

Making of our Constitution

MAKING OF OUR CONSTITUTION

Speeches of Ch. Ranbir Singh in
the Constituent Assembly of India

Edited by
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Gian Singh

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For
the peasant whose
service was his
life-long mission



Bhupinder Singh Hooda,
Chief Minister, Haryana

Office of the
Chief Minister, Haryana,
Chandigarh

9.11. 2009

FOREWORD

I consider it a privilege to be associated with this important work, reproducing the historic speeches, which my father, Ch. Ranbir Singh made in the Constituent Assembly of India. The content of these speeches shows that Chaudhary Saheb was deeply influenced by Gandhiji. His words, thoughts and actions were shaped, to a large extent, by the Gandhian ideas and ideals. Besides that, Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and Dr. B.R. Ambedkar also inspired him. He shared their ideal and spared no pains to build India of their dreams. The neglected village, the poor peasant, and the toiling marginalized millions, were the real objects of his concern. Wiping of tears from their eyes, and preservation and protection of the national environment and the cattle wealth was the chosen mission of his life.

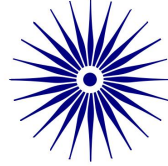
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The readers may not find in these speeches the glitter of fine silken phrases or urban suavity and glacial perturbability, but they have beauty and strength of their own. Vibrating hope, compassion and understanding, they bear a definite stamp of good will and grace. They discuss the present, but legislate for the future. Their contents, though as old as over 60 years, are very much relevant even today.

Most of the problems that Chaudhary Saheb had faced in his days keep on resurfacing before us every now and then. The wisdom and vision that he employed to tackle them can be profitably used by us as well in handling them. In sum, the way he showed us is still the sure path to poise, peace and prosperity.

I commend the publication of this valuable book and recommend its wider use.

(Bhupinder Singh Hooda)



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Prof. R.P. Hooda
Vice-chancellor

Maharshi
Dayanand University,
Rothak

4.11.2009

PROLOGUE

It gives me immense pleasure to offer this first publication, *Making of our Constitution : Speeches of Ch. Ranbir Singh in the Constituent Assembly of India*, of the newly established Chair in our University in honour of Ch. Ranbir Singh, a great patriot, a veteran freedom fighter, a maker of our Constitution, an able administrator, and a saviour of the weak and the fallen. The readers will, I am sure, find the publication useful for understanding the making of our Constitution.

The speeches given here are short and simple, but they touch the soul of our nation. They reflect the light which the speaker had gathered from his illustrious *Guru*, Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi and the insights that he borrowed from his leaders like Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru, Sardar Patel, Maulana Azad and

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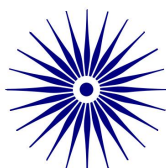
others. They show the way how to empower and embolden the poor, and the marginalized, how to give verve and vitality to the vulnerable sections of our society and how to fulfil the solemn promise made in the *Preamble* to the Constitution to give justice, social, economic and political to 'We-the-People' !

I am grateful to my old colleague, Prof. K.C. Yadav and Shri Gian Singh for compiling and editing this valuable work for us.

I would also like to put on record my very sincere thanks to Shri Bhupinder Singh Hooda, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Haryana, for writing a learned *foreward* to the publication which has given it a proper perspective and enhanced its usefulness.

I am sure, readers would find this precious document useful and interesting.

(Prof. R.P. Hooda)



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The book owes much to many people. First, as in duty bound, we would like to thank Shri Bhupinder Singh Hooda, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Haryana for his kind help and encouragement, as also for sparing his valuable time to go through the book and write a learned foreword to it.

Our grateful thanks are also due to Shri Ram Niwas Mirdha, former Union Minister, for his keen interest in the project and genial counsel.

We are also highly thankful Shri Dipender Singh, MP, Shri Satyanand Yaji, Shri M.S. Chopra, Shri Sukhinder Singh Hooda, and Shri Jogender Singh (HIPA) for their useful suggestions and help.

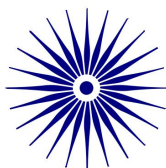
We are most grateful to Prof. R.P. Hooda, Vice-Chancellor, M.D. University Rohtak, for his keen interest in the project as also for its publication in the prestigious series on the life and work of Ch. Ranbir Singh being undertaken by Ch. Ranbir Singh Chair at the University.

Our sincere thanks are also due to the staff of the following institutions/libraries for their kind help in

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making available relevant materials from their holdings: Jawaharlal Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, New Delhi, the National Archives of India, New Delhi, the Central Secretariat Library, New Delhi, and the Parliament Library, New Delhi.

K.C. Yadav
Gian Singh



INTRODUCTION

I

This is a collection of speeches of Ch. Ranbir Singh (1914-2009), an eminent member of the Constituent Assembly of India. Broadly, the speeches are of two types: one, which were made in the Constituent Assembly for the purpose of making of the Constitution, and, two which were made in the Constituent Assembly (Legislative) for the purpose of legislating. In the Constituent Assembly (Legislative) Chaudhary Saheb also asked a large number of questions covering a wide range of subjects of great importance. As these questions and their replies from such great leaders as Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, Rajkumari Amritkaur, Babu Jagjiwan Ram and others are also important for our purpose, these, too, have been included here (in part III). To comprehend the context and the content of these speeches and questions, it is, however, essential to have some idea of the man behind them.

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Ch. Ranbir Singh was born on 26 November 1914 at Sanghi, a small village in district Rohtak, Haryana (then Punjab). His father, Ch. Matu Ram was a peasant of small means but big social standing. He was a friend, philosopher and guide to his people. And it was precisely for this reason that the district bureaucracy also held him in high esteem and made him a *zaildar* (head of a *zail*, a revenue unit of about 20 villages)¹.

Ch. Matu Ram, who was involved in the 'spread -education-movement' in his area, would, understandably, like to give the best possible education to his sapient child: He sent him to the best available institution in the area in those days – the Government Primary School in his own village, Sanghi, Gurukula, Bhainswal, and Vaish School, Rohtak, for initial education and to the Government College, Rohtak and Ramjas College, Delhi for higher studies. From latter, that is, the Ramjas College, the young Chaudhary passed his B.A. examination with flying colours in 1937.²

Thanks to his family background – a good mix of social work and national politics – Ch. Ranbir Singh jumped into the fray for freedom in 1941. On 5

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1. For details see K.C. Yadav, *Ch. Matu Ram : A Biography*, Gurgaon, 2008, pp. 21-31.
 2. For details see Ch. Ranbir Singh, *Song of Freedom : Memoirs*, (hereafter *Memoirs*) Gurgaon, 2009, pp. 14-31.

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April he had his first taste of jail life. 'He enjoyed it', he said, in reply to a question 'as to how did he feel in jail' ? During the next six years, when the freedom struggle moved at a pretty hectic pace, that is 1941-1947, he breathed free air for about six months only : he suffered three and a half years rigorous imprisonment in eight different jails, and two years of 'detention' in his village³. On 15 August 1947, India became free after a long, long time. A new world was born.

As in the old, so in the new world, Ch. Ranbir Singh cut out a definite role for himself. It was, by all accounts, a brilliant role!⁴ But before we discuss it, it seems necessary to take a look at the instruments that he had equipped himself with to handle the new situations and scenarios which the 'new world' presented forth.

II

A man, they say, is what his heredity and environment are. He is, in other words, not an island, cut off from his forebears or his physical-cultural circumstances. Ch. Ranbir Singh was no exception. His forebears, especially his parents, played a pretty

3. *Ibid.*, pp. 69-100.

4. See *ibid.*, pp. 132-247.

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big role is his 'making'. He himself throws light, in his *Memoirs*, on this point in detail :

I owe everything to my father. He made me what I am. Not only when he was alive but even when he was gone, for many years I felt as if he was around me – a friend, philosopher and guide, in flesh and blood, showing me the way I should follow, guiding me what to do and what not to do. His was, truly, a very, very strong influence on me.⁵

Does this mean, one might ask, that Chaudhary Saheb had, simply, a borrowed persona? Always his father's son? The answer to this query is, again in his own words, this:

What I mean to say here is that my father was my 'school'. I got my 'education' from there. I learnt to make a difference between truth and untruth, between right and wrong, in short between justice and injustice, between chalk and cheese. Most importantly, I learnt to take my own decisions. My father's technique of solving problems appealed to me very much. I learnt it and followed it all through my life. It was simple but a little difficult technique. He would go to the problem – straight. He would work hard and find the truth and then act

5. *Ibid.*, pp. 17-18.

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truthfully in its light. That gave him strength to take decisions, which many a time, were not liked even by his near ones and dear ones. When we used to ask him as to why did he annoy 'his men' unnecessarily? His reply would invariably be: It is a temporary reaction. It will vanish. Don't worry. And in most cases it would. His *mantra* in life was:

I R; ds gkjs gkj g} I R; ds thrs thr!

Truth must triumph. That's everybody's victory.⁶ The influence of his mother, Smt. Mam Kaur on him was no less. This, too, he has explained very beautifully in his *Memoirs* :

She was an extraordinary lady, though she had very little of schooling. In those days, women were, as a practice, not sent to school. She had robust commonsense and was cool and unflappable. Public service and worldly wisdom were her special forte. She looked after her in-laws with extreme care and affection. Guests in our house were a permanent feature. She used to cook for them and arrange for their stay.

The village women would solicit her opinion on many matters. Many needy women were helped with money, grains and other materials. Butter-milk was always doled out free but our

6. *Ibid.*

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mother never hesitated in sharing even milk – she would frequently say, ‘Your child is weak give him milk to drink, take it from me’. The word ‘no’ was foreign to the lexicon of her kind heart in such matters.

This, however, should not give the impression that our family was financially well off. My father was an ordinary peasant. He would quietly suffer privations without letting us know his limitations. On the contrary, he supported my mother’s charitable acts for he was convinced that benevolent acts are essential. He frequently exhorted us about such values. What we observed throughout our upbringing left a lasting impact upon us. Consequently, our family still cherishes that attitude of selfless service.⁷

The third influence on Chaudhary Saheb was of Gandhiji. This is an interesting phenomenon. He never came, unlike many of his colleagues and friends⁸, into direct contact with the great man. Nor did he ever visit his *ashramas* and lived there to grasp the great man’s ideas and ideals. He came under his spell in an indirect way. He read his *Hind Swaraj*, he says, as he read his *Bhagavadgita*, almost daily,

7. *Ibid*, pp. 69-70.

8. Like, for instance, L. Sham Lal (Rohtak), Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava, L. Duni Chand Ambalavi, etc.

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religiously. He read his speeches and other works as he read his scriptures. He watched him in action very minutely and admired his each and every move and movement. He drank the Gandhian elixir from these sources.

But why, of the so many leaders around him, one might ask, he particularly fell for Gandhiji ? Why did he get converted to the Gandhian 'faith' to this extent ? The answer to the complex queries lies in the history of Haryana villages. Unfortunately, the Haryana villages in the colonial days did not present a pleasing spectacle that they once did in the past. During the course of their exploitative rule, the heartless rulers destroyed the history's 'little republics' root and branch. Their once proud peasant-proprietors, like their counterparts elsewhere, were reduced to the status of hewers of wood and drawers of water. Thanks to their exploitative revenue policy, most of them were caught into unextricable debt-traps. The cunning *sahukars* (usurers), armed with court decrees, used to visit their houses every now and then to have their cattle, furniture, and whatever they had auctioned publicly to get paid their debts. On such occasions, the poor peasants, their spouses and children cried

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and wept and begged of the heartless shylocks to have pity on them. But no avail.⁹

Sensitive and tender, Ranbir Singh's heart bled on seeing the wretched condition of his village and his people. His eyes wept on seeing the *kurki-dramas*, and he made, with child-like enthusiasm, a resolve to fight and finish the perpetrators of those *zulums*. He recounted, later, that 'the weeping eyes of the spouses and children of the victims of the *kurkis* (auctions) haunted him all through his life'.¹⁰

And it was, precisely, this 'haunt' that took him to Gandhiji, for he did not come across a more powerful and compassionate hand than his ever stretched to wipe the tears from the 'weeping eyes' that haunted him. He did not come across a greater friend of the hapless peasantry, a stronger balm to sooth the poor men in agony, and a more powerful care-taker of the neglected villages than him. Naturally, he fell for him and worshipped him as he worshipped his gods. He saw the world through his spectacles and as a member of the Constituent Assembly of India he spared no pains to shape it into his model.

9. For the wretched condition of the peasantry in colonial times, see Chhotu Ram, *Bechara Kisan*, ed. K.C. Yadav, Gurgaon, 2002.

10. He shared these views with the Editor several times.

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III

It was sometime in September 1945 that the then Government of India made public their intent to constitute a Constituent Assembly for making a Constitution for India. A matter of great substance and significance, it caused a powerful stir in the minds of the different communities, castes, classes, and political parties all over the country. Thanks to the confusing and chaotic weather in vogue then, every effort made to settle the ground, made it terribly muddier. With the most people, undoing seemed more important than doing in those strange times. Several nice plans and projects died before their birth. It is no small wonder that in such times, and in such a situation, the Constituent Assembly came into being.

The historic Assembly was constituted¹¹ through indirect elections by the members of the provincial legislatures and the princely states in 1946. The provinces sent 296 members and states 93. The

11. According to the recommendations of the Cabinet Mission, the Constituent Assembly consisted of the following members: 292 members elected by provincial legislatures, 93 sent by States, and 4 representatives of the Chief Commissioners' Provinces. The total membership was thus 389, but because of partition the strength was reduced to 299.

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members represented three communal shades – Hindu, Muslim and others (Sikh, in case of Punjab). The Punjab legislature elected 28 members – 16 Muslims, 8 Hindus and 4 Sikhs.¹² After some time, Muslim members belonging to the League withdrew from the Assembly. In the new situation that developed then some other members elected to the Constituent Assembly had to stay back at the provincial level. As a result, a fresh election was held on 10 July 1947 when the members of the Punjab Legislature elected 12 members for the Constituent Assembly. Ch. Ranbir Singh was one of the 12 elected members.¹³

Before proceeding further, it seems proper to go a few steps back in time to see how far the August Assembly had proceeded when Chaudhary Saheb joined it on 14 July 1947.

The Constituent Assembly had commenced its historic work on 9 December 1946 when it met for the first time in the Constitution Hall, which is now known as the Central Hall of the Parliament House. Decorated elegantly for the occasion, the Chamber had acquired a new look on that day with a constellation of bright lamps hanging from the high ceilings and the brackets on its wall. Overwhelmed and jubilant, the hon'ble members sat in semi-circular

12. See K.C. Yadav, *Elections in Punjab*, Tokyo, 1981, p.40.

13. *Ibid.* The notification was issued on 11 July 1947.

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rows facing the Presidential dias. Those who sat in the front row were Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Acharya J.B. Kripalani, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, Smt. Sarojini Naidu, Shri Hare Krushna Mahatab, Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, Shri Sarat Chandra Bose, Shri C.Rajagopalachari and Shri M.Asaf Ali. Two hundred and seven representatives in all were present during the first sitting.

The inaugural session began at 11 a.m. with the introduction of Dr. Sachchidananda Sinha, the temporary Chairman of Assembly, by Acharya Kripalani. Occupying the Chair amidst acclamation, Dr. Sinha read out the Chairman's inaugural address. The first Day's proceedings ended after all the 207 members present submitted their credentials and signed the Register.

The Constituent Assembly took almost three years – two years, eleven months and seventeen days to be precise – to complete its historic task of drafting the Constitution. During the period , it held eleven sessions covering a total of 165 days. Of these, 114 days were spent on the consideration of the Draft Constitution.¹⁴

14. The account is based on
<http://parliamentofindia.nic.in/1s/debates/facts.htm>.

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Chaudhary Saheb presented his credentials to the President of the Constituent Assembly and signed its Register in the beginning of the Fourth session of the Assembly on 14 July 1947, along with his other colleagues from Punjab¹⁵. At that time, the Constituent Assembly performed, as indicated above, two types of functions: one, making of the Constitution, and two legislative work (because under the Independence of India Act 1947, the Central Legislative Assembly and the Council of States had ceased to exist after 14 August 1947, the functions of both the Houses were performed by the Constituent Assembly).

To be a member of such a great Assembly was indeed a great moment in the life of the young man

15. See *Debates of the Constituent Assembly of India* (hereafter *Debates*), vol. IV, 14 July 1947, pp. 536-37.

The Constituent Assembly had had in all 11 sessions :

First Session . . .	9-23 December, 1946
Second Session . . .	20-25 January, 1947
Third Session . . .	28 April – 2 May, 1947
Fourth Session . . .	14-31 July, 1947
Fifth Session . . .	14-30 August, 1947
Sixth Session . . .	27 January, 1948
Seventh Session . . .	4 November, 1948 – 8 January, 1949
Eighth Session . . .	16 May – 16 June, 1949
Ninth Session . . .	30 July – 18 September, 1949
Tenth Session . . .	6-17 October, 1949
Eleventh Session . . .	14-26 November, 1949

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from Haryana. Happily, he has left for us an interesting account as to how did he feel then and how did he manage to do a great job that he did without proper resources and training. He was, he tells us, pretty nervous in the beginning and entertained 'a sort of mixed feeling – high and low, criss-crossing my head, sitting in the greatest Assembly of our times, the Constituent Assembly of India. The cream of the country was there. Hundreds of them – top and tall. And there I sat. I was very nervous. I had to be – I was then 32/33 yrs of age. Not to speak of being a member of the central or a state legislature, I had never been a member of even a village panchayat. My only experience other than of studying in schools and colleges was of jail life. A feeling of inferiority overtook me. But as I sat through the proceedings, I saw from my mind's eye and heard from my inner ear someone prompting me to stand up and say something. It was Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi. I got some confidence. I came to know what my role should be.

The first draft of the Constitution, which was circulated to seek public response, did not refer to village or *panchayats* or peasants at all. People were shocked and they reacted vehemently. But to no avail. The same story got repeated even in the revised/edited draft. There was no village, no peasant there too. What would have Gandhiji done

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in this situation? I asked myself. The answer: He bid me to do what I did' ?¹⁶

IV

A word on the drafting of the Constitution. The work was assigned to a Drafting Committee consisting of seven members. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar was its Chairman. Coincidentally or whatever, none of the seven members of the Drafting Committee was a villager or a peasant. None of them, except for one, had taken part in the national freedom struggle. And it was perhaps because of this that the village, the peasant and the values which had got evolved during the hard, long struggle for freedom were conspicuously absent in the drafts.¹⁷ And it was also

16. Ch. Ranbir Singh narrated this during the course of a conversation with the Editor, Delhi, 2 November 2005.

17. H.V. Kamath, an eminent member of the Constituent Assembly has put forth this point very succinctly. Speaking in the Constituent Assembly itself on 5 November 1948, he said : 'Perhaps the fault lies with the composition of the Drafting Committee, among the members of which no one, with the sole exception of Sriyut Munshi, has taken any active part in the struggle for our country's freedom. None of them is, therefore, capable of entering into the spirit of our struggle, the spirit that animated us; they cannot comprehend with their hearts – I am not talking of the head, it is comparatively easy to understand with the head, the

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for this reason that they did not bear the stamp of Gandhiji.¹⁸ And it was, again, for this reason, that

turmoiled birth of our nation after years of travail and tribulations. That is why the tone of Dr. Ambedkar's speech yesterday with regard to our poorest, the lowliest and the lost was what it was. I do not know if he has read a book by a great man, *The Spirit and Form of Indian Polity* by Sree Aurobindo. From such books we learn how our polity in ancient times was securely built on village communities which were autonomous and self-contained; and that is why our civilisation has survived through all these ages. If we lose sight of the strength of our polity we lose sight of everything. I believe the day is not far distant when not merely India but the whole world, if it wants peace and security and prosperity and happiness, will have to decentralise and establish village republics and town republics, and on the basis of this they will have to build their state; otherwise the world is in for hard times'. See *Debates*, vol. VII, 5 November 1948, pp. 219-20.

18. Shankarrao Dev, another eminent member of the Constituent Assembly, made a profound statement in this regard on 21 November 1948: 'It (Constitution) embodies the philosophy of the exponents of the revolutions which have gone before. It is strengthened by the political institutions which man in his experiment in democracy has so far evolved. The Preamble of the Constitution recognises the sovereignty of the people and is in complete accord with the philosophy of Rousseau's Social Contract. It is consistent with the theory of Separation of Powers of Montesquieu. Its secular character is in conformity with the spirit of the Renaissance. It has taken the federal institution, first adumbrated as a measure for

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practical politics at the time of the American Independence. The distribution of powers in the Indian Federations has been fashioned after the Weimar Constitution of Germany in 1918. ... Our long association with the Commonwealth has imported the cabinet form of government, along with the Presidential type. Part III of the Constitution – the Fundamental Rights, and Part IV – the Directive Principles of the State Policy – put forward in unmistakable terms and awareness of the makers of the Constitution of the principle of Rule of Law which is the bulwark of British liberty, as well as the impact of the Marxist philosophy on the life and society of man, indeed the Constitution embodies eclecticism *par excellence*.

While appointing the drafts men of our Constitution, we were eager to have the knowledge of the constitutional pundits, and the precision of the constitutional lawyers and we have got them in full measure. But we did not choose to have the wisdom of the statesman whose main asset is mother wit and common sense, nor did we choose to fashion our Constitution in the spirit of our Revolution, because none of the makers of this present Constitution can claim to have passed the test of the revolutionary struggle which preceded the year 1946 when the Constituent Assembly met. In fact, the Constitution can hardly be called the child of the Indian Revolution. They have a stamp of their own, by which even a man who runs can read them as the British, the American or the Russian. We must regreatfully admit that there is very little in our Constitution which they (people of India) can feel as something new, which they can, in their turn, accept. Mr. President, Sir, it has been a one-way traffic

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they borrowed many nice things from the revolutions and reforms, and constitutions and customs of Europe, America and other places, but not from the history, tradition and culture of India.

Ch. Ranbir Singh, the disciple of Gandhiji was understandably, upset with the 'realities' – unpalatable realities, to be precise – before him and his countrymen. In a mild, gentle, Gandhian manner, he raised his voice against the unreal 'realities' and pleaded his case with all the emphasis at his command to have what had remained absent in the drafts. He spoke on each of the missing issues forcefully in a non-elitist tone and Gandhian tenor. These issues, broadly, were :

- (1) The village
- (2) The peasant
- (3) The toiling worker

practically. Except Section 40 on Gram Panchayat which runs in four lines in this document of 395 articles and 8 schedules and a bare mention of cottage industries, there is no room for the Gandhian way under which the pyramid-like Constitutional frame-work would be broad-based on the million panchayats, vital with the initiative and creative energy of the common man. ... Where many lamps burn with a little oil in the tiny mud pots, there may not be flood light that dazzles but there will never be, darkness. See *Debates*, vol. VII, 21 November 1948, pp. 729-31.

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- (4) Agriculture
- (5) Land-holding
- (6) Land revenue
- (7) Usury
- (8) Cattle wealth
- (9) Handicrafts
- (10) Education
- (11) Health
- (12) Democratization of state
- (13) Decentralization of power
- (14) Linguistic provinces
- (15) Making of Constituencies (for elections)
- (16) Employment
- (17) Union Public Service Commission
- (18) Reservations

His maiden speech, which he made on 14 November 1948, was, indeed, superb. It touched, albeit briefly but effectively, many of the points listed above. On the question of national language he opined that sooner they resolved the issue the better so that the people would know which language was to be their national language and start learning it'.¹⁹ He advocated the suitability of Hindi for this purpose. He touched upon another very important issue in the same speech – 'the decentralization of power' vested in the state. The ideas professing progressiveism such as 'withering away of the state',

19. *Ibid.*

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etc., were in fashion, then, with our intellectuals, he said, but he believed what Gandhiji's views on the problem were – that is, in 'the scattering of state'. He pleaded with all the emphasis at his command, the distribution – scattering – of state power to different units of administration, especially to villages. Highly centralized polity, he said, tended to go autocratic and authoritative. The real democracy would come only with the establishment of participative democracy at the village level.²⁰

He pleaded for establishing a truly secular state, and a classless society in India.²¹ The poor and the backward people, that is the manual workers, the peasants and the wage-earners should receive, he said, special care.²²

For bettering the lot of the peasant and the animal citizens, he moved a resolution which, *inter alia*, read as follows :

In discharge of the primary duty of the State to provide adequate food, water and clothing to

20. He said on this count : 'Mahatma Gandhi, the Father of Nation, always taught us that whether in the political or in the economic sphere, decentralization engenders a power which is much greater than other kinds of power'. *Debates*, vol. VII, 6 November 1948, p.289.

21. *Ibid.*

22. *Ibid.*, pp. 289-90.

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the nationals and improve their standard of living the State shall endeavour :

- (a) as soon as possible to undertake the execution of irrigation and hydro-electric projects by harnessing rivers and construction of dams and adopt means of increasing production of food and fodder.
- (b) to preserve, project and improve the useful breeds of cattle and ban the slaughter of useful cattle, specially milch and draught cattle and the young stocks.²³

He again took up the case of the poor peasants living in great penury and pain on 23 November 1948 and made an emotion-filled special plea to protect them. 'I am a villager, born and bred in a farmers house', he said. 'Naturally, I have imbibed its culture. I love it. All the problems connected with it fill my mind'. I, therefore, counsel the powers that be, he said, to stop fleccing of the peasant :

Today there is not a single pie of the income of the peasant who earns it by his sweat and blood, which is not taxed. If he cultivates even a single bigha of land he has to pay a tax on it. As compared to this even an income of two thousand rupees of other people of India is not taxed. This is great injustice to the peasant,

23. *Ibid.*

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particularly in a country where they dominate and have a large population. It should rather be considered how the continuance of this injustice in a country of peasants would look like ? Therefore I want that the provincial governments should realise land revenue on the same basis as the income tax.²⁴

A few days later²⁵, he again moved a resolution on the same subject, recommending the ways and means as to how to ameliorate the wretched condition of the peasant by (a) giving proper price of his produce, (b) strengthening the national cooperative organizations of the agricultural producers and consumers, (c) insuring (*bima*) of his crops, and (d) abolishing of usury. The resolution read as follows:

34A. (a) The State shall endeavour to secure by suitable legislation or economic organization or in any other way the minimum economic price of the agricultural produce to the agriculturists .

(b) The State shall give material assistance to national co-operative organizations of the producers and consumers.

(c) Agricultural insurance shall be regulated by legislation.

24. *Ibid.*

25. *Ibid.*

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(d) Usury in every form is prohibited.²⁶

On 2 December 1948, he pleaded for making small holdings of the peasants inalienable and retention of the Land Alienation Act, Punjab, which was, in many ways, still beneficial for the peasant.²⁷

On 2 September 1949, he put up a case for devising a uniform land revenue system for the whole country on the principle that the other income taxes were applied on.²⁸

Chaudhary Saheb's pleas and pleadings had the desired result, as seen later, to a large extent if not to the fullest. For conducting the affairs of the village, that is, its governance, the following article 31(A) was added to the article 31:

26. *Ibid.*

27. He moved the following resolution for this purpose:

That the following new clauses (7) and (8) be added to article 13 :

(7) Nothing in sub-clauses (d), (e) and (f) of the said clause shall affect the operation of any existing law or prevent the State from making any law imposing restrictions on non-agriculturists to acquire and hold agricultural land, for the protection of the interests of the tillers of the soil or the peasantry.

(8) Nothing in sub-clauses (d), (e) and (f) of the said clause shall prevent the State from making laws to declare the minimum of economic holdings of land inalienable.

28. *Ibid.*

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'The state shall take steps to organize village panchayats and endow them with powers and authority as may be necessary to enable them to function as units of self-government'.²⁹

Some of his suggestions, which could not be met with then, were taken up later. For instance, the exemption of small land-holdings from being taxed, fixing of MSP, etc., have been given effect in recent times.

Another important subject, which Chaudhary Saheb took up was the redrawing of the provincial map of the country on the linguistic-cultural basis. He was specially interested in the formation of his own State, Haryana, which was wrongly tagged to Punjab in 1858 through an accident of history. He spoke on the subject on 18 November 1948, suggesting separation of the Ambala Division from Punjab to make a separate province called Haryana with old Delhi as its capital.³⁰ To make the proposed province strong and viable in every respect, he suggested, on 2 August 1949 to divide the unmanageably huge

29. The amendment was moved by K.Santhanam. See, for details, *Debates*, vol. VII, 22 November 1948, p. 520.

30. He said on this point that, I may point in this connection that under the British regime, when the Round Table Conference was being held (1931), there was the Corbett Scheme for the formation of a new province of Haryana which fell through for want of a spokesman of Haryana'. See *ibid.*

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province of Uttar Pradesh into two parts, eastern UP and western UP, and add the socio-culturally western division to it.³¹

He pleaded for providing good education and health facilities to the children living in unliveable conditions in rural India.³² To a question as to where would the money come for this, his reply was : 'If we mean to do good to the poor and establish hospitals and other institutions for their benefit we have to tax the rich people'.³³

Even a superficial look at the Debates of the Constituent Assembly would show that the contribution of Ch. Saheb in the making of our Constitution was pretty important. The village, the peasant and the weaker sections of our society owe pretty much to him, for without his powerful and passionate pleading of their cases in the august Assembly, they would not have got what they did. They will remain ever grateful to him !

V

The part II of the book consists of important speeches, which Chaudhary Saheb made in the Constituent Assembly (Legislative). They are 19 in number and

31. *Ibid.*

32. *Ibid.*, vol. IX, 9 August 1949, pp. 298-99.

33. *Ibid.*

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cover, again, the subjects which the elite usually neglected like, for instance, the village, the peasant, the poor and the fallen. In his straight-forward manner, Chaudhary Saheb drew the attention of the Government to the problems of these helpless and voiceless millions. He kept a vigilant eye on the Government offices and officials and exposed their mismanagement, malfunctioning and so forth without fear or favour. He took up development issues and the problems like unemployment, diseases and dearth and gave their simple solutions.

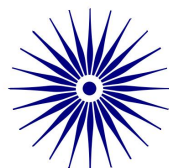
In part III, there are important questions which he posed to the Government of the day from time to time. They are 57 in number and they, too, cover, broadly, the above-mentioned subjects.

The readers, it is hoped, will find the content of the speeches and questions and their replies by such great leaders as Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru, Sardar Patel, Maulana Azad and others interesting, informative and useful

K.C. Yadav

PART ONE

Speeches made in the
Constituent Assembly



CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA

Monday, the 14th July, 1947

The Constituent Assembly of India met in the Constitution Hall, New Delhi, at Ten of the Clock on Monday, the 14th July 1947, Mr. President (The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad) in the Chair.

Presentation of Credentials and Signing of the Register*

Mr. President : Members who have not yet presented their credentials and signed the Register will do so now.

....

East Punjab

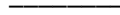
28. The Hon'ble S. Baldev Singh

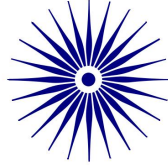
29. Diwan Chaman Lall

* *Constituent Assembly Debates*, vol. IV, 14 July 1947, pp. 536-37.

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30. Maulana Daud Ghaznavi
31. Gyani Gurmukh Singh Musafir
32. Sheikh Mahoob Elahi
33. Sufi Abdul Hamid Khan
34. Chaudhuri Ranbir Singh
35. Chaudhuri Mohd. Hassan
36. Shri Bikramlal Sondhi
37. Prof. Yashwant Rai





CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA

Saturday, the 6th November, 1948

The Constituent Assembly of India met in the Constitution Hall, New Delhi, at Ten of the Clock on Saturday, the 6th November 1948, of the Clock, Mr. Vice-President (Dr. H.C. Mukherji) in the Chair.

...

Maiden Speech¹

Chaudhari Ranbir Singh (East Punjab : General)*: Mr. Vice-President while supporting the motion of Dr. Ambedkar I would like to submit a few words to this House. I agree with Seth Govind Das that it would have been better if we had decided upon our National Anthem, National Flag and national

1. *Constituent Assembly Debates*, vol. VII, 6 November 1948, pp. 451-52.

* Translation of Hindustani speech (official version).

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Language in very beginning. With reference to what Shri Maitraji said yesterday, I admit that we cannot expect our Deccan friends to speak in Hindi and to use it for the business of the House all at once. But there would have been one advantage if the problem of the national language had been settled in the very beginning – and even now the advantage would accrue – and it would have been that people would have come to know which language was to be their national language and which language they should seek to learn.

I would not like to go deep into the question of centralisation and decentralisation of power, but I would like to draw the attention of the House of one matter. Mahatma Gandhi, the Father of the Nation always taught us that whether in the political or in the economic sphere decentralisation engenders a power which is much greater than other kinds of power. Besides, there are other reasons also for this view. I am a villager, born and bred in a farmer's house. Naturally I have imbibed its culture. I love it. All the problems connected with it fill my mind. I think that in building the country the villagers should get their due share and villagers should have their influence in every sphere. Besides there is another matter to which attention was drawn this morning by Babu Thakur Dasji. It is that the distinction between rural and urban seats should be done away with. I

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have no doubt that if we take a long view of the matter it would be beneficial for the rural areas – and more specially in a country like India where there are seven lakhs of villages and only a few cities. But we cannot ignore the conditions of today. Howsoever ingeniously we may try to beguile them with subtle arguments and the fine sentiments the village people cannot be blinded to the fact that the power of the Press and the Intelligentsia is centred in the cities alone, and that they of the villages have little say in the affairs of the nation. It is no use, therefore, to ignore this reality. Today a distinction has to be maintained in our country between the rural and urban seats. In fact reservation of seats is to be provided and it should be provided, for those who are backward. The reservation provided in our Constitution is rather a peculiar one. We should remember what used to be emphasised by the Father of our Nation, Mahatma Gandhi, that is, the means for achieving an end have to be very carefully scrutinised, for the end is conditioned by the means. Our aim today is to set up a secular State – a non-denominational State. I cannot therefore see any reason why seats should be reserved for minorities or sectarian groups. I do not see any sound reason for the adoption of such a course of action. Would not its adoption defeat the realisation of Ideals we have in view? Our object of establishing a secular State in this

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country would remain merely an unrealised dream if we decide to provide safeguards on grounds of religion. The training, level of education, and the power of the followers of Islam do not need any further demonstration in the circumstances prevailing in the country today for we have already had ample proof of the same.

We have seen that by the power of their organization and with the help of a foreign power they brought about the partition of the country. The other minorities that have already been referred to are not less powerful. We cannot from any point of view call them backward communities. It is no doubt true that it may be said, if it can be said for any group at all, that Harijans constitute a backward class. Both from their educational and financial conditions they may be called a backward class. But even in this respect we have to keep in view one other consideration. It is that if we provide in this Constitution safeguards for Harijans, the word 'Harijans' would be perpetuated even though such is not our intention. We want to form a classless society in the country. But a classless society cannot be formed if we make a provision for reservation of seats on the country. This would only perpetuate the word 'Harijan'. In my opinion there is another way and a much better way of providing safeguards for them. All the backward people in the country are either

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peasants or labourers. All such people were disfranchised in Russia as did no manual work and lived not by their labour, but on the returns on their capital. We may not disfranchise such people in our country today. We may even give them rights according to their numbers. But we should provide safeguard for manual workers, the peasants and the wage-earners. If safeguards are to be provided they must be only for those who are peasants and wage-earners and in fact safeguards can be properly provided for them alone.

There is one thing more. As I said before, it may perhaps be objected that this will give rise to another serious problem, that is to say, the words 'peasant' and 'labourer' will find a permanent place in the Constitution. But I think that, even if this happens, it will not be in any way injurious to anyone. It will be all the better that the people of the whole country would be labelled as peasants and workers. If every one would earn his bread by labour, it would be the best thing for the country and the problems of food and cloth with which the country is faced today would then be solved easily.

I would like to proceed to make one more observation and this I may do only as a peasant. It is with respect to the protection of the cows. Pandit Thakurdass Bhargava and I had jointly moved a resolution which was adopted by the Congress. But,

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unfortunately, no mention of it has been made in our Constitution. Though the same was the case in regard to Hindi on which question also the party had come to a decision, yet the mention of Hindi is to be found in the Draft while no mention has been made of the resolution as regards cow protection. I humbly submit that resolution should be carried out as a whole – rather it should be enlarged as follows :

“In discharge of the primary duty of the State to provide adequate food, water and clothing to the nationals and improve their standard of living the State shall endeavour –

- (a) as soon as possible to undertake the execution of irrigation and hydro-electric projects by harnessing rivers and construction of dams and adopt means of increasing production of food and fodder.
- (b) to preserve, project and improve the useful breeds of cattle and ban the slaughter of useful cattle, specially milch and draught cattle and the young stocks.”

Sir, I would like to make one more point in regard to the economic order. I have no objection rather I am happy that the Centre should be very strong. But I consider it my duty to submit that the finances of the provinces should be on a sound basis. Today there is not a single pie of the income of the peasant who earns it by his sweat and blood, which is not taxed. If he cultivates even a single bigha of land

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he has to pay a tax on it. As compared to this even an income of two thousand rupees of other people of India is not taxed. This is a great injustice to the peasant, particularly in a country where they dominate and have a large population. It should rather be considered how the continuance of this injustice in a country of peasants would look like ? Therefore, I want that the provincial governments should realise land revenue on the same basis as the income tax ; for this purpose their finances should be strengthened.

I would like to make one more observation as a Punjabi. Punjab was partitioned as a consequence of the Freedom of India and partition completely dislocated the entire administration of this Province. To bring it again into line with the other provinces it is necessary that at least for the next ten years, in so far as its finances are concerned, special concession should be shown to East Punjab.



CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA

Wednesday, the 17th November, 1948

The Constituent Assembly of India met in the Constitution Hall, New Delhi, at Ten of the Clock on Wednesday, the 17th November, 1948, Mr. President (The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad) in the Chair.

...

On Reservations¹

Chaudhari Ranbir Singh (East Punjab : General)*: Mr. President , while supporting the motion of Dr. Ambedkar's amendment I cannot help remarking that the amendment undoubtedly provides some freedom to the members of the Central Legislature to move private bills, as also some freedom and opportunity to the minorities, based on religion or caste, to have their say in the matter of the formation of any province of

1. *Constituent Assembly Debates*, vol. VII, 17 November 1948, pp. 453-54.

* Translation of Hindustani speech (official version).

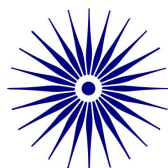
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their choice. But I want to submit in this connection that the aim of our country being the establishment of a secular State our non-religious Government should follow the rule that all such reservations based on community should be abolished. On the other hand, I fear that if this suggestion is accepted, a community which is in a majority in a territory but is in minority in a state will have neither the same weight nor the same opportunities as it had under the previous provisions.

Shri H.R. Guruv Reddi (Mysore): May I suggest, Sir, that further discussion may be continued tomorrow ?

Mr. Vice-President : The House stands adjourned till 10 A.M. on Thursday the 18th November 1948.

The Assembly then adjourned till Ten of the Clock on Thursday, the 18th November 1948.



CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA

Thursday, the 18th November, 1948¹

The Constituent Assembly of India met in the Constitution Hall, New Delhi, at ten of the clock, Thursday, the 18th November, 1948, Mr. Vice-President (Dr. H.C. Mukherjee) in the Chair.

...

Formation of Haryana and Other Matters

Chaudhari Ranbir Singh (East Punjab : General): *
Mr. Vice-President , I pointed out yesterday that according to this amendment a minority in any state or any area thereof might undoubtedly secure such

1. *Constituent Assembly Debates*, vol. VII, 17 November 1948, pp. 453-55.

* Translation of Hindustani speech (official Version).

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alteration in the boundaries of a state as it chooses through the President or the Government of India. But I am afraid the amendment would reduce the chance of success of any community which is in majority in any area but happens to be in minority in that state and I am afraid it would also reduce the importance of their demand and narrow the opportunity of their having a say in the matter. I hold so because according to this amendment, the matter would be referred to the State Legislature for consideration and as the people of that area would be in minority in the State, although they may be in majority in their own area, it would naturally be recorded that only a few members of the State Legislature desired a change in the boundary of the State. The provision as it stands in the draft lays down that if the majority of the people in any area demand that their area be joined to any other State or to a new State, their demand can be taken into consideration but under this amendment, I am afraid their demand would lose some of its weight, and particularly this would be the case of the people of such areas as have no leader of their own, no press of their own and no other means to make their voice heard. We may take U.P. as a case in instance. When in the last session, the Constitution was being discussed , it became quite clear from the discussion

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held in the Party that U.P. people realise that their province is rather too big. At that time the U.P. people had expressed a fear that their Legislature would be unmanageable as it would have 600 members, if like other provinces, each lakh of the population sent one member to it. While legal and administrative difficulties of this nature are recognized, even then it is said that no area should be given to the province of Delhi or Haryana. Though the people of this area wanted that their region should be joined to Delhi or Haryana yet nothing happened as they had no leader of their own nor any press of their own. The loyalty of those people of U.P., who had made this demand, was doubted and their voice was stifled to an extent beyond description. A ban was laid on them by the Provincial Congress Committee not to make such a demand and they were asked not to raise any voice for any alteration in the boundaries of the province.

Therefore, I am afraid, Sir, this amendment will prevent any action for achieving their union on the part of those people and areas that have the same culture, the same language and the same way of life, and whose union is advantageous to the country from legal, administrative and other points of view, I may repeat, Sir, what Shri Thakurdas Bhargava stated yesterday that when a demand was made for forming Haryana into a Province the loyalty of some of those

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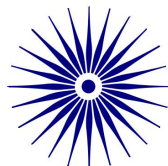
who made this demand was suspected and it was alleged against them that they wanted to form a separate province of Jats. But the truth is that if Haryana had been formed into a Province – and I may point in this connection that under the British regime, when the Round Table Conference was being held², there was the Corbett Scheme for the formation of a new province of Haryana, which fell through for want of a spokesman of Haryana³ while today its formation is being opposed on the alleged ground that the Jats are seeking to have a separate Province of their own – so, as I was going to say, the fact would have been that the Jats would be a minority there and even if each community was taken singly into account the Jat community would not be in majority in comparison to the others. If there be any community, which has a large population it is that of Harijans – Chamars. So if this province is to be formed at all it would be a province of Chamars. But since they have

-
2. In London, 1931.
 3. Exactly. But more than that it was the opposition of the vested interest, that is Hindu representatives from the west Punjab like Raja Narendra Nath, etc who were against the proposal for separation of Haryana would have reduced the Hindu presence in Punjab to a large extent.

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no press of their own, they cannot give voice of their demand.

I no doubt support the amendment but at the same time I want that it should be changed so as to include without any doubt the provision that when the Centre consults the provincial legislature the opinion of the majority of the representatives of the territory, which wants to separate itself and join another province, should also be on record and that their recorded opinion should appear before the Central Assembly so that it may know what that particular territory desires.



CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA

Tuesday, the 23rd November, 1948

The Constituent Assembly of India met in the Constitution Hall, New Delhi, at Ten of the Clock, Tuesday, the 23rd November, 1948 Mr. Vice-President (Dr. H.C. Mukherjee) in the Chair.

...

On the Minimum Support Price of grains, and other matters¹

Mr. Vice-President : Now we come to amendment No. 952 to article 34-A.

(Amendment No. 952 was not moved).

(Amendment No. 953 – Shri Ranbir Singh Chaudhari)

1. *Constituent Assembly Debates*, vol. III, 23 November 1948, pp. 536-37.

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Chaudhari Ranbir Singh (East Punjab : General): I am not pressing it but I want to speak on the article.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar : This amendment is covered by Article 34 as amended. These are all matters not so much for a Constituent Assembly to introduce in the Constitution but for legislation at the Centre or in the provinces. I, therefore, think this need not be moved. Even at present, usury is restricted in the provinces. A percentage for interest is fixed.

Mr. Vice-President : As the wording is different Shri Ranbir Singh Chanudhari has a right to move his amendment but whether he will do so or not lies with him. I hope he will not take up too much time of the House. You ought to remember that our President wants that we should finalize our Constitution by the 9th December. Then there was some talk about moving it further.

Chaudhari Ranbir Singh : * Mr. Vice-President , I wanted to make a few observation on the general article first and that is why I rose a little while ago to speak. But as I did not then get an opportunity to speak, with your permission, Sir, I would like to express my views now within a minute or two. I have already said that I would not press my amendments.

* Translation of Hindustani Speech. (official version).

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Besides, there is one thing more. As Shri Ayyangar has stated . . .

Mr. Z.H. Lari : (United Provinces : Muslim) : Sir, on a point of order. Can any person be allowed to address the House unless he formally moves a motion ?

Mr. Vice-President : You are right.

Addressing Mr. Chaudhari, You will first of all move the motion and then address the House.

Chaudhari Ranbir Singh : Mr. Vice-President, my article reads thus :-

“That after the article 34, the following new article 34A be added :-

‘34A. (a) The State shall endeavour to secure by suitable legislation or economic organization or in any other way the minimum economic price of the agricultural produce so that there is stability in the life the agriculturist.

(b) The State shall give material assistance to national co-operative organizations of the producers and consumers.

(c) Agricultural insurance shall be regulated by special legislation.

(d) Usury in every form is prohibited.

Mr. Vice-President : May I take it that you are moving this amendment formally ? I suppose this is done.

Mr. Z.H. Lari : He says, it reads thus. He has not moved his amendment.

Mr. Vice-President : Suppose, you waive that point. Now, Mr. Chaudhari, you can address the House.

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Chaudhari Ranbir Singh : * Mr. President, I am afraid that one class remains still to whom the provisions of article 34, as it stands now or even with the amendment or Shri Nagappa as accepted by Dr. Ambedkar, would not afford any protection and whose economic interests would, therefore, remain unsafeguarded. My reference is not to the class of landlords. The fact on the contrary is that I do not desire to speak for that class at all. My reference is to the class of peasant - proprietors of the Punjab who neither exploit anybody nor like to be exploited by anyone. Speaking for the peasantry, I would like to remark that so long as we do not fix some economic price of the produce, they will continue to suffer from a grave injustice. The duty of the State today is not merely to maintain law and order but also to resolve the economic complexities, the solution of which is the main problem of the peasantry at present. Some time back the prices of gur and other commodities fell so much that they came down one-fourth of what they were four or five months before. Ours is an agriculturist country and in this country such violent disturbances of the price level cannot but radically disturb the agricultural economy. I do not want to press this very much because I know that this point is covered by the previous article. But these matters

* Translation of Hindustani Speech. (official version).

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should be kept in mind. My purpose is to emphasize that without fixing the economic price of agricultural products, there can be no stability in the economic life of the agriculturists and it is very necessary to make it stable. The other three parts also lend some support to this view. Since a good many members of the House think that the purpose of my amendment is covered by the previous article, I do not move it.



CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA

Thursday, the 2nd December, 1948

The Constituent Assembly of India met in the Constitution Hall, New Delhi, at Ten of the Clock, Thursday, the 2nd December, 1948, Mr. Vice-President (Dr. H.C. Mukherjee) in the Chair.

On the Minimum of land holdings and other matters¹

Chaudhari Ranbir Singh (East Punjab : General) : Mr. Vice President, Sir, I am not in agreement with those who are for abolition of these provisions from the text during the transitional period. This is why I gave notice of two more provisions to article 13. They are as under :

1. *Constituent Assembly Debates*, vol. IX, 2 December 1948, pp. 757-58.

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That the following new clauses (7) and (8) be added to article 13 :

'(7) Nothing in sub-clauses (d), (e) and (f) of the said clause shall affect the operation of any existing law or prevent the State from making any law imposing restrictions on non-agriculturists to acquire and hold agricultural land, for the protection of the interests of the tillers of the soil or the peasantry.

(8) Nothing in sub-clauses (d), (e) and (f) of the said clause shall prevent the State from making laws to declare the minimum of economic holdings of land inalienable.'

Sir, after further consideration, I changed my mind and did not move these amendments, because I think in sub-clause (5) of the article, the words "in the interests of the general public" denote, mean and cover my point that whatever the imposition of restrictions is found to be necessary for the protection of the interests of the tillers of the soil and labourers, the governments will have the right to impose the necessary restrictions on any section of the society, or may allow to continue such laws as are already in existence, which the Governments think are necessary for the protection of the interests of the peasantry or labourers.

I come from East Punjab, and there is a law which is known as the Land Alienation Act, according to which certain classes are debarred from acquiring land, by law. I agree with my friends, specially Harijans who advocate that the Harijans and

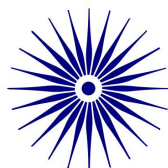
MAKING OF OUR CONSTITUTION

other persons who are actually the tillers of the soil should have the right to acquire land. But I fail to understand the argument that each and every person whether he is a tiller of the soil or not, should be put on a par with the tillers of the soil, and should have the liberty to acquire agricultural land. If that is to be the case, then we will be creating a new problem – the problem of zamindars – the same problem of zamindars which we are abolishing or have promised to abolish from our country. In several provinces, laws for the abolition of the zamindari system have already been enacted. As regards the Punjab, I am of the view, that it cannot be denied that the absence of zamindari system in the Punjab in its acute form as it exists in other provinces is the result of the Land Alienation Act, and this is the real reason why the agriculturists are in a more advanced position in the Punjab than in other provinces. I, therefore feel very strongly and rightly that the legislatures of the State and the various governments should have the full liberty to impose restrictions on the non-tillers of the soil on acquiring or holding agricultural lands, and to declare a minimum economic holding of land inalienable, for the protection of the interests of the tillers of the soil or the peasantry.

Moreover, the overwhelming majority of the population of our country depends on agriculture and they are the tillers of the soil. So the words

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“general public interests” can mean only the interests of the peasantry and the labourers, and not only the interests of the vocal middle class intelligentsia and vested people.



CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA

Monday, the 1st August, 1949

The Constituent Assembly of India met in the Constitution Hall, New Delhi, at Nine of the Clock, Monday, the 1st August, 1949, Mr. President (The Hon'ble Dr. Rajendra Prasad) in the Chair.

...

On Old Delhi as Capital of East Punjab¹

Chaudhari Ranbir Singh (East Punjab : General) *: Mr. President, Sir, I have come forward to support this article². But in supporting it I cannot but say that it is not in the interest of the country to retain these small territories in the form of separate provinces. I

1. *Constituent Assembly Debates*, vol. IX, 1 August 1949, pp. 71-72.

* Translation of Hindustani's Speech (official version).

2. On retaining smaller provinces.

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think that with the exception of New Delhi, Pondicherry and Chandernagore, it will be detrimental to the interest of the country to retain these small territories in the form of provinces. Take for instance the case of Delhi. There is no doubt that New Delhi presents a different problem. We will to retain it as a separate province because it is the seat of the Central Government. But to retain Old Delhi and the villages of Delhi, which hardly number 300 as a separate province and to maintain a top-heavy administration, is not in the interest of the country.

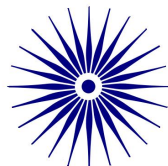
A few days back a Bill for adjusting the financial relations of Ajmer and Delhi administrations was presented for the consideration of the Standing Committee of this House. The scales of pay of the officers proposed in that Bill were the same as those in big provinces. The same is the case in regard to other departments, although there are hardly three hundred villages in Delhi and it is not even as big as a Tehsil of a Province. If we make it a separate province, we would be compelled to maintain a top-heavy administration. There I support this proposal and hope that except New Delhi, the rest of the city of Delhi and its villages should be integrated with the Punjab.

Shri Mahabir Tyagi (United Provinces :General) :
Why should it not be integrated with the United Provinces ?

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Chaudhari Ranbir Singh : My Friend, Shri Tyagi, says that it should be integrated with the United Provinces. For integrating Delhi with the United Provinces, a natural boundary, i.e., the Jamuna will have to be overlooked. If it is integrated with the Punjab, it would form the natural boundary.

Import of gram from Punjab into Delhi is not permitted these days even though no natural barrier like that of the Jamuna separates Delhi from Punjab. Besides, many villagers have fields in the Punjab as well as in Delhi. In this way we are confronted with a great problem. But if New Delhi is set aside and the rest of the area of Delhi is integrated with the Punjab, there would be great facility. The idea of integrating it with the United Provinces is wrong on other considerations too. The United Provinces is a big province. It is so extensive that it is not an easy task to manage it as a unit. The Punjab, which is a small province, would in this way add to itself a population of about ten lakhs. Besides, it would have a proper boundary too. In supporting this proposal I want to emphasise that the rural area of old Delhi and New Delhi should be integrated with the Punjab and the Constituent Assembly itself should come to decision in this respect.



CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA

Tuesday, the 2nd August, 1949

The Constituent Assembly of India met in the Constitution Hall, New Delhi, at Ten of the Clock on Tuesday, the 2nd August, 1949, Mr. President (The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad) in the Chair.

...

On Merger of Old Delhi with Punjab¹

Chaudhari Ranbir Singh (East Punjab : General)*:
Mr. President, it is, in my opinion, no use leaving this for the Union Parliament to decide, if a decision is taken about the future Constitutional set-up for Delhi, and if it be decided that old Delhi and its rural areas

1. *Constituent Assembly Debates*, vol. IX, 2 August 1949, pp. 93-94.

* Translation of Hindustani speech (official version).

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as also the Himachal Pradesh be merged with the Punjab, and a decision is also taken by Constituent Assembly about similar other small regions, I think it would facilitate the Drafting of a Constitution for the Centrally administrated areas, and it would not be necessary in my opinion to leave this question for the Union Parliament to decide. We too had in view the same objective, which Mr. Gupta² is aiming to realise. Our leader will see that it is fulfilled some day. We do wish that Delhi should be constituted as an autonomous province, but the fact is that the conditions obtaining at present do not admit of this course being adopted. I would request Mr. Gupta to wait patiently for some time more, just as he has waited so far patiently, for the materialization of his dream and I am sure his dream would be fulfilled one day.³

In this connection, I may point out that the United Provinces is very big province. I think the people there cannot run the administration of such a big province with efficiency. Some day they will have to divide the province into two units. If that happens the neighbouring regions are sure to be joined with

2. Deshbandhu Gupta.

3. He was an ardent supporter of formation of separate Haryana with Delhi (old) as its capital. But now he wanted Delhi Province.

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us. The Punjab also, in future, may be divided into two parts⁴ and I hope that when this happens its Hindi speaking areas will be joined to the divided part of United Provinces to form a unit. Thus two units would come into existence, that is, one Punjabi-speaking unit and a Hindi-speaking unit. In this way demand that Mr. Gupta put forth here yesterday may be satisfied and his dream may materialise. But if Mr. Gupta does not accept my advice and persists in his demand for the formation of an autonomous province of Delhi, he may rest assured that his dream will ever remain a dream only. If his demand is conceded, we the Hindi-speaking people in Punjab will remain a perpetual minority there. I would, therefore, advise my Friend Mr. Gupta that for securing his objective he should demand that old Delhi and its rural areas should be merged with the Punjab. Once he takes the decision to follow this course he can urge his ideas through his daily journal⁵, and I am confident that in that way he would be able to achieve complete success in his mission.

The second point that Mr. Gupta made here and which I do not want to repeat is that it is an undeniable fact that almost all the administrative Services of Delhi were manned by personnel loaned

4. Punjab and Haryana.

5. Urdu newspaper, the *Tej*.

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from the Punjab, and in particular this has ever been the case in regard to the Civil and Executive services of Delhi. Judicial appeals from Delhi Court go up even today to the Punjab High Court. The people of Delhi have to go to Simla for this purpose. But this is an inconvenience which we also have to put up with. But if the High Court were located at some other town, it is quite probable that the people of the distant districts, will be put to as great an inconvenience as we suffer from.

Mr. Gupta referred here to one other point yesterday, which I would like to challenge. If on this matter, the opinion of the people of Delhi, of course excluding New Delhi, is taken, I claim that more than 60 to 70 per cent of the people, I even hope that 80 to 90 per cent. of the people, will vote for Delhi being joined to East Punjab. About the rural areas of Delhi I can most emphatically say that the people of these areas would like their areas to be joined to the Districts of Rohtak, Gurgaon and Karnal. There is no doubt that at least 99 per cent of the people of the rural areas of Delhi would support such a proposal. So far as the question of Delhi proper is concerned, a Conference of the people of Delhi was held yesterday under the presidentship of Shri Thakur Das Bhargava and a resolution specially demanding the merger of Delhi into Punjab, at least for the purpose of ration, was adopted. I also attended this Conference and

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there too I put forward the demand that the regions of Haryana and Delhi should be constituted into one unit. If for some reasons this cannot be done, then we demand that both the regions – Haryana and Delh – should go to Punjab.

So far as the rural areas of Delhi are concerned I can most emphatically say that 99 per cent of the people of these areas would favour the demand made by me.

Without taking any more time of the House I would conclude with the remark that the question of Delhi should be solved here. We need not leave this issue for the Parliament to decide, because it is certain that so far as Delhi proper is concerned it would be retained as a Centrally administrated area. This question should, therefore, be decided here and should not be left over to the Parliament for decision. If the question of New Delhi is not brought in to complicate the matter it would be easy to take a decision, for then all cause for hesitation and indecision would have disappeared and decision could be taken without any difficulty and according to the popular will. We need not, therefore, hold over this question for long. I think within these remaining eight or ten days of the current session of the Assembly we can take a decision on this matter. I agree with Mr. Gupta that it is better this question is decided by the Constituent Assembly.



CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA

Tuesday, the 9th August, 1949

The Constituent Assembly of India met in the Constitution Hall, New Delhi, at Ten of the Clock on Tuesday, the 9th August, 1949, Mr. President (The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad) in the Chair.

...

On burden of taxes on peasants and Scheduled Castes¹

Chaudhari Ranbir Singh (East Punjab : General)*:
Mr. President, I am reluctant to support this article because I hold that the amendment moved by my friend Mr. Shibban Lal Saksena to this article is based on a principle and its rejection would mean injustice

1. *Constituent Assembly Debates*, vol. IX, 9 August 1949, pp. 298-99.

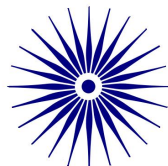
* Translation of Hindustani speech (official version).

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to the general public. These days generally the people of meagre income have to pay Profession Tax. While the poor Harijans have to pay twenty-four rupees on account of Profession Tax, though their capacity does not permit them to pay even two or three rupees, the rich industrialists and factory owners, who are capable of paying far more than the Harijans, do not pay their full share. The maximum limit of Profession Tax prescribed under this article is Rs. 250. It would operate inequitably against the poor people. As an agriculturist I would like to state before the House that apart from the Land Revenue, the other taxes that are realised from us in the Punjab by District Boards and other Local bodies come to six pies in the rupee. Now attempts are being made there to raise this rate further. Well, the income of rupees two thousand a year goes tax free but not even bigha of land is exempt from Land Revenue. I am utterly unable to understand the logic behind this proposition. Certainly this operates very disadvantageously against the farmers. Irrespective of the fact whether they have economic holdings or not, land revenue is charged from them, and in addition to that the Profession Tax at the rate of six pies a rupee is also realised from them. I fail to understand why this principle of additional taxation is not applied in respect of rich people. Limiting of Profession Tax to an amount of Rs. 250 a year would cause a

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considerable loss to the income of District Boards and other local bodies and in that case they have either to impose further taxes on the poor sections of the population or they have to curtail the undertaken beneficial to the poor. If we mean to do good to the poor and to establish hospitals and other institutions for their benefit we have to tax the rich people. You will be in a position to do so only when you accept the amendment moved by Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena. As compared to the taxes that agriculturists have to pay, this maximum limit of Profession Tax is not much. I may again add that keeping in view the principles on which the land revenue is charged, the limit for the Profession Tax is very negligible because the agriculturists have to pay far more than one per cent on their income. I would, therefore, submit that the amendment to this articles moved by Mr. Shibban Lal Saksena should be adopted.



CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA

Monday, the 22nd August, 1949

The Constituent Assembly of India met in the Constitution Hall, New Delhi, at Ten of the Clock on Monday, the 22nd August, 1949, Mr. President (The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad) in the Chair.

...

On the Public Service Commission and new employment policy¹

Chaudhari Ranbir Singh (East Punjab : General)*:
Mr. President, I cannot help agreeing with the views expressed by Dr. Punjabrao Deshmukh in support of this article. I do feel what open competition under the

1. *Constituent Assembly Debates*, vol. IX, 9 August 1949, pp. 298-99.

* Translation of Hindustani speech (official version).

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circumstances can mean. A child born in the city listens to Radio from his very childhood, he gets a newspaper daily at his place, and has got many facilities; the school is also at a distance of a few yards from his house. When that child attains the age of three or four years, he can learn many things in the school, in the bazaar, which a country boy who has passed the eight class cannot learn. When competition is held by the Public Service Commission, the same type of questions are asked, and the decision is made on the criteria whether he is able to reply to those questions or not. This country is a land of villages and is dominated by the rural population; but none can deny on the basis of facts that the townsmen have developed with greater speed and they are much more advanced than the people of the countryside, and if in these circumstances a man from rural areas is made to compete with a person of urban area and similar types of questions are asked of them, there cannot be any doubt that the former cannot compete with the latter successfully or on equal terms.

There are only two ways of setting this right; one method is that in the public services a certain proportion should be reserved for the candidates from the countryside and they should be allotted the reserved number of posts in the services, and for those posts only persons from among the rural population should be allowed to compete.

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The other method is that while appointing the members of the Public Service Commission, it should be particularly kept in view that at least 60 to 70 percent of members should be such as may sympathise with the rural people and understand their difficulties. I wish to give you a general illustration. Now a rule has been enforced in the matter of recruitment to our forces that the preliminary competition will be held through the Public Service Commission. You can imagine that a boy who may be very good at study may not necessarily be a success in the fighting line, for fighting can be done only by the person who is well built and has a strong heart. Through the Public Services Commission you will only be able to recruit good English-knowing people, but if such people are sent to the army, you may rest assured, that the army will never be successful in its job. The army's job is entirely of a different nature. In the case of a person who becomes a military officer we have to see how much sense of sacrifice he has got, how much courage he possesses and how much physical strain he can bear. But if the recruitment to the army is made through a preliminary competition there is no doubt that the rural people will soon be left out even in the field of Military recruitment. There is no doubt that the persons formerly known as martial races belonged to the countryside; those people still join the

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army as soldiers. But the military officers are mostly urban people. The need of the hour is that the backward people of the countryside should be helped to advance forward, and for the present they should be given their due place as military officers on the basis of their population.

Nowadays there are so many villages, where there is not even a primary school. First of all, a villager's spending capacity is so little that he cannot send his children to the secondary or the higher schools in the city. Apart from this, you can just imagine how many villages are provided with facilities for primary education.

In these circumstances, if you want to act just like a machine, I have no doubt the fears expressed by Dr. Deshmukh will definitely come true. If the country is to progress on the basis of non-violence, we will have to take this into consideration according to the circumstances. As we have reserved a few seats for the backward classes or the schedule castes, we can perhaps adopt the same method in respect of the rural people. This method can be introduced either in respect of the Public Service Commission or in respect of the public services. It would be better if a certain percentage of posts is reserved and those posts are open only to the villagers for competition.

There is one thing more. Many of our people, who have been born and educated in the cities and

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can speak English well, are selected by the Public Service Commission in the competition; but most of those selected people are ignorant of the rural life and cannot put with the difficulties of the rural life. There are no roads, there are no facilities that are available in the urban areas, it is not an easy task to go there. Hence those officers shirk going to the countryside and leave everything to their subordinates; in this way the villagers are deprived of proper justice. I therefore think that the suggestions made by Dr. Deshmukh should be kept in view while appointing the Public Service Commission.

I do not agree with Shri Sahu that the tenure of the Public Service Commission should be prolonged. Our ex-president of the National Congress, Acharya Kripalani, had declared that the Government is not successful. One of the reasons for this is that the Government is not co-operating with the Public Service Commission, and one of the main causes is that the Public Service Commission was recruited according to the needs of the old order, and the old regime had recruited them in accordance with their own views.

It is therefore essential that the services should undergo a change with the change in the Government. The Government should have an open hand in the matter so that it can remove the Public Service Commission whenever it is deemed

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necessary. I, therefore, support Dr. Deshmukh strongly.

So far as nepotism is concerned it will continue even in future, it is not so easy to check it as you imagine. There are numerous considerations before members of the Public Service Commission; I think we need not be too apprehensive of the evil. Nepotism can be checked only if their conscience becomes strong, their ideas change. Till the present ideas and minds of the Public Services Commission change, you cannot check it by prolonging the life of any Public Service Commission.



CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA

Friday, the 2nd September, 1949

The Constituent Assembly of India met in the Constitution Hall, New Delhi, at Ten of the Clock on Friday, the 2nd September, 1949, Mr. President (The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad) in the Chair.

...

On the problem of 'pest' control¹

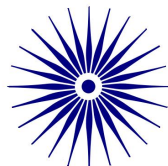
Chaudhari Ranbir Singh (East Punjab : General)*:
Mr. President, in this connection I would like to submit that there are many pests problems that are inter-provincial by nature. Take for instance the locust problem. It is not confined to any particular province or country, but it is an international problem. There are many other pests that are of inter-

1. *Constituent Assembly Debates*, vol. IX, 2 September 1949, pp. 890-91.

* Translation of Hindustani speech (official version).

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provincial nature. A province may not have any information of its existence, until it is actually invaded by the pest from the neighbouring province. So when the province is actually faced with that pest, it is not in a position to combat the menace. I, therefore, request that 'pests' should particularly be included in the Concurrent List. Secondly, India is an agricultural land and there is shortage of food at present in this country. This subject is directly connected with agriculture and for this consideration too it ought to be placed in the Concurrent List.



CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA

Friday, the 2nd September, 1949

The Constituent Assembly of India met in the Constitution Hall, New Delhi, at Ten of the Clock on Friday, the 2nd September, 1949, Mr. President (The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad) in the Chair.

...

On the Uniformity of Land Revenue¹

Chaudhari Ranbir Singh : *Mr. President, Sir, I am sorry for not being able to send my amendment in time. Mr. Brajeshwar Prasad wants that this subject should be included in the 1st List but I do not want that. I want that this should be transferred to the

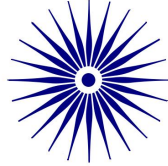
1. *Constituent Assembly Debates*, vol. IX, 2 September 1949, pp. 918-19.

* Translation of Hindustani speech (official version).

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Concurrent List. I shall just state my reasons for this suggestion. At present the land revenue is assessed in different provinces on different principles. I want that land revenue should be assessed on a uniform basis throughout the whole country. Land revenue should also be assessed on the throughout the whole country. Land revenue should also be assessed on the principle on which other income-taxes are assessed. There should be one system for the assessment of land revenue throughout the whole country, and in my opinion the same principle on which other income-taxes are assessed should be followed in regard to land revenue also. An income of Rupees three thousand has been exempted from tax, and this exemption should also be applied in the case of agricultural income. Millions of agriculturists are, today, looking to this Assembly with the hope that it would pass some law which will free them from the injustice they have been constantly subjected to for thousands of years. This cannot be done only by including this item in the Concurrent List, for such inclusion will enable the future Central Legislature to pass a uniform law in respect of income-taxes.²

2. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar said that as it would upset the whole of the provincial administration, the matter could be investigated later either by Parliament or by the different provinces, to take a decision.



CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA

Saturday, the 3rd September, 1949

The Constituent Assembly of India met in the Constitution Hall, New Delhi, at Ten of the Clock, Saturday, the 3rd September, 1949, Mr. Vice-President (Dr. H.C. Mukherji) in the Chair

...

On Problem of Agriculturists¹

Chaudhari Ranbir Singh : (East Punjab : General) *:
Mr. Vice-President, I support the amendments moved by Dr. Deshmukh². If you compare the present conditions of workers with those of the agriculturists you will find a glaring difference between the two.

1. *Constituent Assembly Debates*, vol. IX, 2 September 1949, pp. 918-19.

* Translation of Hindustani speech (official version).

2. Dr. Punjab Rao Deshmukh.

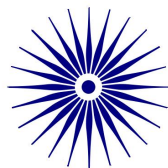
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We are going to include in the Draft Constitution an exclusive clause relating to Labour, which lays down that if there be even twenty-five children having the same language, the State shall provide them with schooling facilities. But in contrast to this, no school or hospital facilities are provided for the children of millions of agriculturists. I have all sympathy for such brethren as have migrated from West Punjab or other regions. School and hospital amenities should be provided for them and their children. I am second to none here in supporting their cause. But it would be a pity if no facilities with regards to schools and hospitals are provided for the children of agriculturists. It is not a question of merely a single entry; rather, I say it is a question of life and death for the peasants. If this item is included in the list it will offer them some hope and consolation. Millions and millions of peasants of India are looking today to you. I mean, to the Members of this House with the expectation that the new Constitution would certainly contain some specific provision for their welfare and that when it comes into force they will be benefited. If you do not include in the Constitution any specific provision for their welfare, it will give them a very

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cruel disappointment, the extent of which perhaps, you cannot imagine.

I, therefore, without taking any more time of the House, lend my whole hearted support to the amendment and hope that Members of the House who have to approach the electorates for the coming election will keep their future in view.



CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA

Thursday, the 24th November, 1949

The Constituent Assembly of India met in the Constitution Hall, New Delhi, at Ten of the Clock on Thursday, the 24th November, 1949, Mr. President (The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad) in the Chair.

...

On the Problems of the Peasantry⁵⁵

Chaudhari Ranbir Singh : *Mr. President, Sir, before expressing my views on the Constitution, I would pay my homage to the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi, Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose and other patriots who sacrificed their lives on the altar to the country and suffered in various ways.

Mr. President, today many of our brethren complain that we have taken too much time to frame

55. *Constituent Assembly Debates*, vol. XI, 2 September 1949, pp. 918-19.

* Translation of Hindustani speech (official version).

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the Constitution, but none can deny that at the time this Assembly was formed, India was under foreign rule and was divided into more than 600 units. There were many types of people and parties who wanted to divide the country. The changes that have taken place in this country during the last three years are unparalleled. During the period, our country was partitioned but despite this no one can deny that for the first time in History and under your Presidentship we are going to establish a single State of India, bigger and more firmly than ever.

Some friends may say that India was a comparatively bigger State under British rule, but none can deny that at that time there were 562 States in India, with their own systems of Government. No one can deny the fact that before 1857, the Britishers had attempted to establish a strong State by merging the States, but they had succeeded in merging only a few States, when there was a revolution in the country and the Britishers had to give up that idea. But under your Presidentship, under the leadership of our leaders like Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and Sardar Patel and by following the path shown by Mahatma Gandhi, we have succeeded in persuading all these States to be parts of the Indian Union and our country which was divided into 600 units when this Assembly began to function, would now be having about 27 Provinces. I think within a short time there would be only 15 or 20 units in this country. In this way we have laid the foundation of a strong union by

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reducing the number of component units. None can deny that it has entailed delay but sufficient work has been accomplished during this period. I think, if we had completed the Constitution within a year at our first meeting it would certainly have contained provisions for communal reservations. That dispute; or rather disease has been cured and this could be achieved only on account of the tact of our leaders.

Mr. President, I wish to say a few words on some articles of this Constitution about which I hold very pronounced opinions. By providing for about franchise in this Constitution we have liberated every Indian politically, and similarly by abolishing *begar* under article 17 and outlawing untouchability under article 23, we have liberated every section of the country socially, Further in regard to economic freedom, we have by accepting article 31(4) created conditions under which I hope the Zamindari system in India which is like a burden and stood like an obstacle in the progress of the country would be abolished within the next year, and thus we have solved this problem as we solved the problem of 562 Indian States under the leadership of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and Vallabhbhai Patel. I think that in my home province – Punjab too, which contains 10 per cent. big landlords as otherwise it is generally a region of small land holders this problem will be solved peacefully and thus we would also be able to liberate the landless peasants by virtue of this article. Similarly we would also be able to liberate the farm

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labourers as well as the factory labourers with the help of this Constitution. But Mr. President, the interests that I represent here, that is, the landed peasantry has been, I am sorry, given a set back under this Constitution. The peasant could obtain economic independence only if the principle could be accepted that he should not be forced to sell his produce below cost. Had we accepted this in this Constitution and made such a provision in this, we could have saved him from economic exploitation. But we have unfortunately accepted 19(f) which would have a bad effect on my Province. We have Land Alienation Act in our Province. I do admit that it suffers from certain shortcomings, but none can deny that lakhs of farmers who toil day and night have benefited from it to an extent that they have been able to retain their lands. I hope and trust that you would be the President of independent India and I believe this is the desire of a very large number of people. I hope, you will not reject my request as this Constitutional authorities the President of independent India and I believe this is the desire of a very large number of people. I hope you will not reject my request as this Constitution authorises the President by an article to amend or repeal the law which may not be quite conversant with this Constitution. I, therefore, particularly appeal to you that even if you amend this Act which deals with lakhs of farmers, we have no objection if you permit Harijans who labour on the land to purchase land, but I request you not to create

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conditions under which a person who has not been connected with the land may be able to acquire it. If that happens, there would, undoubtedly, be looting and robberies, and the advantages accruing from zamindari abolition would be nullified.

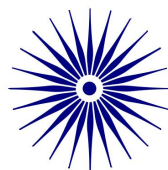
One thing which none in the House has mentioned and about which I feel most, is about the delimitation of Constituencies under article 327. I hold that the villages in India are very unjust for the rural areas. We could not accept Hindi as the National Language so early, because some people felt that they would lose their jobs thereby, but if you mix up the rural as well as urban Constituencies, you would be perpetrating serious injustice against those people who can neither express themselves, nor have any press or leadership. Under this Constitution they can be kept separate or mixed up. I hope that later on the Commission which would be set up for the purpose will keep the rural and urban areas separate.

I wanted to express my views on two or three topics further, but I do not want to take away the time of my other colleagues, and thus I conclude here.

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PART TWO

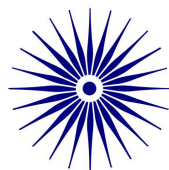
Speeches made in the
Constituent Assembly (Legislative)



On the Cotton Textiles Cess Bill, 1948¹

Chaudhri Ranbir Singh: (East Punjab: General): Mr. Speaker, in supporting the Bill, I would like to add that steps be taken to make available to the peasants that stock of cloth which is lying at present in the rural areas or with the shopkeepers in the countryside at the previously controlled prices. I have not the least doubt that with the coming of this Bill into effect the profits of the capitalists would go to our Government where they could be utilised for the benefit of the labourers and farmers of the country. The labourers and farmers will therefore benefit by this Bill. Regarding the cloth which is now with the shopkeepers of the rural areas and of the countryside, I would submit that some amendment be made in the Bill or some method be followed to make sure that the advantage will go to the labourers and the farmers.

1. *Constituent Assembly (Legislative), Debates*, vol. I, pt. 2, 16 February 1948, p. 293.



On Completing the Bhakra Dam setting up of the Yamuna Valley Corporation¹

Ch. Ranbir Singh: (East Punjab: General): Mr. Chairman, Sir, as a farmer I wish to express my gratitude to the Cabinet Ministers and particularly to the Minister who has introduced this Bill which marks the beginning of a new era in India. But along with that I cannot help saying one thing. It is this. During the British rule in this country, the Unionist Party in our province had been using the name of *Bharkra* Dam for ten to fifteen years. By means of this slogan the party had been able to secure the votes of the people. I would, therefore, like to say to the Honourable Minister that he should complete this work as soon as he can so that the opposition gets no opportunity of saying that his is simply a stunt

1. *Constituent Assembly (Legislative) Debates*, vol II, pt. 2, 18 February 1948, pp. 909-910.

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created by the Congress Party to secure votes in the elections.

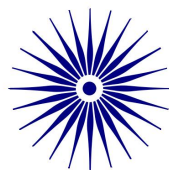
One thing more I would like to bring to the notice of the Honourable Minister. It is this. There is a country proverb which says that the lamp burns to give light to others but it fails to dispel the darkness round its base. What I mean to say is that the country has witnessed a change ; from slaves we have become freemen. There was a time when we used to read in the light of oil lamps; today we have incandescent bulbs. Today, therefore, when the oil lamp has been replaced by the incandescent bulb, there should be no shadow under the lamp. The shadow ought to be above it and not under it. But it is otherwise even upto this time. There is light above the lamp and the shadow under it.

I mean that we are living on the banks of the Yamuna. The condition of the Yamuna Valley is not different from that of the Damodar Valley. The Yamuna flows by our city, but at a distance of just five miles from here you will find the same state of affairs as you have perhaps in Bengal and Bihar. There are long stretches of land where fruits and vegetables can be grown; but these places lie barren. Every year the farmers have to suffer loss of lakhs of rupees due to floods. Moreover, I want to draw the attention of Honourable Minister to this fact that (reform of this valley) this will also benefit the rural areas of the U.P. and the Pujnab. This is, therefore, not

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a matter of one province; and the reform of this valley cannot be undertaken by a provincial Government. It can be done only by the Central Government.

The object of my speech therefore is to call upon the Honourable Minister to bring before the House, without any delay, a Bill called. The Yamuna Valley Corporation. Without saying anything more I once again express my thanks to the honourable the Minister and resume my seat with the hope that this Bill will be immediately put into practice and that soon we will see all the farmers of this country in a state of prosperity.



On the Railway Budget, 1948¹

Ch. Ranbir Singh: (East Punjab: General): Mr. Speaker, as a Punjabi it is my first duty to pay sincere thanks to the Honourable Minister for saving the lives of 30 lakhs of Punjabis and moving them from Pakistan to India and from India to Pakistan.

A cut motion similar to the one sent by Shri Ranga² as also tabled by me in which attention was drawn to the great difficulties faced by the farmers in not getting wagons for the supply of fodder, *gur*, and foodgrains. The Honourable Minister in reply to a question has stated only yesterday that the price of *gur* is 7 (Rupees) per maund in the areas of its production, while in my other places the rate is about Rs. 40/- to Rs. 50/- per maund. The rise in price is due to the fact that wagons have not been available for

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1. *Constituent Assembly (Legislative) Debates*, vol II, Pt. 2, 24 February 1948, pp. 1163-64.
 2. Shri N.G. Ranga, eminent freedom fighter and peasant leader from Andhra Pradesh.

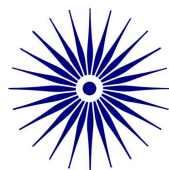
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moving *gur* from the areas of its production to places of its demand. This results in a loss to the farmer who is the actual producer and he is not able to take any advantage of the rise in the price; whereas, the merchant who has not to work hard receives the entire profits; this factor promotes black marketing. It is for this reason that I wish to draw the attention of the Honourable Minister to these facts. It is the same difficulty in the case of fodder and foodgrains that I wish to explain here. When thousands of refugees came from Pakistan and brought their cattle with them but could not bring any fodder, an acute shortage of fodder was visible here. Such a situation arose because our Muslim brethren had not grown fodder and the supplies from U.P. and C.P. were not received as no wagons were made available for this purpose. Ultimately, about 30 to 40 per cent. of the cattle brought to India died of hunger : I draw the attention of the Honourable Minister particularly to this. It should also be considered if the railways do not carry the farmers goods, a great fall in the substantial income from that source will follow. The farmers, indeed, constitute the largest number of passengers. If they are not provided with facilities to move about their goods in the trains and they are not able to get money out of it, the entire revenue which the Honourable Minister has received will disappear, and you will see, once again, that the trains have to run without passengers as they did before the war.

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This will definitely bring small industries of the farmers to an end. I, therefore, make an earnest appeal to the Honourable Minister to grant first priority to the farmers' goods. In fact, it delighted me most when he recently made an announcement granting first priority for *gur* at all places of its production. On the same ground I request the Honourable Minister to grant first priority for foodgrains and fodder also as they are the essentials for saving the lives of men and animals.

With these words I support the cut motion.



On the General Budget, 1948¹

Ch. Ranbir Singh: (East Punjab: General): Mr. Chairman, while fully supporting the cut motion moved by Shri Biswanath Das, I invite the attention of Honourable Minister to the fact that there are many people in our villages who call themselves *Vaidyas* and make experiments on the lives of the people of our country. Even a common man who has just come in contact with a *Vaidya* and has spent a day or two with him pretends himself as a full fledged doctor in the countryside. This is possible because there are no hospitals of any kind, Ayurvedic or Allopathic, round about them for miles. The people, therefore, look upon him as a learned man of qualities, and without hesitation entrust themselves to his care, and allow him to make experiments upon themselves.

To remove this evil, therefore, which affects about 80 per cent of our population today, I submit

1. *Constituent Assembly (Legislative) Debates*, vol III, pt. 2, 10 March 1948, pp. 1861-62.

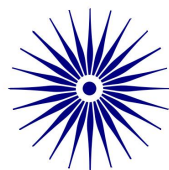
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that a bill like the one introduced recently for enrolling names of Allopathic doctors, be introduced to register names of *Vaidyas* also; and only those *Vaidyas*, who are granted certificates should be allowed to practise. In this way only our people can make a beneficial use of the Ayurvedic system of medicine.

The next thing to which I wish to invite the attention of Shrimati Rajkumari Ji is that there are still many homes in our rural population where the so-called lady doctors, who really know nothing about the profession, go to attend on cases of confinement, and then they make experiments there. This is the reason why the death rate is the highest in our country of our sisters who fall a victim to these experiments at the time of their confinement. To this, I earnestly invite the attention of the Honourable Minister and request her to give thought to the matter. It has been pointed out that this is a provincial matter, and only the other day the Honourable the Finance Minister stated in the House that we cannot do much here for rural areas. He made it clear that the Central Government has allotted a sum of rupees thirty crores to provinces for this purpose. I would particularly request the Honourable Minister for Health to sanction a large part of this money for the welfare of these women and also request her to bring forward a Bill to control the *Vaidyas*.

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As a villager – as one who was born and brought up in a village – and as one who is still living in a village, I wished to say something more about villages. They are the back-bone of our country; they number about seven lakhs and have a vast population but so far as the question of providing hospitals and medicines for them is concerned I have to ask, how much money is allotted for villages ? I also gave notice of two cut motions; one of them was about operating of rural dispensaries. I, therefore, request that dispensaries should be opened in the rural areas without going into the details of the question whether the villages fall in the centrally administered area or within the areas of the provinces. Medical help should be provided for those who are suffering and are the backbone of our country so that they may not die in the manner they do today.



On the General Budget, 1949¹

Ch. Ranbir Singh: (East Punjab: General): Mr. Speaker, I had also given notice of two cut motions. The object of one was to stabilize prices of agricultural produce and of the second to increase production.

Sir, I am a villager and a farmer. When I visit the countryside, my countrymen and fellow farmers specially put me this questions : "The old Government had always been meting out a step-motherly treatment to us ; will this Government also treat us in the same way ?" As an illustration they say that when prices are controlled, it is the interests of the urban people that are kept in view and whenever there is a chance for the peasant to make even the smallest profit, the Acts and Ordinances of Government come in his way. Prices of his

1. *Constituent Assembly (Legislative) Debates*, vol III, pt. 2, 16 March 1948, pp. 2221-23.

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commodities are controlled and it becomes an offence to sell things at higher prices. But nobody takes care of his interests. I am certainly not one of those who entertain any distrust of our leaders. I have always been trying to convince the farmers that the leadership of Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru is to their advantage; that he has assumed the office of a Minister only for their good ; and that no harm shall befall them so long as he is there. But then I know that he is surrounded by people in motor cars. A villager, who owns neither a car nor any newspaper, has too feeble a voice to make himself heard through the press. Today I want to draw your attention and point out to the Honourable Minister once again that the price of *Gur* in this season has fallen from Rs. 24 to Rs. 4 per maund. I am sure, had there been so much fluctuation in the prices of any other commodity, the press would have raised a hue and cry all over the country and would have spared no pains in bringing it to the notice of the Government. Take, for example, the case of sugar, which is the substitute of *Gur*. As soon as sugar was decontrolled all the sugar producers, who are rich men, joined hands in controlling its selling price. Its price, instead of coming down , has gone up after decontrol. In comparison to that the price of *Gur* has fallen to one-sixth. Look at the difference between Rs. 24 a maund and Rs. 4 a maund. In this month farmers had also to pay 'black market price' along with the control price

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for hiring an expeller (*kohlu*). Only the other day, on the 14th, I was invited to attend a meeting in a suburb of Delhi. I was told there that the Delhi administration had fixed a controlled price for this machine, but not a single person could purchase it at the controlled price. They were charged more than the controlled price but were given receipts for the controlled price.

The time at my disposal is short, I would therefore, Sir, like to invite the attention of the Honourable Minister to the report of the Price Sub-Committee. If fair prices are fixed for agricultural products, not only the agriculturists but also the whole of India will be benefited. This will set right the agricultural economy. Ours is an agricultural country, a land of farmers. If the economy of agriculturists and villagers is adversely affected that would affect the economy of whole of India. I also like to invite the attention of the Honourable Members to this Report. It is clear from this report also that on the 'Agriculturist's Economy' the economy of the whole country is dependent :

"The effective guarantee of a minimum price will not only introduce an element of stability in agriculture, but will also promote stability in other spheres of economic life, and will assist in securing a general rise in national income. The maintenance of the income of the agriculturist at a satisfactory level will provide a large home

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market for the products of Indian industries and encourage their development. It will maintain the revenues of the Provincial Governments, because of its direct effects on land revenue. It will increase the remunerativeness of public works in the sphere of agriculture. It will maintain the value of the only security that the agriculturists can offer, increase his credit and promote the development marketing and credit organizations. The guarantee of a minimum price, which introduces an element of stability in agricultural incomes, is thus a measure of pivotal importance for general economic development."

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Honourable Minister to another point. While presenting the Budget in the current session, the Honourable the Finance Minister stated that in Chicago, the wheat producing countries have imposed a sort of price control for the benefit of wheat-growers. They warn the countries desiring to purchase wheat from them that the latter shall have to pay a stipulated price subject to slight fluctuations for a period of five years. This type of control has been enforced. I would like the Honourable Minister to take similar action for the benefit of agriculturists in India.

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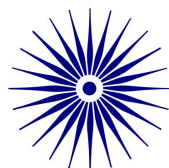
The first thing to which I just now drew his attention is that he should control the price of *Gur* so that some profit might accrue to the poor agriculturists in India who have to toil hard. In this connection, I may also mention that a farmer has to put in the greatest amount of labour in the cultivation of sugarcane. I was thus drawing the attention of the Honourable Minister to the necessity for controlling the price of *Gur*. There is no doubt that this control will not result in any gain to the urban people; it will rather harm them. The previous control benefited them. Now you should at least enforce the control for the good of the agriculturists.

There is very little time left now. The other thing to which I wish to draw the attention of the House is "Grow More Food". This year also a sum of Rs. 110 crores was provided in the budget for importing foodgrains. I would like the Honourable the Finance Minister to set apart a few crores of ruppes out of this amount for the construction of wells by the farmers. The sum of Rupees four crores is not much as compared with the figure of Rs. 110 crores. Rupees four crores may be allocated to the Provinces under the head "Construction of Wells"; and provision should also be made to the effect that a sum of Rs. 400 may be given in the form of a donation or grant for the construction of a well. In this way, about 1 lac of wells can be constructed in this country, and by

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utilizing their water; 1.20 crore maunds of foodgrains can be produced from one crop.

Without taking any further time of the House, I would like to draw the attention of the Honourable the Finance Minister and our Leader to the condition of the peasants particularly, and I have every hope that they would always do whatever they can for their betterment.



Election to Standing Committee for Ministry of Agriculture¹

Mr. Chairman: . . . I declare the following members to
be duly elected :

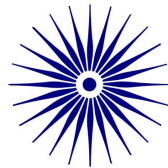
. . . Ch. Ranbir Singh. . . .

Election to Standing Committee for Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation²

Mr : Chairman : . . . I declare the following members
to be duly elected :

. . . Ch. Ranbir Singh. . . .

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1. *Constituent Assembly (Legislative) Debates*, vol III, pt. 1, 26
March 1949, p. 1996.
 2. *Ibid.*, vol IV, pt. 1, p. 982.



On the Electricity (Supply) Bill, 1948¹

Ch. Ranbir Singh (East Punjab: General) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I support this Bill and would like to express gratitude to the Honourable Minister on behalf of the agricultural community and respectfully submit two or three points for his consideration. Firstly, it has been generally noticed that in Corporations more attention is paid in looking after the interests of the wealthy and influential persons who control the press and are vocal. Therefore, I would appeal to him to particularly safeguard the interests of the rural population who have neither any press nor are vocal.

Secondly, I would say something in regard to East Punjab which is still a newly born Province hardly an year old. And just as the Honourable Minister stated this morning, it has to lose Rs. 5 lacs annually by the levy of income tax, and that amount

1. *Constituent Assembly (Legislative) Debates*, vol VI, pt 2, 10 August 1948, p. 338-39

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will have to be made good by the Central Government. East Punjab is a deficit Province and it cannot meet its expenditure. The Honourable Minister also gave an assurance today that the provisions of Clause 80 will not be brought into operation without the consent of the Provincial Government. I believe and am confident that he will stick to this. Another thing of which we are afraid is that just as many of my friends pointed out during the course of discussion on this Bill, that the Provinces can safeguard their interests by charging more interests on their capital. This will land to a conflict and efforts should therefore be made to eliminate the possibility of such a clash between the interests of the Central and Provincial Governments.

Just now my honourable friend Mr. Ananthasayanum Ayyangar has pleaded the case of Madras. Madras has many renowned speakers, who have always dominated this Assembly. Madras is already a much advanced Provinc. The representatives of East Punjab in this House are generally silent. I would appeal to them to look after their interests. East Punjab is having the Bhakra Dam and other projects, and even at present Mandi Hydro-Electric Project is yielding a profit of Rs. 10 lacs per annum.

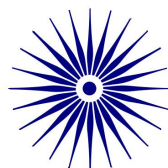
The East Punjab schemes are likely to prove much more beneficial to the rural population. Therefore, I will earnestly appeal to the Honourable

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Minister to give special consideration to this Province. Just as I have stated in respect of Madras, which is an advanced Province – its people are educated and good speakers. There is no harm if you pay relatively less attention to that province, because East Punjab is a very small province in comparison to Madras and I think more work is being done there than the latter.

Prohibition was enforced in Madras. I would also like to draw your attention to East Punjab. The Government of that Province have decided to introduce prohibition from the month of October, more particularly in the Rohtak District from where I come and which is adjacent to Delhi. East Punjab is already a deficit Province and it will have to sustain a further setback by the implementation of such schemes. Therefore, this Province is in urgent need of financial assistance.

Another thing which I want to say is that East Punjab is the only Province where the peasants have got some effective voice. Therefore, you should be particularly careful towards this Province. There is no doubt that we have passed Clause 80, but I would appeal to you not to enforce the provisions thereof in East Punjab in the first instance, which should be done only when the financial position of the Province is fairly stabilized. With this submission and in the hope that the Honourable Minister will not ignore East Punjab, I conclude.



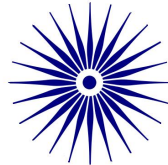
On the Indian Railways Bill, 1948¹

Ch. Ranbir Singh (East Punjab: General) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I support the suggestions made by Dr. Deshmukh² (for having an agriculturist on the Transport Tribunal). In the last meeting of the Standing Committee for the Ministry of Agriculture, the Doctor told us that on the one hand oranges were not available in Delhi and on the other a wagon of oranges was auctioned in Nagpur for Rs. 8, because wagons for transport were not available and there oranges were rotting. During the last session, and on many occasions, I drew the attention of the Honourable Minister to transport *Gur*. In certain parts of U.P. and East Punjab which produce 'Gur', the price of this commodity fell down to Rs. 4 and Rs 6; whereas in Bombay it rose upto Rs. 40 and 50. The other day Shri Gokulbhai Bhatt mentioned that grams were rotting in Bikaner. Bikaner is a distant

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1. *Constituent Assembly (Legislative) Debates*, vol. VI, pt. 2, 17 August 1948, p. 397.
 2. Dr. Punjabrao Deshmukh.

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place. Even in Hissar, the agriculturist is paid for the gram even at Rs. 6 per maund, but if you go to Madras, you cannot get gram even at Rs. 20 per maund. Thus the agriculturist is unable to secure reasonable price for the commodities produced by him because of transport difficulties. Under such circumstances, I feel that this Government which acclaims to be the Government for the agriculturists and the proletariat, would be perpetrating injustice on the agriculturists and the producers by ignoring the appointment of their representative on such a Tribunal. I would, therefore, strongly appeal to the Honourable Minister that he should take steps to remove this injustice.



On the Reserve Bank (Transfer to Public Ownership) Bill, 1948¹

Ch. Ranbir Singh (East Punjab: General) : Mr. Chairman, While welcoming this Bill, I would like to make a respectful submission to the Honourable Minister that India is predominantly an agricultural country, and even if after the nationalisation of the Bank², no policy is implemented for the development of Agriculture, I venture to say that this Bank does not deserve to be called a State Bank. Respectfully, I would like to make one or two suggestions in regard to the manner in which Agriculture can be developed. It is only a few days ago the East Punjab Premier, Dr. Gopichand Bhargava was here. During the course of a talk, he told us that a letter had been

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1. *Constituent Assembly (Legislative) Debates*, vol. VII, pt 2, 2 September 1948, 9p. 912-13.
 2. The State Bank of India.

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received by him either from the Honourable the Prime Minister or any other Minister at the Centre stating that if it was desired to abolish the Zamindari system in the Punjab, then it was for the Provincial Government to provide money for this purpose. You are aware of the fact that the East Punjab is a poor Province. What to say of finding money for the abolition of this Zamindari system, it cannot even get adequate funds to meet its expenses. As regards the manner in which agriculture can be developed, my first submission is that this Bank should assist in advancing the largest possible amount of money for the nationalisation of land.

Secondly, plans should be formulated for giving money to the maximum extent possible for undertaking mechanized cultivation at places where this is feasible.

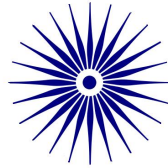
Thirdly, I may submit that only a few days ago, a heated and lively discussion took place in this House in regard to the soaring prices of foodgrains and other commodities. In this connection I would request you to take the case of gram which may sold in a district which is situated at a distance of 100 miles from this place at Rs. 5 per maund. There the cultivator might have received for this commodity Rs. 5 per maund at the most, but at the same time it was being sold in Madras at Rs. 50 per maund. Similar is the case with Rothak which is situated at a

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distance of about 44 miles from Delhi. In Rohtak, the cultivator was hardly paid Rs. 13 or 14 per maund for his wheat. Today this commodity is not readily available in Delhi even at a price of Rs. 20, 22 or 23 per maund. I feel that this Bank can only prove useful if it helps the Co-operative shops by giving them the largest possible amount of money to enable them to provide relief to the middle-classes in whose behalf there is so much hue and cry in the country. People think that the cultivators are robbing, but just as I have informed you, the peasants are not even able to realize the same amount they have to spend on the production of foodgrains. Plans should therefore be drawn up for the expansion of the co-operative shops to the largest extent possible so that the peasants as well as the country may be able to derive the maximum benefit out of these.

Another submission which I have to make is that this Bank should forthwith adopt a policy for the development of Co-operative mechanized farming.

. . . Certainly, I wanted to say something more but having regard to the rules and regulations and without further discussing this matter, I would like to stress that after the nationalisation, you should encourage the co-operative industries as far as possible. I do not now want to take any more time of the House, and while welcoming this Bill, resume my seat.



Re. Checking of Prices of Essential Things¹

Ch. Ranbir Singh (East Punjab : General) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, first of all I would like to express gratitude on behalf of the agricultural community to the Cabinet Minister. I know that India is predominantly an agricultural country. It appears that the situation is not so grave as has been made out in this House to-day. Sixty or seventy per cent of the people in this country grow foodgrains and to that extent at least this problem is solved. Now remains the question of cloth. In regard to that an announcement has already been made in the House that the entire stock of cloth will be frozen and then distributed at control price. What remains to be done now is to tackle the problem affecting the twenty five or thirty per cent of the people. I take it in the other way. The cry raised in the country comes from those

1. *Constituent Assembly (Legislative) Debates*, vol VII, p. 2, 3 September, 1948, pp. 962-63.

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who are vocal and who have access to the Press. There is no doubt that they had to face difficulties on account of which all this hue and cry is being raised in the name of the masses. But the country does not consist only of the educated and middle classes. It can be divided into four classes. Firstly, industrialists - they are not gripped by any calamity. Secondly, the salaried middle and educated classes who have got fixed income and there is no doubt that they are in great difficulty. Thirdly, the labouring class - so far as the labourers employed in villages and the manual workers are concerned, they are living comfortably. A carpenter and a black-smith who could hardly earn annas 4 or 5 during the years 1938-39 can to-day easily earn Rs. 5 per day. A labourer employed on the field-work can easily earn Rs. 2 to Rs. 3 per day. So the problem is solved inasmuch as it relates to the labourers. Now remain the agriculturists. In regard to the agriculturist community, I had just stated that a cultivator grows foodgrains, and therefore, the question of its supply in his case does not arise at all. The other commodity is cloth in regard to which Government have already adopted necessary measures and I hope that this would be distributed in an equitable manner and at reasonable prices. The cause of all this upheaval in the country which is responsible for all this dissatisfaction has to be investigated. If there is dissatisfaction it is only

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confined to the middle classes or those who are in receipt of fixed salaries. I admit that the middle classes have always played an important role in every country, but the leaders of the country should not ignore the fact as to who form the backbone ? They are the agriculturists. They live in the villages. You find the evil of inflation prevalent in the cities, but if you happen to go to villages, you will not feel any difficulty there. Neither there is any trouble nor any signs of the impending revolution in the country. On the contrary those people look to be prosperous. I have stated that if there is any difficulty, that is confined to the middle classes only. For their benefit, shops for the supply of foodgrains at cheap rates have already been opened throughout the country. I think that the problem can be solved more easily if the Honourable Minister for Railways is ready to help the people.

My honourable friend Mr. Bhatt reminded the House a few days ago that grams were rotting in Bikaner. I would also like to inform the Honourable minister that in Dadri in the Jind State you can procure as much quantity of gram as you like. I would like to cite an instance of Rohtak which is situated at a distance of only 44 miles from this place. There you can get gram at a rate of Rs. 9/8/- per maund, but here it is not available even at a rate of Rs. 14 per maund. There is no doubt that the Punjab

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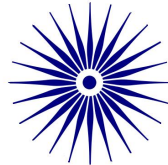
Government have imposed some retrictions on its export but in spite of this, this fact cannot be overlooked that transport is mainly responsible for this state of affairs. So far as Jind State and Patiala Union are concerned, permits for the export of thousands of maunds of foodgrains have been issued, but owing to the lack of wagons for transport, this difficult situation has arisen.

I would like to say something in respect of fruits. In Nagpur, a wagon containing oranges is auctioned for Rs. 8 and whereas in Delhi, you cannot get one orange for -/1/-, -/2/- and -/4/- This difficult situation can be considerably eased through the help of the Honourable Minister for Transport.

With all the humility, I would like to make another submission. During the last year the Government spent twenty-two crores of ruppes for the supply of foodgrains at cheap rates to the people living in the cities and during the last session the price of *gur* came down from Rs. 24 to Rs. 4 in the rural areas as I have already stated. Heavens did not fall when the price of *Gur* came down so low. I, therefore, really fail to understand what calamity will befall if the price of wheat rose from Rs. 16 per maund to Rs. 24 per maund ? Therefore, without taking any much time of the House. I would only submit this and assure our Cabinet Minister that there does not exist any alarming situation in the country.

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This is an agricultural country. The agriculturists are to-day living more comfortably than in the years 1939 and 1940. If the cultivators are happy, the country will also prosper. Another thing which I would like to say is that if you at all resort to any action for bringing down the prices, then in that eventuality you should also be ready to give an assurance to procure foodgrains from the cultivator at a price at which it costs him.



Re Resettlement of Displaced Persons¹

Ch. Ranbir Singh (East Punjab : General) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as a Punjabi, I welcome this Bill, and cannot help expressing my gratitude to the Government. But there are one or two obstacles in my way. I do not want to dwell upon the past events but would like to say something. The place at which we are sitting to-day was inhabited by certain people about 25 or 30 years ago. Their lands were acquired and they were thus rendered homeless. Many of them are still living without a house even to-day. On the one hand, it is the responsibility of our Government to rehabilitate our displaced brethren from the West. It also is their duty to make arrangements for the provision of houses, and employment for those persons whom we are going to uproot for their sake. I will just quote one or two

1. *Constituent Assembly (Legislative) Debates*, vol VII, pt 2, 6 September, 1948, pp. 1062-63

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instance. A few days ago, people from the village of Rajpur came to me. Our Government is carrying on intensive propaganda in respect of Grow More Food Campaign, especially the production of fruits and vegetables. The village of Raipur is situated near Delhi and the village has many gardens which will have to be cut down as the Government have approved a scheme to set up medical and other institutions there. With this end in view, the people have been served with notice for the acquisition of their land, although the land owned by our Muslim brethren who have since left for Pakistan is almost lying vacant in its close proximity. Besides this, the land which was acquired from the inhabitants of Rajpur village is also lying vacant and there is also some more fallow land which can be utilized for rehabilitation purpose. It is therefore not understood why such a wrong course has been adopted.

I would like to say that as far as possible only that land should be acquired which has been left over by our Muslim brethren who have gone to Pakistan. If the land owned by any of our brethren here who is a cultivator is acquired as proposed in this Bill, he should be paid compensation in cash. I fully realize what compensation is paid for land. You can pay him the money but this cannot compensate him for the loss of his avocation. If you do not provide him with some alternate employment you

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may pay him compensation at Rs. 1,000 per bigha—even then he is not fully compensated in the real sense. He is rendered homeless – he is deprived of both his avocation and house. Therefore, you should give him land in exchange for land.

There is also another aspect to this. Only day before yesterday, the House was very seriously considering the problem of inflation facing the country. If you give them compensation in cash, then in view of the existing inflation, this is bound to increase inflation. For this reason I would urge that you should give them land belonging to persons who have left for Pakistan. Out of this abandoned land, they should be given land corresponding to the value of the land held by them for which Government will pay them compensation. I will give the instance of the people of Rajpur, who told me that about 25 years ago the place at which their village was formerly situated was devastated, and to-day again they have been served with a notice to quit the place where they have been living. It is really very painful and pitiable that those people who produce vegetables and fruits for the use of people living in the cities. The Government is to-day depriving them of all they possess. Therefore, I would request you with all the emphasis at my command that you should keep this in view that if in one place you are responsible to rehabilitate the people from West, in

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the second place it also becomes your primary duty to settle those residing here whom you are uprooting. As a Punjabi, I would say that we should very gladly rehabilitate our brethren who have come from West Punjab. Along with this, I also know that these people who cultivate their land are not all big Zamindars – as one of my honourable friends has stated. They do not possess thousands of bighas of land. Some own 2 acres of land, some 5 acres and very few have got 10 acres. If you acquire their land for the construction of big buildings, I would like to know what would be their condition and how do you propose to tackle the problem confronting them? I do not want to dilate upon this point too much, but would like, to tell you that they will not be satisfied with the payment of compensation as proposed in the Bill. Money is no consideration to them. Their primary necessity is employment and accommodation. It would not be very difficult if you give them land corresponding to the value of the land held by them in the neighbourhood of their village, because the people who have gone over to Pakistan are many in number. I do admit that the people who have come from Pakistan should also be allotted land, but we are rehabilitating them *ab initio* and can settle them in the Matysa Union, C.P., U.P., and other States. But the people whom you are uprooting should be given some land equivalent to the value of

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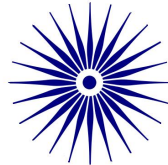
the land held by them in the proximity of their village. In this manner those people will not be subjected to any hardship and the work of the Government will also be smoothly carried on. Those people who have come from Pakistan were forced to leave their hearths and homes and property, but here we are ourselves rendering other people homeless. We are resorting to this for the purpose of execution of our plans. It thus becomes our duty that we should provide them with alternate employment, land and accommodation.

I am really pained to say that if you think that they can pursue their avocation after getting payment of compensation, then I am afraid you are mistaken in your judgement. They cannot undertake any other kind of avocation. They are hereditary agriculturists, their ancestors were cultivators and they themselves cultivate land and do not follow any other avocation. Therefore, I would urge that the condition of payment of compensation provided in this Bill should be given land of the corresponding value. Some of the honourable members have suggested that they should be paid compensation on the basis of the prices ruling during the year 1939. Then may I know whether they have to build houses and purchase land now or in the year 1939 ? The prices of land and houses have now considerably gone up. I will give you an instance of own village

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where you cannot purchase any piece of land even for Rs. 2,000 per bigha.

I would, therefore, most emphatically urge and expect from the Government of India that whenever they are doing their utmost to rehabilitate other persons, they should also do their best to resettle those uprooted due to execution of their schemes and compensate them in the form of land and houses.



Re. Failure of 'Grow More Food Campaign'¹

Ch. Ranbir Singh (East Punjab : General) : Mr. Deputy Speaker: I am whole heartedly in agreement with what has been said by the Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram and Prof. Ranga. Many of my friends have emphasized that no satisfactory progress has been made in the 'Grow More Food Campaign'. My Honourable friend Sardar Bhupinder Singh Man even went to statistics and explain to you that the syrup prepared is relatively more sweet as compared to the quantity of sugar put in by you. When anyone in a confused state complains to this House that we have not been able to get proper return on the money spent on this account. I take it in the different way. Many of my honourable friends in

1. *Constituent Assembly (Legislative) Debates*, vol I, pt. 1, 3 February 1949, pp. 148-52.

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this House have got no concern with the peasants. They do not approve of any amount being spent for the development of agriculture because they are educated people and know how to speak in a discreet manner. They want to utilize that money in some other way. Therefore they say that the money has been wasted. I will quote the statistics to prove that how much money we spent and the comparative return we got for that. Mr. Sidhva has complained against the belated receipt of the Government's report. It is a fact that it was received late but as I have got love for this, I read its every word. Had they also got any attachment for this they might have complained against the delay but could not say that they have not read it. These people live in the cities. They have neither any attachment nor any connection with agriculture. They can mince matters, speak glibly, use bombastic words in English and can even go to the length of saying that the money has been wasted. I, therefore, wanted to explain to you the extent of the progress made by us with the meagre resources at our disposal. I would invite your attention to the conditions existing during the year 1948 from which you would find that 8,141 wells were constructed in the Madras province during one year. Now you may see as to what amount was ultimately allotted by you to Madras.

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Shri Mahavir Tyagi (U.P. General): Besides this, Madras was also given some additional money.

Ch. Ranbir Singh : Government have allotted Rs. 4 lacs in all for this purpose. I know my honourable friend Mr. Tyagi is an agriculturist and like myself his head is full of solicitude for the peasants. But he is very much fond of indulging in eroticism and has got some other notions as well. I agree that all these wells were not constructed at Government expense, but the amount of Rs. four lacs would have been surely utilized for some propaganda. In Madras approximately little over 8,000 wells were constructed and Government spent 4 lacs over it. Similarly, 5,600 wells were constructed in the Central Provinces and may I know how much money was allotted by your Government ? The grant sanctioned by you for the benefit of the peasants in the C.P. amounted to Rs. 1.2 lacs and the criticism levelled by Mr. Tyagi can be counteracted by the fact that you also gave a loan of Rs. 49.7 lacs. So if you take all this into account you will find that the aggregate amount given by you was Rs. 1.7crores and against which 23,000 well were constructed. Either we should admit that all these figures are wrong and in case we do not see eye to eye with this, we shall have to say that we got adequate return. Personally I feel that even if we believe to some extent in the accuracy of the statistics collected by the agencies set up by

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our Provincial Governments, the figures appear to be very much encouraging. The same can be said in regard to the expenditure amounting Rs. 16,16,84,156 incurred previously during the years 1943 to 1946. This amount also includes the cost of other articles such as manure etc. supplied to the peasants. But one thing which will last for ever irrespective of the fact whether the Government responsible for taking such steps remains in office or not is that 50,000 wells have been constructed. In this connection I would like to tell you further that during the past year we imported from abroad foodgrains worth Rs. 120 crores for the use of our country. I do not remember the exact figures. These foodgrains were sold at cheap rates to our brethren lawyers, persons living in the cities and the intelligentsia and as a result of this the Government sustained a loss of about Rs. 28 or 29 crores during the course of one year. May I know why no objection has ever been raised to the loss of Rs. 28 or 29 crores annually sustained by the Government on the purchase of food grains from foreign countries and its subsequent sale at cheap rates ? On the contrary, things are viewed from a different angle, and so much hue and cry has been raised against the allotment of Rs. 16 crores made by you during the past three years. Personally I take it in the other way. Just as I have already stated before many of my honourable friends sitting in this House

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have got neither any contact with the peasants nor can they realize their difficulties. I would also like to say one thing, i.e., I do not quite agree with this that there has been absolutely no progress. But I do realize that there are difficulties and we shall have to tackle these tactfully. A solution for this shall have to be found by our Government, the Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, and the Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram. You want to make this country self-sufficient in regard to food. In order to provide more foodgrains to the country, you shall have to see that how far you can please those who are the producers and how far you can change their psychology. While the Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram was speaking, my honourable sister Shrimati Renuka Ray made some observations in regard to tobacco. It might be sometime in the past *viz*, 100 or 200 years ago when the peasant was no wary of his loss. Today, if not the entire agriculturist community but at least a great majority of them have been awakened. If anybody wants that they should at once cease to grow crops which yield huge money, that would not be an easy job. My honourable friend Prof. Ranga pointed out that perhaps some Government might resort to coercion. I would go one step farther than that even. Last time the pressmen and our other brethren use to say emphatically that riots would

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break throughout India if arguments were not made to supply foodgrains at cheap rates to the people living in the cities. I dare say that those agitators have got neither guts nor sword in their hands. On the contrary, the hands of those persons whom you want to coerce or suppress are comparatively much stronger and they have got swords. These factors will contribute to the out-break of riots, if at all such a contingency arises. Therefore you should not compel the peasants to adopt such a line of action which will not benefit them in the least. If you want that the peasant should produce foodgrains for you ; if you are anxious to see that India should no longer remain dependent on other countries for the supply of foodgrains, you shall have to accord sympathetic hearing to the hardships experienced by the peasants and find a solution to redress these. You might possess any number of weapons, conduct any sort of subtle propaganda that the Grow More Food Campaign has failed and thus refuse to sanction funds. But this will not obviously serve any useful purpose. How much illiterate might be the people living in the rural areas, they are certainly awakened to-day. My honourable friend Mr. Sidhva talks about the labourers. I would tell him that India is the land of agriculturists. The peasants to-day are no longer sleeping. If our Government and our party want that they should continue to hold the reins of

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administration in their hands, they shall have to listen to the demands of the peasants. I would like to tell you something more in this connection than what Prof. Ranga stated as to how we can induce the peasants to grow more food products and what incentive can be give to encourage them ? To-day when we go to the rural areas every villager asks us just to think over and tell him: How is it that in Rohtak which is situated at a distance of 44 miles from Delhi, grams are sold there at present @ Rs. 8/-; whereas here these are sold @ Rs. 14/- ? In this way whom can you please ? On whose support can you run the Government ? If you want.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta : East Punjab Government is responsible for this.

Ch. Ranbir Singh : I am not aware as to which particular Government is responsible for this. But one thing which I know is that this cannot be the order of the East Punjab Government, because this consists of at least five such persons who have been born in agriculturists families – who can be forced by their brethren and relations not to act in the manner prejudicial to the interests of the peasants. I take it in the other way, i.e., either some pressure is put on them from above or they are compelled to do so under the influence of the press.

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Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava : This is the responsibility of the the East Punjab Government.

Ch. Ranbir Singh: I wanted to say a few things more because an important issue is involved. But the bell has rung. I had a mind to speak at least for another 10 to 15 minutes. But after saying this, I would like to refer to those things and I hope, Mr. Deputy Speaker, you will give me a little more time as this matter vitally affects the agriculturists. In spite of the fact that I received the paper today at Nine O'clock, I have to have read every word of it, and for this reason I have a fervent hope that you will surely accord some consideration. I was just telling you that if you want that the peasants should grow more food-products, you shall have to waive this. You can refer to the figures quoted by me. For instance, you may take the case of rice. The Government of Central Provinces shall procure this @Rs. 11/6/- per maund. Similarly in the Madras Province, rice shall be procured from the peasants @ Rs. 7/14/3 per maund. But what my submission is that you should not only estimate the price that would be paid by the Government of these Provinces but that also which would be paid to the people by the Government of India, as after all India is one country. The issue price of rice in U.P. will be Rs. 30/- per maund. In Bombay it shall be sold @ Rs. 34/2/8 per maund. Similarly you may take the case of wheat. In Rajasthan wheat shall

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be procured @ Rs. 10/- per maund. In Delhi Province it shall be procured @ Rs. 14/8/- per maund under the Procurement scheme. In the case of Delhi, there is something peculiar i.e. the rice will be sold to the people @ Rs. 12/- and some annas per maund. But you may just imagine the issue price at which will be sold by the Government in other Provinces. The Government shall sell it @ Rs. 25/8 per maund in Hyderabad. In C.P. it will be sold @ Rs. 20/3/-. Similarly take the case of other commodities viz., gram which will be procured @ Rs. 6/3/- and 8/- per maund in Jaipur and East Punjab respectively. In Rajasthan it will be procured at the rate of Rs. 5/- per maund only. But it will be sold @ Rs. 16/11/- and 12/10/- in Saurashtra and U.P. respectively. You may just imagine that this is an agricultural country and the agriculturists too are not even literate who can understand the implications of your remarks whether this is the fault of the East Punjab Government or Central Government of any other Government is to be blamed or the blame rests on the shoulders of the Press. They feel that injustice is being done to them. If you want that they should produce more food you should see that there is not any appreciable difference between the highest procurement price vis-à-vis the issue price. The difference should only be limited to the extent of freight payable. In case this exceeds this limit, you

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should remember that you cannot check the black market-however strong Police force might be at the disposal of your Government and whatever power you might have. The black-market will go on flourishing.

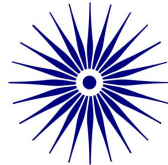
I would also like to tell you another thing. You may see the figures which have been supplied to you. Some time it is said that the peasants indulges in black marketing. But if you see these figures you will know that this is not correct to some extent, and if at all he does so, the responsibility for this develops on our society, Government and the methods employed by us. Because when the crop is harvested, the foodgrains are available at cheap rates. But when the time for sowing of the crop comes, then that price is doubled or even trebled. If you can manage to regulate the difference between the prices prevailing at the time of sowing and harvesting to the extent of Rs. 1/- or so at the most, then the peasant will not withhold any part of his surplus stock of foodgrains.

During the first week of December, the index of the price of foodgrains ruling in India in 1947 was 100. From this you will also find that in April 48 the index price of wheat in the East Punjab rose upto 130 and later on in November it shot up to 234. This is the difference between the rates prevailing at the time of sowing and harvesting of the crop. If you are

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capable of reconciling this difference, then of course the peasants could be appeased to some extent.

One thing more I would like to say as a Punjabi. Our Province was allotted approximately Rs. 54 lacs for the sinking of wells. But as you are aware Punjab had to pass through a topsy turvey state during the last year resulting in the mass migration of people from one corner to the other and coupled with the unsettled conditions, wells could not be constructed there. I would request the Honourable Minister to allot funds to Punjab as well and not to reduce its share in the amount previously allocated, because Punjab is the only place where more foodgrains can be produced for you by the sinking of wells. I do not want to take any more time to the House and would congratulate the Honourable Minister. I would also like to say that the criticism levelled against him is quite unjust and I perfectly agree with him that if India wants to make its headway it should first of all develop its agricultural resources.



On the Hindu Marriage Validity Bill, 1949¹

Ch. Ranbir Singh (East Punjab: General): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have great pleasure in supporting this measure because I belong to that community amongst Hindus who have always believed in the principle of this Bill from the very outset. If there was any community amongst the Hindus which ever established relations outside its own sphere and that there existed no differences, it was the Jat community. It is true that there did exist some such element of difference and social ostracism but that was negligible. The very fact that this Bill will go a long way to establish throughout our country a principle in which we have believed since centuries past, affords me great pleasure to support this.

Secondly, just as my honourable friend Mr. Tyagi has stated, this will banish our mutual differences which were responsible for our slavery.

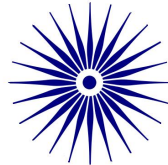
1. *Constituent Assembly (Legislative) Debates*, vol VII, pt. 2, 11 February 1949, pp. 427.

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But the integration of small states our leader the Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel has consolidated our country into one and that problem has been well solved. This Bill is a very good measure for solving our social problems.

So far as the Hindu Code Bill is concerned that is a big thing. It is not yet known whether or not the country or this House accepts it. It contains some provisions over which our leaders have expressed some sort of difference. I, therefore, fail to understand how far it is correct to shelve or reject this Bill simply for the reason that it forms part and parcel of that Bill, because if the Hindu Code Bill is passed, this measure will naturally be incorporated in it. If that is not passed, this Bill will at least have chances of being passed.

With these words I whole-heartedly support this.



On the General Budget, 1949¹

Ch. Ranbir Singh (East Punjab : General): Mr. Speaker, Sir, we liberated our country fighting under the leadership of our venerable leader Mahatma Gandhi. So we must always place his ideals before us. He was always in favour of decentralization. He was always opposed to the consolidation of economic power. The charkha in the Congress Flag also symbolises decentralization. Mr. Speaker Sir, our much respected leaders Shri Jawaharlal Nehru and Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel have removed the great obstacles and rubbles that were in the path of our country. There goes a proverb in our villages that when a field is to be sown then before sowing seeds that field has got to be cleared of all the rubbish and waste matter. Much rubbish lay in the path of our country. Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel has removed the

1. *Constituent Assembly (Legislative) Debates*, vol II, pt. 2, 10 March 1949, pp. 1335-38.

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whole of it. But the future of our country and the prosperity of our country lies in the hands of the honourable Shri Gadgil's Department. His is a basic Department and forms the foundation of the future progress of India. If we have to give practical shape to the teachings of Bapuji then we will have to turn our attention to that matter, about which the honourable Minister dropped a small hint today morning, that is rural electrification. When he mentioned about rural electrification and said that we should give it due importance then at that time from my seat I called out in a loud voice that this ought to be a thing on top priority.

You must have seen that in the report describing the work of the honourable Minister, a Department named Estate Office is also mentioned and, it is given out in the report as to how many thousand applications of these Government servants are still lying with them for whom the Estate Office has not been able to make any arrangements for residential accommodation. This problem is getting bigger and bigger every day. If there is any solution to this problem, it is only this that rural areas be electrified and a number of residential houses be constructed in rural areas. Today why people do not want to go back to villages, simply because there is neither electricity nor was pipes. If the honourable Shri Gadgil were to make arrangement for the

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electrification of the rural areas of Delhi then the housing problem of the Government servants will not remain before him. Otherwise the Government will have to get houses constructed for them and will have to bear a great deal of expenditure on this count. If rural electrification is done then every Government servant would like to go and live in the rural areas of Delhi because there the living is not so costly as it is in the city itself. So besides making a strong demand for rural electrification I wish to draw the attention of the honourable the Minister towards those other things as well that lie in his hands.

This is mainly an agricultural country. For an agricultural country canals are of great importance and specially for those areas where the average rainfall is less. The necessity is specially felt in Rajputana and Northern India. I belong to East Punjab. There was once a time when our province used to supply food-grains to the whole country. But when independence dawned upon India then unfortunately our Province was partitioned and our wheat producing areas went over to Pakistan. Now if you wish that annually 130 crores of rupees belonging to this country may not be given to foreign countries for the purchase of food grains then the only solution of this problem is that you give maximum advancement to irrigation projects. During the last few years a great stress was laid on

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this and a number of grand schemes were presented before the country. But I fear that when time came for the implementing of these schemes then our other friends, who really would have been benefited in the long run, raised their voices against these schemes, saying that riots will break out as a result of inflation; and thus frightening the Government caused a great deal of slackness in the irrigation schemes. If our country does in reality require anything it is the irrigation schemes and in fact the scarcity of food products is directly responsible for the scarcity of other materials. You may select any thing say industries. If you electrify the rural areas and get canals etc. made there then there would not arise my problem for finding a market for the industrial products. Therefore, I bet go submit that you, taking into consideration this dire necessity of the country go on paying more and more attention in future also as you are doing today.

I wish to submit one more thing in this connection. To the Department of Communications a Deputy Minister has been appointed but for this Department where not one but more than one ministers were needed, no Deputy Minister has been given. I think if we have to keep in view the future of our country then for this basic Department upon which depends the progress and the future prosperity of our country, instead of only one,

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several separate ministries should be set up. I do wish that a separate ministry be set up for irrigation projects and for other thing also separate ministries be set up. But if you do not wish to increase the number of ministries then at least instead of departments like Communications etc. you should appoint a Deputy Minister in this department, so that whatever time Shri Gadgil may get he may utilize the same for devising at the earliest quick prosperity schemes for the good of the country.

I have to submit many things and I also want to make certain complaints to the Ministry, but time at my disposal is very little. I had a strong desire to harp upon the works he has done because you know that I am an agriculturist and when I think that Bhakra Dam Scheme is to be completed in very near future whereby everybody would become prosperous, then it would be a sacrilege I think not to express gratefulness. I wished to have spoken for a length of time in order to express my gratefulness for him. But as the time is fixed so instead of spending more time in showing gratefulness I wish to submit some more things that I think necessary.

Your Department constructs huge structures for this country. It provides houses to those who have none. But have you ever thought that there are some such persons whose houses and fields are demolished in order to rehabilitate other persons.

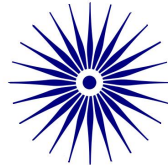
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Some twenty or twenty five years ago there was a time when a number of villages existed at the place where we are sitting today. Twenty five years have lapsed but these unfortunate people have not yet been able to set up their new houses. We feel contented that adequate compensation has been paid to them. But in this connection I wish to submit before you that no compensation can be called adequate to an agriculturist unless you give him land in exchange of the land taken from him. Quite recently it has given out that here in Delhi a scheme has been drawn up to lay out a diplomats colony. I fear that for this perhaps a number of houses belonging to unfortunate villagers will be demolished and they will have to become homeless. (An honourable Member : "No, they will not have to become homeless"). If it is so then I am really pleased.

A friend came to see me only at noon today. His village is Pansoda. It is at a distance of about eight miles from here. There an aerodrome is being made and for this reason his village which has a population of some four thousand will be demolished. The fact is that if the aerodrome is shifted a furlong away no one has to become homeless. The villagers wish to offer an alternate site for the aerodrome. They went to see the Chief Engineer who told them that after all some one will

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have to become homeless. The poor fellows tried their level best to make him understand that if their scheme is approved nobody will be homeless. But the official mind becomes so set that it always think in manner of officialdom only. So I very humbly beg to submit that you work for the advancement of the country, construct new dams for the country and generate electric energy and get houses constructed for the homeless Government servants, but besides this I also beg to submit that you should pay more attention and do not render peasants homeless and homeless by making aerodromes and by launching new schemes. You should make special efforts for their rehabilitation also.



On the Indian Finance Bill, 1949¹

Ch. Ranbir Singh (East Punjab : General): It is more than a year and a half approximately since our country got freedom. This brought about a change in the country and if anyone thinks that with this change there has been no change in the set-up of our Government. I would say, he is mistaken. This was such a country where a few years back not one but twenty-four or twenty-five *lakh* human beings died of starvation – no food grains could be made available to them. After the achievement of freedom by us, rather from the very day we got freedom, thousands of people in our country started becoming homeless and lakhs of them, having become homeless, started migrating from one place to the other. I say those people who think there has been no change should think over this matter a little calmly.

1. *Constituent Assembly (Legislative) Debates*, vol III, pt. 2, 21 March 1949, pp. 1680-83.

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Three or four year back people were in their homes, they had not become homeless, but, in spite of that due to the economic conditions in the country as also because of some other causes about twenty-five lakh people died of starvation. But what did we see in this country after the advent of freedom ? More than one persons were rendered homeless, but not one of them dies of starvation. Hence, I think that those people who say that there has been no change in the ways of the Government after the advent of freedom are in fact mistaken. A very great change has occurred in our ways, in our methods, and it was only because of this change that although great members of our brethren went from here to there or came from there to here and even today they are suffering considerable hardships, nobody has died of starvation. If some difficulties are still there the critics pose sight of the fact that this country is a poor country which has its own limitations. There are thousands and *lakhs* of villages in this country which have neither a hospital nor a school nor any other thing of public convenience. But in case of those of our brethren who came here after being rendered homeless schools were provided everywhere, facilities for treatment in illness were provided everywhere. Last year I went to Kurukshetra with some member friends to see the Central Government Camp. There I saw the condition of the hospital and

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talked to the doctor. The doctor told us that there was no medicine in the country which was of use of them and which was not received there. There are lakhs of villages in this country where even quinine does not reach. Then, where such is the set-up of a country, where such is the economic position the work that has been done under the circumstances is not so inconsiderable.

Yet, with all this, I wish to say that this is mainly an agricultural country where 85% of the population depend directly on agriculture for their living. Even if you were to disregard numbers for a minute and also to become oblivious of the fact that so many people are engaged in agriculture and you therefore decline to give importance to agriculture on that account still you will have to concede that such a situation has come to arise in this country today that if we do not improve our agriculture and increase, our production and do not set it on a sound footing our country which has become free will not remain so economically. From this very point of view we will have to consider now whether our country's economy should be agricultural economy or industrial economy. I would not in the least question but would rather concede that in view of the conditions under which this country has attained freedom and in view of the conditions that prevail even now unless we have a strong army here our

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freedom would end in a dream. I concede that there should be a large number of factories in a free country yet with all that, there are certain things that we will have to consider. A time has come now when we will have to give prime importance to agriculture. With a view to the industrial development of the country industrial finance corporations have been set up in every province as also at the Centre. But I would say to you that in this country which is predominantly an agricultural country if any finance corporation was to be established in the first instance it should have been an agricultural finance corporation. Did you or any other province start any agricultural finance corporation ? If you want to change the present state of affairs under which you have to import food-grains worth 130 to 133 crores of rupees every year from other countries, on account of which you can neither import machinery for factories nor anything else, do you think you could do it by causing injury to the sentiments of the agriculturists ? Several of my brothers have given expression to various views. One of our brothers has suggested in the course of his speech that the price of sugar-cane should be reduced so that the farmers might increase their sowings in food-grains. I would, however, make a humble submission to them and to my Government that the cultivator is not a machine, the cultivator is a human being, and if you cause

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injury to his sentiments you would never be able to solve your problems. If you want that your country should be a self supporting country in the matter of food-grains there is at least one thing which you will have to do, viz., that you should give the agriculturists the incentive to produce more. And, how would you give that incentive ? Tripathiji was with me when we talked to Mr. Dodd. Mr. Dodd told us that in America they were not able to get increased production until the American Government gave an assurance to the agriculturists that the Government must purchase the food-grains at a specified rate. I have often talked to our Honourable Minister of Agriculture and he told me that the economy condition of the country was such that the Government could not assume responsibility in that behalf. You should take over this responsibility howsoever difficult it might be or howsoever risk it might involve. If you want that there should be increased production you will have to give the guarantee that up to a specified rate the Government would purchase if none else in the country is prepared to pay that price.

In this connection I want to make another suggestion under which I think the Government would not have to incur any great expenditure. The middle man's agency – in the country has assumed such proportions and still continues to expand. If

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you can you should for a while reduce the scope of this middle man's agency- and I think since they possess some finances of their own this would not cause them much trouble – and give a fillip to co-operative consumers and co-operative producers societies. What do we find today. People make a loud demand upon the agriculturist to grow more food. But what we find is that in fixing the price of food-grains a rate lower than the existing rate is fixed whereas the price of cloth which is fixed at the time of imposing control is fixed 25 percent higher. Even today I was having a conversation with Mr. Sondhi. He remarked that in our country cloth was produced at the cheapest cost. I admit that if our country's industrailists can produce cloth at the cheapest cost and supply it to our country as also to the world this is certainly to our country advantage. But, in spite of all that, I feel that even if your prices be the lowest in the world you cannot convince the ordinary man that the price of cloth be raised by 25 per cent but that this should have no effect upon the cultivator. This problem can be solved easily because about 25 per cent profit is allowd to the middle-man. I would not ask you to reduce the price. Reduce it certainly if you can. But, if you cannot reduce it you should at least eliminate the middle man and make the entire delivery to co-operative societies. You should make this delievery to district and provincial co-operative

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units : in this way the profit would flow over to the agriculturist and the villager would think that the Government of the country is for him and that the attention of the Government is now devoted to the advancement of agriculture.

Thus, I would humbly make these two submissions. In the first instance you should, at the earliest establish an agricultural finance corporation so that the people might realize that the Government is keen to producing the maximum quantity of food grains. That corporation should help in reclamation and in the purchase of tractors. Just yesterday I visited the Pusa Institute. There we saw a plough which could do double the normal job. I think that if the Government were to have them manufactured and supply them in the villages the village people would like them very much and they would feel that with the change in Government some improvements are going to be made which would tend to change their fortunes.

The other thing which I have mentioned already is the stabilization of prices. The Government should see to it that efforts are made to give the report of the Krishnamachari Committee a practical shape – as early as possible so that it might come into operation. Until you do these two things you cannot win the confidence of the agriculturists and until you give them an incentive you cannot expect them to

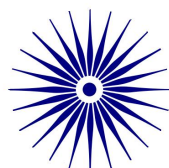
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produce more food-grains. Along with this I wish to make him to produce more food grains. Along with this I wish to make another submission, that if you cannot do anything for them at this time, you should not at least take any such step for the present as might cause injury to them.

There is one little thing more. You see how the railways, telegraphs and aeroplanes have turned India into a small country. The agriculturists want that there should not be a difference of more than one or two rupees between the prices prevailing at Bombay and the Punjab. I feel that if you enforce the procurement scheme the difference between the procurement price and the issue price should not exceed such an amount as might be enough to cover the expenses pertaining to the railway and the middle-man. I have read the procurement prices. I forgot, to bring it with me today otherwise I would have shown, by manipulation of figures, how while the procurement price of a certain commodity at a certain place is ten rupees the issue price of that very commodity at a certain place is ten rupees the issue price of that very commodity at another place is double that amount. If the disparity is so great how can you cause the agriculturist to believe that the entire set-up of the Government is for his help and until you cause him the assurance that the entire machinery of the Government is meant for helping

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him you cannot increase the production of food-grains. The biggest problem before the country today is that of agriculture. Until there is an improvement in the production of food-grains and in agriculture and until the import of food-grains is stopped no industry in the country will be able to develop nor will the other major problems be solved. Hence, I would pray that you should make a declaration even today that you are going to establish an agricultural finance corporation. The formation of such a finance corporation will be of great benefit to the country. Even if the Government were to do only so much as to ensure that the prices will not be allowed to fall below the level of the procurement prices, you will provide a sufficient incentive to the agriculturists. I would not take any more time of the House and hope that the Honourable Minister would give his careful consideration to the suggestions which I have placed before the House.



Re. Extension of the 'Control' Period¹

Ch. Ranbir Singh (East Punjab : General): It is generally said that memories are always short. But what I see is that even the legislators have short memories. Last year when cloth was de-controlled the prices had shot up three or four times. I do not believe that in the one short year such conditions have come into being whereby if cloth be de-controlled the prices will come down. I think nearly all of the legislators and the lay-men, who have even some intelligence, do wish that some ways and means must be devised to bring down the three fold or four price of cloth that is being charged since June, July and August.

Besides this I wish to submit that control must remain on those things on which it is necessary. I do not see any necessity of imposing control on food

1. *Constituent Assembly (Legislative) Debates*, vol III, pt. 2, 23 March 1949, pp. 800-01.

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grains. I presume that if food grains were de-controlled then we will not have to import food grains in such quantities. This problem can easily be solved with other methods, perhaps some of my friends might think that the food grain producers wish to charge higher prices for their food grains. But this is not so. If the Government were to purchase at the time of harvest as much bulk-supplies of food grains as are required by the people living in urban areas then it would not even cost much. I consider that for the high prices of food grains during the last year the responsibility does not lie on the shoulders of the peasants but on the middle men, I am not opposed to controls. I think that control should be imposed on all those things whereupon it is necessary to have control. The honourable the Minister Shri Gadgil has just now told us that there is no price control on kerosene oil. I wish to tell you that during the control days the price of a barrel of kerosene oil was Rs. 6/- but now a barrel cannot be had for less than Rs. 24/- or Rs. 25/-. Under these circumstances only a lay-man can say that the imposing of controls is not a proper step. I also belong to the rural areas. The rural population of the Madras Province thinks that by the control they are put to loss. There are other reasons also and I will tell them to you later on. But as far as the control on cloth, cement and iron is concerned, if these things

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are distributed properly then there is no doubt that control is a very good thing for the consumers, peasants and agriculturists and the people living in rural areas.

I think that along with controls one thing should be borne in mind namely that the middlemen may not be allowed to make exorbitant profits that they reap as a result of control. Cloth is a controlled commodity, but there is a difference of 25 to 30 per cent in the ex-mill and retail prices. This profit that is given to the middlemen, is I think too much. If the Government were to give this profit to the co-operative societies then it would be very much beneficial, but no advantage would be had by letting the middlemen have this profit.

I wish to submit one thing more. As my friend Shri Punjab Rao has said the development of agriculture bears a close relation to the control on kerosene oil. Only yesterday we saw a plough in the Pusa Institute. With two oxen this plough does the work equal to that done by four oxen. These ploughs can be produced in large numbers only when the department of agriculture be given more supplies of iron. There we saw a seed sowing machine also with which two oxen can do work equal to that of eight oxen. But so long the agriculture department would not get sufficient quantities of iron this problem can not be solved.

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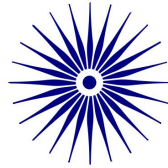
I wish to submit one more thing in this connection. Perhaps some of my friends would think that the agriculturists will be benefited by this, the cost of production will lessen but the production of food grains will not increase. In this connection I wish to submit a little thing. You just take into consideration the Hisar district. There the rain falls off and on and seeds can be sown within two or three days only and not afterwards. If during those days there be anything that with the help of two oxen could cultivate double or fourfold land then all the arable area available there can be put under plough. In this way the production in our country will also go up.

I think control must continue on those things on which it is necessary. There is no more thing that can be done quite easily and in a far better manner. The thing is that till now the nominees of the middlemen are given representation on the Advisory Board. So long this sort of thing would go on the agriculturist class will not make any progress. The reason why today the agriculturist class will not make any progress. The reason why today the agriculturist opposes these controls is that his produce is being taken at the controlled rate but he is not getting the things he require at the control prices. When we had gone to the Pusa Institute then some villagers of Delhi. Province laid a complaint before

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the honourable the Minister Shri Jairamdas that in the rural areas they were not getting cloth at the control rates but they were made to give up their produce of food grains at the control rate. They complained that they were not getting the controlled things at the control prices.

I think that if you were to pass this resolution and see that the things on which there is control be available to the people at the control rates then this would prove very beneficial to the people.



On the Tea Committee for India Bill, 1949¹

Ch. Ranbir Singh (East Punjab : General): Sir, I support the amendment Shri kamath has just submitted the supporters of the amendment are making discrimination in the various matters. He has said that the things that are not beneficial in India cannot be beneficial to the people of other countries also. I think that this view is not correct. Here also whatever we eat in the winter we do not relish the same in summer. Generally in the summer season the people of our country drink *Sharbat*. But nobody drinks *Sharbat* in the winter season. Therefore it is not necessary that anything which is not good for our country may not be good also for other countries of the world.

The second reason is that India is such a country where 85 per cent of this people are illiterate. They would not be able to grasp the correct idea

1. *Constituent Assembly (Legislative) Debates*, vol. III, pt. 2, 25 March 1949, pp. 1983-4..

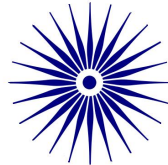
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from your propaganda. This is an acknowledged fact that tea contains a poison like Nicotine, but I think even a worse kind of poison. I do not remember the name of that poison but anyhow it certainly contains some poison. Then if tea is not prepared-correctly then I think it would be quite wrong to think that Indians, 85 per cent. of who are illiterate, would adopt the correct method that would be taught to them.

Thirdly from the economic point of view I think are certain matters that are beneficial to the country. Then for the food-grains that we have to import from the foreign countries what things we have that we can send to foreign countries in exchange of the food-grains imported by us. I think the best thing, which the other countries will be compelled to take on favourable terms, can be tea and we have plenty of it. Therefore in order to stabilize the economic conditions of the country I think money should not be spent on doing propaganda work for tea in this country, but instead the money set apart for this propaganda work should be spent in the foreign countries and so I do not at all agree with the views that have been expressed by Shri Kamath. Such views as tea is bad for this country or we want to export this evil to other countries are not correct. As the honourable the Minister has given out that this thing can be used as a substitute for wine. What quantities of wine are

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consumed in our country and especially in the rural areas ? The places where the people are addicted prohibition has been enforced, so in such conditions the question of tea does not arise, and what ever people live in those areas they already begin taking tea. Therefore I think that now it is useless to do more propaganda in our country or to spend more money over the propaganda and is not at all necessary. Whatever quantities of tea were to be sold here are being sold and automatically the market for tea is increasing. Before spending our money in our own country we should see how much benefit the country gets from the money and what ever money we are spending is not being wasted. Therefore I submit to the honourable the Minister that taking into consideration the economic condition of the country he should accept this amendment.



On the Child Marriage Restraint Bill, 1949*

Ch. Ranbir Singh (East Punjab : General): I have stood up to support the Bill moved by Babu Thakur Dasji. I think that if you would not have this law turned into a dead letter it is very essential that you should declare the breach of this law to be a cognizable offence. It has been said in this connection that some societies could help in making this legislation effective. I would like to remind you that when the Sarda Act was passed there was a great deal of enthusiasm in the country. My father, Chaudhri Matu Ramji, was there to institute a case against a person under the Sarda Act. He too had great zeal for it in the same way as some of my brothers have it today. He too was of the view that the help of some public society could prove effective. But, after having fought one case, he came to the

* Constituent Assembly (Legislative) Debates, vol III, pt. 2, 14 April 1949, pp. 2306-7.

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conclusion that the idea of his was not all right and that it was all futile.

The other thing that I would say to you in the capacity of a villager is this that if you would like to have this law enforced in villages it is most essential that any contravention of this law be made a cognizable offence. A kind of compromise is struck in villages whereby, as stated by Bapuji, nearly 40 percent of the marriages solemnised are below age. This is quite correct. It so happens that in the countryside a kind of relationship exists amongst the people living in a village that the village comes to be divided into *panas* and the *panas* into *tholas* and they are all inter-related. If, for instance, I solemnise the marriage of my son or daughter after he or she has attained the proper age it might so transpire that another member of my *thola* does the wrong thing. Now, as a member of that *thola* I am under a constraint not to institute proceedings when another person in the village acts wrongly because I realize that the members of my brotherhood would make things difficult for me and that the entire family would stand up against me. Hence if you do not make it a cognizable offence it is impossible for this law to work effectively in the villages. Moreover in the case of a cognizable offence the police itself is the prosecutor and the expenses incidental to the prosecution are borne by the police. In the case of a

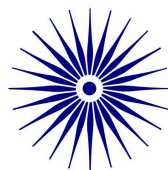
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non-cognizable offence the person who lodges the information has to engage his own counsel and he alone has to stand the entire expense. You can, therefore, very well imagine that when a person has no pecuniary interest there is no reason why he should engage counsel at personal expense and prosecute a case against another person. You, Sir, have stated with respect to your own constituency that there is no particular need of it in the case of the educated members of certain communities, because they normally perform their marriages after a certain age-limit. It is true they have no need for it. If there is any need of the offence under this law being made cognisable it is for just those people who have not so far been able to reconcile themselves to its provisions and it is they upon whom it will have its effect. It is good that an atmosphere be created for it in the country but a number of laws and rules have been made already for which no atmosphere was created in advance. Hence, all that you have to see in the present case is whether or not this legislation will be conducive to the good of the country and if you find that it is so you must not defer it for a single day. The truth is that an ordinary villager does not know and is incapable of understanding the distinction between a cognizable and non-cognizable offence. What happens in villages is this that when the marriage of a young boy or a girl takes place under

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such circumstances that a sub-inspector is present or even a magistrate is present but nobody checks them nor takes them to task they are inclined to regard it great fun because they are unable to understand that it is an offence and unless it is a cognizable offence the police cannot intervene. Hence, I think that if you want that this law should be honoured, that it should serve a certain purpose and that the people should be benefited thereby the offence under it must be made a cognizable one.

With regard to age I do not agree with what has been started by a brother from Rajasthan. I think that 18 or 19 or 20 is not much of an age. The minimum age for the boy must be twenty and that for the girl fifteen. Hence I give my full support to Babuji's Bill and I feel that it is badly needed. As for the controversy about the offence under it being made cognizable or non-cognizable it is imperative that it be made cognizable. If you want to put a stop to the practice of child marriages in villages you can do so only if you make it a cognizable offence.



On the Essential Supplies Bill, 1949⁷⁷

Ch. Ranbir Singh : Sir, while extending my support to the Bill, I cannot but say that the more acquisition of power of control will not increase the production of cotton; production of cotton is possible only through cultivation in the fields and with the peasants toil. Unless we provide incentive to the *kisan* to produce more cotton by creating the necessary atmosphere we will not be able to stop imports. In fact there will be no necessity to bring such a Bill before the House then. You have promised to strive towards this end. Still I would like to re-emphasize, as I did yesterday, that if you really wish to have plenty of cloth and food grains in the country, it is imperative that Bhakra Dam in the East Punjab should be completed as the first measure. The tunnel has been laid and is ready for use there. If enough funds are not placed at the disposal of East Punjab Government in time, it is very probable that the tunnel may burst with the approach of next

77. *Constituent Assembly (Legislative) Debates*, vol VI, pt. 2, 2 December 1949, pp. 217-19.

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season. Once this happens, the completion of this Dam will ever remain a dream. It can easily be said where to get the necessary money at a time such as at present. But such big plans cannot be deferred in the name of economy. If things of this sort have their way, not one but thousands of Bills of this nature cannot increase the production of cotton in the country. If the intention to procure more cotton for the industry is real, you will have to adopt measures as suggested by me. I would like to make a few suggestions in this respect which cannot be dispensed with on any score whatsoever.

The first of these suggestions does not demand much expenditure by the Government. I had made a mention about it yesterday, as I also told the Minister of Railways who had acclaimed surprise and described the plea as impossible. I am in a position to prove it. This help was sought of a supply officer of the Ministry of Agriculture who draws more than Rs. 2000 a month. It was for procuring fencing wire. The Agriculture Department had procured the fencing wire for their own farm. It was not one individual's procurement, but, in fact, a demand was put forward by U.P. also. The wire, of course, has not reached them despite two years continuous reminding. For the last four or five months at least, I myself have been trying to obtain it. I have sought the assistance of Agriculture Standing Committee and the Ministry concerned so that I may get it somehow. I have, however to regret

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that on my return to Vajpur I was again reminded about it by the people there. It has not reached them so far with consequent decrease in production. This wire was to be used to protect grain crops from the wild animals in the the stony 'bhavar area' spread over vast expanse. Much cotton and food grains can be produced in that area. Government is not called upon to spend much or import anything from outside towards this end.

The second thing which I wish to submit is that in Vajpur some tractors have been brought to clean up the area. There is a tractor organization as well. The harrows of these tractors while crossing the railway line, have to clash against the gate-reels and unless the gate is removed or widened, the inconvenience will continue to be felt. But I have to state with much regret that such a petty demand which was not made by a solitary individual has been refused by the O.T.R. authorities. The land actually belongs to Government and so many others and, above all, serious loss to the production of food grains and other crops is occurring. I have, therefore, placed these things before you.

This morning the Hon'ble Minister had described the peasants demands as much unjustified. In one voice you wish to bring down the prices while in the other you want to benefit the growers more and more. The two stands are conflicting. For instance, if a certain commodity is produced, its marketing price will have to be fixed after taking into

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consideration the production expenditure. But some people think that the rudiments of finance hardly apply as far as cultivation goes. To say the least, the rules and bye-laws can apply to the factories only. I cannot understand the logic that whereas in the case of factories you increase prices whenever the necessity to bring up production is felt, you wish to increase the production of food grains and cotton and yet to procure it at reduced prices. The peasants demand for increased prices seems exaggerating to you only. It is wrong to say, as you do, that the *leisans* look to their interest. The peasants have to interest of their own.

One thing I would like to repeat. You maintain that the peasants interests are sufficiently advocated by the Provincial Governments who are, in fact, afraid to them. I wish it to be conveyed to this House that the day is not far off when it will also fear the agriculturists, and the Members will be unable to enter it without their assent. This is primarily a country of the agriculturists. It is they who constitute more than 75 per cent. of its population. You say the issue concerns the Provincial Governments. It is a matter of one year only when you will come to realise about it.

[At this stage Mr. Speaker vacated the Chair which was then occupied by Mr. Deputy Speaker (Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar).]

I wish to say a few things regarding the controls as well. One is that due care should be taken

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to see that there is not much difference between the producers' and consumers prices. These days it is seen that the consumer pays sixteen rupees for an article which costs the producer only ten. I assert that an article produced at a cost of ten rupees should be available to the consumer at eleven. If you can arrange things this way, much benefit will result to all sections of the populace. I will like to cite one instance in this behalf. The gram transported to Madras from the Punjab is priced at rupees seven a maund whereas people in Madras can get it only Rs. 21 a maund. This is much improper and the Government should take steps to stop it forthwith.

Prof. N.G. Ranga: That is because of the railway bottle-neck. You don't give transport.

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: (Minister of State for Transport and Railways): We give all the facilities they want.

Ch. Ranbir Singh : I can challenge the Ministry of Transport on this issue and show them the letter from the supply officer of the Government of India in spite of which the wire in question has not reached the farm, even after a lapse of six months.

So I was endeavouring to tell that that much can be achieved without having a clash with the consumers interests. I have said that if you take courage in both hands and make a determined effort, substantial result can be achieved.

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Another point concerns cheap money. An Industrial Finance Corporation has been set up to promote and develop industry. I regret the absence of hon. The Finance Minister. I repeat what I said on the occasion of the discussion regarding the last Budget. If you mean to increase production cotton in the country, then proceed with setting up an Agriculture Finance Corporation. An increase in production of kapas cannot be brought about until all the land known as waste-land in different parts of the country is brought under the plough. This will not be practicable till more tractors are imported. Only yesterday Sardar Bhopinder Singh Man had complained that small tractors are not imported in the country. I do not deplore this fact. The wasteland can be brought under cultivation by heavy tractor alone. Government has been quite wise for importing big tractors only. Government, however, do not adopt measures to provide with the cheap money whenever some kisans meet together to devise ways for the formation of a cooperative society to purchase tractors. I have no sense of humiliation in recalling the effort that I made to purchase a tractor in common with a few friends. We needed some money for it which was not to be had except at an interest of ten percent. I did not intend to inconvenience my friends on this score, but, out of helplessness, I had to go to them ultimately to seek to have the required money from them without interest. A peasant with ordinary means, however, cannot get that much amount. I

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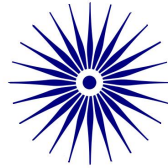
could not get it except at interest of ten or twelve percent, when I went to the market in that capacity *viz*, as no ordinary *kisan*.

So I have conveyed these few points. These are a few hardships experienced by the peasants and are capable of solution without clashing with the interests of the consumers. You think that cultivation of cotton, sugarcane and jute is possible only at the expense of one or the other. But I say it with authority that if you undertake to provide the agriculturist with cheap money and give the Punjabi agriculturist a free hand in U.P and C.P. the problem can be solved within no time. You will be surprised to know that the Punjabi agriculturist holds as much as 70 per cent. of land in Bajpur Tehsil of a small district like Naintal. As such, I claim that give a free rope and cheap money of the Punjabi agriculturists, within one year there shall be no shortage of wheat left nor there will be any problem of sugar-cane, rice, cotton or jute.

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PART THREE

Questions Asked in The
Constituent Assembly (Legislative)



CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY (LEGISLATIVE)

QUESTIONS POSED BY CH. RANBIR SINGH
TO DIFFERENT MINISTERIES
AND THEIR REPLIES

Disposal of unclaimed dead-bodies in
Irwin Hospital, Delhi¹

903. *Ch. Ranbir Singh : Will the Honourable Minister of Health be pleased to state

(a) the manner in which the unclaimed dead bodies of Hindu and Muslim patients who die in the Irwin Hospital are disposed of ; and

(b) the amount of firewood, if any, provided for the cremation of an unclaimed dead body of a Hindu patient ?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: (a) The unclaimed dead body of a Hindu is given by the

1. *Constituent Assembly (Legislative) Debates*, vol. III pt. 1, 29 March 1948, p. 2651.

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police to the Indraprastha Sevak Mandali, Delhi. The unclaimed dead body of a Muslim "a given to the Maiyat-ul-Islam Anjuman, Delhi. These two Association cremate or bury the dead body as the case may be and send their bill to the New Delhi Municipal Committee who make the payment of the bill to the Association concerned.

(b) Does not arise.

Shuttle Train between Delhi and Rohtak²

992. *Ch. Ranbir Singh : (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether it is a fact that a shuttle was running between Delhi and Rohtak before the 1st of September 1947 ?

(b) Is it also a fact that that shuttle was suspended due to disturbances in the area ?

(c) If so, do Government propose to resume it and if not, why not ?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai : (a) Yes.

(b) Yes

(c) A shuttle Passenger train each way has been reintroduced between Delhi and Rohtak from the 20th March, 1948.

2. *Ibid.*, 19 March 1948, p. 2436

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Transport facilities for *Gur*³

993. *Ch. Ranbir Singh : (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether Government are aware that a large quantity of Gur is lying in the markets of Delhi Province and in Ambala Division, especially in Rohtak Mandi for want of transport facilities on the Railways ?

(b) Is it a fact that the loading of Gur from the markets mentioned in part (a) above is closed to station on the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway ?

(c) Is it also a fact that a large proportion of Gur produced in the area mentioned in part (a) above used to be transported to stations on the Bombay Baroda and Central India Railway ?

(d) If so, do Government propose to provide special facilities for transport of Gur from the stations on the East Punjab Railway to the stations in Rajputana on the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway ?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai : (a) and (b) Yes, mainly because movement is required to stations on the B.B and C.I . Railway, booking to which is at present limited.

(c) Yes, except during last year.

3. *Ibid.*, 29 March 1948, p. 2651

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(d) Special arrangements for moving train loads of Gur sponsored by the Food Ministry, from stations on E.P. Railways to stations on B.B. and C.T. Railway have already been made. I understand the Food Ministry now have under consideration the sponsoring of additional movements from these particular areas.

Recruitment of Clerks in Posts and Telegraphs Department in East Punjab Circle⁴

994. *Ch. Ranbir Singh : (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Communication be please to state whether it is a fact that the last competitive examination for recruitment of clerks in the Posts and Telegrahps Department was held in 1943 for the Punjab and North West Frontier Circle?

(b) Is it also a fact that only persons who came out successful in the competitive examination, were placed on the list of approved candidates, maintained for appointment as clerks ?

(c) Is it also a fact that under the rules, the vacancies in the department are to be filled in from the candidates, who are on the approved list ?

4. *Ibid.*, p. 2652

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(d) Is it also a fact that several vacancies have been filled up permanently by candidates, who have neither passed the competitive examinations nor were on the approved list, maintained under the rules in the East Punjab Circle ?

(e) If the answers to parts (c) and (d) above are in the affirmative, do Government proposed to reconsider the cases of those persons, who have been overlooked ?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai :

- (a) Yes.
- (b) and (c) No. Not after 1941.
- (d) No.
- (e) Does not arise

Railway Employees 'use of Khadi uniform in place of millmade cloth⁵

1021. *Ch. Ranbir Singh : (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether Government have received any representation from persons, serving on the East Punjab Railway to allow them to wear pure khaddi uniforms of the same

5. *Ibid.*, pp. 2670-71

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pattern and colour prescribed for them under the rules, in place of mill-made cloth ?

(b) If so, have they been allowed to wear khadi clothes ? If not, why not ?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai (a) No such representation had been received from the employees of the E.P. Railway.

(b) Does not arise.

Ban on rustic songs from AIR, Delhi⁶

1097. *Ch. Ranbir Singh : (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state whether Government are aware that the Dehati Political Conference was held on the 14th March, 1948 in Garhi village of Delhi Province ?

(b) Are Government aware that the Conference passed a resolution, requesting the Honourable Minister to issue an order to discontinue the broadcasting of certain rustice songs, from Delhi Radio Station during Dehati programme ?

(c) If so, do Government propose to consider the matter ?

6. *Ibid.*, p. 2815

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The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru :

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

Merger of Nimrana Chiefship with East Punjab⁷

1112. *Ch. Ranbir Singh : (a) Will the Honourable Minister of States be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Chief of Nimrana Chiefship (Rajputana) has declared his willingness to merge the Chiefship with East Punjab ?

(b) Is it also a fact that the Praja Panchayat, the elected body of the Chiefship, has also declared its willingness to merge into East Punjab ?

(c) Is it also a fact that the whole of the population of the Chiefship desire its merger with the East Punjab?

(d) Is it also a fact that the area of the Chiefship is contiguous to Gurgaon district ?

(e) If the replies to parts (a), (b), (c) and (d) above are in the affirmative are Government prepared to allow the Chiefship to be marged with the East Punjab ? If not, why not ?

7. *Ibid.*, p. 2821

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The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) to (c)
The Government of India have no information.

(d) Yes.

(e) No, Sir. The Chiefship of Nimrana forms an integral part of Alwar State which has joined the Matsya Union.

Gur trade with Pakistan⁸

1174. *Ch. Ranbir Singh : (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Food be pleased to state the amount of *Gur* exported to Pakistan during the months of January and February 1948 ?

(b) If exports have been made, what steps do Government propose to take to promote the trade of *Gur* between India and Pakistan ?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) Export of sugar and *gur* to Pakistan was prohibited in December, 1947 simultaneously with the decontrol of these commodities and no *gur* was transported to Pakistan in the months of January and February, 1948.

8. *Ibid.*, p. 2921

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(b) When the Food Delegation from Pakistan was in Delhi in January, 1948 it asked for and got an *ad-hoc* quota of 10,000 tons of *gur*. But none of this quantity has been fixed and the quota is still available for export. Government have lately received enquiries from traders in India for export of *gur* to Pakistan and is willing to issue them export licences for a quantity of 10,000 tons. It is understood however that the import of *gur* into Pakistan is controlled and exporters of *gur* would have to make sure that the necessary import licences from the Government of Pakistan became available. Government would be willing to continue for a further period the export quota of 10,000 tons which under the original agreement expires on the 31st March, 1948. The present-day low prices of *gur* in certain *gur* producing areas are however mainly due to transport difficulties and export of *gur* to Pakistan will not materially solve the problem. The country is not really surplus in *gur*.

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Parallel Peoples' Government in Faridkot and Nabha States⁹

1229. *Ch. Ranbir Singh : (a) Will the Honourable Minister of States be pleased to state whether it is a fact that parallel Government have been set up in Faridkot and Nabha States to fight the present rule of these States ?

(b) Is it also a fact that the people's Governments in both the States have captured large tracts and made captives the State Government servants ?

(c) Is it also a fact that lathi charges have been reported to, which resulted in many casualties and wounded hundreds of people, by the Police of the various states ?

(d) Is it also a fact that there is great danger for maintenance of peace and order in the states ?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru:

(a) and (b) The State Congress in these two States launched a satyagraha movement for the grant of responsible Government. Government have no information whether a parallel Government was set up, but through the mediation of the State Ministry the movement has been called off and the States have released Praja Mandal leaders and certain State

9. *Ibid.*, p. 3187.

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officials who were suspected by the State authorities of sympathy with the Praja Mandal movement.

(c) There were reports of lathi charge in Faridkot, and a number of people suffered injuries. Government have no information whether the Nabha State authorities resorted to lathi charge.

(d) As a result of the appeals issued by Honourable Minister for States and the President of the All India States People's Conference the movement has been called off and reports indicate that for the time being there is no threat to law and order.

(e) Does not arise

Tearing and Burning of Indian National Flag in Patiala¹⁰

1230. *Ch. Ranbir Singh : (a) Will the Honourable Minister of States be pleased to state whether it is a fact that on the 29th February 1948 the Indian Union flags were torn into pieces and burnt in Patiala proper ?

(b) If so, do Government propose to request

10. *Ibid.*

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the State Government to take action against those who were responsible for it ?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru :

(a) and (b) Government have no information.

Protest of Jat Kisans of Bharatpur State¹¹

1231. *Ch. Ranbir Singh : (a) Will the Honourable Minister of States be pleased to state whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the news item published in the *Statesman* dated the 18th March 1948, regarding the protest demonstration of the Kisans (mostly Jats) of Bharatpur State on the occasion of the inauguration of Matsya State, for the inclusion of their representatives in the interim cabinet of the Union ?

(b) If so, what steps do Government propose to take in this respect ?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru :

(a) Yes.

(b) The matter is for the Raj Pramukh and the Interim Cabinet of the Matsya Union to decide.

11. *Ibid.*

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Falling Prices of *Gur* and its Effect on
Agricultural Economy¹²

365. *Ch. Ranbir Singh : Will the Honourable Minister of Food be pleased to state :

(a) Whether it is a fact that the price of *Gur* has gone down from Rs. 24 to Rs. 8 per maund; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to take steps to check the fall in the price of *Gur*, so that the agricultural economy of the country may not be disturbed ?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram : The Honourable Member has not mentioned any particular area and the period to which the fall in price relates. Presumably he has the situation in U.P. in mind, where *gur* prices have fallen substantially since decontrol of sugar and *gur*. In September 1947 the market price of *gur* in U.P. was about Rs. 20 per maund. On the eve of decontrol, *i.e.*, on 1st December 1947, against the controlled price of Rs. 13-4-0 per maund the market price was Rs. 15-12-0 at Muzaffarnagar, while the price reported for the week ending 6th February, 1948 for the same market was Rs. 8-8-0 to Rs. 9-4-0 per maund, Prices of *gur* in other surplus areas namely Madras and Kolhapur, have also fallen, though not to such in a large extent,

12. *Ibid.*, vol. IV, pt. 1, 20 February 1948, pp. 992-93

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In Madras from Rs. 15 to Rs. 10 per maund and in Bombay from Rs. 20 to Rs. 15 per maund.

(b) The cause of the great fall in the price of *gur* in the U.P. is the lack of transport. Government are trying their best to find more transport. Government are anxious that the interests of the producers of *gur* should be safe-guarded. Short of re-imposing control, government will consider the suitability of any other measures which may be suggested to help the *gur* industry.

Pensionary right of military personnel who participated in Civil-Disobedience Movements¹³

412. *Ch. Ranbir Singh : (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the pensionary rights of military personnel, who took part in the Civil Disobedience Movement launched by the All India Congress Committee in the year 1930, 1932 and 1942 and were sentenced to imprisonment were forfeited and that since then no payment has been made to the pensioners ?

13. *Ibid.*, p. 1072

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(b) If so, do Government propose to re-consider their cases under the changed circumstances ?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh :

(a) Yes.

(b) The matter is under consideration.

Grants to East Punjab for sinking wells¹⁴

444. *Ch. Ranbir Singh : (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state :

(a) the grant allotted to East Punjab for the year 1947-48 for the purpose of sinking wells;

(b) the sum spent out of this grant;

(c) whether it is a fact that due to disturbances and partition, the programme of sinking wells had to be postponed; and

(d) if so, whether Government propose to include the said amount together with the allotment for the year 1948-49 in the Budget Estimates for the year 1948-49.

The Honourable Jairamdas Doulatram: (a), (b) and (c) A grant of Rs. 50 lakhs was sanctioned to the Government of the Punjab before the Partition for the sinking of wells during 1947-48. The amount spent

14. *Ibid.*, 24 February 1948, p. 1148

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out of this in East Punjab is not yet known. The disturbances and partition obviously had some effect on the programme of sinking wells. After the Partition the Government of the East Punjab was asked to submit a revised scheme to cover the existing boundaries of the Province but the Provincial Government have not so far submitted any scheme.

(d) If the Government of the East Punjab launch a scheme for the sinking of wells during 1948-49 which offsets the effect of postponement, the Government of India on their part will be prepared to consider favourably the inclusion of the unspent amount intended for East Punjab.

Merger of Jind State with East Punjab¹⁵

722. *Ch. Ranbir Singh : (a) Will the Honourable Minister of States be pleased to state whether Government are aware that the State Congress of Jind State had demanded merger of the State with the Province of East Punjab ?

(b) If so, what steps do Government propose to take in the matter ?

15. *Ibid.*, 12 March 1948, p. 1976

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The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru : (a) and (b) Yes. This question is under examination as a part of the general scheme relating to the future set-up for the East Punjab States.

Raids on Bharatpur border villages from Gurgaon side¹⁶

788. *Ch. Ranbir Singh : (a) Will the Honourable Minister of States be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Meos residing in the adjoining villages of Gurgaon District raided Bharatpur State border villages several times ?

(b) Is it also a fact that they carried away a large number of cattle belonging to the villagers ?

(c) Is it also a fact that the border villagers of Bharatpur State have been deprived of their licensed arms by the authorities ?

(d) If so, what steps do Government propose to take to create confidence in the villagers living in the border area of Bharatpur State ?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh :

(a) Yes, but these raids took place last year.

(b) Yes

16. *Ibid.*, 16 March 1948, p. 2208

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- (c) No.
- (d) Does not arise

People's Government in Jind¹⁷

789. *Ch. Ranbir Singh : (a) Will the Honourable Minister of States be pleased to state whether it is a fact that a parallel Government has been set up in Jind State?

(b) Is it also a fact that the People's Government have captured Badhara Police Station in Dadri District ?

(c) Is it also a fact that the administration of 184 villages is being carried by the parallel Government and the State Government has failed to maintain peace and order in the State ? If so, what steps do the Government of India propose to take to maintain peace and order in the State ?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a), (b) and (c). There was an agitation in Dadri district of Jind against the State administration. On the advice of the States Ministry the agitation in Jind has been suspended and the State authorities have released all

17. *Ibid.*, p. 2209

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the State Congress leaders who were arrested in connection with the agitation.

Ch. Nihal Singh Taxak : May I know whether it is a fact that since the 25th February, no cases are coming to the State courts, as there is a Panchayat raj in each village ?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru : I do not know. But I am very glad to learn that litigation is ending in the Jind State.

Ch. Ranbir Singh : Is it a fact, Sir, that some Prajamandalists have been arrested by the State authorities and have not yet been released ?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru : I have just stated that the persons who were arrested have been released. I do not know if anything has happened very recently. If the Honourable Member will draw out attention to it, we will certainly enquire into the matter.

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Re. Acquisition of Land (rural) for refugee townships¹⁸

788. *Ch. Ranbir Singh : (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the lands owned by agriculturist residents in Delhi will also be taken over by the authorities for building the four proposed suburban towns of Delhi.

Appointments in External Affairs Ministry¹⁹

1305. *Ch. Ranbir Singh : (a) Will the Honourable Prime Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the appointments of Superintendents and Assistants-in-charge in his Ministry and in the Embassies and Consulates etc. are made by his Secretariat officers, without reference being made to him ?

(b) What is the total number of vacancies that fell vacant since 1947 in the above cadres ?

(c) Do Government propose to lay on the table of the House a statement showing the names of the

18. *Ibid.*, vol. v, pt. 1, 7 April 1948, p 3369.

19. *Ibid.*, p. 3370

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persons promoted to such posts, with their substantive pay prior to their promotion and the pay which they will be entitled to receive after promotion to the above mentioned posts, specially in the foreign countries ?

(d) What steps do Government propose to take to do away with nepotism and favouritism in the selection of personnel ?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru :

(a) Yes

(b) 53 vacancies

Superintendent – 45

Assistants-in-Charge – 8

(c) A statement is laid on the table.

(d) Does not arise as in filling the vacancies the regulations prescribed by Government are strictly observed.

Hotel in premises of Zanana Tibia College,
Delhi²⁰

1330. *Ch. Ranbir Singh : (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Health be pleased to state whether it is a

20. *Ibid.*, 9 April 1948, p. 3447

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fact that a hotel has been started in the premises of the Zanana Tibbia College, Delhi ?

(b) If so, what steps do Government propose to take in the matter ?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur : (a) and (b). The Tibbia College Delhi is a private Institution. The matter raised in the question is being investigated and information collected will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

Request of the Tibbia College Trust for takeover of the College by the Government²¹

1331. *Ch. Ranbir Singh : (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Health be pleased to state whether it is a fact that some members of the Board of Trustees of the Tibbia College, Delhi, including Hakim Jamil Khan have requested the Government to take over the administration of the College ?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh : It is understood that some members of the Board of Trustees have approached the Honourable Minister for Education with the request that Government

21. *Ibid.*

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should take over the administration of the Tibia College. The matter has not been referred to the Health Ministry as yet.

Punishment to personnel of Indian Signal Corps, Jubbulpore²²

*Ch. Ranbir Singh : (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state whether it is a fact that some personnel of Indian Signal Corps, Battalion, No. 2, stationed at Jubbulpore, took part in the protest meeting held on the 27th February, 1946 against the rule of Britain in Jubbulpore City ?

(b) Is it also a fact that several of these men were discharged from the military service and were deprived of War Gratuity, Deffered Pay and Provident Fund etc.

(c) Is it also a fact that an entry was made in their discharge certificate declaring them unfit for future Government service ?

(d) If so, do Government propose to remove the restriction on their entry to Government service and order the payment to them of the arrears of pay and gratuities etc. ?

22. *Ibid.*, pp. 3464-65

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The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh : (a) There was no organized protest meeting against British rule on 27th February 1946 in Jabulpore. There was, however, an organized mutiny by certain Indian Signal Corps personnel on the grounds of their domestic military grievances. These were Insufficient food, Bad rations *e.g.*, atta and gur, Badly cooked food, over-crowding, Lack of amenities and welfare arrangements, and Demobilisation.

(b) Of the mutineers, 17 men were court-martialled and dismissed, 27 dismissed administratively, and 62 discharged. Those dismissed forfeited gratuity, deferred pay etc. as is the case with all dismissals.

(c) Those dismissed are ineligible for Government service. Those discharged had their character rated as "indifferent".

(d) No, Sir.

Fixing Minimum Price of *Gur* in Delhi Province and Ambala Division ²³

1372 *Ch. Ranbir Singh : (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Food be pleased to state whether

23. *Ibid.*, 9 April 1948, p. 3550.

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Government are aware that the price of *Gur* is falling down daily in Delhi Province and Ambala Division of East Punjab and that it has gone down to Rs. 4 per maund ?

(b) If so, do Government propose to fix the minimum price of *Gur*, and undertake to buy it at that price, so that the agriculturist may be given a minimum price for his produce ? If not, why not ?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram : (a) It is a fact that the price of *gur* has declined in parts of Ambala Division but the price generally is still not less than Rs. 9 per maund. In regard to some individual sales it may have fallen lower owing to exceptional factors.

(b) The fall in the price of *gur* which has taken place in certain producing districts is largely due to difficulty of finding transport to certain important consuming areas like Rajputana. Instructions have been issued that special attention be given to ensuring movement from districts where the prices have fallen in recent weeks. The suggestion made by the Honourable Member if carried out would involve State trading and State distribution in a perishable commodity which might lead to very heavy losses and indirectly impose a burden on the taxpayer.

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Distribution of Gazetted Posts in Secretariat ²⁴

1403 *Ch. Ranbir Singh : (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state what steps Government propose to take to ensure equitable distribution of gazetted posts in the Secretariat and adequate representation of all provinces ?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: Attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the reply given to Question No. 1071, by Sri Kishori Mohan Tripathi on the 31st March, 1948.

Police recruitment in Delhi Province²⁵

1405. *Ch. Ranbir Singh : (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state whether Government propose to lay on the table of the House a statement showing :

(a) the number of vacancies which occurred in the Police Department after 15th August 1947 in various ranks in Delhi Province;

24. *Ibid.*, p. 3570.

25. *Ibid.*, p. 3571.

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(b) the persons recruited from Delhi Province and various other provinces in the various ranks to fill those vacancies ; and

(c) the number of persons who applied for or offered for services in the various ranks from Delhi Province ?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) and (b) A statement giving the information is placed on the table of the House.

(c) Candidates were called and interviewed at recruitment parades or individually and selections were made out of such persons on the basis of fitness. No record of the total number of persons who appeared for interview was maintained or is available.

STATEMENT (II)

	S.P.	D.S. Ps.	Insprs.	Sgts.	S.Is.	A.S.Is.	H.Cs.	F.Cs.
(a) Vacancies after 15-8-1947	3	11	17	6	77	107	302	2458
(b) Recruitments made								
N.W.F. Province	1	1	6	..	31	40	130	261
Sind	..	..	1	..	13	13	80	155
Quetta Baluchistan	..	..	3	..	7	..	15	17
West Punjab	..	..	..	..	9	10	36	435
West Punjab States	..	..	..	..	..	4	6	16
U.P. & C.P.	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	163
East Punjab	..	..	..	..	..	3	7	585
Delhi	..	..	..	..	..	4	1	430
Other States etc.	..	..	..	..	..	..	10	232
Total	1	1	10	..	60	75	291	2294
Received on transfer	1	8	..	..	9	9	..	..
Vacancies filled by promotion from one rank to other rank	1	2	7	..	5	7	10	..
	2	10	7	..	14	16	10	..

Installation of Broadcasting Station by
Maharaja of Faridkot¹

1406 *Ch. Ranbir Singh : (a) Will the Honourable Minister of States be pleased to state whether Government are aware that the Maharaja of Faridkot has installed his own Broadcasting Station in his palace ?

(b) If so, what steps the Government propose to take in this matter ?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) and (b), Government of India are informed that a transmitter is installed in the State but I am not aware of its location. Enquiries are being made and appropriate action will be taken in the light of the result of such enquires.

Cost of production of agricultural products²

239. *Ch. Ranbir Singh : (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state whether there exists any agency under the Government of India or the Provincial Governments to investigate

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1. *Ibid.*, p. 3571.
 2. *Ibid.*, 16 August 1948, p. 286.

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the cost of production of various agricultural products in the various provinces and states at present ?

(b) If the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, do Government propose to lay on the table of the House a statements showing the cost of production of wheat, rice, *gur*, etc., in the various provinces ?

(c) If the answer to part (a) above in the negative, do Government propose to set up some agency to investigate the cost of production of agricultural products at an early date ?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram : (a) the Government of India do not have at present any special agency entrusted with the work of carrying out cost of cultivation enquiries. During 1933-36 enquiries into the cost of production of crops in the principal sugarcane and cotton tracts in India were carried out under the auspices of Indian Council of Agricultural Research.

At present the Indian Central Jute Committee has been undertaking investigations into the economics of Jute growing. Among the Provinces, it is understood that the Government of U.P. have under consideration a scheme for carrying out enquiries into the costs of cultivation of crops and the costs of living of farmers.

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(b) Two volumes of the Report on the enquiry into the Cost of production of Crops carried out by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (Vol. I and Supplementary Vol. I on Punjab) are laid on the table of the House. The remaining 16 volumes are placed in the Library of the House. A statement showing the cost of production of Jute and Paddy in United Bengal in 1947 is also laid on the table of the House.

(c) In pursuance of the recommendations of the Prices Sub-Committee of the Policy Committee on Agriculture, Forestry and Fishries, to the effect that detailed and continuous enquiries into the cost of production of crops and cost of living of agricultural producers should be planned and conducted, a scheme for carrying out enquiries into the Cost of Production of crops has been prepared and circulated to the provinces. The Provincial Governments are being persuaded to undertake such enquiries on their own initiative.

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Statement
 Indian Central Jute Committee
*Investigation into the Economics of Jute Growing,
 Bengal, 1947*
Average Cost of Production of Jute and Paddy

Centre	Jute	Paddy			
		Aus	Aman	Aus- Aman	Boro- Aman
Hazipur	21-11	17-15	12-3	...	...
Narayanpur	16-11	8-14	...	8-11	...
Mirzapur	22-6	...	5-14	5-9	5-7
Kishoreganj	15-12	11-3	...	...	...
Sirkhara	14-11	...	14-9	11-5	...
All Centres	17-9	...	...	...	...

*Cost in Rs. As. per md.

Appointment of Peasant Welfare Officers³

240. *Ch. Ranbir Singh : (a) Will the Honourable Minister Agriculture be pleased to state whether any welfare officer for agricultural labourers and peasant

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- * 1. Costs represent operational costs only.
 - 2. Due to the closing down of the enquiry in December 1947, the enquiries relating to Aman paddy were not completed at some centres.
 - 3. *Ibid.*, 16 August 1948, p. 287.

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proprietors has been appointed by Government to raise the general standard of the masses ?

(b) If the answer to part (a) above be in the negative, do Government propose to appoint Peasant Welfare Officers in the near future ?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram : This question should have been addressed to the Honourable Minister for Labour. It has accordingly been transferred to the list of questions for 20th August, 1948 when it will be answered by the Honourable Minister for Labour.

Sending Agriculturists to America and Japan for study⁴

241. *Ch. Ranbir Singh : (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state whether any agriculturist has been sent to the United States of America and Japan to study the ways and means of agriculture in those countries, in order to develop their own farms ?

(b) If the reply to part (a) above be in the negative, do Government propose to send some

4. *Ibid.*

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agriculturists to foreign countries to study the development of agriculture in those countries ?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram : (a) No.
(b) The suggestion will be examined.

Appointment of Peasant Welfare Officers⁵

380. *Ch. Ranbir Singh : (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Labour be pleased to state whether any welfare officer for agricultural labourers and peasant proprietors has been appointed by Government to raise the general standard of masses ?

(b) If the answer to part (a) above be in the negative, do Government propose to appoint Peasant Welfare Officers in the near future ?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram : (a) No. (b) No. Government, however, propose to hold an enquiry to ascertain the systems and levels of wages and perquisites paid to agricultural workers, their other earnings, regularity of employment, and working and living conditions with a view to considering what steps should be taken to improve their conditions of employment. This inquiry will also

5. *Ibid.*, p. 405.

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provide valuable data for the fixation of Minimum Wages under the Minimum Wages Act.

Indians in Palestine⁶

492. *Ch. Ranbir Singh : (a) Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state :

- (a) the total number of Indians in Palestine :
- (b) The steps taken to safeguard their lives and interest in that country; and
- (c) the steps taken to evacuate those who want to come over to India ?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru : (a) Exact statistics of number of Indians now living in Palestine are not available. The last census in 1931 showed fifty-five Indian subjects and immigration statistics between 1937-45 indicated forty-seven arrivals and eighteen departures. It is not known how many of these belong to Pakistan and how many to India.

(b) and (c). The duty of affording protection to Indians and others in Palestine lies on the authorities there. The Government of India have received no

6. *Ibid.*, 25 August 1948, pp. 542-43.

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reports to indicate that Indians in Palestine are in particular danger nor has any specific request been received for protection or evacuation. If any Indian national expresses a desire to be evacuated, the Government of India would naturally assist him as far as lies in their power.

Restoration of Panipat-Rohtak Railway Line⁷

556. *Ch. Ranbir Singh : (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether Government are aware that the Railway line from Panipat to Rohtak was dismantled in 1941 due to war exigency ?

(b) Are Government aware that there is no pucca road, which connects Panipat and Rohtak *via* Gohana ?

(c) Are Government aware that the grain markets of Gohana and Mudlana on that line have practically non-existent for want of transport facilities ?

(d) Are Government aware that lakhs of Kisans belonging to villages lying near about this Railway

7. *Ibid.*, p. 543.

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line are forced to sell their produce at a very low price for want of road or rail facilities ?

(e) If so, do Government propose to restore the Railway line from Panipat to Rohtak *via* Gohana and if not, why not ?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthal : (a) Yes.

(b) There is a metalled road between Rohtak and Gohana and a non-metalled road between Gohana and Panipat ; and whole length being classified as a Provincial highway.

(c) As far as the Government are aware, the mandis at Gohana and Mudlana have continued to develop since the Railway line was dismantled.

(d) The Government have no information on this point.

(e) The line had been continuously running at a loss since its construction. The question of its restoration was considered by the Central Board of Transport at its 12th meeting held on 29th July 1948, and it was decided that the project required further detailed examination in the light of partition and the industrial and other developments in prospect. It is, therefore, proposed to carry out a fresh traffic survey. This question of restoration of the line will be finally decided after the traffic survey has been carried out.

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Acquisition of land near Delhi for new educational institutions⁸

662. *Ch. Ranbir Singh : (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state whether Government are aware that about 550 acres of land in the villages Rajpur Chhawani, Malikpur and Azadpur are proposed to be acquired for the construction of educational institutions ?

(b) Is it a fact that Government have decided not to develop new educational institutions in the neighbourhood of Delhi ?

(c) If so, do Government propose to issue instructions not to proceed with the acquisition of land in the above mentioned villages ? If not, why not ?

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: (a) Yes. Government are acquiring about 500 acres both for educational and medical institutions.

(b) No.

(c) Does not arise.

8. *Ibid.*, 25 August 1948, pp. 542-43.

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Border raids from Pakistan in to Jodhpur State⁹

Ch. Ranbir Singh : (a) Will the Honourable Minister of States be pleased to state whether Government are aware of the fact that during the last fortnight two *kisans* have been murdered and nine hamlets in village Chirduri, Tehsil Bilara, the whole village of Bhadwase of Tehsil Merta and some Dhanies of village Derasae of Jodhpur State on the Pakistan border have been looted and burnt ?

(b) If the answer to part (a) above is in the affirmative, what steps Government propose to take to check such incidents ?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel : (a) The question implies that these alleged incidents are in the nature of border raids. This is not so. The Jodhpur Government have informed the Government of India that on the 7th February Shepherds in village Chirduri had burnt their 'Dhanies'. This is believed to be the outcome of a private feud. The Jodhpur Police have so far not been able to trace the murderers though efforts to apprehend them are being continued. No decoity was committed and the accused did not take away any property belonging to the Raikas. On the 8th February a decoity was committed in village

9. *Ibid.*, vol. 1, Pt. 1, 17 February 1949, p. 807.

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Bhadwaj when fifteen houses were looted. Information of the occurrence was received by the Jodhpur Police 24 hours after the occurrence and it is suspected that a gang of bad characters of Marwar and Bikaner State is responsible for this. Special police parties have been deputed for the apprehension of the accused. As regards the third incident information received by the Police is that six armed dacoits were looting the 'Dhani' of one village was found on investigation to be highly exaggerated. It was not a case of dacoity and the complaint was the outcome of ill-feeling between two parties in the locality.

(b) Does not arise.

Disparity in prices of gram in Rohtak and Delhi¹⁰

650. *Ch. Ranbir Singh & Giani Gurumukh Singh Musafir : (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Food be pleased to state whether Government are aware that gram is being sold in Rohtak Mandi at Rs. 8/- a maund ?

(b) Are Government also aware that in Delhi gram is being sold to the consumer at Rs. 14/- per maund ?

10. *Ibid.*, pp. 999-1000.

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(c) If the replies to parts (a) and (b) above be in affirmative, what step do Government propose to take to do away with the disparity in the level of the prices of grain at various places ?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram : (a) and (b) Yes. There is disparity in the prevailing market prices of gram in Rohtak and Delhi.

(c) Gram now forms part of cereal ration in Delhi and is issued at Rs. 10/8/- per maund retail. In non-rationed areas also supply of gram is being made through relief quota shops. It has been decided to ban free trading of all rationed grains, including gram, as also its import into Delhi. These measures, it is hoped, will bring down the prices of gram in Delhi.

Post offices for villages in Rohtak District ¹¹

747. *Ch. Ranbir Singh : (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Communications be pleased to state whether Government are aware that there are no village post offices in villages Balliana and Bidhlan of Tehsil Rohtak, Jagari and Samari of Tehsil Gohana,

11. *Ibid.*, 28 February 1949, p. 1093.

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and Purkhas of Tehsil Sonapat in District Rohtak in East Punjab ?

(b) Are Government aware that the population of each of these villages is nearly four thousands each ?

(c) If the answers to parts (a) and (b) above be in the affirmative, do Government propose to start village post offices in each of these villages and if not, why not ?

Shri Khushed Lal (Deputy Minister for Communications) (a) No Post Office exists in any of these villages at present.

(b) No, a statement indicating the population of each of these villages is placed on the table of the House.

(c) Yes. Sanction for the opening of a Post Office at Purkhas has been accorded. The question of opening Post Offices at Bidhlan, Balliana, Jagsi and Shamri is under consideration.

Statement	
Population of the villages	
Purkhas	2,714
Bidhlan	2,120
Jagsi	3,736
Balliana	2,513
Shamri	3,040

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Procurement and storage of seed grains¹²

866. Ch. Ranbir Singh : (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state what arrangements exist to assist the Provinces and the Centrally Administered Areas in the procurement of seed grain and in the storage of seed grain so as to preserve its germinating power and protect it against insects, diseases and other pests ?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: Ordinarily the Provinces and Centrally Administered Areas are expected to multiply seed needed by them—first through Government seed farms which distribute seed to 'A' Class of growers who return to Government the harvested grain which is further multiplied through a larger number of 'B' Class growers, whose harvest is distributed as seed to the general cultivators.

These steps are being taken by most Provinces where any areas stand in need of special assistance in regard to seed for the next season's crop, the Central Government tries to help by procuring seed from more favourably situated Provinces. With regard to storage of seed the following steps have so far been taken in the Centrally Administered Areas of Delhi and Ajmer-Merwara :

12. *Ibid.*, 3 March 1949, p. 1188.

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(a) Constructional improvement in the existing seed stores.

(b) Practical training to store-keepers in the hygienic methods of keeping the seedgrains in storage free from insects and rats.

(c) Storage courses are being organized as a part of the Plant Protection Courses for the benefit of the villagers and agricultural workers.

(d) Treatment of cereal seeds mostly wheat and jowar with fungicidal dust to protect them from diseases and improve their germination. In Ajmer Merwara about 8000 maunds of wheat and jowar seeds have been treated during 1948-49 and distributed to the cultivators. In Delhi about 4000 maunds of wheat seed was treated before the last rabi sowing.

(e) A set of suitable instructions have been issued to the Agricultural Officers for guidance of store-keepers in seed stores.

Work on the above lines is also being organized by the various Provincial Governments, in their respective provinces with the assistance of Directorate of Plant Protection of the Central Government.

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Merger of Dujana State with East Punjab¹³

492. *Ch. Ranbir Singh : (a) Will the Honourable Minister of States be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Ruler of Dujana State (East Punjab) has gone to Pakistan ?

(b) Is it also a fact that the administration of the State has been taken over by the Govt. of India ?

(c) Are Government aware that the people of the State want the merger of the State with the East Punjab Province ?

(d) If so, do Government propose to take steps in the matter ?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel : (a) Yes, but only temporarily.

(b) Yes.

(c) Yes

(d) The matter is under consideration

Organisations for research on crops¹⁴

*969. Ch. Ranbir Singh : Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state whether it

13. *Ibid.*, 8 March 1949, p. 1277.

14. *Ibid.*, p. 1361.

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is a fact that there are separate central organisations responsible for research on paddy, cotton, sugarcane, oilseeds, jute, tobacco coconut, potato and lae ?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram : Yes.

Expansion of Indian Agricultural Research Institute ¹⁵

970. *Ch. Ranbir Singh : (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Indian Agricultural Research Institute has been considerably expanded during the period from 1940 to 1949 and further expansion is under contemplation at a cost of nearly a crore of rupees ?

(b) Is it a fact that under the expansion plans, the salaries of most of the superior staff have been doubled in comparison to what they were drawing before ?

(c) Is it also a fact that an Englishman is being brought from the United Kingdom as the Head of a division in the Institute ?

15. *Ibid.*, pp. 1361-62.

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The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram : (a)
There has been some expansion since 1946.

A five year post-war expansion scheme was accepted in principle, involving an expenditure of nearly Rs. 1 crore in 1948-49. But this has been postponed owing to financial stringency.

(b) No, the salaries of the entire staff have been refixed under the Central Services Revision of Pay Rules, 1947.

(c) Yes, there is a proposal under consideration to appoint for a period of two years an Englishman who is a distinguished scientist and a specialist as Head of Division of Entomology, to initiate new lines of research in the subject.

Officer strength in Agricultural Division of IARI¹⁶

971. *Ch. Ranbir Singh : (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state the officer strength in the Agricultural Division of the Indian Agricultural Research Institute and how many are graduates in Agriculture ?

16. *Ibid.*

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The Honourable Shri Jairamsdas Doulatram : The Agriculture Division (now called the Division of Agronomy) has on its officer strength, one Head of Division, three Class I and ten Class II Officers.

Of them, one in Class I and six in Class II are graduates in Agriculture, some of them possessing higher qualifications.

The others are graduates in sciences basic to Agriculture like Soil Chemistry (Agronomical), Botany, Animal Husbandry, and Statistics.

Improvement of cattle breed¹⁷

972. *Ch. Ranbir Singh : (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Agricultural Division of the Indian Agricultural Research Institute has an old herd of milch cows and that no new breeds have been introduced in this country ?

(b) Is it also a fact that the Central Dairy Institute at Bangalore or the Indian Husbandry and Veterinary Institute at Izzatnagar are also working for the improvement of cattle stock?

17. *Ibid.*, pp. 1361-62.

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(c) If so, what steps do Government propose to take to co-ordinate these institutions ?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) The experimental work of the Agriculture Division which is now called the Agronomy Division, is concerned with developing high yielding strains of Sahiwal and Tharparkar breeds of cattle by scientific breeding and adoption of improved methods of cattle husbandry. The Sahiwal herd is maintained at Pusa (New Delhi) and the Tharparkar at Karnal. Considerable improvements have been effected in the milk yield of both the herds. India possesses a number of good breeds of its own and it is consequently not considered essential to introduce any new breeds from other countries.

(b) Yes, but the breeds developed in each are different. The Thararkar and Sahiwal in the first, the Sindi, and the Murrah buffalo in the second and the Haryana and Kumauni hill type in the third.

(c) The work of these institutes is complementary to one another and the technical programmes and the annual progress reports of all the Agricultural Research.

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Acquisition of Land on the Najafgarh Road, Delhi¹⁸

1148. Ch. Ranbir Singh : (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Health be pleased to refer to the supplementary question by Shri Deshbandhu Gupta raised on Starred Question No. 581 asked on the 22nd February, 1949 and state how many representations from the people protesting against the proposed acquisition of their land for the Industrial Supplementary Area Scheme on Najafgarh Road, Delhi, have been received ?

(b) What action has been taken on each of the representations and what orders have been passed, if any?

(c) Are Government aware that some of the persons are keen to put up small factories on their own land ? If so, will Government please see that some conditions on which the Delhi Cloth and General Mills is being permitted by the Delhi Improvement Trust ?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur : (a) Five

(b) Two representations have been rejected and action on two others is held up as it is understood that one of the petitioners is taking legal action in the matter, while with regard to the fifth representation the Delhi Improvement Trust has been asked to give

18. *Ibid.*, pp. 1580-81.

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the consideration to the requirements of the objector in the plan of allotment.

(c) One case has come to the notice of Government where the petitioner wants to set up his own factory. The possibility of allowing such persons to retain their land will be examined.

Permanent strength of Railway Board Office¹⁹

*1188. Ch. Ranbir Singh : (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether it is a fact that more than one hundred assistants and a large number of clerks have been officiating in the Railway Board's Office for the last three or four years?

(b) Why has it taken such a long time to fix the revised permanent strength of the Board's office ?

The Honourable Shri Gopaldaswami Ayyangar :

(a) Yes.

(b) The fixation of the revised permanent strength of the Railway Board's office has not yet been finally decided on by the Board. During the War the strength of the Board's Office had to be increased to deal with the heavy increase in work

19. *Ibid.*, vol. III, 18 March 1949, p 1642.

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created by War conditions. Soon after the cessation of hostilities, an officer was appointed on special duty to go into the question of the permanent strength required for the Board's Office in the changed circumstances. Before action could be taken on the report of this officer, the partition of Railways was effected which altered circumstances. By the time conditions stabilised again the Indian Railway Enquiry Committee's report and recommendations had become due. The Enquiry Committee's report has since been received and the matter is now under the consideration of the Railway Board.

Central Reserve of foodgrains²⁰

*1189. Ch. Ranbir Singh : (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Food be pleased to state the exact amount of foodgrains which were lying in the Central Reserve of the Ministry of Food at different stations as on the 1st February 1947, 1st February 1948, and 1st February 1949 respectively?

(b) On which dates did the stocks in the Government godowns come to a minimum during the years 1947, 1948 and 1949 ?

20. *Ibid.*, pp. 1361-62.

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(c) What was the total allotment of foodgrains to each of the Province and States and on what dates were such supplies made during the above period ?

(d) What was the total number of officers together with their designations and the number of ministerial staff employed to look after the above Government stores and the foodgrains kept therein on each of the dates mentioned in part (a) above ?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) The total quantity of foodgrains in the Central Reserve on the 1st February 1947 was 1,33,569 tons, on the 1st February 1948, 55,237 tons and on 1st February 1949, 28,846 tons.

(b) During 1947 and 1948 the minimum quantities of stocks in the Central Reserve Depots prevailed during October 1947 and November 1948. The balances at the end of these months were 12,034 tons and 33,917 tons respectively.

(c) A statement (No. 1) showing supplies made by the Centre to the Provinces/State during 1947, 1948 and two months January and February of 1949 is laid on the table of the House.

As the total allotment of foodgrains was not supplied to each of the Provinces and States on a separate date but the supply of foodgrains to all the Provinces and States was a continuous and simultaneous process it would not be possible to give any particular dates on which the total supplies were made.

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(d) A statement (No. II) is laid on the table of the House showing the number of officers and ministerial staff employed to look after the Central Reserve of foodgrains on 1st February 1947, 1st February 1948 and 1st February 1949.

Statement I

*Supplies made by the Centre to the various Provinces/
States during 1947, 1948 and 1949 (Jan.-Feb.)*

	1947	1948	Jan. – Feb. 1949
Provinces			
Assam	8	22	3
West Bengal	220	296	56
Bihar	223	166	24
Bombay	596	746	150
C.P. and Berar	215	54	14
Madras	182	540	53
Orrissa	6	6	1
East Punjab	105	93	16
U.P.	246	139	56
Ajmer-Merawara	28	23	6
Cutch	15	34	5
Delhi	112	130	22
Himachal Pradesh	1	1	2
Andaman	..	1	..
Total (Provinces)	1,957	2,251	417

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States			
Baroda	32	41	19
Bhopal	1
Hyderabad	94	28	14
Kashmir	8	19	1
Mysore	65	70	16
Madhya Bharat	177	43	14
Matsya Union	..	3	1
Patiala and E.P. Sts.	1	..	2
Rajputana Sts.	34	42	21
Saurashtra	81	114	36
Travancoro	246	272	50
Cochin	90	99	13
Rampur	0.3	2	1
Sirohi	..	..	1
Total (States)	828.3	733	199
Others :			
Defence Services	130	104	30
Refugees Camps	..	41	4
Miscellaneous	38	29	6
Total (Others)	168	174	65
Grand Total	2,9533	3,158	681

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
37.	Senior Godown Keepers						3	5	13			6											
38.	Godown Keepers																1						
39	Jr. Godown Keepers						4	12	24			1 2											
40	Upper Divn. Clerks													3					2	2			1
41.	Storage Assistants		1	1								2											
42.	Senior Clerks	2				4	1	6	6			2					1						
43.	Junior Clerks	3				4		32	32			2											1
44.	Lower Divn. Clerks																		2	2			
45.	Tally Clerks											2 4											
46.	Clerks						2							1									
47.	Accounts Clerk						2	1						1									
48.	Weighment Clerks							1 2	7 2														
49.	Cashier							1	1														
50.	Stenographers								2					1									
51.	Steno-typists							1	1			1					1				1		
52.	Typists											1											
53.	Electrician											1											
54.	Peons					4		24	24			3			10				2	3	1		2

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
71.	Sweeper Women																						
72.	Clearing Gang.						12	49															
73.	Fumigation Labour						6	6															
74.	Carpenter Tinsmith/Mason										1 or more												
Total		10	35	35	77	35	182	542			163			38			5	3	7	15	2		9

Secretary and Deputy Secretary in Ministry of
Health¹

*1262. Ch. Ranbir Singh : (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Health be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the posts of Secretary and Deputy Secretary have been remaining unfilled for the last several months ?

(b) Is it not a fact that the absence of these two senior officers the work of the Ministry has run on smoothly and officaciously ? If so, do Government propose to abolish these posts in the interests of economy ?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur : (a) and (b) The post of Secretary has been vacant since 7th December, 1948 and the post of one Deputy Secretary since 23rd December, 1948. The fact that the Ministry does not at present have its full complement of officers has thrown considerable additional strain on myself and my collcagues and it is not possible to abolish these posts if the work of this Ministry is to be carried on in an efficient manner.

1. *Ibid.*, 21 March 1949, p. 1717.

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Vacancies in Ministry of Health²

*1263. Ch. Ranbir Singh : (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Health be pleased to state how many vacancies in the gazetted and ministerial staff occurred in the Ministry of Health during the last four months ?

(b) How many of these were filled by promotion and how many by direct recruitment ?

(c) Whether it is a fact that all the posts filled in during the last four months in the Ministry of Health were filled by men from a particular Province, if so, why ?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur :

(a) Twenty four

(b) Six were filled by promotion, seven by recruitment and 11 have not yet been filled.

(c) No; of the thirteen appointments made four were filled by candidates from Madras, eight by candidates from the Punjab and one by a candidate from the U.P.

2. *Ibid.*, p. 1718..

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Number of payments made under wages Act, 1939³

115. Ch. Ranbir Singh : Will the Honourable Minister of Labour be pleased to state :

(a) the number of applications presented to the Authority appointed under the Payment of Wages Act, 1939, for Delhi Area during the last six months ?

(b) whether those applications were disposed of within the wage periods (one month), and if not, the reasons thereof;

(c) the dates fixed for hearing each application and the reasons for adjournments;

(d) what steps Government have taken to expedite the disposal of applications and if no steps have been taken, the reasons thereof; and

(e) whether Government propose to provide by legislation the period within which an application must be disposed of ?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram : (a) Eight

(b) No, the applications could not be disposed of within the same wage period as they were submitted to the Authority appointed under the Payment of Wages Act after its expiry.

3. *Ibid.*, p. 1793.

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(c)

Date of institution	Date of hearing	Reasons, if any, for adjournment
1. 20-11-48	2-2-49	Application disposed of on 2-2-49
2. 18-12-48	12-3-49	Application disposed of on 12-3-49
3. 12-1-49	19-3-49	For want of notice of the employer
4. 13-12-48	24-3-49	Employer (Railway has taken time for enquiries)
5. 13-12-48	24-3-49	Employer (Railway has taken time for enquiries)
6. 18-10-48	26-3-49	For want of service of summons on the employer
7. 18-12-48	30-3-49	For want of notice to the employer
8. 6-12-48	2-4-49	Case fixed for evidence

Application of Industrial Employment Act, 1946⁴

116. Ch. Ranbir Singh : Will the Honourable Minister of Labour be pleased to state :

4. *Ibid.*, 23 March 1949, p. 1794.

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(a) the date from which the Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act No. XX of 1946 became operative ?

(b) the names of the industrial establishments within Delhi Province to which it has been made applicable; and

(c) what standing orders are made by the Association for the Control of Management of the Lady Hardinge Medical College for Women and Hospital for Women and Children, Delhi for its establishment ?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: (a) From the 23rd April 1946.

(b) A statement containing the information is attached.

(c) The Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, 1946, does not apply to the lady Hardinge Medical College and Hospital, and the question, therefore, does not arise.

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STATEMENT

*List of Industrial Establishments in Delhi Province to
which the Industrial Employment
(Standing Orders) Act applies*

- I. Industrial Establishments in respect of which Standing Orders have been certified :
 - (1) Hindustan Times Press, Ltd. New Delhi.
 - (2) G.S. Kashyup & Sons, Ltd., Pataudi Hosue, New Delhi.
 - (3) Western Hosiery and General Mills Ltd., Delhi.
 - (4) Birla Cloth & General Mills Ltd., Delhi.
 - (5) Delhi Iron Works, Chawri Bazar, Delhi.
 - (6) Delhi Cloth & General Mills, Ltd., Delhi.
 - (7) D.C.E.P.A., Ltd., New Delhi and D.E.S.&T. Co., Ltd., Delhi.
 - (8) Mahabir Cotton Spinning & Weaving Mills Co. Ltd., Delhi.
 - (9) Delhi Flour Mills Co., Roshanara Road, Delhi.
 - (10) Ishwar Potteries Ltd., Delhi.
 - (11) Gwarlior Potteries (Delhi), Factory Road, New Delhi.
 - (12) Ganesh Flour Mills (Vegetable Products) Factory, Delhi.
 - (13) Indian National Airways, Ltd., Willingdon Air Station, New Delhi.

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- (14) Gwalior & Northern India Transport Co., Ltd., New Delhi.
- (15) Ajudhia Textile Mills, Delhi.
- (16) Krishna Gold & Silver Thread Factory, Turkman Gate; Delhi.
- (17) Delhi Cloth Mills Chemical Works, and D.C.M. Vanaspati Manufacturing Works, Delhi.
- (18) Matchwet Electrical (India) Ltd. Subzimandi, Delhi.

II. Industrial Establishments of which Standing Orders are under process of certification:

- (1) Raghu Engineering Works, Delhi.
- (2) Delhi Joint Water & Sewage Board, New Delhi.
- (3) Raj Engineering Works, Delhi.
- (4) Sawatantra Bharat Mills, Ltd., Delhi.
- (5) National Printing Works, Mori Gate, Delhi.
- (6) New Garage, Ltd., New Delhi.

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Management of Lady Hardinge Medical College,
Delhi⁵

119. Ch. Ranbir Singh : Will the Honourable Minister of Health be pleased to refer to Section 3 of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 and lay on the table of the House (i) a list of members of the Works Committee constituted in the establishment of the Association for the Control and Management of the Lady Hardinge Medical College for Women and Hospital for Women and Children, New Delhi; and (ii) a copy of the minutes of the proceedings of that Committee ?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur : The Lady Hardinge Medical College for Women and Hospital for Women and Children is not an industrial establishment within the meaning of section 3 of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947. The question of constituting a Works Committee under the section does not therefore arise.

5. *Ibid.*, 24 March 1949, p. 1534.

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Labour Supervisor' Lady Hardinge Medical
College, Delhi⁶

120. Ch. Ranbir Singh : (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Health be pleased to state the status, pay and duties of the Labour Supervisor, Lady Hardinge Medical College, Delhi ?

(b) Is he under the Chief Labour Commissioner with the Government of India ?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur : (a) The Labour Supervisor of the Lady Hardinge Medical College and Hospital, New Delhi, is an ex-Commissioned officer of the rank of Subedar. He is a member of the subordinate staff of the institution. He gets a fixed pay of Rs. 150 per mensem *plus* the usual allowances. His duties consist of general supervision of the work of the Class IV servants of the institution numbering about 300 and of ensuring that they carry out their duties efficiently and punctually in the various departments of the College and the Hospital.

(b) No.

6. *Ibid.*

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Railway Level Crossing on Kacha Road from
Satroad to Dabra⁷

*1402. Ch. Ranbir Singh : Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state :

(a) whether a representation of villagers of Satroad and its neighbouring villages in Hisar District duly supported by the Deputy Commissioners regarding the construction of a level crossing for carts on the '*kacha*' road going from Satroad to Dabra, has been received ?

(b) whether Government are aware that due to the absence of the level crossing in demand, agriculturists have to travel two and half miles more than the distance they will otherwise have to do to reach their fields from the villages during the rainy season, as the *kacha* cart roads connected by the existing level crossing generally remain under water; and

(c) if the answer to parts (a) and (b) above be in the affirmative, whether Government propose to consider the demand of the villagers ?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam : (a) and (b) Yes. Recently in January 1949 the East Punjab Government forwarded to the Railway

7. *Ibid.*, 25 March 1949, p. 1876.

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Administration a representation of the villagers of satroad for the provision of a new level crossing.

(c) There appears to be no objection to the provision of the proposed level crossing from the Railway point of view, and the matter is under examination. Investigations are also being made as to the possibility of shifting one of the existing level crossings to the proposed site.

Construction of Cow Sheds in M.C.A Bungalows⁸

*1673. Ch. Ranbir Singh : Will the Honourable Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that the members of this House are not permitted to construct cow sheds in their bungalows even at their own cost by the Government;

(b) whether Government are aware of the fact that the by-laws of the Municipal Committee do not bar such construction ;

(c) whether Government are aware of the fact that the conditions regarding drains, sewer

8. *Ibid.*, pp. 2163-64.

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connection and the superficial floor area of 40 square feet (8x5) necessary for permission exist ; and

(d) If so, whether Government propose to allow the construction of cow sheds in the bangalows wherever possible and if not, why not ?

The Honourable Shri N.V. Gadgil : (a) There is no bar to the construction of cow sheds by the members of the Assembly in their bungalows at their own cost, provided the construction is done according to the current Municipal bye-laws and there is sufficient suitable space in the compound of the bungalow for the construction of the cow shed.

(b) The bye-laws of New Delhi Municipal Committee do not bar the construction of cow sheds generally provided they are properly constructed with drainage arrangements and at a prescribed distance from the house.

(c) Conditions with regard to drains and sewer connection exist on Ferozshah Road, but suitable gross area of 72.2 sq. feet required for the construction of a cow shed, according to the New Delhi Municipal Committees's bye-laws, is not available in the compound of M.L.As bungalows on Ferozshah Road.

(d) The question whether Government should continue to construct cowsheds at their cost in Government, banglows in New Delhi is under examination in consultation with the Health

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Ministry. As already stated, however, there is, no bar to tenants putting up cow sheds, at their own cost in conformity with the Municipal bye-laws.

Ban on Harijans drinking water from well at Cantt. Railway Station, Delhi⁹

140. Ch. Ranbir Singh : (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether Government are aware of the fact that Harijans (sweepers) are not allowed to draw water from the Railway well on the Delhi Cantonment Railways Station ?

(b) Is it also a fact that there is no other well near the Railway Station ?

(c) If so, what steps do Government propose to take to eradicate this evil ?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopaldaswami Ayyangar:
(a) It is true that the local railway staff were not permitting Harijans to draw water from the well at the Delhi Cantonment Railway Station. On a complaint being made however to the Railway Administration some time back, this unauthorised

9. *Ibid.*, 7 April 1949, p. 2262.

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practice was stopped and Harijans can draw water from the well without hinderance.

Cement supplied for East Punjab for public distribution¹⁰

720. *Ch. Ranbir Singh : Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state :

(a) the number of bags of cement recommended by the Government of East Punjab to the Honorary Cement Adviser to the Government of India for distribution to the public from 1st April to 15th August, 1948, month-wise;

(b) the number of cement bags supplied to the Government of East Punjab by the Honorary Cement Adviser to the Government of India for distribution to the public from 1st April to 15th August, 1948; and

(c) whether Government are aware that any amount of cement can be obtained from Dalmia Dadri at Rs. 10 per bag ?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee : (a) and (b). A statement giving the information is laid on the table of the House.

(c) No, Sir.

10. *Ibid.*, vol. VII, pt. 1, 1 September 1949, pp. 754-55.

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STATEMENT

(a) The East Punjab Government started issuing recommendations to the Regional Hony. Cement Adviser, Delhi for the release of cement to the public, from June, 1948 only.

Quantities so recommended are :

June 1948	...	...	19,240 bags (962 tons)
July, 1948	...	...	28,400 bags (1,420 tons)
August 1st to 15th	...	...	Not available

(b) Quantities supplied to the East Punjab Government for distribution to the public.

			Bags	Tons
April, 1948	...	...	11,800 –	590
May, 1948	...	...	5,320–	266
June, 1948	...	...	11,180–	599
July, 1948	...	...	11,640–	582
August 1st to 15th	...	...	20,880 –	1,044

Slack Coal for East Punjab¹¹

721. *Ch. Ranbir Singh : (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state

11. *Ibid.*, p. 755.

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whether Government are aware that a large amount of slack coal is being used by the Government of East Punjab for their development schemes such as Bhakra dam etc. ?

(b) Are Government aware that the coal allotted to East Punjab is hardly sufficient for the Government development schemes and that practically no coal is left for the use of the public ?

(c) If so, do Government propose to allot additional quotas of slack coal to East Punjab and if not, why not ?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee : (a) and (b). Government have been allocating 5,000 tons of slack coal per month to the East Punjab for brick-burning purposes. Out of this, the allotments made by the East Punjab Government for general public were 400 tons in May, 500 tons each in June and July and 1,000 tons in August.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Government have decided to increase the total allotment of slack coal for East Punjab from 5,000 tons to 7,000 tons p.m. from the 1st September 1948. The Provincial Government will as hitherto distribute this coal for the various purposes in view.

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Corporation for Bhakra Dam and Nangal Projects¹²

754. *Ch. Ranbir Singh : Will the Honourable Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state :

(a) Whether it is a fact that the development of Bhakra Dam and Nangal Projects will affect more than one Province and State, e.g. East Punjab, Patiala and East Punjab States Union and Bikaner; and

(b) If the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative whether Government propose to establish a corporation consisting of the representatives of the Government of India, the East Punjab Government and other Governments to develop and supervise the works mentioned above and if not, why not ?

The Honourable Shri N.V. Gadgil : (a) The answer is in the affirmative.

(b). The execution of the Projects is at present under the control of the East Punjab Government, Modifications to existing procedure, if any, will be considered at an inter-Government Conference which it is proposed to hold at an early date.

12. *Ibid.*, 25 September 1949, p. 796.

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Irrigation through Bhakra Dam Project¹³

755. *Ch. Ranbir Singh : (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Bhakra Dam Project was originally intended for the irrigation of the districts of Rohtak, Hissar, Karnal and Gurgaon in the East Punjab and Jind State ?

(b) Is it a fact that under the present scheme the main canal will pass through the Patiala State and the districts mentioned in part (a) above will be deprived of its benefits ?

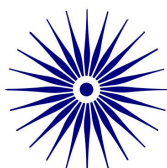
(c) If so, what action do the Government of India propose to take so that the above mentioned districts may not be deprived of such benefits ?

The Honourable Shri N.V. Gadgil: (a) Yes, except that Gurgaon district was not covered by original Bhakra Dam Project.

(b). It is understood that the East Punjab Government has not yet finished the scheme in respect of the areas to be irrigated.

(c) The question does not arise at this stage, but the question will be considered at the inter-Governmental Conference mentioned in reply to the previous question.

13. *Ibid.*



Ch. Ranbir Singh

CHRONOLOGY

- 1914
26 November ... Born, at village Sanghi, dist.
Rohtak.
(Mother Smt. Mam Kaur;
Father Ch. Matu Ram)
- 1920
April Joined Government Primary
School, Sanghi.
- 1921
16 April Mahatma Gandhi visited
Rohtak. Ch. Matu Ram
presided over a meeting of
25,000 people there which
Gandhiji addressed.
- 1924
... .. Passed Primary School

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			Examination with flying colours.
July	Joined Gurukula, Bhainswal, dist. Rohtak for further studies.
1928			
...	...	...	Left Gurukula, Bhainswal for health reasons.
1929			
...	...	...	Joined Vaish High School, Rohtak.
December		...	Went to Lahore with his elder brother to witness the historic Lahore session of the Congress.
1933			
...	...	...	Passed Matriculation Examination.
...	...	...	Joined Government College, Rohtak for higher studies.
1935			
...	...	...	Passed F.Sc. Examination.
...	...	...	Joined Ramjas College, Delhi for further studies.
1937			
...	Passed BA Examination.
November		...	Marriage with Smt. Hardei, d/o Ch. Hardwari Singh of village

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Dumrkha, Jind

1941

March Joined Congress Party.

5 April Offered *satyagraha* during the Individual *Satyagraha* Movement; awarded one year's rigorous imprisonment (hereafter r.i.)

25 May Released from jail at the behest of the Punjab High Court, Lahore (along with other prisoners.

June Again offered *satyagraha*; awarded 4 months r.i.

24 September Released from jail.

1942

14 July Father died.

... .. Arrested during the wake of the Quit India Movement; tried in the local court; and jailed for 3 years.

1944

24 July Released from jail; put under 'house arrest'.

September Again arrested in an old case and sent to jail.

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1947		
14 July	...	Presented Credentials and signed the Register as a member of the Constituent Assembly.
15 August	...	India became free; a slice chopped off – called Pakistan.
...	...	Worked hard to douse communal fire in his own district and Mewat (Gurgaon).
...	...	Accompanied Gandhiji during his Mewat peace tour.
...	...	Worked for resettlement of the displaced people from West Punjab.
14 November	...	Maiden Speech in the Constituent Assembly
1948		
30 January	...	Gandhiji shot; went to Delhi to have last <i>darshan</i> of the great man.
1952		
...	...	Contested election to the Lok Sabha from Rohtak constituency; won with thumping majority.
1957		
...	...	Again contested election to the

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			Lok Sabha (on the expiry of the first term), from the same constituency (Rohtak); again registered spectacular victory.
1962			
...	...	...	Shifted to the state politics (on the expiry of the second Lok Sabha term).
...	...	...	Contested and won election from Kalanaur constituency
...	...	...	Became minister in the Pratap Singh Kairon Ministry .
...	...	...	The Bhakra Dam Project completed under his leadership.
22 October		...	The Bhakra Dam dedicated to the nation by Prime Minister Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru.
1966			
1 November		...	Separate State of Haryana formed.
...	Became member of the Haryana Legislative Assembly, and P.W.D. Minister in the Haryana Council of Ministers.
1967			
...	Contested election to the

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			Haryana Legislative Assembly from Kalanaur Constituency, but lost.
1968			
...	...	...	President's Rule in Haryana imposed.
...	...	...	Contested election from the same old constituency, Kalanaur, and won with good majority.
1972			
4 April	...	...	Elected to the Rajya Sabha (from Haryana) for six years.
...	...	...	Deputy Leader of the Congress Parliamentary Party in the House (Mrs. Indira Gandhi was the Leader).
...	...	...	Formed Freedom Fighter's Association and Freedom Fighters Successor's Association along with his friends, Shri Sheelbhadra Yaji and N.G. Ranga and worked for the welfare of the freedom fighters; Mrs. Indira Gandhi gave pension to freedom

