Clerk.

*Second part.*—No.

(c) The instructions in question apply to recruitment and not to promotion.

(d) Yes ; one.



## INDIAN CIVIL SERVICE OFFICERS.

**1071. Rai Bahadur Mukand Lal Puri :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state the number of new Indian Civil Service Officers, community-wise (Europeans, Indian Christians, Muslims, Hindus and Sikhs), posted to the Punjab during the years 1934, 1935, 1936, 1937, 1938 and 1939, respectively ?

**The Honourable Major Sir Sikander Hyat-Khan :**

Year.	Europeans	Indian Christians.	Muslims.	Hindus.	Sikhs.
1934 .. .. .	3	1	2	1	..
1935 .. .. .	2	..	..	1	..
1936 .. .. .	1	..	3	..	1
1937 .. .. .	7	..	2	1	1
1938 .. .. .	6	1	2	..	..
1939 .. .. .	8	..	1	..	1

## DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENTS, VETERINARY.

**1072. Khan Sahib Chaudhri Sahib Dad Khan :** Will the Honourable Minister of Development be pleased to state with reference to the answer to my unstarred question No. 1049<sup>1</sup>, the names of the Deputy Superintendents, Veterinary, with their castes, religions and home districts who were posted at Hissar from October, 1929, up to 1st February, 1940 ?

**The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram :** A statement showing the information asked for is laid on the table.

*Statement showing the names and other particulars of the Deputy Superintendents, Civil Veterinary Department, who were posted at Hissar during the period from 1st October, 1929 to 1st February, 1940.*

Serial No.	Name.	Religion.	Caste.	Home district.	Period of stay at Hissar.
1	M. Qamar-ud-Din, But.	Muslim ..	Kashmiri	Amritsar	1st October, 1929 to 1st May, 1930.
2	Chaudhri Baldeo Singh.	Hindu ..	Jat ..	Rohtak ..	2nd May, 1930 to 7th November, 1938.
3	Chaudhri Dilbagh Singh.	Hindu ..	Jat ..	Hoshiarpur	8th November, 1938 to date.

<sup>1</sup> Vide debates of 26th February, 1940—Vol. XI.

## CROWN WASTE LANDS IN NILI BAR.

**1073. Sardar Ajit Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state—

- (a) the total crown waste area in Nili Bar which is uncommanded and not irrigated by the canal water ;
- (b) the area out of the land mentioned in (a) allotted on Tube-well irrigation terms, the conditions of allotment and the names of those to whom it is allotted ;
- (c) the time from which the Government propose to allot the balance area and the conditions for the same ?

**The Honourable Dr. Sir Sundar Singh Majithia :** (a) 63,792 acres.

(b) 571 acres 4 kanals 2 marlas allotted to Sardar Bahadur Sir Datar Singh on conditions published with Punjab Government notification No. 1778-C., dated the 28th March, 1939 (copy laid on the table<sup>1</sup>).

(c) No decision has yet been reached. The matter is under consideration.

## APPLICATION OF CRIMINAL TRIBES ACT ON MAHTAMS.

**1074. Captain Sodhi Harnam Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state—

- (a) the landed area possessed by *Mahtams* of Chhanga Khurd, Hazara Singhwala, Mehaga Hathar, Bala Mahtam, Hazora, Ram Singhwala, Tahliwala, Mahtam Nagar, Munsa, Kotha villages in district Ferozepore ;
- (b) the total land revenue paid by these villages ;
- (c) the total land revenue paid by the *Mahtams* of these villages ;
- (d) the date when the Criminal Tribes Act was applied to the *Mahtams* of these villages and the reasons thereof ;
- (e) the number of convictions yearly after the date of application of the Criminal Tribes Act, village-wise, up till now and the offences which merited these convictions ;
- (f) whether in view of the satisfactory conduct of the *Mahtams* of this area the Government intends to withdraw the application of the Criminal Tribes Act ?

**The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal :**

		Acres.
(a)	1. Chhanga Khurd .. ..	88
	2. Hazara Singhwala .. ..	1,416
	3. Magha Mahtam .. ..	1,080
	4. Bala Mahtam Otar .. ..	638
	5. Bala Mahtam Hithar .. ..	650
	6. Mahtam Nagar .. ..	1,857
	7. Ram Singhwala .. ..	545
	8. Kotha Lukmanpur .. ..	843
	9. Tahliwala .. ..	22
	10. Mohar Jamsheer Mansa.. ..	1,348

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

[Minister for Finance.]

(b) Rs. 4,129.

(c) Rs. 3,109.

(d) The 6th November, 1923. They were addicted to the systematic commission of non-bailable offences.

(e) The statements asked for by the honourable member are very lengthy and complicated. Instead a statement is attached showing annually since 1923 the number of restricted Mahtams together with the number of convictions they have earned. Suspensions, of course, are not included.

(f) The statement attached shows that the conduct of the Mahtams is by no means satisfactory. However, Government are always ready to consider deserving cases and in fact during the year 1939 no less than 67 registered Mahtams were allowed the benefit of rule 24 of the rules made under section 20 of the Criminal Tribes Act.

*Statement showing the total percentage of convictions of Mahtams from 1923 to 1940 yearly.*

Name of the year.	Total population of restricted Mahtams.	Total convictions.	Percentage.
1923	Notified in this year.		
1924	250	16	6.4
1925	297	10	3.3
1926	351	5	1.4
1927	325	7	2.1
1928	341	16	4.6
1929	363	20	5.4
1930	375	19	5.06
1931	491	34	6.9
1932	526	26	4.9
1933	536	39	7.2
1934	531	21	3.9
1935	475	10	2.1
1936	439	30	6.1
1937	432	22	4.5
1938	398	19	4.7
1939	336	21	6.2
1940	..	..	..

**COMMUNAL REPRESENTATION IN THE STAFF OF THE LAW COLLEGE,  
LAHORE.**

**1075. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state—

- (a) whether his attention has ever been invited to the various articles in the local newspapers complaining against the non-Muslim monopoly in all the branches of service in the Law College, Lahore ;
- (b) the number of lecturers, readers and clerks in the College, community-wise, with the names of posts they hold ;
- (c) the names of librarians, accountants and daftri of the college ;
- (d) the number of peons employed in the College, community-wise ?

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

(b) Number of :—

	<i>Hindus.</i>	<i>Muslims.</i>	<i>Sikhs.</i>	<i>Christians.</i>
(1) Part-time Lecturers	8	6	3	1
(2) Whole-time Readers	2	2	..	..
(3) Clerks	.. 1	..	1	..
(c) (1) Librarian	..	..	L. Naubahar Singh ;	
(2) Library Assistant and Clerk	..	..	L. Roshan Lal ;	
(3) Accounts clerk	..	..	L. Radha Mohan Swarup Bhatnagar.	
(4) Daftri	..	..	Balwant Singh.	
(d) Number of—				

	<i>Hindus.</i>	<i>Muslims.</i>	<i>Sikhs.</i>	<i>Christians.</i>
Peons	.. 5	1	..	..

**DISPARITY IN THE RECRUITMENT OF MUSLIM AND NON-MUSLIM TEACHERS.**

**1076. Khan Sahib Chaudhri Sahib Dad Khan :** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state whether his attention has been drawn to an article in the press pointing out the disparity of Muslim and non-Muslim Female teachers recruited during the last three years for Government schools ; if so, what action he intends to take in the matter ?

**The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye :** Yes. The attention of Government has been drawn to several articles. Most of the allegations made therein are wholly or partially incorrect. Government passed orders in May, 1989, that 50 per cent Muslims are to be appointed to the Subordinate Educational Service (Women's Branch) each year. These orders are being faithfully carried out.

**REPRESENTATION OF SCHEDULED CASTES AMONG CLERKS IN DEPUTY  
COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE, GURGAON.**

**1077. Chaudhri Prem Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state—

- (a) the total number of clerks, community-wise, in the office of the Deputy Commissioner, Gurgaon District, with special reference to the number of clerks belonging to Scheduled Castes therein ;
- (b) whether the Scheduled Castes are adequately represented among them ; if not, why not ?

**The Honourable Dr. Sir Sundar Singh Majithia :** (a) 84 (Hindus 52, Muslims 29, Sikhs 2 and Scheduled castes 1).

(b) Government have issued instructions quite recently with a view to secure correct communal representation, on a divisional basis.

REPRESENTATION OF SCHEDULED CASTES AMONG CLERKS IN DISTRICT  
AND SESSIONS JUDGE'S COURT, GURGAON.

**1078. Chaudhri Prem Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state—

(a) the total number of clerks, community-wise, in the court of District and Sessions Judge, Gurgaon District, with special reference to the number of clerks belonging to Scheduled Castes therein ;

(b) whether the Scheduled Castes are adequately represented among them ; if not, the reasons therefor ?

**The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal :** (a) Gurgaon is not a separate Sessions Division but is included in the division of the District and Sessions Judge, Hissar. A statement containing the required information is attached.

(b) No. The reason is reported to be that no member of a scheduled caste has ever applied for appointment. The Sessions Judge will, however, specially invite applications from this class in the case of future recruitment.

*Statement showing the number of clerks community-wise in the courts of the  
District and Sessions Judge, Hissar.*

Name of post.	Total number of clerks.	Hindus.	Muslims.	Sikhs.	Scheduled castes.	REMARKS.
Clerk of Court ..	1	1	..	..	..	
Reader ..	1	1	..	..	..	
Stenographer ..	1	1	..	..	..	
English Clerk ..	1	..	1	..	..	
Record Keeper ..	1	..	1	..	..	
Translator ..	1	..	1	..	..	
Ahlmad ..	1	1	..	..	..	
Copy Clerks ..	4	1	3	..	..	
Guardian and Wards Moharrir ..	1	1	..	..	..	
Inspection Moharrir ..	1	1	..	..	..	
Nazir ..	1	1	..	..	..	
English copyists ..	2	2	..	..	..	
Paid candidate ..	1	1	..	..	..	
Total ..	17	11	6	..	..	

RECRUITMENT OF SCHEDULED CASTES YOUNG MEN TO THE POLICE  
FORCE AT GURGAON.

**1079. Chaudhri Prem Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

- (a) the total number of Scheduled Castes young men who have been recruited by the Superintendent of Police, Gurgaon district, in the Police Department up to 20th February, 1940 ;
- (b) if none ; the reasons therefor ?

**The Honourable Major Nawabzada Malik Khizar Hayat Khan Tiwana :** (a) Two (constables).

(b) Does not arise.

APPOINTMENT OF SCHEDULED CASTES YOUNG MEN AS PATWARIS  
IN THE GURGAON DISTRICT.

**1080. Chaudhri Prem Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state the number of the Scheduled Castes young men who have been recently appointed as Patwaris in the Gurgaon district ?

**The Honourable Dr. Sir Sundar Singh Majithia :** Two.

FIXING OF PROPORTIONS FOR EACH COMMUNITY IN GOVERNMENT DEPART-  
MENTS AND WEIGHTAGE TO MINORITIES.

**1081. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** With reference to the answer to the short notice question asked on 2nd February, 1940, by Sardar Bahadur Gurbachan Singh, will the Honourable Minister for Revenue be pleased to state whether in fixing the proportions for each community any weightage was given to the minority communities in each division and also state the time within which similar proportions are intended to be enforced in other departments of the Government ?

**The Honourable Dr. Sir Sundar Singh Majithia :** *First part.*—The point was not overlooked.

*Second part.*—It is not possible to fix any time limit.

DELAY IN THE DISPOSAL OF APPLICATIONS FOR CANCELLATION OF *benami*  
TRANSACTIONS.

**1082. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state—

- (a) the number of *benami* transactions and mortgages effected before June, 1901, and reported to date in the Hoshiarpur district, tahsil-wise ;
- (b) the number of applications for the restitution of such mortgages and cancellation of these *benami* transactions received so far in the Hoshiarpur district, tahsil-wise ;

[K. S. Khawaja Ghulam Samad.]

- (c) whether it is a fact that a very long time is taken in the disposal of these applications ; if so, the action intended to be taken to expedite their disposal ?

**The Honourable Dr. Sir Sundar Singh Majithia :**

(a) *No. of benami transactions.*

*No. of mortgages.*

Not available.

Hoshiarpur	..	1,822
Garhshankar	..	1,814
Dasuya	..	2,143
Una	..	1,967

(b) *No. of applications for cancellation of such benami transactions.*

*No. of applications for restitution of such mortgages.*

Hoshiarpur	..	800	1,020
Garhshankar	..	983	690
Dasuya	..	1,193	895
Una	..	1,085	1,000

(c) Yes, due to the necessity of searching for and procuring copies of old mutations and revenue records and of preparing statements from the *khassra girdawari* over a long period of years.

Government has under consideration the appointment of a special officer for disposal of the cases.

COMMUNAL REPRESENTATION IN THE OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, SIMLA.

**1083. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Will the Honourable Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

- the number at present of Muslim employees and the position each occupies in the office of the Deputy Commissioner, Simla ;
- the number of Hindu employees and the position each occupies in the office of the Deputy Commissioner, Simla ;
- the number of employees belonging to other communities and the position each occupies in the above office ;
- whether it is a fact that the Muslims are under-represented in that office ; if so, the reasons therefor ;
- the total pay drawn by the members of each community employed in the said office ?

**The Honourable Dr. Sir Sundar Singh Majithia :** (a), (b), (c) and (e) A statement is laid on the table.

(d) Yes. Orders have issued which are designed to secure correct communal representation in new recruitments.

Statement showing the number of appointments with pay held by various communities in the control of Deputy Commissioner, Simla, on 1st March, 1940.

Name of posts.	Grade or pay.	NUMBER OF POSTS HELD BY				TOTAL PAY PER MENSEM DRAWN BY MEMBERS OF EACH COMMUNITY.		
		Hindus.	Muslims.	Sikhs.	Christians.	Hindus.	Muslims.	Sikhs.
Deputy Commissioner's office including Treasury Record Room and Tahsil Establishments.								
1 Stenographer	100-5-150	1	..	..	..	150	..	..
6 Assistants	75-5-125	6	..	..	..	710	..	..
13 Senior Clerks	40-2-90	8	4	1	..	470	277	48
5 Junior Clerks	30-1-60-2-70	5	..	..	..	274	..	..
2 Junior Clerks	25-1-35-1-50-2-60	2	..	..	..	57	..	..
3 Apprentice Clerks	Ra. 25 per mensem.	1	1	1	..	25	25	25
Copying Department.								
3 Section Copyists	Ra. 25	3	..	..	..	75	..	..
Revenue Department.								
1 Sadr Kanungo	Ra. 75	1	..	..	..	75	..	..
2 Field Kanungos	50	2	..	..	..	100	..	..
1 Office Kanungo	25	1	..	..	..	25	..	..
8 Patwaris	1st grade Ra. 26 per mensem 2nd grade Ra. 23 per mensem 3rd grade Ra. 20 per mensem	8	..	..	..	172	..	..
Total		..	..	..	..	2,133 per mensem	302 per mensem.	73 per mensem.



1084.—*Cancelled.*

PUBLIC PROSECUTORS.

1085. **Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad** : Will the Honourable Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

- (a) the total number of Public Prosecutors in the Punjab community-wise ;
- (b) the names of permanent Public Prosecutors with the length of service of each of them and the salary that each one of them is drawing at present ?

**The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal :**

(a) Muslims	..	..	..	..	18
Hindus	..	..	..	..	10
Sikhs	..	..	..	..	4
Christians	..	..	..	..	1
Vacant	..	..	..	..	8
Total					81

(b) The honourable member is invited to refer to the list at pages 85-86 of the January issue of the Punjab Civil List. Since this was printed the engagement of the legal practitioner who was holding the appointment at Gujrat has been terminated.

REPRESENTATION OF SCHEDULED CASTES AMONG ROAD INSPECTORS IN LAHORE PROVINCIAL DIVISION.

1086. **Bhagat Hans Raj** : Will the Honourable Minister of Public Works be pleased to state—

- (a) the total number of Road Inspectors employed by the Executive Engineer, Lahore Provincial Division, community-wise, with special reference to the number of Scheduled Castes therein, up to the end of February, 1940 ;
- (b) whether the Scheduled Castes are adequately represented among these Road Inspectors ; and, if not, the reasons therefor ?

**The Honourable Major Nawabzada Malik Khizar Hayat Khan Tiwana :** (a) and (b) Government orders regarding appointments community-wise do not apply to the case of Road Inspectors who are borne on the work charged establishment. It may, however, interest the honourable member to know that of a total of 26 such appointments in the three Lahore Provincial Divisions, one post is held by a member of the scheduled castes which is almost double their due share. It will interest him still further to learn that this appointment is 1 of only 2 new appointments made in these divisions since the issue of Government orders in 1938 giving representation to the scheduled castes in such services.

REPRESENTATION OF SCHEDULED CASTES AMONG CLERKS IN THE COURT OF DISTRICT AND SESSIONS JUDGE, SIALKOT.

**1087. Bhagat Hans Raj :** Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state—

- (a) the total number of clerks, community-wise, in the court of District and Sessions Judge, Sialkot, with special reference to the number of Scheduled Castes therein ;
- (b) whether Scheduled Castes are adequately represented among them ; and, if not, the reasons therefor ?

**The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal :**

(a) Muslims	..	..	..	..	23
Hindus	..	..	..	..	21
Sikhs	..	..	..	..	2
Schedule castes	..	..	..	..	nil.

(b) Schedule castes are not represented at present, but every effort will be made to secure adequate representation for those castes when recruitment is made in future and provided suitable candidates are forthcoming.

REPRESENTATION OF SCHEDULED CASTES AMONG PROCESS-SERVERS AT SIALKOT.

**1088. Bhagat Hans Raj :** Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state—

- (a) the total number of process-servers, community-wise, attached to the civil courts at Sialkot with special reference to the number of Scheduled Castes therein up to the end of February, 1940 ;
- (b) whether the Scheduled Castes are adequately represented among them ; and, if not, the reasons therefor ?

**The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal :**

(a) Muslims	..	..	..	..	40
Hindus	..	..	..	..	22
Sikhs	..	..	..	..	12
Scheduled castes	..	..	..	..	Nil.

(b) Scheduled Castes are not represented at present. Due consideration will be paid to the claims of members of these castes whenever recruitment is made in future. It may be added for the information of the honourable member that no recruitment has been made to the list of candidates for the post of process server since 1934.

COMMUNAL REPRESENTATION AMONG CLERKS IN THE OFFICE OF DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, SIMLA.

**1089. Mian Abdul Rab :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state—

- (a) the number at present of Muslim employees and the position each occupies in the office of Deputy Commissioner, Simla ;

[Mian Abdul Rab.]

- (b) the number at present of Hindu employees and the position each occupies in the office of Deputy Commissioner, Simla;
- (c) the number of employees belonging to other communities and the position each occupies in the above-mentioned office;
- (d) whether it is a fact that Muslims are under-represented among these employees; if so, the reasons therefor?

**The Honourable Dr. Sir Sundar Singh Majithia:** Attention of the honourable member is invited to the answer given to the question No. 1068<sup>1</sup>.

PERCENTAGE FIXED FOR SCHEDULED CASTES IN THE MATTER OF ADMISSION  
TO THE PUNJAB COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY.

**1090. Bhagat Hans Raj:** Will the Honourable Minister of Public Works be pleased to state with reference to my unstarred question No. 1040<sup>2</sup> the percentage that is fixed for the scheduled castes students in the matter of admission to the Punjab College of Engineering and Technology, Lahore?

**The Honourable Major Nawabzada Malik Khizar Hayat Khan Tiwana:** A percentage of 2½ out of the 30 per cent fixed for Hindus and others is reserved for scheduled castes.

ACCEPTANCE OF CANDIDATES FOR THE POST OF ZILLADARS.

**1091. Sayad Mubarak Ali Shah:** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state—

- (a) the total number of candidates accepted or appointed as zilladars in the Irrigation Department during the last ten years;
- (b) the number of those among them who belong to the Jhang district?

**The Honourable Dr. Sir Sundar Singh Majithia:** (a) 204 candidates were selected in the last 10 years.

157 Zilladars were appointed in the last 10 years.

(b) 5 candidates belonged to Jhang district.

4 Zilladars belonged to Jhang district.

RECRUITMENT OF CANDIDATES BELONGING TO JHANG DISTRICT AS ASSISTANT  
SUB-INSPECTORS OF POLICE.

**1092. Sayad Mubarak Ali Shah:** Will the Honourable Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

- (a) the total number of candidates recruited as Assistant Sub-Inspectors of Police, in the Western Range, Punjab, since its establishment;

<sup>1</sup>Pages 656-57 ante.

<sup>2</sup>Vide debates of 21st February, 1940—Vol. XI.

- (b) the number of those among them who belong to the Jhang district?

**The Honourable Major Nawabzada Malik Khizar Hayat Khan Tiwana :** (a) 70.

- (b) 4.

#### SIKH DISTRICT INSPECTORS OF SCHOOLS.

**1093. Sardar Baldev Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state—

- (a) whether he is aware of the fact that the Sikhs are under-represented in the cadre of District Inspectors of Schools ;
- (b) whether it is a fact that a vacancy is going to occur in the post of District Inspector of Schools, Amritsar, owing to the transfer of the present incumbent of the post to Director of Public Instruction's office ;
- (c) how Government proposes to fill the post ?

**The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye :** (a) There are 4 Sikh District Inspectors of Schools out of 30 and the percentage is 13·3, while according to the last census figures the percentage of Sikhs in the province is 12·9.

- (b) The vacancy, if and when it arises, will be filled by selection.

It will interest the honourable member to know that so far as Divisional and Deputy Inspectors of Schools in the Punjab are concerned, the percentage of Sikhs is 20 and 30, respectively.

#### REPRESENTATION OF SIKHS IN THE CADRE OF DISTRICT INSPECTORS OF SCHOOLS.

**1094. Master Kabul Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state—

- (a) whether it is a fact that Sikhs are not adequately represented in the cadre of District Inspectors of Schools ;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that a vacancy is going to occur in the post of the District Inspector of Schools, Amritsar, on account of the transfer of the present incumbent to the office of the Director of Public Instruction ; if so, how it is intended to fill that vacancy ?

**The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye :** (a) There are 4 Sikh District Inspectors of Schools out of 30 and the percentage is 13·3, while according to the last census figures the percentage of Sikhs in the province is 12·9.

[Minister of Education.]

(b) The vacancy, if and when it arises, will be filled by selection.

It will interest the honourable member to know that so far as Divisional and Deputy Inspectors of Schools in the Punjab are concerned the percentage of Sikhs is 20 and 30, respectively.

1095.—*Cancelled.*

#### SIKH DISTRICT INSPECTORS OF SCHOOLS.

**1096. Sardar Bahadur Sardar Gurbachan Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Sikh community is under-represented in the cadre of District Inspectors of Schools in the province ;

(b) whether it is a fact that a vacancy is going to occur in the post of District Inspector of Schools, Amritsar, owing to the transfer of the present incumbent of the post to the Director of Public Instruction's office ;

(c) if the answer to (a) be in the affirmative, how the vacancy is intended to be filled ?

**The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye :** (a) There are 4 Sikh District Inspectors of Schools out of 30 and the percentage is 13.3, while according to the last census figures the percentage of Sikhs in the province is 12.9.

(b) The vacancy, if and when it arises, will be filled by selection.

It will interest the honourable member to know that so far as Divisional and Deputy Inspectors of Schools in the Punjab are concerned, the percentage of Sikhs is 20 and 30, respectively.

#### COMMUNAL REPRESENTATION AMONG EMPLOYEES IN THE OFFICE OF DISTRICT HEALTH OFFICER, FEROZEPORE.

**1097. Malik Barkat Ali :** Will the honourable minister of Education be pleased to—

(a) place on the table a statement showing the various appointments from the District Health Officer, Ferozepore, downwards held in the office of the District Health department, Ferozepore, by Hindus, Muslims and Sikhs, respectively ;

(b) state (i) the number of vacancies in the various offices of the District Health Officer, Ferozepore, which occurred since the present District Health Officer took charge and (ii) the number of these vacancies which have gone to Hindus, Muslims and Sikhs, respectively ?

**The Honorable Mian Abdul Haye :** A statement is enclosed.

*Communal representation among employees in the office of District Health Officer, Ferozepore.*

The communal representation of District Board Health personnel in Ferozepore District prior to taking over charge of the District by the present District Medical Officer of Health on 5th April, 1938, was as follows:—

Serial No.	Name of post.	Muslims.	Sikhs.	Hindus.	Others.	Total.
1	Sub-Assistant Health Officer.	..	1	..	..	1
2	Dispenser ..	..	..	1	..	1
3	Naib-Daroghas ..	3	..	4	..	7
4	Sanitary Inspectors ..	1	1	..	..	2
5	Sanitary Patrols ..	10	8	4	..	22
6	Superintendent of Vaccination.	1	..	..	..	1
7	Assistant Superintendent of Vaccination.	2	..	..	..	2
8	Vaccinators ..	10	8	4	..	22
9	Lady Health Visitors ..	2	1	..	2	5
10	Dais ..	4	1	..	..	5
	Total ..	33	20	13	2	68

The position of the District Board Health personnel as it stands at present is as under:—

Serial No.	Name of post.	Muslims.	Sikhs.	Hindus.	Others.	Total.
1	Sub-Assistant Health Officer.	..	1	..	..	1
2	Dispenser ..	..	..	1	..	1
3	Naib-Daroghas ..	3	..	4	..	7
4	Sanitary Inspectors ..	1	..	1	..	2
5	Sanitary Patrols ..	9	8	5	..	22
6	Superintendent, Vaccination.	..	1	..	..	1
7	Assistant Superintendent, Vaccination.	1	..	..	..	1
8	Vaccinators ..	10	8	4	..	22
9	Lady Health Visitors ..	2	1	..	2	5
10	Dais ..	4	1	..	..	5
	Total ..	30	20	15	2	67

One post of Assistant Superintendent, Vaccination, is still vacant.

## [Minister for Education.]

The following statement shows the appointments made community-wise in the District Board Health Department during the period of service of the present District Medical Officer of Health :—

Serial No.	Name of post.	Muslims.	Sikhs.	Hindus.	Others.	Total.
1	Lady Health Visitors ..	2	1	..	..	3
2	Sanitary Patrols ..	1	1	2	..	4
3	Sanitary Inspectors ..	..	..	1	..	1
4	Superintendent, Vaccination.	..	*1	..	..	1
	Total ..	3	3	3	..	9

\*Already in service as Sanitary Inspector and promoted as Superintendent of Vaccination.

It is pointed out that District Board, Ferozepore, has delegated no powers to the District Medical Officer of Health to appoint or dismiss independently the employees of the District Board working in the Public Health Department. All such powers are exercised by the Deputy Commissioner, Ferozepore, who is the *ex-officio* Chairman of the Board.

## COMPLAINTS AGAINST THE DISTRICT HEALTH OFFICER, FEROZEPORE.

**1098. Malik Barkat Ali :** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state whether a Muslim deputation waited on the Deputy Commissioner, Ferozepore, on 6th September, 1939, to draw his attention to the grievances of the Muslims against the administration of the present District Health Officer, and the favouritism shown by him to the Sikhs ; if so, the action taken by the Deputy Commissioner on these complaints ?

**The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye :** *First part.*—Yes.

*Second part.*—The Deputy Commissioner, Ferozepore, called for a detailed report and found after examining facts and figures that the alleged grievances and the charges of favouritism levelled against the District Medical Officer of Health were without any foundation. No further action was, therefore, necessary and the papers were filed.

## SUPERSESSION OF SOME SENIOR CLERKS IN UNIVERSITY OFFICE.

**1099. Dr. Satya Pal :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the present Vice-Chancellor has, in contravention of the departmental rules, appointed a son and a nephew of Khalifa Shuja-ud-Din (a syndic), a son of Mr. Muhammad Shafi (a syndic) and a relative of Diwan Anand Kumar (also

a syndie) to new senior posts in the clerical establishment of the University office and has ignored the claims of several qualified and senior clerks; if so, why?

**The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye :** There is no bar against the appointments of relatives of Syndics of the University. The sons of Dr. Khalifa Shuja-ud-Din (a syndie) and Mr. Mohammad Shafi (a syndie) have been appointed in the University, but no nephew of Dr. Khalifa Shuja-ud-Din or a relative of Diwan Anand Kumar (a syndie) has been appointed. These posts were advertised and the claims of the persons already in service were fully considered. Under the rules framed by the University the appointment of the son of Dr. Khalifa Shuja-ud-Din to the post on Rs. 100—5—150—10—200 was made by the Syndicate and the son of Principal Muhammad Shafi was appointed on Rs. 55—4—75—5—100 by the Vice-Chancellor. No appointment was made in contravention of the departmental rules.

#### REPRESENTATION OF SIKHS IN THE CADRE OF DISTRICT INSPECTORS OF SCHOOLS.

**1100. Sardar Harjab Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state—

- (a) whether it is a fact that Sikhs are not adequately represented in the cadre of District Inspectors of Schools;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that a vacancy is about to occur in the post of the District Inspector of Schools at Amritsar owing to the transfer of the present incumbent to the office of the Director of Public Instruction, Punjab; if so, the manner in which that vacancy is to be filled?

**The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye :** (a) There are 4 Sikh District Inspectors of Schools out of 30 and the percentage is 13·3, while according to the last census figures the percentage of Sikhs in the province is 12·9.

- (b) The vacancy, if and when it arises, will be filled by selection.

It will interest the honourable member to know that so far as Divisional and Deputy Inspectors of Schools in the Punjab are concerned the percentage of Sikhs is 20 and 30, respectively.

#### ADJOURNMENT MOTION.

##### POLICE FIRING ON THE KHAKSARS.

**Mr. K. L. Gauba :** 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 firing by the Police at Hira Mandi, Lahore, on the 19th March, 1940, resulting in the death of about 40 Khaksars and injuries to nearly a hundred persons.



**Mr. Speaker :** Leave is asked—

**Premier :** I have no objection whatever to this motion being taken up for discussion to-day. I merely want to inform the House that since Government have already decided to appoint an Enquiry Committee, speeches in this House might to some extent prejudice a fair and unbiassed enquiry. However, if my honourable friend considers that it would serve any useful purpose, I would welcome it because it would give me an opportunity of clearing up several exaggerated notions and also several mis-statements and rumours which have been circulated during the last few days. Government do not propose, if the House wants to discuss this adjournment motion, to oppose it.

**Rai Bahadur Mukand Lal Puri :** What is the nature and composition of the Enquiry Committee that is being suggested ?

**Mr. Speaker :** The motion will be taken up at 4-30 P. M.

#### STATEMENT BY PREMIER.

##### CENSORSHIP ON THE PRESS IN CONNECTION WITH KHAKSAR INCIDENT.

**Premier :** I have a statement to make. I might, for the information of the House, state that the censorship imposed on the press in connection with this unfortunate incident has been lifted. Government decided yesterday, after careful consideration, to lift that restriction and I wish to take this opportunity of thanking the press for the very responsible attitude which they adopted during this very anxious and difficult time. (*Cheers.*) I am most grateful to them and I am sure that even after this restriction has been lifted, they will show the same sense of responsibility in the interest of the peace and tranquillity of the Province. I once again repeat that I am most grateful to them and I hope that they will continue to give the province the right lead in this very difficult and anxious time. (*Cheers.*)

**Diwan Chaman Lall :** May I, with your permission, ask the Honourable Premier to let the House know as to when the censorship was imposed and what was the nature of the censorship ? I hear now that censorship has been lifted.

**Premier :** It was imposed on the 19th. The nature of the censorship was merely of a technical character that no news or contributions with regard to this particular incident should be published without the censor seeing them because all kinds of wild rumours were set afloat and were likely to find room in the newspapers unless they were properly censored.

**Diwan Chaman Lall :** Who was the Censor ?

**Premier :** The Censor, I think, was the Officer in charge of the Press Branch.

**Diwan Chaman Lall :** The Director of Information Bureau ?

**Premier :** No, the Officer in charge of the Press Branch.

## DEMANDS FOR GRANTS.

### PUBLIC HEALTH.

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

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 25,48,800 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1941, in respect of Public Health.

**Mr. Speaker :** Demand moved—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 25,48,800 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1941, in respect of Public Health.

**Sardar Hari Singh :** I beg to move—

That the demand be reduced by Rs. 100.

Mr. Speaker, I do so with a view to discuss the administration and policy of the whole department of Public Health. The problem of Public Health in the Province is an important problem and I want to examine this problem in the light of valuable and reliable statistical evidence culled from reliable documents published by the Central Government and the Provincial Government and other important documents of great weight and reliability. I want to examine the problem in the light of contents of the Report of the Punjab Public Health Department, and the Report of the Public Health Commissioner with the Government of India.

But before I examine the problem in the light of that statistical evidence and observations contained in the various reports, I would like just to glance through the budget figures of Public Health for the ensuing year, and for the current year and for the year 1938-39. We find that in the year 1938-39, whereas the revised estimate was to the extent of Rs. 21,98,500 the actual expenditure incurred was Rs. 20,36,465 only, that is to say, there was a decrease of Rs. 1,57,035. The reason for this decrease is explained as follows : The expenditure on certain rural schemes and other works was not incurred owing to non-completion of the estimates during the year. Now, I would ask my honourable friend, the Minister for Education, to explain why the amount was included in the original or revised estimates without being sure that the money was actually required and the estimates had been completed for the purpose for which that money was budgeted. For the year 1939-40, we find that the estimated amount was Rs. 24,89,310, whereas the revised estimate amounts to Rs. 18,68,700, that is, there is a great decrease to the tune of Rs. 5,70,410. The revised figure fell short of the estimated figure by about Rs. 6 lakhs. It is very deplorable that on an important department like the Public Health Department, which requires increasing amounts to ensure happiness of this province, the money that was originally budgeted or was included in the revised estimate was not actually spent either during the year 1938-39 or during the year 1939-40. What was the reason for this decrease? Why was the full amount not spent? Again, the reason is because the district boards' schemes in most cases were incomplete. The same reason is repeated for the year 1939-40 that the district boards concerned could not complete their schemes in time so as to spend

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the money which was budgeted by the Government. Now, again, in this connection we are told that this decrease is due to economies effected by the Government in connection with grants for public health services and in connection with sanitary grants Rs. 8½ lakhs were reduced as a measure of economy. I would ask my honourable friend, the Minister for Education, who is responsible for these economies in the estimated figures, as to what economies were effected in other departments such as police, etc., in order to save money for Hissar famine or for some other purpose? What money was saved from the high-placed officials' salaries and allowances? What money was saved from the money budgeted for the move to Simla? I maintain that if any economy has to be effected or if the axe of retrenchment has to be used, the Public Health Department ought to be the last department to which the pruning knife or the axe of retrenchment should be applied. But here we find that a sum of not less than Rs. 6 lakhs was saved by way of economy. That is a very regrettable and deplorable situation indeed when about ¼th of the budgeted amount was not spent for the purpose for which it was budgeted. Let us now come to the figures for the year 1940-41. Here we find that the amount of estimates is Rs. 26,88,300. When we compare this figure with the revised estimate for the year 1939-40, we find no doubt an increase of Rs. 7,69,040 and we are told that this increase would have been greater but for the reduced expenditure. What are the reasons for this increase? Let us see if this increase is a real increase or a fictitious one. We are told that the amount of Rs. 3,26,000, that is, an increase of such amount is due to transfer of the control of rural dispensaries from the Medical Department to the Public Health Department. So this is no real increase. It is only a transfer of Rs. 3,26,000 from one department to another department. Not an increase at all. Again, we are told that this increase is due to the inclusion of the following important schemes in the schedule of new expenditure, and one of the reasons is the grant to Simla Improvement Scheme which amounts to no less than a sum of Rs. 2,50,000, that is, ¼th of the amount to be spent during the year on that scheme. Now, I would ask my honourable friend, the Minister in charge, as to how the ratio of 1 : 4 to be granted by the Government for the Simla Improvement Scheme was arrived at. We are told that this money will be spent for certain purposes and one of those purposes is the making of the Mall motorable. I ask him by making the Mall motorable, how is he going to improve the health of the province? How is he going to help the cause of public health by making the Mall motorable for the rich people, for autocrats like my honourable friends opposite or aristocrats like Sir Sunder Singh, who will go up to Simla during the summer? How is the making of the Mall motorable going to help the poor peasants and workers of the Punjab in the improvement of their health? Now in the new expenditure we find sanitary grants for urban areas to the extent of Rs. 1 lakh and for rural areas Rs. 1,50,000. The total amount budgeted for the entire province as regards sanitation grant is Rs. 2,50,000 which is equal to the amount to be spent upon the town of Simla, a hill station, an abode of gods in the summer season. Why not get the money out of the rich people who will be using Simla as a health resort? Why not get the money out of the pockets of those people who will use Simla to

improve their health and enjoy the scenery of hills? Why get the whole province to pay the tax in order to improve the roads of Simla? Moreover if we examine the figures carefully for the year 1940-41, what do we find? Let us carefully find out what amount, what portion and what proportion of this money is going to be spent on the salaries and allowances of officers and establishments and what portion of the money is going to be spent on real sanitary work or preventive work and real public health work? Let us compare the two. My calculations go to show that about  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the amount of Rs. 26 lakhs and odd will be spent on the salaries and allowances of officers and establishments and only  $\frac{1}{3}$ rd, that is about 9 lakhs, will be actually spent on real public health work in the province. The cost of preventive medicines, vaccines, equipment, sanitary works comes to Rs. 9,11,400 and the amount to be spent on the salaries, etc. comes to Rs. 17,26,900. This provision of 26 lakhs is quite inadequate and disappointing for improving the public health in the province and is further unsatisfactory because a major portion, i.e., about 70 per cent, will be spent merely on payment of salaries and allowances of the officers and establishments maintained for the purpose of public health. Let us now examine statistically the percentage of total budget spent by the province during the past few years on public health and also find out what *per capita* expenditure has been spent during the past few years on the public health of the province, and compare it with the other provinces to see whether the boast of Government that it is highly keen on the improvement of the health of the province is justified or not. Here I hold in my hand figures from the year 1921-22 onwards till the year 1940-41. On calculation I find that in the year 1921-22 the percentage of the total budget spent on public health in the Punjab was 1.008: in the succeeding year 1.06. It goes on increasing gradually till in the year 1939-40 the percentage of the total budget spent on public health of the province was 2.31. Then it fell down on account of the slump or depression. In the year 1930-31 it was 1.87: in the succeeding year 1.44. It fell down, till we find that in the first year of the provincial autonomy it was 1.38: in the succeeding year it was 1.75, in the current year 1.54 and in the ensuing year 2.19. As compared with the years 1929-30 the position during these three years of provincial autonomy has been worse and even during the ensuing year we shall be spending a lesser percentage of the total budget on public health than was spent in the year 1929-30. As regards expenditure *per capita* of the population of the province we find that in the year 1921-22 the *per capita* expenditure according to the census population was 10 pies per head, in the year 1931-32 1 anna  $\frac{1}{4}$  pie, in the succeeding year 10.1-6 pies, in 1933-34 10 pies, in 1934-35 8  $\frac{1}{2}$  pies, in 1935-36 8  $\frac{1}{2}$  pies, in 1936-37 8  $\frac{1}{2}$  pies, in 1937-38 1 anna and  $\frac{1}{2}$  pie, in 1938-39 1 anna 1  $\frac{1}{2}$  pies, and in 1939-40 11  $\frac{1}{2}$  pies.

In the ensuing year the cost on public health per head of the population will be one anna 1  $\frac{1}{2}$  pies. As compared with the past few years there is a slight improvement no doubt. In calculating the *per capita* expenditure for the ensuing year, I have excluded the amount transferred from the Medical to the Public Health Department because that is not a real increase. Now when we compare our position with the position in other provinces, I find that as far as figures are available from certain provinces like Assam, Bengal, North-West Frontier Province, the percentage of the total budget

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spent on public health in Assam is for the ensuing year 2·87. And what is it in the Punjab? Only 2·19. Assam is better. In Bengal it is 3·26. The figure for Bengal is higher. In Bihar it is 2·53. So Assam is in a better position. Bengal is in a far better position. Bihar is in a better position as regards percentage of the total budget expended on public health for the year 1940-41. Let us turn to the cost per head of the population in other provinces and in our proud province of the Punjab. Here we find that in Assam for the next financial year the cost per head of the population comes to one anna and 9 pies, and what is it here? Only 1 anna and 1½ pies. In Bengal it is 1 anna and 4 pies. In Bombay, you will be surprised to know, it is 3 annas and 5½ pies. So as regards percentage of the total budget spent on public health and as regards cost per head of the population, we are in a weaker position than certain other provinces like Bombay, Bengal, Bihar of which the figures are available up to date.

Now let us come to the problem itself. The problem of public health all over the world is considered a very vital problem because it touches the very foundation of national life, national progress and national existence. In India which is distressingly poverty-stricken, disease-stricken because it is slavery-stricken, the problem has assumed a greater importance and greater significance. Let us study the problem in its various aspects so as to see where we stand and what are the obstacles in our way and find out the solution to overcome all these obstacles and usher in a better, brighter and happier and healthier province.

The problem of public health is intimately connected with the problem of education and the problem of agriculture. Ignorance, disease and poverty are interrelated and inter-connected things, and we shall have to attack these evils, ignorance, poverty and disease together. Unless we combine the genius, the efforts, the endeavour of the three departments of education, agriculture and public health, and pool their resources together we cannot tackle the problem of public health efficiently. I have at present with me a mass of statistics concerning the birth-rate in our province to show at what alarming pace our population is multiplying and at what alarming pace our population is dying. I shall place before the House statistics regarding infantile mortality to show the significance of child welfare and maternity work. I have got in my hand statistics taken from various Government documents, from the India Year Book, the Statesman Year Book and the report of the Public Health Commissioner with the Government of India. I will present all the figures one by one.

Let us examine the figures taken from the Punjab Public Health Report, the latest report available. These figures relate to the growth of population in the Punjab. From these figures we find that the rate of increase in the population is rising rather has been rising rapidly since 1921. Not only has the population been increasing, but the rate of increase for every succeeding individual year has been rising. In 1921 the rate of increase was 7·45 per thousand. In the year 1931 it was 14·34 per thousand as compared with the previous census. So the rate has doubled. In the year 1932 there was, in one single year, an increase of 2·07. In the next year it was 3·80 and in 1934 it was 5·21. In 1935 it was 6·00, in 1936, 8·93 and in 1937 the increase was 11·12 per thousand. These figures show that not

only is the population multiplying, but it is multiplying at an increasing rate. The rapid multiplication of population gives rise not only to serious economic problems but also to serious public health problems, because it raises the question of the standard of living and the question of housing of the increasing population. These questions are connected with the health of the population.

Then I would invite my friend's attention to page 90 of Statistical Abstract for British India, wherein he will find the death rate in the Punjab as compared with the death rate in India for several past years. In 1931 death rate in India was 24.9 and in the Punjab it was 26.0 per thousand. So in the Punjab it was higher by 1.1. In 1932 in the whole of India it was 21.6 and in the Punjab it was 23.6. In 1933 in India it was 22.4 and in the Punjab it was 27.0. In 1934, in India it was 24.9 and in the Punjab 26. In 1935, we do find some improvement in the Punjab as compared with India, for in India, it was 24.0, while in the Punjab it was 23.0. In 1936 again we find that improvement has been maintained. It was 22.6 in India and 22.0 in the Punjab. But when we compare the mean death rate for India as a whole and for the Punjab since the year 1931 we find that in the Punjab death rate is higher than the mean death rate for the whole of India.

Now again as regards birth rate, if we compare the figures for the Punjab and for India from the year 1931 to the year 1936 for which figures are available, we find that consistently for these years birth rate in the Punjab has been higher than the mean birth rate for the whole of India.

Again as regards the number of males born to every 100 females born, if we compare the figures since the year 1931 for the Punjab and for India as a whole, where in India as a whole we find for every 100 females born 108 males in 1931, 108 males in the next year till the year 1935, that is for every 100 females we had 108 males born in India every year since 1931 to 1935, whereas in the Punjab the figures are 111, 112, 112, 112 and 112. From these figures we find that sex disparity is increasing in the Punjab at a more rapid pace than in the rest of India or in India as a whole. So from these three sets of figures we conclude that in the Punjab death rate has been higher than the mean death rate and birth rate has been higher than the mean birth rate for the whole of India, and the disparity between the sexes is increasing at a more rapid speed than the speed for the whole of India.

When we compare the death rate of the Punjab with death rate in other provinces individually, we find that by comparison with the neighbouring provinces, the United Provinces, North-West Frontier Province and Sind, the Punjab is in the worst position. In the United Provinces in 1937 death rate was 21.38 per thousand, in Sind 12.09, in the North-West Frontier Provinces 21.27 and in the Punjab it was 23.71. So that compared with the neighbouring provinces we are in the worst position as regards death rate. Death rate per thousand in the Punjab is higher as compared with individual provinces, I mean the neighbouring provinces—the United Provinces on one side, Sind on the other side and the Frontier on the other. Now let us examine the death rate of the present day or the present decade with the death rate of the past few decades. We find on reading the figures on

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page 8 of the report of the Public Health Commissioner with the Government of India, that in the years 1871—80 the death rate in India was 20; then it goes to 26 in the next decade, then to 31 in the succeeding century; then to 34, then 34, then from the year 1921 we find gradual decrease. In the years 1921-30, it fell to 26 per thousand. Then in the year 1931 it was 25 and in the next year 22, next year 22, next year after that 25, succeeding year 24 and in the next succeeding year 23 and in the year 1937 it was 22 for India and 21·8 for the Punjab. When we compare the death rate of the Punjab, namely 21·3 with the death rate prevalent in the first decade, when the British came and regular figures were kept by the Medical department and the Public Health Department, we do not find ourselves in a better position in spite of the boasted efforts of the Government, this provincial autonomy Government or the previous Governments that have been in existence in this province. Reduction has no doubt taken place since the year 1921. The province has been free from virulent attacks of various kinds of epidemics, but when we compare the present death rate with the death rate in the years 1871—80, we do not find ourselves in any better position, but we find that the death rate is 1·3 per thousand higher in the Punjab than in the past century. Now let us compare the death rate in British India and the Punjab with death rates in other civilised countries or other countries of Asia. In British India, in the year 1937, as I have already stated, the death rate was 22·4 and in the Punjab it was 21·3. In the same year, in England and Wales, the death rate was no higher than 12·4. In Federated Malay States, it was 19·9; in Japan 17·5; in Palestine 18·9 and Palestine is notorious for its malaria. In Egypt it was 28·9, and in Netherlands East Indies 18·8. Most of these countries are Asiatic countries. As compared with England and Wales which is a much civilised country and where the Public Health department has progressed considerably during the present century, we are far worse. As regards death rate we are second only to Egypt. But for Egypt we have got the highest death rate in the world. As regards the Punjab or as regards our country, India, we are still worse in infant mortality. In our country or in our province the infant mortality figure was 162 per thousand births in the year 1937 and in England and Wales the figure was only 58; in Japan 117; Palestine 153; Egypt again it was higher, 164. Barring Egypt we have got the highest infant mortality rate. As regards maternity mortality, it was 20 per thousand in British India. In England and Wales it was only 3·3; in Japan only 2·6. Egypt which has got the highest death rate and a high infantile mortality rate, has got a maternal mortality rate of only 4·7. The Statesman Year Book for the year 1939, on page 19, also gives certain comparative statistics. In England and Wales in the year 1938 the death rate was 11·6 per thousand; in Scotland it was 12·6; in Newfoundland it was 13·30; Canada 10·2; New South Wales 9·36; New Zealand 9·38; U. S. A. 11·5; 10·08. And what do you think it is in the Punjab? It is 23·71, double the death rate prevailing in England and Wales during the same year. Let us also glance through the figures of death rate at different periods in the Punjab so as to emphasise at what stage the problem of disease is to be attacked, where we have to launch our frontal attack with a view to tackle the disease. These are figures for the year 1937.

We find that the number of deaths under one year of age was 183·22 per thousand. That is about two hundred out of every one thousand children were swept away during the first year of their existence. That gives cause for pondering, for thinking seriously. Then we find that among persons above 60 years of age, the percentage is 59·33. So in our province the highest mortality rate prevails among children under one year or among old people above 60 years of age. As regards death rate according to the sexes we have already seen that among females the birth rate is lower and among the males it is higher. But when we come to the death rate, the death rate among females is higher and that among the males is lower. It means that not only females are being born in the Punjab at a lower rate, but they are also dying quicker. That leads to greater and greater disparity between the sexes every year and it creates certain problems, for the greater disparity between the sexes means chances of prostitution, greater chances of diseases such as blindness and other diseases connected with promiscuous intercourse. Now let us have a glance at page 12 of the Report of the Public Health Commissioner with the Government of India wherein we are given comparative figures on infantile mortality and we can compare our figures, the figures for the Punjab with those of other provinces. We have already compared the figures with other countries. Now let us see how we the Punjabis stand in comparison with the neighbouring provinces in the matter of infantile mortality. In the Punjab in the year 1937 we have already seen the infantile mortality rate was 163. In the United Provinces it was 142—a lower rate. In the North-West Frontier Province it was 148·6; in Sindh 118. We the Punjabis are by nature more vigorous. We have got better physique. We have got better food and yet it is deplorable, when we compare the death rate and infantile mortality rate of our province with those of the neighbouring provinces, with the weak Purbias and with Sindhis, we find that our death rate is higher, that our infantile mortality rate is also higher than in the United Provinces. Now let us see the figures on page 13 of the same report as regards infant deaths, only infant deaths, during one year. In British India the number of infant deaths was 169·5 per thousand for the males, in North-West Frontier Province 148, in the Punjab 169·9, in the United Provinces 148·6. Male children in the Punjab died at a quicker pace than in British India as a whole or even in the neighbouring provinces of North-West Frontier or the United Provinces. The same tale is repeated among the females. Here the figure is 155·4 in the Punjab per thousand. In the whole of India it is 153·3. In the Pathans' province 149, in Purbias' province, 135·2. We are worse off here too.

On page 127 of the book "Health and Nutrition in India" written by a very eminent authority, Professor N. Gangulee, who was, I think, a member of the Royal Commission on Agriculture and a colleague, of the present Viceroy of India—on page 127 of that book—certain very illuminating figures are given. The writer has been at pains to collect figures regarding England, Japan and India as regards the survivors of one lakh infants at the end of 50 years. In England among the males the survivors of one lakh infants at the end of fifty years was 59,903, in Japan 52,629 and in India or, say, in the Punjab, it is only 18,615. Comparison shows a great gap between the survivors in England, Japan and India. About 60,000 survivors



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in England and less than 20,000 survivors in India. The same tale is repeated as regards female survivors out of one lakh infants born. In England 64,000 survived after 50 years, in Japan 51,000, in India only 19,000. And we are told in the same book that where in England the infantile death-rate had declined from 154 per thousand in 1,900 to 64 per thousand in the year 1933, there has been no similar decrease in figures in the Punjab. Let us turn for a while to India Year Book where also figures are very reliable. On page 643 we are told that in the year 1936 birth rate was twice that of England and Wales and death rate was also twice. As compared with Japan death-rate was  $1\frac{1}{2}$  times. As regards infantile mortality in our province or our country death rate was three times of England and Wales and one and a half times of Japan. In the same book Health and Nutrition in India by Professor Gangulee on page 311, we find some more figures regarding maternal mortality per thousand births in different countries. Here the comparison is alarming. In Holland, we are told maternal mortality per thousand births was only 2.4, in France 2.5, in Sweden 2.6, in Denmark 2.7, Norway 2.7, Italy 2.9, Japan 3, England and Wales 4.1, Switzerland 4.5, New Zealand 4.2, Irish Free State, 4.8, Australia 5.9, United States of America 8.5, but what do we find in India? Not 9, nor 10 nor 11 nor 12, but 24 and the latest is 24.5. As compared with 2.4 of Holland, 2.5 of France, 24.5 per thousand births is the mortality rate in India. This is an appalling rate of maternal mortality, to put it even modestly. Punjab Report has got what is known as Form I and here in this Form ratio of births and deaths per thousand during the previous five years is compared as regards males and females. I have already given figures to show that there is disparity, increasing disparity among the sexes on account of lower female birth-rate and higher female death-rate. But I quoted from certain other books. Here I invite the House to read Form I and Form II out of the Punjab Report on Public Health—the most recent report on Public Health. Now these statistics, this reliable evidence of unimpeachable authority, go to prove that in the Punjab—for the sake of recapitulation I am stating these things—we have got a higher birth-rate than the mean birth-rate of the whole of India and we have got a higher death-rate than the mean death-rate for the whole of India and even higher as compared with the neighbouring provinces.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** The Punjab leads!

**Sardar Hari Singh :** The Punjab leads no doubt in death-rate. As regards infantile mortality, we are leading the neighbouring provinces in India and India is leading by many many furlongs the whole of the world. Here in the Punjab the disparity between the sexes is increasing every year. What are the remedies to tackle this situation? What steps should be taken to cope with this problem? These are the things for my honourable friend opposite to consider and ponder over and meditate upon and let the House know how he wishes to tackle these all-important problems of public health in the Punjab in its various aspects during the ensuing year, during the ensuing five years or ten years or twenty years. Let him give the House his short term programme and his long term programme. There are certain questions that can be tackled immediately and there are certain questions that will require long term planning, long term remedies which are not

capable of immediate solution. A responsible man in charge of public health will not only look to immediate problems, immediate solutions, but will have a long view of things. Let my friend state on the floor of this House what are his remedies for short term as well as long term solutions.

While studying the question of public health, I have gone through a very valuable treatise whose title reads "Last Thirty Years in Public Health". I would make a present of this work to my honourable friend opposite. This book is lying in our Library and it is by a very eminent and experienced authority, that is, Sir Arthur Newsholme who was, for some time, a principal medical officer in England and a Lecturer in Public Health at John Hopkins University. In this book the author has emphasised again and again the question of poverty in relation to sickness. He has proved that one cannot be remedied without tackling the other. Unless you tackle the problem of poverty, you cannot tackle disease and unless you tackle the problem of disease, you cannot find solution for poverty. Poverty and disease form a vicious circle and the author says that this vicious circle can be broken at any point. If you cope with disease, you can remedy poverty. If you are reducing poverty, you are to the same extent reducing disease. While discussing the question of poverty in relation to sickness, I have to give an important quotation which I have noted from page 132 of the Report of the Public Health Commissioner. This was quoted by Sir Mirza Ismail who, I think, led an Indian delegation to an Inter-Governmental Conference on Rural Hygiene in the year 1937 at Bandeong in the Netherlands. He was speaking of the poverty of the Indian peasants. What he said on that occasion may equally be said of the Punjab peasant. He said :—

"He eats and has indigestion

He works and may not stop

His life is a long-drawn question

Between a crop and a crop."

That is the plight of the Punjabi peasant. He works day and night, he eats and yet he cannot digest that food because his digestive powers are very much reduced. When that is the extent of poverty in India or in the Punjab, we should not wonder that our peasantry is a victim to all kinds of epidemics, to all kinds of diseases and our death-rate is so alarmingly high in comparison with other countries of the world. I would like to make a present of some valuable quotations from certain pages of this book "Last Thirty Years in Public Health". I would like my honourable friend to read through its pages and particularly pages 66, 68, 70, 72 and 340 and he will find the main thesis of the author, that the problem of public health is poverty in relation to sickness, is fully borne out by these pages. On page 68 the author says :—

"The health of a community usually varies with the material well-being of its members".

Again, on page 70 he says :—

"Poverty and disease are allied by the closest bonds and nothing can be simpler and more certain than the statements that the removal of poverty would effect an enormous reduction of disease",

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On page 72 it is said—

“The conclusion is reached that poverty and T. B. are very closely associated”  
and further—

“In the year 1907 I had already become convinced that in the interest of the community and as a measure of preventing both poverty and continued sickness, free medical aid should be given at the communal expense to all who lacked it.”  
and further—

“That poverty and disease work on each other in a vicious circle is obvious. But this circle has the quality of its defect, for the circle can be broken at any point, and the practical problem for us is that all the means by which it may be possible to stop people from becoming poor by preventing them from becoming sick.”

He develops this thesis in the pages that follow and he quotes certain figures from England to show that as a result of reduction in poverty, tuberculosis has been reduced in England. He says that in the years 1838—42 death rate from tuberculosis was 3·88, in 1871-80 it was 2·80, in 1911-20 it was 1·49, in 1921-30 it was 2·01 and in the year 1934 it was ·76. So, there is appreciable reduction in mortality rate from tuberculosis in England and Wales and it is due to better economic well being of the people. These figures are quoted by the author to show that sickness decreases to the extent that poverty is reduced. From this topic let us pass on to the important subject of sanitation in the urban areas and in the rural areas of the Punjab because on the solution of the problem of sanitation to a large extent depends the eradication of disease in any country.

Let us first study the question of urban sanitation and see where we stand. I would ask my honourable friend opposite to let us know whether he feels at ease as regards the solution of urban sanitation. Does he feel satisfied with the steps that Government is taking to cope with the question of rural sanitation? Turning to urban sanitation, everybody who is conversant with urban sanitary conditions in the province, knows that sanitary conditions are far from satisfactory. They are deplorable. There is over—congestion—if there is no such word, I coin one. There is overcrowding of houses. Drainage is bad, there are foul and evil smells in cities like Lahore. If I happen to go within the four walls of Lahore City, I am horribly suffocated and I cannot stand that suffocating atmosphere. If you pass by Dyal Singh College, you will notice that the smell emanating from the open drain is very obnoxious. (*Minister of Public Works*: Have you seen the new drains being excavated?) Every person of authority and every influential citizen of Lahore has during the past few years complained against insanitary conditions of Lahore. The Punjab Public Health Report makes valuable remarks which are further supported by the Public Health Commissioner's Report. Let me quote a few lines from the Punjab Public Health Report. It says:—

“Standard of sanitation in towns is low. In smaller towns, conditions are deplorable. Insanitary practices could if desired be stopped in urban areas under existing law; it seems however that public opinion generally is not yet in favour of such a step with the result that few municipal or small town committees enforce the law or their own regulations strictly.”

That is no doubt true. What are our friends opposite doing to educate public opinion? What are they doing to educate the citizens as regards

their health? Again, as regards urban sanitation, we find the following valuable admissions made in that report :—

“Sanitary conditions are deplorable; conservancy system in vogue is extremely primitive. The filth is seldom completely removed and the removal is delayed more than it is necessary. There is a tendency to over-loading and accordingly donkeys and carts leave a trail behind along the route through which they pass.”

That is the condition in Lahore and other municipal areas of the province according to the Punjab Public Health report. Further on it is said :—

“Drainage is equally unsatisfactory. Progress in the direction of use of the Punjab Pure Food Act is lamentably low.”

This is what the Punjab Public Health Report speaks. On page 115 of the Report of the Public Health Commissioner with the Government of India, the Commissioner while speaking of urban areas says :

**Mian Abdul Rab :** On a point of order. There is no quorum.

*(The bell was rung.)*

**Mr. Speaker :** The House is now in quorum. The honourable member may proceed with his speech.

**Sardar Hari Singh :** I was quoting from page 115 of the Public Health Commissioner's report. Speaking of the Punjab urban areas, it says :—

“Sanitary conditions in urban areas can only be described as generally deplorable, conservancy systems in vogue being extremely primitive and drainage usually unsatisfactory. Few towns are equipped with proper drains and where these do exist, regular cleansing and flushing are not effectively carried out.”

Little wonder, therefore, Mr. Speaker, the townspeople in the Punjab have so pale, anæmic, lack-lustre, lack-joy faces and they are victims of T. B. and respiratory diseases. While this is the state of affairs in our towns, let us statistically examine and compare what our municipalities are doing in the matter of improvement of public health in the towns, with what other provinces are doing in the matter of expenditure. The expenditure by municipalities on public health in the whole of British India was 29 per cent of the whole budget of municipalities. In the North-West Frontier Province, 22 per cent was spent on public health by the municipalities. In the Punjab the expenditure was 24 per cent, in Delhi 25 per cent, in Bihar 34 per cent, in Orissa 27 per cent, in Bengal 39 per cent, in the Central Provinces 25 per cent, in Sind 35 per cent, in Bombay 29 per cent, in Madras 25 per cent and in Assam 33 per cent. Barring the North-West Frontier Province my honourable friends should know that the Punjab municipalities are spending the lowest amount on public health. As compared with India's mean percentage and as compared with every other province of India, excepting the North-West Frontier Province, our municipalities are spending the least percentage of their budgets on public health. It is not a matter to be proud of.

Again, let us compare the cost per head of the urban population spent on improvement of public health in the urban areas. The Punjab report goes to show that in the year 1937 the cost *per capita* was Re. 1-12-4 and in the year 1936 it was Re. 1-13-4 and in the year 1935 it was Re. 1-12-5. So in the year 1937, we are worse than in the previous two years. I have got no

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figures regarding the present year or the past year, but there was deterioration as regards the cost *per capita* spent by our municipalities from the year 1935 continuing up to 1936 and 1937. As regards rural sanitation the same tale may be told. We are no better as regards rural sanitation in the villages. The Public Health Department, no doubt, is doing something in the matter of laying drains, in the matter of removing manure heaps from the vicinity of villages and in the matter of educating people with regard to health matters, but the present efforts are but a drop in the ocean. We have got in our province 35,000 villages and from what has been done so far with regard to the quantity and quality, I might say that we have not yet touched the fringe of the problem. The villages are unhygienic and in some there are filthy tanks from which both men and animals drink water. We find that the vicinity of villages is being used as regular latrines. As regards housing, if you go to the houses in villages, in many cases, rather in most cases, you will find that the same room which is dark, dingy and ill-ventilated is being used as a living room, as a sleeping room, as a kitchen, as a guest room and as a cattle shed. Men, women and children, and guests are living, sleeping, cooking, eating in the same hut and cattle are also being tied in the same room at night.

Unhealthy, unhygienic and ill-ventilated tenements with foul atmosphere you will find if you go to the poor quarters in the villages. Therefore there is little wonder that our rural population is a victim to epidemics; little wonder that diseases like T. B. are increasing among the rural population; little wonder therefore that smallpox in spite of the efforts of the department in the matter of vaccination and revaccination breaks out every now and then and kills a large number of children. We are told in the report of the Public Health Commissioner that 600 village sanitary committees were formed during the year. Some new wells were constructed, some pumps installed, extra drains built and wells repaired. We are told that the number of sanitary villages rose from 882 in 1936 to 1,962 in 1937. Further we are told that 628 village sanitary committees were established but we are also told that they do not seem to have functioned at all—628 committees formed on paper and included in the statistics, yet they did not at all function from the very day of their inception. I would like my friend to read page 643 of India Year Book for the year 1939-40. There he will find a useful paragraph regarding rural sanitation. Those observations equally apply to the Punjab. Rural sanitation is a very vast problem because our rural population is scattered all over the province in the 35,000 villages and hamlets. Therefore, the problem can be tackled if we establish panchayats in every village and hamlet—35,000 panchayats working regularly and with full conception of their civic duties and municipal duties. Only then can we sweep away the disease-ridden, microbe-ridden atmosphere of the villages and only then can we hope to have beautiful, brighter and sanitary and worth-living—in villages.

The question of maternity and child welfare is a very important question because it is the health of the infant, the health of the child, that is the foundation of the health of the grown up people of the province. Figures, I have already quoted from various reports, statistics, I have presented from various documents, which have proved that in the matter of

infant mortality we are leading the rest of the world and the neighbouring provinces. What is Government doing to cope with the question of maternity and child welfare. The report says that there are 89 health centres in the whole of the province with 128 sub-centres. Government has got a Health School at Lahore where there is accommodation only for, I think, one dozen health visitors and no more than a dozen can be taken at a time when the province needs not one dozen, not two or three dozens but hundreds of dozens of dais and midwives and health visitors, if we are to cope with the problem of child welfare and maternity in this big province. In England and Wales, which I think is not larger in area than a division of the province there are no less than 8,000 health centres and in the whole of this province there are not more than 89 health centres. This is but a drop in the ocean, as I said in connection with certain other aspects of the problem. I will read out an extract from page 1 of the report as regards mortality among the children—

“By far the largest number of deaths were recorded amongst infants under one year of age, or roughly one-third of the total deaths were recorded during the year under this age group while 19·17 per cent occurred between the ages of 1 and 5. In other words 51·14 per cent or a little over half the children were swept off before they reached the age of 5.”

So half of our infants find their graves before they reach the age of 5. Post-natal conditions together with malnutrition is largely responsible for this state of affairs. We have to cope with the nutrition of expectant mothers and children if we have to remedy the evil.....

**Sayed Amjad Ali Shah :** I hope the honourable member will conclude his speech to-day.

**Sardar Hari Singh :** If not to-day, at least to-morrow.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** On a point of order. You always give every scope to the honourable member who makes the opening speech but not to other members. When an honourable member wants to speak even for 10 or 15 minutes, you always fix a time limit. Is it not advisable that time limit may be fixed in the very beginning of the opening speech ?

**Mr. Speaker :** I have no objection if the House agrees. I have no power to fix time limit for speeches during the Budget debate.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Sir, I beg to move that the sense of the House be taken. The honourable member has been speaking for 1½ hours. Other honourable members also want to speak and I request the Speaker to fix a time limit.

**Mr. Speaker :** Any objection to time limit being fixed ?

**Lala Bhim Sen Sachar :** The time limit be fixed after Sardar Hari Singh has finished. I object.

**Mr. Speaker :** The honourable Sardar Hari Singh may proceed with his speech.

**Sardar Hari Singh :** I will read out from page 384 of The Last 80 years of Public Health, a book from which I have given many quotations. Certain

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quotations have also been given regarding the care of maternity in U. S. S. R. Politically U. S. S. R. may be like red rag to a bull to my friend opposite ; but he may imitate with great usefulness the efforts which are being made in U. S. S. R. as regards maternity and child welfare. The book says on page 384—

“ Ante-natal care is given, pregnant women receive a supplementary food ration, they have precedence in shops and in street cars, and they are exempted for 12 to 16 weeks from their industrial work, their full wage continuing. In cities 9/10th of confinement occurs in maternity hospitals and even in rural districts this proportion is considerable. Grants for the infants' clothing and food are given and free creches are available up to the age of 5 years.

On page 386 you find—

“ The fact that most infants in U. S. S. R. are born in institutions, enhances the initial prospect of the infants' future health. Infant consultations are general, and every mother has access to skilled medical advice. After infancy, public nursing, open air and other schools, and summer camps relieve parents from a large share of their burden in the case of their children and this is done nearly for the entire population.”

Then at page 650 of the India Year Book there is a good paragraph which my friends opposite would do well to read :—

“ In western lands the child welfare development has no more marked characteristic than its inability to stop expanding. Its ramifications know no bounds. Its inevitable corollaries are endless, and like the banyan tree it will no doubt in India also develop innumerable fresh roots—medical supervision, dental clinics, better housing, open air play grounds, etc. But these are not yet—either in India or in the Punjab.

Its preliminary task is to educate the mothers of India to the enormity of allowing two million babies to perish every year and to convince them of the equally important fact that a high death rate always spells also a high damage rate of sickly, under-developed, incompetent citizens.”

Then I come to school medical service. The inspection of school children is an allied subject in connection with child welfare. We do know to our regret that our school population is very sickly. If you examine the attendance registers you will find that a majority of our school children who are absent are absent on account of sickness. A very small proportion are absent on account of other causes. At least 90 per cent of children in primary and secondary schools are absent only on account of their sickness. They easily fall a prey to typhoid, inflammation of the eyes, dysentery, malaria and certain other diseases. Their teeth are bad or their eyes are bad, and therefore they cannot make proper progress in their studies. That is why there is a falling off in the higher stages of primary schools. That is why we cannot attack the problem of illiteracy efficiently.

On page 94 of the Report of the Public Health Commissioner of the Government of India we are told :—

“ In this country nearly 49 per cent of the total annual deaths take place among children under 10 years of age while the corresponding figure for England and Wales is only 11 per cent. It shows urgency of the need for adequate supervision of the health of school children in India.

In India the school medical service is one of the least developed branches of Public Health administration.”

I think it has been urged upon the Government by the Public Health Department of the Government of India that a school medical officer should be appointed in each province, and under him there should be a staff of doctors working as school medical officers and every child in every school

should have a medical history of his own where records of the various diseases to which he may fall a victim should be made, where his weight, his general health should be recorded and after the medical examination of each child there should be a follow-up. The parents should be constantly kept informed of the health of their children and every care should be taken that every school child is properly treated and is properly cared for. In other countries food is provided free to every child who cannot get sufficient food at home. In Russia and in many other European countries millions of children get their meals free or their milk free. Where they can pay a portion of the cost they are made to pay only that portion which their parents are able to pay. While on this question of supplying food to the needy children, I would commend to my friend's attention an important book which I have already quoted from— "Health and Nutrition in India" by Gangulee. In the Foreword written by Sir John Boyd Orr to this book, my honourable friend will find a very illuminating paragraph on the question of nutritional diet. In that foreword it is emphasised that national committees should be set up to deal with the question of nutrition. Sufficient food can be produced by national planning, by reorientation of agriculture but the question is how to make food supply available to every citizen, how to bring it within the purchasing power of every worker, labourer and peasant. That is the question for Government to tackle. I would like my friend to read through pages 7, 15, 26, 27, 31, 113, 161, 166 and 249 of that book, and he will find very useful matter there as regards the question of solving the problem of nutrition in the Punjab or in India. He says in one place :

"The problem is one of agricultural re-orientation; the marriage of health and agriculture".

That is the burden of this book. If we want to improve the health of the people, we must improve their food, we must improve their nutrition. In other words, it boils down to the question of better agriculture, a well-planned agricultural policy and the question of improvement of animal husbandry. If we want to supply to our children fresh milk in abundant quantities, we must tackle the question of dairying in the province. If we want to tackle the question of supplying enough and adequate food to our population, we must reorientate our agricultural policy, we must have a well-planned policy, so that we may have all kinds of necessary food for our growing population.

Without quoting these important passages, I would now pass on for a while to the question of diseases that are the bane of the population of this province. While on this subject I find that in the year 1937 the number of deaths was 556,000 and from fevers alone the number of deaths was 976,000. I have to draw the particular attention of my honourable friend opposite to the question of tuberculosis, typhoid, smallpox, for a while. In the year 1937, the number of deaths from T. B. was 5,000. In the previous year it was 4,800 in our province. But because the registration of deaths and the registration of their causes, according to the admission of the department itself is not satisfactory, is far from satisfactory, is far from being accurate and greater efforts or perhaps legislation is required to improve matters—therefore these figures are not reliable. Five thousand, I think, is a very low estimate. The deaths from T. B. in the villages, in the towns



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and in the cities, are usually regarded as deaths from fevers. That is why we have got such a big figure as 376,000 under fevers alone. The main causes of T. B. are well known. They are overcrowding, bad housing, foul air, bad ventilation and so on. Therefore, it is a question for the municipal committees, for the Minister of Public Works, for the Minister of Health and Education and for the Minister of Agriculture, all three combined, to tackle the question of housing, to tackle the question of improvement of municipal committees and the question of better nutrition. As regards typhoid, my friend, I think, is aware and if he is not aware he ought to study this problem, that typhoid is very much on the increase. Whereas formerly, when I was young, we used to have malaria, all people who suffered from fever, suffered from malaria, now if we go to any part of the country, at least to the Doaba, malaria has decreased considerably and its place has been taken by typhoid. If a child has got continuous fever, it is suffering from typhoid or enteric fever. Every grown-up who suffers from continuous fever, has got typhoid. Malaria has given place to typhoid and recorded figures would not be able to show to my honourable friend the incidence of this disease. Better registration, better study, would only show the incidence of this disease and the extent of mortality from this disease.

As regards smallpox, in spite of vaccinations and re-vaccinations, still a proportion of our young population is swept away by this fell disease and Government admits in this report and I was also going to lodge a complaint on that score, that the notification of smallpox cases in the villages is very inadequate and sometimes no notification is given. I was touring through villages in my constituency last summer and in many places there was outbreak of smallpox and I enquired from people whether their patwari had notified to the public health officer of the district as to the prevalence of smallpox and whether they had the vaccinator. They said "no." I said "why not"? This disease has been prevailing in the village for two months and I asked them why no vaccinator had been sent for. They said that the patwari had not written a letter to the public health officer, the lambardar had not notified the outbreak of the disease. The notification of this disease is inordinately delayed or sometimes notification is not sent at all to the authorities.

**Minister of Public Works :** The honourable member might have written. Anybody may write.

**Sardar Hari Singh :** But it is the duty of those who are paid by the Government to write. It is my duty and I did my duty. But I am not present at one and the same time in every village and my honourable friend is not present in every village of his constituency.

**Minister :** Anybody can write a card before the spread of the disease.

**Sardar Hari Singh :** True, but is it not the duty and the responsibility of the patwari and the lambardar to do it? Well, on the subject of disease I have to draw my honourable friend's attention to the fact that blindness is one of the great curses of the population of this province and I want to draw his attention to a paragraph on the subject in the Indian Year Book for the year 1939-40. There he will find that India is in the great blindness belt which spreads from North Africa to Turkey, Persia, India

and China and here the incidence of blindness is greater than in any European country, any Asiatic country beyond the bounds of this great blindness belt and the causes of blindness are mentioned by medical authorities as small-pox, venereal diseases and the absence of vitamin A in the food of the people.

Let me now make certain constructive suggestions for what they are worth, to my honourable friend opposite, if he will only please note them, if he will only please consider them, if he will only please let the House know as to his own proposals in the matter. My first suggestion which, I think has also been made to him by his own officers, is that the Public Health and the Medical departments should be amalgamated under one head. There may be two branches under one head, probably with two deputies: But they should be under one control, under one supervision, under one head. No. 2. In the province of Madras, a ministry of health has been created to deal with the subject of public health. I do not mean to say that there should be another minister on Rs. 8,000 a month. What I do wish to emphasise is that in order to tackle this fundamental problem of public health, there should be a ministry of health. A separate ministry of health was created in England long ago, and it was only when that separate ministry was created that there was visible improvement in England. No. 3. The Royal Commission on Labour I think, as shown in the repeated emphasis in the Public Health Commissioners' report, recommended that every province in India should pass a comprehensive and consolidated Public Health Act. It was passed in England long ago and I think it was only in Madras that such an Act was passed, one comprehensive, consolidated Public Health Act. When the Public Health Commissioner with the Government of India urges this point, when the Royal Commission on Labour recommends this, why not come forward with a consolidated legislation to deal with this problem? No. 4. As regards accurate registration of statistics, no one can gainsay that the matter is not satisfactorily dealt with at the present moment. The report of the Public Health Department deplores that registering is inaccurate at the present moment. Efforts have been made to deal with it, but it is a vast problem, to get accurate figures from 85,000 villages spread over the province. Yet, I think my honourable friend will be equal to the occasion and by an executive action, by administrative action or by legislation, deal with the problem, so that he may have accurate working data to deal with the problem, to study the problem and find the remedies for the purpose. No. 5. My next suggestion is that experiments should be made in intensive rural health by confining attention to certain villages. Let us take certain villages as our model villages. Sanitate those villages. Let us try to build them anew, make them beautiful and happier villages with playgrounds, with tanks, sanitary wells, sanitary streets, sanitary houses well-ventilated, with better living societies and so on.

Then I come to the question of nutrition. Let us establish a Nutrition Research Laboratory in the province working under a Nutrition Committee so as to make suggestions and make recommendations to the Government, as to how to improve the nutrition of the people of the province. The Central Advisory Board of Health in the year 1937, perhaps my honourable friend is aware, passed a unanimous resolution that the curriculum of medical colleges should be re-oriented so as to emphasise the necessity of preventive

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medicines among the students. I would only ask my honourable friend whether in our medical colleges this recommendation has been given effect to. If it has not been acted upon, let us take the matter into our hands. The new graduates coming out of the college should have a better appreciation of preventive aspects of the medical science. Then I would also draw my honourable friend's attention to two resolutions passed by the Indian Medical Research Workers' Conference in the year 1936. In one resolution it was emphasised that whereas engineering projects give rise to public health problems, give rise to, say, the question of spread of malaria by the digging of canals and by other engineering projects, certain epidemics are liable to break out, therefore, it was emphasised by the Indian Medical Research Workers Conference in the year 1936 that the engineers should be trained in the science of public health before they were given appointments. Has this recommendation been acted upon by the Government? Has it ever been considered by the Government? What action has been taken to implement this recommendation that the engineers ought to be trained in the problems of public health before they are given appointments in the Engineering Department of the Punjab? Then there is another problem which is worth experimenting and which is being experimented by the Madras Government. I think that experiment has been started on a very small scale in certain districts of the Punjab, where people have to subsidize small amounts and pay towards the cost of medicines and dispensaries in the villages. They pay for medicines and a small amount they pay towards the salary of the doctors who in return visit the patient of the family free. This scheme is being tried in the presidency of Madras and I think it has been started on a small scale in this province too. Let us study the potentialities of this experiment. Let us try it on a big scale so as to improve the health of the people and let us at the end of some years sum up the results of the experiment and then push it on a more vigorous basis so that it may cover the province.

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

That the demand be reduced by Rs. 100.

**Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Riasat Ali** (Hafizabad, Muhammadan, Rural): Sir, I must congratulate my honourable friend opposite first of all on the very careful study of his subject and for the excellent speech which he has made. But the very first remark in this connection which I will make is that he has depicted before us a paradise which is very difficult to achieve and it takes very long to reach that stage. My honourable friend has been quoting figures from some books pressing upon the House the various statistics about birth rate and death rate, prevailing not only in various provinces of this country but in the various countries of the world. Now, Sir, while making his observations, he forgot that comparing the death rate or the birth rate of a country like England or Wales with a country like the Punjab is rather unfair. He should consider and remember the financial position of this country and he should also not forget the time that they took in achieving that standard. Public Health Department as such is a matter of a very recent growth and it did not exist as a

separate entity in this province earlier than 1921. Preventive and curative works were carried out by the Medical Department as such and it is impossible to forget figures relating to the Medical Department also because the work was carried on not only by this Department which did not exist before 1921, but most of the work was being carried on by the Medical Department. My honourable friend has been comparing figures of expenditure on Public Health Department in this province with the figures of other provinces of this vast country. He forgets that it is rather unfair to single out a particular department as such for our criticism in a budget speech. Public Health Department is one of the most important factors which count in the working of the beneficent departments. Now he will agree with me that the expenditure in the Punjab on the beneficent departments as a whole exceeds the percentage of expenditure of other provinces in this country. He will also agree, as given out in the Budget speech of the Honourable Minister for Finance that in the year 1936-37, the budget for the beneficent departments stood at the figure of 287 lakhs, in 1937-38 it rose to 309 lakhs, in 1938-39 to 322 lakhs, in 1939-40 to 329 lakhs. (Interruption.) The present provision is no less than 346 lakhs. If we consider these figures alone, it will prove that the present Government, since it has come into office, has been making steady progress in making provisions for the Public Health budget. The honourable member opposite, when he was quoting percentages, himself admitted that the figure has risen from 1.5 per cent to 2.5 per cent since the new Government has come into office. During the term of office of this Government, the figure has actually doubled for the purpose of promoting public health in this province. I will again refer him to the figures quoted in the speech of the Minister of Finance. It was laid down there that provision had been made for water supply in no less than 282 villages and drains will be constructed in no less than 286 villages. Again, provision has been made to the extent of one lakh of rupees for improving water supply in the rural areas and an equal amount has been provided for improving water supply and other sanitary arrangements in urban areas. No less than ten thousand rupees have been earmarked for the purpose of providing drinking wells for scheduled castes. Taking into consideration the various departments to which the Government of the day has to give its attention, I think he will agree that the Public Health Department has had its due share and that the funds which are being earmarked from year to year are being augmented annually and the pitch which he wishes the province to achieve will very soon be achieved. I will remind him again of the fact that it is only since a few years that the department as such has existed. He has been criticising the various proportions which exist between the expenditure on pay and emoluments of officers and expenditure on other items. He said that the expenditure on the emoluments of the staff maintained is twice as much the expenditure which is reserved which is earmarked for the purpose of purchases of medicines and other things. To some extent I do agree with my honourable friend, so far as this item of the debate is concerned. I have felt that this department has got an unnecessary supervising staff with nothing to supervise. I also know that the administration in this department is rather more topheavy than it is the case in other departments. There is no necessity of maintaining the post of Assistant Director of Public Health. The only staff whose work he has to supervise in the district is one district medical officer of health, two or three

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sanitary inspectors, one clerk and one peon who are paid by the Government. All other expenditure—whether on staff or on the purchase of medicines—is contributed or borne by the district boards themselves. I think the Government should go into this question and there is every possibility of effecting some sort of retrenchment so far as this particular item of expenditure is concerned. These things were very minutely scrutinised by the Resources and Retrenchment Committee and I need not take the House into the details because all these details were worked out there and definite suggestions have been made in the report and I do not see any reason to doubt that the Government will not go into this question very minutely and will find its way to agree with me if it is possible without impairing the efficiency of the department. Taking the department as a whole, I would like to observe that my honourable friend should have been satisfied by one achievement of the Public Health Department in the year 1939. That alone should have been sufficient to justify the existence of this department. I would refer to the excellent work which the department has done in affording relief in the famine-stricken areas of Hissar, Rohtak and Gurgaon districts. Without taking the House into details, I would submit that useful investigations have been conducted by the officers of the Public Health Department as to the lack of various vitamins which are necessary for providing growth. They looked into cases where there was any danger of diseases like scurvy or rickets. They made very thorough survey into the matter and they made adequate provisions to keep up these vitamins so that the human life might not be devastated to the extent to which there was the apprehension that it would be devastated. Vaccinations and re-vaccinations were carried on in those rural areas. Anti-cholera measures were also taken and the water supplies in various wells and other places, where drinking water was accumulated, were chlorinated and permangnated. All these activities go to show that whatever the department under the circumstances could do to save human life and to check the prevalence of epidemics, it actually did. A very important thing which was done was the supply of *amla* juice to people who were suffering from various diseases. Various health centres were established within a radius of five miles in all that famine-stricken area with the result that those medical officers, who were doing both curative and preventive work, toured in that radius and went to places from where patients, who were suffering from various diseases, could not walk or could not be carried to the medical centres. They thus rendered very valuable help in carrying medical relief in various places where it was very difficult, due to lack of means of communication, to carry those people to the centres. What was the result? The result was that though in spite of the fact that the famine was as severe as that of 1900, the death rate in 1900 was 96·4 per cent, while in 1939 it was only 42 per cent. The results achieved are such that we can say that under very adverse circumstances whatever they could do, they have done.

Another important thing which I would like to mention in this connection is the new policy adopted by the Punjab Government towards amalgamation of the departments of Public Health and Medical. It was felt that inspection of rural dispensaries can be more advantageously carried on by the district medical officer of health than by the civil surgeon. It was the duty

of the medical officer to spend most of his time on touring and he had greater time at his disposal to devote to rural dispensaries. The civil surgeon was expected to be more at the headquarters on account of the office work and on account of being the Superintendent of Jails in some district and Medical Officer of Jails in other districts and he has to devote some of his time to his office work and then he has to devote some time advantageously to the operation room. Last of all he has to perform the post-mortem examination. An objection has been taken many times that these important medico-legal cases should be examined in person by a senior officer rather than they should be left in the hands of the petty medical officials who are residing in the Thana. Sometimes they are performed by those doctors who are like village menials to the police sub-inspector. (*Interruptions*). Cases have been known where grave injustice has been done to parties and it was very difficult to do justice between man and man by the court for the simple reason that medical examination of injuries has been performed by comparatively irresponsible persons. It was felt and a definite recommendation was made in this direction. In five districts rural dispensaries were made over to the Public Health Officer, i.e., the D. M. O. H. as he is called. What was the result? The result was very hopeful. Those doctors under the new supervision were not only responsible for the health of those people who visited their institutions, but in addition to this they went touring within a radius of 5 miles and they visited people in their very homes. The result was that during the course of one year not less than 12,000 villages were inspected and not less than 147,000 people were medically treated. Who were those 147,000 people? They were those people who had never visited the dispensaries themselves and who could not reach the dispensaries on account of lack of communication or transportation. I would like to submit that out of the total number of dispensaries in the province, no less than 165 are under the supervision of the Public Health Department. Now, Sir, my honourable friend has been uncharitable in his criticism so far as the transfer of supervision of civil dispensaries from the Medical Department to the Public Health Department is concerned. He has referred to the establishment of health bureaux, as they are called. I would like to submit for his information that 6 health bureaux have so far been established and 12 sub-bureaus—as I would like to call them—have been established. The idea underlying is that everyone, who can afford to pay for the medical help which he wants to get, must pay for it. These health bureaux have been established on co-operative basis, with the result that those people, who could not afford to reach dispensaries or who could not buy any medicine at the time of disease, now there is adequate provision for them to get medical relief. In the Hoshiarpur district, to which my honourable friend belongs, there are 3 of these bureaux, there are 2 in Lahore district and there is one in Amritsar district. The idea is that there should be one doctor, one compounder and one lady health visitor or *dai* as the case may be.

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

In the sub-bureau, the provision is only made for one compounder and he can help people with whatever little knowledge he has and again he can direct them to visit the doctor at the rural dispensary if they may be in

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need of further medical help. The idea has been welcomed throughout the province, but it is difficult to carry on this work unless there are funds available. The way in which contributions are lacking even for this beneficent purpose, everybody in this House is supposed to know. So, subject to the contributions given by the district boards or private individuals, this scheme is bound to flourish and is bound to do more good to the province than ordinary civil dispensaries. My honourable friend has been referring, as I remarked in the very beginning, to the death rate and birth rate prevailing in this province as compared with other countries of the world. I think he should not forget that the Public Health Department alone taken as such cannot have exclusive control over the prevalence of various birth or death rates. There are so many other factors which count in this connection. One side is physical, that is, spread of any epidemic disease. There are other factors also which do count. But taking the figures as they are, my honourable friend forgets that the number of deaths in this province during the last year alone is less by 19,000 than the number which was recorded in 1938. So, according to his own argument if the work of the Public Health Department has any control over the figures of birth and death rates, then the department has done a lot towards reducing the death rate recorded in the year 1939 as compared with the year 1938. He has referred to the prevalence of cholera and other epidemic diseases. I would only like to tell him that there were only 19 cases in 1939 so far as cholera is concerned, and so far as plague is concerned there was no case at all. He also referred to tuberculosis. Those of my honourable friends who have listened to various speeches made in this House, are not forgetful of the fact that very effective measures have always been taken by this Government subject to the funds which are available for the purpose to check this dangerous disease.

He has referred to leprosy. I would like him to know that in this province this question is very minor as compared with other provinces. There are only 1,885 people in the whole of the province who are suffering from this disease and no less than 666 are confined to leper homes and out of those confined no less than 90 per cent are non-Punjabis, i.e., people who have migrated from other provinces into this province and carry on this dangerous disease on their wings. He has also referred to the question of blindness. I would like to refer him to the constitution of the Blindness Enquiry Committee in this province; it was constituted as early as 1935. Meetings have been held at least twice or thrice a year under the chairmanship of the Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals. The Director of Public Health is also a member of the committee, the Principal of the Medical College is also a member of the committee and there are three non-officials, private practitioners of very old standing and very eminent doctors who are also members of the committee. The Secretary of the provincial Red Cross Society is also a member and three members of the old provincial Legislature are also members of the committee. Meetings have been held from time to time and suggestions made to check the advance of the disease and relevant literature distributed by the Red Cross Society, the Commissioner of Rural Reconstruction and by the Public Health Department—very educative and instructive literature in the shape of charts is distributed to all the rural areas through the agency of the village school teacher who is supposed to

be the torch bearer of education and civilisation in these areas. What else could the department do? Things over which we as human beings have no control do play a very important part so far as the control of births and deaths is concerned. In the year 1939 there were 11,11 thousand and some hundreds of births. This figure of birth rate has actually fallen according to the report for 1939 except in the four districts of Rawalpindi, Gujrat, Jhelum and Gujranwala. Can anybody accuse the Public Health Department for the fall in the figures at all? As I have already submitted there are several factors, and some of them are beyond human control at all which do play a very important part. There are economic reasons, social reasons, and there are to some extent political reasons which do count and therefore whatever the department could do it has done. Another important fact to which he referred was that he took exception to the method of recording births and deaths in rural areas. My honourable friend again forgot what the department has done in that connection. District medical officers of health have been appointed as public officers for the purpose. They go from village to village and take to task all those lambardars or chaukidars who fail to do their duty in this most important work and they are authorised to launch prosecutions in regular courts of law, with the result that more definite and correct information is likely to be achieved in the near future. The department could not do anything better so far as this thing is concerned. Figures are corrected and checked and all the births and deaths are more regularly being registered in the rural areas. My honourable friend again mentioned that nothing has been done so far as the improvement of health is concerned in the urban areas. I would like to remind him that now the number of factories in the province has reached the amazing figure of 970. These district medical officers of health are additional factory inspectors. In addition to their own duties they regularly visit the factories and they insist on improved conditions of water supply, improved conditions so far as the housing of labour is concerned and improved conditions so far as the imparting of lessons in first-aid is concerned. They could not do any better so far as this is concerned. Not only this. This work in its threefold aspect is being carried on to mines, not to speak of factories alone. Another thing which my honourable friend mentioned and which I would again like to repeat is that the question of affording medical relief in this province is very closely connected with the health administration of the province. He has quoted figures and for this information I would remind him that in this province in every urban area there is a medical unit for every 12 thousand of population and a medical unit for every 25 thousand of population. No other province, I would say, in this country affords that medical relief for the check of diseases or epidemics in the form of curative or preventive as this province does. I would assure him that whatever is possible in the circumstances is being done by Government. Of course, it is very easy to single out a particular department and to make it the target of one's remarks, but taking into consideration the fact that Government has to finance all the departments and that it has also to bear in mind the length of its purse, if these factors were taken into consideration, my honourable friend would not have condemned the department in such harsh terms as he has done. It is very easy to get up and say that Government should reduce *abiana* by 50 per cent and reduce the land revenue by 40 per cent



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and that it should not levy any taxation whatsoever and then demand that money be spent on a particular department and that provision should be made for such and such a department. We cannot blow hot and cold in the same breath. My honourable friend, though a very able member himself and a zamindar, forgets that the income from *abiana* is only 467 lakhs and from land revenue is 466·5 lakhs, Excise 105 lakhs and Stamps 75·4 lakhs.

If day in and day out we are asking for reduction in the rates of *abiana* and land revenue, I do not know how much our income will deteriorate. He is now on the floor of this very House saying that the arrangements for public health and for the health of the people in rural areas are inadequate. But if the very funds are not forthcoming, if the Government is barred from raising any further taxation and from raising money, how is it possible for the present Government to carry on the beneficent activities in this province? For this reason I would request him to kindly tone down his remarks and judge the Government by its own intentions and not be carried away by stray remarks.

**Khan Bahadur Sardar Muhammad Hassan Khan Gurchani** (Dera Ghazi Khan, South, Muhammadan, Rural) (*Urdu*): Sir, with your permission, I would like to make a few observations in regard to the Public Health demand now before the House. I have no mind to deal with the matter at length but I would only make mention of the difficulties with which my district, i.e., Dera Ghazi Khan, is confronted in regard to public health. It is regrettable that my district is a backward district and possesses no amenities of life which are enjoyed in abundance by other districts. There are a few hospitals in the plains but so far as the mountainous *ilaga* is concerned the hospitals are conspicuous by their absence. Although Government have established two hospitals at Fort Munro and Barthi, yet they do not prove to be of any benefit to the poor *Baluchis*. When any epidemic breaks out in the *ilaga*, the people with a view to combat it use primitive remedies according to their old traditions. For instance, they cover the patient with the skin of a sheep or a goat and leave the rest to God. It is mere fluke if the patient survives the ordeal or recovers from the illness, otherwise more often than not the poor patient succumbs to the disease. The honourable members can realise that when such is the lot of human beings, animals must be in a still more miserable plight. As a matter of fact no veterinary hospital exists in the mountainous *ilaga* of the district. Again neither itinerant doctors have been appointed nor any itinerant dispensaries established by Government.

Now I would like to invite the attention of the House to the difficulties of the district in regard to water supply. You are aware, Sir, that a major part of this district comprises *barani ilaga* which experiences scarcity of water owing to frequent failures of rain. There water is stored in tanks. In this connection, I may make a mention of the town of Dajal. It is one of the well-known towns of the district. Its population consists of five to six thousand people. It possesses a municipal committee existing in name only as it has practically no income. Again, for the last seven years we have been representing to Government for making adequate arrangements for water supply, but it is a thousand pities that Government has not moved even its little finger in the matter. According to old practice every year

water is brought three times from the *ilaqas* of Tibbi Lund and Gurchani and is stored in tanks, but it begins to stagnate after a few days. Sometimes during the summer owing to drought or some other reason the water supply is reduced to such an extent that, on the one hand, untold hardships are experienced by the people of Dajal, while, on the other, the zamindars of the *ilaqa* are confronted with great difficulties in regard to the failure of crops. The zamindars find themselves in a quandary. They should irrigate their lands or supply water to the inhabitants of Dajal. At last considering that the saving of human lives is preferable to irrigation of lands, they consent to provide the citizens of Dajal with water for drinking purposes. But now thanks to the rakh Azmatwala which is government property and is situated at a distance of five or six miles from Dajal, provision of water supply can be made from this place. Several wells have been sunk there and the water is wholesome and fit for drinking purposes. I would request Government to make arrangements for water supply to Dajal by means of pumps. Then I submit that help is being afforded by Government to zamindars through its Boring department in constructing wells. But I understand that the department concerned realised from the zamindars one-third of the total expenditure incurred in sinking wells. The difficulty is that owing to stark poverty the people are unable to pay that amount even. I request the Government to remit these charges to the poor zamindars and construct or repair the wells at its own cost.

Besides, I would like to bring this fact to the notice of the honourable members and that is this. The Dajal breed cattle has earned a great name for itself. Government distributes large sums of money among the people in the form of stipends and grants-in-aid for the purpose of developing this breed. The zamindars also take keen interest in the improvement of this breed. But my submission is that when Government spends so much money on this account, why does it not make adequate arrangements for water supply? I am of the opinion that it is the bounden duty of Government to provide Dajal with an adequate supply of water. In this way the zamindars of *ilaqa* Gurchani and Tibbi Lund would also be benefited to a great extent because they would be relieved of the high Government charges which they have to incur while providing water to Dajal three-times in the year. In this connection I may point out that two years ago Dajal experienced an epidemic of cholera owing to scarcity of water. The people suffered heavily in respect of property and life. I, therefore, appeal to Government to arrange for an adequate water supply to Dajal and thus earn the goodwill of the *ilaqa*.

Now I invite the attention of Government to the town of Jampur, where havoc is being wrought by waterlogging. In this regard I had tabled Assembly questions which are yet under consideration of Government. I may point out that owing to waterlogging, the houses of poor people are crumbling and a good deal of water is lying stagnant around the city. In fact the people are confronted with a great difficulty. Besides, many lives have been lost on account of the collapse of the Veterinary Hospital building. I asked certain Assembly questions in this connection also but to no avail. The building of the Jampur Hospital where hundreds of patients are treated, is in a most dilapidated condition. Water is stagnating around

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it and is causing a baneful effect on the health of the public. As a matter of fact the whole building is in constant danger of collapse. In the circumstances, I hope Government will give a sympathetic consideration to my observations. Besides, my honourable friends have made very learned speeches. I have no mind to go into the details and criticise them. I, as a representative of my district, wanted to place its demands before Government and that I have done. I am sure these demands will receive the closest attention of Government. With these words I close my remarks.

**Mrs. Duni Chand** (Lahore City, Women, General) (*Urdu*): Sir, I rise to support the cut motion that has been moved by Sardar Hari Singh. To begin with, I may point out that it is the first and foremost duty of the Public Health Department to make such sanitary arrangements which should protect the health of the general public. But so far it has failed to do anything in this behalf. For instance, we have often urged that sanitary arrangements should be made for the city of Lahore, but it is a matter of great regret that up till now Government have not made any sanitary arrangements and the result is that the condition of the city of Lahore has become very unhealthy. We have more than once pointed out that the number of water carriers and sweepers should be increased and that their pay should also be increased so that they work more diligently and clean the city better. But it is regrettable that the Government have not paid any attention to this matter so far. Against this they have appointed one more officer who was not at all required and what was required has been left unattended to. Besides, the second thing to which the Public Health Department should pay attention is that it should improve the condition of roads. In this connection I may point out that excepting the Civil Lines, the condition of roads in the city is so very bad that when people pass through them on tongas they receive so many jolts that they have named such roads as "hasma" roads. The third great necessity for cities and towns is that there should be abundant supply of potable water. In fact, water is highly necessary for the maintenance of health. In this connection I want to make a special mention of the Ambala division. In spite of the fact that year after year we have made complaints and have drawn the attention of Government to this fact, so far the dearth of water in that division has not been removed, although even the Honourable Minister himself held out promises for taking this matter in hand.

There is yet another very important matter which I wish to bring to your notice. That is, that it is highly necessary that in thickly populated localities of Lahore where people always inhale impure air, Government should provide some tracts of land and convert them into small gardens so that the people who live in dark and dingy houses should also be in a position to get the advantages of pure air and thus protect their health from deterioration. It is a pity that such gardens are to be found nowhere inside the city of Lahore. I admit that outside the city walls there are such gardens but I may point out that the people who live inside the city walls cannot derive benefit out of them, as they could have done had these gardens been situated within the city walls. I would request the Honourable Minister that he should pay attention to this need of the people. There is no gainsaying the

fact that he and his colleagues have been to England and other foreign countries and they have adopted many foreign customs such as dress and language, but they have not cared to see how people live in London, and how they clean their city, so much so that they have converted it into a living heaven on earth. If they had also cared to give effect to those things here that would have greatly improved the sanitary condition of the country. These sanitary arrangements are not restricted to London alone but other countries of Europe have also adopted them. If the honourable members only take the case of Italy into consideration they will find that there was a time when there were swamps and mires in it and it was literally a breeding home of malaria. It took so much toll in that country that people felt greatly perturbed at its outbreak in their country. But now on account of the good efforts of the Public Health Department of Italy this disease has been uprooted from that country. Against this what do we see in the Punjab? In spite of the huge expenditure which Government are incurring on the Public Health Department, which I will discuss later on, the number of diseases and deaths instead of decreasing has actually increased. The reason for this is that the evil of top heaviness which is prevalent almost in all the departments is present in this department as well. That is why no good work can be done in the Punjab and the old adage :

وہی رفتار ہے ڈھنگی جو پہلے تھی سراب بھی ۛ

aptly applies to the honourable members on the opposite. This thing is quite apparent from the budget.

Now in order to elucidate my point as to how public funds are being wasted on providing big salaries to the officers of this department, I would like to quote some facts and figures. For instance, there is a Superintending Engineer, Public Health Circle, who gets Rs. 25,410. There are two Assistants working under him who get Rs. 4,020. Then there are something like 80 clerks who draw Rs. 32,430. In this connection I may point out that even to-day while replying to a question the Honourable Minister for Education pointed out that if the poor labourers of the famished area fall short of completing their required quota of work, their wages are reduced proportionately. But against this so far as this department is concerned, Government are so very liberal that they are paying huge salaries to their officers. I may tell them that one day they will have to solve this problem. We cannot do without such a thing.

Besides, I may point out that the grades of pay of the public servants are fixed with due regard to the financial position of the people. But here Government are not keeping this principle under consideration. As a matter of fact the income of the people here is only 11 pies per head, i.e., they cannot even get two square meals a day, but fancy the attitude of the Government that they are paying so very fat salaries to their officials. I ask, can such a Government ever claim to be a well wisher of the poor? Not at all. The honourable members can judge for themselves how far this Government have a soft corner for the poor people.

There is yet another thing which I wish to bring to the notice of the honourable members and that is that while fixing the salaries of public

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servants the principle of demand and supply is taken into consideration. If, for instance, the demand is great and supply small naturally the price of such a thing increases. But the price of that commodity whose supply is greater than its demand will always be less.

Our Government is in the habit of doing the wrong thing. In spite of the fact that our young men, even those holding foreign degrees, are unemployed and unable to get jobs worth 20 or 25 rupees, Government has never cared to consider any means of allaying their hardships; on the other hand, it wastes the public funds in paying large salaries. In this connection Government is going deliberately against the principles of supply and demand. If they were to consider this matter in earnest they would find that hundreds of our own young men are available for doing that work for smaller salaries. I do not see any reason why Government should relieve the province of so much money by paying fat salaries to these officers. I will try to give concrete examples to prove the veracity of my statement. The Executive Engineer is paid Rs. 7,450 annually, and the seven Sub-Divisional Officers under him receive Rs. 15,810. What is most interesting in this connection is the fact that the temporary Executive Engineer gets more pay than the permanent Executive Engineer, i.e., Rs. 10,570. May I ask the Honourable Minister to kindly throw some light on this matter and let us know which nationality this temporary Engineer belongs to and why he is paid so large a salary? He should at least give the reason for paying him more than the permanent hand. Rather than pay a subordinate more than the officer above him, this post which is unnecessary should be abolished. A subordinate officer should be paid less than the head of the department.

**Khan Bahadur Mian Mushtaq Ahmad Gurmani:** Why were the Congress Ministers paid less than their Secretaries?

**Mrs. Duni Chand:** There are 6 more officers whose pay amounts to Rs. 38,830, and the whole establishment of the department which comprises 77 persons costs Rs. 77,890 to the provincial exchequer. I am constrained to remark, Sir, that this amount cannot in fairness be called 'pay' but it is a loot which is extorted from the hard-earned earnings of the people of this poverty-stricken country in order to pay fat salaries to these officers.

**Mrs. J. A. Shah Nawaz:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, may I through you ask my honourable sister whether she has studied the new constitution? If she has, she must be aware of the fact that the provincial Government cannot touch the salaries of the Imperial Service officers.

**Mrs. Duni Chand:** This is a mere apology for not having done anything with regard to this matter. I will try to reply to my honourable sister's question in a different way. There are five commissioners in the province and attempts are being made since a very long time to do away with them. These are 5 unnecessary charges (white elephants) on which a huge sum is being spent by the administration.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** The honourable lady member is not speaking to the motion.

**Mrs. Duni Chand:** If Government wanted to save that amount, they could have done so, but they have never made an attempt to save it.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker :** The honourable lady member is irrelevant. She is requested to speak to the motion.

**Mrs. Duni Chand :** All right, Sir, I will speak to the motion but may I in this connection ask my honourable sister just one question, and that is, now that Provincial Autonomy has been granted to us, can she not, if she cares to, press Government to take this matter in their hands? I am confident that the Government cannot turn a deaf ear to her demands.

I put it to my honourable brothers sitting on the Ministerial benches if these large amounts do not set them thinking that the hard-earned money of the poor people of the province is being divided amongst these officers like the dacoits do with their booty. How can they squarely face their constituents when they are themselves assisting Government in this loot? What is needed most at this time is that these salaries should be reduced.

**Sayed Amjad Ali Shah :** Kindly look up the budgets of the Congress provinces.

**Mrs. Duni Chand :** I have got these figures from the Budget.

**Sayed Amjad Ali Shah :** I submitted that you should see the budgets of the Congress-governed provinces.

**Mrs. Duni Chand :** Now I would refer you to the Drainage Scheme which is being carried out in Lahore these days. The salary of the Executive Engineer in the temporary staff engaged for this purpose is Rs. 12,500. The pay of the two sub-divisional officers is Rs. 8,250 and for two additional sub-divisional officers a provision of Rs. 4,500 has been made. The total cost of the scheme including the expenses of the establishment as approved amounts to Rs. 2,44,44,160. With regard to this matter I would like to request Government to kindly appoint such officers for making this scheme a success, as enjoy the confidence both of Government as well as the public. They should be persons who should effect all possible economies so that the scheme may be completed within the available funds and Government may not have to impose further taxes on the public in case the work remains incomplete. If these steps are not taken there is the danger of this amount being misappropriated as is the case in other departments and of its vanishing in thin air like the *bhusa* of Hissar.

The Punjab Government functions in accordance with the spoils system, but they will be well advised if they avoid doing that so that they may be able to save money as well as complete the scheme.

The Town Planner is being paid Rs. 18,410 while two sub-divisional officers are getting Rs. 7,910 and the 21 subordinates are receiving in all Rs. 18,730.

I would request the Honourable Minister to throw some light on the actual work accomplished so far by this department, on which such a huge sum is being annually expended. How far has this department benefited the people of this Province? These are the things which should be explained before the House, so that the honourable members may know what purpose is being served by it. In fact the department is not worthy of the amount being spent on it.

Sir, we find in the budget that the annual salary of the Director of Public Health is Rs. 27,740. His three Assistants get Rs. 33,500 per annum. Again, there are 34 District Medical Officers of Health in the Punjab, and

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their total annual salaries amount to Rs. 2,63,570. Although the Punjab is spending much greater amount of money on the Public Health Department than any other country in the world, yet I can assert without fear of contradiction that the department has singularly failed to do its duty by the public. Due to the efforts of the Public Health Departments of other countries the life of the individual has been prolonged and the general health has considerably improved there. But what we see here in the Punjab is this that the confectioners and other hawkers are free to sell their sweets and other edibles without having covered them properly. Since their sweets are a source of attraction to filthy flies they cause the spread of dangerous diseases like typhoid. Although we find a battalion of sanitary inspectors in the province, yet nobody is prepared to take any action against such vendors and hawkers who do not care to protect their sweets from infection. But why should the high officials of the department bother? They are satisfied inasmuch as they find their dishes covered with clean napkins in their own dining rooms.

Now, Sir, I would like to say a few words with regard to the conditions obtaining in Lahore. The other day when I asked the Honourable Minister whether he was prepared to put a stop to the practice in Lahore of carrying rubbish and offensive matter in open carts, he was pleased to reply that as the Lahore Drainage Scheme was going to be started shortly, this complaint will automatically be removed on its completion. Now I would like to tell him that the drainage scheme does not seek to cover all the streets and lanes of the city. If the nuisance of open carts carrying rubbish and refuse has to remain as a permanent feature of insanitary condition in Lahore even after the completion of the scheme, it is but proper that necessary arrangements for carrying refuse in closed and covered carts be made so that people of Lahore may be saved from falling a prey to dangerous diseases. I have nothing more to say about the city proper. The only thing that I want to say in this connection is this that on account of most insanitary condition, Lahore is worthy to be called an earthly Hell.

Now, Sir, I turn to the Lahore Civil Station area which is famous for its Lawrence Gardens—a very beautiful and attractive pleasure resort. Here people come after quitting dark and narrow lanes of the city for enjoying cool and fragrant fresh air. I have the privilege of putting up close to this garden, in the vicinity of which very respectable people are living—people such as Judges of the High Court, bankers and doctors who have built their bungalows here. Even the sister of Begum Shah Nawaz is residing here. In view of the importance of the locality now it has been laid down that nobody can build a bungalow there on a plot of land having an area less than 6 or 7 kanals. This precautionary measure has been taken with a view to save the sanitary condition of that part of the city from being adversely affected by a congestion of population there. But a man has acquired in that locality a plot of  $2\frac{1}{2}$  kanals on rent where he keeps several tonga ponies and other cattle. The gentry of the locality has on several occasions represented to the Municipality that the man in question should be asked to remove his buffaloes and ponies from the place, as the whole area simply stinks. Even when the Health Officer visited the spot he for himself found that the pool of stagnant water within the enclosure

was serving as a nursery for mosquitoes, but in spite of all this our repeated representations proved of no avail. As you know, sir, dung cakes also come under the definition of public nuisance, but the person in question has not only spoiled the walls of his own enclosure but also of other buildings by affixing dung cakes to them. As the floor of the enclosure is kacha the mud is adding to the difficulties of the people residing in that locality. In short the property of those who have spent lakhs of rupees on the palatial bungalows in that area as well as their health is indeed deteriorating. In spite of the fact that we have repeatedly represented to the authorities concerned, nothing has been done to redress our grievances. If that is the specimen of the so-called valuable work done by the Public Health Department, the sooner you put the department and its files in the Lahore Museum for public exhibition the better it is. A department is by no means a department if it fails to take necessary steps for the protection of human life from the epidemics. When no heed is paid to the representations of highly-placed persons, then who will care for the petitions of poor people?

Now I want to draw your attention to another point. As the Punjab Public Health School is a very important institution Government should pay more attention to it. I think it is very necessary for them to appoint as many lady health visitors in the province as possible and as the number of stipends given to women candidates is not sufficient, I submit that the stipends after their number being increased should be distributed among candidates with impartiality. I may also point out that death rate of women during maternity is four times greater as compared with foreign countries. I, therefore, submit that lady health visitors should be appointed in large numbers so that they may efficiently cope with the increased amount of work, and that conveyance arrangements should also be made for them to attend to those maternity cases in time which are out of their reach. I remember an undertaking was given by Government last year that two hundred midwives and fifty nurses would be trained and posted in different towns and villages within a period of two years. I do not know whether that promise has been fulfilled or whether it was buried like the resolution of prohibition. If it has not been buried then it should be acted upon. A grant of Rs. 18,46,000 was sanctioned by Government for municipal committees and district boards and it was provided that out of this grant, one lakh and one lakh and a half of rupees would be spent on ameliorating the conditions of urban and rural areas respectively. In this connection my submission is that the main portion of this grant should be spent on removing the scarcity of water in Ambala division, because Government promised long ago that 232 wells would be provided in Ambala division. I may also submit that as Rs. 10,000 provided for the *Achhuts* is not sufficient, Government should see that out of 232 wells most of them are made for the depressed classes. Other people can manage to sink wells by raising contributions, but the plight of *Achhuts* is such that they cannot manage to sink wells for their convenience. I, therefore, submit that almost whole of the grant sanctioned by Government for the purpose of sinking wells should be spent on sinking wells for the *Achhuts* only.

The next point which I want to bring to your notice is the amount of money being spent on prevention of infectious diseases. A sum of money amounting to Rs. 3,92,710 is being spent on the salaries of officers appointed



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to prevent the infectious diseases. I think this large sum of money is absolutely unnecessary. The Public Health Department being an important department can take up this responsibility on its own shoulders. Besides, it is very seldom that infectious diseases break out in this province in an epidemic form. For this simple reason it seems to be very unfair that such a large sum of money should go into the pockets of officers who actually do nothing. I would submit that it is just like letting the poor starve and the rich revel at the former's cost. As a matter of fact these officers do not carry out half of their duties. It is therefore a sheer loss to the exchequer. I request Government that these officers should be asked to discharge their duties to the fullest extent, and that it should not waste money on appointing new officers for the purpose. As I have limited time at my disposal I would make one more submission before I resume my seat. As sometimes a school boy falls ill with a fatal and infectious disease and other boys catch that disease from him and thus one boy's disease becomes a menace to the whole class, I submit that in schools, medical test should be held twice a year.

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

My next submission is that gardens should be laid out in Lahore exclusively for women and children, so that they may go there any time they like. I am constrained to remark that Government does little while it talks much. Words do not count, it is the action that counts. There is a saying in Punjabi.

م ن سے کچھ باتیں کان کی کرتے اس

رویت - روز بہہ کلمے کیسے بچھڑے پیاس

As I do not want to take much time of the House, I close my remarks and with these words support the cut motion moved by my honourable brother Sardar Hari Singh.

**Chaudhri Abdul Rahim** (Shakargarh, Muhammadan, Rural) (Urdu) : Sir, let me first of all submit that the Public Health Department is discharging its duties very efficiently. As a matter of fact several diseases, particularly cholera and plague, have been brought under control by this department. Consequently the number of patients suffering from these diseases has been largely decreased. All this success is due to the efficiency of this department. But so far as infectious diseases are concerned, I want to make a submission to Government through you, and that is this. Although Government is making very efficient arrangements for the prevention of Tuberculosis, yet I urge that it should allot some separate area for proper and up-to-date treatment of patients suffering from this disease. I should also point out that a new disease has sprung up and that it would be only right on the part of the Honourable Minister in charge to nip it in bud. This disease which I have referred to is known as *Hikpun* or *Tapus* in the country side. Many people in the Gurdaspur and Hoshiarpur districts are suffering from this disease. I may also point out that the military officers are of the opinion that if this disease is not eradicated from the districts of Hoshiarpur and Gurdaspur, it will be very difficult to get healthy recruitment from these places. In fact this disease is a wasting disease and is intimately connected with tuberculosis. The people of Gurdaspur made a request to the Honourable Minister in charge to this effect, but he did not pay much heed

to the matter. I may, however, congratulate him on the attempts that have been made in that district to check this disease. The doctor appointed in that district has been working there successfully for the last three years, and we are as a matter of fact very grateful to Dr. Nichol, Dr. Yaqub and the Honourable Minister in charge who are so kind to this district and who have taken steps to prevent this disease. But my submission is that Government have laid down a condition that the District Board concerned must also contribute something in this behalf. You know how difficult it is for the district boards to give money. However, the district board of Gurdaspur paid a sum of Rs. 5,000 and I know that the board could ill-afford to make this contribution and the Deputy Commissioner had sanctioned the sum after surmounting various difficulties. I would respectfully request the Honourable Minister in charge to withdraw this condition so that the sufferings of the people may be mitigated.

My honourable friend Chaudhri Riasat Ali mentioned that birth rate had decreased in four districts of the Punjab. Doctors generally opine that the disease in question, hookworm, is such as would incapacitate a man from producing children. It does not only render a man unfit for hard work but also makes him lose his life. The first symptom of this is that breathing becomes difficult and when the patient walks, his legs feel wobbly. Government should, therefore, provide more money for this purpose than what has already been proposed.

My second submission is that water is not easily available in certain areas. People have to travel four or five miles to obtain water from ponds from which animals also drink. The use of this water causes various diseases among men. Goitre is, for example, the usual disease caused in this way. A patient gets his glands in the neck swollen and is rendered unable to look down at his own feet. Now it is obvious that a man who cannot look down and is always compelled to turn his eyes towards the sky and gaze on the stars, his life becomes unbearable for him. I would, therefore, request Government to place more money at the disposal of the Public Health Department for water-supply. More wells should be sunk in the Kundi area, so that the poor residents of that locality may be benefitted.

I would now invite the special attention of the Honourable Minister of Education to a disease, the name of which has not been discovered by doctors as yet. This is a very dangerous disease. Government should provide adequate money for the prevention and eradication of this disease at the earliest possible occasion. I would also request the Government that the staff already appointed for this purpose should not be withdrawn unless the fight against this disease has been 75 per cent successful. With these words, sir, I close my speech.

**Khan Bahadur Mian Mushtaq Ahmad Gurmani** (Muzaffargarh, North, Muhammadan, Rural): Sir, I have listened to the speeches of the honourable members who have preceded me with much interest and attention. I am grateful to those honourable members who have made useful and constructive suggestions for the improvement of Public Health administration. But I must admit that such suggestions were very few. Most of the honourable members sitting opposite indulged in criticism which had

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little or no bearing upon the activities of this department, presumably, they spoke with the sole object of utilising the time which had been fixed for the discussion of this demand. My honourable friend, Sardar Hari Singh, in his zeal to criticize the Government conveniently forgot that the statistics which he was quoting were out of date and related to a period when this Government was not in charge of the provincial administration. He tried to show that the Punjab was spending much less amount on Public Health Department than many other provinces of India, but he overlooked the fact that the population of such provinces was larger than that of the Punjab. If he had calculated *per capita* expenditure on Public Health in the Punjab and compared it with other provinces, he would have realised that the Punjab was almost leading the rest of India in this respect. I shall place the relevant facts and figures before the house and leave it to the honourable members to judge for themselves the accuracy of Sardar Hari Singh's statement.

### ADJOURNMENT MOTION.

#### POLICE FIRING ON THE KHAKSARS.

**Mr. K. L. Gauba** [Inner Lahore, Muhammadan, Urban]: Mr. Speaker, I move—

That the House do now adjourn.

All sections of the House will be conscious of the grave matter that we are to discuss this afternoon. I am not here to justify any particular movement, nor, Sir, am I here to justify any attack on any police officer in the exercise of the discharge of his duty.

**Mr. Speaker**: The matter to be discussed is a very important and delicate one. Lives of certain people depend upon certain facts. Therefore, no honourable member, who takes part in the debate, should state any facts unless he is personally cognizant of them or some respectable people have made enquiries about their correctness and authenticity.

**Mr. K. L. Gauba**: Mr. Speaker, I fully appreciate what you have said. I will confine myself to the facts and incidents which I have heard from respectable persons or which I have myself witnessed. As I was indicating, I am not here to justify the attack on any police officer. This morning we had in the *Civil and Military Gazette* a statement, a fairly long and detailed statement, published by the Punjab Government, of the gruesome injuries sustained by two police officers in this unfortunate riot. That statement made most melancholy and pathetic reading and I think the sympathy of all the members of this House will go out to the officers referred to, but I would submit that in fairness to the public, in fairness to those who have lost their lives and those who have suffered in this incident, it would have been only right on the part of the Punjab Government to have also published a full list of injuries of those who have lost their lives and those who have survived in spite of the injuries they sustained and are now in the hospital undergoing treatment. I refer to the other party, namely, the Khaksars injured in the incident of the 19th March.

I first came to know of the clash between the Khaksars and the police while I was busy in a case and very soon after I was free from the court, I

went to the scene. By that time the dead bodies had been removed by the military or by the police. I however took the opportunity to ascertain as far as possible what had occurred and whatever information I then received on the spot I propose to place before the House. It would appear that this incident came about in the following manner. A procession had started out with the object of offering prayers at Masjid Wazir Khan. A batch of Khaksars had left the neighbourhood of the Unchi Masjid and were marching in their customary fashion with no particular object than the purpose of eventually offering prayers and returning. The first contact was made, I think, at the Unchi Masjid. There the District Magistrate and certain other officers met them. At that time, I understand, the police officials numbered seven or eight or possibly nine, and the Khaksars were in large numbers. No untoward incident happened at that time, and it is a really significant fact that no murderous assault or any other assault of any kind was made on any person at this particular point and time.

The next contact with the batch of Khaksars was made by the district authorities outside the Tibbi Police Station. Here there are two definite and distinct versions of what happened. There is the official version which says that while Mr. Gainsford and Mr. Beaty were parleying with the Khaksar leaders, a sudden attack, a premeditated attack, a brutal attack was made upon them, and these two officers along with the district magistrate were injured. This is the official version. I think I am also bound to state the other version—which holds currency, if I may say so, in equally responsible quarters,—namely that this clash which occurred outside the Tibbi Station arose as a result of a slap, which one of the Police officers administered to a Khaksar leader and which was resented. As a result of that insult proffered to a Khaksar leader there was a clash. There is also the statement that at this place, there was a *lathi* charge and six mounted police also charged the batch of Khaksars. It is common ground that here two Senior Police officers were injured. The distance from this place to the place where the firing first took place is barely a few yards, just round the corner, a right hand corner where the street opens into Hira Mandi. Here I understand—and I gathered information from reliable sources—there was a large posse of police drawn up near Shahi Mohalla, there was another posse of police drawn up about 100 yards lower down the road near a grave. Firing was first opened, I understand, at about 12 'oclock. That is the report that appeared in the press also and which I understand is fairly correct. Here the report is that 13 or 14 Khaksars were killed in the first or second volley that was fired. When firing was opened the Khaksars started to disperse. They dispersed, they ran in all possible directions and in running in all possible directions some of them ran through the second police cordon and some of them took refuge in the houses of the various persons who live in that locality. Some of them took refuge in the various shops in that locality. Some of them went inside and started to change their clothes in order that they might not be arrested as Khaksars. What happened now is of very great importance. It is most significant that in the official *communiqué* that was issued no details were given about the firing, who gave the order to fire, what were the circumstances in which firing was ordered, how many volleys and rounds

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were fired. After all the cartridges which are issued in the morning are counted when the police return in the evening, and it could be ascertained how many bullets had been expended—where was the firing directed and above all how long did this firing go on.

The report of an eye-witness—and I consider it to be a fairly reliable report because it was published the very next morning in the *Civil and Military Gazette* and it was a verbatim report of the eye-witness—says that he went to the scene again. This was a very significant statement. He went to the scene again at 2 p. m.—mark you—at 2 p.m. and he found that the process of ‘mopping up’ the Khaksars as he called it was still in progress. Now honourable members will be pleased to note that the firing commenced at 12 o’clock. The first shot was fired roundabout this time and at 2 p. m. when the representative of the *Civil and Military Gazette* visited the spot, the mopping-up process and the firing was still going on. The report said that it was going on in the distance. When I went to the spot I found pools of blood right along the main streets of Hira Mandi, and in some side streets. I do not wish to harrow the House the scene that confronted me, but after all a pool of blood is a pool of blood and in that particular locality it was not one pool of blood, there were scores of pools of blood, large pools of blood spread over an area extending to nearly 250 yards. These pools of blood were not in the middle of the street, which it would be more or less the case if the firing had taken place for the purpose of dispersing the crowd. But these pools of blood were beneath drains, were just above drains, were on the sides of the roads, were in small lanes and beyond both the police cordons. The only possible interpretation that one could put upon this matter is that the Khaksars when they were dispersed, were chased into the streets, into the side lanes and shot as they were running away. Now, Sir, apart from the pools of blood, there were in the main street and in side lanes also fresh marks of bullets. If you went over the locality you would see, very clearly, the bullet marks in three distinct ranges, firstly there on a low level, just a few inches above the ground, secondly a number of bullet marks about 5 feet or 7 feet above the ground, mainly in the doors and in the furniture of the various shop-keepers and the third class of bullet marks were in the upper storeys and in the inner rooms of various houses. These bullet marks in one place alone,—Mian Abdul Aziz and myself counted them— in one shop alone, numbered 12 in the lower storey and 13 in the upper storey. In one house inside five rooms there were bullet marks. Now it is for the Honourable Premier, the Minister for Law and Order, to state to this House in what circumstances this firing took place. After all he may say, “this was an unruly crowd, we had asked them to disperse, they did not disperse, so we opened fire and we were entitled to do so.” But, Sir, he has also to explain how these people were shot in lanes, how these people were shot in the houses and how these people were really drawn out of the houses. There are plenty of eye-witnesses and I may say that one eye-witness in particular, a very respectable Hindu gentleman, a client of mine, came to me the next morning and informed me of his own accord—a person whose testimony I would not doubt in the least—that he was in Shahi Mohalla at that time and he himself saw this particular type of shooting. It is also related by a large number of people of that locality to me and to others who visited that locality, namely, that persons were drawn out of their houses and were shot by the

police. Now some of these persons are prepared to come and give evidence before the commission when it holds an enquiry. I submit that before that Commission records evidence, at least the Premier can say what is his explanation about the firing on that day. In passing, I may state that so far as these bullet marks are concerned (Mian Abdul Aziz will confirm it), we have considered it proper and in the public interest to have these places photographed, so that there might not be any dispute in the future as to where the particular bullet marks were. These photographs are in our possession.

Now, Sir, after the shooting had taken place, a *communiqué* was issued on behalf of the Government and up to this time, we do not know how many persons actually have been killed. The non-official version is, and there are several calculations to that fact and fairly accurate calculations, that the number stated by the Government is not the correct number and at least a hundred persons lost their lives in this unfortunate incident.

**Premier :** A most irresponsible statement.

**Mian Abdul Aziz :** He will give the reply. Just hear it.

**Mr. K. L. Gauba :** Well, Sir, it may be responsible or irresponsible, I was trying to avoid as far as possible an overstatement of the case but my learned friend opposite compels me to express my opinion and the opinion of most of the people that the act of shooting these people was nothing more or less than cold-blooded murder. And after that, what does he do? What does a person who has been guilty of murder do? The first thing he does, the first thing that every murderer does is to conceal the body and my learned friend opposite, the first thing that he does is to secretly remove the persons who have been killed and to bury them in secret so that people might not know and there might be no evidence forthcoming of the number of people who have been killed. Now it would have been easily possible and one would have thought that after an unfortunate incident of this kind, my learned friend opposite would have been the first one to come forward and say "well, this is an unfortunate incident, here are the persons who have been killed". He might have called the representatives of the people and said, "well, recognise as many as you can, here are the bodies, arrange for their burial". But no. In the middle of the night he has the bodies removed in lorries, so that there may be no evidence whatever as to how many people have been killed or buried.

Now I do not wish to keep this House very much longer, but I do say that in this matter, in the absence of official information, it is difficult at this stage to allocate any responsibility on any particular individual. The Premier and the Premier alone can say, as to who authorised the firing and who was the person responsible for the firing in this brutal manner. A pertinent question to be asked is, did he know that force would be used, and if so the extent to which fire would be used on this occasion and what were his instructions to the additional police? Did he tell them that if the Khaksars did not disperse, "use force, fire on them"? I hope, Sir, he will be brave enough, if he gave that command, to state frankly on the floor of this House, "I gave this order and it was under my orders that the firing took place."

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I might state that I visited the hospital that evening and I met a gentleman who is very reliable and who is prepared to make a statement before the Commission when it assembles that it was the avowed object of the Premier and it was under his orders that the firing actually took place and that the Premier had made up his mind to suppress the Khaksar movement even if he had to shoot every Khaksar. I challenge him to deny that. We, Sir, have been told that there is going to be a public enquiry. Now, Sir, we were told about enquiries about other incidents also.

**Mr. Speaker :** The honourable member should confine himself to the motion.

**Mr. K. L. Guaba :** I do not wish to discuss the enquiry committee but we should know the personnel of the enquiry committee to which the Premier referred this morning. Before I sit down I would like to say this thing that the public expects from the Premier a very clear statement to-day, namely, as to all the circumstances in which this particular incident took place. Without that information I am afraid the public will have no confidence in his *bona fides*.

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

That the Assembly do now adjourn.

**Shaikh Karamat Ali** (Nankana Sahib, Muhammadan, Rural) (Urdu) : Mr. Speaker, whatever has been said by the honourable mover of the adjournment motion, which is now before the House, incidentally leads us to a twofold conclusion, although the conclusion thus arrived at cannot in the circumstances be called a direct conclusion. May be, it was due to the fact that you had been pleased to impose certain restrictions upon the nature of the speeches and had laid down certain limits to which these speeches were to be confined. Or else it was, because the Honourable mover had not enough material at his disposal with which to substantiate his indictment of the Government, that he could not prove his case against the alleged excesses perpetrated by the Government.

The two conclusions that can be drawn from his speech are, first as to what extent the Government is responsible for this firing and, secondly, that the number of those who died as the result of this firing is popularly believed to be much more than the figure given in the Government *communiqué*. It is alleged that the dead numbered more than 100 while the Government state that it was only 32. Before I reply to these charges, I have to mention certain things in this connection.

There are three distinct groups who are interested in this tragedy. One is that which has incidentally been responsible for exaggerating this unfortunate tragedy that took place in Lahore. This mainly consists of the relations and connections of those who died at the hands of the police. I want to assure those people that there is not a single member in this House who does not sympathise with them in their bereavement and is not grieved at the tragic end of those who were killed. So far as the Honourable Premier and his Government is concerned, they earnestly desire that those persons who have been guilty of excesses should be punished according to their deserts. It must be borne in mind that in order to achieve this object, we shall have to take into consideration the fact that most probably those

people will give an exaggerated account of the whole story. This is a thing to be guarded against, in case we want to sift the truth. The second group consists of the political exploiters who want to make capital out of this unfortunate occurrence. They are spreading all sorts of rumours for furthering their personal ends and are trying thereby to darken the already murky atmosphere of the province. I do not want to name such persons because I would then be held responsible for creating bad blood. There are persons in Lahore who were strongly opposed to the Khaksar movement and did not want this organisation to make any progress. They were even jealous of the public estimation which they were achieving for their work of social service. These gentlemen had given vent to most malicious expressions regarding the Khaksars and yet they have jumped at this opportunity to grind their own axe, and give currency to the most irresponsible rumours and show that they are their sympathisers whereas they are their veritable enemies. The third group comprises of such responsible persons as the honourable members of this House, who desire that an impartial judicial inquiry should be held about this tragic affair. In this connection I beg to submit that it would not be just and proper for us to confine our discussion to the information supplied by the first two above-mentioned groups.

We cannot possibly give credence to the statement put forth by the first group, because we are aware of the fact that their version is very much exaggerated. Again, so far as the second group is concerned we are at a loss to understand the significance of their statement that the Khaksars were going to say their prayers in the Badshahi mosque at about 11 a. m. As all the Muslim members of the Assembly know, no prayers are said at that time, and the reason for that batch of Khaksars going in a procession to that side was quite different from the one that has been advanced by my honourable friend. It would have been better, if my honourable friend had also mentioned the number of that body of Khaksars, for the number too had a special significance in so far as the number gives unmistakable clue to their design. They were 313 strong, and the Holy Prophet of Islam had this very number of *mujahidin* in the battle of 'Badar', and this was one of the holy crusades, i.e., *jihad*. It was not the time for offering prayers nor had any announcement been made for holding a meeting in the mosque. However it cannot be denied that there was no bar on their entering the mosque, as a mosque is open to every Mussalman at all hours.

Thus the gathering of Khaksars in the mosque at a time when no prayer was to be offered and the historic significance of their number, i.e., 313, clearly shows that they were bent upon doing some mischief which according to them, had the significance of *jihad*. Now, in order to prove that all this act of violence on the part of the Khaksars was not pre-arranged and pre-meditated but unexpected and sudden, my honourable friend opposite contends that the leader of the movement was absolutely unaware of the arrival of his followers in Lahore. Can the leader himself or any of the sympathisers of the movement deny this fact that the Khaksars were filtering into Lahore at a time when a ban was placed on all the quasi-military organisations of the province? This single fact is enough to demolish the



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arguments advanced by my friend opposite. There is not a shadow of doubt that the Khaksars had entered the city with a definite purpose of defying the said ban and violating the law. My honourable friend has advanced another argument in support of his contention that they did not intend to be violent at any stage of their demonstration. He has been pleased to remark that as soon as the Khaksars came out of the Unchi Mosque, the police authorities tried to persuade them not to proceed in a military formation. Here my friend says that had they intended to become violent at any subsequent stage of their procession they would have come into clash with the police just opposite the Unchi Mosque and immediately on their emerging from it. I am sorry to say that he has lost sight of the fact that the police most earnestly implored and entreated the Khaksars to desist from committing a blunder which was sure to have far-reaching effects and that the police was doing so under the instructions of Government, which had been issued long before this tragic incident. In fact the police was not prepared to take the initiative in using force against the demonstrators. To my mind, had it taken such a measure it would have been perfectly justified in doing so. I need not lay much stress on the point that as long as Government thinks it fit to keep a ban on a certain organisation the responsibility of preserving and maintaining law and order in the province devolves entirely on the police. But what we actually see is this that the police and their officials kept on persuading the processionists to a distance of at least three furlongs believing that good counsel might prevail with them sooner or later, but as ill-luck would have it the so-called non-violent processionists took the initiative in using force against the policemen near Tibbi Guard, who were definitely and positively much smaller in number. It is sheer injustice on the part of my friend opposite to withhold credit at a time when the police really deserves it for realizing its responsibility and duty in the matter. It tried its utmost to avert this gruesome tragedy as it was alive to the idea that even the slightest mistake on their part was sure to bring a bad name to the Honourable Premier and his Government. There is a distance of more than 3 furlongs from the mosque to the police station and it is a fact that Mr. Gainsford entreated the Khaksars all along this way not to proceed further. Had it ever occurred to him that they did not in fact believe in their creed of non-violence, he would have refrained from exposing his life to utter danger. He had at that time only 6 or 7 mounted and 10 or 12 foot constables with him.

**Begum Rashida Latif Baji :** Please fix some time limit for the speeches as every one of us wants to speak on the motion.

**Mr. Speaker :** The honourable member's time is up.

**Shaikh Karamat Ali :** Only one minute more and I have done. Sir, it is but natural that one can sacrifice everything for the safety of his own life. If I come to know that by entering a certain place I am sure to endanger my life, I would not at all put myself to such a risk. I would try to save my life at all costs. In fact there is nothing dearer than one's own life. But it is a matter of gratification that the attitude adopted by the police officers was exceedingly wise and proper. Mr. Gainsford did not hesitate to expose himself to these obvious risks to his own life. He pointed out to the

Khaksars the evil consequences of their misguided move and thus in persisting in this judicious course he sustained severe injuries in return. The posse of police constables accompanying him tried to save the life of their officer but being smaller in number were overpowered by the infuriated processionists. It was no fault of these constables if they had advanced to stem the tide of the demented mob. I need hardly say that it is the bounden duty of the police to protect not only the life and property of the public but also of their own officers. In short the demonstrators rushed on and turned to the right where they met Mr. Beaty and his 10 or 12 constables armed with lathis. In fact he was absolutely unaware of the fate of Mr. Gainsford. Here Mr. Beaty and Mr. Bourne were assaulted by the enraged Khaksars. On this the constables armed with rifles rushed to the scene and finding their officers fatally wounded, felt constrained to open fire. In fact it is well nigh impossible for the custodians of law and order to tolerate the defiance of law under their very nose. My friend has remarked that the firing was uncontrolled and indiscriminate, but I do not propose to touch this delicate matter as the Honourable Premier has himself decided to hold an enquiry into this untoward happening through an impartial and independent agency. And we are told that he has asked the High Court to spare two Judges for the purpose. I think it is a clear proof of his sincerity of purpose that he has preferred judicial enquiry to a departmental one. Had my honourable friend opposite dispassionately considered the fact that the Honourable Premier had done what he ought to have done in the matter just the following morning he would have refrained from moving an adjournment motion which is absolutely unnecessary and uncalled for.

**Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava** (Lahore, General, Urban) (Urdu): Sir, I was not present in Lahore at the time when this sad and unfortunate incident took place. It was only this morning that I reached here and I have scrupulously refrained from discussing this tragic happening with anybody. Whatever information I have in my possession at present is all that I have gathered from the newspapers. Although they were under the strict supervision of the censor, yet the matter published in them is enough to create suspicions in the mind of a reader. As you were pleased, Mr. Speaker, to warn the House against depending on rumours, I would confine myself only to the censored reports published in the Press and I would like to read out a certain passage from the report published in the Civil & Military Gazette, dated the 20th instant. It goes as follows:—

According to an information the Khaksars, who numbered 313, defied the ban at the explicit orders received from their newly-established headquarters in Delhi. The message conveying the order was brought by a secret messenger who arrived in Lahore only this morning—

It is understood that a special guard is being provided to protect the Premier, Sir Sikandar Hyat-Khan, and an additional guard is being posted at his residence.

A representative of the Civil and Military Gazette witnessed the firing by the police standing on a charpoy. He writes:—

“I reached the scene of occurrence at about noon when the firing had just begun. I saw the people retreating helter skelter in all directions. Rushing men, women and children sought refuge in houses and shops.

“I made my way towards the crossing near the cinema and from there standing on a charpoy I counted 13 Khaksars lying dead or injured. In their midst were a number of police constables.

“The police party was approaching me and I was compelled to retreat to write this story.”

[Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava.]

"When I re-visited the scene at 2 P. M. I saw the Khaksars injured and dead lying on the roadside. They were being attended to by Dr. Quick.

"In the distance I heard the cracking sound of firing and was informed that the police were clearing the houses of all suspects."

Sir, there are two things that create suspicion in my mind. First, it is crystal clear from the statement which I have just read out to you that the Press reporters who reached the scene of occurrence when the firing had just begun were not allowed by the police to stand there or to watch the shooting, nor were they permitted free movement in the locality later on. A police officer told them that if they stood there, they would do so at the risk of their lives. I am also given to understand that a camera man rushed to the spot to get a snap and he too was not allowed by the police to go near the scene of occurrence. It seems to be very unfair on the part of Government that the police did not permit even the public men who are generally considered to be the only source of information for the people at large, to visit the scene at the time of firing and after. Secondly, Sir, the firing was opened for "clearing the houses of all suspects" as is evident from the statement made by the correspondent in the Civil and Military Gazette to the effect that "in the distance he heard the cracking sound of firing" himself. It has been stated that when the police saw that the Khaksars were defying the Government ban by marching in formation, armed with spades the Superintendent attempted to stop them with the result that they made a most sudden attack on the police party who, in turn, were constrained to open fire to disperse this unlawful mob. But the fact is that the firing continued even after the Khaksars had been dispersed. What does it mean? It means that fire was opened for clearing the houses of suspects. I remember two police officers having opened fire out of vengeance, hatred and vindictiveness in 1919 also, when Europeans had succumbed to the injuries in a more or less similar manner. Similarly, the details of this particular incident also show that the firing was vindictive. The pressmen being not allowed by the police to take a report of the unpleasant incident and the firing being opened for clearing the houses of the suspects amount to nothing but vindictiveness. I think there can be no justification for Government to defend itself and to defend the manner in which firing was opened. Government in order to save their own skin might say that the *quasi*-military organisation which indulges in violence cannot be suppressed by Government except by taking violent steps against it. But that will not convince us.

Then, Sir, an impression is sought to be created by the members on your right that the members of the Opposition want to indulge in political exploitation, as my honourable friend Shaikh Karamat Ali has remarked during his speech. I should like to make it clear that the members on these benches are not at all exploiting the situation and that we do not want to create malice and hatred against Government in the hearts of the public on this matter (*Cheers*). It is well known that it has always been our policy to win the hearts of others and to convert a foe into a friend by love and humility. (*Hear, hear.*) You might remember that we have been urging upon Government time and again to adopt such a policy as would control the activities of the so-called semi-military organisations with violent methods as their creed. We put question after question to Government inside the Chamber and outside it. But they hesitated to reply to our

questions in a straightforward manner and evaded by saying that it was not in the public interest to give replies to these questions. Nobody can deny the fact that the credit is due to the Opposition for having drawn the attention of the Punjab Government in time and pointing out that in wooing the Khaksar movement, they were not doing the right thing. Unfortunately Government have always been turning a deaf ear to our repeated requests and now their negligence has borne the bitterest fruit that has ever been tasted by the Punjab Government. I regret to say that Government did not take timely action and continued wooing the Khaksars through, among others, one of their Parliamentary Secretaries also. I did not open my lips in regard to this sort of meetings being held between the Khaksars and the Parliamentary Secretary. Now I tell the honourable members of the House that one of the Khaksars came to see the Parliamentary Secretary in this Chamber. When both of them were busy in conversation in his room, one Khaksar was standing outside at the door as a guard. No one knew this. I went by chance, to see the Parliamentary Secretary in connection with some public business but the Khaksar at the door stopped me and would not let me in. The Parliamentary Secretary whom I am referring to knows this incident full well as I told him later on that a Khaksar was not entitled to stop me outside the room like that nor could any one picket the offices in the Chamber in this manner. The Parliamentary Secretary tried to pacify me in apologetic words and begged me to hush the matter. So, as a gentleman I slept over the matter. By referring to this incident I want to bring to the notice of this House that the matter had come to such a pass, and I know that a day will come when Government will repent for this attitude. I may also point out that before imposing the ban, the Punjab Government consulted me and I told Government in plain words that the Opposition would support Government in all legitimate measures which they might take to deal with any violent organisation, be it the Khaksars or any other organisation.

Next, Mr. Speaker, the House is well aware of the fact that when the Khaksars were disturbing the peace and tranquillity of the United Provinces, the Punjab Government did not raise their little finger against the matter. In fact the Government ridiculed us by saying that the Congress Ministry in the United Provinces was dealing with the Khaksars very brutally. We knew that the Punjab Government was making these remarks merely for the sake of political exploitation. But we were sure that time would come when the Punjab Government itself would be brought to book on account of the same charges which they were levelling against that Congress Ministry. Then, Sir, as the circumstances would have it the Punjab Government itself was obliged to impose a ban on the Khaksars' quasi-military parade and invited our opinion. We favoured the idea of imposing the ban along with other similar organisations, on the Khaksar movement because we did not want to see any organisation exist in India whose creed was violence. The writings of their leader in their official organ show that it is a violent movement. I wonder why, when a leader of an All-India organisation and that too, not an ordinary one but a quasi-military organisation like the Khaksars, declared from its press and pulpit that they would kill ten persons for every one Khaksar if interfered with, Government did not tackle them at once. Why did

[Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava.]

they give more latitude to them? It clearly shows that Government was not strong enough to suppress this movement. Had they taken a serious action in time this bloodshed would not have taken place. The Government says that according to their information the Khaksars were determined to defy the ban on the 21st March, but did they not know in time that such a thing was to happen on 19th March? Why did they not prepare? I would say it is a great blunder on their part. It is deliberate negligence of duty. Mr. Gainsford knew full well that the Khaksars would not offer civil resistance. If Mr. Gainsford had been a civil resister of the type of Congressmen he would have been fully aware how non-violence could subdue violence. But the difficulty is that he is not one of those who believe in non-violence. Therefore he should have gone prepared for violence. Further, what I object to is the uncontrolled firing opened by the police after the clash. I cannot support the shooting of men at least in this way. It has been stated that at the time the firing began the Khaksars ran away in all directions. When they scattered and dispersed, then why was a second firing opened? Therefore I would charge Government with vindictiveness and would submit that firing had far exceeded the minimum if at all necessary. Shooting can only be resorted to when a mob is so violent that life and property are not safe. And even then the police should fire at the feet of the people. But here what do we see? The police have shot dead a large number of Khaksars and no rule of firing was at all adhered to.

In conclusion I may add that I am not one of those who would permit this violent organisation or others of this type to survive. It might be said that as an adjournment motion has been moved by this side of the House against Government's behaviour, the Opposition wants Government to lift the ban. I must, therefore, make it clear to the Government that we are not of this opinion. Let not the Government take it from our criticism of the method of firing, that the Opposition is against the ban imposed on the Khaksars and that the Government should therefore proceed to lift it. Far from it. Our complaint, on the other hand, is that the Government have allowed too long a rope to the Khaksars and the present tragedy is the result of that. Steps should have been taken much earlier by the Government. If the Government will now show weakness and abolish the ban, the peace and tranquillity of the whole of the province will be jeopardised and it would become difficult to maintain law and order in the Punjab. Further, if this ban is removed, the ban on other organisations will also have to be removed and the Honourable the Premier knows what that may mean. Our only complaint is, why did the Government allow this long lease of life to such organisations? Had the Government acted on our advice earlier, the present vindictive action would not have been called for. We are extremely sorry for the heavy loss of lives of the Khaksars although they believed in violence. The Government have also committed a blunder which under no circumstances can be excused.

As to the inquiry, I may add that unless people are indemnified, they will not come forward to give evidence. Had the Government not declared general indemnity of the witnesses. General Dyer would not have been bold enough to state before the Hunter Commission which was set up to inquire into the Jallianwala firing case that he went on firing

till his ammunition had finished. If the Government really wants to punish the erring officials and stop recurrence of such incidents it should try to find out the truth by passing an Indemnity Act and thereby permitting the people to state the truth. It is impossible to raise the dead to life again. But justice should be done as far as possible. Sir, I have deep sympathy with those police officers who have died or have been injured. I have also great sympathy with the Khaksars who have either died or have been injured. I hope, however, that they will learn a lesson from this tragedy. The Government will also have learnt a lasting lesson and will not in future allow such violent movements to flourish (*cheers*).

**Dr. Shaikh Muhammad Alam** Rawalpindi Division Towns, Muhammadan, (Urban) (*Urdu*): In view of the time limit on the speeches and the gravity of the subject matter, I would confine myself only to those facts and statements which a responsible member of this House should mention. I am not one of those who would praise every legitimate or illegitimate, worthy or unworthy and wholesome or unwholesome action of the Government. I am neither an enemy of Sir Sikander nor am I one of those who daily appear at his threshold to beg favours. I follow the Urdu couplet which runs as follows:—

دوائے سرد میں قمری کو دے کہتے ہیں کہ  
جان دلا بلندی سے محبت ہو تو بالائی

But I am certainly not one of those whose bosoms are burning like inferno with the fire of jealousy, enmity and hatred of Sir Sikander Hyat-Khan and who cannot tolerate his glory and power even for a single day. In fact the Ministry of Sir Sikander has become an eyesore to several jealous and envious persons, who now want to exploit the incident in question. But I would request the House not to lose sight of the real issue. It was almost brutal fearlessness with which my honourable friend Mr. K. L. Gauba called this firing affair a cold blooded murder. It was also a callous remark on his part to say that the murderer concealed dead bodies overnight in order to escape justice. He exceeded all limits when he indicated that the presumption was that Sir Sikander Hyat-Khan was the murderer in this case. Nothing could be more preposterous than this presumption. Did he want the corpses to remain there and get putrified? Do the people allow dead bodies of their dear ones to decay and putrify? Does my honourable friend realise now in what irresponsible strain he has been talking? After all he should have thought twice before making such allegations on the floor of the House and pondered over and weighed his words.

My honourable friend, the leader of the Opposition, has quoted the reporter of the *Civil and Military Gazette* to show that he was sitting on a charpoy and saw the mopping up process of Khaksars by the police who were drawing those Khaksars from the adjoining houses to be shot dead. It is certainly the bounden duty of the Government of Sir Sikander Hyat-Khan to institute a thorough inquiry and award befitting punishment to the erring persons. In fact the Government is passing through grave moments, and a very hard ordeal. I hope the Ministry

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will emerge out of these clouds all the brighter, and, the jealous persons, all the blacker, when a full inquiry reveals the true facts and justice is done to the satisfaction of all. It will add to the glory of Sir Sikander. I may assure my honourable friend Dr. Gopi Chand that if the reporters were denied any chance of witnessing the scene, the inquiry will reveal this defect and that is why an inquiry is to be set up. Let us wait for the result of the inquiry to the institution of which Sir Sikander is not opposed and the results of which he will gladly accept. He cannot now get up and say that a certain version is correct or false. If he does that, he will be committed to a certain line of action according to his denial or affirmation of these versions. Let us not lose our way amidst the fog and clouds of rumours. Our duty is to keep the real issue before our eyes. Nothing should be stated here which a speaker has not witnessed himself or heard from a respectable and reliable source. My honourable friend, Mr. Gauba, has been pleased to say that the mopping up processes went on till 2 P. M. according to a press reporter. But I too personally went to the spot at about 1-40 P.M. and saw that no firing was continuing then. The pressmen are apt sometimes to make mistakes about time. The question of questions is whether we want to judge now and here or whether we have to wait till the inquiry committee submits its results. It is the clear duty of Sir Sikander Hyat-Khan to have a thorough, just and fair judicial inquiry into the whole affair. The personnel of the inquiry committee should be such as would inspire confidence. I hope that he will neither be intimidated by the sighs of the oppressed nor overawed by the power of the oppressor. The House would do well to bear in mind what kind of results the inquiry would produce. It would reveal the secret hand behind this movement. Its beginning would be shown to be as tragic as its end has been. This Khaksar demonstration might have been the result of some coercion by those who bear ill-will towards Sir Sikander Hyat-Khan and are envious of his position. May be Allama Mashriqi was compelled to this conflict or some one abetted the Khaksars to come out to defy the Government. There are persons who would run with the hare and hunt with the hound as the Persian couplet says:—

( دزدے ہاسہاں )

May it not turn out in the end that those very persons who incited and abetted the Khaksars to defy the ban imposed by the Government also run to the Government officials to tell them that the Khaksars were out to defy the Government and were marching with *belchas* with the intention of creating trouble.

Then, Sir, it is stated that the Khaksars had obtained the permission of their leader for this clash. But I may point out that after the occurrence of this unfortunate incident Allama Mashriqi issued a statement in the press that he never gave any orders to the Khaksars to defy law and order. It is possible that the former statement might have been forged by the interested people. However, it has become crystal clear how selfish people, in order to gain their political ends, have been trying to incite the Khaksars to indulge in violence. It would not be out of place to mention that this gruesome tragedy was the outcome of the spirit of vengeance, jealousy and envy of the Premier's crown, which was agitating the minds of these selfish

people and eventually made them act in such a disgraceful manner. But there should be limit to such a mischievous mentality.

**Lala Deshbandhu Gupta :** A few days ago my honourable friend also possessed a similar mentality.

**Dr. Shaikh Muhammad Alam :** My mentality has undergone no change. It is my honourable friends who have changed. Well, Sir, according to my friend Lala Deshbandhu Gupta a severe punishment should be inflicted upon a murderer but the instigator to murder should go scot free. If that is the mentality of my honourable friend, he is welcome to hug it. I cannot subscribe to his view point. But the fact of the matter is that this incident was really a very unfortunate and unhappy one. Its beginning was dreadful and the end a tragic one. Now even the very particles of the blood-soaked land of Tibbi appear to say :

جنگ آسمان کی داستانیں سنو اور غمزدان

Even the blood of those killed in the clash demands that whatever might have been the cause of the incident, it is the bounden duty of the authorities to find out who was responsible for this bloodshed and red ruin. I am of the opinion that this tragedy was enacted not with a view to wreak vengeance on Sir Sikander, but sheer greed for power and pelf was the underlying motive of those instigators. I therefore submit that the Sikander Government would be failing in their duty or they would not be rising equal to the occasion if they did not bring those persons to book, who were responsible for the firing. When the enquiry is instituted, I am sure true facts would come to light and the public would then be in a position to see things in their true perspective. Again currency is being given to the fact that the police were guilty of committing excesses and had resorted to indiscriminate firing. But it is possible that after the officers had fallen down owing to injuries, the serjeants might have taken the command of the police force and ordered the firing. In this connection I may submit that we will be able to throw responsibility on the shoulders of right persons only when the enquiry committee has finished its labours. I am sure the Government will award exemplary punishment to the delinquents who were the main source of this trouble.

Besides, I read a press *communiqué* that Government had appointed two High Court Judges to conduct an enquiry into this unfortunate incident. I would like to make a few suggestions in this respect. I hope they will find favour with the Government. First, the tribunal of two High Court Judges should include the Chief Justice whose unremitting efforts to eradicate corruption are quite well known to the honourable members. His inclusion will ensure integrity and impartiality in the enquiry committee.

**Mr. Speaker :** Please do not go into that matter.

**Dr. Shaikh Muhammad Alam :** I am making certain recommendations to the Premier.

**Mr. Speaker :** As to what should be the personnel of the enquiry committee, please do not go into that matter.



**Dr. Shaikh Muhammad Alam :** I was going to make a suggestion regarding the composition of the personnel of the enquiry committee, but in deference to your wishes I pass on to the other suggestion. I am of the opinion that all the police officers who had even the least connection with this gruesome tragedy, should be transferred from Lahore.

**Mr. Speaker :** Please do not go into that matter either. The adjournment motion relates to firing only.

**Dr. Shaikh Muhammad Alam :** Exactly. But I am not speaking irrelevantly. I am only stressing the point that those officers who were connected with this firing should be transferred from Lahore.

**Mr. Speaker :** I again ask the honourable member not to touch that matter.

**Dr. Shaikh Muhammad Alam :** With due deference I will certainly obey your orders. I have been accustomed to bow to your rulings without saying whether they are right or wrong. Well, Sir, I was submitting....

**Mr. Speaker :** Only one minute is left.

**Dr. Shaikh Muhammad Alam :** If you had permitted me to express what I wanted to say, much time would have been saved. Then I would submit, Sir, that Government should proclaim that those witnesses who come forward to tender evidence will in no way be harassed or put to trouble. These are the safeguards which would be conducive to the success of the enquiry committee. I may also point out that the firing, the police excesses, the party who took the offensive, are not the only relevant things in the matter. The most important thing to be sifted out is as to what extent the Government was responsible for this incident. Then my honourable friend has unnecessarily wasted his breath in levelling baseless charges against the Government. For instance, it has been stated that the corpses of the killed were surreptitiously disposed of and buried in the late hours of the night, so that the public might not come to know of the exact number of casualties. I am afraid this would also be said that at the time of burial the sky was over-cast with thick and dark clouds and it was drizzling—

**Mr. Speaker :** The honourable member's time is up.

**Premier (The Honourable Major Sir Sikander Hyat-Khan) :** Sir, it is with a very heavy heart that I rise to speak on this motion because the incident to which it relates is such that no person, not even a very hard-hearted and callous person, can remain unaffected by this unfortunate tragedy. But I speak under a very great handicap which did not affect my friends opposite. I have to speak as a responsible Minister of a responsible Government, and therefore I must confine my speech to a bare statement of facts and also to answering those points which my honourable friend the mover of the motion raised.

I will try to be as brief as possible. I should like the House to go back to the occasion when the question of imposing this ban on the various volunteer organisations was considered. My honourable friends will remember that both in this House and outside, in the press and from the platform, strong and emphatic demands were made by responsible persons that Government should forthwith restrict these private armies which

threatened the peace and tranquillity of the province. I held my hand as long as I possibly could, but eventually things came to such a pass that it was impossible for any Government, any responsible government, to allow this matter to drift any longer. I will not go into the details or the history of the various organisations, but let me remind my honourable friends that eventually when Government decided to impose this ban, there had cropped up 17 or 18 such organisations besides the Khaksars and their recorded number of armed volunteers almost touched the figure of 50,000. Our reports of their activities and tempers were alarming. We took responsible sections of this House into our confidence, including my friend the honourable the Leader of the Opposition and after most careful deliberation and consultation, we had to impose that ban. But I might inform the House that before I took that action, I also had an opportunity of seeing the leader of the Khaksar movement and I explained to him the reasons why it was necessary for Government to impose this ban on his as well as on other similar organisations which numbered approximately 18 or 19. I had a long talk with him and as a result of that conversation, I was more or less satisfied that the order regarding the ban would be respected. Even after that I waited for several weeks before actually imposing this ban, still hoping that the situation might improve. My hopes were not realized and finally we had to notify the ban on the 28th of February, 1940. Thereafter certain developments came to my notice, and I was informed that certain people were trying to exploit this ban for their own purposes, may be political, personal or otherwise. However, I did not pay any heed to that, because I hoped that the responsible persons with whom I had discussed this matter would respect my confidence and would see that nothing untoward should happen. The session of the All-India Muslim League was to be held in Lahore during Easter week, and I was informed that certain persons were trying deliberately to exploit this ban to create trouble during the League session in order to mar the success of that session. I was also informed that an attempt would be made to break up the procession and to create trouble while the procession was proceeding through the streets of Lahore, so that there might be chaos and there might be stampeding, and if the Government took action to suppress that trouble or riot the Muslim League would suffer as well as the Government. That was my information. Moreover, I was informed that the Khaksars did not intend to defy the ban until 21st March, the day fixed for the Muslim League procession. Accordingly we and the officers concerned considered the situation and took every possible precaution which we could in order to see that nothing untoward happened on the 21st. One of the steps which we took was to order the tear smoke squad to arrive in Lahore on or before the 21st. Actually it arrived on the 19th. But it was not in time for the unfortunate tragedy on the 19th, and as a matter of fact we did not know that any incident was likely to happen on that date, and therefore tear smoke could not be used on the 19th (though it is doubtful whether the lie of the land and the other circumstances would have permitted its being used).

Now let me come to this unfortunate and gruesome tragedy which happened on the 19th. Government did not know anything about it until the incident had actually taken place. I was informed of this tragedy

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some time after 12 o'clock. I received a telephonic call from the Tibbi Police Station that trouble had started and that firing had to be opened, and that certain people had been injured and killed. Immediately thereafter, within a few minutes, the Deputy Commissioner, himself injured and bleeding, came to me and gave me fuller information of that incident up to such time as he was himself on the spot. Later information which has come to our notice disclosed the following facts. Their veracity must be tested by the enquiry which we have appointed. Till then, we cannot accept one version or the other. It would not be fair. We must withhold judgment in the meantime.

Our information is that on the 19th at about 10 A. M., a large band of Khaksar volunteers started from a lane near the Unchi Mosque and intended to proceed towards the fort. My honourable friend, Mr. Gauba, in the course of his speech mentioned that they were going to say their prayers. Now my honourable friend, who is a Mussalman, should know that there is no time for prayers at 10 o'clock in the morning. However, that is a thing which we need not discuss at the moment. These people started at about 10 o'clock or a little after 10 o'clock or perhaps even later than that and the first information which the Senior Superintendent of Police received was a few minutes earlier. This was unexpected and the information did not reveal any possibility of an armed clash. The Senior Superintendent of Police was at that time in the police lines at a distance, and as soon as he received that information, he started immediately for the spot and collected as many policemen as he could within that short time and he arrived at the scene with about 40 policemen unarmed and carrying *lathis* only. Twenty of these policemen he left outside the Bhati Gate to see that the crowd did not enter from that side. The other twenty he sent to the Tibbi Police Station as Mr. Gauba has pointed out. By that time the District Magistrate had also arrived and tried to dissuade this party from proceeding any further and from disobeying the ban. They went on arguing with the Khaksars for a long time in order to dissuade them from defying the ban and eventually when the Khaksar leader present gave orders to march, the Government officers still went some distance with that party still trying to dissuade them from proceeding in that direction, against the ban imposed by the Government. Eventually when they were some distance from the Tibbi Police Station and found all their persuasions had been in vain, the Senior Superintendent of Police, Mr. Gainsford ran to the Tibbi Police Station to muster as many people as he possibly could because his force was unable to cope with such a large party which consisted of about 200 to 300 Khaksars. Mr. Gainsford arrived there and he got the Sub-Inspector of Police, whose name was mentioned in this House, I think it was Khadim Hussain, who is reported to be a brother of Mr. Ashiq Hussain, Batalvi, a few mounted police and some half a dozen other policemen and together with the 20 policemen which he had brought with him, he put a cordon across the road with their *lathis* held horizontally in their hands in order to stop the crowd. I understand that Mr. Gainsford never expected that these Khaksars would become violent. So, when the crowd arrived at this cordon of police, I understand that Mr. Gainsford again stepped forward and requested them to desist. But apparently by this time the temper of the other party had risen to such a pitch that it was impossib

to control it. However, I have it from an eye-witness' statement that as soon as Mr. Gainsford stepped forward and asked them to stop, the leader of the party said "bizzan". After that this eye-witness stated that they did not know what happened because he himself fell down and Mr. Gainsford fell down and he saw him being dragged into that crowd which was marching on the police. He also saw other policemen knocked down. He did not know at that time that two of them had been killed on the spot and he himself was injured, two of his ribs having been broken and he fell down and the crowd passed over these injured persons, and the rest of the police, about a dozen in number was scattered in different directions.

As Mr. Gauba has stated, after passing the Tibbi Police Station, you come to the chank and then turn to the right. Mr. Beaty who was by this time coming with an armed guard from the other side also put his men across the road and tried to stop this crowd. He did not at the time know that this tragedy had already occurred round the corner. If he had, I am sure he would not have taken the risk of trying to parley with them and he would have put his armed squad in front, and ordered the Khaksars to stop there which might have saved many precious lives. However this crowd advanced and when Mr. Beaty asked them to stop, I understand that instead of doing so, they cut his face into pieces and he fell down. Thereafter another inspector also was struck and injured and he also fell down; and I am told that there was no officer left to control the police. I further understand that at this stage when the Police found that this infuriated mob was coming and attacking them, they opened fire. My information is that no order was given for firing by any responsible officer and that at the time of firing only non-commissioned officers and armed foot constables were left. I have heard some heart-rending rumours about the firing. The loss of life and bloodshed occasioned by this tragedy also must pain every patriotic Punjabi and every genuine Mussalman. I am terribly grieved at it, but it is my duty to withhold judgment till the report of the enquiry is available. I dare say that after the enquiry has been held, we shall find that since it was uncontrolled firing, excesses may have been committed. I am determined to take strong action against whosoever is found guilty, howsoever high he may be. But it would be unfair and unjust to pass any judgment at this moment. How many rounds were fired, how many injuries were caused, how far they were justified or otherwise; all such questions must wait till the enquiry finds an answer.

This, Sir, was the information which I elicited by about 3 or 4 o'clock that afternoon. As soon as I learnt that this tragedy had happened, the Inspector-General went to the spot, the Deputy Inspector-General had already gone to the Kotwali, and the troops were called out to see that the trouble did not spread into the city and to secure the safety of the city itself. Medical aid was rushed to the spot and arrangements were made to remove the injured to the hospital as soon as possible. As soon as I was informed that the injured had been received in the hospital, I went straight to the hospital and saw every one of them, Khaksars as well as policemen. I cannot adequately describe how my heart bled for them all. I found that the hospital authorities including Colonel Mirajkar and the whole

[Premier.]

of his staff were busy and that they had not even allowed a single moment to be wasted. They took X-ray photographs immediately and operated on those who needed immediate attention and fortunately we have been able to save several lives on account of the dexterity and the speed with which treatment was given to those injured. (*Hear, hear*). I can assure you that this is the information which I have gathered from official and non-official sources. As soon as I learnt of this tragedy and of the rumours set afloat, I came to the conclusion that some kind of impartial and unbiased enquiry was necessary. We decided to ask the High Court to lend us two Judges to hold this enquiry, because the Government's object is to see that we find out the truth and get at the root of this tragedy. It is our duty to ascertain the circumstances under which the police officers and men were attacked, and it is our duty to find out how far the Khaksars have been harshly treated and to deal effectively with whosoever has committed excesses. As my honourable friend Dr. Muhammad Alam has pointed out, there were several rumours afloat and some of them, I dare say, have been set afloat by interested persons. But let me now give you instances of some of the false rumours which I dare say have been deliberately set afloat. It was said by some persons that bodies were burnt. Mr. Gauba did not go to that extent, he merely said that bodies had been buried surreptitiously at night. Now let me say that this is a most irresponsible and untrue statement. The bodies were not buried at night, they were buried the next morning in Miami Sahib graveyard and *janaza* was read by several people belonging to Mozang and those Muslims who heard that *janaza* was to be read joined in large numbers.

**Malik Barkat Ali :** And a magistrate was also present.

**Premier :** And a magistrate was also present and I only found this morning that one of our honourable friends here, Chaudhri Ghulam Rasul, was also present there and joined in the *janaza* prayers and he told us at the Party meeting to-day that each dead body was buried separately in that graveyard after full Muslim rites. The total number of deaths so far known to us are 32 including those who died in the hospital. As stated above, a rumour was set afloat that some corpses had been burnt in the Fort to hide the number of those killed by the police. That again is a malicious and baseless lie, and I hope that my honourable friends opposite will exercise a sense of responsibility and try to stop the spreading of such baseless rumours and lies instead of trying to encourage or spread them further. My honourable friend opposite said several other things, but I do not think it would be fair or just to go into these points at this juncture, because an impartial enquiry is to be held and that will be the occasion to sift these matters. I must however answer one or two points which were mentioned by my friend opposite in the course of his speech. He said that the Punjab Government had published a list of injuries received by Mr. Gainsford in the newspapers this morning, but that they did not publish the list of injuries of the Khaksars. The Punjab Government did nothing of the sort. The press people are at liberty always to come and ascertain any news which is of any value to them as a news item, and they go to our Information Bureau daily and they probably went to the Information Bureau or to the Hospital and ascertained these facts and published that information. The Government, however, did

publish the list of all the wounded and dead, and we tried to ascertain the names of the dead and those which we were able to ascertain were published. The list of injured persons was also published and I might inform my honourable friend that we are doing our best to make the injured as comfortable as possible by extending to them all possible concessions and meeting all their legitimate requirements. Further, rumours were set afloat that I was responsible for ordering this shooting and they went so far as to say that "the Premier was sitting on the telephone all the time ordering the Police to shoot."

**Dr. Shaikh Muhammad Alam :** On radio or telephone ?

**Mian Abdul Aziz :** At Dr. Alam's house.

**Dr. Shaikh Muhammad Alam :** At Yakki Gate.

**Premier :** This is no occasion for light-hearted repartee, and I must request my honourable friends to keep in view the seriousness of the matter which we are discussing. I was telling my honourable friends that rumours were set afloat that I was responsible for ordering this shooting. This is a shameless calumny. I have already stated that we gave no such order and that I did not know anything about it till firing had actually taken place. Moreover, howsoever misguided they may have been, those who have been killed were after all my own people. Their loss is my loss. As a matter of fact, I have a double loss to mourn. I mourn the loss of Khaksars and I mourn the lives of policemen on duty. I feel for the injuries sustained by both. I am not in the habit of making an exhibition of my feelings. I feel miserable for these as also for their families and dependants. Such rumours, as I have pointed out, were being deliberately set afloat by those people who wanted, and callously wanted, this incident to happen or to be exploited. I might also inform this House that I have got certain information which needs corroboration and if I get that corroboration, I may be able to take action against those people who were responsible for inciting and encouraging these people to break the law, and some of them are such as should know perfectly well that defiance of law in a matter like this might result in serious consequences.

But, as I said, it is not my intention, nor is this the proper time to go into these matters, but I might at once contradict my honourable friend's statement that there was a *lathi* charge on the 19th when the police was attacked in front of the Tibbi Police Station. My information is that there is no semblance of truth in that version ; in any case that is a matter which can be easily verified by the nature of the injuries on the people who are injured, and it will not be difficult for the Enquiry Committee when they see the reports of the doctors to find out the truth. I am told that there was no *lathi* charge at the time, and I sometimes feel guilty that our instructions to the police to avoid the use of force as far as possible might be partially responsible for the tragedy, because if they had used force in the beginning, it is possible that they might have been able to avert this major tragedy which resulted in the loss of more than 84 lives on both sides, and injuries to nearly 74 or 75 persons on the side of Police and the Khaksars. But our information is that all the officers tried their very best to see that the police did not even use a *lathi* unnecessarily. We

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expected that on the 21st they would try to create trouble in the procession, and our intention was not to molest them and to let the procession go on and, if possible, to use tear smoke to disperse them or arrest them if necessary, or to arrest their leaders later on, and instructions were given to everybody concerned that as far as possible force should be avoided and I believe that that was the reason, coupled with the fact that it was not expected that the Khaksars would become violent, that Mr. Gainsford did not take an armed guard with him in the first instance and that was also the reason why the Deputy Superintendent of Police, who was seriously injured, did not take action in the very first instance. I wanted to mention these facts so that my honourable friends may be quite clear that so far as the Police is concerned, they wanted to avoid any violence whatsoever if they possibly could do so, but, as I said, the happening was sudden and nobody expected it and that is why this tragedy has occurred; and as to the later excesses alleged against the police, I have already stated that this is not the occasion to adjudicate on them and I must, in fairness, withhold judgment till the Enquiry Committee has reported.

I forgot to mention one rather important and significant fact which would be of considerable interest to my honourable friends opposite and it is this, that I have since learnt—and Dr. Alam or Mr. Karamat Ali has referred to it—that some persons have actually been trying to instigate the Khaksars to break the law, and that meetings are held at the house of a member of this Assembly, and that some leaders of the Khaksars go there in the evening. My information is that this intrigue has been going on after the tragic incident on the 19th. If this information is correct, it shows the callousness and the criminal hardihood of those who may be responsible for these intrigues after the 19th, and I have reason to believe that the defiance of law on the 21st—

**Diwan Chaman Lall :** Who is the member responsible? (*Voices : Kindly name him*). It is a very serious matter. May I ask him, through you, whether it would not be just and proper for him to name this responsible member of this Assembly rather than allow people to suspect all sorts of things? I ask my honourable friend to be fair to this House and name that man.

**Mr. Speaker :** That would amount to an attack on that honourable member.

**Diwan Chaman Lall :** No attack. I am merely asking my honourable friend to be as fair to this House as possible.

**Mr. Speaker :** I do not allow the Honourable Premier to mention any name. (*Interruption*). I have given my ruling. I am not going to allow any honourable member of this House to be attacked by the Honourable Premier except on a substantive motion.

**Diwan Chaman Lall :** I ask you, do you consider it fair that when a member has been mentioned, the name should not be mentioned?

**Mr. Speaker :** I have given my ruling.

**Diwan Chaman Lall :** Your ruling would have been all right before he mentioned this fact.

**Mr. Speaker :** No further criticism please.

**Diwan Chaman Lall :** I ask my honourable friend to give the name.

**Premier :** I am not prepared to satisfy the curiosity of my honourable friend.

**Diwan Chaman Lall :** It is an ungentlemanly thing, it is not a question of satisfying my curiosity.

**Premier :** I did not mean him.

**Diwan Chaman Lall :** I am not in the least concerned whether he names me or anybody else.

**Mr. Speaker :** I cannot allow the dialogue to go on. If the honourable member again rises or begins to speak, then—

**Diwan Chaman Lall :** I am asking the Premier to name the individual.

**Premier :** I was saying that I have reason to believe that these—

**Diwan Chaman Lall :** On a point of order. Is it not a fact that my honourable friend has exhausted his time ?

**Mr. Speaker :** No. The honourable member is referred to rule 48. *(Interruptions).*

**Chaudhri Kartar Singh :** One question through you.

**Mr. Speaker :** I decline to allow any question at this stage.

**Diwan Chaman Lall :** May I ask whether at any stage you were asked to utilise your discretion in giving my honourable friend..... *(Interruptions).*

**Mr. Speaker :** I can exercise that discretion even without a specific request being made, as I did in the case of the mover of the motion.

**Diwan Chaman Lall :** How much time did the mover take and how much time has been taken by my honourable friend ?

**Premier :** I am rather pained to find that my honourable friend does not wish to listen to facts. I do not know why he wants to interrupt me. I am trying to detail facts so far as they are within my knowledge ; and in a serious matter like this he should not treat this adjournment motion like an ordinary motion because it concerns the lives of several people and, therefore, my honourable friend should not use the usual tactics on an occasion like this. I would ask him to allow me to proceed to detail facts. It is not the function of this House to sit in judgment, but since this adjournment motion has been moved with full knowledge that an impartial and independent enquiry was going to be held, I think that it is only fair and just to everybody concerned that I should be allowed to detail the facts so far as my information goes.

**Diwan Chaman Lall :** Is it fair to insinuate ?

**Premier :** My honourable friend is still thinking that I am insinuating

**Diwan Chaman Lall :** After all, that is what it is.

**Premier :** Please do not interrupt me. I am merely stating what my information is, and nobody would be happier than myself if this information is proved to be incorrect. I am merely telling the House that my information is that these meetings continued from day to day after that gruesome tragedy of the 19th. The House is also aware that several batches



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were encouraged and incited to defy the law even after the 19th. I merely want to detail the facts so that the House should know that according to my information there was a hand working from behind and it is not only those poor Khaksars who, out of a false sense of prestige or a false sense of duty, went and enacted this tragedy and then got themselves shot down. (Interruptions). But there were persons who, I am told, were trying to exploit the situation from outside for their own nefarious purposes and there were several reasons for their doing so. There was a party which always wanted to embarrass the Government. There are people who, in spite of their age and experience, have got ambitions which are still young. There were others who, in spite of several attempts which they made to embarrass the Ministry, tried to find something which might create some kind of trouble in the Ministry itself. If my honourable friends want to oust this Ministry as responsible people, they should learn to become responsible from now on because irresponsible people cannot hold the reins of a responsible Government for long. Moreover, there were some people who wanted to mar the procession of the All-India Muslim League and there were those who admittedly and openly declared themselves to be the enemies of the Khaksars and abused them day in and day out, and called them the enemies of Islam and enemies of law and order, and now they pose as the biggest friends of the Khaksars, and, I understand, are setting up an enquiry committee of their own and are setting up a committee of defence—

**Chaudhri Kartar Singh :** Is the Honourable Premier speaking on firing or giving a sermon on politics ?

**Mr. Speaker :** The Honourable Premier may confine himself to firing.

**Premier :** I merely wanted to explain to this House that according to our information there were several interested parties and I think that perhaps some of them did not at that time feel or believe that this kind of conspiracy or intrigue would result in such a gruesome tragedy. But there are others who should have known better and should have realised that the consequences of defying the law in these circumstances might be serious, but still they seem to have persisted in their attempts in order to mar the session of the All-India Muslim League. Is it honest to try and incite people to violence and defiance of law and order merely to mar the annual political conference of an important political organisation—the most important from the point of view of Muslims ? What would have my honourable friends thought if somebody had tried to do the same thing at Ramgarh ? I am sure my honourable friends would have been most indignant and would have shouted from house tops that this was a most ungentlemanly and most illegal thing to do.

**Diwan Chaman Lall :** My honourable friend will remember that I asked him to take action a month ago.

**Premier :** About what ?

**Diwan Chaman Lall :** About this very movement. There were questions after questions through which his attention was drawn to this violent movement.

**Mr. Speaker :** The honourable member's explanation is not relevant.

**Premier :** My honourable friend is trying to say something which I have already said. The ban was imposed on the 28th February, and it was only when they found that the Khaksars were considering the question of defying the law that our enemies, the enemies of the Province, and the enemies of the Muslim League, are reported to have added fuel to the fire and that is what I resent most. I had information that an attempt was to be made to do all kinds of things when the Muslim League procession was passing through the city on the 21st. However, that is irrelevant to our present purpose. I may recapitulate that there are people who have always been enemies of the Khaksars, but who are now posing as their friends only for their selfish designs and who would like the Khaksars to be wiped out ; and there are others who merely for the sake of embarrassing the Government want to exploit the situation. Let us—including the Khaksars—beware of this unholy alliance. The truth must ultimately triumph and then the world will know, God willing, who is responsible for this tragedy and who have been unjustly maligned.

**Mian Abdul Aziz :** On a point of order. There has been a good deal of repetition on behalf of the Honourable Premier. There are certain matters which he said by way of insinuation and some of the Opposition members are entitled to say that whatever he said is entirely wrong and false.

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

**Mian Abdul Aziz :** We want time to show it.

**Mr. Speaker :** Will the Honourable Premier wind up please?

**Premier :** My honourable friend is getting impatient unnecessarily. If he thinks that he is in any way concerned, I can assure him that he will be given the fullest opportunity to clear and vindicate his position.

**Mian Abdul Aziz :** There is nothing for me to vindicate. But it is an insinuation.

**Mr. Speaker :** I cannot allow a dialogue. No interruptions please. The Honourable Premier is requested to wind up.

**Premier :** Now, Sir, let me in this connection cite a letter purported to have been written by my honourable friend, Malik Barkat Ali.

**Malik Barkat Ali :** It is entirely false (*Laughter*).

**Premier :** My honourable friends are laughing. May I appeal to them again that this is not a matter to laugh at. (*Interruptions*). I said that the letter alleged to have been written by Malik Barkat Ali was circulated amongst the members. The whole theme of that letter was that they should have nothing to do with the Sikander Ministry because it was responsible for this gruesome tragedy. This letter was circulated to several members in this House and as soon as Malik Barkat Ali learnt about it, he himself wrote to me and said that he understood that a letter had been circulated or sent to people and he assured me that he was not the person who sent it. Since he has not sent that letter, perhaps it was those very people who were trying to incite the Khaksars, who wrote this letter because

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after that incident they thought that, since they had created that atmosphere which they wanted for their own purpose, they might take advantage of the excitement in the city and elsewhere to kill two birds with one stone, that is to say, to mar the annual session of the Muslim League and also to embarrass the Government at the same time. However, as things have turned out, my honourable friends will concede that such attempts, if made by persons who are trying to achieve their own political end, are—I will use mild terms—most unfortunate and most shabby.

Now, Sir, it was said by my honourable friend, Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava, that press reporters were not allowed to go to the scene. My information is that they were not allowed to go into the danger zone for the simple reason that they might get hurt; otherwise no restriction was placed on anybody.

He also said that an important political body, meaning, I understand, the All-India Muslim League, had asked the Government to remove the ban. I do not know whether my honourable friend has read that resolution carefully, because the All-India Muslim League has asked the Government to do nothing of the kind. All that resolution says is this that the Government should as soon as possible remove the order which declared this association an unlawful association. That resolution does not say that we should remove the ban on military formations or on weapons; and I want to make this quite clear. I think my honourable friend has not read the resolution carefully. If he will now read it carefully, he will find that there is nothing in that resolution which any fair person or fair organisation would not do.

**Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :** Are you going to declare that association lawful?

**Premier :** My honourable friend asks whether I am going to declare that association lawful. That is a question which I am not in a position to answer at present. But if I find later that that organisation is no longer violent and does not intend to defy law and order, and restricts its activities to social service, I shall certainly give sympathetic consideration to that particular part of the resolution also which was passed by the All-India Muslim League (*Hear, hear from the Treasury benches*).

Now, Sir, before I close my speech, let me assure those people who unfortunately were injured in this gruesome tragedy that our whole-hearted sympathy is with them, and our genuine and deepest sympathy goes to the relations of those who were killed in this unfortunate incident. I am sure I am voicing the feelings of the whole House when I say that nobody is more pained than this responsible body to find that so many valuable and precious lives have been uselessly lost.

Sir, there are only three alternative conclusions at which one can arrive regarding the origin of the tragedy. One is that their leader gave orders. In that case the primary responsibility lies on the leader for this tragedy. The other alternative is that no such orders were given by their leader and that those people out of their misguided enthusiasm and false sense of duty committed this mistake. And the third is that they were encouraged and incited into violence by those irresponsible and callous persons who merely to attain their own political ends, did not mind if these Khaksars exposed themselves to such grave and dangerous risks. These are the

only three conclusions to which one can come. I am sure the enquiry will eventually show us which of these conclusions is correct. But one thing I might say at once to the House and it is this, that so far as the Government is concerned we will do everything possible to see that the truth comes out and we will do everything possible to secure purity of investigation, and we will do everything possible to see that the investigation is conducted in such a way that it has the confidence and respect of the public (*Hear, hear*). I can assure you that the Government has made up its mind that if as a result of the enquiry it comes to the conclusion that any individual or police officer was responsible for any excess which led to unnecessary loss of life, Government would not hesitate to deal effectively with him, however highly placed he may be (*Hear, hear*). At the same time we must be fair and just to both sides and I would be failing in my duty if I did not pay my full quota of tribute to the gallantry and devotion to duty of Mr. Gainsford and the Deputy Superintendent of Police and other police officers who were so brutally injured or killed (*hear, Hear*). I might also say that several rumours were brought to my notice with regard to the intimidation of witnesses. I can assure my honourable friends that when I heard of these allegations I immediately issued instructions that if any police officer is found to have intimidated the witnesses strongest action will be taken against him (*hear, hear*). Moreover, let me declare that the Government will protect against any molestation every person who comes forward to give true evidence in connection with this tragedy and I invite co-operation of all patriotic Punjabis, whatever their political alignment, to assist this enquiry and to assist the Government in sifting the truth.

**Khan Bahadur Nawab Muzaffar Khan :** Could you not see to the transfer of the officers concerned ?

**Premier :** The officers concerned in that particular incident are lying in hospital and they have nothing to do with the enquiry. I can assure my honourable friends that they will have no hand in this enquiry. In conclusion I want to inform the House.....(*Interruptions*).

**Mian Abdul Aziz :** Will it not be unfair that this matter should go without having been replied to? The Premier said that he would give time. He has made a long speech in which he made some insinuations.

**Mr. Speaker :** The Premier has undoubtedly taken too much time.

**Mian Abdul Aziz :** Is that fair? (*Interruptions*).

**Premier :** My honourable friend is again making a debating point; he probably does not want me to detail the facts for the benefit of the public outside (*Interruptions*).

**Mian Abdul Aziz :** He ought not have insinuated in an irresponsible way. We say that also because we want to give a reply (*Interruptions*).

**Diwan Chaman Lal :** The honourable mover of the motion has not been allowed to give a reply.

**Premier :** So far as we are concerned we have already announced that we will hold an independent and impartial enquiry and it is going to be held by two judges of the High Court. Government have done, and will continue to do, everything possible to see that truth comes out and

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that justice is done. Thus alone I should like myself and my Government to be judged before God and man. I would also make an appeal to the Khaksars to respect the advice of their leaders by observing the law, to distinguish between their friends and pseudo-friends who were till yesterday and will remain from tomorrow their enemies and not to play their game, but to assist the enquiry by creating an atmosphere under which justice may speedily be meted out to all concerned. I do not think it is necessary for me to detain the House any longer (*cheers*).

**Honourable Members :** The question be now put.

**Mr. Speaker :** The question is—

That the question be now put.

*The motion was carried.*

**Mr. Speaker :** The question is—

That the Assembly do now adjourn.

**Diwan Chaman Lall :** What about the right of reply ?

**Mr. Speaker :** There is no right of reply in the case of an adjournment motion, as it is not a substantive motion. The honourable member is requested to refer to rules.

(*Interruptions*).

*The Assembly divided : Ayes 43, Noes 93.*

# AYES.

Abdul Aziz, Mian.  
Ajit Singh, Sardar.  
Barkat Ali, Malik.  
Bhagat Ram Choda, Lala.  
Bhagat Ram Sharma, Pandit.  
Bhim Sen Sachar, Lala.  
Chaman Lall, Diwan.  
Chanan Singh, Sardar.  
Deshbandhu Gupta, Lala.  
Dev Raj Sethi, Mr.  
Duni Chand, Lala.  
Duni Chand, Mrs.  
Faqir Chand, Chaudhri.  
Gauba, Mr. K. L.  
Gopi Chand Bhargava, Dr.  
Hari Lal, Munshi.  
Hari Singh, Sardar.  
Harjab Singh, Sardar.  
Kabul Singh, Master.  
Kapoor Singh, Sardar.  
Kartar Singh, Chaudhri.  
Kartar Singh, Sardar.  
Kishan Singh, Sardar.  
Krishna Gopal Dutt, Chaudhri.

Muhammad Abdul Rahman Khan,  
Chaudhri.  
Muhammad Hassan, Chaudhri.  
Muhammad Hussain, Sardar.  
Muhammad Iftikhar-ud-Din, Mian.  
Muhammad Nurullah, Mian.  
Muhammad Raza Shah Jeelani,  
Makhdumzada Haji Sayed.  
Muhammad Wilayat Hussain  
Jeelani, Makhdumzada Haji  
Sayed.  
Mula Singh, Sardar.  
Muni Lal Kalia, Pandit.  
Partab Singh, Sardar.  
Raghbir Kaur, Shrimati.  
Rashida Latif Baji, Begum.  
Rur Singh, Sardar.  
Sampuran Singh, Sardar.  
Sant Ram Sethi, Dr.  
Satya Pal, Dr.  
Shri Ram Sharma, Pandit.  
Sohan Singh Josh, Sardar.  
Sudarshan, Sethi.

## NOES.

- Abdul Haye, The Honourable Mian.  
 Abdul Rab, Mian.  
 Abdul Rahim, Chaudhri (Gurdas-pur).  
 Abdul Rahim, Chaudhri (Gurgaon).  
 Afzaalali Hasnie, Sayed.  
 Ahmad Yar Khan, Chaudhri.  
 Akbar Ali, Pir.  
 Ali Akbar, Chaudhri.  
 Allah Bakhsh Khan, Khan Bahadur Nawab Malik.  
 Amjad Ali Shah, Sayed.  
 Anant Ram, Chaudhri.  
 Ashiq Hussain, Captain.  
 Badar Mohy-ud-Din Qadri, Khan Sahib Sayed.  
 Bhagwant Singh, Rai.  
 Chhotu Ram, The Honourable Chaudhri Sir.  
 Dasaundha Singh, Sardar.  
 Faiz Muhammad Khan, Rai.  
 Faiz Muhammad, Shaikh.  
 Faqir Hussain Khan, Chaudhri.  
 Fateh Khan, Khan Sahib Raja.  
 Fateh Muhammad, Mian.  
 Fazl Ali, Khan Bahadur Nawab Chaudhri.  
 Fazal Karim Bakhsh, Mian.  
 Few, Mr. E.  
 Ghazanfar Ali Khan, Raja.  
 Ghulam Mohy-ud-Din, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.  
 Ghulam Rasul, Chaudhri.  
 Gopal Das, Rai Bahadur Lala.  
 Gopal Singh (American), Sardar.  
 Gurbachan Singh, Sardar Bahadur Sardar.  
 Habib Ullah Khan, Malik.  
 Haibat Khan Daba, Khan.  
 Hans Raj, Bhagat.  
 Harnam Singh, Captain Sodhi.  
 Het Ram, Rai Sahib Chaudhri.  
 Indar Singh, Sardar.  
 Jagjit Singh Bedi, Tikka.  
 Jagjit Singh Man, Sardar.  
 Jalal-ud-Din Amber, Chaudhri.  
 Jogindar Singh Man, Sardar.  
 Karamat Ali, Shaikh.  
 Khizar Hayat Khan Tiwana, The Honourable Major Nawabzada Malik.  
 Kishan Das, Seth.  
 Manohar Lal, The Honourable Mr.  
 Maqbool Mahmood, Mir.  
 Mubarik Ali Shah, Sayed.  
 Muhammad Akram Khan, Khan Bahadur Raja.  
 Muhammad Alam, Dr. Shaikh.  
 Muhammad Amin, Khan Sahib Shaikh.  
 Muhammad Ashraf, Chaudhri.  
 Muhammad Azam Khan, Sardar.  
 Muhammad Faiyaz Ali Khan, Nawabzada.  
 Muhammad Hassan Khan Gurchani, Khan Bahadur Sardar.  
 Muhammad Hayat Khan Noon, Nawab Malik Sir.  
 Muhammad Hussain, Chaudhri.  
 Muhammad Jamal Khan Leghari, Nawab Sir.  
 Muhammad Nawaz Khan, Major Sardar Sir.  
 Muhammad Qasim, Chaudhri.  
 Muhammad Sarfraz Khan, Chaudhri.  
 Muhammad Shafi Ali Khan, Khan Sahib Chaudhri.  
 Muhammad Yasin Khan, Chaudhri.  
 Mukand Lal Puri, Rai Bahadur Mr.  
 Mushtaq Ahmad Gurmani, Khan Bahadur Mian.  
 Muzaffar Ali Khan Qizilbash, Sardar.  
 Muzaffar Khan, Khan Bahadur Captain Malik.  
 Muzaffar Khan, Khan Bahadur Nawab.  
 Nasir-ud-Din, Chaudhri.  
 Nasir-ud-Din Shah, Pir.  
 Nasrullah Khan, Rana.  
 Naunihal Singh Mann, Lieutenant-Sardar.  
 Nur Ahmad Khan, Khan Bahadur Mian.  
 Pir Muhammad, Khan Sahib Chaudhri.

Pohop Singh, Rao.	Singha, Diwan Bahadur S. P.
Pritam Singh Siddhu, Sardar.	Sita Ram, Lala.
Ram Sarup, Chaudhri.	Sohan Lal, Rai Sahib Lala.
Ranpat Singh, Chaudhri.	Sultan Mahmood Hotiana, Mian.
Raisat Ali, Khan Bahadur Chaudhri.	Sumer Singh, Chaudhri.
Ripudaman Singh, Rai Sahib Thakur.	Sundar Singh Majithia, The Honourable Dr. Sir.
Roberts, Sir William.	Suraj Mal, Chaudhri.
Santokh Singh, Sardar Sahib Sardar.	Tara Singh, Sardar.
Shah Nawaz, Mrs. J. A.	Tikka Ram, Chaudhri.
Sikander Hyat-Khan, The Honourable Major Sir.	Ujjal Singh, Sardar Bahadur Sardar.
	Wali Muhammad Sayyal Hiraj, Sardar.

*The Assembly adjourned till 12 noon on Wednesday, the 27th March 1940.*

# PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

## SIXTH SESSION OF THE FIRST PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Wednesday, 27th March, 1940.

The Assembly met at the Assembly chamber at 12 noon of the clock. Mr. Speaker in the chair.

### STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

\*6170. *Cancelled.*

### FETTERING OF 'C' CLASS PRISONERS WHILE ON TRANSFER.

\*6185. **Sardar Hari Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister for Finance be pleased to state whether Government has been requested off and on to exempt C class political prisoners while on transfer from one jail to another from being fettered ; if so, the action so far taken in the matter ?

**The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal :** No.

### RELEASE OF MESSRS. ISHAR SINGH ANAND, FAZAL HUSSAIN QAUMI AND ABDUL LATIF, POLITICAL PRISONERS.

\*6224. **Sardar Hari Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state—

- (a) the time at which and date on which Messrs. Ishar Singh 'Anand', Fazal Hussain 'Qaumi' and Abdul Latif, political prisoners of Rawalpindi Independence Day Riot Case, were released on bail from District Jail, Ferozepore ;
- (b) the places for which they were issued railway warrants ;
- (c) whether they were refused warm blankets for the night journey ?

**The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal :** (a) These prisoners were actually released at 4.30 p.m. on the 2nd of February, 1940, but they could have been released much earlier if they had not wished to take a considerable time in bidding farewell to their friends in jail.

(b) Rawalpindi.

(c) They had plenty of personal warm clothing and refused the jail blankets which they were offered.



## SARDAR GANDA SINGH KHUTRAE.

**\*6227. \*Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Will the Honourable Finance Minister be pleased to state—

- (a) the weight of Sardar Ganda Singh Khutrae of Amritsar district lodged in the District Jail, Multan, at the time of his arrest ;
- (b) his present weight and the state of his eyesight ;
- (c) the diet provided to him these days ;
- (d) the date when his release is due ;
- (e) the remission he has earned ?

**The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal :** (a) The weight of prisoner Ganda Singh Khutrae at the time of his admission to the Subsidiary Jail, Amritsar, was 192 lb.

(b) His present weight is 134 lbs. He is suffering from Pterygium of the left eye. His vision is—

“ Right 6/12, left eye 6/12 ”.

(c) Ordinary jail diet.

(d) He is likely to be released in June, 1940.

(e) He has so far earned 16 days' remission.

## SANITARY CONDITIONS AT ABDULLAHPORE.

**\*6242. Lala Duni Chand :** Will the Honourable Minister of Public Works be pleased to state—

- (a) the amount of yearly income which the District Board, Ambala, gets from Abdullahpore, tahsil Jagadhri, and the yearly amount which it spends on its sanitation ;
- (b) the number of conservancy servants the district board employs each year at Abdullahpore, for purposes of sanitation ;
- (c) whether the Government or the district board is aware of the new problems relating to sanitation and hygiene which have recently cropped up at Abdullahpore, owing to the Mill Area population ;
- (d) whether it is a fact that there has been an unusual outburst of malaria epidemic this season at Abdullahpore ;
- (e) what steps, if any, the district board has taken and what action the Government intends to take in the matter ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Shaikh Faiz Muhammad) :** (a) *First part.*—Rs. 8,764.

*Second part.*—A sum of Rs. 408 is spent annually on the scavenging staff alone. In addition, there is a lot of other expenditure incurred in this village.

(b) One bhisti and three sweepers.

(c) and (e) Government understand that the existence of mills has not created any particular problem in this locality, as the labourers are either suitably housed within the premises of the mills, or return to their villages after the day's work. If, however, the honourable member would give an indication of the problems to which he is referring, I would bring them to the notice of the authorities concerned.

(d) No.

**Lala Duni Chand :** May I know if the Parliamentary Secretary is aware of the fact that Abdullāhpore has ceased to be a village and is now a growing town and if so, how is the Government or the district board going to meet the new problems of sanitation and hygiene there ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** Officially it is still a village.

**Diwan Chaman Lall :** May I ask my honourable friend whether there is a serious problem of hygiene to be dealt with in this village or not ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** So far as this problem is concerned, I have replied that the Government understand that the existence of mills has not created any particular problem in this locality as the labourers are either suitably housed within the premises of the mills or return to their villages after the day's work. This is the information of the Government. But if my honourable friend has any other information he can communicate it to me and I will have an inquiry made.

**Lala Duni Chand :** Is it not true that there is a permanently stationed labour population numbering a few thousands ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I have stated that there is the population referred to in my answer. But that population is housed in the premises of the mills and the mill authorities are responsible for their arrangements.

**Lala Duni Chand :** Is it true that in this place every year a very acute type of malaria spreads in the rainy season ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I am altogether unaware of it.

**Diwan Chaman Lall :** What is the mortality from malaria in that place ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I have given all the information which I had. If my friend wanted further information he should have given previous notice.

**Diwan Chaman Lall :** May I draw my honourable friend's attention to part (d) of the question—whether it is a fact that there has been an unusual outburst of malaria epidemic this season at Abdullāhpore ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I have said that no such thing has come to the notice of the Government.

**Diwan Chaman Lall :** If my honourable friend has not got that figure with him, how can he say that there has not been any epidemic ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** We made inquiries and we have been informed that no such thing has happened and there is nothing unusual about the village at present. But if my honourable friend has any definite information he can communicate it to me and I will have inquiries made.

**Lala Duni Chand :** Is it not true that the paltry sum spent by the district board for promoting the health of the people in this place is altogether out of proportion to the requirements of the case ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** It is a matter of opinion. The district board thinks that the sum spent is quite sufficient.

**GRANT OF EXTENSION TO SERVANTS IN SUPERIOR SERVICE UNDER DISTRICT AND SESSIONS JUDGE, AMBALA.**

**\*6253. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state—

- (a) the number and names of Government servants in superior service with the designation of posts they hold at present in the office of the District and Sessions Judge, Ambala, and also in offices under his control who are due to retire in 1940, 1941 and 1942, after attaining the age of 55 years ;
- (b) whether any of them has applied for extension of the period of his service ; and if so, whether it is intended to give them extension ; and if so, the reasons therefor ?

**The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal :** (a) The following members of the clerical and the process-serving establishments are due to attain the age of 55 years in 1940, 1941 and 1942.

- (1) Lala Ram Narain, Clerk of Court to Senior Subordinate Judge, Ambala.
  - (2) M. Rachhpal Singh, Reader to the District and Sessions Judge, Ambala.
  - (3) M. Muhammad Abdullah, Record Keeper, District and Sessions Judge's Court, Ambala.
  - (4) M. Naurata Ram, Naib-Nazir.
  - (5) Hamel Singh, Execution Bailiff.
- (b) None of them has applied for an extension.

**HANDCUFFING AND FETTERING OF MR. S. RAMA WHILE ON TRANSFER FROM FEROZEPUR TO RAWALPINDI.**

**\*6324. Dr. Satya Pal :** Will the Honourable Minister for Finance be pleased to state if it is a fact that Mr. S. Rama, a B Class prisoner of Rawalpindi, was handcuffed and fettered when he was transferred from Ferozepur Jail to Rawalpindi Jail ?

**The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal :** Yes.

**Sardar Hari Singh :** May I know under what rule B class prisoner was fettered on his transfer from Ferozepur Jail to Rawalpindi Jail ?

**Minister :** I understand that that is the normal rule when prisoners are transferred. I have not the exact rule with me, but I understand this is according to ordinary practice.

**Sardar Hari Singh :** May I know whether he has studied the recent rules and whether he is aware that better class prisoners are not fettered according to the rules ?

**Minister :** I shall make further inquiries into this matter, but I understand that this was according to ordinary practice.

**Sardar Hari Singh :** There is nothing for further enquiry. May I ask the Honourable Minister to refer to the rules in the Jail Manual and find out that better class prisoners are not fettered ?

**Minister :** That is the further inquiry.

**Lala Duni Chand :** Is it not the experience gained by the Government or the Finance Minister that it is not necessary to handcuff or fetter political prisoners, particularly of the classes belonging to A and B ?

**Mr. Speaker :** That is too wide a question.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know whether the responsibility for fettering the prisoners devolves on the jail officials or on the police ?

**Minister :** This is a matter for the police—the matter of safe transport within their charge.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Does it require the sanction of both the departments or is this measure taken by any one of these departments ?

**Minister :** I do not quite follow the question. But there is no conflict between the police and the jails.

**Lala Duni Chand :** Will the Honourable Finance Minister kindly go into the question of fettering political prisoners and issue necessary instructions after he has studied this question or paid attention to this question ?

**Minister :** I shall be very glad to study it. But the implication of the question is merely a request for action if I understand it correctly.

**Munshi Hari Lal :** Is the rule obligatory or discretionary ?

**Minister :** I have already said that if the honourable member so desires I shall look into the matter further.

LECTURER FOR THE MACLAGAN ENGINEERING COLLEGE,  
MOGHALPURA.

\*6328. **Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** Will the Honourable Minister of Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that a lecturer is required for the MacLagan Engineering College, Moghalpura, and that applications have been invited by means of advertisement appearing in the press ;

(b) whether it is a fact that in April, 1939, the Punjab Public Service Commission invited applications for the same post ; if so,

[Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang.]

whether any applications were received from any candidates and whether any candidates were then interviewed by the Public Service Commission ;

(c) whether any of the candidates interviewed were recommended by the Public Service Commission as best suited for the post ; if so, the reasons why the vacancy was not then filled and why the post was allowed to remain vacant for these ten months ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Shaikh Faiz Muhammad) :** (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) Yes ; and as none of the candidates from the community from which it was desired to make the appointment had the requisite standard of academic qualifications, the post was not filled.

**Lala Duni Chand :** Will the Parliamentary Secretary assure the House that candidates possessing only the engineering qualifications and no other qualifications will be appointed ?

**Mr. Speaker :** Disallowed.

**Diwan Chaman Lall :** May I ask whether the advertisement calling for applications for this particular post stated that a particular community would be preferred ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** Yes.

**Diwan Chaman Lall :** Will the Parliamentary Secretary place a copy of the advertisement on the table of the House ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** If you give me notice, I will get a copy.

**Mr. Dev Raj Sethi :** How long will the post be kept vacant ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I cannot say. It will be filled as soon as a suitable person is forthcoming.

**Diwan Chaman Lall :** May I ask whether the Public Service Commission did actually recommend a particular individual as possessing the requisite qualifications ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I cannot say off hand whether the Public Service Commission recommended any particular individual, but as the gentleman, if at all recommended by the Public Service Commission did not possess the required qualifications advertised, the Government has kept the post vacant.

**Diwan Chaman Lall :** May I ask whether all these facts were not kept in view by the Public Service Commission when they recommended, if they recommended the choice of a particular individual belonging to the community that my honourable friend has in view ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** It is a question which should be addressed to the Public Service Commission. I cannot say. Government made a requisition and stated what sort of person was required. Thereafter the Public Service Commission of course made their report and Government found that the person with the requisite qualifications was not forthcoming.

**Diwan Chaman Lall :** May I ask if in spite of the fact that this matter was within the knowledge of the Public Service Commission, they made certain recommendations and those recommendations were turned down?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** It is always possible for the Public Service Commission to make an alternative recommendation ; if a person of a particular community is not forthcoming it is open to Public Service Commission to say that there is a man possessing the necessary qualifications, but it is open to the Government to accept the recommendation or wait for a suitable person belonging to a particular community.

**Diwan Chaman Lall :** May I ask whether he is prepared to lay on the table of the House the recommendation of the Public Service Commission in this matter?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I may inform the honourable member that the recommendations made by the Public Service Commission are seldom divulged.

**Diwan Chaman Lall :** May I ask whether the Public Service Commission did make a recommendation about a particular person belonging to the community desired?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** So far as I am aware the Public Service Commission did not do so, but it is quite possible I may be wrong and if my honourable friend gives me notice I will try to find out.

**Diwan Chaman Lall :** May I ask him to look at the question once again? The question put by Dr. Gokul Chand in part (c) is whether any of the candidates interviewed were recommended by the Public Service Commission as best suited for the post. What further notice does my honourable friend require in view of the notice already given?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I have replied that in the affirmative and said that 'as none of the candidates from the community from which it was desired to make the appointment had the requisite standard of academic qualifications, the post was not filled'. The Public Service Commission recommended a person possessing the proper qualifications, but unfortunately that man did not belong to the community from which recruitment had to be made.

**Diwan Chaman Lall :** I am putting this categorical question, is it not a fact that the Public Service Commission did recommend a particular individual belonging to the community desired? If my honourable friend has not got that information I am quite prepared to wait.

**Parliamentary Secretary :** The answer to part (c) is in the affirmative that the Public Service Commission did recommend a person, as none of the candidates from the community from which the appointment was desired to be made had the requisite qualifications.

**Diwan Chaman Lall :** May I ask whether the Public Service Commission detailed that according to the standard set by the Government, this particular candidate would be suitable for this particular post and whether it was turned down by the Government?

**Minister for Public Works :** May I explain the matter? As the Parliamentary Secretary has said, no gentleman with the requisite qualifications from the community that was preferred in the advertisement was forthcoming; there was thus no question of turning down that recommendation and we were further of the impression that perhaps gentlemen who have recently passed out may be available; so the post was to be readvertised.

**Diwan Chaman Lal :** May I ask my honourable friend to refer to the reply given by the Parliamentary Secretary to part (c) where he states that none of the candidates from the community from which it was desired to make the appointment had the requisite standard of academic qualifications and state whether it does not refer to the candidate belonging to the community desired? Is it or is not a fact that recommendation was made by the Public Service Commission for a particular candidate belonging to the community desired?

**Minister :** No. There was no candidate of the community desired available and we were under the impression that perhaps by readvertising fresh people would be able to come in and apply. That is why the post has been advertised. If a candidate from the desired community had been available he would have been taken.

#### PUNITIVE POLICE POST AT VILLAGE KHORI DUNNA SINGH (GUJRAT).

**\*6329. Mahant Prem Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

- (a) whether a punitive police post has been recently established at Khori Dunna Singh, a village in district Gujrat;
- (b) if the answer to (a) above be in the affirmative, the reason thereof;
- (c) the expenditure on the police post which the inhabitants of the village will be made to incur and the time by which the Government propose to withdraw this police post?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh) :**  
(a) Yes.

(b) Owing to the lawless behaviour of the inhabitants, culminating in a mass attack on a party of police who had gone to execute a warrant in the village.

(c) Rs. 2,499-1-5. The orders direct that the additional police shall be quartered in the area for six months, which will expire on the 31st July next.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know if the attack was made by the whole village or a number of persons?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** A large number of inhabitants joined the attack, but I cannot say the exact number.

**Munshi Hari Lal :** Were those who joined in attack proceeded against in the court and punished?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I require notice.

LIQUOR SHOPS IN TAHSIL GUJRAT.

**\*6330. Mahant Prem Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

- (a) whether the public auction for the establishment of liquor shops in rural areas has taken place in tahsil Gujrat ;
- (b) if the answer to (a) above be in the affirmative, the number of the new shops proposed to be started in tahsil Gujrat from April, 1940 ?

**The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal :** (a) Yes.

(b) One.

CUTS IN THE SALARIES OF TEACHERS UNDER THE DISTRICT BOARD,  
JULLUNDUR.

**\*6332. Sardar Hari Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister of Public Works be pleased to state—

- (a) whether it is a fact that the District Board, Jullundur, has more than once, since 1931, effected reductions in the pay of its teachers ; if so, the cuts applied on various occasions ;
- (b) whether teachers in board employ were in the matter of reduction in pay treated differentially from other employees of the board ;
- (c) the reasons for this differential treatment ;
- (d) whether in 1936 grades of district board teachers were drastically revised ; if so, percentage of salaries thus reduced ;
- (e) whether a further reduction in the salaries of board teachers is contemplated ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Shaikh Faiz Muhammad) :** (a) No.

(b) No. The grades of pay of several other posts were also reduced and some posts were also abolished.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) In 1936 the grades of teachers were revised on the recommendation of the Inspector and District Inspector of Schools. The reduction ranged from 5 to 25 per cent according to the pay of teachers.

(e) Yes.

UTILIZATION OF THE FINE IMPOSED BY THE PATROL ACT COMMITTEE  
AT MAHILPUR, DISTRICT HOSHIARPUR.

**\*6334. Sardar Harjab Singh :** With reference to the answer to starred question No. 5862, asked on 5th February, 1940, will the Honourable Minister of Public Works be pleased to state how and when the money collected by the imposition of fines by the Patrol Act Committee, Mahilpur, in district Hoshiarpur, and to be utilized for the welfare of the said village, will be available for the purpose ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Shaikh Faiz Muhammad) :** The money is available now, to be expended under the orders of the village panchayat.



[Sh. Faiz Muhammad.]

as section 9 (4) of the Act requires. The Deputy Commissioner hopes to be able to get the money utilized (on repairs to the village roads and drains) within the next few months.

**EXEMPTION OF THE MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE, LUDHIANA, FROM THE APPLICATION OF THE EXECUTIVE OFFICERS ACT.**

**\*6338. Pandit Muni Lal Kalia :** Will the Honourable Minister for Public Works be pleased to state whether it has come to his notice that the Municipal Committee, Ludhiana, in a resolution passed by a majority of votes in February, 1940, requested the Government to exempt the said committee from the application of the Punjab Municipal Executive Officers Act, if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken by Government in the matter?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Shaikh Faiz Muhammad) :** The resolution was to the effect that the Executive Officers Act had not proved successful in the municipalities to which it had been applied and should be repealed. Government do not propose to take any action.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan :** Has it come to the notice of the Government that after seeing the work of the present Executive Officer the Municipality of Ludhiana passed this resolution?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** May have.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan :** Is the Government satisfied that the present Executive Officer is working satisfactorily there?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** The resolution passed by the Municipal Committee was a general resolution to the effect that the Act had not successfully worked and, therefore, it should be removed from the Statute Book. The Government is not prepared to do anything of the sort. The resolution did not relate particularly to this Executive Officer.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan :** Has it come to the notice of the Government that the present Executive Officer was responsible for loss of five thousand rupees?

**Minister of Public Works :** We are not aware of any such thing.

**RELIEF CAMPS IN HISSAR.**

**\*4916. Chaudhri Sahib Ram :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) the total number of cattle in the Hissar district in February, 1939;

(b) the total amount of money spent on the relief camps by Government in the Hissar district from 1st April, 1938 to 31st March, 1939, and the expenditure incurred in respect of the following items, separately, (i) labour, (ii) tools, (iii) pay and miscellaneous?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan): (a) The figure of the total number of cattle in the district in February 1939 are not available. However a census of cows, buffaloes, bullocks and camels in villages only was held in February 1939, and the number of such animals was 241,825.

(b) The total amount spent on relief works up to 31st March, 1939, was Rs. 15,65,027-15-6, as per details below:—

	Rs.	A.	P.
(1) Wages .. .. .	11,86,556	1	6
(2) Gratuitous relief .. .. .	1,81,127	11	3
(3) Tools and plant .. .. .	63,439	14	0
(4) Pay and miscellaneous .. .. .	1,33,904	4	9

**MILITARY AND OTHER GOVERNMENT PENSIONERS WHO HAVE BEEN WARNED BY DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, HOSHIARPUR, AGAINST PARTICIPATION IN CONGRESS ACTIVITIES.**

**\*5181. Sardar Hari Singh:** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state the names and the number of military and other Government pensioners who have been warned by the Deputy Commissioner, Hoshiarpur, against participation in Congress activities and the reasons thereof?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah): It is not in the public interest to give names, but some military pensioners have been warned, not for Congress activities, an expression which though undefined is understood to mean the legitimate programme of a lawful political party, but for subversive and revolutionary activities.

**Sardar Hari Singh:** If it is not in the public interest to mention the names, will he kindly give the number of such people? The question asks the number. It is, I see, not in the public interest to mention only the names.

**Parliamentary Private Secretary:** And numbers also.

**Sardar Hari Singh:** May I ask my honourable friend what is his conception of subversive activities?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary:** My honourable friend is well aware of what is meant by subversive activities.

**Sardar Hari Singh:** May I ask whether the question of subversive activities has also been explained to the district authorities or whether they are to have their own way?

**Minister of Public Works:** There is no misunderstanding on the subject.

**Sardar Hari Singh:** Let the Parliamentary Private Secretary explain it.

**Parliamentary Private Secretary:** The district authorities are well aware of the meaning of subversive activities.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma:** Is the Congress included in subversive activities?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** I have already stated everything in reply to the question.

**Mr. Dev Raj Sethi :** Is change of Ministry a subversive activity ?

**Mr. Speaker :** Disallowed.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** May I know if attending meetings is also included in subversive activities ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** No.

**Lala Duni Chand :** May I know if the activities pursued by the Congress in order to win over the public to its side are subversive activities ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** If the winning over is in a subversive way, it is subversive activity.

#### ALLEGATIONS OF CORRUPTION IN FAMINE RELIEF WORKS IN ROHTAK.

**\*5822. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state—

- (a) whether it is a fact that in a meeting called at Rohtak, on or about 9th October last in connection with the Famine Relief Measures and attended to by the Commissioner, Ambala Division, Deputy Commissioner, Rohtak, and the Fodder Adviser, and also by the contractors of Famine Relief Works and the zaildars and sufedposhes of the district, one contractor Captain Maya Ram alleged that the zaildars and sufedposhes in the district took bribes in the Famine Relief Works ;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that all the zaildars and sufedposhes present in the meeting vehemently and strongly alleged that the contractors were responsible for huge corruption in the Relief Works ;
- (c) if answers to (a) and (b) above be in the affirmative, whether Government intends to hold an independent inquiry to find out how far these allegations are true, and if not, why not ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan) :** The meeting which is referred to in this question was not a public meeting in any sense and Government do not propose to make any enquiry in regard to it.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** It may not be a public meeting but is it not a fact that a meeting was held in connection with the famine relief work which was attended by the contractors ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** The meeting was attended by the zaildars, sufedposhes and some members of the District Soldiers' Board. Fodder contractors were not invited to this meeting.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Is the Parliamentary Secretary aware of the fact that the Commissioner, Deputy Commissioner and the Fodder Officer (Adviser) attended the meeting in which the zaildars were accused of corruption and the contractors were also accused by the zaildars in return ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** One of the members of the Soldiers' Board also happened to be a fodder contractor and while taking part in the

discussion he made certain remarks about the distribution of taccavi. There was no particular charge brought against any individual.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Is it not a fact that when the people accused one another the Commissioner left the meeting ?

**Mr. Speaker :** The honourable member is giving rather than seeking information.

**Lala Duni Chand :** May I know if in view of the charges and counter-charges brought by two sets of responsible people in this responsible meeting, the Government has got sufficient information to start an enquiry into the matter and if so, what enquiry has the Government made ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** If the Government were to institute enquiries on charges made against each other by groups of people on certain controversial matters, there would be no end to such enquiries.

**Lala Duni Chand :** Does not the Parliamentary Secretary think that the information imparted by such important men on such an important occasion was important enough to set the Government machinery at work ?

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

**Lala Duni Chand :** Is it not true that each set of persons who made charges and counter-charges were in a position to know about the facts against the other party ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** There were hardly any facts. There were only adjectives.

**Lala Duni Chand :** May I know if one party did not levy the charges that certain people had taken bribes on certain occasions ?

**Mr. Speaker :** The honourable member is again giving information.

#### FODDER ADVISER, HISSAR

\*5841. **Chaudhri Sahib Ram :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state—

- (a) the amount of fodder purchased by the Fodder Adviser, Hissar, up to this time, and the amount distributed out of it among the sufferers ;
- (b) whether the Fodder Adviser has reported to the Government that fodder (*Turi*) to the value of one lakh and ninety-four thousand rupees has been blown away by storms or otherwise destroyed ;
- (c) whether the Government has held any inquiry into the matter mentioned in (b) above and punished those who were responsible for this heavy loss ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan) :** (a) Fodder purchased—

	Mds.
Up to 31st December, 1939, was..	4,136,000
Fodder distributed as taccavi and sold for cash ..	3,987,000

(b) No.

(c) Does not arise.

EXPENDITURE OF THE FODDER ADVISER'S DEPARTMENT,  
HISSAR.

**\*5847. Chaudhri Sahib Ram :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state the total monthly expenditure of the Fodder Adviser's Department, Hissar, together with the monthly pay and allowance of the Fodder Adviser himself and the pay of the staff under him, separately?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan):** *First part*—The monthly cost of the department including the pay of the Fodder Adviser has varied from Rs. 4,311 in the month of April 1939 to Rs. 9,579 in the month of June 1939 according to local requirements.

*Second part*—Pay of the Fodder Adviser is Rs. 1,250 per mensem, his allowance Rs. 200. Total Rs. 1,450. The pay of officers and staff under the Fodder Adviser has varied from Rs. 1,857 in the month of April 1939 to Rs. 5,967 in the month of July 1939 according to local requirements.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan :** Has the Government ever considered the desirability of putting a more efficient officer in view of the mismanagement in this Department?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** The Government are convinced that the officer who is now working there is one of the most efficient officers we have got.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan :** Since how long has he been working there as Fodder Adviser?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** Since over a year.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan :** Is it a fact that several people under him have been challaned under sections 408 and 409 of the Indian Penal Code?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** That may be so and it is credit to him.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan :** Is it a fact that those persons who have been challaned and ultimately convicted belong to the Hosbiarpur district?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I do not know to what district they belong. What does it matter to which district they belong?

**Lala Duni Chand :** May I know if the Government or at least the Parliamentary Secretary feels grateful to those members of the Opposition who have thrown so much light on this question?

**Mr. Speaker :** Disallowed.

TAN RIDE.

**\*5852. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state what are the annual expenses of the Irrigation Department on the up-keep of the tan ride on the canal bank, Lahore, between Ferozepore Road bridge and Lahore Cantonment bridge, and the reasons why the said Department spends irrigation revenues on such a project and how is it interested in it?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan) : The cost of upkeep of the tan-ride along the Lahore Branch is Rs. 2,000 per annum. The Irrigation Branch maintain this just as they maintain the metalled road and grassy lawns along the Lahore Branch, for the benefit of the Lahore public, being on canal land.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma** : May I know when this tan-ride was introduced ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** : I do not know the exact date. Probably it was in 1920.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma** : Is it not continued to commemorate the memory of Sir Michael O'Dwyer ?

**Mr. Speaker** : Disallowed.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma** : What connection has it got with the Irrigation Department ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** : It sometimes happens that even the Irrigation Department indulges in beneficent activities. (*Laughter*).

#### NATIONAL FRONT.

**\*6198. Sardar Sohan Singh Josh** : Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether any issue of the "National Front" was ever printed or published in any press in the Punjab ; if so, when ;

(b) if the reply to the above be in the negative, the reasons for issuing orders prohibiting the printing or publication of the said periodical ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** (Sayad Amjad Ali Shah) : (a) No.

(b) This paper has consistently published matter of the nature described in Rule 34 (7) of the Defence of India Rules, 1939, and it is necessary to guard against the dissemination of such matter in this province.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh** : May I know if the Government had received any information that this would be printed in the Punjab ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** : It was not asked in the original question.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh** : Was there any likelihood of its being printed in the Punjab ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** : Please consult the original question. That has been answered. More information may be sought by a fresh notice.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh** : When the Government issued this order, they must have known that the paper was going to be printed. What other necessity compelled the Government to issue the order ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary** : Government must have moved in the matter on sufficient ground.

## GUNS AND REVOLVERS.

**\*6259. Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Will the Honourable Minister of Public Works be pleased to state—

- (a) the number of gun and revolver licences issued, tahsil-wise, in the Amritsar district in the year 1939 ;
- (b) the number of guns and revolvers lost by the owners in the same year in the same areas ;
- (c) how many of the lost guns and revolvers out of these have been so far recovered ;
- (d) how many cases were duly registered by the police in connection with the loss of arms by the owners in the area and period mentioned in (a) above ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh) :

			Guns	Revolvers.
(a) Amritsar tahsil	..	..	81	5
Tarn Taran	..	..	10	Nil
Ajnala	..	..	1	2
Total	..	..	42	7

(b) No guns lost. One revolver lost in the Amritsar tahsil and one in Tarn Taran.

(c) One revolver recovered.

(d) Two.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** May I know the result thereof ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** The one was found and other could not be found.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** May I know if two revolvers were given to the two persons who had helped the Government in the Fetehtwal case ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I do not know but if the honourable member wants information, he may give notice of a new question.

## HIGH SCHOOL, RUPAR.

**\*6321. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to lay down on the table—

- (a) a statement showing the number of students who appeared in the Matriculation Examination through Municipal High School, Rupar, from 1912 to 1922, and the number of those who were declared successful every year ;
- (b) a similar statement for the period from 1923 to 1939 ?

**The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye :**

Year.	Number of boys appeared.	Number of boys declared successful.	REMARKS.
(a)			
1912 .. ..	16	12	
1913 .. ..	13	8	One scholarship.
1914 .. ..	12	8	
1915 .. ..	19	16	One scholarship.
1916 .. ..	21	8	
1917 .. ..	35	20	
1918 .. ..	24	16	
1919 .. ..	18	13	
1920 .. ..	22	19	
1921 .. ..	20	16	
1922 .. ..	28	21	One scholarship.
(b)			
1923 .. ..	36	29	
1924 .. ..	36	25	One scholarship.
1925 .. ..	38	27	
1926 .. ..	45	39	Two scholarships.
1927 .. ..	28	14	
1928 .. ..	31	13	
1929 .. ..	25	10	
1930 .. ..	49	17	
1931 .. ..	28	21	
1932 .. ..	35	21	
1933 .. ..	37	20	
1934 .. ..	32	26	
1935 .. ..	32	28	
1936 .. ..	35	30	Three scholarships.
1937 .. ..	26	20	
1938 .. ..	28	22	
1939 .. ..	24	18	



## GIRLS' SCHOOLS IN GUJRAT DISTRICT.

**\*6331. Mahant Prem Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state—

- (a) the number of aided primary and middle schools for girls in the Gujrat district ;
- (b) the amount of grant-in-aid given to them ;
- (c) whether any circular has been issued by the department to the effect that no grant-in-aid be given to the girls schools established in the Gujrat district after the year 1932 ; and, if so, the reasons therefor ?

**The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye :** (a) The number of aided primary and middle schools is 27 and 7 respectively.

(b) The amount of grant recommended by the Circle Inspectress for payment by the district board during 1939-40 was Rs. 21,842. Out of this Rs. 16,807 were paid during 1939-40 and the balance is being paid in the current year.

(c) Yes, but the circular is applicable to all districts and to boys as well as girls schools. It was issued owing to the financial stringency and to limit the commitments of the department in the matter of additional expenditure.

## EXTENSION IN THE PERIOD FOR J. V. COURSE.

**\*6333. Sardar Hari Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state—

- (a) whether J. V. course has been extended from one to two years throughout the province ; if so, the reasons for the same and the change, if any, in syllabus consequent thereon ;
- (b) whether the students joining the J. V. training class at Gujrat will be allowed to complete the course in one year as before, if so, the reasons for maintaining this distinction ?

**The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye :** (a) Yes, the Junior Vernacular course for men teachers has been extended to two years as the one-year course and the syllabus therefor were considered to be inadequate.

(b) Yes. The students joining the Junior-Vernacular class at Gujrat will complete in one year the course of training which has been based partly on the old syllabus and partly on the new one. A special type of Junior-Vernacular class has been opened at Gujrat with a view to meeting the immediate demand of privately-managed schools in the province for the Junior-Vernacular trained teachers.

## NON-PAYMENT OF GRANT-IN-AID TO THE KHALSA GIRLS' SCHOOL AT SRI HARGOBINDPUR.

**\*6335. Sardar Rur Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state—

- (a) whether it has come to his notice that the Small Town Committee, Sri Hargobindpur, has not in the past been paying the amount

of grant-in-aid sanctioned for Khalsa Girls' School there regularly to the inconvenience and harassment of the managing body of the school;

- (b) whether it has also come to his notice that Rs. 406 sanctioned as grant-in-aid for the school for the current financial year has not so far been paid to the school; if so, the action intended to be taken in the matter?

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

(b) Yes; the matter is under consideration.

**Sardar Rur Singh:** How long will it take to consider the matter?

**Minister:** I am afraid I cannot state the period.

NON-PAYMENT OF GRANT-IN-AID TO KHALSA GIRLS' SCHOOL AT SRI HARGOBINDPUR.

**\*6339. Sardar Hari Singh:** Will the Honourable Minister for Education be pleased to state—

- (a) whether the Khalsa Girls' School at Sri Hargobindpur, district Gurdaspur, has been in receipt of grant-in-aid from the local Small Town Committee;
- (b) whether the said Small Town Committee has been paying the grant-in-aid very late every year;
- (c) whether a grant-in-aid of Rs. 406 due to the said school for 1939-40 is still outstanding;
- (d) whether the Small Town Committee has decided not to pay the said grant-in-aid to the school; if so, the reasons and the action intended to be taken in the matter?

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

(b) Yes.

(c) Yes, a sum of Rs. 406 is still outstanding.

(d) The Committee has passed a resolution to this effect, owing to its bad financial condition. The matter is under consideration.

REPRESENTATION OF SECRETARY, PUNJAB MEGH MANDAL.

**\*6340. Lala Harnam Das:** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state whether it is a fact that a representation was made to the Honourable Minister of Development by the Secretary of the Punjab Megh Mandal, Sialkot, on 6th January, 1940, when he was on tour in the said district, besides other things containing the demand that scheduled castes be treated as agriculturists and a law be passed prohibiting *begar*; if so, what action has been or is intended to be taken on that demand?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan):** No such representation has been traced; but I may inform my honourable friend that it would be inconsistent with established policy to notify as agriculturists the scheduled classes who as a group do not fulfil the three conditions

[**Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan.**]

laid down by Government when cases are considered to declare them as agricultural tribes. Further having regard to the numerous executive orders relating to *begar* which have issued, Government do not think it necessary to proceed to legislation.

#### SIKH DISTRICT INSPECTORS OF SCHOOLS.

**\*6342. Tika Jagjit Singh Bedi :** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state—

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Sikhs are not adequately represented in the cadre of District Inspectors of Schools; if so, the action intended to be taken to make up the deficiency;
- (b) whether it is a fact that a vacancy is going to occur in the post of the District Inspector of Schools, Amritsar, on account of the transfer of the present incumbent to Director of Public Instruction's Office; if so, how it is intended to fill it?

**The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye :** I am afraid I am unable to answer this question on the floor of the house as it savours of communalism. If, however, the honourable member will put an unstarred question a reply will be given.

#### ALLOWANCES TO REVENUE ASSISTANTS, KANUNGOS AND PATWARIS FOR THE PREPARATION OF ELECTORAL ROLLS.

**\*6345. Khan Muhammad Yusuf Khan :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state the rates of allowances which are being paid to the (i) Revenue Assistants, (ii) Election Kanungos and the Patwaris for the preparation of electoral rolls and for attending to other duties connected with the forthcoming elections to the Punjab Legislative Assembly?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) :** (i) An allowance of Rs. 50 per mensem is being paid to District Electoral Officers. Generally speaking Revenue Assistants have been appointed District Electoral Officers. The allowance is payable for about six months in the two financial years 1939-40 and 1940-41.

(ii) The pay of an election kanungo is Rs. 40 per mensem, except in the hilly districts of Simla and Kangra where it is Rs. 55 per mensem. He does no revenue work. When election kanungos come to Lahore in connection with the printing of election papers, they will be entitled to a compensatory allowance of Rs. 15 per mensem each. Patwaris are entitled to a lump sum remuneration of Rs. 12 each for preparing electoral rolls in addition to their ordinary duties.

#### ARRESTS UNDER DEFENCE OF INDIA ACT.

**\*6347. Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state the number of Muslims, Hindus and Sikhs (separately)

arrested up to date under the Defence of India Act since its promulgation in the province ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) :** Three hundred and four persons were arrested up to and including the 29th February, 1940, under the Defence of India Act. To give details savours of communalism and it is contrary to the established practice to answer such questions on the floor of the House. If the honourable member chooses to put his question in a more informal way I will endeavour to satisfy him.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** May I respectfully enquire as to how this question can be considered to savour of communalism ? Is the Government distributing squares of land or loaves and fishes of offices ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** Sir, the honourable member asks how many Muslims, Hindus and Sikhs have been arrested under the Defence of India Rules. That is communalism.

**Diwan Chaman Lall :** May I ask my honourable friend whether he is prepared to lay a list of all these who have been arrested under the Defence of India Act on the table of the House ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** I want notice for that question.

**Diwan Chaman Lall :** May I ask my honourable friend to read this question once again where my honourable friend behind me demands a list and naturally if my honourable friend had furnished that list as he demanded, it would have given all the information that he requires now.

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** I will read the question. It says :—

Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state the number of Muslims, Hindus and Sikhs (separately) arrested up to date under the Defence of India Act since its promulgation in the province ?

**Diwan Chaman Lall :** If my honourable friend had furnished a complete list of 804 persons, then from that my honourable friend could have deduced straightaway the number of Hindus, Sikhs and Muslims arrested.

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** If my honourable friend refers to the question he will find that there is nothing mentioned about the list. Simply the number of Muslims, Sikhs and Hindus has been asked and if the Government was prepared to answer that question on the floor of the House, the answer would have been so many Hindus, so many Muslims and so many Sikhs.

**Diwan Chaman Lall :** Would it not be deducible if you place the list on the table of the House ?

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Am I right in saying that Muslims preponderate among the 804 persons arrested under the Defence of India Act ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** Sir, the question of my honourable friend seeks to elicit information regarding the number of Hindus, Muslims and Sikhs arrested separately. As it savours of communalism I do not propose to answer it on the floor of the House.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan :** Has Government kept in view the communal representation in these arrests also ?

**Mr. Speaker :** Disallowed.

**Lala Duni Chand :** May I know if the learned Parliamentary Secretary sees that the question of savouring of communalism might apply only to the case of favours and not to that of disfavours?

**Mr. Speaker :** Disallowed.

**Lala Duni Chand :** You will oblige me if I may know whether it applies to favours; is it a favour to send people to jails?

**Mr. Speaker :** Disallowed.

REPRESENTATION REGARDING ENCROACHMENTS ON LANDS OF MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE, AMBALA.

**\*5724. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the Honourable Minister of Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether he is aware of the fact that two municipal commissioners of Rupar Municipal Committee, L. Gurdas Rai and C. Balu Ram Jain, sent a representation to the Deputy Commissioner, Ambala, to check the increasing evil of encroachments on the lands of the said committee; if so, what action has been taken or is intended to be taken;

(b) whether a few instances were given in the representation about the encroachment by members and others; if so, the action taken against such members?

**The Honourable Major Nawabzada Malik Khizar Hayat Khan Tiwana :** (a) Yes the matter is receiving the attention of the local authorities.

(b) No; but action is being taken for the removal of the encroachments brought to the notice of the Deputy Commissioner. Lala Babu Ram was himself found to have made certain encroachments.

STOPPING MUSIC BEFORE MOSQUE IN ROHTAK.

**\*5725. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that in the Ramlila procession at Rohtak on or about 17th October an attempt was made to stop the music before a newly built mosque near the Bhiwani motor stand;

(b) whether it was prayer time when the procession was passing the mosque;

(c) who made this attempt and what was the result?

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

(b) No.

(c) A few Muslims objected to the playing of music before the mosque. A magistrate supported by the police saw the procession safely pass the mosque. Proceedings under section 107, Criminal Procedure Code, were instituted against five Muslims and interim security was demanded and given. The matter is still *sub-judice*.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know if there is any considered policy of Government in regard to stopping of music before mosques?

**Minister for Public Works :** You cannot ask a question on policy.

**Parliamentary Private Secretary (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah):** If my honourable friend wants to elicit information in regard to the policy of Government, he should give fresh notice. All the same the information asked for in his question has already been given.

ASAUDHA INCIDENTS.

**\*5726. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

- (a) the total amount spent in connection with Asaudha (Rohtak) incidents of last year ; -
- (b) additional amount spent on (i) police ; (ii) in courts and (iii) by Executive Officers on account of them ;
- (c) the causes of the said incidents and the way in which the matter was settled ?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) :** (a) and (b) I must decline to answer this part of the question, as it is quite impossible to separate the expenditure resulting from this incident from the cost of the ordinary administration.

(c) I suggest that the honourable member himself is in a position to answer this part of the question.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** If it is difficult for the Parliamentary Secretary to give the amounts separately, will he kindly let us know the total amount incurred by Government in regard to this incident?

**Parliamentary Private Secretary :** I require notice for that. It is obviously difficult to state the amount incurred in connection with a particular incident because the officers draw salaries for the whole month. It is rather difficult to calculate the amount drawn by them for doing a few hours' work with regard to this particular case.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** With reference to part (c) of the question I want to know whether it is not a fact that the whole trouble arose out of the fact that obstacles were placed in the way of a Congress meeting to be held there, and finally it was held.

**Mr. Speaker :** The honourable member is giving information.

PUNJAB MOTOR UNION.

**\*6071. Sardar Hari Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

- (a) whether he received a copy of the resolutions passed by the Punjab Motor Union (Registered), Lahore, in its meeting held on the 16th July at Amritsar (i) condemning the policy adopted by the Assistant Inspector-General of Police (Traffic) on the eve of commencement of Motor Vehicles Act, 1939 ; (ii) requesting

[Sardar Hari Singh.]

the Government not to appoint any police officer as Secretary of the Provincial and Regional Transport Authorities which are to be constituted under the Motor Vehicles Act, 1939 ;

(b) action taken or proposed to be taken consequent on the receipt of the above resolution ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Shaikh Faiz Muhammad) : (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

MEMORANDUM FROM THE PUNJAB MOTOR UNION.

**\*6072. Sardar Hari Singh** : Will the Honourable Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether he has received a copy of a memorandum from the Punjab Motor Union addressed to the Honourable Members of this House on the subject of the instructions issued by the Inspector-General of Police, Punjab, in his letter No. 42726-54-M.B., dated 27th June, 1939, to all District Heads of the Police in the province to be adopted after the commencement of Indian Motor Vehicles Act, 1939 ;

(b) what action Government propose to take in the matter ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Shaikh Faiz Muhammad) : (a) Yes.

(b) No action on the memorandum has been taken or is contemplated.

**Sardar Hari Singh** : May I know whether the contents of the memorandum have been carefully gone through by the Parliamentary Secretary ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** : Yes, instructions from time to time are issued by the police head office to the Superintendents of Police. It is not proposed to discuss those instructions.

**Sardar Hari Singh** : May I know whether the people who submitted the memorandum were given an opportunity orally of explaining their viewpoint ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** : The memorandum was not intended for them ; it was intended for the guidance of the police.

SETTING ON FIRE THE HOUSE OF KISHEN SINGH OF VILLAGE  
KALEWAL, TAHSIL KHARAR.

**\*6326. Sardar Baldev Singh** : Will the Honourable Minister of Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether he is aware of the fact that one Kishen Singh of village Kalewal, tahsil Kharar, has been shot while displaying marvellous courage to save the life of his neighbours by combating with a well armed gang of dacoits on 21st December, 1939 ;

(b) whether it is a fact that the house of the said Kishen Singh was set on fire by the dacoits and all his belongings were reduced to nothing ;

(c) the action Government intends to take for the maintenance of the dependent members of the bereaved family ?

**The Honourable Major Nawabzada Malik Khizar Hayat Khan Tiwana :** (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) The proposals of the district officers are expected to be received shortly and will be sympathetically considered.

**HIGH COURT JUDGMENT IN THE CASE CROWN *versus* CHAMAN LAL.**

**\*6336. Mr. K. L. Gauba :** Will the Honourable Finance Minister be pleased to state—

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the High Court judgment in the case Crown *versus* Chaman Lal and others arising out of the death of two prisoners in the New Central Jail, Multan ;

(b) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the judgment of the Honourable Chief Justice in the case above referred to ?

**The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal :** (a) and (b) Yes.

**Mr. Dev Raj Sethi :** Was any appeal for mercy preferred to Government on behalf of Mr. Chaman Lal ?

**Minister :** The question was merely whether my attention was called to a particular matter and I have said ' yes '.

**Mr. Dev Raj Sethi :** May I know whether an appeal for mercy was made on behalf of Mr. Chaman Lal ?

**Minister :** How does it arise out of this question ?

**HIGH COURT STRICTURES AGAINST COLONEL P. D. CHOPRA, I.M.S.**

**\*6337. Mr. K. L. Gauba :** Will the Honourable Finance Minister be pleased to state—

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the observations of the Trial Court and the High Court regarding the evidence given in the case Crown *versus* Chaman Lal and others arising out of the death of two prisoners in the New Central Jail, Multan, by Lieutenant-Colonel P. D. Chopra, I.M.S. ;

(b) whether Government proposes to take any action against the officer against whom strictures have been passed in the judgment of the High Court ?

**The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal :** (a) Yes.

(b) The judgment is under consideration.



## MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS, LYALLPUR.

**\*6341. Mr. Dev Raj Sethi :** Will the Honourable Minister of Public Works be pleased to state—

- (a) when the result of fresh elections to the Municipal Committee, Lyallpur, held in the 3rd week of January, 1940, is expected to be gazetted ;
- (b) whether Government contemplates any change in the number of nominated seats in the said municipal committee ; if so, the reasons therefor ;
- (c) whether it is or it is not a fact that the names of some of those persons, who were defeated at the polls in the recent elections, are being considered for nomination to the said committee ;
- (d) whether or not the attention of the Government has been drawn to the feelings of resentment prevailing in Lyallpur as expressed in a public meeting held at Lyallpur on 22nd January, 1940, against the nomination of any of the persons defeated at the polls ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Shaikh Faiz Muhammad) :** (a) Shortly. (b), (c) and (d) No.

## DISTRICT BOARD, AMBALA.

**\*6343. Sufi Abdul Hamid Khan :** Will the Honourable Minister or Public Works be pleased to state—

- (a) the total number of district board constituencies in the Ambala district ;
- (b) the number of seats to which each community is entitled according to the accepted formula—the mean of the population and voting strength ;
- (c) the actual number of seats at present occupied by each community in the district board ;
- (d) whether by the present system of election each community is adequately represented on the said board ; and, if not, what action does the Government intend to take in the matter ?

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

(a)	..	..	..	..	..	82
(b)	Muslims	..	..	..	..	10
	Sikhs	..	..	..	..	11
	Hindus and others	..	..	..	..	17
(c)	Muslims	..	..	..	..	10
	Sikhs	..	..	..	..	17
	Hindus and others	..	..	..	..	11

(d) The formula is designed to secure that if elections ran on communal lines, each community would be adequately represented. Wherever deficiencies occur, they are remedied if possible at the time of making nominations.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know when this proportion was introduced ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I am afraid the honourable member has not understood the question.

**Lala Duni Chand :** Has Government received any representation against the formation of the proposed constituency ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I require notice for that.

**Lala Duni Chand :** May I know if the Parliamentary Secretary is aware of the fact that there is a good deal of dissatisfaction over the formation of this constituency ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** The honourable member may know that the Parliamentary Secretary is not aware of it.

**Lala Duni Chand :** May I know if the Parliamentary Secretary would be pleased to acquire this information and then answer ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I will make enquiries if notice is given.

#### COMMUNAL REPRESENTATION IN THE DISTRICT BOARD, JULLUNDUR.

**\*6344. Mian Abdul Rab :** Will the Honourable Minister of Public Works be pleased to state—

- (a) the total number of district board constituencies in the Jullundur district ;
- (b) the number of seats to which each community is entitled according to the accepted formula—the mean of the population and voting strength ;
- (c) the actual number of seats at present occupied by each community in the district board ;
- (d) whether by the present system of election each community is adequately represented on the said district board ; and, if not, what action does the Government intend to take in the matter ?

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

(a)	..	..	..	..	..	34
(b)	Muslims	..	..	..	..	16
	Sikhs	..	..	..	..	16
	Hindus and others	..	..	..	..	7
(c)	Muslims	..	..	..	..	14
	Sikhs	..	..	..	..	19
	Hindus and others	..	..	..	..	6

(d) The formula is designed to secure that if elections ran on communal lines, each community would be adequately represented. Wherever deficiencies occur, they are remedied if possible at the time of making nominations. In the case of Jullundur the existing constitution of electoral circles is being examined with a view to finding out whether it is, in any way responsible for the inability of Muslims to secure their due share.

**APPLICATIONS BROUGHT BEFORE DEBT CONCILIATION BOARD AT  
SHAKARGARH, DISTRICT GURDASPUR.**

**\*6352. Chaudhri Ali Akbar :** Will the Honourable Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(a) the number of applications for conciliation brought before the Debt Conciliation Board at Shakargarh in Gurdaspur district during the last two years and how many of them were filed by *Muslim* debtors and how many by *Hindu* debtors with the amount involved in each case ;

(b) how many of such applications are still pending with the said Board with the amount of debt involved in them ?

**The Honourable Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram :** (a) and (b).

A statement is laid on the table.

*Statement showing the number of applications for conciliation before the Debt Conciliation Board at Shakargarh in the Gurdaspur district during the last two years.*

(a)					(b)	
NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS FILED AND THE AMOUNTS INVOLVED.					Number of applications pending.	Amount of debt involved.
Number of applications.	By Muslims.		By Hindus.			
	Number of applications.	Amount of debt involved.	Number of applications.	Amount of debt involved.		
		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.
1,274	898	5,24,112	376	2,61,403	484	3,97,425

**DACOITY IN VILLAGE ADHOYA HINDUAN.**

**\*6358. Lala Duni Chand :** Will the Honourable Minister for Public Works be pleased to state whether the police has so far been able to trace and arrest the dacoits who committed a dacoity in the village of Adhoya Hinduan in Ambala district between the hours of 4 and 6-30 p.m. on 16th January, 1940 ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh) : The identity of four out of the six dacoits concerned in this case is known, but so far it has not been found possible to make any arrest.

**Lala Duni Chand :** May I know if it is a fact that a part of the stolen property taken away in the course of the dacoity was found in a certain village in the possession of a certain person ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I am not aware of it.

**Lala Duni Chand :** In view of the fact that the dacoity was committed in broad day light and lasted for two and-a-half hours and was committed in a challenging manner, may I know the reasons why the district police has not been able to catch hold of any of the dacoits ?

**Mr. Speaker :** Disallowed.

**Lala Duni Chand :** May I know what particular difficulties were experienced by the police in arresting any dacoit ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** One of the difficulties is that villagers harbour dacoits and do not help the police in arresting them.

**Lala Duni Chand :** May I know whether the investigation of this case is over, or whether it is still going on ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** The investigation is going on.

**Lala Duni Chand :** What concrete results have been obtained since this dacoity was committed on the 16th January, 1940 ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I have stated in my reply, that the identity of four out of the six dacoits concerned in this case is known, but so far it has not been possible to make any arrest.

TRACE OF CULPRITS WHO SHOT DOWN KAPOOR CHAND OF VILLAGE LAHAR.

**\*6359. Lala Duni Chand :** Will the Honourable Minister of Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that a young man named Kapoor Chand, son of Mohlu Ram, of village Lahar, police station Radaur, district Karnal, was shot on 6th January, 1940, with a gun or a rifle and a bullet pierced clean through his neck and he died a few hours later ;

(b) whether the culprit or culprits have been traced so far ; and, if not the special steps, if any, that the Government intends to take to trace the culprits ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh) :**  
(a) On the afternoon of the 6th January, the young man mentioned was found lying dead in a sugarcane field near his home village, with a buckshot wound in the neck. The probability is that this was caused accidentally by some shikari shooting at crocodile nearby.

(b) So far the case has not been traced but investigation is still proceeding under the direction of the Superintendent of Police, who visited the village himself on the morning of the 9th January. I may mention that a number of residents of the village are at present under trial in connection with an assault made on the investigating staff on the evening of the 8th January. (The investigating officers had been inclined to think that the fatal shot had been fired by a local man, using possibly an unlicensed weapon). Subsequent to the arrests made in the assault case there has been an attempt to suggest that the shooting party who caused the death of Kapur Chand included certain police officers or relatives of

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police officers. There appears to be no foundation whatever for these insinuations, which were not even mentioned when the Superintendent of Police visited the place or in the various telegrams and petitions submitted by the villagers in the first few days after the occurrence, but the attitude of the villagers has made the conduct of the investigation considerably more difficult than it might otherwise have been.

**Lala Duni Chand :** Has it been ascertained so far that the shooting party consisted of a brother, a brother-in-law and certain friends of the Police Sub-Inspector of Radaur Police Station ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** The honourable member is giving information and not seeking information.

**Lala Duni Chand :** May I know if it has been ascertained so far as to who were the members of that shooting party ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** It is not known, but I have stated that there appears to be no foundation whatever for the insinuation that the shooting party consisted of any relative of any policeman.

**Lala Duni Chand :** Is it not a fact that immediately information was given to the police as regards the members of the shooting party ? If so, was any action taken by the police on that information ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** Our information is that when the Superintendent of Police visited the village, no complaint of that nature was made to him, nor was any name of any police officer or a relative of a police officer mentioned in the various telegrams and petitions that were submitted by the villagers.

**Lala Duni Chand :** Is it a fact that immediately on the arrival of the Superintendent of Police the information was given to him regarding the shooting party ? If so, what action was taken by the Superintendent of Police ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** No such information was given to the Superintendent of Police ; the investigation is going on so far as that particular incident is concerned, but if the honourable member wants to know whether the shooting party consisted of police officers or not, my reply is "No." The investigation shows that no police officer or relative of a police officer was a member of that shooting party.

**Lala Duni Chand :** Is it true that at the request of the Honourable Premier the facts and the circumstances of the case were brought to his notice and he ordered an enquiry into the shooting ? If so, what has been the result of that enquiry ?

**Minister for Public Works :** The enquiry was made in pursuance of a letter written by the honourable member, but as the Parliamentary Secretary has stated the confirmation is not forthcoming. Apparently it is an after-thought on the part of some of the villagers to involve relatives of a police officer, but there is no proof. Still the investigation is going on. If there is any proof, they can put it forward.

**Lala Duni Chand :** May I know whether it is not a fact that my honourable self supplied to the Honourable Premier the statements of

about 60 or 70 witnesses who stated that such and such men formed the shooting party and that the young man was shot by that shooting party? Was the evidence of 60 witnesses recorded on the spot in that village supplied to the Honourable Premier? If so, what action has been taken?

**Minister :** I have already stated that the confirmation is not there. The villagers did not state this fact in the telegrams they sent to the authorities, nor was the fact mentioned to the Superintendent of Police when he visited the site. Apparently it is an after-thought. The number of witnesses does not prove a case, it is the quality of evidence that matters.

**Lala Duni Chand :** Is it not a fact that the statements actually recorded within two days of the occurrence were supplied to the Honourable Premier and the Inspector-General of Police? If so, is that fact not sufficient for the Government to take cognizance of this case?

**Minister :** The information available has been given. The investigation is still going on. As far as the investigation shows at this stage, the information given by the honourable member has not been corroborated and confirmed.

**Lala Duni Chand :** May I know what use Government has made of the statements of 60 witnesses belonging to all communities, Sikhs, Hindus and Muslims, supplied to the Inspector-General of Police?

**Minister :** There is no case. Apparently the evidence given by the villagers is an after-thought. It will be of course thrashed out in court.

**Lala Duni Chand :** Will the Minister in charge of law and order realise the gravity of the question that I am raising, namely, whether it is a fact that statements of 60 witnesses recorded within two or three days of this young man being shot, were supplied to the Honourable Premier and to the Inspector-General of Police? If so, what use has been made of that material?

**Minister :** The reply given by the Parliamentary Secretary shows the use made of that material. Apparently the evidence given has not been corroborated and the official version is that that is an after-thought. The matter, however, is still going on; it is being investigated and will be thrashed out in court.

## ELECTION TO PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE.

**Mr. Speaker :** Regarding the election of eight members of the Assembly to serve on the Public Accounts Committee, which is to be held to-day, I may inform the honourable members that voting papers containing the names of candidates will be available in the lobby between 2 and 4 p. m. to-day. Honourable 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 paper will be issued after 4 p. m. and no marked paper will be allowed to be deposited in the ballot box after 4-15 p. m. The result of the election will be notified in due course.

## DEMAND FOR GRANT—PUBLIC HEALTH.

**Mr. Speaker :** The Assembly will now resume discussion on the demand for grant for public health.

**Khan Bahadur Mian Mushtaq Ahmad Gurmani** (Muzaffargarh North, Muhammadan, Rural) (*Urdu*): Sir, yesterday I promised to give comparative figures relating to vital statistics in the Punjab and other provinces of India as also the expenditure incurred on Public Health Departments in various provinces. The latest official figures relating to Public Health activities in the provinces of India are available up to 1937. These are contained in the annual report of the Public Health Commissioner with the Government of India. The expenditure *per capita* in the Punjab in 1937-38 was greater than all other provinces in India except Bombay, Madras and Assam. If the calculations are based on the budget allotment for the next year, the expenditure *per capita* in the Punjab will be greater than all other provinces except Bombay. This shows that the Punjab has made a more rapid progress in this direction during the last three years than any other province in India. The concern of the present Government for the Public Health of the province can be judged by the steady development of this department and gradual increase in public health expenditure. At the beginning of the Montagu-Chelmsford reforms in 1921 the expenditure on Public Health was 10·7 lakhs. In the last year of the previous reforms, that is, 1936-37 the expenditure on this department stood at 11·2 lakhs. Soon after the present Government took charge of the provincial administration, the expenditure on Public Health Department was increased to 16·8 lakhs and the budget allotment for the next year is 26·4 lakhs. Similarly, expenditure on other beneficent departments has also steadily increased. In 1921-22 Rs. 168·8 lakhs were spent on beneficent departments. The figures for 1936-37 stood at 287·1 lakhs. In 1937-38 expenditure on beneficent departments was increased to 308·2 lakhs and the budget allotment for next year is 345·6 lakhs. This will show that the expenditure on beneficent departments in this province has steadily increased and the expenditure on Public Health Department alone has increased to more than double during the course of 3 years, inspite of the heavy drain on the provincial exchequer on account of famine which has cost the province about three crores of rupees so far. But for this unforeseen expenditure, the expansion of beneficent departments would have been much greater. The House will agree that even now our achievements are not meagre. My honourable friend Sardar Kapur Singh and the lady member from Ambala were pleased to remark that a large proportion of the Public Health budget was spent on salaries. Perhaps they did not realize that the main functions of this department are the prevention of disease and checking of epidemics. These objects can only be achieved by extensive propaganda and organisation for which sufficient staff is needed. Moreover, epidemics do not come with a warning, and a sufficient reserve has to be maintained to meet the emergency. Even in this direction there has been a steady improvement. The total amount budgeted to meet the cost of staff during the last three years was as follows :—

				Rs.
1937-38	..	..	..	.. 7,04,040
1938-39	..	..	..	.. 7,57,860
1939-40	..	..	..	.. 7,55,530

These figures represent 47 per cent, 46 per cent and 84 per cent, respectively, of the total Public Health expenditure. These figures are comprised of the following items:—

- (1) Pay of officers and establishment;
- (2) travelling allowances; and
- (3) contingent expenditure, which are incidental to the management of the office.

This will show that there has been a steady decrease in the cost of staff.

**Sardar Hari Singh:** It has been raised to 70 per cent.

**Khan Bahadur Mian Mushiaq Ahmad Gurmani:** Perhaps my friend Master Hari Singh has forgotten Mathematics. His calculations are incorrect. My friend Sardar Hari Singh also suggested in his speech that the death and infant mortality rates in the Punjab were highest in the world. I do not know on what authority he made that statement. The authoritative official figures reveal that in 1937-38 the death rate in the Punjab was 21.3 *per mille* which was lower than five other provinces in India. The infant mortality rate which stood at 163 per one thousand live births was lower than six other provinces in India while the birth rate which stood at 142 *per mille* was the highest in India. The net rate of increase in the population of the province, therefore, was the largest. To my mind the net increase in the population is more serious than the high death rate. The comparison of the figures of 1937 with those of 1939 show a distinct improvement. In 1937 the birth rate in the province has decreased to 408 *per mille* which is the lowest recorded since 1934. The death rate has decreased by 1.2 *per mille*. The reduction in the number of deaths occurred in 21 out of the 29 districts. In the remaining 8 districts there were actually more deaths than in the previous year, and this is particularly in the four districts of Ambala division. The increase in death rate in these south-eastern districts was undoubtedly due mainly to the famine conditions which prevail in these areas.

The main criticism of the honourable members was directed against the rural water supply. I shall acquaint the house with the efforts that have been made in this direction during the past three years. Bigger water supply schemes for which grants-in-aid have been given by the Sanitary Board from 1937-38 to 1939-40 amount to Rs. 7,28,702. In addition to this a sum of Rs. 34,800 was allotted in 1938-39 for sanitating wells, and 289 wells were sanitated or hand-pumps installed. In 1939-40 a sum of Rs. 30,000 was spent out of a grant of Rs. 36,000 and 229 wells were sanitated. Three districts, namely, Karnal, Ferozepore and Attock failed to submit their schemes. A further special allotment of Rs. 65,200 was made in 1938-39 for improvement of water supplies in the districts of Kangra, Jhelum, Sheikhupura, Jhang and Muzaffargarh. This sum could not be utilized in that year as the schemes submitted by the district boards were technically incomplete and therefore this amount was surrendered for re-allotment during the next year. In 1939-40 over and above this re-allotted amount a further allotment of 1,24,000 was made for this purpose. Out of the total allotment of Rs. 1,89,200 a sum of Rs. 55,122 was given for the improvement of water supplies in the districts of Sheikhupura,



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Kangra, Jhelum, Lahore, Gurdaspur and Montgomery. In all 294 wells and hand-pumps were sanitated and installed. A sum of Rs. 1,33,078 was surrendered as schemes from other districts could not get the technical sanction of the Superintending Engineer, Public Health Circle, in time. In addition to these a sum of Rs. 49,110 was allotted during the year from the Government of India second grant for rural reconstruction. Out of this sum Rs. 43,113 were utilised for improvement of 34 water supplies in the districts of Kangra and Hoshiarpur. The remaining sum could not be utilised as the District Board, Hoshiarpur, did not put up a proper scheme. A sum of Rs. 1,984 was also given during the year for the improvement of water supplies for scheduled castes in 25 villages of 8 districts, i.e., Hoshiarpur, Ambala, Hissar, Sialkot, Sheikhpura, Gurdaspur, Karnal and Gujranwala. The total amount spent during 1938-39 and 1939-40 amounts to Rs. 8,92,797. The House will realise that the full budget allotment could not be utilised on account of defective schemes submitted by the district boards and not for any fault of the Government. Many such schemes had to be returned again and again and are still in an incomplete form. The main reason being that the local bodies have not got competent engineering staff who could prepare technically correct and complete schemes.

The honourable members from Rawalpindi, Ambala and Dera Ghazi Khan districts complained of inadequate arrangements of water supplies in their respective districts. I shall give a brief summary of the work that has been done in these districts. In Rawalpindi district a sum of Rs. 1,200 was given for sanitating wells in eight villages in 1938-39. Another sum of Rs. 1,200 was given in 1939-40 for the same purpose. The Sanitary Board gave a further sum of Rs. 200 for the construction of a well in Jatli drab village in 1938-39 and another sum of Rs. 1,000 was given for Chhena village for trial boring in the same year. A sum of Rs. 12,404 was given to Rawalpindi District Board for trial boring in Matore village. The boring was successful and the Superintending Engineer, Public Health Circle, Punjab, recommended that it should be converted into a tube well. He prepared an estimate of Rs. 22,898 for providing plant, service reservoir and distribution main. This scheme was approved by the Punjab Sanitary Board and a recommendation was made to Government to sanction a cent per cent grant for this work provided the District Board, Rawalpindi, agreed to maintain and operate the tube well after completion. The District Board refused to bear even the maintenance charges and therefore no grant was given for this work. In regard to Ambala district Rs. 38,494 have so far been spent for improving rural water supply in Ambala district.

**Lala Duni Chand :** In how many years ?

**Khan Bahadur Mian Mushtaq Ahmad Gurmani :** Since 1935. Out of this amount, I may, however, point out, about 12,000 were spent after 1937. Another sum of Rs. 20,798 was spent on trial boring and experimental tube wells at Sarangpur and air-lift installation at Handesra. The Superintending Engineer, Public Health Circle, Punjab, advised the Municipal Committee, Ambala, in 1938-39 that a small boring should be made near the city reservoir and that this also be converted into a tube-well.

if successful, at an estimated cost of Rs. 17,932. The Municipal Committee, Ambala, applied for a cent per cent grant for this purpose. But the Commissioner and the Deputy Commissioner did not consider that such a grant should be given because the Municipal Committee had allowed their finances to get into an unsound condition, and had made no effort to improve the position. The request of the Municipal Committee for a cent per cent grant-in-aid was considered by the Sanitary Board in July, 1939, and a decision in the matter was postponed until information was available regarding the action taken by the Committee to improve their financial position. (*Interruptions.*) My honourable friend Lala Duni Chand should put his own house in order before criticizing the Government.

In Dera Ghazi Khan district Rs. 7,957 were given for improving the Vehoa water supply and Rs. 1,941 for Fort Munro water supply. My honourable friend S. Muhammad Hassan Khan Gurchani complained against the unsatisfactory arrangements of water supply in Dajal town. Perhaps he is unaware of the history of this case. I shall, therefore, give him some relevant facts with regard to the Dajal water supply scheme, which are as follows:—

A water supply scheme for the town of Dajal was prepared in 1921 which was estimated to cost Rs. 82,765. The Municipal Committee, Dajal, did not agree to this scheme and suggested that a tube-well should be installed instead. In 1922 the Punjab Sanitary Board sanctioned the proposal and gave a grant-in-aid of Rs. 1,639 to meet half the cost of the trial bore. In 1923 the Municipal Committee, Dajal, decided not to proceed with this scheme owing to the paucity of funds and returned the grant-in-aid. In 1926 the scheme was revived and the Board gave a grant of Rs. 4,658 to cover the entire cost of trial bore. The trial bore proved a failure as the water was brackish and pronounced unfit for drinking purposes. The Superintending Engineer then proposed to carry out a water survey in the area to find out the nearest point from Dajal where sweet water could be obtained, the cost being met out of the saving from the scheme of trial bore. In the meantime, at the instance of Deputy Commissioner, Dera Ghazi Khan, an alternative scheme estimated to cost Rs. 3,28,500 was drawn up by the Superintending Engineer. This scheme involved bringing water to Dajal by aqueduct from the hills. Further investigation showed that the nearest place to Dajal where water fit for drinking purposes could be had, was no less than  $7\frac{1}{2}$  miles away. It was proposed that a service reservoir be constructed at Dajal and water be brought from this place. The approximate cost of this scheme was estimated to be Rs. 1,60,000. The Sanitary Board considered this question in 1929 and resolved that a trial boring which will be carried out at the cost of the Board must first be made before drawing up the scheme. The Superintending Engineer, Public Health Circle, Punjab, prepared an estimate amounting to Rs. 2,929 for this trial bore and the money was placed at his disposal by the Sanitary Board. Borings were made on the Dajal-Jampur road at a distance of 10 miles from Dajal and it was estimated that the cost of water supply to Dajal town would amount to more than 2 lakhs of rupees. It was then proposed that trial boring should be carried out in a place nearer Dajal to tap sweet water for supply to the town. This proposal was kept in abeyance till financial position of the province improved. Thereafter the President,

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Municipal Committee, Dajal, again emphasised the urgent necessity of suitable water-supply arrangements for Dajal Town and he was asked to forward a complete scheme through proper channel. In 1937 the Commissioner, Multan Division, informed that a scheme was prepared by an irrigation engineer of great local experience which was estimated to cost Rs. 78,710 and recommended that this scheme should be taken up instead of the scheme prepared by the Superintending Engineer, Public Health Circle. The Sanitary Board again considered this question in 1938 and resolved that the Superintending Engineer, Public Health Circle, Punjab, be asked to put up a practicable scheme less costly than the one already prepared by him. It may be mentioned here that the scheme prepared by the Irrigation Engineer was not found to be feasible. The Superintending Engineer is preparing a fresh preliminary estimate in respect of water supply to Dajal town on the basis of a supply of 4 gallons per head per diem. This scheme when ready will be considered by the Sanitary Board.

I admit that there is still a great deal to be done to improve rural water-supplies in the province, but the House will agree with me that the progress in this direction has been most satisfactory and the problem is engaging the serious attention of the Government. I can assure my honourable friends that constant endeavours will be made on the part of the Government to solve this problem in the shortest possible time.

I think the House would like to know something about the activities of the Public Health Department in connection with rural sanitation. Environmental hygiene in rural areas has progressed satisfactorily during 1939. Efforts were directed towards the safeguarding of water supplies, and the paving and drainage of streets. Work in this connection was undertaken in 4,613 villages during the year and efforts were made to maintain what had been done in other villages in former years. Over 500 new wells were constructed or sanitated and about 4,000 hand-pumps brought into use. Approximately 1½ lakhs of rupees were collected from the villagers to pay in part or in full for sanitary works in rural areas. A sum of approximately Rs. 75,000 was given by Government from the special development fund for this purpose. This grant made it possible to improve wells or introduce new water supplies in 240 villages and to undertake drainage and paving in 178. An investigation into diets and state of nutrition was carried out in one of the famine areas of Hissar district early in 1939. Nutrition survey in Lyallpur district was commenced in April and is still continuing. Much propaganda work in connection with nutrition was carried out as in former years. I should now like to give a brief summary of the work done by the Department in other directions during 1939. The efforts of the Department to check and control epidemics met with great success. Cholera has never been entirely absent from the province since 1867 onwards, since records of its incidence have been kept. In 1892 over 75,000 people died from this disease. In 1900, 28,000 persons died of this disease. Over 19,000 deaths occurred in the adh-Kumbh mela year, but in the full Kumbh mela year of 1938, when, as invariably happens, returning pilgrims carry the disease all over the province, the number of deaths was little over 5 thousand. During the year 1939 only 19 deaths occurred from this cause. Three of these were in isolated cases.

from which no further cases arose. Sixteen occurred in one localized outbreak, which was confined to four villages, beyond which it did not spread when preventive measures were applied. During the year nearly 2 lakhs of anti-cholera inoculations were carried out mainly in famine areas as a precautionary measure. No case of plague was recorded in the Punjab during 1939. This is the first year since the disease appeared in the Punjab, in which no case has been reported. From 1895 onwards there have been years of increased incidence when the number of deaths from smallpox have been as high as 45,000. Even as recently as 1926, there were 17,593 deaths and again in 1938 there were 11,626. A wave of increased incidence and death-rate from smallpox occurs periodically, and one of these waves was to be expected in the years 1937—39. An increase did actually occur, but was very much smaller than the smallest previously recorded wave which occurred in 1932-33. There were, in fact, over 40 per cent fewer deaths than in 1932-33. From 1930 to 1937 the average yearly number of vaccinations carried out was 2,915,745. The average for the last three years has been 4,465,210. In 1939 there were 12,650 cases of smallpox in the Punjab with 4,311 deaths. Over 50 per cent of the total number of deaths from smallpox occurred amongst children under 5 years of age. A Bill for compulsory revaccination is under consideration of Government. In 1939 there was a reduction of over a thousand in the number of deaths from febrile conditions compared with the previous year. As a precautionary measure against possible epidemic malaria, elaborate arrangements were made for the distribution of quinine, particularly in famine stricken areas. Extensive anti-malaria measures were undertaken with the object of permanently eliminating certain breeding places and controlling others.

Only 89 deaths from cerebrospinal fever were recorded, about one-half of the number recorded in 1938.

Leprosy is a minor problem in the Punjab. Systematic survey work has been carried out since 1931 and the greater part of the province has now been covered, namely, 21 districts out of 29. There are 1,887 known cases of leprosy in the Punjab including 666 housed in the five Leper Homes. Of the inmates of the Homes 84 per cent are non-Punjabis. Leprosy clinics have been established in connection with hospitals and rural dispensaries and there are now 158 of these special treatment centres throughout the province. Survey work was carried on in the following areas with regard to the hookworm disease. This included three villages of Sialkot district and one tahsil of Amritsar district. Mass treatment was carried out in Sialkot, Hoshiarpur and Gurdaspur districts. Altogether 118,636 individuals received treatment. The total number of persons so far treated since the commencement of the scheme in 1934 is nearly 5 lakhs.

The department has prepared a 5-year scheme for the survey of tuberculosis in rural areas. Khan Sahib Dr. Riaz Ali Shah, one of our distinguished District Medical Officers of Health, was sent to United States of America for special training in the prevention and treatment of tuberculosis. He has recently returned from there after acquiring special knowledge about this disease. He has received excellent hints from the experts in America with whom he worked there. His training in this disease, I am sure, will prove of great value to the province. Four Lady Health Visitors are being sent to Ceylon for training in anti-tuberculosis work.

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Industrial health work is gradually expanding in the province; and the provisions of the Factories Act dealing with health matters are now much more effectively applied than they were a few years ago. All Assistant Directors of Public Health and District and Municipal Medical Officers of Health are additional Factory Inspectors. This has not only facilitated the work of inspection, but has made it possible for a local health officer with authority to assist factory managers in carrying out recommendations for the improvement of health conditions. During the year 284 factories were inspected and of these 150 were visited by the specialist health officers for factories. Eighty-six of the factories inspected were re-visited in order that the carrying out of recommendations made might be facilitated. During the year there was a definite improvement in the general cleanliness of factory compounds and work rooms. The protection of water supplies is receiving much more attention, latrine accommodation has been improved, and increased facilities have been provided for first aid to the injured. An enquiry into the health of workers employed in Cotton Ginning Factories, particularly in relation to the effects of working in a dusty atmosphere, is being carried out. During the year 28 mines were inspected by officers of the Public Health Department. Medical inspection of school children is now properly organised in eight of the larger towns under the supervision of the Municipal Medical Officers of Health. The responsibility for developing this work rests with local bodies. A practical scheme has been drawn up by the Public Health Department and has been successfully applied in the towns mentioned above. There is no reason why it should not be applied elsewhere with equal success if local bodies would awake to the necessity of this important work. Satisfactory progress has been maintained in respect of maternity and child welfare work during the year. Eight new maternity and child welfare centres were organised in 1939, bringing the total to 98. The majority of these centres include work in rural areas as part of their routine activities, although all are not situated in villages. Nearly 2,500 dais are under training in the province. During the year 627 dais obtained certificates compared with 563 in the previous year. Of those who obtained certificates 381 came from villages. In 78 local bodies Nurses Registration Act is in force. The Punjab Pure Food Act was adopted by 81 additional local bodies during the year, bringing the total number of local bodies applying the Act to 140. The Public Health Chemist is public analyst to 123 of these local bodies. The Public Health Chemical Laboratory received 1,060 samples of food for analysis during the year. One hundred samples were received from bodies who have not adopted the Act so far. Two hundred and fifty-nine samples of water from all over the province were examined during the year. Two important investigations are proceeding in the Laboratory:—

- (1) The investigation into the fluorine content of Punjab waters is progressing.
- (2) The Chemist is examining samples of ghee from different parts of the province in order to establish proper standards for the determination of purity of ghee. A Bill to provide for the colourisation of artificial ghee has been prepared in order to check adulteration, and the same will soon be introduced in the legislative assembly.

The Punjab Vaccine Institute has continued to do excellent work during the year. The output of lymph has increased by over 4,000 grams. The Institute supplies the needs not only of this province, but of the military authorities in northern India, North-Western Railway, and of a number of other provinces and States. The value of lymph sold during the year 1939 was over Rs. 1,20,000.

Further progress has been made in the direction of co-ordinating the efforts of the curative and preventive medicine in rural areas. Up to date 165 rural dispensaries are working under the Public Health Department. The work of the doctors in charge of these rural dispensaries was reorganised by making arrangements for their touring in the villages within a five miles radius of their dispensaries in addition to attending the sick in their own homes. These doctors were made responsible for preventive health work in villages under the supervision of District Medical Officers of Health. Over 12,000 visits were paid to villages by these doctors and about 150,000 patients were treated in their own homes. These were mainly patients who owing to the severity of their illness or lack of transport could not have been brought to a dispensary, and who, otherwise would not have been seen by a doctor. Many thousand cases of infectious diseases were treated and measures taken to prevent the spread of infection in the family and the community. Village birth and death registers were regularly inspected, entries regarding causes of death corrected, where necessary, and village officials instructed in the carrying out of registration duties properly. As a result of this expansion of health work in villages we are beginning to gain a more accurate knowledge of the illness from which villagers suffer and of the diseases which cause deaths in villages. In addition to extending health work by making a fuller use of existing institutions, the Public Health Department has achieved that end by establishing health organisations which are supported wholly by voluntary contributions. There are at present 6 health bureaux in existence, three in Hoshiarpur district, two in Lahore district and one in Ambala district. Some of them have been functioning without interruption for two years, others are of more recent birth. Six more are about to be brought into being. These organisations cater not only for the treatment of the sick but also for the preventive work in the villages in which the subscribers live. In addition to these larger institutions, 12 smaller organisations, which are called sub-bureaux, have been established on the same contributory principles, in association with the rural dispensaries which have come under the control of the Public Health Department. These sub-bureaux are really branch dispensaries. These institutions are unique in the Punjab, in that they have been established without any Government financial aid. Up to date no less a sum than Rs. 24,531 has been voluntarily donated and subscribed to meet establishment and running costs. There are 676 members who regularly pay subscriptions to the bureaux and 860 who pay towards the upkeep of the sub-bureaux. Over 75,000 patients have been treated in one year by the bureau doctors and over a lakh and 25 thousand have attended as out-patients at the sub-bureaux. Many non-members have availed themselves of the services offered by these organisations and Rs. 417 were collected in fees from such individuals. It is not, I think, too fanciful to see in this movement the embryo of a rural health insurance

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scheme, regarding the organisation of which there has been much talk, but never before a practical demonstration of what might be done.

I do not propose to detain the House any longer. But before I conclude I wish to take this opportunity of congratulating Colonel C. M. Nicol, the Director of Public Health, and other officers and men of the Public Health Department on maintaining a high standard of efficiency in the administration of the department. They have exhibited a high sense of duty and enthusiasm in the service of this province. Before I sit down I would like to sound a note of warning in regard to the rapid increase in population of this province. The rate of net increase in our population is perhaps the largest in India. The population of the province in the census of 1931 was 23,551,210. The estimated population in 1939 is over 27,200,000. The net increase in the population at the next census will be over 40 lakhs. In other words, our population is increasing at the rate of 4 lakhs per annum. The province is mainly dependent on agriculture and the pressure on land is increasing day by day. The average of cultivated land per head of population in the province is about three-fourths of an acre. With further increase in the population the pressure on land will become greater. It is gratifying to note that the Government is trying to bring all the available land under cultivation and it is hoped that large areas of waste land will come under cultivation by the completion of Haveli and Thal irrigation projects. I hope the Government will try to expedite the completion of the Thal project and will undertake the Bhakra Dam Project as soon as possible. I further hope that efforts will be made to industrialise the province in order to increase the production of the province so as to bring it in conformity with the increasing population. Sir, I thank you and the honourable members for giving me a patient hearing. (Cheers).

**Khan Muhammad Yusuf Khan** (Rawalpindi Sadar, Muhammadan, Rural): Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have been discussing since yesterday the administration and policy of the Public Health Department. It is a matter, the requirements of which and the utility of which cannot be in any way denied and so far as it lies in our power or capabilities, we think that nobody will shirk it and nobody will grudge it, because it is one of the most essential requirements of any civilised country or a civilised nation to be healthier and to be stouter. Sir, a healthy nation becomes a source of economic strength to the country and enhances the power of its production and ultimately leads to economic stability and welfare of the whole society. But, Sir, when we look to our own country—and by country I mean the whole of India without any exception—we find that the state of health, specially in rural India is very deplorable. Diseases, epidemics and so many other evils are eating into the vitals of the whole community. We find that in our province and in our country from annas two to annas seven *per capita* per annum is the amount that is being spent and that is very discouraging. However, as this is known to everybody and has been stressed all over India and in every province, every responsible Government has now turned its eyes and has turned its attention to the improvement of general health of the people. On this occasion I want to confine my remarks to my own district. Closely connected with health is the question of water supply. I would not deal with other matters on this occasion.

As I have so often placed my views before you on the floor of the House, I belong to a district which always lifts its eyes towards heaven for water for the production of crops. What I mean to say is that it is a *barani* ilaqa and has a very small source of water supply. It depends on heaven to enrich it or to impoverish it. Sir, there are lands which can become cultivable and which can be easily irrigated if proper attention is diverted to them. Leaving aside the question of land which has got the potentialities to be irrigated, even the human beings who are dwelling in that ilaqa are deprived of water—the first essential of human requirements. Therefore I would, with all the emphasis I command, request the Honourable Minister for Education to pay special attention to this problem and I hope that with a little attention paid, the prosperity of the people of the district will be enhanced and it will be a source of prayer from them and he will be rather discharging a noble duty to the people. I have with me a statement which shows that in the following villages in the Rawalpindi district people have made every effort to get some water, viz., Koot, Lakho, Mohra Amin, Mohra Thathal, Bajar Dhok Ambanwali. In some of these villages boring was done, but as the efforts of the people were quite inadequate and they were not able to cope with the expenses necessitated by these operations they were unable to secure water. However, the District Engineer looked into the matter and his estimate was that Rs. 23,649 would be quite sufficient. Those people were approached and they agreed to pay one-third of the amount on condition that the remaining two-thirds came from any other source under the special Development Scheme. I do not know what the reply of the Government would be to this. However, under the special Development Scheme the people have agreed to pay their own share and I would request the Honourable Minister that he should, as it has so often been said on the floor of the House that Government under that scheme is always ready to meet the exigencies of the occasion, advance money. I hope Government will not in any way grudge it. Similarly, Sir, in the following villages there is great paucity of water, viz., Mamian, Dhok Am, Bhatian Nurdin, Bishandot, Mohra Malat, Jandu, Dhok Mochian, Namb Ramal, Mohra Mala, Tikal, Hanesar. In these villages people are suffering from scarcity of water. This question was also considered and those people, i.e., the inhabitants of these villages also agreed to pay  $\frac{1}{3}$ rd of the expenses that will be required to bring water to them and the district board of Rawalpindi has applied to the Government for the remaining  $\frac{2}{3}$ rd. I hope this matter will be very sympathetically considered. Over and above this, Sir, round about my own native place water is not to be found and is very far off and it is very difficult for the people to get water. This matter was also considered. My village Golra and many other villages and Dhoks, being far off from the central village, are unable to get water. These villages find shortage of water. They are as follows:—Dharmian, Thathal, Barkhanzada, Suhala, Gidar-khotha, Rupar, Mohra Telian, Bonian. In addition there are the following villages in which people feel great scarcity of water, viz., Dhok Karmi Dakhli Lakho, Kangar Madhal, Chchappar, Dhok Ghazi, Kala Gujranmehaki Isar and Chechi Chohan, Behr Kalial, Dhok Panah, Turkwal, Kaliala and Kamra. Those people must be supplied with water. Estimates have not so far been made and I do not know what will be the expenses. However, I do not



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think that lakhs of rupees would be required ; it will be only a question of a few thousands. Leaving aside this question, a sum of Rs. 23,649 would be required for supplying water to the villages which I mentioned, and for these few villages I do not think it will be more than Rs. 20,000. I do not think that it is such a huge amount that the Government exchequer will become totally empty. I therefore again request the Honourable Minister in charge to see to this matter and pay special consideration to it so that those suffering human beings may be relieved and may get the very essential requirement to maintain human life. With these remarks I resume my seat.

**Dr. Satya Pal** (Sialkot-Amritsar, General, Rural) (*Urdu*): Sir, the department of Public Health is of such vital importance in the administration of the province that much can be said about it. But I would like to bring a few important facts to the notice of the Honourable Minister concerned. It has been stated that the department has achieved a phenomenal success in bringing the diseases of cholera, plague, etc., under control. It is gratifying to note this achievement but has it ever occurred to the Honourable Minister that such diseases have by now been eradicated root and branch from the other civilised countries? If these diseases exist in our province, even to a small extent, they indicate our helplessness, ignorance and weakness to cope with them. The foreign civilised countries where not a vestige of such epidemic diseases is left, are far ahead of us in this respect. However, the Punjab Government claims much credit for whatever little they have been able to achieve in this direction. But I have apprehensions lest this boast should be falsified. The honourable members are fully aware that the Honourable Premier had very boastfully remarked that they had never felt the necessity of calling troops for the maintenance of law and order or that on no occasion had they been compelled to resort to firing. But Providence has its own way of taking revenge for the unguarded words. Only a few days ago the Honourable Premier had to see his boast frustrated. His Government had to resort to firing on the same Khaksars for counteracting whose unlawful activities the United Provinces Government had been made a target of unceasing criticism and condemnation. Similarly epidemics or diseases are governed by nature. Eradication or controlling of cholera to some extent is no matter of pride for the Ministry. What we have to see is to what extent they have been able to better the general health of the people of the province, whether they have succeeded in abolishing the heaps of refuse littered in the streets of cities and villages, where the germs of diseases flourish so much. One must be living in a fool's paradise if he thinks that the Ministry has done anything substantial in this direction.

Then it was boastfully remarked that our province was leading in the matter of birth rate and that the death rate, too, had diminished. I could not follow the logic of my honourable friend opposite. But I think those who are conversant with the science of eugenics, are of the opinion that increase in birth rate is not a compliment for any country. It is rather a sign of poverty. Even the Government can easily find out from the statistics that it is greater among the half-starved and poverty-stricken people. In the face of this state of affairs the department of Public Health has no occasion to take pride in bringing about an increase in the birth rate. As

regards the decrease in death rate, may I know if the rate of 21 deaths per thousand is not an alarming death rate? Just compare it with other countries where it has gone down to a considerable extent. I am of the opinion that if a Government can do anything in the domain of public health, it can only make efforts to check or at least lower the death rate. Again, if we concede what my honourable friend Mian Mushtaq Ahmad Gurmani has been pleased to say, then it would not be out of place to call the Public Health Department as Public Death Department. But what I want to drive at is that we can measure the success of the Public Health Department only by finding out to what extent the general health of the people of the province has improved under the régime of the present Ministry. It is obvious that any Government which is in power and realises taxes from the people would do something for the improvement of public health. What we have to see is whether that improvement has been in conformity with the principles adopted and standards achieved by other civilised countries. In this connection I may point out that the disease of tuberculosis is a great menace to humanity. It is easy to control epidemic diseases like cholera, smallpox, etc., but it requires tremendous efforts to prevent the spread of this wasting disease. If any community or nation is in the grip of this dread disease, it is faced with almost annihilation. Honourable members are aware that the consumptives die a slow death and that its tragic results are very far-reaching. It is a grave and serious matter that this disease is very much spreading in our province. May I know what steps the Government has taken in order to check the spread of this fatal disease? I know that certain affluent persons donated certain amounts of money for building a tuberculosis institute. But how far has it been able to cope with this disease in the province? Then it has been stated that previously an amount of Rs. 16 lakhs used to be earmarked for this department, but now Rs. 26 lakhs have been provided in the budget for this beneficent department. But the crux of the matter is as to what extent the tax payers, the masses, the real masters of the country have benefited from this grant. I have yet to see if anything worth the name is done for the betterment of the health of the masses. In this connection may I know why a sum of Rs. 2½ lakhs has been provided for the city of Simla alone where the Government have to spend only four months in a year? May I also enquire the number of villages whose pressing need at present is better sanitation, adequate water supply of wholesome drinking water, better arrangements for medical aid, light, etc., and yet where no such arrangements exist due to paucity of funds? Their number is legion. It is a thousand pities that Government spends large sums of money on the sanitation of big cities and almost neglects the countryside. In this connection I would like to tell the honourable members that 15 years ago, the late Sir Fazl-i-Hussain had decided that for every unit of 32 thousand people, a hospital should be established for providing at least minimum medical aid to the masses. But 15 years have elapsed and we find that no appreciable increase has been effected in the number of dispensaries. What we find is that this Government had decided to open 86 subsidised dispensaries. But that decision has remained a pious wish. It has not yet been given effect to. The efforts of the Government in this direction have been confined only to inviting applications for the posts of medical officers. As a matter of fact, this too, is a sort of political stunt. The

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Unionist Government wants to patronise the people by throwing them crumbs of offices. Again, even if these 86 dispensaries had been opened, the ills of the rural people would not have been wholly solved. As a matter of fact a tremendous effort is required on the part of the Government for providing medical relief to the rural people. It is held by eminent doctors that there should be as many as 25 doctors for every 20 thousand people, so that the maximum number of people may be able to receive medical aid. Now the question arises how to acquire funds for opening new hospitals. But before touching that question I would like to bring this fact to the notice of the honourable members that in no other country are such fat salaries paid to the medical officers, as are being paid by the Punjab Government. A substantial portion of the amount allotted to this department is consumed by the salaries. For instance, a sum of Rs. 5½ lakhs is spent on the Medical College at Lahore. But honourable members would be surprised to find that out of 10 professors 9 belong to the Indian Medical Service. Besides, the Punjab Government is required to employ 17 I. M. S. officers, but what do we find? No less than 36 I. M. S. officers, drawing fabulous salaries, are in the employ of our Government. There is another tragic aspect of the matter which shows that the Punjab Government is more or less suffering from Anglo-mania. I have already stated that out of 10 chairs of professorship 9 are held by I. M. S. people. Now the tenth one i.e., of Pathology is going to fall vacant in July next owing to the retirement of Rai Bahadur Dr. Jiwan Lal. The Government are contemplating to fill this post by importing a European belonging to the I. M. S. It would not be out of place to mention that in the whole of India, wherever a medical college exists, the post of the professor of Pathology is held by an Indian. I fail to understand why the Punjab Government has not been able to get a suitable Indian for the post. I am of this opinion that Government's insistence on appointing an Englishman as professor of Pathology is in itself a condemnation of the Ministry.

**Minister for Education :** Sir, I rise to a point of order. The honourable member is not relevant. We are discussing public health and not medical relief. The honourable member is discussing the staff and the salaries of the Medical College.

**Dr. Satya Pal :** I am perfectly relevant. It was stated by Mr. Mushtaq Ahmad Gurmani that epidemics can never be controlled without a sufficiently powerful Pathological Department at its head. Even in the Retrenchment Committee the question is discussed as to whether medical relief is to be in the hands of the Public Health Department or in the hands of the Medical Department. How can I separate the two?

Now, Sir, you will see that so much money is being incurred on one medical centre alone, but what is the benefit that the people derive out of it? According to the report of the Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals more than one crore of patients visited the public hospitals throughout the length and breadth of the province, and out of them 3,200,000 patients were those who suffered from eye diseases. This is not a matter to be proud of. On the contrary it is matter of grave concern that eye diseases

are spreading in the province. In this connection I may point out that if we study facts and figures regarding blindness we would find that the Punjab tops the list in India. After the Punjab comes the Central Provinces and there the causes of increase in blindness are that mostly aborigines live there and they do not pay much heed to their health. However I was pointing out that 3,200,000 patients suffering from eye diseases visited the public hospitals in the Punjab. The honourable members will be surprised to hear that cataract, which is believed to result from a deficiency of vitamins, is also much more prevalent in the Punjab as compared to other provinces. The Public Health Department of such a province where people are suffering from cataract on account of deficiency of vitamins cannot take pride in the fact that it has improved the health of the people. Not only that but cataract is increasing very rapidly in this province. The most astonishing thing is that out of all the cataract operations only 232 operations were performed by the specialists at Lahore Medical College, who are drawing something like Rs. 5,000 a month by way of salaries. It is proper that in Lahore, which is the special centre for treating eye patients and for performing cataract operations and where experts and professors of the Medical College reside, more operations should have been performed. But what is the real state of affairs? Only 232 cataract operations were performed by the so-called experts at Lahore and the rest of the patients of the eye diseases were treated in other hospitals by assistant, and sub-assistant surgeons in mofussil. I cannot help remarking that these mofussil surgeons in the Punjab have become so very expert in eye diseases that doctors from America and other foreign countries come and learn this art from them. But the so-called experts at Lahore do not enjoy the confidence of people. My object in pointing out this thing is that a great burden is being put on the tax payers in the form of the salaries of these experts who are doing very little work. I think public money is being wasted because it is given to those people who are neither experts nor have any sympathy for the Indians. Besides, I may point out that in every province specialists write monographs in order to make medical science richer. The honourable members will be surprised to find that there is not a single specialist or I. M. S. in the Punjab who has ever published any monograph on any eye disease. There is yet another matter which I have not been able to understand and that is that eye specialists are residing in Lahore and are teaching in the Medical College, but it is a curious thing that a diploma class for eye diseases has been opened at Amritsar. May I know why these experts have not been entrusted with teaching the students this most important subject? In other words it simply means that the experts at Lahore are good for nothing and only public funds are being wasted. At present there are only two professors who are known as experts in surgery at Lahore. One of them is Colonel Bharucha, who has been appointed as the Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals and the other is Colonel Mirajkar. Now let us see as to how many operations these two experts performed during one year. The total number of operations which the two specialists referred to above performed were 233 and 195, respectively. If we take into consideration their salaries we can find out as to what amount of money has been incurred per operation. However I do not propose to go into these details. What we have to see is as to how poor people are treated.

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in the big hospital at Lahore. I can say without any fear of contradiction that often poor people with fractured legs have been lying in the hospital for several days without the doctors being able to attend on them. The reason is that they attend on patients in the family wards and so they could not attend on these patients. My object in pointing out these things is that the Department of Public Health can succeed only if the Government spends the money, which is being wasted on keeping such high salaried doctors, on establishing more rural dispensaries. The number of such dispensaries is at present very small. I think if the amount of Rs. 22 lakhs which is spent on this department is used for establishing more rural dispensaries, that would be more useful. Many more dispensaries would be established where the people would be able to get medical aid.

Then there is another reason due to which no useful work is being done in the Punjab. I think the Punjab Government and the Government of India have a craze that those people who study medical science in England, Liverpool, Manchester and other places are more efficient than the Indian medical graduates. But they conveniently ignore this thing that medical students who study medical science in England, Liverpool and other places are not conversant with the conditions prevalent in this country. The conditions of those countries are entirely different from those of our own. Now when such medical graduates come here they are confronted with different conditions. But as they are not conversant with the conditions prevalent here the result is that they cannot achieve anything, nor can they give effect to alien ideas here. All the same they continue to draw huge salaries but cannot benefit the people in any way. In the circumstances, my suggestion is that instead of paying huge salaries to such doctors some sort of arrangement should be made that either medical men should be encouraged to work honorarily or on very small pay in the Punjab. This would also remove unemployment among medical men and moreover the expenses of the Government would also be reduced. At present there are something like 4,000 registered medical practitioners in the province and this number, in my opinion, is insufficient for the needs of the Punjab. But with all this the Government is contemplating closing down some medical institutions. My submission is that the Government should give up controlling such institutions and permit them to be run by philanthropists as is done in other countries. There are many philanthropists here who would be willing to come forward and finance such institutions. Even in England such institutions are run by philanthropists and Government is not responsible for their upkeep and maintenance. Very famous and renowned medical experts work in such institutions honorarily and in fact such institutions are not a burden on the tax payers as it is the case here in the Punjab. If the suggestion referred to above is adopted here that would reduce the expenditures of the Medical College, Lahore and Medical School, Amritsar where Rs. 5½ and Rs. 2½ lakhs are spent respectively. Now instead of paying very huge salaries to such doctors these institutions should be entrusted to the care of surgeons who are prepared to work honorarily or on very small salaries. In Lahore and Amritsar there is large number of experienced and very able surgeons, whom the Ministers always consult

when occasions arise, who would be willing to work in such institutions honorarily. If such doctors are fit to treat public at large, I fail to understand why they cannot teach students of Medical College and Medical school. To my mind such medical men are prepared to work on a meagre pay. But the fact of the matter is that these institutions have been opened for providing facilities specially to the rich people and nobody cares a fig for the poor. Moreover the treatment which the experts at Lahore mete out to patients is very bad. I remember that an I. M. S. officer operated upon a relative of a rich person. After he finished the operation he demanded Rs. 200 as his fee. But as soon as he knew that the person who was operated upon was rich enough to have the services of a nurse to look after him he demanded Rs. 350 as his fee. Such incidents daily come to our notice. But if honorary surgeons and other experienced surgeons are appointed on small salaries they would prove more useful than the present experts. These medical officers who are notorious for their exactions cannot create confidence in the people. Besides, the money that would be saved could very easily be spent on the opening of new dispensaries and medical centres in the rural areas. Furthermore, the Public Health Department can come in for criticism on another ground. The people are told by this department to do things which they are not in a position to do. This shows that the department is not aware of the conditions under which it has to work. For instance, when the doctors of this department visit villages, they tell people to have well-ventilated houses and to sleep under mosquito nets. The people say, "Look here, we have not a rag to clothe our body, this doctor wants us to buy mosquito-nets worth two rupees and a half each." I went to a village and found that there was only one pond of water there. The people bathed in it, took water out of it for personal cleanliness, and then took pitcherfuls home for drinking purposes. This is against the principle of sanitation but what could the poor people do? No doubt the Government has done something for the big cities but my complaint is that they have done precious little for the rural areas. I am conscious of the fact that the Ministry abhors a reference to Russia but I have got to refer to one thing which the Russians have done. They have employed twenty-six thousand doctors for work in the country. My honourable friend Mushtaq Ahmad Gurmani has said that he stands for gradual progress. I appreciate his point of view. His own safety lies in gradual and slow progress. But this sort of progress will not be in the interests of the down-trodden poor. They stand in need of a revolutionary progress. If we move at the present speed, India will not be free of her miseries in a thousand years' time. I, therefore, stand for revolution, an overnight revolution, and not merely gradual development as desired by my honourable friend Mian Mushtaq Ahmad Gurmani. I am not satisfied if the needs of big cities are attended to. I want that the life of the dwellers in the humblest huts in the countryside are made better. At the present time those poor people do not know the simplest rules of health. I challenge my friends of the Ministry to go with me to any village to see if the villagers know the simplest rules of health, namely that one should not sleep with his face covered. There is no doubt that ignorance and poverty have assumed so great a proportion in our villages that at present there seems to be no way out of the villagers' difficulty. The greatest need of the time is that we should create such an atmosphere in

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the province that the diseases are successfully combated. How disappointing is the fact that the average life of an Indian is only 21 while the average life of an American is 56 against 54 of an Englishman. It is pointed out that the small average in the case of India is due to the high rate of infant mortality but even that is not less appalling.

Now, I would refer to another important matter. In all countries we find independent medical councils. The Government takes their advice. The Government here depends too much on the people in their service. If they consult those outsiders who are specialists in their line, much good can result. Perhaps our Government is apprehensive of the fact that if private practitioners are brought into prominence, they will get popular and they may in the long run influence the voting strength of Government adversely. But the Government should have no fears on that score. Medical practitioners are sensible enough to keep politics away from their profession. Moreover, the doctors in Government service cannot attend to the work of medical relief as efficiently as outsiders. In the first place it is not possible for the civil surgeons to visit every place. Then, they are very much accustomed to speak in the language of bureaucrats. They do not make very good impression on the public mind. Of all departments the medical department is such where humanity is needed most. Then, the Government has employed certain officers from whom no useful work is being taken. For instance there is a Health Officer in the Municipal Committee of Lahore. There is District Medical Officer under him who draws 800 rupees, four hundred from the committee and four hundred from Government. But he has no powers. In the absence of any powers his position is that of a chief sanitary inspector. This is all due to the redtapism of the administrator. I hope the Government will listen to what I have said although I doubt that they will listen. They are only fond of listening to their praises and not to constructive criticism. I appeal to them to attend to those suggestions which may be useful for the poor people of the Punjab.

**Sardar Lal Singh :** (Ludhiana Central, Sikh, Rural) : Much has been said and large ground has been covered on this subject but I would like to make a few remarks about the need of improving the rural health and hygiene. If the present Government had said honestly that although they are provided with adequate funds, they are only trying to do their best, that is their possible best, that would have been quite all right and there would have been nothing to criticise, but when they go beyond this and claim all sorts of things and extreme credit for themselves, we must certainly object to it. One thing that has been said is that this present Government has been giving a lot of money to the beneficent departments under which I suppose the department of Health also comes. The figures show that while the revenues during the last ten years have increased by ten per cent, the expenditure on the beneficent departments has also increased only by ten per cent. Since the provincial autonomy has come into force nothing has been done for which they can lay claim to extra credit. Then the population has increased and it has increased during the last decade by 14 per cent. Calculations therefore show that the present

ministry has not even in the matter of devoting money to the beneficent departments kept pace with the times. Whereas the population has increased by 14 per cent, the increase in the expenditure on the beneficent departments is only ten per cent. This is nothing extraordinary and nothing beyond what the past Government was doing. My honourable friend Mian Mushtaq Ahmad made a great point of this thing that lot of things have been done and he said that after all *yeh kam admion se he hoga*.

But is it necessary that where a man getting a pay of forty or fifty rupees can control the vaccination or keep the neighbourhood of villages clean, there a Health Officer with an initial salary of four or five hundred rupees per month should be employed? As my honourable friend said, that officer, who has been in England for long, is not able to travel to remote villages in his car and if the Health Officer cannot go there because his car cannot traverse bad roads, it is a plain fact that the ilaqa will be debarred of his help. A lot can be done in the matter of improvement of rural hygiene by utilising the money that is being spent on these highly paid officers. That money can be utilised by engaging low paid indigenous men who are the real people who can come in contact with villagers. They can be engaged at rupees fifty per mensem. I am sure that if this were done, many times more good could be done to the villagers so far as rural hygiene is concerned. The Honourable Minister will admit that prevention is one of the things which comes under Hygiene. According to my calculations if the population of the Punjab were to buy one pice of quinine per head, that is, if one man were to buy one pice worth of quinine in the whole of the 365 days, the total amount necessary would be about twenty lakhs of rupees. My honourable friend, Khan Bahadur Mian Mushtaq Ahmed Gurmani—I do not know whether he was at all serious—said that the Public Health Department has been so efficient that we are not now in need of births but we are in need of deaths. That is a proposition which a paid Parliamentary Private Secretary of this honourable House has put forward. He has ignored the fact that higher birth rate is a sign of famished life. It is only during famines that there is higher birth rate. (*An honourable member*: That is probably your research). (*Interruption*). This is the considered view of scientists that higher birth rate is a sign of famished life.

**Mrs. J. A. Shah Nawaz** : Is this the result of the latest research?

**Khan Bahadur Mian Mushtaq Ahmad Gurmani** : Has my honourable friend made this discovery?

**Sardar Lal Singh** : This is the result of research which has so far not been contradicted.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang** : What about over-feeding?

**Sardar Lal Singh** : Is it or is it not a fact that the highly nourished countries of France, Germany and England are complaining that their population is decreasing? In those countries there is regular decrease of population whereas I can quote from authorities that the higher birth rate is only prevalent during famines.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang** : Poverty is the cause and not famished life.



**Sardar Lal Singh :** The aim about twenty years ago was that for every thirty thousand people there should be at least one doctor. This Ministry has given up that idea. They are going to provide some subsidised dispensaries on which they are going to spend rupees twelve hundred per dispensary. And how is that amount to be found? Rupees six hundred are to be found by the Honourable Minister, three hundred by the District Board and three hundred will be provided by the villagers themselves. They want money from villagers about whom it is said on page 8 of the book, "A Preliminary Review of Health Conditions and Public Health Work in the Punjab during the year 1939" :—

- ◆ Even in rural areas, Government has expected at least 25 per cent. of the cost of the establishment and contingent expenditure of dispensaries to be met by private subscription. Such subscriptions have, in the past, never materialised.

If that is the condition I do not see any likelihood that three hundred rupees per dispensary will be found by the villagers themselves. Further on, on the same page, it is said as follows :—

- The Public Health Department has been able to demonstrate that the villager not only can, but will pay, for his own medical treatment and for preventive work also, if the matter be presented to him in a proper light, and if he be helped in a sympathetic and understanding manner to achieve the end in view.

This is the view of the much talked-of Zemindara Government. It is out to wipe off all debts, it is out to bring the villager to the top, but when that villager needs medical treatment, they say, "find the money for yourself" That is what the Zemindara Government is out to do. They will give fifty rupees to that doctor and that doctor will have to enlist subscribers so that they can raise amongst them rupees thirty per month.

**Mr. Speaker :** Does the honourable member know that there is a great difference between the Medical Department and the Public Health Department?

**Sardar Lal Singh :** I certainly know.

**Mr. Speaker :** Please speak to the demand.

**Sardar Lal Singh :** Fortunately I have got the book with me in which they themselves say that certain rural dispensaries have come under the Public Health Department because they have no work. Their work is to supervise vaccination and now they have been given the additional work.

**Khan Bahadur Mian Mushtaq Ahmed Gurmani :** My honourable friend is talking of subsidised dispensaries. These have nothing to do with the Public Health Department.

**Sardar Lal Singh :** If it has nothing to do with the Public Health Department, will he let me know what they mean by publishing this Report wherein it is said—

- ◆ In addition to these larger institutions, 12 smaller organisations, which have been called "Sub-bureaux", have been established on the same contributory principle, in association with the rural dispensaries which have come under the control of the Department?

**Khan Bahadur Mian Mushtaq Ahmed Gurmani :** My honourable friend is talking of subsidised dispensaries and the mention that has been made in the pamphlet relates to health bureaux which are voluntary organisations.

**Sardar Lal Singh :** I am talking of rural health with which the question of rural dispensaries is allied. My point is that where you are throwing the burden of buying medicines and medical advice on the villagers, what are you going to do about their health? On what basis does this Government claim credit that they are giving extra help to the villagers? I say that none at all is being given. There is no provision for these dispensaries. The doctor may give plain distilled water or may put a drop or two of medicine in it. That is what it comes to. If you study the reports of the Medical Department, you will find that in the case of a European Hospital in Simla the *per capita* expenditure on medicine comes to more than one rupee. When it comes to providing medicine for villagers, it comes to less than one pice per head. These rural dispensaries, as I have just pointed out, are the real need of the villagers. Some of the low paid officers can go there and instruct them to keep quinine and buy quinine and if they cannot keep it or buy it, it should be subsidised. But all that money is being spent on the pay of those highly paid officers. That is what I mean when I say that this Government has not brought credit to itself by breaking away from the old tradition. For the first time in history, these people have been brought in and for what purpose? For the purpose of putting indigenous men into responsible posts and giving them chance so that they should have at least 5 or 6 years to see whether they can accomplish what the high paid people have failed to accomplish. That experiment is now being tried. I must say that this Government has failed to turn its angle of vision. With these words I support the cut motion.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad** (Southern Towns, Muslim-Urban), (Urdu) : Sir, I am free to admit that ever since the present Government has come into power it has ungrudgingly spent money on its various beneficent departments. In this connection my honourable friend Khan Bahadur Mian Mushtaq Ahmad Gurmani has given necessary facts and figures to show as to how far the Government has increased the grant for the Public Health Department in the present budget, and I, therefore, do not propose to waste the valuable time of the House by repeating the same figures. But I am sorry I cannot refrain from saying that the authorities concerned do not properly disburse these sums provided for the department.

Now, Sir, I too had given a notice of a cut motion with a view to urge upon the Government the advisability of adopting effective measures for providing drinking water in localities where there is a marked scarcity thereof. In fact this matter has been sufficiently discussed on the floor of the House, and my honourable sister Mrs. Duni Chand has tried to throw some light on the problem of scarcity of water in Ambala city. But I would also like to make a few observations in this connection from a different point of view. My friend Mian Mushtaq Ahmad Gurmani was pleased to remark that ever since 1935 the Punjab Government has spent as much as Rs. 20,000 for improvement of the water supply scheme of Ambala city. I am free to admit that the Government did spend this fairly large amount of money for the purpose, but this much I must say that the way in which it has been disbursed was highly objectionable. In fact the local authorities

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have wasted the sum in a most irresponsible and imprudent manner. Although they were aware of the fact that the sub-soil water level of the area where the wells had been sunk for supplying water to the city has gone considerably down yet they decided to sink new wells in the same locality. The result was that the whole scheme failed and the problem of water in Ambala remained unsolved. I may inform the Honourable Minister that several persons have made experiments by sinking tube wells in the Ambala city and I definitely know that some of them have proved successful. It would have been much better if the Government had spent the grant amounting to Rs. 20,000 on sinking a tube well in a suitable locality in the centre of the city. In that case the scarcity of water in that city would have become a thing of the past. But it is a pity that whole of the sum has been wasted on a purposeless adventure.

Sir, there is no doubt about the fact that thousands of rupees have been spent on making necessary arrangements for supplying water to various villages, but it is my bounden duty to acquaint the Government with the difficulty generally felt in the rural areas of the south eastern districts of the Punjab especially Hissar and Rohtak. There are places where potable water is not available even within a radius of 12 or 13 miles. Only brackish water is found, but as you know, Sir, it is not fit for drinking purposes. In fact this ilaqa depends on the vagaries of nature. Here rains are so stingy that for years together the inhabitants of that ilaqa fail to get a drop of drinking water. They waste most of their valuable time on fetching water from the distant villages which can otherwise be safely devoted to earning their livelihood. I take this opportunity to remind the Honourable Minister of his duty in the matter. I would request the Government to make suitable arrangements for supplying potable water to poor villagers by sinking tube wells in the areas where the problem of water has grown into alarming proportions.

Then, Sir, water available in the districts, which are situated at the foot of mountains, such as Ambala and Hoshiarpur, is highly injurious to health. And that is why the diseases of goitre and enlargement of spleen are so much common in those areas. In fact the water found available in these districts contain ingredients which help the spread of these fell diseases. It is generally seen that people who use that water seldom attain the age of 40. May I, then, ask the Government as to what arrangements it intends to make for supplying healthy water to these unfortunate people of those ilaqas? In my opinion the sinking of tube wells in those areas would also go a long way to redress this grievance.

Now, Sir, I am going to raise a topic which would, I am sure, be regarded by you as irrelevant as it would be about a distillery. But I would request the Chair to carefully listen to my submission before giving its final ruling in the matter. I should like to draw the attention of the Honourable Ministers for Education and Public Works to the fact that a distillery is situated in Saddar Bazaar at Karnal and the Government has been sleeping over it for the last so many years in spite of our repeated requests. As this distillery is a nuisance to public health, this can be dealt with by the Public Health Department.

Now I would tell you how the existence of the distillery affects the general health of the people adversely. It has been laid down in Sections 118 and 117 of the Municipal Act that any building or factory by which any factor of the public health is likely to be adversely affected should be removed by the Government so that it might not create a permanent public nuisance there. It is just possible that the Government may issue orders to the proprietor of the distillery to build sufficiently high enclosure walls around the distillery which has already been enclosed but this does not serve the purpose. The unpleasant smell which is being given by the distillery is found to be very offensive and obnoxious to health. I think if the premises of the distillery are enclosed even with higher walls, we cannot then also escape from the nauseant smell. Last year the Commissioner visited Karnal and he stayed at the Dak Bungalow or P. W. D. Rest House. He felt at night that a very unpleasant smell was coming from somewhere. He spent the night uncomfortably. Next day when he was visiting the city he found that the distillery was the main cause of the bad smell which did not allow him to sleep the previous night. He at once wrote to the municipal committee to look into this matter. The municipal committee had been on the look out to find some excuse for the removal of the distillery for the last so many years. The municipality availed of this opportunity, held a meeting and passed a resolution to the effect that the distillery should at once be removed from the populated area of the city. A copy of the resolution was sent to the Commissioner and other authorities but to no effect. The trouble is that the proprietor of the distillery is a rich man and moreover the owner of the building in which the distillery is running is a very influential person in the Karnal district. Therefore, both of them win over the officers in no time. As you might be aware I have been putting questions after questions to the effect that the presence of the distillery in the heart of the city is injurious to the health and the Government should pay full attention to the removal of the distillery. Even the respectable people whose houses are situated near the distillery have requested the Government many a time to remove the distillery from that place. But unfortunately no action has been taken by the Government so far. I do not, however, deny the fact that the Government wrote to the Director of Public Health to enquire into this matter and the Director informed his subordinate officers that he was going on tour to Karnal on such and such date. The information was conveyed to the distillery officials but no information was given to the public to represent their case before the Director. I wish he had informed the members of the municipal committee as well. As I have already stated the owner of the building is a very clever and influential person. He got the information one week before. Consequently he asked his men to clean the drains and the dirty water produced at the time of distilling spirits was excluded from the distillery before the usual time so that the officers might not find it there at the time of paying visit to the building. He made preparation for a week before the place was actually visited. You will be surprised to know that the public came to know about this when the Director paid a visit to the place, otherwise nobody knew why that preparation was made. I may also point out that as far as I know the report of the Medical Officer was also against the distillery. When the local officers saw which way the

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wind was blowing they also agreed with the Director. The difficulty is that the proprietor of the distillery plays such tricks and resorts to such contrivances that the officers become *resha khatmi*. I am, however, sure that if the Director had paid a surprise visit, he would have formed the same opinion as was formed by the Commissioner and the Civil Surgeon. But the difficulty was that the subordinate officers were already informed of the Director's visit.

**Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan :** May I draw your attention to the fact that honourable member has used the expression '*resha khatmi*'. Is it parliamentary?

**Mr. Speaker :** Please proceed with your speech.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** I am sorry that the Parliamentary Secretary has not understood the meaning of *resha khatmi*. It is a very simple term. I was submitting that the members of the municipal committee did not know whether the Director was coming to that place to pay a visit to the distillery. When the Director had nearly paid visit to the said building it was only then the members of the municipal committee came to know about it. Besides, the Director, by a very clever device, was refrained from visiting that side of the premises from which the bad smell was coming from the distillery. They took him to the side quite opposite to that from which the wind was blowing. Consequently the Director made a report to the effect that he himself had visited the said distillery and found no offensive smell coming out of it and hence it was incorrect to say that the distillery was a public nuisance. Sir, when an important authority like the Director himself made such a report what could the citizens do? Anyhow they sent a representation to the Financial Commissioner, but they received no favourable reply from him. I may also submit that as the proprietor of the distillery failed to influence the present Civil Surgeon in this respect, he also has recently made a report against the distillery and requested the Minister in charge that the distillery should not remain there any longer. If the Honourable Minister in charge is of the opinion that under the present circumstances when all the official reports are in favour of the distillery he is not in a position or he is not strong enough to redress the grievances of the people by removing it from that place, I may point out to him that a distillery of similar type in Amritsar has been removed on account of the repeated attempts made by the public.

**Dr. Sant Ram Seth :** No, it has not been removed as yet.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** If not removed, I submit that the proposals for its removal must be under consideration of the Government. I therefore request that the removal of the Karnal distillery from the heart of Sadar Bazar Karnal should also be taken into consideration along with proposal of removal of Amritsar distillery. This complaint of the public of Karnal requires immediate attention of the Government. With these words, Sir, I close my remarks.

**Dr. Sant Ram Seth** (Amritsar City, General, Urban) (Urdu) : Sir, my honourable friend Sardar Hari Singh had quoted some facts and figures to show that deaths were on the increase in the Punjab. Naturally the

question arises why the death-rate of our country is so high when our country is extremely fertile and its resources are infinite. Nonetheless, I would point out that the inhabitants of this country are very poor. That is why deaths are on the increase. People are steeped in illiteracy because they cannot finance the schooling of their children. But the expenditure of the Government is very high and since the advent of the British Government in this country, the money has been flowing to England. Unless this flow of money from India to England is checked, public health cannot improve. In order to prove this I would quote some facts and figures to this House. The annual income *per capita* in India is Rs. 40. How can Indians feed and clothe themselves with this meagre income? How they can procure a lodging and manage to make both ends meet, is beyond comprehension. It is almost impossible for them to educate their children. Since the advent of the British administration, the Indians are growing poorer and poorer day by day. Please note that Japan which was very backward only 20 or 25 years ago, counts now among the foremost civilized countries of the world. Their death rate has decreased because they are free people and have improved their conditions according to their own satisfaction. The expenditures of their Government are lower than those of India. Let me here quote the annual income *per capita* in Japan. It is Rs. 271. In England the *per capita* annual income is Rs. 1,902, in Canada Rs. 1,268. (*A voice*: You are getting 22½ rupees daily). This amount has been fixed by the Unionist Government to please their Unionist members. We are prepared to decrease this allowance.

**Mr. Speaker**: Please speak to the motion.

**Dr. Sant Ram Seth**: The annual income *per capita* in the Union of South Africa is Rs. 1,400; and in India it is Rs. 40.

**Sayed Amjad Ali Shah**: Where did you get the figure from to show that *per capita* annual income in India is only 40 rupees?

**Dr. Sant Ram Seth**: I got these figures from the report of the Unemployment Committee. When the *per capita* income in England and United States of America is very high as compared with that in India, and the Premier of England gets Rs. 11,111 only and the President of United States of America gets Rs. 17,062 per month, why should India, whose annual income *per capita* is as low as Rs. 40, pay Rs. 21,333 per month to its Viceroy—when his Superior Officer, the Premier of England, is drawing Rs. 11,111 only per month? Why this abnormal disparity in the case of salaries in India?

**Mr. Speaker**: Please speak to the motion.

**Dr. Sant Ram Seth**: I am explaining that the expenditure of the Government is very high in this country, and money is not available for improving public health.

**Mr. Speaker**: Please proceed.

**Dr. Sant Ram Seth**: I have said that the Premier of England gets Rs. 11,111 per month.

**Mr. Speaker**: The honourable member is irrelevant.

**Dr. Sant Ram Seth**: If there is a saving, that can be spent on the Public Health Department.

**Mr. Speaker :** Please speak to the motion.

**Dr. Sant Ram Seth :** Sir, I was seeking your permission to show that the expenditure of the administration was too heavy to leave any substantial margin for beneficent departments. But you have asked me to leave that argument. I will now come to Public Health Department proper. There is a distillery at Amritsar which is situated very near to the city. My honourable friend the Minister of Public Health must have noticed while on tour at Amritsar, the wholesome smell of waste water of the distillery. This waste water of the distillery is carried away by the storm water channel, which too is very near the city. These two things are a great nuisance to the inhabitants of Amritsar and have a very bad effect on the public health of Amritsar. Therefore, these should be removed as early as possible. Again we had passed a resolution asking for prohibition to be introduced. But the Ministry has not paid any heed to it. Drinking has a very adverse effect on public health. Moreover my honourable friend the Minister of Education must have noticed that the new abadis around Amritsar are not provided with any drainage. The result is that mosquito flourishes there and proves a fruitful source of malaria in the locality. Arrangements should be made at an early date for the drainage of this locality. I am of the opinion that so long as the question of unemployment is agitating the mind of the public, the general health of the people cannot be improved. The honourable members are aware that unemployment tells on the health of the unemployed people who are always worried to find out ways and means in order to keep their body and soul together. Now in the province there are over 20 lakhs of people who are out of work. I request the Government to relieve these unemployed persons of the worries of earning their livelihood by providing them with work. This will cause very wholesome effect on their health. It is a matter of common knowledge that owing to want of employment many people are driven to commit suicide and a large number among them contract dread diseases on account of constant worry for earning their living. I suggest to the Government that they should pay more attention to the industrial development of the province, so that the unemployed people may get work and eke out their subsistence. I am of the opinion that setting up of industries would go a long way to diminish unemployment and indirectly improve the general health of the public.

Then I have to make a submission in regard to the town planning schemes. I have received several complaints from my friends at Amritsar that though two to three years period has elapsed, yet their schemes have not been approved. I think the system of approving of plans first by the municipality, then by the Deputy Commissioner, then by the Commissioner and so on and then by the Town Planner, is very defective and lengthy. The approval should be confined to the Town Planner and the municipality, so that the latter in consultation with the former may arrive at some decision without any further wastage of time and approve the scheme. This would save the people from undergoing unnecessary hardships due to delay caused in the approval of the plans.

Then I am surprised to find that the Government have provided a sum of Rs. 2½ lakhs for the Simla Municipality with a view to making arrangements for water supply, drainage and repair and widening of roads,

in order to make them motorable. I do not object to arrangements being made for supplying wholesome and adequate quantity of water to Simla. Nor do I grudge if the drainage system is improved there. But I take strong exception to widening of roads so that the cars of the Honourable Ministers may be driven smoothly and comfortably. I am of the opinion that this expenditure tantamounts to wastage of money at the cost of the poor and down-trodden tax-payer. I think this sum should be expended in improving the health of the people by supplying them with necessary amenities of life. Besides, we find that the Town Planner has laid down that people would not be permitted to build houses if the plot of land is less than one kanal. I may point out that this restriction is really causing great hardship to the people.

**Mr. Speaker :** Please speak to the motion.

**Dr. Sant Ram Seth :** This matter is also concerned with the Public Health. I am of the opinion that instead of one kanal the plot of land for building purposes should be fixed at 10 marlas. The people cannot afford to purchase one kanal of land.

**Mr. Speaker :** Order, order. If the honourable member is again irrelevant, I shall have to ask him to resume his seat.

**Dr. Sant Ram Seth :** Very well, Sir, I pass on to another subject. I would like to invite the attention of the Government to the rural sanitation which has so far remained somewhat neglected. The honourable members are aware of the fact that the rural population amounts to over two crores in the Punjab and there are more than 84 thousand villages. If you happen to pay a visit to a village....

**Diwan Chaman Lall :** May I draw your attention to the fact that the subject of town planning, namely, Superintending Engineer, Public Health Establishment, Town Planner and his establishment and other Public Health establishment, are part and parcel of the Public Health Department.

**Mr. Speaker :** Speaking generally there is nothing under this dome of heaven which does not come under public health. From that point of view everything is relevant. But discussion should be confined to the expenses and the purposes for which the demand under discussion is moved.

**Diwan Chaman Lall :** Money is being asked for the Public Health demand under this particular head also, namely, under this head of Town Planner and his establishment. Therefore my honourable friend would be well within his right in referring to that.

**Dr. Sant Ram Seth :** Well, Sir, I was making a submission in regard to the sanitation of rural areas. I have already mentioned that our province consists of over 84 thousand villages. If we take sanitary arrangements of these villages into consideration, we find that there exists not a single village which possesses pucca drains, properly lighted clean streets, gardens, etc. As a matter of fact there the amenities of life are conspicuous by their absence. It is apparent that in the circumstances the health of the villagers cannot be improved. I may point out that about 90 per cent of the total population of the province resides in the rural areas. It is



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the bounden duty of the Government to make endeavours for the improvement of the health of the poor villagers. I am of the opinion that Government should provide more money for sanitation in the villages. Then I would like to make a mention of the Bait ilaqa from which the Honourable Mian Abdul Haye has been returned to this Assembly. I would ask him to pay a little attention to the requirements of his own constituency also.

My honourable friend Khan Bahadur Mian Mushtaq Ahmed Gurmani made mention of diseases like malaria, tuberculosis and smallpox but I think so far Government have not done anything to eradicate malaria or tuberculosis from the Punjab. In connection with malaria epidemic I may point out that it is the duty of the Government to distribute quinine among the rural people and also to let them know its uses so that they should be in a position to understand its worth. If this suggestion is adopted it would prove very useful. With these words, I support the cut motion that has been moved by my honourable friend Sardar Hari Singh.

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan): Sir, if we take into consideration the financial difficulties and perplexities of the Government, we are forced to congratulate the Honourable Minister for Finance on the fact that in spite of famine which has been raging in the Ambala division for the last two or three years and on which Government has been called upon to spend huge sums of money for the benefit of the famished people, still he somehow or other has provided more money for the beneficent departments. But all the same I am constrained to remark that the amount of money that has been earmarked for the beneficent departments is not as much as it should have been. However it is a matter of great satisfaction that the Government has not ignored the needs of the people.

To begin with I may point out that the greatest need of man is that he should get ample quantity of potable water. But unfortunately in my constituency there are two or three such ilaqs where people have to fetch water from a distance of six or seven miles for drinking purposes. I will be failing in my duty or rather it will be ingratitude on my part if I do not thank the Honourable Minister for Education for making arrangements for the supply of water to the people of some villages of my constituency where previously water was not available for miles and miles together. In fact during the past three years he has made arrangements for supplying water to 15 to 20 villages in my constituency by incurring great expenditure. I hope that he would also see that the people of ilaqa Phaphra in tahsil Pind Dadan Khan, where potable water cannot be had for five or six miles, are provided with adequate water supply. Moreover in Thal ilaqa there are certain villages where water has not yet reached. I think with only a small expenditure water can be supplied to that ilaqa as well. Then there is the Boshal ilaqa where the people are experiencing great difficulties. Although a high school and a hospital has been opened there yet so far the people cannot get drinking water. The people living in this ilaqa are very brave and hardy and in these war days it is all the more necessary for the Government to pay great attention to the needs of Awans. I would request the Honourable Minister for Education to pay special attention to this need of the people, and I have every hope that he would do so. Now

I do not propose to take more time of the House and with these words I resume my seat.

**Begum Rashida Latif Baji** (Inner Lahore, Muhammadan Women, Urban) (*Urdu*): Sir, the two most essential things for maintaining our health are fresh air and pure water. Any person who lacks any one of these two things cannot maintain good health. That is the reason why in the thickly populated localities of cities the health of the people deteriorates on account of lack of fresh air. It is in view of this reason that at present there is a tendency of the people to go out of the cities and construct their houses in the open. Let me point out that inside the city of Lahore, the population is very thick and due to this reason the residents of old Lahore have begun constructing their houses in the new abadis. But it is a matter of great regret that since the suppression of the Lahore Municipal Committee heaps of plans of houses are lying in the municipal office. Consequently the money which the people deposited or procured with great difficulty for constructing their houses is either lying idle or has been spent on account of the rejection or long delay in according sanction to the plans of their houses. It is a great pity that their desire to live in the open has failed to materialise. In this connection I may point out that while speaking on the demand now before the House an honourable member made mention of town planning as well. I think he was absolutely relevant in so doing because after all fresh air has a great bearing on the health of the people. It is a matter of great satisfaction that in the villages people get good supply of fresh air but the urban people lack this thing.

Now Sir, I want to say a few words with regard to water. A little while ago my honourable brother, Khan Bahadur Mian Mushtaq Ahmed Gurmani, made mention of wells and pointed out that in many villages new wells have been sunk by Government. I think Government deserve congratulations for this excellent work. Let me also point out that I know that the work which this department has done so far is praiseworthy. But as the honourable members often complain that in their ilaqas pure water is not available, I think the Government should direct their attention to this need of the people. Rather it is their first and foremost duty to provide pure drinking water for human beings as well as animals even though they may have to postpone their other schemes. I now and then go to villages and in some of them I have seen that men and animals drink from one and the same pond. This is highly objectionable from the point of view of health. As this Government consists of our own kith and kin, I request them to pay great attention to this pressing need of the people and see that in every town and in every village proper arrangements are made for the supply of potable water. In connection with Lahore I may point out that since the appointment of the new Administrator numerous public water taps have been closed down and it has become very difficult for the people to get water from those taps. The result is that they have been compelled to use well water. Let me point out that on the one hand the Health Officer advises the people of Lahore not to make use of well water so that they should be immune from diseases and on the other hand there is the Administrator who has closed down many public water taps. The people have perforce begun to use well water. I draw the attention of the Government to this matter and appeal to them to re-open those water taps.

[Begum Rashida Latif Baji.]

which have so far been closed down. The fact of the matter is that the population of Lahore is already on the increase and as compared to this the number of public taps is very small. I think instead of closing down taps, more taps should have been opened.

I now want to draw the attention of the Government to another very important matter. It is that although Government have taken steps to prevent cholera, smallpox and similar other epidemics, so far they have done nothing to eradicate tuberculosis from the province. My submission is that in the city of Lahore the germs of this disease exist in abundance, so much so that patients suffering from tuberculosis live in dark and dingy cells and they get neither pure air nor medical aid. The result is that this disease is infecting their children as well. In this connection I may point out that as compared to men, women contract this infection very quickly. But when I take such patients to hospital I am told that there are only 24 beds available for female patients and arrangements cannot be made for more. Let me point out that the patients who live at their houses spit all over their houses and consequently their children also get infected. Now an inoculation known as the "Golden Inoculation" has been discovered for the tuberculosis patients. But so far the Public Health Department has not taken steps to make this inoculation available to the tuberculosis patients in general. I think it would have been much better if the department had made arrangements for making this inoculation available to the public at large on its own account. As a matter of fact it should follow the same method for inoculating tuberculosis patients which is followed so very successfully in regard to vaccinating people as a protection against smallpox so that the progress of this dreadful disease should be checked. So far the Public Health Department has not taken this matter under its own control. In this connection I may point out that as this inoculation is expensive, except a few rich people the poor cannot get it done on their own account. I think if the department takes this work under its control many people would be saved from contracting this dangerous disease.

Now Sir, my submission is that there is one other disease which is rapidly-increasing in the Punjab. And that is the unclean disease of leprosy. I think it is the duty of the Government to give their urgent attention to it as well. The fact of the matter is that this disease is increasing day by day in the province. I do not think that save one leprosy hospital at Rawalpindi any such hospital is to be found. Let me point out that the people suffering from this unclean disease go about in the bazaars and beg alms from the people. The result of their roaming about in the public places is that other people also contract this disease. If the honourable members happen to go to Anarkali bazaar they would find many lepers going about in it and thus spreading infection. I think it is the duty of the Public Health Department\* to take preventive measures for checking the progress of this disease. I want to make another submission. When we go to Mayo Hospital as non-official visitors the doctors tell us that certain contagious diseases are on the increase. It is not proper to mention here the nature of those diseases but it is highly necessary that such diseases are treated by injections. Although injections have been invented to cure

all diseases like malaria and tuberculosis, yet the poor people cannot afford to pay for injections. The injections made to cure plague have nearly put a stop to the deadly disease. Similarly it is hoped that if the aforementioned contagious diseases are treated through injections they will come to an end. As the time at my disposal is very short, I will resume my seat requesting the Honourable Minister to give his most considerate attention to what I have submitted.

**Mrs. J. A. Shah Nawaz** (Outer Lahore, Muhammadan Women, (Urban)  
Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to say how grateful we are to Sardar Hari Singh for raising the level of the debate on Public Health and for his providing such information in his opening remarks which has opened the door for us to tell the persons present in this honourable House what the department has been able to do. Sardar Hari Singh gave a very full account, with all the figures that he could possibly collect, of what the other countries had been doing and what the position is in other countries with regard to mortality figures. While listening to him I was thinking if only we had Alladdin's lamp in our hands, we might have undertaken the same useful measures as one sees in many of these foreign countries so that we could have also reduced the mortality figures in our country to the extent to which these countries have managed to reduce them. But we know that we have to work within limitations and the best test of any Government's work with regard to public health ought to be the figures of mortality which are placed before the honourable members every year and also the amount of money which is spent on this beneficent activity. If we take these two things as test of the work accomplished you will see that the amount which is to be spent on public health has been increased by over seven lakhs of rupees this year and when you look at the mortality figures you will find that there has been a reduction in the death rate by 1·2 *per mille*. This reduction is not a small one considering that it is 1·2 per thousand. Apart from this, as my honourable colleague Khan Bahadur Mian Mushtaq Ahmed Gurmani has told the House, our work has ranged over a vast field. There was no outbreak of any epidemics last year, not even an outbreak of the cholera epidemic as has usually been the case in previous years. Apart from this, a good deal of work with regard to tuberculosis has been done. The figures that Sardar Hari Singh gave of infantile and maternal mortality are pretty high and I am sure that most of the persons in this House must have been thinking as to why the Public Health Department with all the means at their command had not been able to bring about an appreciable reduction. Let me remind my honourable friend that as far as our country is concerned, this high reduction in child mortality or maternal mortality is not due only to the different Governments not taking any effective measures to check it but mostly due to social conditions. I am going to remind them of the Age of Consent Committee's Report. I wonder if many of them know that in India there are over sixty three lakhs of girls married under the age of fifteen, nearly five lakhs of girls married under the age of three and one lakh of girls married under the age of one. It is only in this country that you will find mothers of thirteen, fourteen and fifteen years of age. If you make these young girls breeding machines, from the ages of fourteen or fifteen, is it any wonder that there is a large increase in the population and that so many children

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born of these young mothers die at a very young age? I was talking only to-day to our Inspectress of Welfare Centres and she told me that most of these children die before they are one month old and she said that in most of these cases children born of very young mothers cannot survive. My honourable friend Sardar Lal Singh said that it is because of poverty that more children are brought into the world. Let me inform him that in Hissar,—the best illustration that I can give him on the floor of this House to-day—where there has been a famine of such magnitude, the reduction in births has been by nearly five thousand during the last year—this shows that it is not due to poverty that more children are brought into this world, there are several reasons for it, most of them are the outcome of our social customs. Now we have to see what the Public Health Department has done to check these high figures of infantile and maternal mortality. As far as this province is concerned, I am proud of the fact that Punjab stands foremost in the work of child welfare and maternal welfare (*Cheers*). There are at present not only, as Sardar Lal Singh said, 86 centres working in the Province, but we have 95 centres and 139 sub-centres working all over the Province and these centres are spread over a very large area. I have a full list of all the centres here which, if the honourable members would care to see, I will place on the table of the House. This would show that these centres and sub-centres are situated in almost every district and I do not think that there is a single district left where this good work is not being carried on. Let us compare the figures of child mortality and maternal mortality in the areas where these centres are not situated to the areas where these centres are doing such excellent work. We find, as Sardar Hari Singh told us yesterday, that mortality figures are 24 *per mille*. It so happens that where child welfare centres are working, there has been a reduction in maternal mortality to a very great extent. The figures which are available at present are that in most of these areas where welfare centres are situated, the reduction has been from 24 per thousand to 5—9 and in infantile mortality the reduction has been by one-fourth. This is the result of the excellent work which is being done in these centres. I quite agree with him that we ought to try and turn out more health visitors every year so that more centres could be opened in different areas but, unfortunately, as he knows, the means at our disposal are very limited and one has to cut one's coat according to one's deserts. As soon as more money is available, more centres will be opened. I do hope that it will be possible for us to enlarge the Health School. In this connection I would like to place a suggestion before the Ministry. I feel that as the welfare work amongst women and children and rural uplift work are branches of the same work, one could easily combine the Punjab Health School with the Rural Reconstruction School and make it into one large institution and the work could be placed in charge of one Principal. The combined work, which the Principal of Health School is doing at present of inspection of these centres as well as being the head of the institution, could be divided into two, and one lady could take charge of the inspection work and the other could take charge of this large combined institution. All this clearly shows that the Public Health Department is wideawake to the necessity of reducing infantile and maternal mortality. Dr. Satya Pal said that the Punjab Government was paying four or five thousand rupees to every I.M.S. doctor and that while

under the constitution we were to have only seventeen such persons we are at present employing over thirty persons. I think this question has been thrashed threadbare on the floor of this House and several times, when questions have been put and answers have been given. We have explained to the honourable member that as far as the question of these I.M.S. officers is concerned, the interests of those already serving in the province are safeguarded under the new constitution and it is not possible for us to reduce the number. The only thing which can be done to reduce the number is to fill a vacancy with a person from the Provincial cadre if efficient persons are forthcoming.

Dr. Satya Pal also told us that there had been 23,000 eye operations performed during the last year and that only just above 200 operations were performed by our experts in charge of the Mayo Hospital and that the rest of the operations were conducted by doctors outside Lahore. Let me inform him that several of these well-known doctors, for instance, the doctor in charge of the well-known hospital at Banga also belong to the Provincial Medical Service. It is this good work which our doctors are doing that is responsible for so many operations being conducted by doctors in outside districts. It is quite natural for any human being to go to the best doctor available and if people find that doctors outside Lahore are doing good work or if they feel that they have more confidence in persons outside Lahore, naturally they would go to them. Most of these doctors happen to belong to the Medical Department.

Sir, Dr. Satya Pal also said that some amount of money could be spent on public health, but he does not, neither did my sister Mrs Duni Chand, when speaking on this grant yesterday realize, that as far as the question of salaries is concerned, it does not lie in our hands to reduce the salaries of the Indian Medical Service officers. I would like to point out to them that as far as the question of good doctors is concerned or even the question of experts in the Public Health Department is concerned, we should not grudge this money, because it is essential that for these things we should have the best persons available. Mrs. Duni Chand yesterday talked of a certain piece of land within the municipal area which was being kept in a dirty condition and she said that she had approached the Public Health Department but no action was taken. I would like to remind her that when she came to see me in this connection, I rang up the Secretary of the Municipal Committee and both the Health Officer as well as the Secretary of the Lahore Municipal Committee went to see the place and everything possible is being done to clear that area.

Now, Sir, Sardar Lal Singh said very strange things. He said that vaccination could easily be done by some indigenous people therefore why should we have such highly paid persons to do that work? I wonder if he realises what vaccination or injection of any type means and whether these things should be entrusted to indigenous people. I am sure no person, who knows anything about it would be prepared to entrust these to unskilled people. I know that there is a gentleman sitting on those benches who is against vaccination and injections of any kind. Begum Rashida Latif Baji told us to-day that there are certain new medicines that have been prepared for injections and are very good for diseases like tuberculosis and others. In

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connection with tuberculosis I would like very much to remind the House,— I am sorry my sister Begum Rashida Latif Baji is not here this afternoon—that anti-tuberculosis work has been undertaken by a special committee and that the money contributed by this province to the Anti-Tuberculosis Fund has been entrusted to that Committee and the Public Health Department is fully represented on that committee. We are all joining heads in order to see that good work is done as far as that disease is concerned. Anti-tuberculosis work is going to be undertaken on a large scale. We know that it is usually amongst women of this province that the disease is rapidly increasing or has been on the increase. Well, Sir, even with regard to this, Khan Bahadur Mian Mushtaq Ahmad Gurmani told us this afternoon that 4 nurses have been sent for special training and a special officer who had been sent to America to get the necessary training has returned to take charge of this work. My honourable colleague, Khan Muhammad Yusuf Khan, told us about the conditions of water supply in Rawalpindi. Let me assure him that if any proposal is made on behalf of his district, we shall be prepared to consider it and everything possible will be done for that district. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad talked about distilleries. Let me remind him that as far as the removal of distilleries is concerned, the municipal committees have full powers. It is for them to mobilise public opinion in different areas for the removal of distilleries. The Public Health Department as it is constituted has nothing to do with it.

Sir, I would not like to take more time of the House because the Honourable Minister will be speaking and he will give all the necessary figures. I would however like to remind the House that it is for the first time during the last 2 years that curative and preventive work has been combined under one head. This experiment has been undertaken in 163 dispensaries. The doctors in charge of those dispensaries have visited 12,000 villages and have treated 147,000 patients in their own homes. After all this my honourable friends are complaining of no work being done in rural areas. Apart from the number of wells that have been dug, apart from the number of streets that have been paved, apart from rural dispensaries that have been established in different areas, these doctors in rural areas are being given travelling allowances to go and visit patients within a radius of 5 miles in their different homes. It is due to the efforts of these doctors that the spread of infectious diseases has been checked in several homes. I may remind the honourable members that only 191 dispensaries are left at present that have not been brought under this direct management. These doctors are working under the supervision of Medical Officers of Health and are doing excellent work. As soon as funds permit, the rest of the 191 dispensaries will also be brought under the direct control of the Public Health Department. Now, Sir, as I have said before, we have not got Alladin's Lamp to procure all the funds and overnight create an Arcadian world. We have done our best according to the means at our command. Let me remind the honourable members that every possible effort is being made to carry on the work on scientific basis, as they must have read in the Director of Public Health's report, copies of which have been supplied to them. For the first time in Hissar, during famine relief work and even at present the work of this department has been carried on by scientific means.

and germinated grain has been utilised. The whole area was divided in different health centres and the work has been carried on very efficiently, as they all know. With these words I shall finish my remarks and I hope that the honourable members will take all these things into consideration while they are discussing the work of the Public Health Department. (Cheers.)

#### ELECTION TO PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE.

**Mr. Speaker :** Honourable members—I announced after the question hour to-day that election to the Public Accounts Committee will be held this afternoon. After that announcement four, out of 12 candidates, have withdrawn their names and thus only 8 members are left. Eight seats are to be filled. Therefore these eight members may be taken to have been elected. The following gentlemen have withdrawn their names :—

- (1) Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava,
- (2) Mian Muhammad Nurullah,
- (3) Mian Fazal Karim Baksh, and
- (4) Lala Duni Chand.

The remaining 8 members, who are declared as elected, are—

- (1) Mian Abdul Rab,
- (2) Malik Barkat Ali,
- (3) Diwan Chaman Lal,
- (4) Khan Bahadur Nawab Fazl Ali,
- (5) Sardar Bahadur Sardar Gurbachan Singh,
- (6) Chaudhri Muhammad Yasin Khan,
- (7) Sardar Sahib Sardar Santokh Singh, and
- (8) Chaudhri Suraj Mal.

#### DEMAND FOR GRANT—PUBLIC HEALTH.

**Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt :** Sir, I was not scheduled as one of the speakers but there is a definite important matter which I want to discuss. I want to discuss the activities of the Punjab government regarding town planning, which is a very important matter and which has been neglected both by the Government benches and by the Opposition.

**Rai Bahadur Mukand Lal Puri :** Has town planning anything to do with Public Health ?

**Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt :** It has. The honourable member should read the Budget under this head. Since I find that town planning was under Public Health Department, I have seized this opportunity to lay very important grievances of the public before the Honourable Minister for Education. I hope he will pass on my views to the Minister for Public Works who is controlling this department so that the grievances of the public might be redressed.

The first complaint which the public has got is that a great amount of unnecessary delay takes place while sanctioning the schemes.



[Ch. Krishna Gopal Dutt.]

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

The Town Planner might be actuated by the best of motives. It might be that he wants to build a beautiful Punjab which he is doing in my opinion too unwisely and at the expense of the poor people. For instance the municipality of a place declares a certain road to fall within the jurisdiction of the town planning and then requests the Town Planner to draft a scheme to develop that particular area. What happens? The municipality of that particular place addresses the communication to the Commissioner: the Commissioner addresses that communication to the Public Works Department. This department addresses that communication to the local self-government department and the local self-government department then finally passes it on to the town planner. Naturally the town planner takes some time, not only some time but takes a long time to prepare the scheme. Then what does he do? He sends it back to the local self-government department and it lies there for days and days and weeks and weeks and then the local self-government department passes on that scheme to the Public Works Department, and then it takes days and days and weeks and weeks in that department. Then that department sends that scheme to the Commissioner and then it takes days and days and weeks and weeks in the office of the Commissioner.

**Rai Bahadur Mukand Lal Puri :** It takes years.

**Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt :** Then the Commissioner forwards that scheme finally to the municipality or to the administrator concerned where there is no municipality. The municipal committee goes through the scheme or the administrator goes through the scheme and finds that the scheme is rotten in certain respects and is unworkable. The municipal committee then makes certain suggestions with regard to that particular scheme. That particular scheme again passes through the same process: that scheme is sent to the Commissioner: the Commissioner forwards it to the Public Works Department and this department forwards it to the local self-government department which finally again sends it to the Town Planner. This process is repeated two or three times, and the result is that one year passes and no scheme is finally approved. The result is that the entire business in land is suspended in the province. The second grievance of the public is that  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the portion of the land is taken away by the Town Planner by way of streets and lanes in that particular area.

**Rai Bahadur Mukand Lal Puri :** One half.

**Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt :** My information is that it is  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the land taken away. I admit that there are some rich people who are affected and who lose their land but the large majority of the people who suffer under this dictatorial fiat of the Town Planner are poor people. There are a large number of poor people, Muslims, Hindus and Sikhs, who are adversely affected by this decision of the Town Planner and a large number of people in Sialkot, Lahore and other places have to lose  $\frac{1}{3}$  of their land. The land business is already at a sad discount and now prices have fallen down and this new decision taken by the Town Planner will still adversely affect the poor people. It is the duty of the government to see when they

are trying to build a new Punjab, that they protect the poor people from losing their valuable land. Everybody shall have to make sacrifice for building a new Punjab, it is conceded, but a large number of poor people should not be allowed to be adversely affected. So the first grievance is the delay which occurs, secondly  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the land is taken away. These two are very important points which I place before the Honourable Minister for Education and I hope he will give suitable instructions to the Town Planner to see that the whole matter is expedited. One year has elapsed and no building scheme has been finally approved. The matter should be expedited and this  $\frac{1}{3}$  proportion should be modified and it should be made much less.

The third point which I will take a few seconds to explain is that the Town Planner decided that in certain areas buildings on one kanal should be allowed and land which is less than one kanal should not be permitted to be developed. Those people who got 15 or 10 marlas or less than that in certain areas their land will become absolutely valueless and those poor people who own 10 marlas or 15 marlas, their land becomes valueless: they are not going to develop it because the municipality is not going to give its permission to build houses on it. Prices will fall and the land will become absolutely worthless and useless and in this way also a large number of poor people will be adversely affected.

These are some of the important points which I have placed before the Honourable Minister for Education. I am much obliged to the Honourable Minister for allowing me time.

**Minister for Education** (The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye): Sir, the debate to which I have listened for two days now reminds me of the days when I used to sit in another House on the Opposition benches and when I had the privilege of speaking without responsibility like a free lance. Yesterday and to-day the Government has been criticised. One honourable member has asked how it is that the rate of birth is in excess of the rate of death. Still another member, I mean Dr. Sant Ram Seth, said to-day something to the same effect. When it was pointed out on behalf of the Government that during the last three years there has not been a single case of plague in the Punjab, one honourable member quickly retorted that credit was not due to Government but that Providence was merciful. In fact it is for the first time that in 1939 we had not a single case of plague. To be more accurate and precise, in 1938 we had one plague case and in 1937 four plague cases, but our enquiries showed that all these five cases in these two years were imported cases. Similarly it was pointed out that so far as cholera is concerned, it is a minor problem in the Punjab and cases occur usually in the years when the Kumbh fairs are held, on such occasions it is difficult to control the population that goes for pilgrimage to places in other provinces and comes back with latent infection. It was pointed out on behalf of Government that there were in the year 1939 only 19 cases of cholera. But one honourable member who spoke just about half an hour ago had the hardihood to say that we have been told something about plague and cholera and smallpox, but the present Government has done nothing so far as malaria is concerned. In the short time at my disposal it is not possible for me to speak in detail about what the Government has done as regards malaria, but I would commend to the attention of the honourable

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member who has raised this objection, the Annual Report of the Public Health Commissioner with the Government of India for the year 1937. At page 47 he would find what Government has done since 1st April, 1937, so far as the eradication of malaria is concerned. I might just read a few lines from page 46 :

In the Punjab, 1937 was on the whole a year of comparatively low malarial incidence, the total number of deaths recorded from this cause being 98, 304. The sub-montane tracts of Rawalpindi, however, experienced an epidemic of considerable intensity and the districts of Muzaffargarh and Dera Ghazi Khan also suffered from epidemic outbreaks. The malaria forecasts issued by the Public Health Department are stated to have "attained a considerable degree of accuracy and proved valuable in the prevention and control of the disease".

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In the Punjab, quinine was distributed from 670 special centres and 3,595 sub-centres in addition to 398 hospitals and dispensaries, tahsildars, school teachers and vaccinators all taking part in this work.

Later on one honourable member spoke about leprosy. I regret that she is not here in her seat. She said that leprosy was on the increase and one meets almost every day lepers going about in the streets without let or hindrance. She said that so far as she was aware there was only one hospital for lepers in the Punjab. May I correct the honourable member and point out that there are as many as five leper asylums in the Punjab? And if the honourable member had cared to go through the Preliminary Review of Health Conditions and Public Health in the Punjab during the year 1938-39 which has recently been published and made available to all honourable members of this House, she would have realised that leprosy in the Punjab was a minor problem and that systematic survey work was undertaken some years back. Out of 29 districts the survey work has been completed in as many as 21. The investigation undertaken discloses that there are a little over 1,800 lepers in the Punjab. Out of these 666 are housed in the five leper asylums. These institutions get substantial grants from the Punjab Government, although in almost all these leper asylums the number of non-Punjabi lepers is more than 85 per cent. Leprosy clinics have been established in connection with hospitals and rural dispensaries and there are now 158 of these functioning in the province.

My friend Khawaja Ghulam Samad wanted the Government to stop a certain distillery in Karnal and Dr. Sant Ram Seth spoke of another distillery in Amritsar. So far as the distillery in Karnal is concerned, although I am not at present fully aware of the exact facts of the case I may inform him that the Director of Public Health is now at Karnal in connection with that distillery and if it is in his power he will do something in the matter.

So far as the figures are concerned, my honourable friend Master Hari Singh, to whom credit is due for the industry and labour shown by him in preparing his case, initiated this debate and moved this cut motion and he took, out of the seven hours allotted for this cut motion, fully two hours. He had undoubtedly prepared his case with great care and labour, but he simply showed that side of the picture which suited him as a member of the Opposition. Anyhow so far as these facts are concerned, it is quite apparent that in the Punjab birth rate is on the increase and death rate is on the decrease. One point that he tried to make was that in the Punjab

the number of males per 100 females was 111. True but the same is the case so far as India as a whole is concerned, barring perhaps Madras or some other province. But so far as the Punjab is concerned, it is a land of soldiers and heroes, a land of martial races and if we have a small proportion of males in excess of the female population, we must feel ourselves only lucky.

Then, Sir, one honourable member spoke about the amalgamation of the two departments, namely, the Public Health department and the Medical department. One has been hearing a lot about the amalgamation of these two departments. The question has been mooted for several years, but so far as the present Government is concerned, although no final decision has been taken, yet in the very first year, 1937, we took what I may call here to-day the first step towards amalgamation. Now previous to that year, these two branches, the curative and the preventive, were more or less in water-tight compartments. It was the present Government that initiated the policy in 1937 of placing the rural dispensaries in five selected districts of the Punjab under the control and supervision of the Public Health Department. I heard one honourable member say this morning that the rural dispensaries in certain districts of the Punjab have been transferred to the Public Health department because, according to him, the officers of the Medical department had no work to do. I repudiate that charge. When this decision was taken, perhaps the Medical department was not inclined to part with these dispensaries, but the Government, after very great care and deliberation, took a decision and the dispensaries in the five districts of the Punjab were placed under the charge of the Director of Public Health. While placing these dispensaries in the five districts in charge of the Public Health department, the doctors in charge of these dispensaries were required not to sit tight in the dispensaries to which they were attached, but had, for at least two days in the week, under the instructions of the Government, to tour within a radius of five miles and go to the neighbouring villages where no arrangements for medical relief existed and examine and see patients in their own homes and administer medicine and also assist in the public health work. So, as I have said, this was a first step in the direction of amalgamation if that amalgamation is to come some day. In 1938 rural dispensaries in one selected tahsil in every district of the province were selected for intensive work and these dispensaries were also transferred to the Public Health department. Thus 29 tahsils were selected in that year and in the year 1939 we selected another 29 tahsils. Those that were selected in 1938 have also been transferred to the Public Health department because the idea is that the transference should take place gradually and the Public Health Department should be allowed to consolidate the progress made.

As regards the work done by these 165 rural dispensaries that have been transferred to the Public Health department, I would draw the attention of the honourable members to page 7 of the book to which I have already made reference, namely, the preliminary review for the year 1939, wherein it is stated that up to date 165 rural dispensaries are working under the new arrangement which will be extended to the remaining 191 dispensaries if finances permit. So far as this question is concerned, no decision has been taken. It is a question of finance. "An idea of the

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extent to which the health work has been increased as a result of the re-organisation, can be gathered from the statement appended. Over 12,000 villages were visited in a year." Just imagine that if this action had not been taken by the Government in the years 1937 and 1938, these poor sick people living in these 12,000 villages would have had no medical relief. "Over 12,000 villages were visited in a year, and more than 147,000 patients were treated in their own homes." These were over and above those who were usually treated at these dispensaries. "These were mainly individuals who, owing to the severity of their illness or lack of transport could not have been brought to a dispensary, and who, prior to the re-organisation, would not have been seen by a doctor. Many thousands of cases of infectious disease were treated and measures taken to prevent the spread of infection. Village birth and death registers were regularly inspected entries regarding cause of death corrected where necessary, and village officials instructed in the proper carrying out of registration duties.

As a result of the expansion of health work in villages, we are beginning to gain a more accurate knowledge of the illnesses from which villagers suffer and of the diseases which cause deaths in villages."

Now, Sir, it goes to the credit of the then Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals who readily agreed to transfer these rural dispensaries to the Public Health Department. And equal credit is due to the Director of Public Health who readily undertook on behalf of the staff of his Department to do more work than they were required to do under the previous regime, for after all the compensation that they are supposed to get for this additional work of travelling and touring within a radius of five miles and treating people is a paltry sum of Rs. 10 per mensem by way of travelling allowance. I have absolutely no doubt in my mind that this experiment which was launched by the Punjab Government is showing signs of success. So far as the question of amalgamation of these two branches of medicine is concerned, I may remind the honourable members that although this question has been discussed at some length, no final decision has so far been taken on it. But the honourable members are aware that the Resources and Retrenchment Committee have made a definite proposal to the effect that these two branches be amalgamated. When the recommendations of that committee are taken into consideration, I have absolutely no doubt that this matter will receive due consideration and a decision which will be in the best interests of the people of the Punjab will be taken. Some honourable members made a reference to the top heavy administration of the Public Health Department. The honourable mover of this cut was not quite correct in the figures that he quoted. The correct figures have been quoted by Khan Bahadur Mian Mushtaq Ahmad Gurmani, but so far as the question of salaries of the so-called top heavy administration is concerned, I may point out that in their recommendation the Resources and Retrenchment Committee have made another suggestion that the posts of the Assistant Directors of Public Health be abolished (*Hear, hear*). That matter will also receive due consideration and I may for the information of the honourable members say that the Government is so keen to give it due and proper consideration that pending a decision of this question,

a certain vacancy in the post of Assistant Director of Public Health which had arisen has not been filled up. Now, I submit that there is an old saying that 'good cometh out of evil'. The famine through which this province has been passing during the last two years has at least proved one thing, namely, the justification and the importance of the Public Health Department. As I said, in the case of certain tahsils and districts when extra work was placed on their shoulders, they readily agreed to bear that extra burden. In the famine-stricken area of the Eastern Punjab, especially in Hissar, the Government decided to place the entire famine-stricken area within the charge of the Public Health Department. So far as the famine-stricken area is concerned the honourable members are aware that scarcity was felt in the Hissar district and certain neighbouring districts in the middle of 1938 and famine was actually declared in December of the same year. In March 1939, the number of individuals attending relief works—and this would show the enormity of the famine conditions—was 202,389, Rohtak 29,739, Gurgaon 10,051. There was scarcity of food grains and there was scarcity of fodder. Men were threatened with starvation and their cattle had no fodder to live upon. In these circumstances, the Punjab Government came to their rescue and during the last 2½ years, they have spent in one form or another a little less than three crores in keeping the people of Hissar, Rohtak and Gurgaon alive and in keeping their cattle alive. (*Hear, hear.*) And those who have like myself paid visits to the famine-stricken areas of these three districts would readily agree that people and cattle in this area have been very well cared for and looked after. After these scarcity conditions had developed it became clear that there was not only deficiency in quantity of food but there was deficiency in the quality also. Those diseases which are called deficiency diseases started to make their appearance. For instance Vitamin E which is an anti-infection vitamin was found by our research to be present in adequate quantity in the diet of these people and vitamin D which protects against rickets was almost altogether absent and vitamin C which protects against scurvy was entirely lacking with the result that rickets, scurvy, night blindness and certain other diseases made their appearance. In these circumstances, the staff and officers of the Public Health Department were required to shoulder this burden. The Nutrition Officer was deputed to this district for carrying out nutrition survey and treatment in food deficiency diseases. He was assisted by two sanitary inspectors and through his efforts suitable steps were taken to eliminate diseases and to guard against any further increase. For instance supply of fresh vegetables was quickly arranged and the most important item in this supply was carrots and then arrangements were also made for the supply of Cod Liver Oil, supply of Amla and Amla juice and special steps were taken to chlorinate water-supply in that area and the sanitation of the camps and line works was also attended to. In one year in the Hissar district as many as 194,539 anti-cholera inoculations were made. It is rather a matter for surprise, and I should say a matter for congratulation, that no disease in epidemic form was allowed to appear in the famine-stricken areas of these three districts. Here I must take the opportunity of congratulating the authorities of the Public Health Department especially the officer in charge of the Vaccine Institute, Lahore, for the excellent work done by them during the year 1939. As

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it has already been pointed out by my Parliamentary Secretary the whole of the lymph for our use is prepared in this Institute and we also cater for the needs of some neighbouring states and provinces and we also cater for the Army Department and the Railway Department so far as Northern India is concerned and some lymph is sent to Afghanistan and even to Iran. Apart from this, we make a net profit of about a lakh of rupees by the sale of lymph which is prepared by this Institute. Not only epidemic diseases were prevented, but the incidence of other diseases was also arrested. It has been pointed out that decline in health was more marked in Hissar amongst those who remained in their villages than amongst those who attended the relief works. It is a matter of regret that more encouraging results were not achieved because of the habits and sentiments of the people of Hissar. Certain tribes, mostly the Rajputs of Hissar, thought it below their dignity to go in this hour of need to relief centres. They thought that it was charity. They did not realise that these relief works were being provided by the Punjab Government out of the money that had come from the pockets of the people of the Punjab. They thought that the work that they were required to do was more or less a cooly's work. If these notions disappear, we shall have more encouraging results. As you are aware, we have at present one Medical Officer of Health in each district and he is assisted in his work by one Sanitary Inspector. There are only few districts in which we have more than one Sanitary Inspector. In this famine-stricken area of Hissar, we divided the entire district into three zones and each zone was placed under the charge of one full-fledged medical officer of health, so that for this period there were three Medical Officers in one district of Hissar alone. I have already stated that the Nutrition Officer with his two Sanitary Inspectors was specially deputed to carry on the nutrition survey work and research in food deficiency diseases. Besides this staff, seven Sub-Assistant Health Officers and seven Sanitary Inspectors were also attached to the Hissar district. We opened 25 rural dispensaries and appointed 27 new doctors; 25 were placed in charge of these dispensaries and 2 others were on the reserved list. (Hear, hear.) Apart from these 25 rural dispensaries in the famine camp we appointed 22 medical dispensers, 23 Medical Officers were appointed in famine relief camps of Hissar and orders have now been issued to recruit eight more doctors and 9 dispensers. Besides this, 27 temporary Sanitary Inspectors are now working in Hissar. The miscellaneous staff includes 38 Sanitary Jamadars, 61 Sanitary Mates and 25 Ward Coolies. The Director of Public Health and the Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals had to go to this district and the neighbouring districts at very short notices for more than half a dozen times and the Government have neither spared labour nor money in granting full relief whether in the shape of food for men and women or in the shape of fodder for their cattle or in the shape of affording medical relief for the suffering humanity or in the shape of taking precautions so far as prevention of diseases is concerned. From what I have already stated, the honourable members would realise that the year 1939 has been conspicuous for the following work done. No. 1, the work done in the famine-stricken area both on the preventive and on the curative side. So far as the work done in the famine area is concerned, I may point out

that although the number of deaths had increased and in certain cases the increase was even more than fifty per cent, yet we must not compare these conditions with the normal conditions of other provinces where the famine conditions did not obtain. If at all we have to come to some right conclusion, we must compare these figures with the figures of a year when famine conditions obtained in the neighbourhood of Hissar. In 1939 the total number of deaths in Hissar was 37,767. The normal average for the years 1934 to 1938 is 24,794 and that is why I said that the increase was little more than 50 per cent. In 1939 the total number of deaths in Hissar was 37,768, if we compare these figures with the figures of deaths in 1900 when there was another famine in Hissar, we find that in 1900 the total number of deaths in Hissar was 74,798. It is obvious that the total population of Hissar in 1900 was less than what was in 1939. In spite of the fact, that the total population was less, the number of deaths in 1900 was twice the number of deaths in the year 1939. The brunt of all this work fell on the Public Health Department. The major number of deaths was amongst children below ten years of age or among men above sixty years of age, but it is a significant fact and it redounds to the credit of the Public Health Department that no cholera or plague or any other disease appeared in an epidemic form. The second activity was, as I have already stated, the expansion of the health work in the rural areas by the transference of the rural dispensers in two or three years. I may point out that the Director of Public Health did all that he could in affording not only medical relief but in taking all the precautions from the point of view of the curative side and in maintaining the efficiency of the department during the last two years that we have been experiencing famine conditions in Hissar. (*Cheers.*) The third characteristic was the experiment in co-operative health. As it has already been pointed out, besides the subsidised practitioners that we are now trying to establish in the countryside, through the efforts of certain officers of the Public Health Department, certain health bureaus have been established. The funds have been collected from the people on the basis of co-operation and self-help and six big bureaus are now working in the Punjab—three of them in Hoshiarpur, two in Lahore and one in Ambala district. Twelve sub-bureaus are working and people have collected about 25 thousand rupees. In 1939 seventeen thousand patients were treated by the doctors in charge of the bureaus.

**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. 25,48,800 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1941, in respect of Public Health.

*The motion was carried.*

*The Assembly then adjourned till 12 noon on Wednesday, the 28th March, 1940.*



1911

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

1911年1月4日 星期三

1911年1月5日 星期四

1911年1月6日 星期五



1911年1月7日 星期六

1911年1月8日 星期日

1911

# PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

SIXTH SESSION OF THE FIRST PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

*Thursday, 28th March, 1940.*

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

## STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

SUB-REGISTRAR OF RUPAR.

**\*6360. Lala Duni Chand :** Will the Honourable Minister of Public Works be pleased to state—

- (a) whether Government has recently received any proposal or application for the appointment of a particular individual as Sub-Registrar of Rupar ;
- (b) whether Government has also recently received a number of representations containing serious allegations and objections against the appointment of this person by prominent members of both the Hindu and Muslim communities at Rupar ; if so, what action has been taken by him thereon ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Shaikh Faiz Muhammad) :** (a) Yes. Government have received recommendations about certain individuals.

(b) Representations have also been received from various quarters for and against various candidates. The matter is under consideration.

**Lala Duni Chand :** May I know if it is the intention of the Government to appoint to this post a member of any particular community ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** If that had been the intention of the Government I would not have said that the matter is under consideration.

**Lala Duni Chand :** May I know, if the Government is going to appoint a member of any particular community to this post, then in that case the Government will appoint the best available person belonging to that community ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** That is a foregone conclusion.

**Minister of Public Works :** All aspects of the matter will be taken into consideration.

**Lala Duni Chand :** Will the Government see that no person with a discreditable record is appointed to this post ?

**Mr. Speaker :** Disallowed.

**Lala Duni Chand :** Sir, you will see that my question means that no person possessing a bad or discreditable record should be appointed and I want to know—

**Mr. Speaker :** No advice need be given at this stage. Honourable members must know that they can criticise the Government but cannot direct or guide the Government as a rule. Why should the honourable member suppose that the Government will ignore all these points ?

**Lala Duni Chand :** My intention is far from that. I want information on the point as to whether the person, whom the Government is going to appoint, will be the best available.

**Mr. Speaker :** Disallowed. The honourable member is giving advice.

**Lala Duni Chand :** There is no question of advice. I want information.

#### NON-EXISTENCE OF J. V. AND S. V. NORMAL SCHOOLS IN LAHORE.

**\*6363. Begum Rashida Latif Baji :** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state—

- (a) whether he is aware of the fact that there is not a single J. V. Normal School in Lahore for imparting training to Middle passed girls ;
- (b) whether he is also aware of the fact that there is no S. V. Normal School in Lahore for imparting training to Matriculate girls ;
- (c) if the answers to parts (a) and (b) be in the affirmative, whether and when Government proposes to redress the grievances of the citizens of Lahore in this direction ?

**The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye :** (a) There is a J. V. class attached to the St. Joseph School, Lahore, for middle passed girls. Normally admission to the class is restricted to the Catholic Christian girls, but last year at the request of the District Inspectress of Schools, Lahore, four Muslim girls were admitted. This class receives no financial aid whatever from Government.

(b) There is no S. V. Class for girls at Lahore. Matriculate girls without J. V. training are not eligible for admission to this class.

(c) J. V. classes attached to the various institutions for girls and the S. V. class at the Government High and Normal School, Hoshiarpur, are sufficient to cater for our present ordinary needs, but Government will consider the question of opening a J. V. class in Lahore if the need is proved.

**Begum Rashida Latif Baji :** Is it not a fact that in the event of compulsory primary education being introduced, S. V. and J. V. women teachers will be greatly in demand ?

**Minister :** Only J. V. teachers will be required for primary education, not the S. V. teachers.

**Begum Rashida Latif Baji :** When will you require them ?

**Minister :** We have yet to pass the Bill.

**Begum Rashida Latif Baji :** But we have to get the teachers ready before the pupils come.

## ADMISSION OF TUBERCULOSIS PATIENTS IN THE MAYO HOSPITAL, LAHORE.

**\*6364. Begum Rashida Latif Baji :** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state—

- (a) the number of patients suffering from tuberculosis who applied for admission as indoor patients into the Mayo Hospital, Lahore, for treatment between 1st April, 1937, and 31st March, 1938 ;
- (b) the number of those among them who were refused admission either for being incurable or for want of accommodation ;
- (c) the number of those who were admitted and the number of those among them who were completely cured ?

**The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye :** (a) and (b) A large number of patients suffering from Pulmonary tuberculosis applied for admission, but no record is kept of such requests and it is therefore not possible to say how many were refused. Patients are selected for admission with due regard to the chances of their improvement by treatment in the hospital and even then a large percentage of the cases found suitable for admission had to be refused as accommodation is very limited.

(c) The number of patients admitted was 255. Complete cure is a term which cannot be used in the treatment of tuberculosis, unless a case after discharge from the hospital is followed in his house for a period of about five years. Out of 255 cases admitted, 166 (i.e. 65 per cent.) showed definite improvement during their stay in the hospital.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan :** Has the Government ever considered the question of keeping a record of the T. B. patients ?

**Minister :** Record is kept of only those patients who are admitted into the hospital.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan :** In view of the growing number of T. B. cases in the province, has the Government considered the advisability of keeping a record of all the T. B. patients who come to the hospital ?

**Minister :** There seems to be no use.

**Begum Rashida Latif Baji :** Is it a fact that many patients remain on the waiting list ?

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan :** What are the reasons of admitting a patient and what are the reasons for not admitting a patient ?

**Minister :** As I have said in answer to parts (a) and (b) of the question, it all depends first on the condition of the patient and, secondly, on the accommodation available in the hospital.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan :** Is the Honourable Minister prepared to consider the question of admitting some patients whose admission may seem to be necessary ?

**Minister :** I am prepared to consider the cases of advanced cases of T. B.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan :** Were some patients refused admission on the ground that they were poor and that they had no influence ?

**Minister :** It is wrong.

**Begum Rashida Latif Baji :** Is it a fact that there are only twenty four beds for women in the hospital ?

**Minister :** It is correct.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan :** Is it a fact that the patients who are admitted are such as pay fees to the doctors at their residences ?

**Minister :** This, too, is wrong.

**Begum Rashida Latif Baji :** Is it a fact that there are as a rule more women among T. B. patients than men ?

**Minister :** Both sexes suffer from the disease.

#### NOMINATIONS TO LYALLPUR MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE.

**\*6365. Sardar Kartar Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister of Public Works be pleased to state whether he has received a resolution passed in a public meeting in Lyallpur recommending to the Government not to nominate more than five members to the Municipal Committee, Lyallpur, and not to nominate any defeated candidate to the committee ; if so, the action proposed to be taken thereon ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Shaikh Faiz Muhammad) :** The answer is in the negative.

#### LAND GRANTED BY THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, LYALLPUR.

**\*6366. Sardar Kartar Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state—

- (a) the terms on which the Deputy Commissioner, Lyallpur, granted 19 marlas of land (Ihatas Nos. 10 to 18) in Gowalmandi, Lyallpur, to one Allah Din Qassab for keeping goats ;
- (b) the purpose for which *Ihatas* in this locality are ordinarily allotted ;
- (c) whether it is a fact that an offer was made to the Commissioner and the Financial Commissioner by a certain person for the purchase of the same land mentioned in (a) for Rs. 9,500 ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan) :** (a) No.

(b) The *Ihatas* in this locality have ordinarily been granted so far to persons dealing in milk-selling ;

(c) No offer for the sum specified has been received.

#### GARHSHANKAR-SANTOKHGARH ROAD.

**\*6371. Sardar Mula Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister of Public Works be pleased to state—

- (a) whether it is a fact that in 1934 the Deputy Commissioner, Hoshiarpur, wrote a letter to Kanwar Ran Bahadur Singh of Garhi Manswal, tahsil Garhshankar, that he could repair the road from Garhshankar to Santokhgarh and could hold monopoly of plying lorries on that road for 9 years ;

- (b) whether it is a fact that in consequence of that communication, the said Kanwar repaired the road ;
- (c) whether it is a fact that after the road had been repaired licences for plying lorries on that road were issued to other persons as well ;
- (d) whether the said Kanwar has been compensated for the cost of repair as a result of the failure of Government to give him the promised monopoly ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Shaikh Faiz Muhammad) : (a) Government understands that in January 1934 a letter was issued on behalf of the then Deputy Commissioner of Hoshiarpur to Mian Ran Bahadur Singh informing him that if he undertook to repair the Garhshankar-Santokhgarh road to the satisfaction of the District Engineer he would be permitted to operate a regular motor service thereon ; but no monopoly was promised nor period mentioned.

(b) Some minor repairs are believed to have been carried out under arrangements made by Mian Ran Bahadur Singh.

(c) Yes.

(d) As explained above, no monopoly was ever promised.

#### REGISTRATION FEE OF THE PUNJAB MEDICAL COUNCIL.

**\*6377. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava** : Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Punjab Medical Council charges Rs. 32 as registration fee from medical practitioners whilst it is Rs. 15 in other provinces ; if so, what action does he propose to take in the matter of reducing this fee ?

**The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye** : *First part* : The Honourable member's information is substantially correct.

*Second part.*—The question is under the consideration of the Punjab Medical Council.

**Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava** : By what time can we expect a decision ?

**Minister** : The decision is to be taken by the Punjab Medical Council. I hope they will not delay it.

#### ELECTIONS TO LYALLPUR MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE.

**\*6379. Lala Harnam Das** : Will the Honourable Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Lyallpur Municipal elections were over on 18th January, 1940 ;
- (b) whether it is a fact that the Government have not so far published the names of successful candidates in the *Punjab Government Gazette* ; if so, the reasons for this delay ;
- (c) the date when the Gazette notification notifying the result of election is likely to be issued ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Shaikh Faiz Muhammad) : (a) Yes.

(b) and (c) The names will shortly be gazetted by the Commissioner, Multan Division. The delay is due to the fact that some important questions were under consideration.

#### NOMINATIONS TO LYALLPUR MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE.

**\*6380. Lala Harnam Das** : Will the Honourable Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Punjab Government is contemplating to nominate seven members instead of five to the Lyallpur Municipal Committee ; if so, why ;
- (b) whether it is a fact that the Punjab Government intends nominating to the Lyallpur Municipal Committee some of those candidates who were defeated in the recent election to the said committee ; if so, the reasons therefor ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Shaikh Faiz Muhammad) : (a) No.

(b) Lyallpur being a second class municipality nominations will be made by the Commissioner. Government are informed that no candidate who was defeated in the elections will be nominated.

#### PUNITIVE POLICE TAX.

**\*6381. Sardar Lal Singh** : Will the Honourable Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

- (a) the total strength of punitive police force stationed at each of the villages of Chananwal, Jodhpur and Chima in the Ludhiana district during the year 1938-39 and the date on which it was posted ;
- (b) the pay and allowances of the police force stationed in each of the villages for the period mentioned in (a) ;
- (c) the amount of punitive tax realized from each village and the amount which remains to be realized ;
- (d) whether it is a fact that the *ilaga* had been suffering from severe drought during the year 1938-39 ; if so, whether the Government took this fact into account at the time of imposing the tax on the aforesaid villages ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Shaikh Faiz Muhammad) : (a) and (c) The honourable member is invited to refer to the reply recently given to question\* 5867 put by the honourable member for the Ludhiana Central (Sikh) Rural Constituency.

(b) A statement is appended giving details of the recurring (monthly) cost of the additional police.

(d) *Barani* crops in kharif 1938 and Rabi 1939 were seriously affected by drought, but the canal-irrigated lands in the three villages were far from

bad. The economic condition of the area was carefully studied before the post was imposed, and the state of the harvests since affords no ground for reconsidering the orders.

*Detail of cost of Additional Police for one month.*

	Rs.	A.	P.
1 Assistant Sub-Inspector at Rs. 49 per mensem.	49	0	0
2 Head Constables at Rs. 35 per mensem each .. ..	70	0	0
4 Foot Constables at Rs. 21 per mensem each .. ..	84	0	0
12 Foot Constables at Rs. 18 per mensem each .. ..	216	0	0
3 Foot Constables at Rs. 18 per mensem each on account of contingencies reserve ..	54	0	0
<b>Total .. ..</b>	<b>473</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
1 Horse allowance for Mounted Head Constable at Rs. 30 per mensem ..	30	0	0
6 Horse allowances for Mounted Constables at Rs. 30 per mensem each ..	180	0	0
21 clothing at Rs. 1-4-0 per head ..	26	4	0
21 Equipment at annas 0-6-8 per head ..	8	12	0
7 Mounted equipment at annas 0-9-4 per head ..	4	1	4
Contingencies at s. 1-10-0 of pay of Establishment .. ..	47	4	10
Leave contribution 1-8-0 of pay of Establishment .. ..	59	2	0
Pension contribution $8\frac{1}{2}$ per cent of total maximum pay of officers in each rank ..	55	11	2
Conveyance allowance at Rs. 15 per mensem for one Assistant Sub-Inspector ..	15	0	0
<b>Total .. ..</b>	<b>426</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>4</b>

J. V. COURSE.

\*6385. **Sardar Ajit Singh** : Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state—

- whether it is a fact that the Education Department has extended one year J. V. course to two years and that in future no scholarships will be allowed to the students ;
- whether it is a fact that the syllabus for the J. V. examination continues to be the same as before ;



[S. Ajit Singh.]

(c) whether there is still a J. V. Training School in Gujrat where J. V. course is completed in one year ;

(d) if the answers to (a), (b) and (c) be in the affirmative, the reasons for the extension in the whole province of one year's course to two years and the differential treatment in the case of Gujrat ?

**The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye :** (a) The reply to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. There is, however, a one-year course at the Government Normal School, Gujrat. No scholarships have ever been allowed in normal schools. Stipends only are given. Under the existing orders stipends in J. V. classes for men are granted only to the students belonging to the weaver class and the special classes:

(b) No.

(c) Yes.

(d) The J. V. course for men teachers has been extended to two years as the one-year course was considered to be inadequate. A special type of J. V. class has been opened at Gujrat with a view to meeting the immediate demand of privately managed schools in the province for J. V. trained teachers.

**Lala Duni Chand :** What are the reasons for this discrimination ?

**Minister :** There is no discrimination.

**Lala Duni Chand :** Has not the Minister for Education admitted —

**Minister :** Will the honourable member wait till the reply is given ? The J. V. course was extended to two years on the recommendation of a committee appointed by the Government which framed the syllabus. Therefore in the three institutions the course is now for two years. As regards Gujrat I have explained that in the case of the privately managed schools I mean maktabas and pathshalas it was brought to the notice of the Government that there was paucity of trained teachers and according to the new circular issued last year they were not to be given any grant-in-aid on the salary of untrained teachers and on a special representation being made by these institutions as an exceptional case they were allowed to send teachers for training and they were to be trained within a year.

#### PROVOCATIVE AND ABUSIVE SPEECHES MADE BY KHAKSARS AT ZAFARWAL.

\*6388. **Dr. Satya Pal :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state whether it is a fact that a batch of Khaksars made very provocative and abusive speeches against the Hindus on 19th February, 1940, at Zafarwal when they were accompanying the *Tazia* procession and that the Government has taken no action against them so far ; if so, the reasons therefor ?

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

(ii) Does not arise.

LAW COLLEGE, LAHORE.

**\*6392. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state, with reference to the Law College, Lahore—

- (a) the name of the present Principal with his pay, qualifications and experience as a legal practitioner;
- (b) whether the present Principal has been appointed permanently or for a certain period; if permanently, reason for departure from the past practice of appointing Principal for a fixed period;
- (c) whether any Muslim has ever been appointed as Principal in the Law College since its establishment?

**The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye :**

- (a) (1) Name .. .. Mr. C. L. Anand.
- (2) Pay .. .. Rs. 1,250 per mensem in the grade of Rs. 750—50—1,250;
- (3) Qualifications and experience as Legal Practitioner.
  - (i) B.A. (Hons.), Punjab, 1912.
  - (ii) M.A. (Punjab), 1913 (stood I in the subject of History.
  - (iii) LL.B. (London), 1916;
  - (iv) Barrister-at-Law (called to the Bar, 1916).
  - (v) Practised at the Bar in District Courts and the High Court (1916—21);
  - (vi) Served as part-time lecturer in the Law College, Lahore (1921—25);
  - (vii) Appointed Principal in 1925;
  - (viii) He is the author of the following books on legal subjects:—
    - (1) Government of India—5th edition, 1936;
    - (2) The Government of India Act, 1935 (a commentary on the Act) 1st edition, 1939;
    - (3) Elements of Jurisprudence;
  - (ix) He has edited the following works:—
    - (1) Sir Shadi Lal's commentaries on the Law of Pre-emption, 3rd edition, 1939;
    - (2) Sir Shadi Lal's Punjab Alienation of Land Act (for students) 4th Edition, 1939;

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(b) The present Principal has been appointed permanently subject to the usual rule relating to age of retirement. His appointment permanently is not a departure from the past practice.

(c) No.

#### CLASSIFICATION OF PURNANAND AS A HABITUAL PRISONER.

**\*6395. Master Kabul Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister for Finance be pleased to state whether one Swami Purnanand of Hoshiarpur convicted under the Defence of India Act made any representation to him on the occasion of his visit to the District Jail, Rawalpindi, on 2nd March, 1940, against his being classed as a habitual prisoner by the jail authorities ; if so, the action, if any, taken in this matter ?

**The Honourable Mr. Manchar Lal :** Prisoner Purnanand has been classified as a casual prisoner by the court and is being treated as such. He made no representation to me on the occasion of my visit to the District Jail, Rawalpindi, on the 2nd March, 1940.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** My information is that he made a representation to the Minister and the Minister promised that his case would be looked into. May I know whether it is a fact or not that he was treated as a habitual prisoner in the jail ?

**Minister :** I have said that he is not being treated as a habitual prisoner. In fact, he occupies a very good bed in one of the two large wards in which these prisoners in Rawalpindi are placed. I found him to be in a cheerful state when I talked to him for about 10 minutes. He had no complaint whatever to make.

**Master Kabul Singh :** Is it a fact that he was fettered while he was being transferred to the Montgomery jail ?

**Minister :** This is an entirely new question.

#### DARSHAN SINGH, PRISONER.

**\*6396. Master Kabul Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to supply the following information regarding one Darshan Singh, son of Man Singh, a prisoner in Rawalpindi Jail :—

- (a) his weight at the time of conviction ;
- (b) his present weight ;
- (c) his general state of health ;
- (d) the date of his release ?

**The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal :** (a) His weight at the time of admission to the District Jail Rawalpindi was 104 lbs.

(b) His present weight is 105 lbs.

(c) Indifferent.

(d) About the 12th December, 1940.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Will the Honourable Minister please state what is being done to improve his indifferent health ?

**Minister :** He is receiving all proper treatment. I could not go into any further detail.

**BACHAN SINGH TERA.**

**\*6397. Master Kabul Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to supply the following information regarding one Bachan Singh Tera, a prisoner in Rawalpindi Jail;

- (a) his weight at the time of conviction ;
- (b) his present weight ;
- (c) his general state of health ;
- (d) the date of his release ?

**The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal :** (a) 141 lbs.

(b) 142 lbs.

(c) Good.

(d) About the 1st April, 1941.

**SIKHS IN THE CADRE OF DISTRICT INSPECTORS OF SCHOOLS.**

**\*6398. Sardar Rur Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state—

- (a) whether it is a fact that Sikhs are inadequately represented in the cadre of District Inspectors of Schools ;
- (b) whether it is a fact that a vacancy is about to occur in the post of the District Inspector of Schools at Amritsar on account of the transfer of the present incumbent to the Director of Public Instruction's office, Lahore, if so, the manner in which that vacancy is intended to be filled ?

**The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye :** I am afraid I am unable to answer this question on the floor of the house as it savours of communalism. If, however, the Honourable member will put an unstarred question a reply will be given.

**JAIL HOSPITAL, DISTRICT JAIL, RAWALPINDI.**

**\*6399. Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state whether he visited the jail hospital at the time he visited the District Jail, Rawalpindi, last ?

**The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal :** No, but I discussed generally the health of the prisoners with the medical officer and saw a number of old and infirm prisoners individually.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Is it a fact that a deputation of 'C' class prisoners sought leave to wait upon the Honourable Minister for placing their demands before him ?

**Minister :** No.

## LORRY STANDS.

**\*6400. Shrimati Raghbir Kaur :** Will the Honourable Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

- (a) the number of motor lorry stands in the districts of Sheikhupura, Lahore, Amritsar, Montgomery, Sialkot, Jullundur, Lyallpur, Gujranwala, Gurdaspur, Ambala, Karnal, Multan and Rohtak separately which the respective district boards auction every year ;
- (b) the respective sites of the lorry stands, mentioned in (a) together with the year since which they are being auctioned ;
- (c) the amount received annually up to 1938-39 by each district board mentioned in (a) from the auction of the lorry stands ;
- (d) the amount spent annually up to 1938-39 by the district boards mentioned in (a) on the improvement and upkeep of the lorry stands situated within their precincts ;
- (e) whether it is a fact that from April, 1940, the position of lorry stands in the province will be changed under the Motor Lorry Rules of 1940 ;
- (f) whether it is a fact that the district boards in the province are auctioning their motor lorry stands for the year 1940-41 ;
- (g) if the answer to (f) be in the affirmative, whether Government intend to hold up the auctioning of motor lorry stands mentioned above in view of the enforcement of the Motor Lorry Rules of 1940 ; if not, the reasons therefor ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Shaikh Faiz Muhammad) :** The answer to part (a) of this question is that under the new rules no place may be used as a stand without the permission of the District Magistrate, acting subject to the control of the Regional Transport Authority. If any local authority enters into an agreement which does not fit in with their provisions, it will have to terminate or modify that agreement.

The position being as I have explained, Government do not think that any useful purpose would be served by collecting the detailed information asked for in the other parts of the question. As the honourable member will have seen, the new rules have been carefully framed to guard against the continuance of the abuses which have occurred in the past in connection with some of the stands controlled by local bodies.

## LORRY STANDS IN SHEIKHUPURA.

**\*6401. Shrimati Raghbir Kaur :** Will the Honourable Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Municipal Committees of Sheikhupura, Chuharkana, Montgomery, Okara, Nankana Sahib, Pakpattan, Ambala Khurd and others every year auction the motor lorry stands and their motor lorry stands are being auctioned for the year 1940-41 also ;

(b) whether it is a fact that after the enforcement of the Motor Vehicles Rules of 1940 the position of lorry stands would be changed ;

(c) if the answer to part (b) be in the affirmative, whether Government intends to take any steps to hold up the auction of the motor lorry stands till the enforcement of the Motor Vehicles Rules ; if it is not contemplated, the reasons therefor ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Shaikh Faiz Muhammad) : (a) Government have no information and have not considered it necessary to collect it.

(b) Yes. Under the new rules, which are already in the hands of honourable members, no place may be used as a stand without the permission of the District Magistrate, acting subject to the control of the Regional Transport Authority.

(c) Government do not propose to issue any special instructions. The rules are public property, and if any local authority enters into an agreement which does not fit in with their provisions, it will have to vacate it.

**Diwan Chaman Lall** : May I ask whether the rules permitting private stands along with public stands are to be changed ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** : I am sorry I have not the rules with me.

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

**Diwan Chaman Lall** : May I draw your attention to part (b) of the question asking whether the position of lorry stands would be changed or not. The present position is that there are private stands as well as public stands and the question is whether that position would be altered. That is why I asked him whether he has any reply to give regarding private or public stands. Is that position to be altered or not altered ?

**Mr. Speaker** : That depends on rules and their interpretation.

**Diwan Chaman Lall** : It is not a question of interpretation of rules. The question is whether the present position is going to be altered or not. It is for them to decide. That is part (b).

**Parliamentary Secretary** : The question was whether the municipal committees of certain places every year auction the motor lorry stands and their motor lorry stands are being auctioned for the year 1940-41 and I replied that it is not considered necessary to collect the information.

**Diwan Chaman Lall** : May I ask my honourable friend to pay a little attention to what I have been saying ? It will probably save the time for him and for me as well. I refer to part (b) of the question, whether it is a fact that after the enforcement of the Motor Vehicles Rules of 1940 the position of lorry stands would be changed. That is the question. Would it be or would it not be changed ? Would there be any private stands available or not ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** : So far as the question of change is concerned, a study of the rules would show that certain changes will take place. It is difficult for me to detail all those changes. The honourable member may have seen the rules. They run to 100 pages and I must confess that I have not been able to go through them so far.

**Diwan Chaman Lall :** May I inform my honourable friend, since he has not read the rules, the rules do not run to 100 pages but they run to nearly thrice the number ? May I ask my honourable friend whether it is not a fact that there is a rule relating to lorry stands and whether the rule alters the present position or not ? The question is perfectly explicit. I am not asking my honourable friend to go into the 200 pages of these rules. The question is explicit and the answer should be explicit.

**Minister of Public Works :** The answer too is quite clear. Those rules have been circulated to honourable members and I can only refer them to the respective rules. They speak for themselves.

**Diwan Chaman Lall :** What is the respective rule ? Is the position altered or not altered ?

**Minister :** That is a question of opinion. The rules are there ; they have been circulated.

**Diwan Chaman Lall :** May I ask whether any of my honourable friends sitting on those benches has read those rules ?

**Minister :** Yes, I have.

**Diwan Chaman Lall :** Which particular rule alters the situation ?

**Mr. Speaker :** Disallowed.

#### SHAikh HISSAM-UD-DIN OF AMRITSAR.

**\*6402. Shrimati Raghubir Kaur :** Will the Honourable Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

- (a) the cases which led to the conviction of Shaikh Hissam-ud-Din of Amritsar together with the sentences passed on him in each case ;
- (b) the name of the jail where he is confined at present and the class in which he is kept ;
- (c) whether he has been suffering for a long time from some knee trouble for which he was recently operated upon in the Mayo Hospital, Lahore ; if so, whether the operation was successful ;
- (d) the present condition of his health ?

**The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal :** (a) Prisoner Hissam-ud-Din was convicted under rule 38 of the Defence of India Rules and sentenced to two years simple imprisonment and a fine of Rs. 100 or six months further simple imprisonment on the 3rd October 1939 and to two years rigorous imprisonment and a fine of Rs. 100 or six months further rigorous imprisonment on the 3rd November, 1939.

(b) He is confined in the District Jail, Rawalpindi, and is being treated as an "A" class prisoner.

(c) He has been successfully operated upon in the Mayo Hospital, Lahore.

(d) Satisfactory.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan :** Has it ever occurred to the Honourable Finance Minister to go through the case of Shaikh Hissam-ud-Din with a view to find out whether the conviction on the materials before the court was proper or not, because he has not appealed against his conviction ?

**Minister :** No, I am not a court of appeal.

ADMISSION OF GIRL STUDENTS TO KING EDWARD MEDICAL COLLEGE,  
LAHORE.

**\*6496. Mrs. Duni Chand :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education be pleased to state—

- (a) the proportion between girls and boys in the matter of yearly admission to the King Edward Medical College, Lahore;
- (b) whether it is a fact that the proportion fixed for girls is very small; if so, the reasons for this unusual disparity;
- (c) whether he is aware that the demand for female doctors has now very much increased; if so, whether it is intended to increase the proportion fixed for girls for admission to the said college, and, if so, when and to what extent?

**The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye :** (a) Out of the total number of 90 students admitted to the King Edward Medical College, Lahore, 80 are boys and 10 girls.

(b) For medical education of women other facilities also exist, viz., 25 seats are reserved for them annually in the Medical School, Amritsar; 30 girls students are admitted every year in the Licentiate Class and 15 in the M.B., B.S., Class at the Punjab Medical School for Women, Ludhiana; and one Punjabi student is nominated almost every year by Government for admission to the Lady Hardinge Medical College for Women, New Delhi, over and above the Punjabi students who may secure admission by competition in the usual way.

(c) *First part.*—Yes. But there is also a corresponding increase in the supply which does not fall short of the demand.

*Second part.*—No.

**Lala Duni Chand :** Is it true that the number of girls allotted to a particular community for admission purposes was not forthcoming last year and the places thus rendered vacant were not given to the girls of other communities ?

**Minister :** Those vacancies were given to the boys of the same community.

**Lala Duni Chand :** Why is it that the places that become available on account of sufficient girls of one community not forthcoming, were not given to the girls of other communities ?

**Minister :** Because the seats are subject to certain communal proportion fixed by the Government.

**Lala Duni Chand :** May I know if it is not a case of communalism run riot ?

**Mr. Speaker :** Disallowed.



## SARDAR DASAUNDHA SINGH AS A HABITUAL PRISONER.

**\*6407. Sardar Hari Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state—

- (a) whether one Sardar Dasaundha Singh, a Kisan Morcha prisoner, has recently been transferred from District Jail, Ferozepore, to Central Jail, Montgomery; if so, the date on which he was transferred;
- (b) the reasons for the transfer;
- (c) whether he has been classed by the jail authorities as a habitual prisoner; if so, the reasons therefor;
- (d) the names of other political prisoners similarly transferred from Ferozepore Jail, together with reasons for transfer in each case;
- (e) the present weight and weight on admission of the said Sardar Dasaundha Singh;
- (f) the present state of his health;
- (g) the date on which his release is due?

**The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal :** (a) Prisoner Dasaundha Singh was transferred to the Montgomery Central Jail on the 2nd March, 1940.

(b) and (c) Because he was classified as a 'habitual' offender by the District Magistrate, Hoshiarpur. If the prisoner is dissatisfied with this classification, he should make a revision application to the District Magistrate.

(d) It is not in the public interest to give this information.

(e) His weight on admission to the Montgomery Central Jail was 140 lbs. and on the 20th March, 1940, 144 lbs.

(f) Good.

(g) The probable date of his release is 10th June, 1940.

**Diwan Chaman Lal :** Would my honourable friend consider Mahatma Gandhi to be a habitual prisoner?

**Mr. Speaker :** Disallowed.

**Diwan Chaman Lal :** Were all the convictions of this particular gentleman political convictions?

**Mr. Speaker :** Disallowed.

**Sardar Hari Singh :** May I know whether the Honourable Minister is aware of the date on which Sardar Dasaundha Singh was convicted and the date on which he was classified as habitual offender by the district magistrate?

**Minister :** I have not the dates with me.

**Sardar Hari Singh :** May I know whether it is not for the trial court to classify the prisoner as habitual or ordinary prisoner?

**Minister :** I have said already that he has been so classified by the district magistrate and if he is dissatisfied with his classification he has got the proper remedy of applying to the district magistrate to reconsider the matter.

**Sardar Hari Singh :** I want to know whether the classification of the prisoner as habitual or something else is for the trial court or for the district magistrate ?

**Minister :** I could not say ; I will enquire if you like, but I think both courts have the power.

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

**Sardar Hari Singh :** It is a question for the honourable Minister.

**Minister :** And I have already given my answer. The Jail Manual will give more particulars.

REPRESSION ON CONGRESS WORKERS AND PEOPLE OF HOSHIARPUR DISTRICT.

**\*5162. Sardar Hari Singh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state whether the Government is aware that there has been unprecedented repression on Congress workers and people of the Hoshiarpur district imagined to be pro-Congress ever since the last district board elections ; if so, the reasons therefor ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Mir Maqbool Mahmood) :** The answer to the first part is in the negative, the second part does not arise. There has been much wild public speaking in the district in the last six months which Government could not afford to ignore. But this is unfortunately not unprecedented.

**Sardar Hari Singh :** May I know whether the Parliamentary Secretary has examined the necessary data before answering the question, data regarding the large number of applications under section 124, section 302/115 and the number of suspensions and dismissals of lambardars ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I have considered everything necessary to be considered in answer to this question before answering it.

SARDAR BALWANT SINGH ' DUKHIA. '

**\*5175. Sardar Hari Singh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that Sardar Balwant Singh *Dukhia* an internee under the Criminal Law Amendment Act in his village Bains Tanewala, district Hoshiarpur, and a member of the District Board, Hoshiarpur, applied to the District Magistrate, Hoshiarpur, for permission to be absent from his village from 6 a.m. on 25th July to 7 p.m. on 26th July, 1939, in order to participate in meetings of the District Board held at Hoshiarpur on 25th and 26th July ;

(b) if answer to (a) above be in the affirmative, nature and extent of the permission granted ;

(c) whether it is a fact that Sardar Balwant Singh was not allowed to absent himself from the village for the night intervening between 25th and 26th July ; if so, why ?

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

(b) He was permitted to absent himself from his village from 6 a.m. to 5 p.m. on both days.

(c) Yes. Absence for the night was not considered necessary.

#### LAMBARDARS AS MEMBERS OF CONGRESS IN HOSHIARPUR DISTRICT.

**\*5176. Sardar Hari Singh:** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state whether it is a fact that official authorities of Hoshiarpur district have instituted inquiries as to who among the lambardars and pensioners have become members of the Congress; if so, the reasons therefor?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Mir Maqbool Mahmood): No, but inquiries have been made in the Hoshiarpur district to ascertain to what extent village officials have been engaged in subversive activities.

#### FODDER TACCAVI IN HISSAR, ROHTAK AND GURGAON DISTRICTS.

**\*5848. Chaudhri Sahib Ram:** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state the amount of fodder taccavi distributed district-wise among the sufferers in the Hissar, Rohtak and Gurgaon districts, separately during the year 1938-39 and the amount distributed in the same respect in the month of October, 1939?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan): The figures are as follows:—

			<i>Fodder taccavi advanced during</i>
			1938-39.
			Rs.
Rohtak district	..	..	4,34,442
Gurgaon district	..	..	2,81,062
Hissar district	..	..	12,26,486
Total	..	..	19,41,940

The figures for October, 1939 for the Hissar district are not yet available.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan:** What amount was allotted by the Government for these districts?

**Parliamentary Secretary:** The question related to the amount distributed and I have given that reply.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan:** Has the Parliamentary Secretary not cared to know what amount was allotted and how much was distributed?

**Parliamentary Secretary:** I have cared very much to know but do not remember it.

RELIEF WORKS IN HISSAR DISTRICT.

**\*5850. Chaudhri Sahib Ram :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state—

- (a) whether he is aware that some people of Hissar went out of their district in search of livelihood and have now returned to their native place disappointed; if so, the action the Government propose to take to provide them with work;
- (b) the number of those people, tahsil-wise in the Hissar district, who have quitted their native places for want of any means of livelihood?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan):** (a) Yes; forty only. There are 18 relief works<sup>1</sup> in progress in the district where work is being provided.

(b) The labour involved in the collection of this information is not commensurate with the results.

FAMINE CONDITIONS IN JHAJJAR TAHSIL.

**\*5958. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state—

- (a) the number of test works and the labourers working at present on each test work and the rates of wages allowed to the labourers in Jhajjar tahsil;
- (b) the number of cotton relief centres at Jhajjar tahsil last year and this year;
- (c) the approximate number of cattle that died, were sold away or migrated from the said tahsil owing to scarcity of fodder so far since famine conditions prevailed in the tahsil;
- (d) the reasons for not declaring Jhajjar tahsil as a famine-stricken area?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan):** (a):

<i>Name of test work.</i>	<i>Name of road.</i>	<i>Number of workers during the week ending 2nd December, 1939.</i>
Dubaldhan ..	Beri-Dubaldhan ..	12,048
Guriani ..	Subana-Guriani-Jatusana.	7,953
Kanwa ..	Raya Salhawas ..	19,596

The rates of wages vary with the price of grain *vide* the Punjab Famine Code. The most recent figures are:—

Special Class workers .. ..	8 pice.
Class I (diggers) .. ..	7 pice
Class II (carriers) .. ..	5 pice.
Class III (working children 10—14 years of age.)	4 pice.

<sup>1</sup> Since this reply was drafted the number of relief works has increased to 25. The Government is considering whether some more relief works should be opened or not. The rules provide that a new relief work be ordinarily opened if there are 5,000 workers requiring relief.

[Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan.]

(b) 53 and 5.

When supplies of cotton were exhausted centres were closed and gratuitous relief increased. These centres will be increased as cotton is available as such relief appears to be suitable.

(c) The information is not readily available.

(d) There is a distinction between scarcity and famine. In the judgment of Government the scarcity condition as it is, is not quite so desperate as to merit the term 'famine'.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the Parliamentary Secretary be pleased to state the conditions on prevailing of which an *ilaga* is declared to be famine stricken ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** The detailed conditions are given in the Famine Code. It will take me more than an hour to read them out to the honourable member.

**Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :** May I know whether it is the famine conditions or the financial stringency that does not permit the Government to declare Jhajjar a famine-stricken area ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** According to the rules Jhajjar cannot be declared a famine-stricken area.

**Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :** May I know the difference in the conditions prevailing in Jhajjar and in Hissar ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** There are scarcity conditions in Jhajjar and famine conditions in Hissar.

**Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :** Is there any difference in the conditions ? What is it ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I am afraid I cannot give details without notice and that also on any particular point on which the honourable member wants information.

**Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :** Is the Parliamentary Secretary aware of the fact that it was in Jhajjar tahsil that a man committed suicide because he could not get work ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** It is not mentioned in the rules that if a man commits suicide in a district that district should be declared a famine-stricken area.

**Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :** What is the difference between the conditions in Jhajjar and in Hissar ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I have already stated that the scarcity conditions are not quite so desperate as to be called famine. It is when the conditions become more acute and the scarcity conditions reach a certain limit that the area in which those conditions prevail is declared a famine-stricken area. Those conditions are very carefully studied by the officers in accordance with the rules and then it is decided whether an area should be declared a scarcity area or a famine area.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Has the Parliamentary Secretary stated the conditions of tahsil Jhajjar as a whole or is this the condition prevailing everywhere ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I have already given a detailed reply and this much can be said in reply to a question with regard to scarcity.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know whether the condition has been stated by the Parliamentary Secretary in view of the condition as a whole ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** Yes, as a whole.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know how much area is suffering from acute scarcity ?

**Minister :** The honourable member lives in that district and he may enquire from there.

#### FAMINE RELIEF FOR MEHAM, DISTRICT ROHTAK.

**\*5981. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state whether he and the district authorities have recently received representations from the people of the town of Meham (Rohtak) to the effect that Famine Relief measures be extended to them ; if so, with what result ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan) :** The people of Meham a town which receives irrigation submitted representations for the suspension of Government dues.

On examination, it was found that there was no case for the suspension of land revenue. The question of suspending the collection of taccavi loans is under consideration.

#### FAMINE CONDITIONS IN JHAJJAR TAHSIL.

**\*6124. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state whether it is a fact that more area has been affected by the famine conditions in Jhajjar tahsil of the Rohtak district this year and that at present the conditions in the said tahsil are no better than they are in the Hissar district ; if so, the reasons why the Jhajjar tahsil has not so far been declared as a "famine-stricken area" ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan) :** Scarcity conditions were admitted last year to prevail over the whole of Jhajjar tahsil ; but the degree of scarcity is not reported to have reached the severity of famine conditions in Hissar. Should they do so, the Deputy Commissioner will report them : and appropriate action will be taken.

#### RELIEF MEASURES IN BARANG KHER IN DISTRICT FERROZPORE.

**\*6131. Chaudhri Sahib Ram :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state whether he has recently received any representation from the inhabitants of village Barang Kher, in district Ferozepore, praying that, on account of famine conditions prevailing there, they may be afforded relief ; if so, the action taken thereon ; and if no action has been taken so far, the reasons therefor ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan) :** *First part.*—No.

*Second part.*—Does not arise.

COMPLAINTS OF CORRUPTION AGAINST KHALIQ DAD KHAN,  
ASSISTANT COLONIZATION OFFICER.

**\*6355. Sardar Kishen Singh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state the result of the inquiry that was held into the allegations made against Mr. Khaliq Dad Khan, Assistant Colonization Officer, Lyallpur, and the action taken by the Government in the matter, and if no action has been taken so far, the reasons therefor?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Mir Maqbool Mahmood) :** Government have ordered an enquiry into the conduct of Khan Khaliq Dad Khan under the Public Servants (Inquiries) Act, 1850. An Indian Civil Service officer has been appointed as Special Commissioner to conduct the enquiry.

REPRESENTATION TO DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, LYALLPUR, AGAINST  
LAMBARDAR NIAZ ALI.

**\*6356. Sardar Kishen Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state—

- (a) whether the Deputy Commissioner of the Lyallpur district received any representation in September, 1939, from Khushdil Khan, resident of Chak No. 238 *Gaf B2* stating that lambardar Niaz Ali of Chak No. 238-Gogera Branch, had realized more money than the actual amount of the land revenue from the *pattidars* of his village;
- (b) whether it is a fact that on 28th September, 1939, the naib-tahsildar of Jaranwala entrusted with inquiry into the matter recorded evidence and attached receipts to the file and six *pattidars* stated that more money than the actual amount of the land revenue had been realized from them;
- (c) if the answer to part (a) and (b) be correct, whether any further inquiry has been made into the matter; if so, the result thereof?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan) :** (a) Yes.

(b) The naib-tahsildar, Jaranwala, recorded evidence on the 28th September, 1939. No receipts were produced. The *Pattidars* made such statements which were not substantiated.

(c) No further enquiry has been made. The case was closed by the Deputy Commissioner.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA (PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURES) ORDER.

**\*6367. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state whether the Government has made any recommendation to the Secretary of State to amend paragraph 18 of Part VI of the Government of India (Provincial Legislatures) Order, 1936; if so, what is the recommendation made; if no recommendation has been made so far, whether any recommendation on this subject is proposed to be made?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Mir Maqbool Mahmood): There has been correspondence between the Punjab Government and the Central Government regarding the meaning of this paragraph. It has been decided that its language is clear and that no amendment is necessary.

**Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava**: May I know whether the Government ever decided to make a representation to the Secretary of State?

**Parliamentary Secretary**: If my honourable friend gives specific notice it can be looked into, but so far as I am aware the question was whether the Government has made any recommendation to the Secretary of State. No occasion arose for making a representation. The Government of India has given an interpretation and the Punjab Government does not consider it necessary to make any further representation.

**Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava**: My question was whether a recommendation is proposed to be made. In that connection I want to know whether the Government ever considered the question of making any representation.

**Parliamentary Secretary**: I have said that the question is whether any recommendation on this subject is proposed to be made and my answer is that it is not considered necessary.

**Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava**: I want to know whether they ever decided to make any representation.

**Parliamentary Secretary**: If the honourable member gives notice I will look into the matter.

#### BENAMI TRANSACTIONS AND THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, JULLUNDUR.

**\*6368. Sufi Abdul Hamid Khan**: Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to a recent judgment delivered by the Deputy Commissioner, Jullundur, a copy of which has been circulated by him for the guidance of the officers working under him, in which he held that a transaction is to be held *benami* only in case a *benamidar* admits that the land was mutated in his name on behalf of a non-agriculturist;

(b) if so, what action the Government proposes to take in the matter?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan): (a) No. If the honourable member desires me to pursue the matter, will he kindly give a more exact reference?

(b) Does not arise.

#### ALLOTMENT OF LANDS IN THE NILI BAR ON PERENNIAL AND NON-PERENNIAL CHANNELS.

**\*6369. Sardar Ajit Singh**: Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) the total area of the uncommanded Crown waste land in Nili Bar on both perennial and non-perennial channels;

(b) how the Government proposes to dispose of this area;

(c) whether any part of this area has so far been allotted on tube-wells irrigation conditions; and if so, how much, to whom and on what terms;



[S. Ajit Singh.]

- (d) whether Government intends to allot the whole of this area on tube-well irrigation conditions; and if so, the terms on which this allotment will be made?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan): (a) In the perennial area 47,084 acres, in the non-perennial area 16,758 acres.

(b) The matter is under consideration.

(c) Yes. 571 acres, 4 kanals and 2 marlas allotted to Sardar Bahadur Sir Datar Singh on conditions involving the construction of tube wells published with the Punjab Government notification No. 1778-C., dated the 28th March, 1939.

(d) As above indicated, the matter is still under consideration.

PUNJABI EMPLOYEES OF THE ANGLO-IRANIAN COMPANY,  
LIMITED, PERSIA.

**\*6370. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad:** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

- (a) whether his attention has been invited to the memorial, dated 28th August, 1939, of the Punjabi employees of the Anglo-Iranian Company, Limited, Persia, addressed to the Honourable Member in charge of Labour Department of Government of India, copy of which was forwarded to all the Provincial Governments of India;
- (b) the action taken by the Punjab Government; and if no action has so far been taken, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether he is aware that other Provincial Governments have taken a move in the matter?

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

(b) The Punjab Government have forwarded a copy of the memorial to the Anglo-Iranian Company in Bombay with the request that if there is any legitimate grievance it may be redressed.

(c) No.

RETIREMENT OF AND GRANT OF EXTENSIONS TO GOVERNMENT SERVANTS.

**\*6372. Chaudhri Kartar Singh:** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state—

- (a) the number and the names of the gazetted officers who have retired on completion of 25 years' service under the Punjab Government since April, 1937;
- (b) the number and the names of the gazetted officers who have been granted extension in service since the same date with the reasons for the grant of extension in each case?

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

Punjab Civil Service (Executive Branch)

Punjab Civil Service (Judicial Branch)

} None.

The information relating to gazetted officers in other departments is not readily available and its collection would entail expenditure of time and labour out of all proportion to the advantage to be gained therefrom.

(b) I would refer the honourable member to the answers given to starred Assembly questions Nos. 4308<sup>1</sup>, 4520<sup>2</sup>, 5250<sup>3</sup> and 5915<sup>4</sup>. Since then two members of the Punjab Civil Service (Executive Branch) have been granted extensions in service. Their names are :—

(1) Khan Sahib Ali Muhammad, Extra Assistant Settlement Officer, Lahore.

(2) Rai Sahib Lala Dewan Chand, Extra Assistant Colonization Officer, Pakpattan.

In both cases extension has been granted on public grounds. The required information relating to other services is not readily available and I regret that I cannot undertake to collect it.

**Diwan Chaman Lall :** What was the public ground ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** Public grounds are public grounds.

**Diwan Chaman Lall :** What are these public grounds ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** The interests and requirements of public service.

**Diwan Chaman Lall :** Does it mean therefore that there was no other efficient Government servant available ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** Not necessarily, but if an important work like settlement and colonization is half way through, my honourable friend will agree that it is not desirable to change horses in the mid-stream. (*Hear, hear.*)

#### IRRIGATION ON HAVELI PROJECT BY PERENNIAL AND NON-PERENNIAL CHANNELS.

**\*6373. Sayad Mubarik Ali Shah :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state the area of land to be irrigated by the Haveli Project giving separately and district-wise the area to be irrigated by perennial channels and that which is to be irrigated by non-perennial channels from the Project ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan) :** The information required is given below :—

Name of District.	AREA TO BE IRRIGATED BY		Total.
	Perennial channels.	Non-perennial channels.	
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Muzaffargarh ..	..	166,277	166,277
Jhang ..	35,531	281,358	316,889
Multan ..	706,384	289,572	995,956
Lyallpur ..	302	..	302
Total ..	742,217	737,207	1,479,424

<sup>1</sup>Vol. VIII, page 731.

<sup>2</sup>Vol. IX, page 506.

<sup>3</sup>Vol. X, page 32.

<sup>4</sup>Vide Debates of 9th February, 1940.

**IRRIGATION ON HAVELI PROJECT BY PERENNIAL AND NON-PERENNIAL CHANNELS.**

**\*6374. Sayad Mubarik Ali Shah :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) the total area of Crown lands and also the total proprietary area on the Haveli Project ;

(b) how much of these categories of lands will be irrigated by the perennial channels and how much by non-perennial channels ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan) :** (a) and (b) : Information required is given below :—

		<i>Perennial area.</i>	<i>Non-perennial area.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
		<i>Acres.</i>	<i>Acres.</i>	<i>Acres.</i>
Crown waste	..	150,091	58,576	208,667
Proprietary	..	592,126	678,681	1,270,757
GRAND TOTAL	..	742,217	737,207	1,479,424

**AUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION OF LANDS ON THE HAVELI PROJECT.**

**\*6375. Sayad Mubarik Ali Shah :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) the total area of Crown waste land in the Haveli Project Colony ;

(b) how much of this area is to be sold by public auction and how much is to be distributed among the people of Jhang, Multan and Muzaffargarh districts (district-wise), under the Colonization Scheme of the Haveli Project ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan) :** (a) 208,667 acres of which however only 101,248 acres are at present considered allotable ;

(b) 20,000 acres have been reserved for sale by public auction and 29,620 acres are to be allotted to local inhabitants of Jhang, Multan and Muzaffargarh districts. It has not yet been decided what proportion of this area will go to each district.

**Mr. Dev Raj Sethi :** What is the basis of distribution ? What is the principle involved in distributing these lands to residents of Jhang and other districts ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I have said that Government is considering the question of how this area is to be distributed in these three districts. The Government have not yet decided the principle upon which it is to be distributed.

**Mr. Dev Raj Sethi :** Not district-wise, but about individuals to whom this land is to be distributed.

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I am afraid I cannot give any answer without notice.

APPLICATIONS IN CONNECTION WITH LAND ALIENATION (AMENDMENT)  
ACT (BENAMI TRANSACTIONS).

**\*6376. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state—

- (a) whether the Land Alienation (Amendment) Act (*benami* transactions) has been enforced in the district of Sheikhpura ;
- (b) whether any applications in this connection have been received and proceeded with in the said district, if not, what action does the Government propose to take in this respect ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan) : (a) Yes.

(b) *First part* : Yes.

*Second part* : Does not arise.

ASSISTANTS IN THE FINANCIAL COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE AND  
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, IRRIGATION SECRETARIAT.

**\*6378. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state—

- (a) whether any competitive examination was held for appointment to the post of assistants in Financial Commissioners' office, Lahore, in April last ; if so, under what rules ;
- (b) whether any such examination has been held for appointment to the post of assistants in the Public Works Department and Irrigation Secretariat ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan) : (a) No. The appointments are made by selection.

(b) No.

**Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :** Am I to understand that no examination was held ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** An examination was held, but attendance was not compulsory. It was left to individual's option to attend or not to attend the examination.

**Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :** Could those persons who did not attend the examination be selected ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** Why not ? The appointments are made by selection and the officer has the right to select anybody provided he is competent and efficient.

**Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :** Were any outsiders allowed to appear in the examination ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** It was a qualifying examination and not a competitive examination.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Whether the promotion is made with due regard to seniority ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** In selecting seniority is one of the considerations.

## LAND REVENUE AND WATER RATE REMISSIONS IN LUDHIANA.

**\*6382. Sardar Lal Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state the amount of (i) land revenue and (ii) water rate, respectively, remitted by Government in each of the three tahsils of Ludhiana, Samrala and Jagraon in the Ludhiana district during the years 1937-38, 1938-39 and 1939-40?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan) :** A statement is laid on the table :—

*Statement showing land revenue and water rate remissions in Ludhiana.*

	LAND REVENUE REMITTED.			WATER RATE REMITTED.		
	1937-38.	1938-39.	1939-40.	1937-38.	1938-39.	1939-40.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
Tahsil Ludhiana ..	133	31,504	..	1,031 0 0	5,534 1 0	21 8 0
Tahsil Jagraon ..	367	4,640	..	852 10 0	1,613 4 0	97 3 0
Tahsil Samrala ..	110	1,281	..	..	..	..
Total ..	610	37,425	..	1,883 10 0	7,147 5 0	118 11 0

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan :** Is it a fact that the collector recommended the remission of land revenue and abiana on a larger scale in view of the conditions prevailing in the district?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I am to give what the Government decided and not what the collector recommended.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan :** My question was whether in view of the conditions prevailing and the report of the Deputy Commissioner the Government considered the advisability of granting remissions on a larger scale?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** Government considered all the factors, particularly the reports of the officers and they arrived at the conclusion that I have stated and that is contained in the statement.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan :** What were the other considerations except the conditions prevailing in these three tahsils?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I have said that the conditions as reported by the officers concerned and collectors are not the only consideration.

**Sardar Kapoor Singh :** When the Deputy Commissioner recommended the remission, may I know what was the reason for rejecting that recommendation?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** How do you assume that the Deputy Commissioner made any recommendation? As I have already said I am here to state the decision of the Government and not to state the reports of the officers.

**Sardar Kapoor Singh :** Is the Parliamentary Secretary prepared to say that the Deputy Commissioner did not make any recommendation ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I do not follow my honourable friend's question.

**Minister :** Reports made by the Deputy Commissioner are confidential for Government and as such not to be placed on the table.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan :** Did not the Government consider that in view of the conditions existing at present the remission allowed was inadequate ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** It was not inadequate. It was in accordance with the rules.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan :** Is it a fact that several representations were received by the Government for the remission of land revenue and abiana ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I cannot give the exact information off-hand.

**Sardar Partap Singh :** The Parliamentary Secretary in reply to a certain question of Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan said that the reports from local officers were considered. May I know if they were not considered along with the report of the collector ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I have said that collector's report was considered and the Government, after considering various reports, came to a certain decision which is laid on the table of the House.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan :** Is it a fact that the collector incorporated in the report the remission that was granted by the Government ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I am not in a position to give him any figures with regard to what the collector.....(*Interruption*).

LAND REVENUE ASSESSMENT OF BARANI LANDS IN LUDHIANA DISTRICT.

\*6383. **Sardar Lal Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) the total land revenue assessed to *barani* land in the Ludhiana district for each of the two years ending 31st March, 1938, and 31st March, 1939 ;

(b) the amount out of this revenue which has been realized so far ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan) :** A statement is laid on the table.

*Land revenue assessment in Ludhiana district.*

<i>Financial year.</i>	<i>Total assessment.</i>	<i>Amount realised up to 29th February, 1940.</i>
	<i>Rs.</i>	<i>Rs.</i>
1937-38 .. ..	12,86,058	12,24,115
1938-39 .. ..	12,86,872	12,36,299

*Note.*—Separate figures for *barani* areas are not available.

## CLOSURE ON UPPER BARI DOAB CANAL.

**\*6384. Sardar Ajit Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state—

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Jethowal Rajbah of the Upper Bari Doab canal remained closed for the last four months and the zamindars of the area are suffering from the shortage of canal water-supply ;
- (b) if the answer to (a) above be in the affirmative, will the Government be pleased to state when water is likely to be supplied to the zamindars of this *ilaga* to irrigate their lands ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan) :** (a) No. The Distributary got its authorised full supply discharge according to the programme of rotational turns excepting from 3rd to the 10th February, when there was no demand for canal water due to rains.

- (b) Does not arise.

## CONSTRUCTION OF A BRIDGE ON R. B.-60 ON HAVELI PROJECT.

**\*6393. Mr. Dev Raj Sethi :** Will the Honourable Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

- (a) whether it is a fact that Mauza Rodu Sultan, tahsil Shorkot, district Jhang, has been cut into two parts by the Rangpur canal constructed under Haveli Project ;
- (b) whether it is a fact that no bridge has been built between R. B.-49 and 70 resulting in great hardships to the residents of Rodu Sultan ;
- (c) whether it is a fact that residents and cultivators of the said mauza are compelled for want of a bridge, to travel four to five miles every time for use of the grazing ground, for bringing fuel, for burying their dead and for normal cultivation work ;
- (d) whether Government has recently received a number of representations from the residents of the *mauza* praying for the construction of a bridge on R. B.-60 ; if so, whether Government intends to construct a bridge with a view to removing the grievances of the residents of Rodu Sultan and, if so, when ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan) :** (a) Yes.

- (b) Yes.

(c) The people have to cross the canal during kharif *via* the bridge at B. D. 49,000 which is about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles from the village.

(d) Yes. Construction of a bridge at R. D. 56,000, Rangpur Canal, is under consideration of the Government.

**Mr. Dev Raj Sethi :** May I know when the construction of this bridge is expected to be completed ?

**Minister :** It cannot be completed over-night. (*Laughter.*)

VACANCIES IN THE POSTS OF ASSISTANT EXECUTIVE ENGINEERS,  
IRRIGATION BRANCH.

**\*6408. Lala Duni Chand :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that 14 posts of Assistant Executive Engineers, Irrigation Branch, of Public Works Department, were advertised about three months ago through Public Service Commission ;

(b) whether these posts were reserved for a particular community, and, if so, how many and for which community ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan) :** (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

REVISION OF ZAILDARI RULES AND APPOINTMENT OF SARBRAHS.

**\*6412. Khan Muhammad Yusuf Khan :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that notification No. 4466-R., dated the 9th December, 1939, in the official gazette, dated the 15th December, 1939, has been published saying that substitute zaildars and inamdars may not be appointed for more than two years in the aggregate without the previous sanction of the Commissioner ;

(b) if the reply to (a) be in the affirmative, the reasons for the departure from the old procedure ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan) :** (a) Yes.

(b) A very large proportion of zaildars and inamdars perform their duties through substitutes. These are sometimes incapable and seldom of adequate influence. The new rules framed after consultation with all Commissioners will ensure that greater care is exercised in such cases.

**Khan Muhammad Yusuf Khan :** For how long have these zaildars been performing the duties ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** For a long time.

**Khan Muhammad Yusuf Khan :** What special circumstances have now arisen to amend the rules ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** Every day the machinery of the Government is getting complicated and we want to run it efficiently.

**Khan Muhammad Yusuf Khan :** May I know whether the Deputy Commissioner is in charge of the district and he is responsible for the administration ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** Yes, certainly, subject to supervision by the Government.

**Khan Muhammad Yusuf Khan :** May I know if the Deputy Commissioner is more capable of knowing the special cases of zaildars ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** Certainly.



**Khan Muhammad Yusuf Khan :** May I know why his discretion has been.....(*Interruption*).

**Minister of Revenue :** The rule provides that the Commissioner has to be consulted in this matter. That is the only change that has been made.

**Khan Muhammad Yusuf Khan :** May I point out that the rules provide that the final authority is the Commissioner and it will be only in rare cases that the Commissioner will give consent to the appointment of *zaildars* ? Is it not a fact that the powers of the Deputy Commissioners have thus been absolutely done away with ?

**Minister :** My friend knows that in the case of *zaildars* and *lambardars* if a man is dissatisfied with the decision of the Deputy Commissioner, he can appeal to the Commissioner and if he is still dissatisfied, he can appeal to the Financial Commissioner. In this case also first the question would be dealt with by the Deputy Commissioner and if he sees that the man has not performed his duties well, he can intervene.

**Khan Sahib Chaudhri Sahib Dad Khan :** Is it a fact that the appointments of *zaildars* and *inamdars* rest in the hands of the Collector while the appointments of substitutes can be made by the Commissioner ?

**Minister :** It does not lie in the hands of the Commissioner but the Commissioner can interfere if the work is not properly done.

**Khan Sahib Chaudhri Sahib Dad Khan :** The rule says that the appointment will remain in force for two years and for a further period he will be required to take orders of the Commissioner. Is it not inconsistent with the original rule ?

**Minister :** I do not think so.

#### NOMINATION OF A SCHEDULED CASTE YOUNG MAN TO PUNJAB CIVIL SERVICE (EXECUTIVE BRANCH).

\*6414. **Sardar Moola Singh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state whether it has been decided to nominate a suitable young man belonging to the scheduled castes as an extra assistant commissioner this year ; if so, the manner in which it is intended to make the selection ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Mir Maqbool Mahmood) :** The question of this year's nominations is still under consideration. The honourable member knows that the nominations to Punjab Civil Service are made on the recommendations of the Public Services Commission.

**Lala Duni Chand :** May I know if it is a fact that if a member of scheduled caste is a graduate or M.A., that qualification of his will be sufficient for his appointment as extra assistant commissioner ?

**Mr. Speaker :** A hypothetical question. Disallowed.

**Lala Duni Chand :** Is the Parliamentary Secretary aware of the fact that there are a fairly large number of B. A.s ; M.A.s and B.Sc. 8., amongst the scheduled castes ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** Very probably, and I can assure my honourable friend that so far as the Government is concerned, if the Public Services Commission recommends suitable scheduled caste candidates, nobody would be happier than the Government to give them preference.

**Lala Duni Chand :** Is it within the knowledge of the Parliamentary Secretary that applications have been made by a number of scheduled caste candidates ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I am not aware of that fact. That must obviously be within the knowledge of the Public Services Commission.

**Lala Duni Chand :** May I know what is the criterion on the basis of which the Government is going to take into consideration the question of making these appointments from scheduled caste candidates ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** More than once the rules regulating the appointments both by nomination and competition for the Punjab Civil Service have been laid on the table of the House and my honourable friend can refer to them.

**Lala Duni Chand :** Is it true that during the last three years not a single member of the scheduled castes has been appointed to these posts ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I can assure the honourable member that that has not been due to any lack of sympathy or goodwill on the part of the Government. On the other hand, the Government has gone as far as they could and to this extent as to declare that they would give preference to scheduled caste candidates.

**Lala Duni Chand :** What more does the Government want and, in order to appoint a member of scheduled caste, what are the tests or qualifications that a candidate should fulfil ?

**Mr. Speaker :** Disallowed.

**Diwan Chaman Lall :** Does the Government stand exactly where it was ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** Not quite. If a single member of a scheduled caste is recommended by the Public Services Commission, in view of the declaration by the Government, he will be entitled to special consideration.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know whether instructions have been issued to the Public Services Commission to take into consideration the cases of Harijan candidates ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** More than once.

**Diwan Chaman Lall :** So, the Government stands exactly where it did before.

#### NOMINATION OF A SCHEDULED CASTE YOUNG MAN AS AN I.C.S.

**\*6415. Sardar Moola Singh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state whether Government of India has inquired from the Punjab Government if there is any suitable candidate belonging to the scheduled castes for nomination to the Indian Civil Service ; if so, the reply that the Punjab Government has sent to the Government of India, and the method that was adopted with a view to finding out the suitable candidate ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Mir Maqbool Mahmood) :** As the correspondence is confidential it is regretted that no information on the subject can be given.

## DEMAND FOR GRANT.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, BUILDINGS AND ROADS  
ESTABLISHMENT.**Minister for Finance :** Sir, I beg to move—

1 p.m.

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 16,09,900 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1941, in respect of charges on Public Works Department, Buildings and Roads Establishment.

**Mr. Speaker :** Demand moved is—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 16,09,900 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1941, in respect of charges on Public Works Department, Buildings and Roads Establishment.

**Sardar Kapoor Singh** (East Ludhiana, Sikh, Rural) (*Punjabi*)  
Sir, I beg to move—

That the demand be reduced by Rs. 100.

To begin with I may point out that the Department of Public Works is quite different from other departments. The business of other departments is to carry on the administration of the Government in their respective spheres but this department is mainly concerned with the spending of public money on the construction of roads and buildings. Let me also point out that if the officials of other departments are corrupt what they do is that they receive illegal gratifications from the public by troubling them but if the officials of this department want to indulge in dishonest dealings, what they do is that they misappropriate public funds. In view of these facts, it is all the more necessary that we should criticise this department minutely.

Now, Sir, leaving aside the department of Irrigation this is the only department through which one-tenth of the income of the entire province is spent. The expenditure of the establishment of this department is Rs. 19 lakhs. The amount of money that is spent on roads and buildings through this department is Rs. 83 lakhs. It follows therefore that a very strict watch should be kept on a department which spends something like Rs. 83 lakhs yearly. But if we study the working of this department for the last two or three years, we would find that this department has not been controlled in a way in which it should have been controlled. Rather it is a fact that the present Ministry has allowed the officers to have their own way in everything.

Now if the honourable members take into consideration the work of this department they would find that there are two kinds of duties which are entrusted to it. Its first duty consists of supervision only. Secondly, this department has to look after roads and buildings. Although there are two branches of this department, i.e., roads and buildings, yet practically there is no difference between the two. As a matter of fact both the branches are controlled by one Chief Engineer. However if we study the budget we would find that save a sum of Rs. 8 lakhs which the Government gives to the district boards by way of grants for maintaining roads under them, the remaining sum of Rs. 80 lakhs is incurred on roads and buildings. A part of this money is spent on repair works and the rest is used for constructing original works.

As most of the money is spent on the maintenance and construction of new roads, I deem it advisable to take up roads branch first. Let me point out that something like Rs. 40 lakhs are spent on the repairing of old roads and Rs. 15 to 16 lakhs are incurred on the construction of new roads. Now we have to see whether the money which our Government incurs on roads is justified or not. I may point out that Rs. 54 lakhs are spent on those roads which are under the Communications Board or for the matter of that under the Punjab Government. Let me make it clear for the information of the honourable members that the roads are of two kinds. In the first place there are those roads which are under the Public Works Department, i.e., under the supervision of the provincial Government. Secondly, there are other roads which are under the control of the district boards or local bodies and such roads are termed as second class roads to which Government give grants annually. At present I would draw your attention to those roads which are under the Public Works Department. The total length of roads under the control of the Public Works Department is 4,500 miles. These facts and figures I have gathered from Government report itself. So far we have been supplied only reports up to the year 1937-38 and we do not know as to what is the length of the roads under the Public Works Department in 1939-40 and 1940-41 and whether any new have been constructed or not. The reason is that the reports on the working of this department regarding these years have not been published as yet. However the length of roads under the control of the Public Works Department is only 4,500 miles. Out of it 3,000 miles are metalled roads and 1,600 miles are unmetalled. Now the length of B class roads which are under the supervision of the district boards is 20,000 miles.

I want to make it clear that out of the twenty thousand miles of road under the district boards, only eleven or twelve hundred miles of roads are metalled; the rest, about nineteen thousand miles, are all unmetalled. Out of these unmetalled roads, only half are motorable; the other half are not even motorable. Our Government is never tired of boasting that it has done this and has done that. In a publication entitled Eighteen Months of Provincial Autonomy, they have detailed many a grandiose scheme. They say that they have got a very ambitious programme before them. But if their programme has been worked out just as it has been done in the Public Works Department, they have no justification to be proud of their programme. In the budget for this year forty lakhs of rupees have been reserved for the repairs of the roads under the Public Works Department. Then fifteen lakhs of rupees have been reserved for original road work. This money comes from two sources, namely, the provincial exchequer and the central road fund. But during the last six or seven years the Government has entirely depended upon the central road fund and has made no very great contributions itself. Now, let us examine how this money is being spent. As I have already submitted, twenty thousand miles of roads are such which run between small villages. Only three or four thousand miles of roads are such which connect the district head quarters or those municipalities which have a population of more than twenty thousand souls. These are under the Public Works Department. But they exist mainly for military purposes or for administrative purposes. The poor zamindars have nothing to do with these

(Sardar Kapoor Singh.)

roads. But in spite of all this the Government has earmarked 40 lakhs of rupees for their repairs. This money will be spent for metalling the unmetalled portions of these roads and for making them wider. Then, a further sum of 14 lakhs is reserved for these roads. Now just consider. Fifty-four lakhs of rupees are meant to be spent on three thousand miles of roads under the Public Works Department. On the other hand, for the twenty thousand miles of roads under the district boards only 28 lakhs of rupees have been reserved. And in this sum the contribution of the Government is not more than three and a half lakhs of rupees. Why this disparity between the money to be spent on the roads under the Public Works Department and that to be spent on the roads under the district boards? The answer is plain enough. The former roads are meant for the Central Government's military purposes. And the latter are meant for the poor zamindars. If this Government had really the zamindar's interest before them, they would have certainly increased the Public Works Department grant during the three years of their office. They would have tried to take under their control even those roads which connect small villages. But they are too much occupied with the solicitude for the grand trunk road and other roads meant to be used by Central Government for their military and other purposes. Our Government is always willing to spend money on roads which are used for, what I would call, luxury purposes. I shall give you an instance. For eight miles of the Mall Road in Lahore the Government is spending something like 84 thousand of rupees. But on the other hand they are spending only 28 lakhs of rupees on twenty thousand miles of roads meant to be used by villagers. This only shows that the Government is solicitous only for the comfort of the town-dwellers. They do not want to see the clothes of the *turawalas* and *sariwalis* soiled with dust. For other people they do not simply care. But in spite of all this it is claimed that the Punjab roads are the best in India. But if the roads under the provincial Government are in a good condition, it is not due to the efforts of the provincial Government itself. It is due to the solicitude of the Central Government for these roads because it wants to keep them in good condition in view of its military and administrative purposes. I think if those roads are kept in good condition simply because the Central Government is interested in them, that Government should be made to pay towards their maintenance. Although the Government never cares to do anything for the welfare of the zamindars, yet it is second to none in blowing its own trumpet as their well wisher. May I know from the Honourable Minister of Public Works, why, when the Government are going to spend Rs. 54 lakhs on three thousand miles of roads they cannot spend something out of it for improving the roads that are managed by the district boards. The Government are trying to widen the existing roads for the alleged reason that dust raised by the passing traffic is a nuisance for the pedestrians, but they do not perhaps care to know how much dust is swallowed by the poor zamindars. I think that the cost of widening a road from 10 feet to 20 feet will be the same as for metalling a district board road. But it seems to be the policy of the Government to widen the existing roads and to neglect the much-needed roads in rural areas. If we were to look at the Budgets

of the past three years it will be noticed that no provision has ever been made for metalling these district board roads. Those roads can never be provincialised, because it will take a very long time in widening the arterial roads of the province. The Government is bent upon widening the 800 miles of roads for military purposes. So long as the Government devotes every attention to those roads they will never be able to find money or time for metalling the 20,000 miles of district board roads.

Out of Rs. 23 lakhs which is the total expenditure, 4 lakhs are spent on the establishment and the remaining 19 lakhs are spent on all these roads. There are many 2nd class roads managed by the district boards and the Government had issued a *communiqué* in this connection that they would provincialize these roads. This is in itself a very laudable thing to do, but may I ask the Honourable Minister, whether he has taken the trouble of working out the time it will take at the present rate of progress to provincialize 7½ thousand miles of roads. In addition to these there are about 16,000 miles of katcha roads under the District Boards, and the Department should first of all metal these roads and then take the 2nd class roads in their hands.

**Rai Bahadur Lala Gopal Das :** They metal a hundred miles every year.

**Sardar Kapoor Singh :** In that case, it will take 70 years to metal these roads.

It is a well known fact that from the time that this ill-fated Government has assumed office all sorts of misfortunes like famine and hailstorm have befallen this province. It is owing to the sins of this Government that the people are starving. We are being told that the metalling of these roads has been included in the programme of the Government but let me inform the House that if the present rate of progress in respect of this work is maintained, it will take at least 70 years to complete this work. In this connection, I would also like to mention that in all probability this programme relates only to roads north-west of Lahore or those that run beyond Ambala. I do not like to state the unpleasant fact that even in this programme personal interests are playing a prominent part. A sum of Rs. 8 lakhs has been given for the work of reconditioning the roads during the last 3 years, and nearly all of these roads are among those situated in the area surrounding Sargodha. Two-and-a-half lakhs out of it have been spent on the roads in the Honourable Minister's *ilaga* and 1½ lakhs have been given to the *Jats*. Now only 4 lakhs remain with which they propose to improve, recondition and metal the roads in the rest of the province. (*A voice :* Something must have been given for the Honourable Minister of Education's District, i.e., Ludhiana). No, Ludhiana has not received anything. In spite of all this, the Government say that they are carrying on original work and extensions.

Let me request the honourable members that they should not be misled into believing by certain figures in the budget that Rs. 8 lakhs or Rs. 16 lakhs have to be spent on this work or that work but they should make it a point to find out as to where this money is being spent. I would also request the Honourable Minister of Public Works and the Honourable Minister of Development that they too may calculate and find out as to how and where

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the sum has been spent. It is not enough to say that we are doing a great deal in this respect unless the work is being carried out for the good of the general public.

That the Government have not spent anything from its own exchequer, is evident from the statement of New Expenditure. On page 212, we find that all the money from the Central Roads Fund is being spent on new works. This year the Provincial Fund is contributing only a paltry sum of Rs. one lakh. The total cost of improving and metalling Ghatta Hill-Mandi Road is estimated in the neighbourhood of 7 lakhs of rupees but it has been decided to spend one lakh in 1940-41 and 2 lakhs in 1941-42 in this connection. But I have reasons to believe that the Government has taken upon itself the maintenance of the State portion of the road simply as a defence measure, and I can assert without fear of contradiction that it has consented to take this step at the instance of some supreme power. The second road which the Government intends to metal and improve is the Khushab-Mianwali section. This work is estimated to cost Rs. 7,37,719 but the Government intends to spend only one lakh of rupees during the next financial year. But I need hardly say as to why this huge sum is intended to be spent on the improvement of this road. In fact the Government wants to oblige its supporters by improving these roads. The 3rd road that is going to be improved this year is the one that connects Chakwal with Kallar Kahar. This road too passes through the *ilaga* of the favourites of the Government. Then comes the Sargodha-Mari Lak-Jhawarian Road in the Shahpur district—the home district of the Honourable Minister in charge. The Government has decided to improve and metal this road at an estimated cost of Rs. 40,000. There is a long list of roads that are going to be metalled and improved during the next financial year, but it is significant that only those roads have been selected for improvement which either pass through the western districts or the *ilagas* beyond Ambala. It is a pity that out of a sum of 8 lakhs that constitutes new expenditure for the year 1940-41, only a paltry sum of Rs. 45,000 will be spent for the benefit of the central districts. The latter sum includes the item of Rs. 18,000 which will be disbursed in connection with the construction of a bridge over the Ghaggar in mile 162 of Arterial Road No. 6. Under these circumstances how can we believe that the Government really wants to carry out its oft-quoted road programme for the benefit of the zamindars? We are often told that the Government wants to metal and improve all the B class roads of the province during its term of office, but the slow progress of its work and the concentration of its whole attention only on those particular *ilagas* from where the Honourable Ministers and their supporters have been returned, clearly show as to how far it is true to its professions. Lakhs of rupees are being spent for improving roads in Sargodha, Mianwali, Muzaffargarh and Jhajjar but may I ask my friend opposite as to what he proposes to do for the benefit of the central districts? Let me tell him that the improved roads in the central districts can become a permanent source of revenue to the Government. By widening the arterial roads or by spending Rs. 34,000 for the improvement of the Mall road, the Government can derive no material benefit. If you want to augment your resources you should see that all the important roads in rural areas are metalled and reconditioned. By connecting villages with important and

flourishing towns by means of metalled roads, you will help the zamindars to bring their agricultural produce direct to markets. The present poor condition of these roads causes great inconvenience to traffic. Sometimes carts loaded with grain stick in mud on the road and refuse to move further. In case these roads are metalled, lorries would take the place of carts and the agricultural produce would be transported to towns without any extra inconvenience or difficulty. Increase in number of lorries would surely result in a corresponding increase in the sale of petroleum and other lubricants. At present the receipts from tax on the retail sales of motor spirits and lubricants are estimated at 7 lakhs of rupees, and if you give an impetus to motor-plying by improving the condition of roads in rural areas these receipts would surely mount up to 11 lakhs. Thus by spending Rs. 34,000 for the improvement of the Mall road, you will gain nothing whereas if you decide to metal the village roads, you will not only ameliorate the condition of the zamindars but also replete your own coffers. Moreover, you will not incur much for the maintenance of these rural roads, if I may say so.

I submit that the metalled roads are already there. But the difficulty is that the financial condition of district boards is not so good as to maintain those roads. The real cause of this inability is that even due grants are not given to the district boards. Instead of giving two grants which are due to district boards for two years, only one grant is given. The Government have made a formula for advancing grants and whenever a grant is given, it is given according to that fixed formula. But my submission is that even according to that formula the district boards have not earned what they should have earned. Five lakhs of rupees was due to the district boards. But the present Government have been giving 8 lakhs of rupees since they have held office. I do not refer to the time when the Unionist Government was not in power. When the district boards having limited funds at their disposal and have to provide for the beneficent departments too, I wonder who they can meet all these expenses. Under these circumstances how can one expect that the roads of district boards should be in good condition? On the other hand if you look to Public Works Department you will find many a way by which the Government can save a good deal of money. I am sure it will prove very useful if the Government pays a little attention to the ways in which things are being done in the Public Works Department. As it is said in Punjabi :

وَدے گھر دی کہ جو نہ بن مان

the Government can save a lot out of it provided they agree with me to do so. It is quite clear that 90 lakhs of rupees are provided for repairs only. Naturally much more money is spent on original work. When this is the state of affairs, can the Government not save at least 15 or 20 lakhs of rupees? Besides, there are two systems approved of by the Government for giving contracts. Firstly contracts are given for Major Works, secondly for Petty Works. So far as Petty Works are concerned I may submit that even for constructing a well a contract of several hundred rupees is given. You may compare the amount of money spent on constructing a private well for household purposes with the amount of money spent on constructing a well on a roadside or at some other place by the Government. There will be a great difference between the two. The fact is that the contractors



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put more money in their own pockets than what they actually spend on it. Besides, the contractors, there are second clerks, Head Clerks, Overseers and Sub-Divisional Officers who take their share from them. (*A voice.* And the Minister as well.) I cannot say about the Honourable Minister. He constructs roads in his *ilagas* and that is all. (*Laughter.*) Do you know, Sir, how these second clerks and others get their share? As they leave a margin for say 2 or 2½ thousand of rupees in a contract for Major Works, the contractor for this obligation gives them their due share. For instance, if a contract of say 80 lakhs of rupees is given, half of it is misappropriated and about 20 lakhs of rupees are spent on actual work and other 20 lakhs go into the pockets of the contractors and the petty officials of the department. I should point out that the ways of embezzlement in Public Works Department are such as cannot easily be found out. So far as contracts for petty works are concerned, they do not generally exceed 10 or 12 thousands of rupees. For these contracts tenders are demanded. But strictly speaking the demand of tenders is nothing but a formality. The higher authorities do not care for these tenders. Whom they want to patronize they do. For instance Sub-Divisional Officers, Executive Engineers, have their own contractors and these contractors go along with them wherever they are transferred. Moreover, the clerks have their own men whom they want to patronize directly or indirectly. It is only yesterday that I met a contractor who was known to me. He told me that there is a second clerk in Jullundur whose father-in-law, brother-in-law and real brother are all contractors. Apart from this there is another difficulty and that is this. Even in giving contracts these clerks take into consideration the community to which the contractor belongs. I mean to say that contracts are also given on communal basis. This is how these clerks play their part. I remember an instance of a road which was provincialised before 1937 and where the present Government have given to the contractors Rs. 15 per square foot for removing kankar. Just imagine how far it is justified. Let me ask you in simple words whether you have ever seen a poor contractor. I know certain contractors who have made wealth out of earth and kankars.

Now I may be permitted to say a few words with regard to rates. I would say that these rates are most unsatisfactory. For instance when the Government is said to have taken pains in constructing a strong structure of buildings I am afraid why their strongly-built structures crumble down after a short period. I remember when the Assembly Chamber at Delhi was under construction, one was surprised to find that on one hand its structure was being built while on the other hand it was crumbling into pieces. I should like the Government to cast a glance at the buildings built in olden times of the Mughals, which are still standing fresh without being properly maintained by the Government. But what does our Government do? They prepare an estimate with regard to repairs before a building is actually constructed. How ridiculous it seems to be! The main cause of all these defects is the objectionable rates which should at once be overhauled. It, therefore, requires immediate attention of the Government.

I may also point out that there is another item under the charge of the Engineer and that is daily labour. The Public Works

Department undertakes to do much of the work through daily labour. What is the real reason for that? The reason is that this affords the Sub-Divisional Officer and Road Inspectors and even the so-called honest Executive Engineers a large scope to misappropriate public money. For instance, if 10 men are actually employed by them to execute a certain work like the supplying of earth, 40 men are shown in the muster roll. The extra wages charged for 30 men pass on to the pockets of the Public Works Department officers. This job is one of the most paying to them. Another way to make money in the earth-work is to show more carts of earth than the actual number of them. A contractor from Bombay told me how 40 carts were shown there instead of 4 only. I would not have laboured this point to this length but for the fact that the amount provided for this item is as large as 54 lakhs of rupees. Now the House will agree with me that that is not a paltry sum to be ignored altogether. More strict supervision is essential than the Public Works Department officers observe at present. I would urge that petty works should be combined before they are carried into effect. Contractors should be asked to offer tenders, instead of Public Works Department officials executing them piece-meal. Again, the Public Works Department has to execute additional works on behalf of other Departments as well. That is a large item amounting to 22 or 23 lakhs of rupees. A saving can be effected here by strict supervision. Different Departments should not be allowed to get their proposed works done unless they are absolutely essential. I know it for a fact that these departments vie with each other and insist on certain works simply because another Department has got a similar work executed. Examples are not far to seek. But I will quote only one as the Honourable Deputy Speaker will also give you some instances. The District Magistrate's Courts and the Sessions Judge's court at Ludhiana are not far apart from each other. Only half a furlong distance is between the two. But as the District Magistrate had got a well sunk in his court compound, the Sessions Judge also began to insist on having another well sunk in his court compound. (*Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang*: It may be only a 2 "plang" (a stride and not a furlong.) (*Laughter*.) The total area of the gardens in both the courts that I have mentioned is only 10 or 12 bighas. It is clear that only one well would have sufficed to irrigate the gardens. But the Government have provided two wells at a considerable expense simply because of the persistence of the two officers. The same is the case with the Police Department and other Departments. It is difficult under these circumstances to save money for the good roads in the province. A little more vigilance will result in effecting a large saving from these items.

Another method of saving money would be to control the construction of bungalows for the Gazetted Officers of the Government. No sooner a building is completed than we find that repairs estimates are offered for sanction. It shows the defective work done under the Public Works Department. Now let us come to the bungalows of Ministers. Electric fitting estimates have also to be carried on departmentally. Add to the cost of construction, the repair charges. This will give us a huge sum. But the rent charged is said to be either 6 per cent of the total cost or 10 per cent of the salary of the occupant, whichever is less. If we carefully calculate the

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depreciation charges together with other necessary expenditure, we will come to realise that repairs exceed 6 per cent of the cost. But the Ministers live in them only for six months in a year, and pass 6 or 5 or 4 months at Simla. So the rent is charged for this period only and the bungalows remains vacant during the other period. It is considered below the dignity of Minister to sublet these houses to some one else. They fear that if a person occupies the bungalow of, say Mian Abdul Haye, the latter's prestige would suffer or the former would be honoured beyond his real status. Anyway my point was that repair charges in this way far exceed the rent recovered from the Ministers. It is more than 6 per cent of the cost. If the Public Works Department officers become a little more vigilant, a large saving can be effected by subletting these bungalows and by getting the work done under more strict supervision.

Then, Sir, my attention has been drawn to the Government quarters which have been built for the clerks employed in Government service. I understand the rent charged from them is not commensurate with the cost of repairs which the Government have to incur in connection with these quarters. I may point out that there are certain persons who are prepared to pay more rent for those quarters than is being charged from the clerks. A similar desire has been expressed by some people in regard to Ministers' bungalows.

**Minister for Education :** I am prepared to offer my bungalow to my honourable friend for the period I am away at Simla.

**Sardar Kapoor Singh :** I am glad that the Honourable Minister has seen his way to accept my suggestion. I may tell him that I had a talk with those persons who are willing to rent the Honourable Minister's bungalow during the time he is at Simla. Well, Sir, what I want to emphasise is that lakhs of rupees are spent by Government in the construction of buildings which serve no useful purpose. I am of the opinion that much saving can be effected in the construction work if the Government cares to be a little vigilant and the money thus saved can be utilised for improvement and metalling of roads.

Now I would like to refer you to the Rest Houses. I may point out that a good deal of money is unnecessarily wasted by Government in the construction of these buildings. You will observe, Sir, that between Lahore and Kalka there are innumerable rest houses. As a matter of fact one comes across a rest house after every 15 miles. Besides, a majority of them are seldom used. Once I happened to stay in a rest house at Sirhand. I was surprised to find from the register maintained by the chaukidar that during the whole year only three times officers came to stay there. One can easily realise how much expenses are to be incurred in connection with the upkeep of the furniture and crockery and the maintenance and the repairs of the buildings of these rest houses which to my mind are nothing short of a luxury. Then the salary of the chaukidars is also to be taken into account. As a matter of fact these rest houses are proving a white elephant to Government. I would suggest that Government should cut down their expenditure in this regard and utilise the savings in a manner calculated to benefit the people. In this connection I may point out that at certain places more than one rest

houses are maintained. This is obviously a sheer waste of public money. For instance the city of Ludhiana has four rest houses to maintain. They are Public Works Department, District Board and Irrigation Department rest houses. There is a dāk bungalow also. I fail to understand the wisdom in wasting money on the maintenance of so many buildings of this nature. I am sure the average income derived from them is much less than the cost incurred in connection with their upkeep and repairs. Besides, I would like to make a few observations in regard to the construction of Government buildings. I am of the opinion that Government can effect enormous savings if it is a little bit careful in approving the estimates of the buildings. As the Government buildings are constructed on contract basis, much wastage of money is involved. Again the hard-earned money of the tax-payer is wasted by the Sub-Divisional Officers who use costly materials imported from foreign countries. In this connection the honourable members would be surprised to know that 3 pairs of doors of the porch of the Assembly buildings have cost the Exchequer no less than 34 thousand rupees. I don't know how far it is correct, yet it is my information. Then the handles and the locks which the honourable members see fixed on the doors cost from 50 to 60 rupees. How mercilessly the money has been spent under the cloak of durability. As a matter of fact the Government is infatuated with the foreign material (*A voice : of men also.*) Yes. An Indian had a chance for appointment to the post of Chief Engineer, Public Works Department. But it has not pleased the Government to appoint him. And so it is being contemplated to bring in a European Chief Engineer. Well, Sir, Government have laid down definite instructions that Indian-made goods should be utilised in the construction of buildings. But they are honoured more in breach than in observance, by the Public Works Department officers. Thus lakhs of rupees are spent on foreign-made materials. Then I may make a mention of coal tar used in metalling the roads. Here in the case of this material also a good deal of money can be saved by purchasing it from Indian concerns, but the Public Works Department officers would not agree to that. They, in utter disregard of the standing orders and definite instructions, get their supplies of Bitumen Asphalt instead of coal tar from the Petroleum companies like the Burma Shell and Socney companies, on rates dearer by 10 rupees per ton. I may state for the information of the House that experience has shown that the Indian coal tar is much more durable than that of the Bitumen Asphalt of the Petroleum companies. Yet the Public Works Department would not effect the saving of Rs. 10 per ton but would throw the Government instructions overboard. It is a pity that the Honourable Ministers feel diffident to assert themselves. They simply say ditto to what the officers propose. I would ask the Honourable Minister in charge to take effective steps to prevent unnecessary waste of money. He would be well advised to utilise the money thus saved, in constructing new roads in the rural areas and metalling the kacha roads, which are in a deplorable state of disrepairs. But I may also draw his pointed attention to the fact that he should not devote his whole energy and funds in providing roads only to the districts other than the central ones. The latter districts also deserve his consideration.

Then the Government have made a provision of Rs. 50 to 60 thousands for the maintenance and control of motor sheds. I would like to make a

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few observations about this item as well. With all this the Government mete out very harsh treatment to the motor drivers. I think it is the duty of the Government to ponder over this matter that the motor drivers are also doing a great service to the public and that they should not be harsh upon them. But they think that these people are meant only for increasing their revenues. I have already pointed out that the Government are realising something like Rs. 16 lakhs from the taxes on petrol which ultimately goes from the pockets of the motor drivers. Then there are other taxes which they have to pay to Government for getting permits for their lorries. On the top of it the Government realises a large sum of money from them by imposing heavy fines on them for breach of traffic rules. The other day a magistrate came here to watch the proceedings of the Assembly and if any one goes to his court he would find that he never imposes fines less than Rs. 50 or Rs. 100 on the motor drivers. Now in view of the fact that the Central Government, the provincial Government and even the local bodies impose taxes on the lorrywalas, it would be but fair that the Government should throw open all roads including hill roads and nowhere should any monopoly be given to anybody. If that is done that can to some extent satisfy them.

Now I do not propose to take any more time of the House but I would only submit that it is the duty of the Government to see that the money that is spent through this department is spent very carefully. I do not say that the money that is being incurred on the roads and buildings is too much but my contention is that the way in which it is being spent is not satisfactory. I think a good deal of saving can be easily effected in the present expenses of the department. So far I have said nothing about the expenditure that is incurred on the establishment of this department. It amounts to Rs. 19 lakhs and according to the report of the Department of Public Works this comes to 13 per cent. of the entire expenditure on the department. But, Sir, according to my calculations this comes to something like 19 per cent. of the entire expenditure. The report of the Department says that it comes to 13 per cent. I know how this percentage has been arrived at. Some expenses which are incurred by this department are included in the expenses of other departments and that is how this result is being shown. I think a good deal of saving can be made in this expenditure as well. The Chief Engineer is drawing Rs. 3,000 a month and similarly other officers are drawing very fat salaries, so much so that no officer gets less than one thousand rupees per mensem. In the circumstances I may point out that a good deal of saving can be made in the expenditure of the establishment as well. But it is a matter of great regret that the Government dare not touch the salaries of high officers. They cannot reduce the pay of the officers even by a single pie. In this connection I may point out that when in 1938 the Government made some reductions in the salaries of the officials of this department at that time they did not touch the salaries of the Chief Engineer, the Superintending Engineer, Executive Engineers and the Sub-Divisional Officers, but the axe of reduction fell on the overseers whose grade previously was Rs. 80—255 and now it has been reduced to Rs. 65—200. Instead of reducing the salaries of the high officials they only reduced the salaries of the low paid employees. This is really regrettable. It behoves the Government that they should make reductions in the salaries of those officers.

who draw very fat salaries. I may add that the expenses of the establishment are even more than 19 per cent of the entire expenditure of this department. The fact of the matter is that there are certain expenses that are not included in the expense of the establishment; rather they are shown in the work charges. For example there are Road Inspectors and the expenses that are incurred on them by way of their salaries are included in the repair charges and they are not shown separately. Again the wages that are paid to the mistries are not shown separately but they are included in the work charges. If such expenses are also included in the establishment charges, then this percentage will increase still further. Instead of including such expenses in the establishment charges, the officers of this department always try to include them in the work or repair charges so that the expenses of the establishment may not appear to have increased. In view of these hard facts, I ask the Government how far they are justified to include such expenses in the work or repair charges. I ask, when the Government do not give any pensions to the Road Inspectors or Mistries and when they employ poor labourers for 12 to 13 hours per day on a meagre pay of Rs. 13½, where is the justification that they should continue paying huge salaries to their officers? I think it would be better for the Government to reduce the pays of the high officers who draw fat salaries and out of the money thus saved they should spend a part on increasing the pay of the low paid employees and the rest should be used for constructing more roads in the rural areas. The old adage that "where there is a will there is a way" is quite correct. If the Government so desire they can very well reduce their expenditure. Let alone other items, even large sums are provided for contingencies. The honourable members should bear in mind that poor coolies and labourers do not get travelling allowance but it is the officers who draw large amounts of travelling allowances. The whole truth of the matter is that these officers live on travelling allowances and deposit all their salaries in the banks. If the Government are helpless and they cannot reduce the salaries of the officers, let them at least make strenuous efforts to effect economies in the expenses of the department. But what is the actual state of affairs? I know it that when the financial year is about to close and if any money remains which has not been spent, then circulars are issued by the heads of departments that there is so much money lying idle in their department and that the department should spend it. If this is the mentality then I cannot think that any saving can be effected. On the contrary if the Government want to effect economies they can do so only if they keep a strict watch over the expenses of this department. If the Government only tell their officers that their pays would be reduced if they do not reduce the expenses of this department, then I am certain that those officers would tell them as to how the expenses of the department can be reduced because they know where they can make reductions. If the Government adopts this suggestion, they can very easily achieve their object. The officers will themselves find out ways and means for balancing the budget. I think in this way the Government can compel their officers to make savings in the expenditure of this department and thus Rs. 20 lakhs can be saved which can be spent on the construction of roads in the rural areas which can prove very useful for the zamindars. Let me also point out to the Honourable Minister that he should not always think about opening of more roads in the Sargodha

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District but it behoves him to pay attention to other parts of the province as well. In fact there are other parts of the province where great necessity is being felt for the roads. There are many roads which if constructed can prove very useful for the public at large. For example, Ludhiana can be joined with Kalka by constructing a road of only ten miles. Similarly there are other roads which if constructed can prove to be very useful for the public. But my honourable friends are afraid of constructing such roads because they think that there would be rail-road competition. But I may tell them that this is not a thing which should prevent them from making roads in the province. With these words, I move my cut motion.

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

That the demand be reduced by Rs. 100.

**Khan Bahadur Sardar Muhammad Hassan Khan Gurchani** (Dera Ghazi Khan South, Muhammadan Rural) (*Urdu*): Sir, I want to make a few observations on the matter now before the House with particular reference to my own district. My honourable friend, Sardar Kapoor Singh, has spoken out what was in his mind. I will not say whether what he said was said honestly or simply as a hit against the Government. He has, however, relieved himself of what lay heavily on his heart. But I shall confine myself to the woeful tale of the district to which I have the honour to belong. You are, no doubt, aware that there is no railway line in Dera Ghazi Khan district. There are a few miles of kutchha road : this road is motorable. Our district is 300 miles in length but there are only 40 miles of metalled road in this district. And only a metalled road is fit for motor traffic. The rest of the roads are all kutchha which are not motorable. Lorry traffic is possible only up to the borders of the North-West Frontier and Sindh provinces. All the other roads prove damaging for the lorries. Then, there is a metalled road on the Muzaffargarh side. Sardar Kapoor Singh has remarked that lakhs of rupees are misappropriated in the Public Works Department. He may be right or he may be wrong but the fact remains that conditions in the central districts are much better. I wonder why the territory on the other side of the river Indus fails to attract notice of Government. Perhaps the reason is that the Honourable Ministers have very few opportunities of visiting our district. We have had an opportunity of having the Honourable Ministers in our midst only for a couple of days during the last three years and that too at the district headquarters. It would have been well if the Ministers had paid a visit to places like Rajanpur, Kot Mithan, and Jampur. But unfortunately these places do not attract the notice of our Ministers. I submit that metalling of the road between Dera Ghazi Khan and Kot Mithan is a necessity. It will be helpful to the zamindars. It is from Kot Mithan that the produce of the southern part of the province is sent to Karachi. At present the produce is conveyed on the back of camels. This takes a lot of time. Moreover the conveyance charges are very high. A metalled road will be a real boon. With these words, I will strongly suggest that attention should be paid to metalling the roads in Dera Ghazi Khan. The road between Dera Ghazi Khan and the borders of the Frontier Province and that between Khairpur and the borders of Sindh should be placed under the charge of the Public Works Department. It is not possible for the district board to maintain them. With these words, I oppose the amendment now before the House.

**Subedar Major Raja Farman Ali Khan** (Gujar Khan, Muslim, Rural) (Urdu): Sir, the remarks made by Sardar Sahib make it abundantly clear that he really has been working as a Public Works contractor. What ever he has said is quite true. The estimates of work prepared by this department are always 30 per cent or 40 per cent more than the actual cost and yet a hue and cry is raised from the other side that the province is going to dogs and will become bankrupt very short. On the other hand, we on this side of the House are as silent as the grave. The main reason for this is that the residents of the Rawalpindi district are illiterate. The roads in our part of the province do not deserve to be called roads, they are mere tracks. I do not, however, propose to speak about the roads. I want to speak about Nala Kanshi, which is at a distance of about half a mile from Gujar Khan. This nala is responsible for taking the lives of two or three persons every year, not to speak of the loss of camels and donkeys which runs into scores. When camels or donkeys ford this nala there suddenly appears a weird light and the donkeys or camels, as the case may be, are carried away by the torrent. We are not particularly enamoured of pucca roads. We can easily go up the hills on our feet. What we really want is a bridge on this hill torrent or nala. If camels or donkeys of people, whose annual income hardly exceeds Rs. 25 or Rs. 30, are carried away by this nala, you can well imagine the plight of these poor people. If a poor man whose only means of subsistence is his camel loses it he has to purchase a new one by selling his land. This nala is taking a heavy toll of life every year and if the Government is pleased to construct a bridge over it, it will redound to the benefit of everybody concerned. The mandi at Gujar Khan imports goods from places as distant as the Poonch State. The zamindars of Gujar Khan transport goods to and from the mandi and thus eke out a miserable existence. They earn hardly 4 or 5 rupees but if their donkeys worth Rs. 5 or Rs. 10 each are swept away by this nala their miserable plight can well be imagined.

The Government has constructed a road leading to Attock but it is not doing any good to the zamindars because it is off the beaten track. The pathway from Missa is also crossed by a nala. The mileage of roads in this ilaqa hardly exceeds five or ten miles. The people of my ilaqa are losing their own and the lives of their animals. We are poor. We are illiterate and that is why we are unable to make ourselves heard. My only prayer is that a bridge may kindly be constructed so that the people may not lose their lives. My friends on this side of the House are asking for amenities of life while we are merely asking you to supply us the means of saving our lives.

**Sayed Amjad Ali Shah** (Ferozepore East, Muhammadan, Rural): Mr. Speaker, we have heard the criticism of our friend, Sardar Kapoor Singh, who has opened the debate on behalf of the Opposition. Whatever he has said, he has in a large way criticised what we have done and although the roads of this province are the best in India without any fear of contradiction, yet my honourable friends of the opposition are not satisfied. We on this side always believe and have been believing that wherever there is need for improvement there can always be improvement in whatever we are doing and whatever we will do in future. If my friend had advanced his arguments in that spirit, one could not but appreciate them. But if one,



[S. Amjad Ali Shah.]

as my honourable friend has unfortunately done, criticises the Government from a different point of view, then I am afraid our sympathies cannot be with him. I for myself have one or two suggestions to place before the Honourable Minister of Public Works and also at the same time before the Honourable Minister of Finance because unless he gives his approval to the scheme which I will just place before you, it cannot materialise.

If you observed the figures in the Administration Report of the Buildings and Roads Branch, you would find that in the year 1936-37, we still had 1,777 miles of provincial unmetalled roads. Now my scheme is this. If we metalled these 1,777 and another 223 miles of roads, then we will be spending on them, as per the calculations of the department Rs. 3,09,16,000. This is at the rate of Rs. 15,458 per mile for a tarred road of 9 feet breadth. Now, I will be asked this question, where are these three crores going to come from? My answer is a very simple one. My answer is that it should be raised in the form of a loan. The next question which I shall be asked is, and the Minister in charge will have every right to ask, will this loan be ever repaid? Will the interest on this loan be paid back from the taxes which we will indirectly receive from these metalled roads? My answer is this. As every one in this House is aware, the Punjab Government has been raising money in the open market of India at the rate of 3 per cent. Taking that figure as the present market rate, I base my calculations. (*Chaudhri Muhammad Hassan*: Who has prepared this for you?) Myself, Sir, if I may be allowed to say so. The yearly interest on these three crores at the rate of 3 per cent comes to 9 lakhs. Now if my honourable friends would look at the figures which the Punjab Government has been receiving from the central road fund they will find that this year's contribution from the central road fund has been nearly 15 lakhs. Taking that figure and also bearing in mind that when we are improving the condition of our roads and we are making more metalled roads we can safely look forward to a yearly receipt of 20 lakhs, that means, that in 15 years we will be able to receive from the central Government the figure of three crores which we are going to spend on metalling these 2,000 miles of roads. Now the next question is where is the interest going to come from? The interest at 3 per cent for these 15 years—I have calculated, a portion of this at compound interest—comes to a figure of Rs. 72,60,000. This amount of interest is arrived at by reducing the capital of 3 crores by a yearly sum of Rs. 20,00,000—the receipts from the central road fund. Now, Sir, before I state how I propose to meet this charge of interest, let me first tell you how my scheme provides for the maintenance of these new roads. If you would look at the receipts of the budget as taxes from motor spirits, you would find that the estimate this year is Rs. 7,02,160 and under the head of fees under the Motor Vehicles Act we receive another sum of Rs. 14,03,500. So the total receipt comes to a figure of Rs. 21,05,660. Now, Sir, the cost of maintenance of these roads, these two thousand miles of tarred roads, would be approximately Rs. 19,24,000. My submission is this that to-day we are receiving for roughly about three thousand miles of metalled road about 21 lakhs and if we give another 2,000 metalled miles of roads to the Punjab, we can very safely expect a figure of no less than 19 lakhs in the shape of taxes from motor spirit and motor vehicles. Whatever we have received in the shape of taxation due to the increase of motor

cars in this province we will be spending on the maintenance of the roads. Practically speaking there would be no extra charge for the maintenance of these roads. As I was just submitting, the interest would come to a figure of Rs. 72,60,000 for 15 years for a capital sum of Rs. 8 crores. Now, as you are aware we spend a figure of over three lakhs every year on the maintenance of these unmetalled roads and this year we are spending a figure of Rs. 3,58,000. My submission is this that after these roads are metalled, these provincial roads which are to-day unmetalled, then we will not have to spend this sum as maintenance and this will be a saving. You will observe that within a period of 15 years, we will be able to save a sum of Rs. 60 lakhs. I have submitted that expenses on interest can be met from the saving on maintenance of the unmetalled roads, the amount which we are spending today. The capital of Rs. 3,00,00,000 and the maintenance I have dealt with before. In support of my scheme, I should also like to refer to only one point which I am sure honourable members of this House know perfectly well. My point is this, the cost of conveying a maund of stuff on a katcha road is about three pies a maund a mile, while the cost of conveying the same goods on a pacca road would work to about one pie a mile a maund. I have only taken the figures of two important crops produced in the Punjab namely wheat and cotton. You will observe that in the year 1936-37 the production of wheat in the Punjab was roughly 109,844,000 maunds and the produce of cotton roughly again was 48,888,000 maunds. Adding these two figures up you get the stupendous figure of 158,732,000 maunds. These, as I have already stated, are only two kinds of produce which the province grows and for my argument they will serve the purpose. If we multiply this figure with two pies per maund saved on pacca roads, you would get in rupees, annas and pies, the figure of Rs. 16,58,458 per mile. I will leave it to the House and to my honourable friends to multiply it with the number of miles that they think this produce would travel over unmetalled roads. My argument in advancing these figures is that the saving to the agriculturists would be something colossal if we had roads metalled in this province of ours. I hope that my honourable friend the Minister will very kindly go into this question sympathetically, as I am sure he would.

One more point which I want to urge on my honourable friend is with regard to the roads of Lahore. As you yourselves know, roads in Lahore are both under the Public Works Department and the Lahore Municipal Committee. Some of the honourable members of the House who own houses or lands in this House must be aware of the problem of going before the Lahore Municipal Committee for the sanction of a plan. If you take a plan to them they ask which is the access road to the site and even if it is going to serve only two or three houses they want that it should be as broad as forty feet. The point that I make is that the roads in Lahore itself, like the Club Road, the Aikman Road and the Ferozepore Road are no more than 20 feet wide and if these public roads can be 20 feet wide and the Government think that they are adequate for the purpose of public travel, I cannot understand why such a preposterous, why such an absurd, demand is being made from owners of property in Lahore when they are asked to provide a road as wide as forty feet even if it has to serve only one or two houses.

**Nawab Sir Shah Nawaz Khan :** They ought to be 50 feet wide.

**Sayed Amjad Ali Shah :** You might as well then ask it to be one hundred feet wide. The second point is that as you are aware, Lahore has now been extended to an area of 100 square miles and if these small roads are going to be forty feet wide, who is going to pay for their maintenance? Thirdly, Lahore Municipality, as it is, cannot maintain these roads, the third class roads.....

**Minister for Public Works :** May I point out that the demand which the honourable member is now discussing has nothing to do with the Town Planner or the Lahore Municipality?

**Syed Amjad Ali Shah :** I am not discussing the Lahore Municipal Committee or the Town Planner. As I said in the beginning, there are certain roads of Lahore which are definitely maintained by the Public Works Department and I am within my right to say a few words about them.

**Minister :** I might explain one thing. The roads which the people are required to construct are within the municipal sphere. The only roads concerned with this demand are arterial roads passing through. Therefore the width of the roads in town-planning has nothing to do with this demand.

**Sayed Amjad Ali Shah :** Every one who has been outside the Punjab and who has had the good fortune or otherwise of travelling on the roads of other provinces, will bear me out that the Punjab roads are the best. If figures are needed, I need only quote one figure to show that we here have the best roads in the Punjab. If you refer to the year 1936-37, in that year we only had 2,878 miles of metalled roads, whilst in 1938-39 our metalled roads increased to a figure of 3,426 miles. Then again in the year 1936-37 we were spending on the maintenance of these roads Rs. 36,11,061. And the rate of maintenance then was as high as 1,254. In 1938-39 we spent Rs. 42,44,000 for maintaining these roads and I pay here a great tribute to our Engineers who have been successful in reducing the cost of maintenance. In the year 1925-26 our cost of maintenance per mile was as high as Rs. 1,700 and to-day we have reduced that to a figure of 962 and there is still hope that this figure will be further reduced. With these words I oppose the cut motion.

**Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan** (Pind Dadan Khan, Muhammadan, Rural) : I was very glad to find in the Budget that a small sum has been provided by the Government for taking over the road from Pind Dadan Khan to Khewra which covers a distance of five miles. My pleasure was unlimited because after Sher Shah Suri this is the first time that any Government has taken the trouble of constructing a road in my district. (*Hear, hear*). Therefore the Government's suddenly thinking of looking towards that backward tract after such a long time really deserves congratulations. I feel that the Government should seriously consider that under the present circumstances—particularly during the War—every tahsil headquarter is connected with the district headquarter by a decent road. (*Hear, hear*). Unfortunately, in my district there is no road linking Pind Dadan Khan, which is headquarter of a very important tahsil and which stood first during the Great War in supplying recruits to the Army, and the district headquarter Jhelum. The Government should pay special attention

towards this problem. It is extremely desirable that almost every police station should be connected with the tahsils by telephone as well as by some kind of road whether it be a first class or a second class road but every tahsil headquarter must be connected immediately with district headquarter by a metalled road. The distance between Jhelum and Pind Dadan Khan is 52 miles and a road already exists which is maintained by the district board but that district board whose income is small, can hardly be expected to do anything in the way of either reconstructing or maintaining a decent road. I hear that some honourable member from the Opposition benches talked about this particular portion of the road. Let me inform the honourable members that Choha Saidan Shah and Katas are two very important places because at Katas every year pilgrims from distant places—not only from the province but even from outside—collect in thousands. Similarly, at Choha Saidan Shah thousands of people collect annually at the time of the annual fair. It is a hilly road and unless the Government spend some money over it, there is always a chance of serious accidents.

**Khan Bahadur Nawab Malik Allah Bakhsh Khan Tiwana :** I entirely endorse it.

**Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan :** I once again thank the Honourable Minister of Public Works for having kindly provided a small amount for the road but I hope that he will further look into the matter sympathetically. It is unfortunate that Chak Nizam bridge between Malikwal and Budhlada is not motorable. We are, therefore, entirely cut away from the rest of the world so far as motor traffic is concerned.

**Khan Bahadur Nawab Malik Allah Bakhsh Khan Tiwana :** There is really very great trouble.

**Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan :** The bridge is at present under reconstruction. I wish the Government had negotiated with the railway authorities with a view to ask them to make that bridge motorable.

**Khan Bahadur Nawab Malik Allah Bakhsh Khan Tiwana :** Certainly.

**Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan :** When I had less experience of these roads than I have at present, I had the misfortune of seeing the Agent of North-Western Railway with the request that this bridge be made motorable. The Agent turned round and said that if it were in his power he would scrap all the roads which were used for motor traffic and asked me whether in those circumstances I was justified in asking him to make the railway bridge motorable so that people, instead of using the railway, might use motor cars. Therefore, it is not the North-Western Railway who can be expected to spend money on such a bridge but the Government by a small contribution, I am sure, can persuade them to make that bridge motorable. Sir, I have finished and I thank you very much for giving me an opportunity of saying these few words.

**Khan Bahadur Nawab Malik Allah Bakhsh Khan Tiwana :** Sir, I do not want to make a lengthy speech but having experience of Pind Dadan Khan Sub-Division for five years, I strongly endorse the claims of Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan.

**Chaudhri Ali Akbar** (Gurdaspur East, Muhammadan, Rural) (*Urdu*): Sir, I am very much obliged to you for having permitted me to speak on this subject. My honourable friend Sardar Kapoor Singh has tried to show in his lengthy speech that he is well aware of the facts regarding the department in question. I have listened to his speech attentively and arrived at the decision that he does not know much of this department. As he has stated that the roads should not be widened, I would submit that his opposition to this point goes to show that he is quite ignorant so far as the matter of roads is concerned. I should like to point out that Pathankot-Amritsar road is only ten feet wide and owing to the recent rainfall the earth of kacha road became thin and wet with the result that six or seven motor accidents took place within a day. Who were hurt? Our brethren who were travelling in those lorries. My submission, therefore, is that if the breadth of the road had been at least 20 feet the accidents would not have taken place. For this simple reason we wanted to request the Honourable Minister that this part of the road should be widened to double the previous breadth so that the traffic may become more healthy.

I wonder why Sardar Sahib has opposed the question of widening the metalled roads. That would cause little hardship to the zamindars and would, on the other hand, save them from the dust that falls upon them from the kachha parts of the roads. The Ministers and the officers travel in their motor cars and the dust falls only on the zamindars and their crops. Sometimes dust makes visibility poor resulting in accidents. When it rains, the kachha parts of the roads turn into mire and become impassable both for pedestrians and carts. If roads are widened for double traffic, the chances of frequent collisions would be diminished. I would request the Honourable Minister that not only the roads but the bridges on the drains crossing them should also be widened, because two motor vehicles coming from opposite directions cannot pass these bridges at the same time. The widening of bridges would decrease the number of accidents on them. The narrow bridges cause several accidents every year and impede traffic. It may also be remembered in this connection that the industry of motor traffic is very important and useful. It mitigates unemployment. Several persons are employed as drivers and cleaners. For example thousands of people are employed on the road which runs from Pathankot to Lahore. I really wonder why Sardar Sahib has objected to this matter. As a matter of fact the improvement of roads would be conducive to traffic. It will increase the means of living for many persons. I would, however, assert that more money should be spent on the improvement of roads in the villages. The paths connecting different villages should be cleaned and widened. But that does not mean that the roads of Lahore should not be kept well. There is no harm in widening and keeping them in good condition because Lahore is the capital of the province. Besides, I would urge that the grants to district boards should be increased.

I cannot help observing that in addition to the objections that Sardar Sahib has raised against the Public Works Department, there is another objection against this department, that it offers higher rates to the labourers, while labour is available at cheaper rates. For instance, this department pays Rs. 5 for a thousand cubic feet of earth dug and filled, while other

departments get the same work done at Rs. 8½ per thousand cubic feet. There can be a little saving without decreasing the scheduled rates of the Public Works Department. It is difficult for us to say as to how deep the foundations of a certain building should be dug and how much cement would be required. This work is done by the Public Works Department with great industry and honesty. But the defect is that the estimates are prepared at higher rates and the sanction of the higher officers is obtained. The plans prepared by the petty officials are sanctioned by the Chief Engineer. These estimates are prepared with the object of making money through them. The extra amounts thus involved in the estimates are paid privately by the contractors to the Public Works Department officers. Strict supervision is essential for the eradication of these defects. The estimates should be thoroughly scrutinized before they are sanctioned because it is in the preparation of these estimates that money is misappropriated.

With these few words, Sir, I oppose the cut motion.

**Khan Bahadur Mian Mushtaq Ahmad Gurmani** (Muzaffargarh, North, Muhammadan, Rural) (*Urdu*): Sir, I wish to draw the attention of the Honourable Minister of Public Works to the local needs of my district with regard to communications. The Honourable Minister, I am sure, will agree with me that Muzaffargarh district is perhaps the most neglected district in the province as regards communications. I am sorry to say that even during the regime of the present Government nothing has been done for Muzaffargarh district in this respect. The district is in the shape of a long triangle. The base of the triangle is about 55 miles long and its length is about 200 miles. There is one railway line from Multan to Kundian which passes through the north-western part of the district. The southern portion of the district is not served by any railway. There are only two metalled roads maintained by the Public Works Department which pass through the district. One is the India-Europe road which connects India with Baluchistan and is commonly known as Multan-Dera Ghazi Khan road. The portion of this road within Muzaffargarh district is about 25 miles. The other Public Works Department road is from Muzaffargarh to Alipur a distance of 52 miles, out of which only 27 miles are metalled and the remaining portion is kachha. Out of a total road mileage of over 454, the Public Works Department maintains only 77, out of which about 50 miles are metalled and 22 miles unmetalled. The remaining 377 miles of unmetalled road are maintained by the district board. This proportion, to say the least, is anything but fair or satisfactory. The District Board, Muzaffargarh, with its meagre resources, finds it impossible to maintain such a large road mileage, with the result that most of the roads cannot be kept in proper repairs.

Muzaffargarh-Alipur road, which is 52 miles in length, was taken over by the Public Works Department about 15 years ago, when 22 miles of this road were already metalled, on the understanding that the Public Works Department would metal the remaining portion of this road within 5 years; but only 5 miles have been metalled so far and the remaining 25 miles remain as they were 15 years ago. This road is the only means of communication from the district headquarters to Alipur which is not only a sub-division but also the most fertile area of the district. On account of inadequate

[K. B. Mian Mushtaq Ahmad Gurmani.]

communication facilities, the zamindars of this fertile area are deprived of marketing facilities. They are forced either to send their agricultural produce in boats to Sukkar which involves not only great risk but heavy transport charges, or to sell it to the local sahukars, at dead-cheap rates. I hope the Government will take immediate steps to metal the remaining portion of this road and extend it to Panjnad headworks. This will go a long way to improve the economic condition of the people of this area.

The other urgent need of the district is a metalled road from Trimmu-headworks via Rangpur to Muzaffargarh. At present there is a hopeless kachha road from Muzaffargarh to Rangpur, a distance of 45 miles which is closed during the summer months on account of floods, and the Rangpur sub-tahsil is absolutely cut off from the district headquarters during this period. With the opening of the Haveli canal, the tract between Muzaffargarh and Rangpur will come under irrigation. The proper development and prosperity of this area will mainly depend upon good means of communication. There is no railway line serving this area and consequently the zamindars will have to send their produce either to Shorekot or to Muzaffargarh, which they can only do if there is a metalled road connecting this area with Trimmu headworks on the one side and Muzaffargarh on the other. I need hardly emphasise that the success of the colonization scheme in this area will depend, to a great extent, on a good metalled road in this area.

The other two tahsils of the district namely Kot Adu and Leiah are also not connected with the district headquarters by a pacca road. There is a kachha district board road from Muzaffargarh to Bukhkhar and Darya Khan. If this road is metalled, it will give a great stimulus to trade between the Punjab and North-West Frontier Province. This road passes through the Thal area which is proposed to be irrigated by the Thal Canal. The Thal area, as the House is aware, is continuously confronted with famine. This road will also facilitate the transport of food grains to the Thal area and thus alleviate the sufferings of its inhabitants. I hope the Government will pay special attention to these pressing needs of Muzaffargarh district and make up for past negligence. As I have already said, the district receives a meagre share from the provincial revenues for the maintenance of roads. We have less than 50 miles of metalled roads and more than 400 miles of kachha roads in the district.

**Minister for Public Works :** If my honourable friend is made to walk on any road after water has been sprinkled over it, it would automatically become pacca road. (*Laughter*).

**Khan Bahadur Mian Mushtaq Ahmad Gurmani :** Let the Honourable Minister provide ballast and water for these roads and I shall do my bit.

**Shaikh Faiz Muhammad :** We want honorary services of a public-spirited gentlemen like you.

**Khan Bahadur Mian Mushtaq Ahmad Gurmani :** If my friend the Parliamentary Secretary makes his contribution, our problem of tarring these roads will also be solved. (*Laughter*.) It is only fair that the Public Works Department should take charge of at least the main roads so that the

district board may be able to increase and maintain the feeder roads, which will open up new areas, and provide additional facilities for the marketing of agricultural produce. This will go a long way to improve the economic condition of this agricultural district. I would like also to draw the attention of the Honourable Minister to the hardship that is caused to the travelling public on account of the Sher Shah railway bridge. This bridge is closed to road traffic between sunset and sunrise. The districts of Muzaffargarh and Dera Ghazi Khan are cut off from the rest of the province every day for 12 hours. Muzaffargarh and Dera Ghazi Khan are small towns and depend on Multan even for ordinary day to day necessities. We have to look to Multan for medical aid in serious cases and especially in the case of female patients, for there are no female hospitals or efficient lady doctors in Muzaffargarh or Dera Ghazi Khan. People are, therefore, put to great hardship owing to the closure of Sher Shah railway bridge during the night. When I was a member of the North-Western Railway Advisory Committee, I raised this question and the matter was examined by the railway authorities. The only objection that the railway authorities had in this connection was that they would need additional staff for keeping the bridge open during night. They were, however, prepared to keep the bridge open at night if the Punjab Government was willing to pay the cost of additional staff which was estimated at about Rs. 2,000 per annum. I am glad the Punjab Government is providing money for the construction of a bridge for road traffic along side the railway bridge, but till such time as this new bridge is ready the Government should pay the additional cost of keeping the bridge open to road traffic at night.

There is another bridge which needs the attention of the Public Works Department. This is a boat bridge on a canal near Ghazi Ghat. While all other bridges between Muzaffargarh and Ghazi Ghat have been made pacca, this bridge has not been touched. It causes inconvenience to the travelling public as the passengers are made to get down before a bus could cross the bridge. I cannot understand why this bridge has not been made pacca. I hope a pacca bridge will be provided soon.

I think Muzaffargarh district has received little attention in regard to communications because the district has remained unrepresented on the communication board. It is obvious that members of the board have been giving precedence to the requirements of their own districts over those of the others. It is only natural that one's own needs appear to be more important as compared with others. I would request the Honourable Minister to give due representation to Muzaffargarh district on the Communication Board. I sincerely hope that our case will receive immediate and sympathetic considerations of the Government.

**Mian Muhammad Nurullah** (Lyallpur, Muhammadan, Rural) (Urdu) : Sir, I have studied the budget of this year very carefully but I have found nothing new in it. On studying it I was surprised to find that this year's budget has also been prepared like the budgets of the previous years. After assuming the reigns of the office the Government no doubt appointed a Resources and Retrenchment Committee, a copy of whose report is in my hand, and this Committee has put forth its recommendations but it is a matter of great regret that they have not given effect to any of them so far. This amply shows that the Government is inefficient and it is being run on



[Mian Muhammad Nurullah.]

old lines. As a matter of fact the report of the said committee is before the Government but no action is being taken. It follows that another year will pass away as usual and these recommendations will not be given effect to.

The Report of the Resources and Retrenchment Committee was published in the year 1939 and copies of it, I think, have been sent to all the honourable members. Among other recommendations, the said committee recommended that for effecting reductions in the expenditure of the Government it would be well advised to amalgamate Irrigation and Buildings and Roads Departments. But it is very regrettable that in the new budget which is under consideration, nothing has been done which shows that the Government have adopted this suggestion of the Resources and Retrenchment Committee. If, however, Government cannot amalgamate the two departments under one head with a joint establishment, then they could very well have adopted the alternative recommendation which is laid down on page 162 of the said report, inasmuch as for the efficient management of roads the Government could very well divide the province into two circles under the supervision of two Superintending Engineers instead of keeping such a big establishment as it is done now. If they had adopted this suggestion it would have greatly helped them in reducing their expenditure. It is stated in the report :—

For carrying out its main present day functions connected with road construction and maintenance, we fail to see why it is necessary for this department to have a Chief Engineer and three Superintending Engineers, apart from a fourth Superintending Engineer who functions as Superintending Engineer, Roads and Secretary of the Communications Board. We are of the opinion that it should suffice for the efficient management and control of Roads in the Punjab to divide the Province into two Superintending Engineers' Circles—East and West—with headquarters at Ambala and Lyallpur, and divide up the existing divisions between these two Circles.

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

Now the budget of this year is being passed but the Government have not given effect to this recommendation. It follows that the loss which the province has so far been bearing in the form of paying very high salaries to Chief Engineer and other officials of the roads department would be continued to be borne for another year. It is a matter of grave concern that the Government appointed a committee and spent much money on it but when it has made the recommendations, which are very useful, they are not putting them into practice and are not taking advantage of them. Let me point out that it is our duty that we should take advantage of these recommendations. This is one example of the inefficiency of the present Government in not giving effect to the recommendations of the Resources and Retrenchment Committee. There are many other examples which I can put forward for the information of the honourable members. This very committee made another recommendation that the "degree college at Shahpur was not serving a real need in the locality in which it was established and that it too should be closed down". But the Government have not adopted this suggestion. Rather they have been incurring further expenditure in providing a new hostel for the college. I think this is highly objectionable and such a policy of the Government is against the best interests of the province.

The third example of the inefficiency of the Government which I would like to give relates to the issuing of monopolies of roads. This in fact is a very important question. I personally know that a few years ago a monopoly was given on Lyallpur-Jhang road. Let me point out that the monopoly system is not only detrimental to the interests of public at large but it is resulting in great loss to the Government also. Again monopoly was given on Rawalpindi-Kahuta Road. I am making mention of these things so as to bring home to the honourable members that on account of these monopolies the general public have to incur huge losses. In connection with Rawalpindi-Kahuta monopoly I may point out that the Secretary to Government, Punjab, Public Works Department, Buildings and Roads Branch, addressed a letter to the Deputy Commissioner, Rawalpindi, that from 1st April, 1939, the monopoly on a section of the Rawalpindi-Kahuta Road was cancelled. After that date the monopoly was cancelled. But after a few months in contravention of the orders of the Government the Deputy Commissioner of Rawalpindi gave the monopoly on Rawalpindi-Kahuta Road to a certain person and it exists up till now. Both these letters are in my possession. If the honourable members want I can quote them. They are as follows :

*Copy of a letter No. 4744-G., dated the 7th November, 1939.*

*From Mr. W. T. Eccleston, Executive Engineer, Rawalpindi Provincial Division, to Sardar Ajit Singh, C/o Sardar Singh & Company, Massey Gate, Rawalpindi.*

*Subject :—RAWALPINDI-KAHUTA ROAD.*

Your letter dated nil, received on 6th November, 1939.

DEAR SIR,

Please address the District Magistrate on the subject. No monopoly exists on the Public Works Department portion of the Rawalpindi-Kahuta Road.

*Copy of a letter No. 325-93-1386-w., dated 18th March, 1939.*

*From the Secretary to Government, Punjab, Public Works Department, Buildings and Roads Branch, to Deputy Commissioner, Rawalpindi.*

*Subject :—RAWALPINDI-KAHUTA ROAD.*

A petition dated..... from the zamindars of tahsil Kahuta, to the address of the Honourable Khan Bahadur Sir Sikander Hyat-Khan, K.B.E., Premier, on the above subject, is forwarded herewith with the request that the petitioners may kindly be informed that there will be no monopoly from the 1st April, 1939, on that portion of the above named road which is in charge of this department.

Now, Sir, I wish to draw your attention to the representation which was presented on 29th October, 1939. It was addressed to Secretary, Government, Punjab, Public Works Department, Buildings and Roads Branch, Lahore. The petition is as follows :—

We the undersigned beg to invite your kind attention to the following facts and are confident that our appeal will receive a favourable response from your good-self.

That according to your letter No. 325-93-1386-w., dated 18th March, 1939, the monopoly on "Rawalpindi-Kahuta line" was cancelled and the road was handed over to the Public Works Department with effect from the 1st April, 1939. The result was that the inhabitants of this constituency were greatly benefited as the lorry freight went down to four annas from 12 annas.

[Mian Muhammad Nurullah.]

This is worth nothing. It is stated further :

About fifteen to twenty lorries used to run daily. But soon we were deprived of this privilege as the monopoly was again given to Bh. Surat Singh by the orders of the Deputy Commissioner. This gentleman is very well-to-do and wields great influence among the district officials. He secured the contract through the agency of the Deputy Commissioner and District Engineer although no tenders were invited for it. This clearly shows that there is something at the bottom.

These are very serious charges and Government should pay attention to them. Further on it is stated :

We also bring to your notice that your letter No. 325-93-1386-w., dated 16th March, 1939, for the cancellation of the monopoly was overlooked or ignored by our worthy Deputy Commissioner.

We submitted many memorials to the Punjab Government and the ministers concerned but our voice was lost in the wilderness. Our Punjab Ministry claims to be a "zamindara Government" but, in reality, as far as we know, has failed to render any useful service for the cause of the zamindars or redress any of their grievances, especially in this constituency."

This was the petition which the petitioners presented to Secretary, Government, Punjab, Public Works Department, Buildings and Roads Branch. Moreover I have myself experience that a monopoly was created on the Lyallpur-Jhang Roads two or three years ago. Only ten lorries were allowed to run, i.e., 6 for Lyallpur and 4 for Jhang. The monopoly for ten railway lorries was given to a private concern. I think if this monopoly was to be given it should have been given to these poor lorry drivers who keep their own lorries quite new and well built. But this monopoly was given to those people who already earn Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 1,200 a month. In the presence of such hard facts, with what face can my honourable friends over there say that their Government is a zamindara Government? As a matter of fact this Government does not care for the poor people. It has no sympathy for the zamindars; otherwise it would not grant monopoly to capitalists. Then there is yet another side of the question. The rich people who have been given this monopoly earn something like Rs. 800 a month. They themselves admit this fact. This is equal to the pay of an Extra Assistant Commissioner. We would not have minded it at all if the Government had given this monopoly to the Registered Motor Union at Lyallpur. For if this monopoly had been given to that Union we could have thought that poor people who are its members were benefiting and that it was providing livelihood to many poor families. This is not all. Even the Government themselves are losing a great deal. I myself know that there were many lorry drivers who applied that if they were given this monopoly they would willingly pay Rs. 100 to 150 a month by way of taxes for the monopoly. But nobody cares for this revenue and our Government are losing Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 1,500 per month and so far they have lost many thousands of rupees. If on the contrary this monopoly had been given to the poor zamindar lorry drivers who had invested their money in lorries, that would have benefited the poorer sections and also it would have brought a good deal of revenue to the Government. If they had done this, there would have been a reduction in fares and the poor would have benefited. It is claimed by this Ministry that it exists for the interests of the poor. No doubt it knows how to exploit the poor people for its own advantage and that is all. Recently one such monopolist was made to.

contest an Ahrar Leader in the recent Municipal Election of Lyallpur probably on the understanding that his monopoly would be renewed for another year. Would you call this fair?

Two duties have been imposed on petrol. From one source about seven lakhs of rupees are collected and from the other a sum not less than twelve lakhs of rupees. This means that the Government gets as much as twenty lakhs from petrol. But the question is : what does the Government give the poor people—the lorry drivers—in return? What facilities have been provided for them? Although the Government has made considerable addition to their revenues by imposing double duties on petrol, it has not yet considered favourably any of the demands of the poor lorry owners. They have for instance always objected to the system of monopoly. They have been crying themselves hoarse against this, but to no purpose. I shall refer you to a resolution passed in a conference held at Nankana Sahib. The following are the terms of the resolution :

مکانہ صاحب میں سقہ یہ کانفرنس عوام د کاموں کی اقتصاد کی حالت کے پیش نظر روڈ مقامی سسٹم کو سخت نقصان دہ سمجھتی ہوئی اس طریقہ کو تشریح کی نگاہ سے دیکھتی ہے اور حکومت سے مطالبہ کرتی ہے کہ وہ سڑکوں کی اجارہ داری کے طریقہ کو منسوخ کر دے۔ نیز یہ کانفرنس ممبران اسمبلی سے عموماً اور کانگریس ممبران سے خصوصاً اپیل کرتی ہے کہ اس کے خلاف آواز بلند کریں اور پابندی کو منسوخ کروانے پر زور دیں۔

Many of the honourable members of this House must have sent up questions on the subject. But in spite of all this no facilities have been provided by Government at the lorry-stands. I have to refer in this connection to an important matter. The new rules will come into force with effect from the first of April. Deputy Commissioners ought to have by now issued notifications in this respect, but so far nothing has been done. There will be chaos, therefore, when the rules are enforced all of a sudden. The poor people will be put to a lot of trouble on account of this after 1st of April. Then, it is maintained by the Government that the district boards have no right to auction the lorry-stands. Yet they are doing it as I might point out from this poster. It is issued by Secretary, District Board, Amritsar. It refers to auction of different lorry-stands in various addas.

**Minister for Public Works** (The Honourable Major Malik Khizar Hayat Khan Tiwana): May I, through you, bring it to the notice of the honourable member that the control of traffic or sale of addas by district boards has nothing to do with the grant under discussion? Traffic control is a totally different head. This is now merely Buildings and Roads Establishment we are discussing.

**Mian Muhammad Nurullah** : I am referring only to those lorry-stands which are situated on the roads under the Public Works Department. If you come along with me I shall be able to show you that people on the lorry-stands of the roads under the Public Works Department are not aware of the rules which are to come into force on the first of April.

**Minister :** May I again point out to the honourable member that the rules have been published and they will have the force of law from the first of April? All these addas are controlled under the rules and if any local body has sold those addas contrary to the provision of the rules, that contract will be null and void. The rules are there and there will be no chaos as expected.

**Mian Muhammad Nurullah :** I have got these rules but under these very rules you had to make a notification which you have not done.

**Minister :** No notification has been called for. Rules have been published and they have the force of law. Ignorance of law is no excuse.

**Mian Muhammad Nurullah :** For instance under the rules, you will set up regional and central authorities. So far their members are not nominated. People do not understand this. You have got to make it clear by a notification. My honourable friend is a Minister. He can go about easily in his car. If he goes at a distance of, say, five miles from here to Lyallpur side, he will come across people who say that they are in a great fix. They do not know what to do. Now I like to say something about the Public Works Department Road from Lahore to Lyallpur. There are many dangerous curves. Six miles this side from Lyallpur there is a level crossing on the railway line. This is a danger spot. During the last three years there have been as many as eleven accidents. This year so far there have been three. The last one of these accidents was really shocking. The engine hit the lorry and shattered it to pieces. There was great loss of property, and the driver was instantaneously killed. The road from terminal tax barrier No. 1 right up to Jhang Public Works Department road is very bad. It is repaired only at the time of Governors' visit. There is a strong feeling that the Government concentrate the expenses of the Public Works Department on some districts. Even the members of the Unionist Party, I mean, Khan Bahadur Muhammad Hasan Khan Gurchani and Khan Bahadur Mian Mushtaq Ahmad Khan Gurmani, have criticised the policy and the attitude of the Government. The former has said that the Muzaffargarh district receives better treatment and the latter has related the woeful tale of his district. I have to make a complaint on behalf of my district. On my drawing his attention, Sir Jogendra Singh, who was a Minister of the Punjab Government a few years ago, had promised that roads would be built as soon as financial stringency was over in the Toba Tek Singh Tahsil, now a sub-division, which pays probably the largest amount as land revenue in the whole province. But in spite of this its roads were in a pitiable condition. The Government built so many roads in the new ilaqa in order to fetch good price of lands there. But it is no use unless they are well linked up. The Public Works Department pacca roads, for which money is being sanctioned, should be started from Toba side to Kamalia and linked up with roads in Pirmahal. I am glad that Government has reserved this year one lakh of rupees for the metalling of this road. This road may be completed from Toba to Kamalia first. Facts and figures be collected when bridge for Chichawatni is ready. Then section from Kamalia to Chichawatni be taken up.

**Minister :** May I add that the provision for the bridge is already there?

**Mian Muhammad Nurullah :** Yes. The provision of one lakh is not for the bridge, it is for the road.

I may further draw your attention to the small expenditure of Rs. 6,000 or so allotted for Toba-Jhang road in two years. It is a very bad sandy road where zamindars run the risk of breaking their carts now and then.

I am at a loss to understand why the Government have put this work off for so many years ? Why are they saving the amount of Rs. 2,500 this year ? In this way they will have to incur extra expenditure on carrying out inspection for the second time and will have to bear the cost of the establishment again. Why do they not spend Rs. 6,000 once for all ? The condition of the Toba Tek Singh Road is so hopeless that even the bullock carts cannot be plied there. In my opinion, the Government will be well advised if they incur more expenditure once rather than spending small amounts many times. The money allotted for this road is hopelessly inadequate.

Before I finish I must once again draw the attention of the Government to the need of providing facilities to lorry drivers. Neither the lorry drivers nor we can understand the reason underlying this attitude of indifference which has been adopted by the Government. It is high time that monopolies were cancelled and this greatest grievance of the drivers redressed.

An honourable member had remarked that the Honourable Minister being a military man, was paying more attention to the roads which could be used for military purposes. If it is really being done with that object in view it is more necessary that the congestion of traffic on Lahore roads be relieved by making a new road from the Ravi Bridge to Badami Bagh. Now one has to turn round the Chhota Ravi and Shahi Mosque to be able to go straight to Amritsar. It would be an excellent link from the military point of view.

The Lyallpur district pays land revenue to the tune of 1½ crores which is about one-fifth of the total revenue of this province and it should not pinch the Government if they have to spend some of it on improving the roads of that district.

Besides this the people are put to great hardships on account of lack of drainage system in the new abadis and towns that are springing up. At least two or three years are likely to pass before any step is taken in that direction. Furthermore, many poor people buy plots of land for building their houses, but their plans are not approved and they have to suffer great loss.

**Minister of Public Works :** Again, Sir, I would like to point out what has town planning and drainage scheme got to do with Buildings and Roads Branch.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker :** I would request the honourable member to speak to the motion.

**Mian Muhammad Nurullah :** I will take two minutes more and will then finish my speech. My honourable friends opposite make such noise and do not listen to what I say. There is one thing which I would like to know from the Honourable Minister. Is there not a provision for a town Planner in the Buildings and Roads Branch ?

**Minister of Public Works :** Town Planning activities are controlled under the Punjab Municipal Act.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker :** I would request the honourable member to speak so far as is relevant to the motion under discussion.

**Mian Muhammad Nurullah :** Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Honourable Parliamentary Secretary had stated that the Public Health Circle was under this department.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker :** Order please. That comes under Public Health.

**Mian Muhammad Nurullah :** I would like to read out to you the first paragraph of the Retrenchment and Resources Committee's Report.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker :** That Report would not make it relevant.

**Mian Muhammad Nurullah :** That is a reflection on those who prepared the Report.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker :** It has nothing to do with relevancy.

**Mian Muhammad Nurullah :** Then I had better sit down.

**Pir Akbar Ali (Fazilka, Muhammadan, Rural) :** Mr. Deputy Speaker the honourable member from Lyallpur has made very exaggerated statements in the course of his speech and although it would not seem necessary to pay any heed to them but one of his remarks is such that if left unrefuted it may injure the interests of other districts. He says that the Lyallpur district pays  $1\frac{1}{2}$  crores by way of land revenue to the Provincial Exchequer. If this statement were admitted to be correct it would mean that all other districts contributed only  $7\frac{1}{2}$  crores. This statement is evidently exaggerated and thus wrong.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker :** I would request the honourable member to speak to the motion.

**Pir Akbar Ali :** I only wanted to mention this fact, because if accepted it will adversely affect our district.

**Mian Muhammad Nurullah :** May I ask how long he has been a member of this House ?

**Mr. Deputy Speaker :** The honourable member should not mind interruptions and proceed with his speech.

**Pir Akbar Ali :** Sir, I have risen to say that the condition of the roads in our province is much better than that of other provinces. All the objections that are being raised against the Government are baseless as is evident from the remarks made by my honourable friend in regard to Rs.  $1\frac{1}{2}$  crores being paid by the Lyallpur district. I fail to understand his logic in complaining of short number of students in the Shahpur College which amounts to arguing somewhat in the manner that because there is a scarcity of students in Shahpur College, therefore, the Buildings and Roads Branch is to blame. That there has been an increase in the price of petrol hence the Building and Roads Branch is at fault. My honourable friend has not made a single relevant remark and has wasted his eloquence in making a very illogical criticism. I would submit that criticism should be levelled against the Government for an actual act of omission or commission only after carefully studying

the Budget and should in no case be frivolously indulged in by stating that because the number of students in the Shahpur College has greatly decreased, therefore the Buildings and Roads Branch is to blame.

Now Sir I would like to say something with regard to the Ferozepore District. From this district the Government realizes about 60 lakhs in the form of land revenue, abiana and Excise and Rs. 9 crores are the revenue receipts of the whole province under those heads. Thus our district gives about 1/15th of the total revenues of the Punjab. But so far nothing has been done by the Government towards constructing some of the most necessary roads in that district. A road runs from Ferozepore, which is the headquarters of the district, to Fazilka, which is a very important market. The importance of this market lies in the fact that traders not only of the Punjab but from all parts of India come here. Most of its trade is done by means of lorry transport and it is therefore meet and proper that this road should be in the best of condition. Moreover two important towns are situated on this road, one of which is Jalalabad, which is the capital of Mamdot Estate and the other is an ancient market town named Guruharsahai. A little away from the road is the Mamdot Market, and it is necessary in the interests of trade to have metalled roads connecting these important market towns. Besides these there are a number of middle schools on this road.

**Mian Abdul Aziz :** Now what relevance has the question of middle schools got in connection with the need of roads ?

**Mr. Deputy Speaker :** Order please, the honourable member should go on with his speech.

**Pir Akbar Ali :** Sir, I do not care for their interruptions. They do not deserve any notice.

I was submitting Sir that this road is important in more than one respect but out of the total length of 54 miles, only a strip of 10 miles has been metalled. Once the Honourable Minister had promised to undertake metalling this road, if funds permitted, but most probably the Government has not been able to lay hands upon enough money to do the needful in the matter and the road is still in a very dilapidated condition.

Being surrounded on all sides by the Indian States such as Bahawalpur, Bikaner, Nabha, Jind and Patiala, the district of Ferozepore is often raided by dacoits presumably coming from these States. Since the road from Ferozepore to Fazilka is not a metalled one the police has miserably failed to round up the criminals who have actually disturbed the peace of the district by their nefarious activities. Here the number of crimes is always on the increase and unless you improve and metal this road you cannot exercise any effective control over the remote and far-flung ilaqas of the district. In my opinion an increase in the police force does not prove so effective in maintaining law and order in a particular area as the improvement of its means of communication and transport can have a salutary effect in this respect. The importance of this particular road increases when we observe that it connects the Hissar-Montgomery Road with the one that goes from Lahore to Delhi via Ludhiana. The Fazilka-Malout Road, about 28 miles in length, is unmetalled. The improvement of this road is highly essential even from the administrative point of view. The difficulty is this that the Fazilka police station is at a distance of 24 miles from some of the



[Pir Akbar Ali.]

villages within its jurisdiction and if any crime is committed in that ilaqa one who wants to lodge a report with the police cannot reach the police station in less than 10 or 12 hours even on horse back. But before the police actually comes to know of the incident the criminals have time enough to slip away. Thus the defective means of communication is one of the causes that have led to the increase of crimes in that part of the province. Moreover, the poor and rotten condition of the road is a source of great trouble to the zamindars of the ilaqa. The transportation of their agricultural produce to the nearest market is a serious problem for them. In short the problem of maintaining law and order in the district, and the question of affording facilities to the zamindars in the matter of transporting their produce necessitate the immediate improvement of that road.

Then, Sir, although there is only a distance of 15 miles between Jalalabad and Muktsar yet there is no metalled road that may directly connect these towns with each other. And if you propose to move from one town to the other you would either go *via* Fazilka or through Ferozepore. In both these cases you would have to undergo a journey of as many as 100 miles. In fact the Government would do a great favour to the inhabitants of the ilaqa by constructing a metalled road between Jalalabad and Muktsar. Then, Sir, there is another unmetalled road which connects Giddarbaha with Kot Bhai. It is very important road and requires particular attention of the Government. I hope the Honourable Minister would see that it is immediately metalled and improved.

Now, Sir, I turn to the roads of other districts. Dacoities are daily committed not only in the district of Ferozepore but also in certain parts of the Ludhiana and Hissar districts. So far as the district of Hissar is concerned the metalling and improving of its roads can serve two purposes. On the one hand it would go a long way to mitigate the evil effects of famine and on the other the improved means of communication would enable the police to exercise an effective control over the ilaqas. Then, Sir, only a stretch of 20 miles on the Dabwali-Sirsa Road is unmetalled. In view of the increased traffic on the road and the importance of both these flourishing towns I would request the Government to make necessary provision for the improvement of this unmetalled portion of the road. In fact all those roads that connect one important town with the other should be immediately metalled and reconditioned. As I have already remarked the Malout-Fazilka Road and the Nathana-Moga Road should be improved without the least possible delay.

Now, Sir, I turn to the Building Branch of the department concerned. It is a pity that there is no separate and permanent building for the Girls School, Ferozepore. At present the building of the boarding house for the Government School is being utilised for the purpose. We have on several occasions represented to the Government in this connection, but it has not condescended to take any action in the matter as yet. I am at a loss to understand the reasons for this unnecessary delay in raising the required building for the Girls School. In fact all the girls schools started in the Ferozepore district are housed in private buildings acquired on rent. Again, at present, two magistrates are posted at Fazilka, but one of them is not

provided with a Government quarter. The *zailghar* originally built for the benefit of zamindars is being utilized by him. I hope the Government would see that suitable arrangements are made for his court room.

The second difficulty is that there is no house available for him and for the Deputy Superintendent of Police. I, therefore, request the Government to build at least two bungalows and to let them on rent. I think it will prove very advantageous for the Government in the long run. These are the things which require immediate attention of the Government. I admit that our province, despite these defects which I have mentioned, stands at the highest pitch when compared with other provinces of India. True, there is no match for the Punjab province. I, however, submit that so far as roads and buildings are concerned we should take one step more and look to the world and try to achieve what the rest of the world has achieved in this respect. The Government of the Punjab has led other provinces of India no doubt, but now the Government should try to go abreast of the civilized countries of the world. My submission, therefore, is that the works of buildings and roads should be started more efficiently on a large scale. With these words, Sir, I resume my seat.

**Sardar Bahadur Sardar Gurbachan Singh** (Jullundur West, Sikh, Rural): Sir, I think the motion moved by the mover was to criticise the working of the Department. But each Linnet has been singing its own song, or in other words, each member has been asking for metalling of roads in his own district. No one has discussed or criticised the working of this department. The mover has said that this year funds have been provided for building roads on the western side of the Punjab. I must say that a beginning was made and during the first year two roads were taken up in the Jullundur district and we will see that the money is not only spent on one side but is divided each year to every part of the province. The mover laid great stress on one point that the roads which have military importance were better maintained and more money was being spent on them. If this was the policy of the Government, then I would also follow suit with other members in saying that there is a road in my district which from the military point of view is very important and also with regard to the district supervision, control of dacoities and other Administrative matters should be taken up and metalled. It connects Kartarpur with Adampur, and both these places are police stations. From the military point of view, Hoshiarpur district is important on account of the military manoeuvres that are held there every year and armies from all over the Punjab go to that place. If this road were metalled one "parao" could be saved as the army from Kartarpur could go straight to Adampur, instead of going to Jullundur Cantonment and then to Adampur and thus save a distance of 17 miles. One and a half miles of this Kartarpur to Adampur road is already *Pacca* and the total length of it is about 8 or 9 miles. If the rest of 7½ miles are made *pacca* it will provide a short cut and facilitate the moving of the army and effect a good deal of saving. Moreover, this road does not run parallel to any railway line, and therefore is non-competitive road. Moreover, Kartarpur is a police station and that police station has its jurisdiction up to Bhogpur which is not connected at all by any road except *via* Jullundur city. If anything happens near about Bhogpur, the Kartarpur station house officer has to go there on horse back. He cannot reach

[S. B. S. Gurbachan Singh.]

quickly to the place of occurrence. Similarly, with regard to Hoshiarpur district, if officials want to go from Hoshiarpur to Tanda, or further up to Mukerian, they first go to Jullundur passing through Adampur. The distance from Jullundur to Adampur is 14 or 15 miles and then from Jullundur they take Tanda Road and come to the crossing of Tanda road with Kartarpur-Adampur road, a distance of about 9 miles, or in other words they cover a distance of nearly 24 miles from Adampur. So, instead of doing 24 miles, they can go from Adampur direct to this junction of the Jullundur-Tanda road through Alawalpur a distance of  $4\frac{1}{2}$  miles. But about 3 miles of this road are *kacha*. So it will be very useful and convenient for Hoshiarpur officials if this road from Adampur to Kartarpur is made *pacca*. As regards the point that the facilities of these *pacca* roads should be provided to the zamindars, I think, every year, during the general discussion of the budget, this has been one of the points on which I have always laid stress and, moreover, I have been requesting the Government that specially those village roads, where consolidation of holdings had taken place and where zamindars have worked so hard as to make very fine village to village roads, should be metalled; otherwise they would deteriorate. But no attention has so far been paid to that request of mine, and I think that it requires immediate attention of the Government that some amount of money should be spent on such roads. We were told that metalled roads of the district boards will be taken up by the Public Works Department. But I think only a beginning has been made in this direction and nothing so far has been done substantially. What we are always told is that the *pacca* roads which fall in competition with the railway and which run parallel to the railway line will not be taken up according to some agreement with the Government of India which contribute towards the road funds. But may I ask why those roads, which existed before any railway line was constructed, should not be taken up. If the district board roads are taken up by the Public Works Department the district boards will find plenty of money to make roads for villages. There was another suggestion, I think in the last Council, that all the roads whether metalled or unmetalled, should be taken up by the Public Works Department so that even the villagers may be given the benefit of tarred roads. I again draw the attention of the Honourable Minister that he should also do something for the zamindars by metalling village to village roads. Then, again, Sir, I would like to refer you to the speech of His Excellency the Governor which he made on June 20, 1938, appearing in the Legislative Assembly Debates, Volume V, page 3. This is what he said :—

'It is the proud and, I think, the legitimate boast of the Punjab that it possesses the finest roads in India. But my Government do not propose to rest content with the achievements of the past. They hope to maintain and even increase the lead which the province already holds. A beginning has been made on a 8-Year Road Programme costing 125 lakhs. When this programme is completed, the Punjab will have 4,000 miles of metalled and tarred roads, compared with 3,000 today and 10,000 miles of unmetalled roads will have been made motorable.'

With regard to these 10,000 miles of unmetalled roads, we do not see either in the budget or otherwise where they exist. I do not know how the department have so irresponsibly given these figures to His Excellency the Governor about which he has mentioned in his speech. Even if the village

roads, about which I have just mentioned, are kept up in good condition by the Public Works Department in a *kacha* state, they will be giving some help to the zamindars. My honourable friend has just been laughing at a *gadda* (cart) falling into a pit. I think people will be saved from such daily occurrences and carts and bullocks will be better able to carry loads if these roads are even maintained in good repair nothing to say of their being metalled. Then there is one point more. The Retrenchment Committee in their report recommended that the Public Works Department should be amalgamated with the Irrigation Department. No doubt this is the considered opinion of the gentlemen who were on that Committee but I for one do not agree simply for the reason that if this department is amalgamated with the Irrigation Department, the efficiency with which it is working now will not be there and these roads of which we can now boast will certainly deteriorate. With regard to the buildings I would like to bring one point to the notice of the Government which is the cutcherry building in my district, about which I have put so many questions requesting the Government to build a new cutcherry and other civil courts at one place. There is absolutely no space for holding of courts in the old cutcherry building and the magistrates have to sit in bathrooms and dressing rooms of a hired building. The Revenue Minister in answer to my question promised that in 1939 the Government will start building the new cutcherry, but nothing so far has been done. The Government can effect a good deal of saving by selling the old cutcherry and civil courts sites after recovering the capital cost of a new cutcherry. I hope the Government will take early steps to build the new cutcherry.

**Khan Sahib Chaudhri Pir Muhammad** (South-East Gujrat, Muhammadan, Rural): Sir, the city of Gujrat being a historic city, the district is an important one, and is thickly populated. But there are no *pacca* roads in it except the Grand Trunk Road. The *katcha* roads are in dilapidated condition. I may mention in this connection that the tahsil of Phalia is the second best tahsil in the Punjab as regards the land revenue that it pays to the Government, and yet it is not linked with the district headquarters by any *pacca* road. A small part of the road is *pacca*, no doubt, but there is the Bhimber nulla in the way over which there is no bridge. It is difficult to cross it for six months of the rainy season. And even when water does not flow in it, the sands do not allow the passage of bullock carts or motors. The zamindars of the locality cannot carry their agricultural produce to the market of Gujrat. The Marketing Act passed by the Government is of no use to the agriculturists when they cannot carry their produce in the carts to the *mandi*. I have repeatedly requested the Honourable Minister and he was kind enough to promise to do something in the matter. But unfortunately nothing has been done. A look on the budget also does not reveal any provision for erecting this much-needed bridge. As a result of this the people will have to continue facing the same hardships as they have been doing in the past. It may also be noted that this area is irrigated by Upper Jhelum Canal, but this is the first and the only canal area where no metalled roads have been made so far. The painful result of this is that the poverty-stricken agriculturists have to sell their agricultural commodities at much lower rates than the market rates. The loss per "man" is Rs. 2 or annas 4 per maund. That is a huge loss. When the Honourable

[K. S. Ch. Pir Muhammad.]

Minister of Development happened to tour that area, a deputation of respectable persons waited upon him to explain these difficulties and representations were also made to him. Sir Chhotu Ram was pleased to promise that he would bring this important matter to the notice of the Minister in charge. But nothing whatever seems to have been done so far.

Moreover, the road running to Phalia is a scheduled one and traffic does not allow much scope for substantial repairs. A large amount of dust is raised by the constant traffic which proves harmful for the public health. It helps diseases like tuberculosis. I am also reminded of the tour of His Excellency Sir Herbert Emerson which he made about two years ago, in order to perform the opening ceremony of the Emerson Hospital in this ilaqa. It chanced to rain that day, and it may be noted that the condition of this road gets worsened by rains. So the road became difficult to pass on that occasion too. His Excellency's motor car had to pass with great difficulty, and it was hoped that this personal experience would induce His Excellency to instruct the Department of Public Works to improve this road and make it a *pacca* one. But nothing has been done so far. It is too much to expect from the District Board to metal it because the financial position of the Board in question is not strong enough to bear this expenditure. If the Public Works Department gets this road transferred to its control, it is hoped that even the *kalcha* road will be kept in good condition. The zamindars are suffering on account of the lack of metalled roads in this district. The pitiable condition of the poor agriculturists is better untold. There is no metalled road except in the towns. It is very hard in my district to have wheeled traffic from one village to another.

I would like to quote here a passage from the Report of the Unemployment Committee which had sat under Sir Chhotu Ram's chairmanship. This passage throws a flood of light on this subject and it runs as follows :—

The question of communications resolves itself into two parts—road and rail. During the last 15 years the province has witnessed very fair progress in both these directions. The Punjab is justly proud of its roads as compared to other provinces of India, but so far as marketing of agricultural produce is concerned a great deal remains to be done and there is enormous scope for development. Rural areas can be said to have nothing but *kalcha* roads and the transport problem here is a big one. The crying need for making better roads is obvious. The capital of the zamindars is largely locked up in working bullocks. Any project which will reduce the burden on the bullock will result in a lengthening of its working life and hence be of very great help to the zamindar. The carting of agricultural produce on *kalcha* roads is a tremendous strain on the bullock. Transport facilities and development of communications will also bring the cultivator nearer to the market and he will be saved a good deal of worry and anxiety in taking his produce to mandi in uncertainty and ignorance of marketing conditions."

Again, I am at one with the opinion of the Committee which is expressed in the following terms :

We are of opinion that Government could and should create a separate Rural Road Development Fund to meet one of the prime requirements of agriculturists.

I am of the opinion that if the recommendations of the Committee are given effect to, much facilities in the matter of roads can be provided to the people residing in rural areas. I don't think this is a problem which defies solution. If the suggestion made by my honourable friend Sayed Amjad Ali Shah, namely that roads should be constructed by raising loans, is

accepted by the Honourable Minister, I am sure, he would see that the rural areas receive his first attention in this respect. I may also point out that the villages constitute the mainstay of the Government, the administration of which is being run with the income mainly derived from the zamindars. It is, therefore, the bounden duty of the Government to provide them with better roads and ways of communications.

Then, Sir, I would like to make a mention of the Gujrat-Shadiwal road. Shadiwal is a flourishing town and a big trading centre. It is situated at a distance of five miles from Gujrat. Sometime ago the Public Works Department took over this road with a view to metalling it. But it is a pity that the department concerned has not yet moved its little finger to convert it into a *pacca* road and it still remains in a deplorable condition. If it is metalled, I am sure, it would prove of immense benefit to the people from the commercial point of view also. Again, no bridge has been constructed over the Bhimber Nala. Its absence is causing much inconvenience and hardship to the people. I would request the Honourable Minister that he should do something in this connection with a view to alleviating the difficulties of the residents of the *ilaga*. Besides, after perusing the programme of roads included in the new expenditure, I come to the conclusion that this road, for the metalling of which I am laying so much stress, is far more important as compared with many others. Again when the Bhimber Nalla is inundated during the rainy season, the water spreads to a considerable area. As a result of the floods the road is almost submerged in water and becomes impassable. Consequently sometime loss of life takes place. Once there used to be a wooden bridge, but it has been rendered useless as the Nala has changed its course. I would, therefore, request the Government to kindly take the matter in its own hands and do not leave the construction of the bridge as well as metalling of the road to the care of the District Board which has been unable to do anything in this direction owing to paucity of funds. I hope my appeal would receive a sympathetic and a favourable consideration at the hands of the Government. With these words I close my remarks.

**Mr. Dev Raj Sethi** (Lyallpur and Jhang, General, Rural) (*Urdu*): Mr. Speaker, to-day in the morning my honourable friend Sayed Amjad Ali Shah made an assertion that the Punjab beat all the other provinces in India in the matter of roads. The honourable member, Pir Akbar Ali, also joined him in his assertion and supported the credit claimed by our province in this respect. Besides, a reference was made to an address of His Excellency the Governor, in which it was stated that the roads in the Punjab were unsurpassed in quality and considered to be the best as compared with those of the other provinces. I wish I, too, had joined in paying encomiums to the Honourable Minister in charge for this alleged healthy state of affairs. But when I peruse the comparative facts and figures which are now before me I feel inclined to differ with the views of my honourable friend over there. I find from the statistics made available to me that the Punjab does not hold the first place in the matter of roads, nor does it stand in the second or third position. Of course it has fourth position in the comparative study of roads maintained by all the provinces in India. Now if we take length of the roads publicly maintained per 100 square miles of area into consideration, we find the presidency of Bengal leading with a percentage of

[Mr. Dev Raj Sethi.]

55.4 to its credit and the province of Sind holding the second position having a percentage of 39. Then comes the United Provinces and the Punjab holds the fourth place. Again, so far as the question of mileage or the length of roads maintained by the Public Works Department and the District Boards is concerned, even then Bengal is in the fore-front with 39 thousand miles of roads under its charge. Madras follows in its wake and then come Bihar and the Punjab. The last mentioned provinces are maintaining almost equal number of miles of roads in spite of the fact that Bihar is a poorer province as compared with the Punjab. Besides, let us see how does our province fare in the matter of motorable roads? Here again Bengal leads with a mileage of 4,838 to its credit. Then come the provinces of Bihar and the Punjab, which are on equal footing in the matter. You will observe, Sir, that the facts and figures adduced by me, amply show that there is no justification in the credit claimed by my honourable friend over there. He made a disputable claim. Of course I must confess that the Punjab leads in one respect and that is in the number of accidents which take place here in this province. The honourable members would be surprised to know that in the year 1939 no less than 1,010 lorry accidents took place and as a result 348 proved fatal. One can easily realise to one's great chagrin and horror that daily one person meets his death because of motor lorry accidents which, as I have already stated, can be partly the result of bad condition of roads.

*At this stage the Assembly adjourned till 2-30 p.m. on Friday, 29th March, 1940.*

# PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

## SIXTH SESSION OF THE FIRST PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Friday, 29th March, 1940.

*The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber at 2-30 p.m. of the clock.  
Mr. Speaker in the chair.*

### STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

#### REDUCTION IN THE NUMBER OF CHAUKIDARS OF VILLAGE NADALON, TAHSIL GARHSHANKAR.

**\*5083. Sardar Hari Singh :** With reference to the answer to my starred question No. 4179<sup>1</sup> asked on 18th March, 1939, will the Honourable Minister of Public Works be pleased to state what decision has since been taken by the Deputy Commissioner, Hoshiarpur, in the matter of reducing the number of chaukidars of village Nadalon, tahsil Garhshankar, district Hoshiarpur?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh) :** A daffadar's post has been brought under reduction. No further reduction is considered possible.

#### LAMBARDARS, SUFEDPOSHES AND ZAILDARS WHO VOTED AND CANVASSED FOR CONGRESS CANDIDATES IN ELECTION TO HOSHIARPUR DISTRICT BOARD.

**\*5177. Sardar Hari Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister of Public Works be pleased to state whether the Deputy Commissioner, Hoshiarpur, has called for statistics from tahsildars and thanedars as to which lambardars, sufedposhes and zaildars voted and canvassed for congress candidates in the last election to Hoshiarpur District Board, if so, why?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Shaikh Faiz Muhammad) :** The reply to the first part of the question is in the negative, the second part therefore does not arise.

#### CRIMINAL ASSAULT ON CONGRESS VOLUNTEERS AT ROHTAK.

**\*5779. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the Honourable Minister of Public Works be pleased to state—

- (a) whether it came to his notice that a criminal assault was made on the Congress volunteers by the supporters of Ramcharan, a candidate in the municipal election, while they were performing "Prabhat Pheri", during the last week, September 1939 in ward No. 3 (non-Muslim), Rohtak;



[Pandit Shri Ram Sharma.]

(b) whether a report was lodged about this incident in the police  
• by the President, City Congress Committee; if so, with what result;

(c) whether the police and other authorities concerned were informed beforehand about the state of affairs that led to this incident in connexion with municipal elections in Rohtak town; if so, what preventive steps were adopted?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah): (a) Yes. The residents objected to the volunteers making a noise at such an early hour. An altercation ensued, ending in blows.

(b) A report was lodged with the police by one of the volunteers; the president of the Rohtak City Congress Committee being present at the time it was made. A case was registered and investigation begun. The case is likely to go untraced as the prosecution witnesses have shown themselves unable to identify the persons concerned on the other side.

(c) Complaints had been made to the police against the behaviour of the Congress volunteers, but the authorities had felt reluctant to intervene in electioneering activities. On the actual polling days careful precautions were taken, and the election passed off without incident.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma**: May I know whether this matter has been filed as untraced or enquiries are still going on?

**Parliamentary Secretary**: I have stated that enquiries are still being conducted.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma**: May I know whether after the receipt of the report that an assault was about to be made on the Congress volunteers, the police made inquiries on the spot?

**Parliamentary Secretary**: I cannot supply this information off-hand. If, however, the honourable member gives notice of a fresh question I will try to supply him the requisite information.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma**: In connection with part (c) of this question may I know when the police and other authorities concerned were informed beforehand about the state of affairs that led to the incident in connection with municipal elections in Rohtak town and what preventive steps were adopted by the Government?

**Parliamentary Secretary**: I have no information on the point.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma**: I want to know what preventive steps were taken by the Government.

**Parliamentary Secretary**: I have already answered the question of the honourable member. If he wants any other information, he may give notice of a fresh question.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma**: The question is there. It is asked in part (c) whether the police and other authorities concerned were informed beforehand about the state of affairs that led to this incident in connection with municipal election in Rohtak town; if so, what preventive steps were adopted?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I have already answered that part of the question. It is as follows : Complaints had been made to the police against the behaviour of the Congress volunteers, but the authorities had felt reluctant to intervene in electioneering activities. On actual polling days careful precautions were taken and the election passed off without incident.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** I am asking quite a different question. I want to know whether the police was informed beforehand that an assault was about to be made ; if so what preventive steps were taken ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** The information which I possessed I have supplied to the honourable member. Now I cannot add anything to what I have already stated.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Does the parliamentary Secretary know that any report was made beforehand or not that the assault would be made by the people on the Congress volunteers ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I have no information on the point.

LETTING OF HIS HOUSE TO THE MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE, ROHTAK  
BY RAM CHARAN, MUNICIPAL COMMISSIONER.

**\*5781. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the Honourable Minister of Public Works be pleased to state whether it is a fact that an explanation was recently called for from Ram Charan, Municipal Commissioner, Rohtak, for his having rented his house to the Municipal Committee, Rohtak, without the permission of the Commissioner concerned, which he was required to obtain under the rules; if so, whether that explanation has been given and, if so, the action taken thereon ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Sheikh Faiz Muhammad) :** Yes. The explanation was given and it was accepted by the Commissioner who accorded the necessary sanction.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know whether it is a fact that Ram Charan rented his house to the municipal committee without taking the previous permission of the Commissioner ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** The answer to this question is in the affirmative.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know when the Commissioner called for an explanation from him and what was the reply he gave ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I cannot supply this information to the honourable member without notice, but I may add for his information that Ram Charan's contention was that the municipal committee wanted to take on rent his house and he accordingly agreed. The rent of the house was not excessive at all. The Commissioner accepted his explanation and accorded the necessary sanction.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Is it a fact that according to Municipal Act no member of a municipal committee can rent his house to the municipal committee except with the previous sanction of the Commissioner ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** If such a provision had not been there in the Municipal Act the Commissioner would not have called for an explanation from him.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know whether he has a copy of his explanation with him ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** No.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know whether he admitted his mistake in not getting the sanction of the Commissioner before renting his house to the municipal committee ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** Naturally he must have admitted his mistake. But I may tell the honourable member that after going over the whole question the Commissioner accorded the necessary sanction.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know after how much time this sanction was given ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** When this matter came to the notice of the Deputy Commissioner he informed the Commissioner about it. The latter called for an explanation from the said member. After the explanation was given the Commissioner accorded his sanction. As regards the time that was taken up in arriving at a decision in this matter I cannot give information to the honourable member offhand. If, however, he gives a fresh notice I will supply him the requisite information.

#### CONSTRUCTION OF A DAM IN THE SIWALIK HILLS.

**\*6068. Sardar Hari Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Irrigation Department has so far examined the possibility of constructing a dam in the Siwalik Hills with a view mainly to irrigate the Bist Doab and stop the destructive flow of hill torrents in the rainy season in Hoshiarpur district ;

(b) any other place or places in the province in regard to which the possibility of constructing a dam has been examined so far by the department ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan) :** (a) No.  
(b) At Bhakra on the Sutlej and at Balehu on the Beas.

**Sardar Hari Singh :** May I know in reference to the reply to part (a) whether any proposals for examining the possibility of construction of a dam in Siwalik Hills is under consideration ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I have already said no.

**Sardar Hari Singh :** The original question is whether the proposal has so far been examined or not.

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I have said it has not been examined.

**Sardar Hari Singh :** My question is of a different nature. I want to know whether there is a proposal under consideration of the Government to examine such a possibility ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I am not aware of any such proposal.

**Sardar Hari Singh :** Are there any proposals under consideration to examine possibilities ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I am not aware of any such proposal.

**Sardar Hari Singh :** May I know if the Revenue Minister has received any proposal regarding the construction of a dam in the near future in another place from the Engineer who has specialized in the subject ?

**Minister for Revenue :** The report of the officer specially appointed for the purpose is on record of the Government files.

**Sardar Hari Singh :** In what place did they suggest that the possibilities should be examined ?

**Minister :** There is no consideration of any such proposal.

#### DISMISSAL OF WARDERS IN CONNECTION WITH RIOT IN DISTRICT JAIL, AMBALA.

**\*6386. Lala Duni Chand :** Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state whether any warders of District Jail, Ambala, have been dismissed in connection with the riot that took place in the jail on or about 7th December, 1939 ; if so, their number and names ?

**The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal :** Three warders named below were dismissed from service :—

1. Naubat Ram.
2. Ashiq Ali.
3. Ghulam Mohammad.

**Lala Duni Chand :** May I know if the case of these dismissed warders was that they were not to blame in any way for the disturbance caused inside the jail and that the disturbance was due to the fact that the jail officials had allowed a gang of dangerous prisoners to remain at large inside their barracks, while they should not have been allowed to remain at large under the rules ?

**Minister :** This is a complex of many questions.

**Mr. Speaker :** It does not arise out of the answer.

**Lala Duni Chand :** I want to know whether this was the defence of these dismissed warders ?

**Mr. Speaker :** That does not arise out of the answer given.

**Lala Duni Chand :** The question relates to the dismissal of three warders.

**Mr. Speaker :** Only their names and number.

**Lala Duni Chand :** Were these warders innocent or not ?

**Mr. Speaker :** The question of innocence or guilt does not arise.

**Lala Duni Chand :** As a result of certain disturbances, certain warders were dismissed and the Honourable Minister has been good enough to admit that three have been dismissed. I want to know whether the warders submitted that they were innocent and whether in support of their innocence they made a certain statement.

**Pir Akbar Ali :** May I know whether the honourable member after the ruling of the chair can continue to ask the question? He will never stop and let us hear answers to other questions.

**Mr. Speaker :** The honourable member expressly asked only the names and the number of warders dismissed by the jail authorities and no more. Had he also asked the fault or offence of the warders, he would have been allowed to ask these questions also. But they do not arise from the question or the answer given.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Was the enquiry conducted by the Superintendent of the jail or by any other authority?

#### RESULT OF INQUIRY INTO RIOT IN DISTRICT JAIL, AMBALA.

**\*6387. Lala Duni Chand :** Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state whether any inquiry into the causes of the riot in the District Jail, Ambala, that took place on or about the 7th December, 1939, was held; and, if so, with what result?

**The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal :** As the matter is at present the subject of a judicial trial, I regret that it would not be proper for me to reply to this question.

**Lala Duni Chand :** May I know if there is any judicial trial going on against these three warders who have been dismissed? There may be a judicial trial on other matters. I have nothing to do with them.

**Minister :** I cannot add anything.

**Lala Duni Chand :** Will he now inform me whether the defence of the three warders was that they were innocent and as a matter of fact the jail officials had allowed a gang of dangerous prisoners to remain at large?

**Minister :** If the honourable member would be good enough to take the trouble of asking me formally by notice of a separate question, the information, if possible, will be furnished to him.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** May I know whether any action was taken against the higher authorities other than the warders for the riot which took place in the Ambala Jail?

**Mr. Speaker :** How does it arise?

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** The question says that the action was taken against the warders. I want to know whether any action was taken against any other official?

**Mr. Speaker :** This does not arise out of the answer given.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** My friend Lala Duni Chand has explained that the riot took place for the reason that some dangerous prisoners were let loose and allowed to loiter about in the jail. I want to know whether the enquiry found out that the riot was due to this.

**Mr. Speaker :** The question, as it stands, does not mention this fact nor does the answer given. Therefore this supplementary question does not arise out of it.

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** My question is whether it has been ascertained through enquiry that the riot was due to the permission granted to these dangerous prisoners to loiter about in the jail. This is my question and it does arise.

**Mr. Speaker :** Where is the enquiry mentioned in the answer or the question ?

**Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** It is mentioned in the question as well as in the answer. The question is whether an enquiry was instituted in the case or not and the answer is yes.

**Minister :** I said that I regret that in view of the fact that the matter is before a court of law, it is not possible for me, it would not be proper for me to reply to this question. I have declined to reply to this question and still supplementaries are being asked.

**Lala Duni Chand :** May I know if there is any case in which the question of dismissed warders is being tried ?

**Lala Duni Chand :** May I know if the Honourable Finance Minister has gone into the facts of this case or not ?

**Mr. Speaker :** When a question is not answered, no supplementaries arise. As no answer has been given to the original question, no supplementary question arises out of it.

**Lala Duni Chand :** Will the Honourable Finance Minister be pleased to satisfy me—

**Mr. Speaker :** Will the honourable member obey the ruling of the chair ?

*(Lala Duni Chand again rose to speak.)*

**Mr. Speaker :** If the honourable member again persists, I shall have to eject him from the House.

**Lala Duni Chand :** I rise to a point of order. I want to know from you in the name of fairness whether I had said anything or done anything in consequence of which you could say that.

**Mr. Speaker :** More than half a dozen times, I asked the honourable member not to proceed further with his supplementaries but he insisted and in defiance of my ruling got up a number of times to ask supplementary questions without my permission.

**Lala Duni Chand :** Are these facts ?

**Mr. Speaker :** I warn the honourable member once more. Will he please resume his seat ?

**Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :** I rise to a point of order. My submission is that unless a man stands up, how can he take your permission to put a supplementary question ?

**Mr. Speaker :** I did not object to his standing but to his asking supplementary questions over and over again.

**Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :** The questions that we have been putting, you have been ruling out of order.

**Mr. Speaker :** Is the honourable member questioning my ruling ?

**Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :** No, Sir.

**Mr. Speaker :** What else ?

**Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :** If this is your ruling that no supplementary questions are to be put henceforth—

**Mr. Speaker :** I have repeatedly ruled that when there is no answer to a question, no supplementaries can be put, but every time the honourable member got up, he put a question in one form or another.

**Lala Duni Chand :** Unless you are generous enough to admit that I have been badly treated, I shall leave the House as a protest.

**Mr. Speaker :** As the honourable member is accusing the chair of unfairness, I ask him to leave the House.

**Lala Duni Chand :** I leave the House as a protest.

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ALLEGATIONS AGAINST AN OFFICER OF AMRITSAR  
SPECIAL STAFF POLICE.

**\*6394. Mr. Dev Raj Sethi :** Will the Honourable Minister of Public Works be pleased to state—

- (a) whether any complaint from Sardar Boota Singh, a member of the Lahore District Board and resident of village Cheema, District Lahore, duly attested by 5 respectable persons of the village against a certain officer of the Amritsar Special Staff Police was received by the Inspector-General of Punjab Police, Lahore, on the 29th January, 1940, in which certain serious allegations were brought against the said police officer ;
- (b) if the answer to (a) above be in the affirmative, whether any inquiry was made by the Government ; if so, what was the result of this inquiry, when and where the evidence of the complainant was recorded and by whom the inquiry was conducted ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh) :** (a) Yes.

(b) The complaint was forwarded to the Senior Superintendent of Police, Lahore, from whom a report is awaited.

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VETERINARY DISPENSARIES.

**\*6403. Master Kabul Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister of Development be pleased to state the number and names of the places, tahsil-wise, in the Jullundur district where veterinary dispensaries have been opened up to date with number separately of such dispensaries opened in Ilaga Dona, tahsil Nakodar, from April, 1937, to 31st December, 1939 ?

**Parliamentary Secretary** (Shaikh Faiz Muhammad): Nine veterinary dispensaries have been opened up-to-date at the following places in the Jullundur district :—

<i>Name of tahsil.</i>	<i>Places where dispensaries have been opened.</i>
1. Nakodar	1. Nakodar.
	2. Shahkot.
2. Jullundur	3. Adampur.
	4. Bhogpur.
	5. Jullundur City.
3. Phillaur	6. Phillaur.
	7. Bundala.
4. Nawanshahr	8. Nawanshahr.
	9. Banga.

No regular veterinary dispensary was opened in Ilaga Dona, tahsil Nakodar, during the period April, 1937, to 31st December, 1939. Veterinary aid is being provided to this ilaga through the outlying dispensaries at Danawal and Mahmowal-Usafpur. These dispensaries are situated in the heart of this ilaga and are attended by the Veterinary Assistant of Shahkot, weekly or fortnightly. The veterinary dispensaries of Shahkot and Nakodar and the outlying dispensary at Lohian are also serving this ilaga on its border.

#### PLACING OF MAULVI MUHAMMAD ALI IN C CLASS.

**\*6404. Master Kabul Singh:** Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state whether it is a fact that even after verification of the antecedents and high social status of Maulvi Muhammad Ali, a political prisoner, now confined in Ferozepore Jail, by Master Kabul Singh, M. L. A., and also by the President of the Municipal Committee, Jullundur, the said Maulvi Muhammad Ali has been placed in C class; if so, the reasons therefor?

**The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal:** The classification of a convicted prisoner is in the first instance a matter for the convicting court. If any prisoner is dissatisfied with the classification given him he can always approach the provincial Government for a revision of his classification under the statutory rules. In the present case Government has received no revision application and thus has no reason to suppose that the classification is incorrect or that the prisoner is dissatisfied with it.

**Lala Bhim Sen Sachar:** Do I take it that the Government do not move except by a formal application?



**Minister :** How can the Government know anything about the matter unless it is moved particularly in a matter of this description ?

**Lala Bhim Sen Sachar :** In view of the fact that this matter has come before the Honourable Minister by means of this question, does he still feel the necessity of bringing it to his notice by separate application ?

**Minister :** No.

**Lala Bhim Sen Sachar :** Has there been any instance in which the Honourable Minister has moved without a formal application ?

**Minister :** If he will give notice, I will make the necessary research.

**Lala Bhim Sen Sachar :** I am merely asking with reference to what the Honourable Minister himself might have done. I want to know if in any case the Honourable Minister has moved in the matter of classification of a prisoner without a revision application.

**Minister :** I do not remember of any recent case.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Does the Honourable Minister remember that in the case of Mr. Virendra he himself instructed the authorities by telephone to give him 'A' class ?

**Minister :** I received a number of representations. I acted immediately and promptly.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Were those representations by way of a request or did the Honourable Minister act independently of them ?

**Minister :** Representations came to me and I knew something of the gentleman and I was able to act on my knowledge. Otherwise, if there is an effort to get the classification of a prisoner changed, the provincial Government has to be duly apprised of all the necessary facts on which it can come to a judgment. I am sure the honourable member would admit that the case of Mr. Virendra is different from the case of this particular prisoner.

**Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :** May I know if any such cases of classification go to the Government for confirmation or not ?

**Minister :** No doubt. Where 'A' or 'B' class is proposed, the case would come up to Government.

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STATE OF HEALTH OF MAULVI MUHAMMAD ALI, SHAIKH BAZZID  
AND MAULVI GHULAM MUHAMMAD.

**\*6405. Master Kabul Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister for Finance be pleased to supply the following information regarding Maulvi Muhammad Ali, Shaikh Bazzid and Maulvi Ghulam Muhammad, political prisoners, at present confined in the Ferozepore District Jail—

- (a) the weight at the time of conviction ;
- (b) the present weight ; and
- (c) general state of health ?

**The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal :** (a), (b) and (c). A statement is laid on the table.

*Statement.*

Name of the prisoner.	Weight at the time of conviction.	Present weight.	General state of health.
	Lbs.	Lbs.	
Maulvi Mohammad Ali ..	118	122	Good.
Sheikh Bazzid ..	135	132	Do.
Maulvi Ghulam Mohammad ..	124	131	Do.

RURAL DISPENSARIES.

**\*6410. 'Lala Duni Chand :** With reference to the answer to my starred-question No. 18<sup>1</sup>, asked on 17th June 1937, will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state whether in addition to the 875 rural dispensaries already opened, any more dispensaries have since been opened in the rural areas with a view to attaining the ideal of providing one dispensary for the mean of 30,000 population and 100 square miles and whether the scheme of granting subsidies to private medical practitioners for rendering medical aid to the people in rural areas has proved successful or not?

**The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye :** No more rural dispensaries have been opened since I answered the honourable member's question<sup>2</sup> No. 18. The scheme of subsidised medical practitioners has only recently been started; 27 such subsidised dispensaries have actually been opened and 48 are expected to be opened before the close of the financial year.

**Parliamentary Secretary :** On a point of order. If an honourable member has been asked to leave the House, can a question be asked on his behalf?

**Mr. Speaker :** I do not think he has ceased to be a member of the House.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** In how many cases did the Honourable Minister of Education receive representations from villages that the village people were not prepared to pay three hundred rupees as their share of the contribution?

**Minister :** I do not remember having received any such representation.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** Has it not been brought to the notice of the Honourable Minister of Education by the authorities concerned, that is, by the Deputy Commissioners and the Civil Surgeons in the Punjab?

**Minister :** The answer is in the negative.

<sup>1</sup> This question was put by some other member on behalf of Lala Duni Chand.

<sup>2</sup> Volume I, page 252.

**SUPPLY OF NO MEALS TO 18 POLITICAL PRISONERS DURING JOURNEY  
FROM CAMPBELLPUR JAIL TO JHELM JAIL.**

**\*6416. Dr. Satyapal :** Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state if it is a fact that 18 political prisoners while being transferred from Campbellpur Jail to Jhelum Jail on 5th February, 1940, were not provided with meals during the whole course of the journey and that no arrangements were made in this connexion by jail or police officials concerned ; if so, the reasons therefor and the action Government intend to take against the officials concerned ?

**The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal :** Eighteen prisoners were transferred from the Campbellpur District Jail to the Jhelum District Jail on the 6th February, 1940. Before starting their journey they were offered but refused meals. The escort was given a supply of food for the use of the prisoners in transit. This was later returned to store as the prisoners refused to eat it. The provisions of paragraph 989 of the Punjab Jail Manual were thus fully observed and no blame whatever attaches to any official.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** May I know what was the reason for the refusal ?

**Minister :** If you want to make further enquiries you might give me notice and I will enquire.

**SCHOLARSHIPS WON BY STUDENTS OF MUNICIPAL BOARD HIGH SCHOOL  
AT RUPAR.**

**\*6417. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education be pleased to state—

- (a) the year in which the Municipal Board High School, Rupar, was opened ;
- (b) the year in which control of Municipal Board High School, Rupar, was transferred to the Government ;
- (c) the number of scholarships secured by students during the period when the school was a Municipal Board High School ;
- (d) the number of scholarships won by the students after it was provincialized and up to 1936 ?

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

**CLOSURE OF MUNICIPAL BOARD MIDDLE SCHOOL, PANIPAT.**

**\*6419. Khan Sahib Khawaja Ghulam Samad :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education be pleased to state—

- (a) whether he has received any representation from the public of Panipat against the closure of the Municipal Board Middle School, Panipat, with all its branches, which was situated at a central place in the town ;
- (b) the reasons given by the Municipal Committee for its closure ;
- (c) the action, if any, that Government intends to take in the matter ?

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

**FEROZEPORE CANTONMENT-ZIRA ROAD.**

**\*6420. Captain Sodhi Harnam Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister of Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ferozepore District Board unanimously adopted a resolution that Ferozepore cantonment-Zira Road which is a third class road be classed as second class road as it was an important road and fulfilled all the necessary conditions of a second class road ;

(b) if the reply to (a) be in the affirmative, the action that was taken by the Government on the said resolution ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Shaikh Faiz Muhammad) :** (a) Government is not aware of any such resolution.

(b) Does not arise.

**Captain Sodhi Harnam Singh :** Is it not a fact that the Government has received copy of the resolution ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** The Government has not received any copy of the resolution.

**EXTENSION OF THE JUNIOR VERNACULAR COURSE.**

**\*6422. Sardar Harjab Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state—

(a) whether the term for Junior Vernacular course in Gujrat Normal School is one year and that of the same course in the Karnal and Ghakhar Normal Schools is two years and that further the students passing from any of these schools will have the same facilities to join Senior Vernacular classes and Government service ; if so, the reasons for this discrimination ;

(b) whether the Director of Public Instruction, Punjab, has recently received any application from the Ghakhar School requesting the department to fix the term for the Junior Vernacular course in that school to one year ; if so, the action that the Government proposes to take in the matter in view of the fact that the examination of those allowed to complete the Junior-Vernacular course in one year is at hand ?

**The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye :** (a) The J. V. course at the Government Normal School, Gujrat, which is of a special type extends over one year, while that at Karnal, Lalamusa and Gakkhar Normal schools extends over two years.

For admission to the one year S. V. course, two year trained J. V. teachers of outstanding merit who have put in at least three years' approved and good work in a recognised institution and have been well reported upon by their headmasters or inspecting officers are selected, preference being given to those who have improved their qualifications by passing an examination in modern Indian or oriental languages of the Punjab University or have done some experimental work in their schools or have attempted with success newer, brighter and more interesting methods in teaching. One-year

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trained J. V. teachers are also eligible for admission to the one-year S. V. class provided that (1) the teachers' work has been endorsed as good for a period of at least three years continuously and (2) the teachers have been experimenting on a new method of teaching or have worked a new method with success or have improved their qualifications by passing University examinations in Oriental or modern Indian languages.

J. V. teachers, whether one year or two year trained, are not recruited in Government service.

(b) A representation from the students of the Gakhar Normal School has been received by the Headmaster and is under consideration.

#### GRANT-IN-AID TO KHALSA GIRLS' SCHOOL AT SRIHARGOBINDPUR.

**\*6423. Sardar Sahib Sardar Santokh Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) whether he is aware that payment of the grant-in-aid sanctioned for the recognized Khalsa Girls' School at Srihargobindpur in the Gurdaspur district is generally delayed by the local Small Town Committee and that this delay causes a lot of inconvenience to the managing body of the school ;

(b) whether it has come to his notice through a resolution passed and representations made recently by the Sikhs of the locality that the grant of Rs. 406 sanctioned by the Inspectress of Schools for the said school on 6th October, 1939, for the year 1939-40 has not so far been paid again to the embarrassment of the managing body ; if so, the action intended to be taken in the matter ?

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

(b) Yes ; the matter is being looked into.

#### POSTPONEMENT OF THE COMPETITIVE EXAMINATION FOR ADMISSION TO RASUL ENGINEERING SCHOOL.

**\*6424. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :** Will the Honourable Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether 25th February, 1940, was fixed as the date for the competitive examination for admission to the Rasul Engineering School ;

(b) whether the competitive examination has now been postponed to some other date ; and, if so, the date to which it has been postponed and the reasons for its postponement ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Shaikh Faiz Muhammad) :** (a) Yes, 25th to 27th February, 1940, were fixed as the dates for the competitive examination for admission.

(b) Yes. The printed prospectus mentioned that the examination would be held in June. Subsequently the date was changed to February, and although this change was advertised in the press, it was later considered

that sufficient publicity had not been given to it. In fairness, therefore, to some 800 candidates who had bought copies of the prospectus and to those who lived in remote villages with little access to newspapers, the examination has finally been postponed to a date in June as originally published.

**ZAILDARS, SUFEDPOSSES, LAMBARDARS, JAGIRDARS AND GOVERNMENT  
PENSIONERS VOTING AND CANVASSING FOR CONGRESS CANDIDATES  
IN ELECTIONS.**

**\*5185. Sardar Hari Singh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state whether the Government takes objection to zaildars, sufedposhes, lambardars, jagirdars and Government pensioners voting and canvassing for congress candidates in elections to the Assembly or local bodies ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Sayed Amjad Ali Shah) :** The ballot is secret and Government are not in a position to take action, even though they wished to do so, against any person for the way he casts his vote in an election. As to canvassing, zaildars, sufaidposhes, lambardars, jagirdars and Government servants are not precluded from supporting the candidate of their choice, provided that they abstain from all unlawful action.

**FORCED LABOUR IN HISSAR DISTRICT.**

**\*6026. Sardar Hari Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister for Revenue be pleased to state whether he has recently received a representation from certain persons belonging to the depressed classes  
3 p. m. in district Hissar, complaining that they were made to do forced labour on the occasion of the recent visit of Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram to village Petwar, tahsil Hansi, district Hissar ; if so, whether inquiries have so far been instituted in the matter and if so, the result thereof ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan) :** *First part.*—Yes.

*Second part.*—The matter is being investigated by the local authorities.

**Sardar Hari Singh :** May I know who is the officer who is investigating this matter ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** Local authorities.

**Sardar Hari Singh :** What does he means by 'local authorities'?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** Officers who are there in the district.

**Sardar Hari Singh :** Deputy Commissioner or the Superintendent of Police ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** Deputy Commissioner.

**Sardar Hari Singh :** May I know if the Deputy Commissioner is personally investigating the matter ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I cannot say whether he himself is investigating the matter or his subordinates.

**Lala Deshbandhu Gupta :** Was the matter not brought to the notice of the Honourable Minister for Development ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** Certainly not.

**Sardar Hari Singh :** May I know whether the matter is being investigated by the Deputy Commissioner himself ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I cannot tell you whether the Deputy Commissioner himself is investigating the matter or some other officer.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** For how long has this matter been under the consideration of the Deputy Commissioner ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I cannot give the exact date.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Is it not being considered from the time when the Honourable Minister for Development paid a visit to that *ilaga* ?

**Mr. Speaker :** Disallowed.

**Lala Bhim Sen Sachar :** May I know if the Parliamentary Secretary had an opportunity of talking about this matter with the Honourable Minister for Development ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** Certainly not.

**Lala Bhim Sen Sachar :** How did the Parliamentary Secretary then say that the matter was not reported to the Honourable Minister for Development at the time of his visit ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** Because I know that if the Honourable Minister had come to know about it he would have taken prompt action.

**Lala Bhim Sen Sachar :** Do I take it that it was merely a matter of guess that he said so ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** It is a matter of knowledge.

**Lala Bhim Sen Sachar :** Is it within his knowledge or within the knowledge of any body else that this matter was not reported to the Honourable Minister ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I know that it was not brought to his notice, because had it been brought to his notice, action would have been taken.

**Lala Deshbandhu Gupta :** When was this representation received ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I cannot give the exact date.

**Lala Deshbandhu Gupta :** May I know if the Parliamentary Secretary has seen the representation ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** Most probably I have.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Was this representation made on behalf of those people who were made to give *begar* ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I do not remember the names of persons who represented in this matter.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** I do not want the names of these persons. What I want to know is whether the representation was made on behalf of those persons from whom the *begar* was taken ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** When my reply is that the matter is being investigated by local authorities, my telling as to on whose behalf the representation was made is immaterial.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know whether it was not clear from the representation that it was from the signatories of the representation that forced labour was taken from them?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** That would not make any difference whatsoever.

**Chaudhri Suraj Mal :** Is it a fact that the Deputy Commissioner himself and the Revenue Assistant went to the spot to enquire into the matter and all the depressed classes denied having sent any such representation and said that it was the mischief of some local Congressmen?

**Mr. Speaker :** The honourable member is giving information.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know whether it is open to the supporters of the Honourable Minister to give answers to such questions?

**Mr. Speaker :** Disallowed.

#### INCREASE IN CRIME.

**\*6029. Sardar Hari Singh :** Will the Honourable Premier be pleased to state whether he is aware of the rapid increase in the number of dacoities, robberies and burglaries in the province in the recent months since the outbreak of the war; if so, the reasons therefor?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Bahadur Sardar Ujjal Singh) :** There has been a marked increase in dacoities, robberies and burglaries in the Eastern Range. The basic causes are not clear, but I am afraid that the number of dangerous outlaws at present evading arrest is higher than usual, and this fact operates in several ways to bring about a rise in crime. Measures to deal with the situation have now been worked out. These include the provision of extra investigating staff, as well as arrangements to make the police in the affected districts more mobile.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** Is it a fact that the district police do not co-operate with the additional police that is posted in south-eastern districts?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** That is not a fact.

**Sardar Sohan Singh Josh :** Will the Parliamentary Secretary be pleased to state the names of the districts most affected?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** Karnal, Ambala, Ludhiana and Ferozepore.

**Chaudhri Muhammad Hasan :** Is it a fact that some of the lorry drivers who harbour these dacoits are favourites of the police?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** No.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Does Rohtak also appear in the list of those districts where crime is on the increase?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** Yes, Rohtak is also among them.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know why the Parliamentary Secretary overlooked the name of Rohtak?

**Mr. Speaker :** Disallowed.



## GRANT OF RELIEF TO ZAMINDARS OF JHAJJAR TAHSIL.

**\*6246. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state—

- (a) the total amount of land revenue collected from tahsil Jhajjar (Rohtak) in 1938, 1939 ;
- (b) the amount of land revenue remitted and suspended in these two years separately ;
- (c) the money given by the Government as *taccavi* for fodder and other purposes in these financial years for affording relief to the zamindars ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan) :** A statement is laid on the table.

*Grant of relief to zamindars of Jhajjar tahsil in the Rohtak district.*

Financial year.	LAND REVENUE.			
	Amount collected.	Amount suspended.	Amount remitted.	<i>Taccav</i> loans advanced.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1938-39 .. ..	1,51,397	3,05,912	17,784	3,29,583
1939-40 .. ..	91,797	3,65,139	1,07,478	4,87,104

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Is it a fact that in 1939-40 hardly one-sixth of the total land revenue recoverable from the Jhajjar tahsil was realized ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** It is not correct.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** The statement given in reply to my question shows that an amount of Rs. 3,65,139 was suspended and of Rs. 1,07,478 was remitted, and only a sum of Rs. 91,797 could be realized. Now is it or is it not a fact that according to these figures only one-sixth of the total land revenue could be realized this year ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** Rather it has been actually realized.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Is it also a fact that a sum equal to the amount that could be realized as land revenue has been granted by way of *taccavi* ?

**Minister :** Is there any harm in it ?

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** If it is a fact then why has the Jhajjar tahsil not been declared as a famine-stricken area ?

**Mr. Speaker :** Disallowed.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I know if the condition of this tahsil does not justify its being declared a famine-stricken area ?

**Mr. Speaker :** Disallowed.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** To what extent should an area be ruined before it can be declared a famine-stricken area ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** If the honourable member has any real interest in the matter, he had better read the Famine Code.

**Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** May I request the favour of the Parliamentary Secretary throwing some light on the point ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I am not here to lecture on the Famine Code.

MOTORING ON THE BANKS OF UPPER BARI DOAB CANAL.

**\*6348. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that people are allowed to ply motor cars and other vehicles on the right bank of the Upper Bari Doab Canal between the Lahore-Moghalpura-Delhi railway line bridge and Lahore-Ferozepore road bridge ;

(b) whether it is a fact that the left bank of the canal is not open to motor and other vehicular traffic ; if so, the reasons therefor ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan) :** (a) and (b). Vehicular traffic is not permitted on the left bank as a road fit for such traffic has not been constructed on this bank nor is it necessary as a public road exists on the right bank.

SHIFTING OF THE CHANNEL OF THE CANAL BETWEEN THE LAHORE-MUGHALPURA RAILWAY BRIDGE AND THE LAHORE-MULTAN RAILWAY LINE BRIDGE.

**\*6350. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** With reference to the reply to the unstarred question No. 999<sup>1</sup> asked by Chaudhri Sahib Ram, will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state when the proposal to shift the channel of the canal between the Lahore-Moghalpura railway bridge and the Lahore-Multan railway line bridge to the left side, is to be carried out ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan) :** The scheme is under examination and has yet to be approved by Government. It is, therefore, not possible to say when it will be taken up.

MASTER SALIG RAM OF GOVERNMENT HIGH SCHOOL, RUPAR,

**\*6411. Lala Duni Chand :** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state—

(a) With reference to the starred question No. 5686<sup>2</sup> put by me in the current session whether it is a fact that a resolution

<sup>1</sup>Vol. XI, page 308.

<sup>2</sup>Vide the debates of 8th February, 1940.

[Lala Dani Chand.]

No. 261, under which Master Salig Ram, Vernacular teacher of Government High School, Rupar, district Ambala, was not to be entrusted with the promotion examination of the Municipal Board Primary School, Rupar was passed by the Municipal Committee, Rupar,

(b) If so, the action he is prepared to take in the matter ?

**The Honourable Mian Abdul Haye :** (a) There is no mention of Master Salig Ram in the resolution (No. 261) of the Municipal Committee, Rupar.

(b) Does not arise.

REVISION OF ORDERS re THE APPOINTMENT OF *SARBARAHS* OF THE  
ZAILDARS.

**\*6421. Mian Abdul Rab :** Will the Honourable Minister of Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether any circular has been recently issued by the Financial Commissioner, Revenue, asking the Deputy Commissioners to cancel or revise their orders regarding the appointment of *sarbarahs* of the zaildars in their districts ; if so, whether he will be pleased to lay a copy of that order on the table of the House ;

(b) the reasons for issuing this circular ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan) :** (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

**Mian Abdul Rab :** If the Government did not issue any circular letter, may I know if any confidential instructions were issued ?

**Parliamentary Secretary :** I would refer my honourable friend to a question<sup>1</sup> which I answered yesterday.

GRANT OF LAND FOR SANSKRIT PATSHALA IN KALLUR KOT TO SWAMI  
AMAR DEV SANYASI.

**\*6425. Lala Bhagat Ram Choda :** Will the Honourable Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that Swami Amar Dev Sanyasi of Kallur Kot, district Mianwali, made a representation on the 27th September, 1937, to the Deputy Commissioner, Mianwali, regarding the grant of land on moderate charges for the purpose of a Sanskrit Patshala in the *ilaga* because a similar Patshala at Kot Jai, district Dera Ismail Khan, had been closed on account of frequent raids from the tribal area ;

(b) whether it is a fact that on that representation the Deputy Commissioner, Mianwali, has recommended to the Government that the land be given for educational purposes to the said petitioner ;

(c) if the answer to (a) and (b) above be in the affirmative, the action taken or intended to be taken by the Government in the matter ?

**Parliamentary Secretary (Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan):** (a) Yes,

(b) The Deputy Commissioner's recommendations are confidential. The decision of Government was not to make the grant because of stronger local claims, particularly of those whose lands have been washed away by the river. The Swami was informed of Government's decision at the time.

(c) Does not arise.

**Lala Bhim Sen Sachar:** I have not been able to follow. Was there any reason for not giving the land?

**Parliamentary Secretary:** I have said that the claims of the local people were much stronger.

**Lala Bhim Sen Sachar:** Was it in view of the fact that some other arrangements had been made for teaching Sanskrit?

**Parliamentary Secretary:** I am sorry I have not followed the question.

**Lala Bhim Sen Sachar:** The Parliamentary Secretary has said that the claims of the local members were to be preferred to this gentleman's claims: is it so?

**Parliamentary Secretary:** Who belonged to the Nabha State?

**Lala Bhim Sen Sachar:** May I know if any adequate arrangements for teaching Sanskrit were made?

**Parliamentary Secretary:** I am afraid the Honourable Education Minister will be able to tell you about the teaching of Sanskrit.

**Lala Bhim Sen Sachar:** Did Government take that question into consideration while arriving at a decision?

**Parliamentary Secretary:** I am afraid without notice I cannot say whether arrangements for teaching Sanskrit were satisfactory or not.

**Lala Bhim Sen Sachar:** Was there any local applicant for the land?

**Parliamentary Secretary:** There were several applicants clamouring that land should be given to them who belonged to the district and whose lands had been washed away.

**Lala Bhim Sen Sachar:** Are any local applications pending before the Government?

**Parliamentary Secretary:** There is a large number of such applications pending.

**Lala Bhim Sen Sachar:** For the same purpose?

**Parliamentary Secretary:** Not for this purpose.

#### APPLICATION OF KHAN BAHADUR MIAN AHMAD YAR KHAN DAULATANA FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

**Mr. Speaker:** I have to read out to the Assembly the following application received from Khan Bahadur Mian Ahmed Yar Khan Daulatana,

[Mr. Speaker.]

C.B.E., praying for permission to be absent from the Assembly. The application reads as follows:—

As I am ill and unable to attend the current session of the Assembly I request that my absence from the sittings of the Assembly may kindly be excused.

Is it the pleasure of the House that the permission asked for be given?

(Voices : Yes, yes.)

*The permission was granted.*

### PRIVILEGE MOTION.

**Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :** I gave notice of a privilege motion.

**Mr. Speaker :** No motion, whether an adjournment motion or a privilege motion, can be taken up on the last Budget day. That has been the practice of this House.

**Diwan Chaman Lall :** Do I take it that the privilege motion, of which notice was given by my honourable friend the Leader of the Opposition, will be taken up on the next working day?

**Mr. Speaker :** All I can say at present is that it cannot be taken up to-day.

**Diwan Chaman Lall :** The point is that if it cannot be taken up to-day, will it be taken up the next sitting day? As far as the privilege motion is concerned it has precedence over all other business according to the rules, and if it is not going to be taken up then you are using discretionary powers. Therefore I ask you for our guidance as to what you intend to do with regard to that motion: if it cannot be disposed of to-day and is to be taken up on the next sitting of the Assembly, will you require a fresh notice to be given?

**Mr. Speaker :** The honourable member knows the practice of the House. I do not think a fresh notice shall be necessary.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** These adjournment motions are being ruled out because the Budget is under discussion.

**Mr. Speaker :** I have not ruled them out. All I have ruled is that they cannot be taken up to-day.

**Dr. Sir Gokul Chand Narang :** On account of the Budget, even if they do not relate to the matter under discussion? Cannot the ruling whether they are in order or not be given to-day?

**Mr. Speaker :** Of course, not.

**Diwan Chaman Lall :** Does it apply equally to the privilege motion?

**Mr. Speaker :** Yes.

**Diwan Chaman Lall :** According to the rules a privilege motion has precedence over all other business.

**Mr. Speaker :** Please read the rule.

**Diwan Chaman Lall :** On page 11, rule 37 reads as follows :—

- (1) A motion on a question of privilege suddenly arising is entitled to immediate precedence over all other business.

**Mr. Speaker :** This means that if it arises *suddenly* on the floor of the House ; and not if it arose outside the House and on a previous day.

**Diwan Chaman Lall :** This is a motion which arises from something which the Tribune had published to-day *qua* members of the House.

**Mr. Speaker :** I am not going to permit it, because it has not arisen *suddenly*.

**Diwan Chaman Lall :** The other portion of the rule is :—

- (2) A motion on a question of privilege may be made after questions and before the business of the day is entered upon although the question does not suddenly arise, but any such motion shall be made at the earliest opportunity and does not ordinarily require notice.

**Mr. Speaker :** Will the honourable member please read Rule 15 of the Governor's Rules ?

**Diwan Chaman Lall :** Rule 15 says :—

The voting of demands for grants shall take place on such days not exceeding fifteen as the Governor exercising his individual judgment may allot for the purpose.

We do not deny that Government has appointed this day for the discussion of the demands for grants. We do not object to the discussion of the demands. All that we say is that after the demands are disposed of, time may be given for the discussion of this motion.

**Mr. Speaker :** Will the honourable member please read rule 15, sub-rule (5) ?

**Diwan Chaman Lall :** It reads thus :—

On the last day fixed for the voting of demands for grants the consideration thereof shall not be anticipated by a motion of adjournment or be interrupted in any other manner whatsoever, nor shall any dilatory motion be moved in regard thereto.

Nobody is wanting to do that.

**Mr. Speaker :** It shall be interrupted if I allow this motion to be moved.

**Diwan Chaman Lall :** What I suggest is this that the adjournment motion shall not interrupt the discussion of the demand for grant.

**Mr. Speaker :** The honourable member is presumably aware that only a few days ago, on the last day of the supplementary demands, an adjournment motion was disallowed.

**Diwan Chaman Lall :** Only the other day an adjournment motion was moved by Mr. Gauba when demands were being discussed.

**Mr. Speaker :** That was not the last day. On days other than the last, with the permission of the Speaker, any business can be taken up according to sub-rule (8) of Rule 15. But if the whole House unanimously wants the motion to be moved to-day, I have no objection, I shall be delighted to allow it. If the House has no objection, I have none.

At this stage Mr. Speaker took the sense of the House which was against permission being given for the privilege motion to be moved.

## DEMANDS FOR GRANTS.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT (BUILDINGS AND ROADS)  
ESTABLISHMENT.

**Mr. Speaker :** Mr. Dev Raj Sethi will now resume his speech.

**Mr. Dev Raj Sethi** (Lyallpur and Jhang, General, Rural) (*Urdu*) : Sir, yesterday before the House adjourned for the day I was arguing that the credit claimed by my honourable friend opposite to the effect that the Punjab was leading in the matter of roads, was not substantiated by facts and figures adduced by me. But as I stated yesterday, the Punjab undoubtedly leads other provinces in one respect and that is in the number of accidents which can occur on account of bad and defective roads. Yesterday I also quoted figures to show that last year 1,010 accidents took place. As a result of these accidents 345 people were killed outright and 1,391 sustained serious injuries. This is really a horrible state of affairs. It means that daily 4 or 5 persons are injured and one precious human life is sacrificed at the altar of motor lorry traffic. But what is the root cause of these accidents? It is due among other causes to the roads being in an unsatisfactory state of repairs. In this connection I may point out that some time ago the Central Government had appointed an enquiry committee to find out the causes of increasing road accidents. On page 17 of the report presented by this committee it is laid down: "One reason that has been suggested is the low standard of roads, their narrowness and poor surfacing". These remarks truly portray the condition of our roads where fatal accidents occur too frequently. I would also like to quote an extract from the "Monthly News Letter" of July, 1938, which has a direct bearing on the subject under discussion. It is as follows:—

Speaking at the annual meeting of the Western India Automobile Association, Bombay, on June 30, Mr. H. E. Ormerod, the President of that Association, called attention once again to the increasing accidents in India and deplored the fact that no attempts were made to bring to light or remedy such contributory causes of accidents as blind corners, insufficient road space, bad layout or other defects of the road.

"It is an unfortunate fact," said Mr. Ormerod, "that whereas road conditions are frequently the cause of accidents, the whole of the blame for the accidents fall on the motorists because no full investigation is made of the causes involved."

It is quite apparent that the increase in the number of accidents in the Punjab is partly due to reasons as stated by Mr. Ormerod. I may cite an instance of Lahore-Lyallpur Road. It is 87 miles in length but contains innumerable blind curves. The result is that every now and then we hear of accidents on this road. Besides, the road is so insufficiently wide at places where there are culverts that a lorry can pass with great difficulty. As I frequently go to Lyallpur by that road I see things in their true perspective.

Now I would like to invite the attention of the honourable members to the Buildings and Roads Branch of the Public Works Department. My friends would be surprised to know that 15 lakhs of rupees have been

provided for the supervising body and establishment of this department. This amount is out of all proportion to the amounts spent by other provinces. I am of the opinion that it is nothing short of a huge waste of money. The expenditure should be considerably cut down. But in spite of the fact that the axe of retrenchment had been occasionally applied to this department, it has been expanding like *شماره های*. In 1931 a Retrenchment Committee was set up by Government to make suggestions for curtailing the expenditure incurred on the Public Works Department. I may state for the information of the House that before the appointment of this committee, the establishment of the Public Works Department consisted of a Chief Engineer, 2 Deputy Chief Engineers, 4 Superintending Engineers, 16 Executive Engineers, 9 Sub-Engineers, Overseers, etc., including the Secretary of the Communication Board which post was created in 1920. But before the Retrenchment Committee actually started work, the posts of two Deputy Chief Engineers, and the Secretary of the Communication Board were retrenched and 6 divisions and 9 sub-divisions were abolished. I may also add that in 1931 the total amount incurred in connection with the Roads and Buildings Branch of the Public Works Department was to the tune of Rs. 72½ lakhs. But it is interesting to note that no less than Rs. 16½ lakhs, i.e., 23 per cent of the total grant was consumed by the establishment. Then in 1933-34 after the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee had been given effect to, the total amount of expenditure came to Rs. 70 lakhs and the establishment accounted for Rs. 14,75,000, that is, 21 per cent of the total amount. The figures of 1939-40 show that Rs. 90 lakhs were provided for this branch and out of this amount Rs. 15 lakhs, that is 17 per cent of the total grant was spent on the establishment.

It means that the percentage of establishment to works is equal to 21 per cent. Now for the year 1939-40, which is ending now, the corresponding figures are works and repairs Rs. 90 lakhs, and Establishment Rs. 19 lakhs. If we deduct the expenses of the Moghulpura Engineering College, and of the Electrical Engineer and his establishment who is at present under the control of the Chief Engineer, Buildings and Roads Branch, the establishment charges come to Rs. 15½ lakhs. This means that the percentage of establishment to works is 17 per cent. It is possible that my honourable friends may say that they have reduced the expenses of the establishment from 23 per cent in 1931-32 to 17 per cent in 1939-40 and that now there is no chance of any further reduction in these expenses. But I hold that this percentage is even now too high. It is quite conceivable that my honourable friends opposite may say that I am neither an expert nor an engineer and therefore I have no *locus standi* to pronounce judgment that even now these expenses are too much. But I may point out that this is not my personal view, on the other hand this opinion has been expressed by the Resources and Retrenchment Committee. It is stated in the report on page 153 :—

We still feel that in this department the cost of the establishment bears an unduly large proportion to the amount spent on original works and repairs.

In the opinion of that Committee even now the expenditure is more than what it should be. If we compare the expenses which are incurred on the establishment of Buildings and Roads Branch in the Punjab with those of other provinces we would find that, as has often been claimed by



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my honourable friends opposite, the Punjab leads other provinces in the matter of incurring huge expenditure on keeping a large establishment for this department.

Now, the question arises as to how economies can be effected in this expenditure. If we carefully study the budget we would find that large sums of money are spent on paying fat salaries to high officers and reductions can very justifiably be made in them. But my friends will say that these are covenanted posts and therefore they have no authority to effect any reduction in their salaries. In my opinion this is only a lame excuse. If we carefully study the Budget we would find that not only fat salaries are paid to those officers but also much more money is paid to them in the form of travelling allowances, hill allowances, honoraria and last but not the least Lahore allowance. I am at a loss to understand why a person who gets Rs. 3,000 or Rs. 4,000 a month in Lahore is paid Lahore allowance as well. Do the Government think that these officers are poor and they cannot maintain their position in Lahore and therefore they are paid Lahore allowance? Honourable members will be surprised to know that the Chief Engineer, who stands in need of drawing Lahore allowance, gets Rs. 41,610 per annum. Such officers are given Lahore allowance as well. I can very well see the justification of drawing such an allowance if this officer had been called upon to live in the Andamans or in jungles. But I fail to understand, while living in Lahore how he is entitled to draw this allowance. This, in fact, passes my comprehension. The expenditure on the Chief Engineer's office comes to something like Rs. 2 lakhs and the Chief Engineer alone costs the Punjab Government more than Rs. 50,000. Now the question arises whether these expenses are not too much or whether any reduction cannot be effected in them. To my mind great saving can be effected in this expenditure. In this connection I am constrained to ask although my honourable friends in season and out of season claim that they are the real well wishers of the zamindars, whether this is the way in which they are showing their sympathy for the zamindars that they are squandering away the public funds on paying huge salaries to these officers. Not to speak of making reductions in the salaries of such officers, they have not even thought it fit that before presenting the new Budget they should hold a discussion on the Report of Resources and Retrenchment Committee. It would have been much better if the Government had allowed the honourable members to discuss the said Report before the presentation of this year's Budget. Although it was placed on the agenda, it was considered to be so very insignificant that even the Bill for collecting empty wine bottles was regarded as more important than the Report and consequently it was placed last on the list. My submission is that the Committee after examining the points of views of various experts both of the department and outside, has recommended that the Irrigation, and Buildings and Roads Branches should be amalgamated under the supervision of one Chief Engineer with a joint establishment. The experts were of the opinion that if both these departments were amalgamated, roads would suffer and there would be loss in efficiency which would not be counterbalanced by any economy. However by a majority the Committee recommended the amalgamation of the Buildings and Roads Branch with the Irrigation Department. Let me point out to

my honourable friends that this question cannot be made a party question. Our object is to save money of the poor tax-payer from being wasted and to spend it on the construction of more roads so that the people residing in the rural areas should be in a position to derive more benefit. If on account of any reason the suggestion cannot be adopted then the said Committee has put forth another unanimous recommendation which can be adopted. I may point out that the Buildings and Roads branch of the Public Works Department exists mainly for the purposes of construction and repair of Government buildings. If we study the Budget very carefully we would find that at present Rs. 57 lakhs are incurred every year on repairing roads and buildings, and the establishment charges are something like Rs. 15 lakhs. It follows that for simply repairing and construction of roads we are bearing such huge expenses by way of establishment charges. At present from the Chief Engineer down to the overseers all are doing only this work. Now practically no new buildings are needed. The department therefore is mainly entrusted with the task of repairing Government buildings or roads. In this connection I may point out that just as the police and the jail departments see to the repairs of their own buildings other departments can also look after the repairs of their buildings. If they are asked to get their repairs done themselves it will result in considerable saving. It is in fact unnecessary that for the repairs of buildings so large an establishment should be maintained. This should be done away with. If in the United Provinces, Bombay and two or three other provinces this work is being carried on efficiently and economically by the departments concerned, I do not see why it cannot be done here. As a matter of fact I believe that the work of repairs of buildings can be supervised by respective departments themselves. So far as the construction of roads is concerned the policy has been fairly stabilized. So the said Committee has taken the ground that in future the work of the engineers will be to carry on and develop a clearly settled policy. They will not have to adumbrate new policies and new practices with regard to it daily. But in fact their work would consist of routine work and they would only have to keep these roads in good condition. In view of this the said Committee has recommended that the post of the Chief Engineer of the Roads and Buildings branch should be abolished. They have also recommended that it would suffice for the efficient management and control of roads in the Punjab to divide the province into two Superintending Engineer Circles—East and West—with headquarters at Ambala and Lyallpur and divide the existing circles between these two. If this arrangement is adopted that would eliminate the posts of Chief Engineer and two Superintending Engineers and possibly one or two Executive Engineers. This would result in a large saving in the expenditure of the Public Works Department. I may point out that only with the abolition of the post of Chief Engineer and his establishment can a saving to the tune of about two lakhs be effected. Further, by the abolition of the two posts of Superintending Engineers much saving would be made. Let me make it clear that here there is no question of vested interests. We are simply concerned as to how saving can be effected so as to make the financial condition of the Punjab a sound one.

Then the question arises as to what will become of the Electrical Engineer who is at present under the control of the Chief Engineer, Buildings.

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and Roads Branch. So far as this question is concerned the Committee has recommended that the work of the Electrical Engineer can be transferred to the Hydro-Electric department. In fact at present the Hydro-electric branches are found everywhere in the Punjab with the exception of only a few places and this work of the Electrical Engineer can very conveniently be transferred to that department. Let me also point out that even the Chief Engineer, Hydro-Electric Branch, agreed in his evidence before the Committee that it was possible for him to take over the work of the Electrical Engineer without any additional expenditure in places where they had their staff. I wonder why the offer of the Chief Engineer, Hydro-Electric Department, was not accepted although the Government was not required to pay him any additional allowance. They would have been able to make a much desired saving but they have failed to avail of the opportunity.

Another question may be raised. What will become of the MacLagan Engineering College which is under the Public Works Department? The Retrenchment Committee have recommended that the college may be taken over by the department under our able friend, the Minister for Education. In this way this big show carried on under the auspices of the Public Works Department may be finished. As it is, the number of high officers in this department runs into hundreds and not into dozens. The opinion of the experts is that this department should be dismembered and finished. In this way the province can get rid of this unbearable burden, so that this Demand No. 24 does not come up for discussion next year. I have therefore taken this opportunity of making my suggestions now for the consideration of the Honourable Minister.

Then, there is the question of the Communication Board. This board exists to disburse money in the whole province. The board consists of 22 or 23 members with a Superintending Engineer as its Secretary. In 1931 the Retrenchment Committee recommended that the post of the Superintending Engineer as Secretary to this board should be abolished. Now the expenditure on the establishment of this board is not small. It exceeds Rs. 48,000. The membership consists of experts and ten gentlemen who are all Rai Bahadurs, Sardar Bahadurs or Khan Bahadurs, although I wonder if they have given any proof of their *bahaduri*. These so-called *bahadurs* have neither any experience of road-building nor can they be considered experts. (*Khan Bahadur Nawab Muzaffar Khan*: They are laymen like my honourable friend). Yes, they are inexperienced like any of us. After all this is a popular Ministry. The days of sycophants and flatterers are over. The Government, therefore, should include in the board some gentlemen who are popular with the people and who have experience of the work. It is better to take a representative each of the five divisions. Otherwise the whole object of this Communication Board would be lost. I seriously put this to the Government that the bloc of ten members should be overhauled. The experts should be there only as advisers and they should have no votes. The disbursements must be entirely in the hands of the members. The Communication Board can prove useful only if overhauled as suggested by me.

I have to make another suggestion. The MacLagan Engineering College has been enlarged. I agree that the college is run on healthy lines. But what about the efficiency of the institution? The report about the working of the College shows that two lakhs were spent on it during the last year. Thus every student accounts for Rs. 724. I doubt if the general make-up of the students in mechanical engineering justifies this huge expenditure. In reply to a question the House was informed that the post of a professor in this college has not been filled up for the last ten months because a candidate of a particular community was not available. This is communalism run amok. To sacrifice the studies in a professional college for such a long period does not contribute to a healthy state of affairs.

Now, I come to the question of civil engineering. Previously twenty or twenty-five students from the province were admitted to the Roorkee College as a result of a competitive examination and this Government used to make to it a contribution of a lakh of rupees. Now that that sum has been stopped on the recommendation of the Retrenchment Committee, it is necessary to open a branch for civil engineering in the Mughalpur College. There is no doubt that the ability of the Roorkee alumni was unsurpassed in India but let us hope that the college authorities will try to maintain that high standard in our province also. I understand the Ministry has under consideration the proposal of giving a special pay of Rs. 400 to the Principal of the Engineering College in view of his additional duties. He is already getting Rs. 1,200 and I do not think an addition of Rs. 400 in his pay is desirable. We can engage an able man with foreign qualifications on Rs. 400. Although this sum has not been included in the present Budget, my fears are that sooner or later it will be provided for. I have, therefore, thought it fit to warn the Government against such a step.

Now, comes the question of corruption in the Public Works Department. It is well known that corruption is rampant in every department, in police department, in courts and everywhere. But this may be admitted to the credit of the officials of other departments that they accept bribes with a certain amount of fear. But so far as the Public Works Department is concerned.....

**Mr. Speaker :** That is repetition.

**Mr. Dev Raj Sethi :** The officers of this department think that it is their birth-right to misappropriate five per cent of the estimates. Why? The rates of the department are favourable for the nefarious practices of the officers. Many committees have recommended that the rates be scrutinised carefully but nothing has been done to check the evil of corruption successfully. I have gone through the previous debates and have found that this has been always a burning question but nothing has been done so far to put a stop to corruption in this department. No doubt rates were fixed on different levels in the case of different regions but that too has not mended matters. Why? The rates have continued to be as unscientific and unmethodical as ever.

**Mr. Speaker :** Rates also have been discussed.

**Mr. Dev Raj Sethi :** But not just as I propose to discuss them. We all know that the Haveli Project was completed on an expenditure less by two crores of rupees than the estimates. But in spite of that no contractor

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had a profit less than fifty thousand rupees. And this is also a fact that tenders are often offered less by forty per cent of the scheduled rates. This shows that the rates are fixed without considering the situation properly. I shall give you another instance. At this time two bungalows have been built in Lahore. One for Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram and another for the Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal. The bungalow of Sir Chhotu Ram is twice as big as that of Mr. Manohar Lal and it has the same specification. But the cost has been Rs. 30,000 in the case of the former and not less than Rs. 60,000 in the case of the latter.

Now the only reason for this disparity is that one is being built out of private funds under personal control and the other has been constructed from public funds under Public Works Department control. These facts are too obvious to be denied and the Government has no answer to this charge. In short the extent to which corruption, jobbery, snobbery and robbery prevails here cannot be found in any other department. These epithets fit the Public Works Department like a glove.

Again, there are numerous Government buildings in the province and the material used in them is imported from outside the province. The Government do not care even to buy electric bulbs which are being manufactured in India. There are Bengal lamps, for instance. But why should we go to Bengal for buying our requirements when we can very easily manufacture them in our own province? Now that the Punjab is being electrified so rapidly the Government should start a state-owned industry for manufacturing electrical goods or else should subsidize any such industry. Again, there is coal tar which is being used in large quantities in the construction of tarred roads, and the tar now in use, that is the Shalimar tar is as much foreign as any other foreign product. It is very essential, therefore, that such industries should be started here so that our demands may be satisfied from within the province.

My honourable friend Sardar Kapoor Singh had, while referring to the roads, remarked that in all the roads that have been constructed the interests of the Honourable Ministers have been kept in view. I was under the impression that such things may have happened in the past but that now they are not going to happen. But I was surprised to see that in connection with the New Expenditure of Rs. 8 lakhs from Central Road Fund instead of connecting the tahsils with their district headquarters by constructing new roads the Government want to spend a large sum of money, about Rs. 82,000, on improving and metalling Sargodha-Mari Lak-Jhawarian Road in Shabpur district. This is how this amount is going to be spent. A road to village Kalra, the native place of the Honourable Minister for Public Works Department which was an unknown village, has been constructed. The native village of Sir Firoz Khan Noon is being connected by another road. Nobody objects to the use of provincial funds in this manner but to allot sums of money in the new expenditure for roads such as these at the cost of the crying needs of the rural population is nothing short of grave injustice. If such use is to be made of this money, why do they not metal the Jhang-Shorkot Road which is in a rotten state? Gojra is a very important commercial centre. From Jhang to Mochiwala there is the tarred

road and there are three miles of pucca road from Gojra ; if the intervening five miles were constructed, Gojra would be accessible by a through motorable road resulting in increase of business and facilities to the neighbouring agricultural population. Again, Kuda is a great fruit producing market and is at present reached by a road belonging to Mandi State which charges a tax of Rs. 10 per lorry. If the Government were to take over that road from the State, they would be encouraging the fruit industry.

Besides the question of roads, I want to refer to another matter. The Motor Vehicles Act is being enforced from the 1st April, 1940. According to this Act certain restrictions have been imposed on this department. Under the new rules framed by the Punjab Government there is a provision for constructing buildings, waiting sheds, lavatories, and retiring rooms for passengers and drivers. It is the duty of the Government to have these things constructed before enforcing the new Act, but nothing of the kind has so far been done and within two or three days, on April Fools' Day, the whole of the province will be made a fool of. The Government have not realized its responsibility in this behalf. So much so that when the Secretary of the Punjab Motor Union tried to see the Honourable Minister he was refused an opportunity to interview him. That is the limit of haughtiness which could be exhibited by a Minister of a responsible Government run by a popular Ministry. If he had benefited by the expert advice of the Secretary, he would have improved the rules. The question of stands demands particular attention. As intended by the Motor Vehicles Act and as laid down by rules by various provincial governments the Punjab Government should so modify the rules about motor stands that no private motor lorry stands are permitted. That alone will help in developing motor business on healthy lines.

The passengers travelling by lorries from Lyallpur to Jhang are put to great trouble and inconvenience. For a distance of 47 miles, they have to pay 12 annas while for a distance of 87 miles from Lyallpur to Lahore the same amount is being charged, the reason being that in the former case a monopoly has been granted to a board of sycophants of the Government, including Sardar Makhan Singh who gets 60 per cent out of the income as arranged with the North-Western Railway. The Honourable Minister had assured us that from the 1st of April, the monopoly system would be discontinued, but the Deputy Commissioner has again granted him a licence for the next year. On being asked, the Honourable Minister replied that the Deputy Commissioner had done so on his own responsibility. I would request the Honourable Minister to cancel this licence and to treat the Lyallpur-Jhang Road as an ordinary road.

I wonder what has become of that sympathy which Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram used to feel for the zamindars. Now nothing is being done for their benefit. All that an expenditure of Rs. 70 or 75 lakhs achieves is that the Mall Road at Lahore and other similar roads connecting big towns are kept clean and free of dust. But in rural areas the kutchra roads are in such a hopeless condition that no traffic is at all possible on them. The importance of roads in villages is being deliberately overlooked. As the Chief Engineer resides in Lahore he only wants to make this city vie with London and no thought is given to the needs of the poor rural population. I would request

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the Honourable Minister to take all these facts into consideration and to try to redress these complaints.

**Khan Sahib Chaudhri Sahib Dad Khan** (Hissar, Muhammadan, Rural) (*Urdu*): Sir, so far as the question of bridges is concerned there is only one railway bridge over the river Ghaggar in tehsil Sirsa, Hissar district. There is no other bridge for men, animals, etc., for crossing the river and this is a source of very great inconvenience and danger to the people. The depth of the river is about 25 feet and the width is not less than 70 feet. Moreover there are a large number of trees in this ilaqa, which afford a very good hiding place to the dacoits. In the absence of a bridge, the police is also handicapped in pursuing these dacoits and effecting their arrest. Again, it was proposed to construct a bridge on the road coming from Hissar to Multan, but that proposal has not as yet been given effect to. Then again, a big town, Ratia by name, is situated on the bank of the river. It is a very important and flourishing place, but

4. p. m. since there is no bridge on the river the police finds it well nigh impossible to exercise an effective control over the ilaqa during the monsoon and heavy winter rains. I would, therefore, impress upon the Government the necessity of constructing a bridge over the stream at this place.

It is a matter of satisfaction that the work of improving the Dabwali-Sirsa road is well in hand, but judging from the progress that has been so far made in this connection, one can safely assert that the work would not be accomplished before the next rainy season. I would request the Government to get more men from the famine-stricken area and employ them for the purpose so that the road may be metalled quite in time. At present thousands of famished people from Hissar have been employed for reconditioning the unmetalled roads of that ilaqa. As a matter of fact this work has been started as part of the relief measures. If the Government decides to improve and metal 3 or 4 roads every year and employ men only from the famished districts for the purpose, I think such a permanent feature of road construction programme can prove a satisfactory solution of this menacing problem of famine and scarcity.

Then, Sir, in my ilaqa police posts are at a considerable distance and the defective means of communication have made it extremely difficult for the authorities to maintain law and order there. If you metal all the important roads of my district and thus make an attempt to connect various police stations with the headquarters, the criminals carrying on their nefarious activities in that part of the province can easily be rounded up. Again, there is a level crossing on the railway line near Rohtak and the road takes a considerable turn to cross over it. In fact this curve has proved very dangerous to vehicular traffic and recently 2 accidents have taken place here. I would request the Government to make necessary arrangements for removing this curve and straightening the road at this point. With these words, Sir, I resume my seat.

**Khan Bahadur Nawab Muzaffar Khan** (Attock North, Muhammadan, Rural) (*Urdu*): Sir, it was not my intention to waste the valuable time of the House by making a speech on the subject under discussion but my honourable friend Mr. Dev Raj Sethi, who belongs to my district—Jhang

district which is as dear to me as Attock—has made certain highly uncharitable and unjust remarks which compel me to make a few observations in this connection. I know Mr. Sethi is an honest and conscientious gentleman and therefore it is all the more regrettable that his remarks were not strictly in accordance with truth. He said that not only in the matter of length but also as regards quality, our roads are inferior to those of other provinces. So far as the question of length is concerned he may possibly be right. Our province is smaller in size than some other provinces and the length of their roads may be greater than ours. But as regards the quality of the roads there cannot be the slightest doubt as to the superiority of Punjab roads. Had he enquired from any one who had the misfortune to travel through other provinces by road, he would have thought twice before making such an irresponsible statement. I have met several friends, Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, Congressites and non-Congressites, who have had such an experience, and they were all unanimously of the opinion that no sooner they stepped out of the province they saw a marked difference in the quality of the Punjab roads and those of other provinces. We have all seen the excellent condition of the Lahore-Amritsar Road and my friend Mr. Sethi must have travelled on the Lahore-Lyallpur road and other mofussil roads and seen for himself how nicely they are maintained. Criticism is always welcome and it is the bounden duty of the Government to pay full attention to it, but it is disappointing when a responsible member of the Opposition bids good-bye to all canons of justice and fairplay when levelling criticism against a certain action of the Government. Criticism loses all its value by such irresponsible statements. I need hardly remind him as to what the condition of the Jhang-Chichawatni road was some 40 year ago. It was such a dusty and sandy road that your nearest kith and kin could hardly make you out when one alighted from the mail cart. You can get to Jhang on a 1st class metalled road. I would have been at one with my friend if he had simply suggested that metalled roads should be increased and several other unmetalled roads should be metalled, but it was hardly fair on his part to have run down the existing roads. I entirely agree with him when he says that two important roads of his ilaqa, namely, the Shorkot-Jhang road and the Jhang-Chiniot road, should be immediately metalled and improved. It is quite a legitimate request and the Government should have no hesitation in acceding to it. Both these roads are very important.

Then, Sir, my honourable friend advanced a very interesting argument in support of his contention. He said that there was a marked increase in the number of accidents, and from this he concluded that the roads were bad. Does my friend know that the roads in England are the best in the world? Yet the number of serious accidents there is perhaps the largest in the world. In fact the better the road the greater is the possibility of occurrence of accidents thereon. A motor driver, seeing a smooth nice road naturally becomes careless, presses the accelerator and lends wings to his engine. It is rash and negligent driving that results in accidents. You may be risking your car on a bad road, but there can hardly be any danger to life when you are moving slowly, which you must do on a bad road.

Now, I turn to the recommendation made by the Retrenchment Committee and to which my friend has referred in his speech. I entirely agree with him that the Irrigation Department should be amalgamated with the



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Roads and Buildings Branch of the Public Works Department. I may be allowed to mention here that I was also a member of the said committee and I honestly believe that the Government could effect a great deal of saving by amalgamating both these branches. I am afraid this recommendation would not find favour with the departments concerned, but the Government should persuade them to make the scheme workable. I am sure this would be in the best interests of the province. I am not an expert but even a layman can see how ridiculous it is that one set of engineers should be looking after the canal and another set managing the roads in the same area. I fail to understand why the same set of officers should not attend to both. It is pointed out that expert knowledge is needed for constructing roads. But I fail to see why Irrigation Engineers who can build excellent bungalows, wonderful bridges and headworks, will not be able to acquire that expert knowledge which is required for the construction of roads. I for one see no serious objection in amalgamating the two departments of Irrigation and the Buildings and Roads Branch.

One cannot help observing the difference in the cost of the bungalow of Mr. Manohar Lal and that of Sir Chhotu Ram. We are told that the former was constructed at a cost of Rs. 70,000 while the latter's cost was only Rs. 30,000. That must naturally create a suspicion in our minds as to the honesty of the department. I am reminded of a class fellow of mine who was an engineer or to be more accurate, a Sub-Inspector of Works in the Railway. In a moment of extreme frankness after dinner he told me how public money was squandered away and misappropriated by engineers. I would not have quoted this example but for its educative value. He told me that a bridge was sanctioned at a cost of Rs. 1,20,000 but that the contractor had to pay Rs. 60,000 in commission from head office downwards. The contractors must have gained say about Rs. 20,000 so the actual cost of the bridge must have been Rs. 40,000. That is how Government suffers at the hands of the engineers. I am convinced that if our Engineering Department were thoroughly honest in the discharge of their duties, all our financial difficulties would be solved in no time. No doubt the Government are doing their best to improve this department. But it is up to the public to co-operate because it is we ourselves who tempt the officers to receive bribes. Our brothers go to the zilladars and other officials to offer them illegal gratifications. It is our duty to stop such activities before blaming the Government and their officers.

Coming to local grievances I am afraid the Minister in charge may think that the coming elections prompt the honourable members to advocate the cause of their respective electorates.

**Minister of Public Works :** I have no such idea.

**Khan Bahadur Nawab Muzaffar Khan :** That is kind of you. But I may make it clear that I do not intend to stand from the same constituency from which I was elected last time. So this cannot be my motive. I can safely say with regard to my district that there is ظلم و فساد darkness under the lamp. The Honourable Premier hails from that district

and the Honourable Minister from that division, and yet that area lacks good roads. There is only one good metalled road which runs through a part of the district and that is the Grand Trunk Road. The bridge on the Campbell-pore-Basal road was washed away several years ago but has not been rebuilt so far. I may mention that if that bridge is repaired it will connect Pindi Gheb and Talagang tahsils with the headquarters and then help in putting down raids from across the borders. It will also improve the financial position of the zamindars inasmuch as they will be able to carry their agricultural produce in carts instead of carrying it on the back of camels as they do at present. Transportation by carts is cheaper by 4 annas per maund. It means that the Government demand of land revenue can be met by the saving that would be effected in this way. But as the Honourable Premier hails from this district, we hesitate to press the claims of this district lest people should think of favouritism. We do not get justice in this respect.

I will again take up the subject of corruption in the Public Works Department and quote one more example to illustrate the bad reputation of this department. A certain English officer of the Public Works Department who keenly felt the blot on his department used to collect the children of his servants in the evening and teach them different forms of salutes, military salutes, Nazi salutes, etc. When he asked the children the fashion of the Public Works Department salute they took their hands behind their backs as if asking for bribes (*Laughter*). It is not a matter for laughter. That shows the real feelings not only of the public but also of certain honest officers of the department. I admit that our Government has done a great deal to improve its services and the day is not far off when this terrible curse will be removed from our country, but I must stress the necessity of the co-operation of the public without which the much-needed reform cannot be brought about.

With these words, Sir, I resume my seat, and oppose the cut motion under consideration.

**Shrimati Shanno Devi** (West Multan Division, General, Rural) (*Urdu*): Sir, various honourable members have, since yesterday, been ventilating the local grievances of their respective constituencies and supporting their contentions by cogent arguments. I too have risen to speak on behalf of my own constituency which is very backward not only in the matter of roads but with regard to education as well. It is steeped in illiteracy and ignorance. My only hope is that the Government would be moved to do something to ameliorate the conditions of these down-trodden people. Mr. Speaker, I had a mind to wait and study the procedure of this House a little longer and familiarise myself with the way in which my honourable brothers speak and my honourable sisters listen to the speeches and *vice versa*. (*Hear, hear.*). But I have within my bosom a feeling heart that the Creator of this universe has given to every human being. Our motherland is in the grip of want and misery and I pray to the Almighty to grant strength to the speakers and patience to the listeners both of whom are anxious for the emancipation of the country. (*Cheers.*) I do not presume that my feeble voice would definitely move the heart of the Government but nonetheless I shall be failing in my duty if I do not bring the miserable

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condition of lakhs of people of my ilaqa to the notice of the Government. In fact the strength of my constituency is 22,000 only. But those voters in their turn represent several other persons. That is why I have mentioned lakhs of them. I strongly feel that I must depict the woeful plight of my constituency before this august House.

Yesterday, Khan Bahadur Mian Mustaq Ahmad Gurmani was pleased to remark that owing to the closure of the rail-cum-road bridge at night the districts of Muzaffargarh and Dera Ghazi Khan were cut off from the Punjab and the rest of the civilised world. I quite agree with him. But I may point out further that apart from being cut off from the rest of the Punjab at night, they are both cut away from each other also owing to a number of boat bridges which are closed to traffic after dusk. I can fully realise the difficulties of the people there. I can bear personal testimony to the correctness of these facts because I happened to pass 17 days in that ilaqa in connection with my election campaign in this constituency. Honourable members would believe me that after 6 o'clock in the evening, not to speak of the rest of the Punjab, one cannot go to Multan even. I vividly remember how during my election campaign I had once with great difficulty and after much entreaties to the railway authorities been able to obtain permission to get my lorry cross the aforesaid rail-cum-road bridge at 9 p. m. It is really very distressing to see this state of affairs, specially in this age of enlightenment and civilization.

Next, I fail to understand why the British Government which reigns supreme in our country and has full access to all the sciences has not been able to construct suitable bridges on modern lines in the abovementioned areas. What pains me all the more is that even the present autonomous Government has refused to turn a new leaf. Their continuance is nothing short of a slur on the fair name of a Government which has all possible resources of the province at its disposal. I am of the opinion that it is nothing but a policy of indifference and inaction on the part of the Government, which is responsible for its failure to provide proper bridges there. In this connection I am reminded of a very interesting experience which I had while crossing one of the boat bridges for the first time. When the lorry was going to cross this bridge, the driver asked all the occupants to get down but told me to keep sitting in my seat. I pointed out to him that I must alight too because he had asked all the persons to get down. I was one among those persons. I told him that he had not asked only men to get down. I may say in passing that unfortunately in India women are not included in the word 'persons' (*laughter*). What I want to emphasise is that while going to Dera Ghazi Khan from Muzaffargarh one has to alight from the lorry several times during passage over the boat bridges. This is the state of affairs during the winter season, when it is somewhat possible to cross these bridges. Honourable members can visualise the difficulties of the people during summer when the river is inundated. But one thing surprises me most and it is this. During my election tour I met innumerable persons in both the districts. They are quite advanced, enlightened, educated and above all well-to-do persons, contributing sufficiently to the coffers of the exchequer. They keep mum and do not move their little finger

to induce the Government to redress their grievances in regard to these bridges.

Again, I may point out that pucca roads and other means of communication in the Muzaffargarh district are conspicuous by their absence. The House will be surprised to know that it took us three hours to reach Mr. Gurmani's village from Muzaffargarh. The so-called road is so narrow and impassable at several places, especially where there are culverts, that it is difficult for a lorry to pass. I, therefore, invite all the representatives from these two districts occupying the Unionist benches, to hold a meeting and take a concerted action to persuade the Government to provide better roads and means of communication in the districts in question. If the Government refuse to listen to our just demands we shall have to give some sort of punishment to the Government. (*Laughter.*)

**An Honourable Member :** Will the representatives on the Unionist benches co-operate with her ?

**Shrimati Shanno Devi :** I fully realise that honest and genuine differences of opinion can exist in political matters. But in a matter concerning the welfare of the public and upon which all are agreed, I see no reason why co-operation should not be forthcoming from that side of the House.

Then, Sir, I would like to point out that the maintenance in good condition of the urban roads is as essential for the prosperity of the villagers as that of the various arteries and veins for the health of the heart and other parts of the human body. So long as the villages are not linked with the markets of the town by means of pucca and good roads, the economic condition of the ruralites cannot be improved in any way. In this respect the rural areas of the Muzaffargarh district lag far behind other districts. It is a thousand pities that in spite of the fact that Muzaffargarh is the biggest district in the Punjab and pays full quota of its taxes to the exchequer, the Government has adopted a callously indifferent attitude in the matter of providing better roads. This Government claims to be the government of the zamindars, but may I know if the district of Muzaffargarh is not inhabited by the zamindars ? They also deserve its considerate attention. I may point out that although they are economically worse off, yet politically they are quite advanced. They can shake the Government of its inertia if the latter would persist in behaving in their case in a lethargic manner.

Besides, I had a chance to glance through the Budget of 1937-38 of the Government. I found that very little had been provided for the amelioration of the people in the Muzaffargarh district. But I was surprised to see one thing which showed no signs of the backwardness of the districts. It was the up-to-date and furnished rest-houses which have been constructed not for the convenience of the poor zamindars but for the Government officials. I should like in this connection to emphasise upon the Unionist Government the lesson of my election to this House from a rural constituency as a Congress candidate. Let them beware that if they continue to ignore the poor zamindars callously the time is not far off when they will have to yield place to those who have genuinely the good and welfare of these zamindars at heart. (*Hear, hear.*)

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One thing more and I have finished. There was a time when women were not given equal status with men. Now it is a matter of gratification that they can be elected to legislatures and are deemed fit enough to shoulder public responsibilities. I, therefore, sound a note of warning to the Government that if it would take no steps to better the lot of the poor in the villages but would turn a deaf ear to our just and fair demands, we the five lady members of the House would join hands to make it listen. (Cheers.) With these words I close my speech.

**Captain Sodhi Harnam Singh** (Ferozepore North, Sikh, Rural) (Urdu): Sir, at present almost all the honourable members and in particular those representing the rural constituencies have pointed out to the Government the advisability of constructing roads in the ilaqas where at present no roads exist, and also to improve upon the conditions of existing roads which are in fact in a dilapidated condition. As a matter of fact the rural people have been clamouring for this facility, but so far their cry has proved a cry in the wilderness. It is therefore requested that the Government should pay attention to this pressing need of the rural people. At present the work that the Public Works Department is doing consists of widening the existing roads so that more accidents should not take place. But I may point out that the best thing for the Government would be to turn their attention to those roads which are in a dilapidated condition and to construct roads in those ilaqas where at present there are no means of communication. But I am constrained to remark that the policy which this department is pursuing is that it is providing facilities in the matter of roads only to those places where roads already exist. The way in which the Government are pursuing their road building programme leads one to doubt whether they are acting justly and equitably. Let me point out to them that if four loaves of bread are to be divided amongst four men the best and the safest course would be to give one loaf to every one of them. But we will not be justified if we give two loaves to one person in the first instance and finding that he is not satisfied also hand over the other two to him. If we do that that would kill the other three persons. This is the kind of treatment that we are getting from the Public Works Department. I do not think it can be in any way termed as fair and just.

Again, I may point out that if the condition of roads is improved it will go a long way in bettering the economic position of the inhabitants of this country and in particular of the zamindars whose plight now-a-days is indeed pitiable. If good roads are provided zamindars can bring their agricultural produce very easily to the markets and can get good price for them. At present what they do is, that they sell their produce to the village bania at cheaper rate as compared to the rates prevailing in the markets. As a matter of fact they do not know as to what are the rates of wheat, gram, cotton and gur in the markets. Consequently they have to depend on the honesty of the banias of which the honourable members have plenty of experience. In fact the zamindars sell their produce at a price which the bania tells them and in this way they do not get good price for their commodities. If means of communication are improved, they would very easily take their produce to the markets. Besides, they would be able to buy their necessities from the neighbouring cities, which at present

they buy from the village shop-keepers who charge exorbitant prices as compared to the prices prevailing in the cities. This would also result in saving the hard earned money of the zamindars. Moreover with the improvement of means of communication people residing in the rural areas would not find it difficult to go to the public hospitals and bring medicines for their sick relatives. This would go a long way in saving the lives of thousands of persons who at present suffer for want of medicine.

Besides, the zamindars have to incur great expenditure in sending their boys to schools and colleges in the cities. If road communications are improved such students can live in their homes and can go to schools on cycles or at least they can come during week-ends to their homes and thus can keep themselves in touch with the work of zamindars. In addition if the zamindar students continue to live in rural atmosphere the result would be that they will not regard it a disgrace to take to agriculture after completing their studies as they do now. Then again the district and other officers will be in a position to tour the country extensively. At present there are many places in the province where the officers cannot go because they have not so much spare time to trudge along *pakdandis* on horse-back or *ekas*. Now they visit only those places where motor cars or lorries can go. The villages which are situated at a distance of say 20 miles from the roads, there the officers cannot go. This results in the slackening of the administration or at least the administration there is not as efficient as it should be. With the improvement in the means of communications administration can also be made more efficient. Moreover, the number of dacoities, murders and other offences can also be reduced to a very large extent. Now-a-days when anybody goes to inform the police about the whereabouts of bad characters before it arrives on the scene these offenders decamp and make good their escape. In my opinion this is mainly due to the bad means of communication that the police is not successful in arresting such malefactors. Then again if anybody finds that anywhere people are illegally distilling wine he goes to lodge a report but before the police arrives on the scene such offenders finish their work and scamper off. This is all due to bad means of communication which makes the arrest of such offenders impossible. If the Public Works Department improves the condition of the existing roads and also constructs more roads, that would go a long way in bettering the economic condition of the zamindars as well as prove a great help to the Government in efficiently running their machinery. At present the ilaqa magistrates do very little work of touring the country. Consequently justice cannot be dispensed as it should be. If the ilaqa magistrates decide cases on the spot in that case they would be in a position to know the real facts and thus they could administer justice to all concerned. But this can only be done if road communications are improved. Further they will be also in a position to tour the far off ilaqs and thus they would be in a position to remove the complaints of the poor and the rich alike.

In the rural areas false news get wide currency and at present due to bad means of communication it is impossible for the Government to refute them. If means of communication are improved Ministers can go very easily to such ilaqs and refute such wild allegations. Now usually they tour only those ilaqs where there are road communications. I do not

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think that any Honourable Minister has ever gone to any ilaqa where motor cars cannot go. Let me point out that they do not go to those ilaqa, not that they do not want to go there, but because they have not sufficient time to go to such far off places on camels or horesback. If roads are constructed in such ilaqa then they would easily go there on motor cars and thus can judge for themselves as to what are the difficulties of the people residing there. My submission is that if the popular Government want to better the condition of the zamindars whom they are representing here, they can do so only if they improve the means of communication and transport. In my opinion this thing is even needed more than education.

Now I may point out that bad condition of our roads not only is a great hurdle in the way of our progress, but it affects our health as well. In fact when we walk on the roads lot of dirt and other injurious particles go in our lungs with our breath. If roads are improved that would also lead to the improvement of the health of the people. In this connection I may point out that the Punjab is famous for supplying recruits for the army. But if we study the reports of the Public Health Department we would find that 80 per cent of people of the Punjab suffer from eye diseases. The result is when such people go to get themselves recruited they are rejected. This thing also points to the advisability of improving the condition of our roads. But the trouble is that Government have not got money to improve these road communications. I think they can overcome this difficulty by effecting economies in their expenditure and the money that is saved can be spent on improving and constructing more roads.

The Government seems to think that it will continue in office, say, for a century. This is why it has no programme on hand which may be finished in a limited time. It is necessary, I think, that the Government should have, say, a five-year programme which it may be able to complete within the five years at its disposal. If this is done, the Government will be able to show to the world at large that at least it has been able to do this much during the years of its office. I am of the opinion that the speed at which our Government is going is very slow and it does not fit the prevailing conditions. It should quicken its pace in view of the changed conditions, and we should march along with the times.

The Government should at once impose new taxes to get money, and this money should be utilized for improving the condition of the roads in the province. If it decides not to impose new taxes for the present, it should at least raise a loan of two crores of rupees and get another 2,000 miles of roads metalled in the province as suggested by my honourable friend, Sayed Amjad Ali Shah. At present we are receiving a grant of fifteen lakhs from the Central Government and when we have increased our metalled roads by another 2,000 miles surely this grant will be increased to twenty lakhs. The loan, therefore, may be paid back within a period of 15 years. If this loan is raised at once and immediately spent on the road building programme it will result in a great benefit to the people. Better roads will make the traffic easier and the mileage of metalled roads will also increase; there will be more motor cars and lorries and there will be an improvement in trade. The local bodies will greatly benefit by an improvement in the trade conditions, and the Government will get more income by way of increased

taxes on motor cars, lorries, petrol, etc. Coming to my own district, Ferozepore, I have to submit that there are very few pucca roads there, except in Moga. The Government was approached with a request to give a grant to metal a very important road (Baghapurana-Nihalsinghwala road) in the Ferozepore district but it did not give any grant. Instead of giving a sixty per cent grant, it has given no help at all. Now the district board is busy carrying out the metalling work and the zamindars are providing unskilled labour from their own pocket. We hope that the road will be metalled by next year. In short my complaint is that the Government is neglecting the Ferozepore district so far as its roads are concerned. The roads in Zira, Ferozepore, and Muktsar tahsils are in such a bad condition that perhaps no place in the Punjab has worse roads than those of these three tahsils. May I hope that the Government will pay attention to what I have just submitted?

At present there are four categories of roads. First, those which are under the Public Works Department; these are looked after and maintained by them. Second, those which are metalled by the district board; these are termed No. 1 roads of the district boards and No. 2 roads are those which connect tahsil headquarters or connect metalled roads or district headquarters. These roads receive some maintenance grants from the Government. Then there are No. 3 roads which do not receive any grant from the Government. District boards are expected to look after these, but they cannot do this on account of lack of funds. There are many such roads which are being neglected by the Government as well as by the district boards. Roads No. 3 have to satisfy certain conditions in order to be included among No. 2 roads. At present the Government is not considering any application for raising No. 3 roads to the status of No. 2 roads. The patent answer is given that these applications will be considered on the completion of the Government programme regarding roads. I think this is being said for the last three and a half years, and still the blessed Government programme has not been completed. Heaven alone knows how long the Government will keep us waiting. At present only those roads are being metalled by the Public Works Department which connect big towns. But the criterion before the Government should be the greatest good of the greatest number. It should decide upon metalling those roads first which are most useful for the people, who contribute 90 per cent of the income to the Government treasury. If the roads connecting the interior of the country with market places are metalled that will give an impetus to trade and make it easier for the zamindars to take the produce of their lands to the markets and they are sure to get better prices for it. The Government should always consider as to how it can benefit the backward rural areas by metalling the roads.

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

Another suggestion which I should like the Government to adopt is the amalgamation of the Public Works Department and the Irrigation Department. There is not enough work for the officials of the Public Works Department and we know that the Government of India Act stands in the way of the Government if it wants to cut down the salaries of the high officers of these departments or to reduce their number. But by an amalgamation of these



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departments it will be possible for Government to take as much work from its officers as is reasonable. I hope that Honourable Ministers will be good enough to give a sympathetic consideration to what I have urged upon them to do.

**Chaudhri Sumer Singh** (South-East Gurgaon, General, Rural) (Urdu) : Sir, a good deal of discussion has taken place on the demand for roads and I do not propose to speak at length on it. I shall simply make one or two observations in this connexion. Although the roads in the province are in a very good condition as compared with the roads of other provinces in India, it is not so good as might be expected in view of the amount of money spent on them. I shall draw your attention to the schedule of rates of the Public Works Department. It is common knowledge that contracts are obtained on about twenty or less per cent than the estimate of the work. And then as much as up to ten per cent is given as bribes to the various officers of the department for passing the work according to the items in the estimate. But in spite of all that the contractors are able to make huge profits. This fact alone justifies a close scrutiny of the scheduled rates with a view to reducing them to an appreciable extent and utilize the saving thus effected in making other roads pucca.

I have to make another suggestion. The Public Works Department rest houses should be made self-supporting. When the Government gives handsome travelling allowances to its servants why should it not ask them to pay reasonably for their stay in the rest houses? After all the travelling allowance of an officer is not meant to be a source of income for him. This is how the officers increase their travelling allowances to such an extent by staying over 72 hours in order to charge enhanced rate and thus it can easily cover their monthly expenses and enable them to deposit their salary in the banks. The only way of getting back this money from them is as I have just now suggested, to make them pay for their stay in dak bungalows and rest houses. In this way the Government can save a considerable sum of money. But the difficulty is that this Government is very much afraid of the services and does not want to incur their displeasure.

Besides this the Government loses a large sum of money in the auction of firewood. If the present method of auctioning the wood is changed, they can easily make lakhs of rupees. If the Government is to institute an enquiry into the matter they would find that large quantities of firewood are consumed by the officials of this department daily from top to bottom.

Again a saving can be effected by changing the I. S. E. into the P. S. E., and besides this there will be a further advantage that the Government would be able to interfere with the latter category of officers, whereas they cannot do it in the case of the former.

There is a kutchra road running from Jhajar to Rewari which is being metalled. In this connection I would like to invite the attention of the Honourable Minister to the fact that the officials of this department in order to squeeze money out of the poor zamindars tell them that it would be much better to take the road through a particular field or fields. They spare the fields of those who pay but take the fields of those who cannot grease their palms. This is causing great inconvenience and hardship to the owners.

of fields in the neighbourhood of the road. This requires special attention of the Honourable Minister.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker :** The honourable member is requested to be brief as other members also want to speak.

**Chandhri Sumer Singh :** Besides this the provision in the Budget is not progressive and this is the reason why the officials wait for the month of March because in this way the danger of checking up their accounts and of their being found out in misappropriating the public funds is lessened. Therefore I beg to submit that there should be no expenditure in March so that these officials may not be able to make money. It should be progressive in each quarter of the year. It is in the best interest of the accounts.

There is still another fact which I want to bring to the notice of the Honourable Minister. The Gurgaon district board wants to borrow money for constructing roads. My submission is that the said board should be granted a loan of Rs. 2 or 3 lakhs so that the kutchra roads which were made in connection with the famine relief work may be metalled. This is a backward area and so long as it does not have good roads it cannot make any progress.

There is a Nala Jeer near Palwal in Gurgaon district which causes great havoc during the rainy season. If a bridge is constructed on this Nala, it will remove the periodical danger and relieve the anxiety of the people of that ilaqa. The residents of village Gori had made a representation in this connection and had offered to contribute firewood nearly worth Rs. 10,000 towards the expenses but no heed was paid by the authorities towards this proposal so far. I would impress this fact upon the Government that this bridge is very essential and should be constructed as soon as possible. Besides, Government have to spend a lot of money during flood to take the people out of the area beyond Nala Jeer to save the lives of those who reside in that area. This expenditure will be reduced once for all.

In the end I would like to mention that although considerable sum is spent on this department, yet the method is so defective that it does not prove of much benefit. The Government should try to improve the method.

With these observations I oppose the cut motion.

**Khan Bahadur Raja Muhammad Akram Khan** (Jhelum, Muhammadan, Rural) (*Urdu*) : Sir, the demand under consideration has been under discussion since yesterday and the sense of the House seems to be that with the exception of one or two members every one has tried to present the case of his own district. I would in the same way try to state a few facts in regard to my district, Jhelum. It is a historic district well known for the river Jhelum, its coal mines and salt range at Khewra. In spite of the fact that there are two canal headworks at Mangla and Rasul not even one marla of land in that district is being irrigated by the Jhelum while on the other hand it works a great havoc with the lands of the district and is a source of great loss to the zamindars. Moreover only one road, i.e., the Grand Trunk Road passes through this district but it does not touch its tahsils Chakwal and Pind Dadan Khan. The road that connects Chakwal is unmetalled for a length of 42 miles and only a strip of 7 miles of *gatalian* which runs to Mirpur was metalled in 1935.

[K. B. Raja Muhammad Akram Khan.]

The Sohawa-Chakwal road is about 42 miles in length and lorries ply on it but during the rains the mud is so great that it is dangerous to hazard a journey by road. Last year the settlement officer's car got stuck in the *dhuman kass* while he was out on tour. All efforts to salvage the car proved abortive and the settlement officer had to pass the night in the rain in his car at a distance of 6 miles from Sohawa. A sum of Rs. 90,000 has been sanctioned for metalling the Chakwal-Kallarkar road but I am at a loss to understand the reason why a departure has been made from the usual practice of constructing the road from one end to the tail, by starting construction on its tail, i.e., Kallarkar instead of the tahsil side. May I know if it is not for providing the district and other officers facilities for duck shooting that this method has been adopted?

5 p. m. May I ask as to whether there is any village situated on the stretch of road, about 16 miles in length, which is proposed to be metalled and improved this year? It is a matter of regret that the portion of the road which is dotted with towns and villages will be only raised and widened, whereas particular care is being taken for the improvement of the road which passes through waste and *banyar* ilaqa. The approximate cost of the proposed work is Rs. 90,000 or Rs. 5,625 per mile, but I feel constrained to say that this sum will be wasted on a purposeless adventure. In fact this road is not going to serve any useful purpose. My honourable friend Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan was pleased to press the requirements of his own tahsil but has not thought fit to make any mention of other ilaqas. I hope the honourable Nawab Sahib would bear me out that the road connecting Jhelum with Pind Dadan Khan is in an awfully poor and deplorable condition. It is not at all fit for vehicular traffic. It is only 52 miles long but since the financial condition of the district board is not very sound it cannot be expected to bear the cost of its metalling and improvement. If you propose to go from Jhelum to Pind Dadan Khan in a motor car you will have to undergo a road journey of 108 miles instead of 52 miles. It is, therefore, incumbent upon the Government to make necessary provisions for the improvement of Jhelum-Pind Dadan Khan Road. The present condition of the road is a source of great inconvenience and difficulty to the inhabitants of the ilaqa. The estimated cost of improving and metalling the Pind Dadan Khan-Khehra Road is Rs. 28,000, but since this road is not very important the Government should better spend this sum on the metalling of the Jhelum-Pind Dadan Khan Road. We are told that the construction of the former road is imperative because there are on the road side two highly important religious centres of Muslims and Hindus, that is, Choa Saidan Shah and Katas, which are visited by thousands of pilgrims every year. We are further told that the soil of the ilaqa is sandy and is proving very troublesome to vehicular traffic. But I am at a loss to understand why the soil has been described as sandy although it can be safely classified as stony and rocky. Then, Sir, I am sure there is something wrong with the estimate prepared for the purpose. The estimated cost of Rs. 28,000 appears to be a bit exaggerated. Here I may be allowed to state as to how these estimates are generally prepared. A village Said Hasan by name was being gradually eroded in the Jhelum district and the district board asked its overseer to

prepare an estimate for putting an effective stop to its erosion. Accordingly he estimated that the proposed work would cost as much as Rs. 1,400. But when the same work was entrusted to the supervision of the special officer appointed in connection with the anti-erosion work he got it accomplished only at the cost of Rs. 350. In fact these estimates are always false and incorrect, and therefore, cannot be relied upon. Now we are told that the metalling of the Pind Dadan Khan-Khewra Road would cost Rs. 28,000, but I fail to understand why such great importance is being attached to this road. Is there any important and flourishing town on it or is there any commercial centre in the locality? The answer to that question is definitely in the negative. The only importance that the road can claim is this that it goes to Khushab and Shahpur, the ilaqa belonging to the Honourable Minister of Public Works. Now, the Khushab-Mianwali section of Arterial Road No. 2 has been proposed to be metalled at a cost of about seven lakhs of rupees. It is on occasions like this that the adage 'Charity begins at home' is used. He can spend lakhs of rupees on the roads of his own ilaqa but is not prepared to spare a single penny for improving the road which really deserve his particular attention. In order to justify the metalling of the Pind Dadan Khan-Khewra Road, Pind Dadan Khan has been described as an important commercial town in the New Expenditure, although it is practically a decaying town. Being in the salt range *kalar* is playing havoc with the buildings and houses of that town. It would have been much better if the amount earmarked for the metalling of this road had been provided for improving those roads which connect the important towns and tahsils with the headquarters. Before I resume my seat I would again request the Government to make some provisions for improving and reconditioning the 52-mile long road that connects Jhelum with Pind Dadan Khan.

**Munshi Hari Lal** (South-Western Towns, General, Urban) (*Urdu*) Sir, it has been repeated *ad nauseum* that honourable members from this side of the House have always levelled destructive criticism against the administrative policy of the Government but to-day I would like to make a few constructive proposals with regard to the activities of the Public Works Department, and I hope, if the Government gives favourable consideration to my humble suggestions, the condition of our roads can considerably improve. As you know, there is the Communication Board which is entrusted with the work of making necessary grants to various district boards for maintaining and improving their respective roads. The Report on the working of this Board for the year 1937-38 shows that it consists of 21 members of whom 11 are officials and only 10 are nominated non-official members. The latter group of members includes 2 co-opted members of the Central Legislature. And so far as the honourable members of this House are concerned only 2 of them have been taken to work on the said Board. One is the Honourable Minister himself and the other is the honourable Captain Rao Balbir Singh.

**Khan Bahadur Sardar Muhammad Hasan Khan Gurchani** : And why has not the honourable member mentioned my name? I am also a member of the said Board.

**Munshi Hari Lal :** I speak subject to correction. The difficulty is that the report which I have referred to does not mention the honourable member's name. Probably the honourable member might have been taken on the Board after 1938. In any case, does it behove an honourable member to boastfully mention his name as a representative of such a backward district? All it proves is that if he too is a member of that district, he should join with me in urging upon the Government the necessity of improving the roads in that area. The unmetalled road was 162 miles and metalled nil in 1937 in the district of Dera Ghazi Khan which the honourable member has the honour to represent. Now let me come to the district of Muzaffargarh. Here the unmetalled road in 1937 was 374 miles while metalled road was nil.

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

**Mr. Speaker :** The question is—

That the demand be reduced by Rs. 100.

*The motion was lost.*

**Mr. Speaker :** The question is—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 16,09,900 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1941, in respect of charges on Public Works Department, Buildings and Roads Establishment.

*The motion was carried.*

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#### LAND REVENUE.

**Mr. Speaker :** The question is :—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 42,77,700 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1941, in respect of Land Revenue.

*The motion was carried.*

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#### PROVINCIAL EXCISE.

**Mr. Speaker :** The question is :—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 10,29,900 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1941, in respect of Provincial Excise.

*The motion was carried.*

---

#### STAMPS.

**Mr. Speaker :** The question is :—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,48,600 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1941, in respect of Stamps.

*The motion was carried.*

## FORESTS.

**Mr. Speaker :** The question is :—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 21,15,000 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1941, in respect of Forests.

*The motion was carried.*

## REGISTRATION.

**Mr. Speaker :** The question is :—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 66,800 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1941, in respect of Registration.

*The motion was carried.*

## MOTOR VEHICLES TAXATION AND OTHER TAXES AND DUTIES.

**Mr. Speaker :** The question is :—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,34,100 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1941, in respect of charges on account of Motor Vehicles Taxation and other Taxes and Duties.

*The motion was carried.*

## IRRIGATION (CAPITAL EXPENDITURE).

**Mr. Speaker :** The question is :—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,67,50,600 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1941, in respect of Irrigation (Capital Expenditure).

*The motion was carried.*

## ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE.

**Mr. Speaker :** The question is :—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 37,85,300 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1941, in respect of Administration of Justice.

*The motion was carried.*

## JAILS AND CONVICT SETTLEMENTS.

**Mr. Speaker :** The question is :—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 28,72,200 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1941, in respect of Jails and Convict Settlements.

*The motion was carried.*

## POLICE.

**Mr. Speaker :** The question is :—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,17,73,900 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1941, in respect of Police.

*The Assembly divided : Ayes 58, Noes 21.*

## AYES.

- |                                  |                                   |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Abdul Rahim, Chaudhri (Gurgaon). | Muhammad Hassan Khan Gur-         |
| Afzaal Ali Hasnie, Sayed.        | chani, Khan Bahadur Sardar.       |
| Ali Akbar, Chaudhri.             | Muhammad Hayat Khan Noon,         |
| Amjad Ali Shah, Sayed.           | Nawab Malik Sir.                  |
| Ashiq Hussain, Captain.          | Muhammad Hussain, Chaudhri.       |
| Badar Mohy-ud-Din Qadri, Khan    | Muhammad Jamal Khan Leghari,      |
| Sahib Sayed.                     | Nawab Sir.                        |
| Bhagwant Singh, Rai.             | Muhammad Nawaz Khan, Major        |
| Dasaundha Singh, Sardar.         | Sardar Sir.                       |
| Faiz Muhammad, Shaikh.           | Muhammad Sarfaraz Khan, Chau-     |
| Faqr Hussain Khan, Chaudhri.     | dhri.                             |
| Farman Ali Khan, Subedar-Major   | Muhammad Shafi Ali Khan, Khan     |
| Raja.                            | Sahib Chaudhri.                   |
| Fateh Muhammad, Mian.            | Muhammad Yasin Khan, Chau-        |
| Fazal Din, Khan Sahib Chaudhri.  | dhri.                             |
| Fazal Karim Bakhsh, Mian.        | Mushtaq Ahmad Gurmani, Khan       |
| Few, Mr. E.                      | Bahadur Mian.                     |
| Ghazanfar Ali Khan, Raja.        | Muzaffar Ali Khan Qizilbash, Sar- |
| Ghulam Mohy-ud-Din, Khan Baha-   | dar.                              |
| dur Maulvi.                      | Muzaffar Khan, Khan Bahadur       |
| Ghulam Qadir Khan, Khan Baha-    | Nawab.                            |
| dur.                             | Nawazish Ali Shah, Sayed.         |
| Ghulam Samad, Khan Sahib Kha-    | Pohop Singh, Rao.                 |
| waja.                            | Pritam Singh Siddhu, Sardar.      |
| Gurbachan Singh, Sardar Bahadur  | Ram Sarup, Chaudhri.              |
| Sardar.                          | Ripudaman Singh, Rai Sahib        |
| Habib Ullah Khan, Malik.         | Thakur.                           |
| Hans Raj, Bhagat.                | Roberts, Sir William.             |
| Het Ram, Rai Sahib Chaudhri.     | Sahib Dad Khan, Khan Sahib        |
| Indar Singh, Sardar.             | Chaudhri.                         |
| Jafar Ali Khan, M.               | Sikander Hyat-Khan, The Honour-   |
| Joginder Singh Man, Sardar.      | able Major Sir.                   |
| Karamat Ali, Shaikh.             | Singha, Diwan Bahadur S. P.       |
| Khizar Hayat Khan Tiwana, The    | Sultan Mahmood Hotiana, Mian.     |
| Honourable Major Nawabzada       | Sumer Singh, Chaudhri.            |
| Malik.                           | Sundar Singh Majithia, The        |
| Manohar Lal, The Honourable Mr.  | Honourable Dr. Sir.               |
| Muhammad Akram Khan, Khan        | Suraj Mal, Chaudhri.              |
| Bahadur Raja.                    | Tara Singh, Sardar.               |
| Muhammad Alam, Dr. Shaikh.       | Ujjal Singh, Sardar Bahadur       |
| Muhammad Faiyaz Ali Khan,        | Sardar.                           |
| Nawabzada.                       |                                   |

## NOES.

Abdul Aziz, Mian.  
 Ajit Singh, Sardar.  
 Bhagat Ram Sharma, Pandit.  
 Gopi Chand Bhargava, Dr.  
 Hari Lal, Munshi.  
 Hari Singh, Sardar.  
 Harjab Singh, Sardar.  
 Jalal-ud-Din Amber, Chaudhri.  
 Kapoor Singh, Sardar.  
 Kartar Singh, Chaudhri.  
 Kartar Singh, Sardar.

Kishan Singh, Sardar. •  
 Muhammad Hassan, Chaudhri.  
 Muni Lal Kalia, Pandit.  
 Partap Singh, Sardar.  
 Rur Singh, Sardar.  
 Santokh Singh, Sardar Sahib Sardar.  
 Sh. Shanno Devi.  
 Shri Ram Sharma, Pandit.  
 Sohan Singh Josh, Sardar.  
 Sudarshan, Seth.

## SCIENTIFIC AND MISCELLANEOUS DEPARTMENTS.

**Mr. Speaker :** The question is :—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,86,300 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1941, in respect of Scientific and Miscellaneous Departments.

*The motion was carried.*

## EDUCATION (EUROPEAN AND ANGLO-INDIAN EDUCATION AND EDUCATION IN BACKWARD TRACTS).

**Mr. Speaker :** The question is :—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 5,91,700 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1941, in respect of Education (European and Anglo-Indian Education and Education in backward tracts).

*The motion was carried.*

## EDUCATION (EXCLUDING EUROPEAN AND ANGLO-INDIAN EDUCATION).

**Mr. Speaker :** The question is :—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,58,72,900 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1941, in respect of Education (excluding European and Anglo-Indian Education).

*The motion was carried.*

## MEDICAL.

**Mr. Speaker :** The question is :—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 44,57,100 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1941, in respect of Medical.

*The motion was carried.*

## AGRICULTURE.

**Mr. Speaker :** The question is :—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 38,56,900 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1941, in respect of Agriculture.

*The motion was carried.*



## VETERINARY.

**Mr. Speaker :** The question is :—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 17,95,000 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1941, in respect of Veterinary.

*The motion was carried.*

## CO-OPERATION.

**Mr. Speaker :** The question is :—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 21,29,300 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1941, in respect of Co-operation.

*The motion was carried.*

## CIVIL WORKS.

**Mr. Speaker :** The question is :—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 81,89,700 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1941, in respect of Civil Works.

*The motion was carried.*

## ELECTRICITY SCHEMES—WORKING EXPENSES.

**Mr. Speaker :** The question is :—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 33,14,700 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1941, in respect of Electricity Schemes—Working Expenses.

*The motion was carried.*

## OTHER REVENUE EXPENDITURE CONNECTED WITH ELECTRICITY SCHEMES.

**Mr. Speaker :** The question is :—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 11,88,400 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1941, in respect of other Revenue Expenditure connected with Electricity Schemes.

*The motion was carried.*

## CIVIL WORKS (CAPITAL).

**Mr. Speaker :** The question is :—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 12,08,000 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1941, in respect of Civil Works (Capital).

*The motion was carried.*

## ELECTRICITY SCHEMES—CAPITAL EXPENDITURE.

**Mr. Speaker :** The question is :—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 10,94,300 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1941, in respect of Electricity Schemes—Capital Expenditure.

*The motion was carried.*

## FAMINE.

**Mr. Speaker :** The question is :—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 31,89,100 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1941, in respect of Famine.

*The motion was carried.*

## SUPERANNUATION ALLOWANCES AND PENSIONS.

**Mr. Speaker :** The question is :—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 58,81,900 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1941, in respect of Superannuation Allowances and Pensions.

*The motion was carried.*

## COMMUTED VALUE OF PENSIONS—CAPITAL EXPENDITURE.

**Mr. Speaker :** The question is :—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,55,800 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1941, in respect of Commuted Value of Pensions—Capital Expenditure.

*The motion was carried.*

## STATIONERY AND PRINTING.

**Mr. Speaker :** The question is :—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 11,02,800 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1941, in respect of Stationery and Printing.

*The motion was carried.*

## MISCELLANEOUS.

**Mr. Speaker :** The question is :—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 32,30,600 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1941, in respect of Miscellaneous.

*The motion was carried.*

## ADVANCES REPAYABLE.

**Mr. Speaker :** The question is :—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 4,28,100 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1941, in respect of Advances Repayable.

*The motion was carried.*

## LOANS AND ADVANCES.

**Mr. Speaker :** The question is :—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 45,70,200 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1941, in respect of Loans and Advances bearing interest.

*The motion was carried.*

*The Assembly then adjourned till 12 noon on Monday, 1st April, 1940,*

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