INDICTMENT
OF
PATIALA

BEING A REPORT OF THE PATIALA ENQUIRY COMMITTEE APPOINTED BY THE INDIAN STATES' PEOPLE'S CONFERENCE

PRICE Rs. 10

Published by

THA GENERAL SECRETARIES,
THE INDIAN STATES' PEOPLE'S
CONFERENCE, ASOKA BUILDING,
PRINCESS STREET, BOMBAY 2.

*

Printed by

AMRITLAL DALPATBHAI SHETH
SAURASHTRA MUDRANALAYA
RANPUR B. S. RY. KATHIAWAD

CONTENTS

		Page
.	Foreword	5

PART I : REPORT

		Page
1.	Preliminary	1
2.	Examination of Allegations	5
3.	Opinion	34

PART 2 · EVIDENCE

.	Proceeding of the Committee	Appendix A (1–14)
2.	List and Substance of the Exhibits ...	Appendix B (1–12)
3.	Memorial to the Viceroy by the ten citizens of the Patiala State	Appendix C (1–16)
.	Evidence in support of allegations on each one of the counts	Appendix D (1 170)
.	A Selection from full statements	Appendix E (1–28)
.	Photo–copies of the Important documents	Appendix F (1–8)
.	Important statements received after the adoption of the report	Appendix G (1–30)
.	Miscellaneous documents	Appendix H (1-4)

THE PATIALA ENQUIRY COMMITTEE

MR. C. Y. CHINTAMANI, Member, United Provinces Legislative Council, Ex-minister (U. P.), Editor of the Leader, President, Indian States' People's Conference.

MR. AMRITLAL V. THAKKER, Member, Servants of India Society, President, Bhil Seva Mandal, Ex-president, Kathiawar States' People's Conference, Ex-president, Bhavanagar State People's Conference.

MR. LAXMIDAS RAVJEE TAIRSEE, Member, Bombay Corporation, Ex-president, Cutch State People's Conference, Ex-president, Indian Merchants' Chamber and Bureau.

MR. AMRITLAL D. SHETH, Ex-member, Bombay Legislative Council, Editor of the Saurashtra, President, Rajputana States' People's Conference, President, Dhandhuka Taluka Local Board.

PROF. G. R. ABHYANKAR, Professor of Constitutional Law, Poona Law College, General Secretary, Indian States' People's Conference, Ex-president, Deccan States' People's Conference, President, Miraj State People's Conference.

FOREWORD

The Report of the Patiala Enquiry Committee appointed by the Indian States' People's Conference sees the light of the day at a time when India is passing through a severe crisis unprecedented in the history of nations. It is possible, therefore, that it may not receive the attention that is its due. The state of things as revealed by the Report is most deplorable. It will haunt the imagination of those who have once read it.

There is a wonderful awakening in the India of today. The Indian Nation is astir. The stirrings in British India have their repercussions on the public life in the States. The hearts of the people both in British India and the States are beating in unison, and the consciousness of a common nationality is evolving everyday. The voice of the people of British India has grown powerful, and makes itself heard even beyond the seas. The muffled voice of the people of the States is indistinct and low. It comes as if from the grave. Even that voice, alas, is smothered and stifled. The feeble voice is in a real danger of being drowned.

Is there a National Conscience in India? Is the Fight for National Freedom real and earnest? Are the efforts for national self-realisation sincere? If the answer to these questions is in the affirmative, there is not the shadow of a doubt that the revelations contained in the following pages will give a rude shock to the self-complascency of many a good soul working in the forefront of public life in India and will set many a heart ablaze with indignation at the thought of millions of their fellow-countrymen treated as worse than serfs and slaves under the system of one-man's rule now prevailing in the States.

If the wrongs of the people of Patiala do not awaken a responsive chord in the hearts of the whole Indian Nation, if the barbarities described in this Report escape unnoticed by the public in India, if the unforgettable is allowed to be forgotten without making its repetition impossible, then surely there must be something amiss

with our Nationalism, and there must arise doubts as regards the genuineness of our yearnings for Freedom.

Confident in the strength and vigour of the Indian Nationalism, confident in the rightness and purity of our fight for freedom, confident in the justice and righteousness of our cause, and confident in the strength of our case as illustrated by our prolonged and intense sufferings, we submit this Report, to the public, as a foretaste of what the system of autocracy means to its unhappy victims today, and hope that the fire that burns today in the hearts of a few devoted servants of the people of the States will gather strength and momentum everyday and will succeed, within a measurable distance of time, in destroying all that stands between the people and their self-realisation and in resurrecting their broken life.

We have strong hopes that 'the Indictment of Patiala' will be read and digested by Indians all over the Country, and that it will provide a powerful antidote to the false doctrines of the 'Divine Right of Kings', 'the loyalty of the subjects', 'the benefits of one-man's rule' and 'the identity of interests between the Princes and the People.' We expect that forces will be released by this vision of the personal rule as provided by the Chancellor of the Chamber of Princes which will incessantly work for the vindication and ultimate triumph of the doctrine of the Sovereignty of the People.

We are grateful to the members of the Committee for their labour of love, and also to the various organisations and individuals who have contributed to the success of its mission. We deeply appreciate the spirit of service and sacrifice exhibited by all of them, and we are full of admiration particularly for the thousands of the people of Patiala, who had the courage, in spite of prohibitions and persecutions, to come forward before the Committee to assist in its arduo ustask.

Balwantray Mehta
Manishanker Trivedi
General Secretaries

BOMBAY
20-2-30

PART I

COMMITTEE'S REPORT

1- PRELIMINARY

1. This Committee was constituted by the following resolution of the working committee of the Indian States' People's Conference passed in its meeting of the 11th August 1929 held in Bombay:

> *"This meeting of the working committee of the Indian States' People's conference appoints an enquiry committee of the following members, with power to co-opt, to go to the Punjab, to make all necessary and possible enquiries into the allegations made in the memorial presented to H. E. the Viceroy by some citizens of the Patiala state and report to this committee as early as possible, their opinion on the substance contained in the said memorial.*
>
> **1. C. Y. Chintamani Esqr,** Chairman
>
> **2. L. R. Tairsee Esqr.**
>
> **3. Sardar Sardulsingh Cavisher Esqr.**
>
> **4. Prof. G. R. Abhyanker**
>
> **5. Amritlal D. Seth Esqr.**

Sirdar Sardul Singh having expressed his inability to work on the Committee, Mr. A. V. Thakker was appointed in his place by the Working Committee in its subsequent meeting.

2. Of the members of the Committee, Mr. Chintamani, the chairman, and Mr. Tairsee, another member, could not go to the Punjab. Messrs. Thakker, Sheth and Abhyanker, therefore, conducted the enquiry, Mr. Thakker acting as Chairman.

3. It is pertinent to give here the genesis of this Committee. During the session of the Indian States' People's Conference held in Bomay in the month of May in 1929 under the president-

ship of Mr. Chintamani, the Gen. Secretary of the Conference received a copy of the Memorial submitted by ten gentlemen of Patiala to H. E. the Viceroy; the Gen. Secretary distributed copies of the same in the Conference. Allegations made in this Memorial were so astounding that everyone that read it was shocked and exclaimed : "No, no. These can't be true; if they were true, the Government won't stand them." But the fact remained that the Memorial had been submitted to H. E. the Viceroy and that the memorialists had undertaken to prove all the allegations if they were afforded an occasion and facilities to do the same. The Memorial still remains undisposed of by the Government of India. Thus the Memorial had become the principal topic of discussiou during the conference days. Mr. Chintamani, the President of the Conference, during the course of an informal discussion said "Even if 5 p. c. of what is written here is true, the man deserves a sack from his gaddi." The Working Committee of the Conference therefore took up the matter seriously and appointed this Committee to enquire into the allegations made in the Memorial.

4. The Committee was fully aware of the difficulties that lay ahead. The Maharaja of Patiala is regarded as one of the leading Princes of India. He is also the Chancellor of the Chamber of Princes. Occupying the throne of Patiala for 20 years; he wields in his state all the autocratic powers which unlimited monarchy has given him. As Chancellor of the Chamber of Princes, he holds a position of responsibility under the British Government. Thus, while on the one hand the Maharaja of Patiala is really a very powerful Indian Ruler, on the other are his helpless subjects pitted against him with absolutely no political powers. They have to fight single-handed against the misrule of this prince. Almost all the victims of the oppression of this ruler as also the witnesses of the oppression are the subjects of the state and are living in Patiala jurisdiction. Possessing vested interests in the State they are exposed to a very great risk both to their persons and to their

properties in deposing against the ruler while he remains installed on his gadi and the Committee is powerless to afford any protection to them. Under these limitations the Committee felt considerably handicapped in its work. But still it started on its mission and the Committee is glad to announce to the public that it has certainly been able to gather a good deal of material which when examined and analysed establishes a strong *prima facie* case against the Maharaja.

5. The number of allegations mentioned in the Memorial is very large. Naturally the Committee could not go into all of them because it had not adequate means at its disposal to do so. Some of the allegations are such that it was very difficult for the Committee to get into touch with the persons concerned. For example there is the allegation about the licentiousness and debased habits of the Maharaja the principal victims of which are the Pahadi Girls. The evidence to this charge cannot be obtained by merely going to the hills. Unless the relations of these aggrieved girls came before the Committee it was impossible to ascertain the exact details. The relations are panic-stricken and belong to the ignorant and illiterate hill-tribes. There is another allegation about persons rotting in Patiala jails. It was impossible to visit these people in the Patiala jurisdiction. If an official enquiry is held these inmates of the jails in Patiala can be summoned to give evidence. About the financial condition of the state and about its general administration the only authentic proofs are the administration-reports and the budgets of the State. This material is not available to the public. The Committee, therefore, had to be content with the investigations of only a few of the allegations in the Memorial and had to base its report on the material that came before it during the course of the investigations. For the purposes of this report the Committee has, therefore, prepared the follwing counts of indictment on which the Committee would proceed to report:

1. Lal Singh's murder.
2. The setting up and maintaining of a bomb factory in the Fort of Bahadur Garh in Patiala State.

3. Disappearance of Bichiter Kaur, her son and her daughter.
4. Keeping and not releasing the wife of Sardar Amar Singh.
5. Illegal arrest and confinement of Sardar Harchand Singh and confiscation of his property worth 20 lakhs.
6. Concoction of false cases.
7. Inhuman tortures, illegal arrests and confinements and high-handed consfications of property.
8. Ruinous consequences of Maharaja's Shikars.
9. Tyranny of begar or forced labour and the system of exacting provisions.
10. Non-return of War Loan money.
11. Revenue and Irrigation grievances.
12. Misappropriation of funds raised for public purposes.

6. The Committee started its work from 16th of December 1929 at Lahore and finished its labours on the 30th of December at Lahore. It visited Buldhana, Ambala and Ludhiana for the purpose of taking evidence of witnesses residing near those places. In all it held twelve sittings. It orally examined 46 witnesses and took 35 oral statements. Hundreds of people attended the Committee's sittings at Buldhana, Ambala and Ludhiana, many of whom took part in the general discussion with the Committee about the state of administration in Patiala and gave great help in understanding the real situation prevailing. 12 written statements were tendered to the Committee by witnesses themselves, while 46 written statements that were taken by the Punjab Riyasati Mandal were handed over to the Committee by the Mandal. The Committee did not call in these witnesses before it, because witnesses stating similar things had already been examined by the Committee.

7. The proceedings of the Committee are given herein as appendix A. A list and substance of the exhibits are given as appendix B. In appendix C is given the Patiala Memorial which was the principal subject matter of enquiry. In appendix D is given the evidence in support of each count of the

allegations. In appendix E we give some of the full written statements received by the Committee. This has been necessary, because the arrangement of publication of evidence has been according to counts under which only relevent extracts–and not full statsments–could be inserted. Publication of full statements was deemed necessary to give a complete idea of the whole situation. In appendix F we give the facsimilies of several important documents.

8. The Committee would now proceed to examine each of the counts.

2. EXAMINATION OF ALLEGATIONS

Count one : murder of S. Lal Singh

Substance of the allegation

9. Sardar Lal Singh who was the cousin of the father-in-law of the Maharaja, married a beautiful wife named Dilip Kaur. The Maharaja saw the woman, fell in love with her and kept her in his palace. He tried his best to induce Sardar Lal Singh to divorce her. Lal Singh refused. The woman was staying in the palace all along and had two daughters by the Maharaja. Only once or twice she was allowed to go to her husband. The Maharaja then married her privately. Lal Singh then expressed his intention to approach the British Government. This upset the Maharaja. He asked Nanak Singh, his Superintendent of C. I. D. to dispose of Lal Singh and gave him money for the purpose. But as Nanak Singh could not accomplish the deed soon services of one Gumdur Singh, a notorious exile from Patiala were secured for the purpose. It appears that it was arranged that the murder should take place when the Maharaja would be absent in England. The plot of murder was then hatched and after one unsuccessful attempt Sardar Lal Singh was murdered. When news of this murder reached the Maharaja in England, he distributed presents worth Rs.

1100 among his men. After allowing a little time to pass, the Maharaja married this Dilip Kaur publicly. The woman is now known as Her Highness the Maharani Dilip Kaur.

Evidence in support of this allegation

10. The following is the evidence in support of this count:

1. Jay Singh's evidence, Ex. 38. [See appendix D]
2. Private note of Nanak Singh, the Chief of Patiala C. I. D. prepared before his arrest, Ex. 38A. [See appendix D]
3. Judgment in Nanak Singh's case in Patiala Court, Ex. 38B. [See appendix D]
4. Memorial of Nanak Singh to the Viceroy, Ex. 38C. [See appendix D]
5. Draft of divorce-deed in the hand-writing of Sir Daya Kishen Kaul, Ex. 38 D. [See Appendix F.]
6. Two letters of Sir Daya Kishen Kaul, Ex. 38 E & F. [See Appendix F.]
7. Two letters of Sardar Sunder Singh Majithia, Ex. 38G & H. [See Appendix F.]
8. Letters of Gurnam Singh, the father-in-law of the Maharaja, Ex. 38. [See Appendix F.]

Examination of the evidence

11. Let us now proceed to examine the evidence We are in possession of two important documents in this connection. They are Ex. 38A and 38B. The first is the statement made by Nanak Singh himself and the other is the judgment of the Patiala Court in Nanak Singh's case. So far as the details of the plan of the murder, the execution of the same, as also the part played by everyone except the Maharaja in this affair are concerned, both these documents agree in all details. That is, the statement made by Nanak Singh and the judgment of the Court, both agree as to following facts:(1) That Lal Singh's wife was in the palace, (2) that

Nanak Singh and Gamdur Singh, the murderer, both attempted to take a divorce deed from Lal Singh, (3) that Lal Singh refused to consent to the divorce, (4) that Gamdur Singh was an exile from Patiala, that all his property was confiscated, and that all his attempts to get back his property and his return to Patiala had proved in vain even though he had sought intervention of the British Government to that end, before he was called in to take part in the murder, (5) that all of a sudden his application to be allowed to return to Patiala and for the return of his property was sanctioned by the Maharaja within extraordinarily short space of time, i. e. four days, (6) that he got the honour of being immediately presented to the Maharaja on the eve of the Maharaja's departure for England, (7) that before the Maharaja left the Indian shore the Maharaja issued an unusual order to give a share to Gamdur Singh in the property of a relative of his, (8) that Lal Singh is then murdered by Gamdur Singh and others, (9) that Gamdur Singh did this for selfish ends.

12. To these facts accepted as proved in the judgment of the Patiala Court, the following further facts that are undisputed may be added (1) That the Maharaja marries the murdered man's-Lal Singh's wife Dilip Kaur in public, that this woman is now the Maharani of Patiala; (2) That the murderer Gamdur Singh is subsequently released from the jail by the Maharaja, (4) that he is to-day the favourite of the Maharaja.

13. Taking the thread from the facts accepted by the Patiala Court, let us think for ourselves what were the selfish ends that the Court believes Gamdur Singh had in view ? And what were the selfish ends that Nanak Singh had in view ? The Court believes that both of them wanted the favour of the Maharaja. We however find that Gamdur Singh had secured it even before the murder. What could have led the Maharaja to sanction the return of the former's property suddenly before his departure to Europe ? What must be the reason of the immediate and unusual meeting of the Maharaja and Gamdur Singh just at the time of the Maharaja's departure from Patiala? The Court says that Nanak Singh secured him

all that from the Maharaja. But how could Nanak Singh have done all that ? Nanak Singh must have represented something to the Maharaja. What could that something be, which was even greater than the pressure of the British Government ? What was the reason of the Maharaja's extraordinary concessions to Gamdur Singh immediately before the murder ? Release of Gamdur Singh after conviction of the murder and marriage of the Maharaja with Dilip Kaur make the story complete. There was a row about this murder of Lal Singh. The British police was also on the scene. A regular trial was therefore unavoidable. That was done, and shortly after this peculiar sort of trial was over, Gamdur Singh was released and was allowed to stay and enjoy his property and since then he has become the Maharaja's favourite in Patiala. If Gamdur Singh was a dangerous man, his dangerous character was further proved by his conviction of murder. He ought therefore to have been exiled again. But strangely enough reverse is the case. The inference is therefore irresistible.

14. One thing more; the judgment speaks of Nanak Singh's official police diary; and it says that the diary seeks to implicate such a great person as the Maharaja. This means that the diary produced in the Court did mention the Maharaja's complicity in the crime. But the Court has ignored this point altogether. And that is quite understandable.

15. The draft of a divorce deed by Sir Daya Kishen the then Prime Minister of Patiala, the Maharaja's attempt to get possession of documents then in the custody of Nanak Singh's relatives, the use of the state pistol—all these go to support the theory of the complicity of the Maharaja in this matter.

16. Lastly, the statement written by Nanak Singh seems to be very natural. Except in one detail of the Maharaja's complicity, it is accepted by the Court. Nanak Singh had written it before he was arrested and convicted. He had nothing to gain then by falsely implicating the Maharaja in his diary. The statement shows his own guilt as well. Under the circumstances

the statemant deserves to be considered seriously. We are inclined to attach much weight to it.

17. We believe, if the investigation of this case is taken in hand by the authorities and if witnesses are immune from the conseqences of their stating the truth, all the other actors of the drama can be easily traced and the hidden hand behind this henious crime can be easily detected.

Conclusion

18. Thus we have reasons to believe (1) that Sardar Lal Singh was murdered, (2) that he was murdered by Gamdur Singh, (3) that Gamdur Singh did so to secure the Maharaja's favour, (4) that he did it under instructions, received directly or indirectly from the Maharaja of Patiala. The evidence detailed above makes out a strong *prima facie* case about the complicity of the Maharaja in the murder of Lal Singh.

Count two: Setting up and maintaining of a bomb factory in the fort of Bahadur Garh in the Patiala State

Substance of the allegation

19. With a view to concoct evidence against the Maharaja of Nabha, the Maharaja of Patiala set up a regular bomb factory in the fort of Bahadur Garh in Patiala territory. Two Bengali youths were employed for the purpose. Dr. Baxis Singh was placed in charge of the said factory. Dr. Baxis Singh says that the factory gave an output of 1526 bombs. He further gives an account of how those bombs were disposed of by the order of the Maharaja.

Evidence in support of the allegation

20. The following is the evidence in support of this count.

1. Dr. Baxis Singh's statement Ex. 36, [See Appendix D.]
2. Dr. Baxis Singh's affidavit, Ex. 36A. ,,
3. Sardar Pratap Singh's statement, Ex. 35. ,,
4. Bhai Ram Singh's statement, Ex 42. ,,

Examination of the evidence

21. According to the statement of Dr. Baxis Singh, people directly concerned in the affair are (1) the Maharaja, (2) Sir Daya Kishen Kaul, (3) two Bengali youths bearing false names, (4) Dr. Baxis Singh, (5) Bijla Singh, and (6) Ram Singh.

22. Next to the Maharaja of Patiala, Sir Daya Kishen the then Prime Minister is certainly an important figure in this affair. He is no more in the service of Patiala state now and is in retirement at Lahore. Two Bengali youths have disappeared and none knows where they are and who they were. Bijla Singh is in Patiala state service even now. Ram Singh is not in Patiala, but he is only half inclined to speak out as is seen from the manner in which he has given his statement. As noted in the proceedings of this Committee, he has not appeared before the Committee, but has only sent his written statement. There too he is taking care to conceal his identity by the use of third person singular for himself in the whole of the statement. Such a statement can have no value whatever in ordinary circumstances. But the Committee is assured by Sirdar Sardul Singh B. Sc. the Secretary of the Punjab Riyasati Praja Mandal, that he knows Bhai Ram Singh personally and that it is the statement given by him. Further, the fact that there is the sword of Patiala hanging over him even now, is certainly to be taken into consideration. His statement is to be considered in the light of these circumstances.

23. Let us therefore see whether he is supported by any other evidence. The whole part played by Sirdar Pratap Singh in concocting evidence for starting criminal cases, is related in this statement of Ram Singh; and Pratap Singh's statement corroborates it in material particulars. The part played by Baxis Singh

as narrated in his statement also corroborates the same. All this goes to show that the statement of Ram Singh although not made before us directly is one which is worth consideration.

24. Then there is a statement of Sardar Pratap Singh. He comes a little late on the scene so far as this bomb factory is concerned. He only states that there was a talk of the bombs made in of Bahadur Garh in his presence between the Maharaja, Sir Daya Kishen Kaul and others. As a result of that talk bombs were supplied to him which he placed according to instructions. Thus, although not directly concerned with the factory, he is the witness who used the bombs made in the factory, which fact goes to support the allegation of the setting up and maintaining of the bomb factory at Bahadur Garh.

25. There is one statement of Sardar Sardul Singh B. Sc., who was the Secretary to the Shiromani Gurudwara Prabandhak Committee. S. Sardul Singh says that the Committee received the diary from Baxis Singh with a messenger. The Committee was then in a serious predicament. The Committee sent over to the police the diary and the messenger who brought it. This statement of Sardul Singh corroborates that part of the statement of Dr. Baxis Singh. This shows that the story of the bomb factory is not invented by Baxis Singh. He recorded it in his diary which he wrote from day to day and which he despatched to the S. G. P. C. when he was still engaged in the factory.

26. Then comes the most important statement of Dr. Baxis Singh. He is as a matter of fact the Hamlet of this drama of the bomb factory at Bahadur Garh. His is really an extremely interesting and extraordinary story. It reads more like a novel than a reality. He was a hero who rescued a Sikh lady from the so-called police custody, taking his inspiration for this adventure from the pages of Sikh history. His reputation attracts the notice of the Maharaja of Patiala and of his Prime Minister, who appear to be in search of people with such daring spirit and he is requested to be in charge of the bomb factory. Although unwilling, he submits and is

promised two villages, kothia, a motor and a large amount of money. But he does it only as a matter of compulsion, and with a double purpose of serving his community by exposing the Maharaja of Patiala. He keeps diaries wherein he enters every day occurences and takes the most novel course of introducing in each bomb a note giving the history of the bomb. He then escapes, and gets entrapped in Nabha. When out, he hastens to relate his story in public and unburdens his heart before the Chief of the C. I. D. in the Punjab. That gentleman tests his statement and is convinced of its truth and as a consequence affords the fullest protection to this man. After that he has been in hiding for several years passing his life in the jungles. Twice he is fired at; but he escapes unhurt. He told the whole of his history publicly before the Punjab States' Peoples' Conference during the last week of December 1929.

27. In his statement the following facts are noteworthy for the purpose of assessing the value of its contents :

1. He says he sent one copy of his diary to S. G. C. P. This fact is corroborated by S. Sardul Singh.
2. He says he sent his diary to the Government of the Punjab as also to the Government of India.
3. He says he gave his statements to various C. I. D. Officials and finally to their Chief who tested all his statements and made a note in his favour in his records. This could be verified from the Government records.
4. In spite of his public statements, the British Government have not taken any action against him. This shows what he says about the sympathy of C. I. D. Chief shown to him must be true.
5. Although the Patiala State has asked the Govt. of the Punjab to surrender him to Patiala, the Govt. of the Punjab have refused to surrender him. This goes to prove that the Govt. have some faith in the statements of Dr. Bakshis Singh.

28. One more reason for believing the story of the witness is this : that if a witness wishes to exaggerate or tell lies, naturally he would point to sources or material which can never be tested or he would point out to no material whatsoever. But when he refers to material which is easily available he takes the greatest risk of being branded as a liar and a perjurer. This gentleman has taken all this risk. Considering all the circumstances we are inclined to believe in the statement of this man.

Conclusion

29. For all the reasons stated above, we come to the conclusion that there is a good *prima facie* case that the Maharaja of Patiala did set up and maintain for some time a bomb factory in his fort of Bahadur Garh in his territories.

Count three : Disappearance of Bichiter Kaur, her daughter and her son.

Substance of the allegation

30. Bichiter Kaur was the wife of Dr. Baxis Singh. When Baxis Singh left Patiala he left behind his wife, daughter and son. All of them have disappeared to-day. Baxis Singh says that his wife was murdered by the orders and in the presence of the Maharaja and that his daughter was murdered by Bijla Singh's wife. His son was last seen being handed over to the Maharaja in his Moti Bagh Palace; but all efforts of het father to trace him are gone in vain.

Evidence in support of the allegations

31. The following is the evidence in support of this count.

1. Sardar Pratap Singh's statement, Ex. 35.
2. Dr. Baxis Singh's statement, Ex. 36 ard 36 A.
3. Bhai Ram Singh's statement, Ex. 42.

Examination of the evidence

32. According to Dr. Baxis Singh, persons directly concerned in this affair are. (1) Bijla Singh. (2) Ram Singh. (3) Pratap Singh. (4) the Maharaja. (5) Sir Daya Kishen and (6) Jeewanlal.

33. Bijla Singh is still in the service of the State. Sir Daya Kishen and Jeewanlal have feft Patiala; even then their evidence is not available. The Committee has discussed in details what weight to be attached to Ram Singh's statement. It has also discussed the evidence of Pratap Singh and Baxis Singh above.

34. One fact is undisputed. It is this. That Bichiter Kaur and her son and her daughter have disappeared. Whether they are murdered, or have died a natural death or are alive somewhere is all a mystery.

35. Just at the moment when Baxis Singh was about to bolt from Patiala, he says, he entrusted his wife and children to the British C. I. D. Whether this is a fact, can only be testified by the C. I. D. officer Rai Saheb Bhagwandas concerned. Naturally we could not have his evidence. But when we are believing all the other portions of Dr. Baxis Singh based on his own personal knowledge, this part of the statement too deserves to be considered. We take it that Bichiter Kaur and her children have disappeared when they were in the jurisdiction of Patiala

36. Then about their fate. So far as the son of the doctor is concerned, Pratap Singh, whose evidence is very natural and appears to be true, says that he was present when the boy was handed over to the Maharaja in the Moti Bagh Palace. Pratap Singh had seen the boy before with the Maharaja's man, and he saw the boy last in Maharaja's possession. That is the last that is heard of the boy.

37. About Bichiter Kaur, stories differ. Ram Singh confesses the different varieties of violence practised upon her, but says that her death took place after a long illness, of course, due to violence. But Bakshis Singh narrates another story. His

authority for this is Meher Singh. According to Bakshis Singh, Meher Singh was directly concerned in the murder. This Meher Singh has given his statement to the Punjab Riyasati Mandal. But he has not appeared before this Committee. Bakshis Singh narrates that Meher Singh told him that Bichiter Kaur was shot dead by the orders and in the presence of the Maharaja. But at the same time Bakshis Singh says that Meher Singh would not confess this murder before any one because that would make him liable for murder. Bakshis Singh further believes that if at all, Meher Singh came before the Committee, he would say the same thing as Ram Singh has said. But Meher Singh has not come before the Committee. Nor has Ram Singh done so.

38. Under the circumstances, there remains only the evidence of Baxis Singh who has no direct knowledge of the murder or death of his wife and daughter:

Conclusion

39. We therefore come to the following conclusion.

(1) That Bichiter Kaur who was last seen in the jurisdiction of the Patiala State being not traced now, the Patiala Darbar is accountable for the disappearance of Bichiter Kaur and her daughter.

11. That the son of Dr. Bakshis Singh being last seen in the possession of the Maharaja himself, he is personally liable for the disappearance of the boy.

Count four : The Maharaja keeps and does not release the wife of Sardar Amar Singh

Substance of the allegations

40. The Maharaja took fancy for the wife of one Sardar Amar Singh, when she was at her father's house in Patiala. The

woman is therefore kept in the Palace for the last 18 years where she has given birth to a son and a daughter. Her parents are given honorarium. Her husband Sardar Amar Singh has been continuously harassed with prosecutions all of which have failed till now. Even to-day one prosecution has been started against him and he has been thrown into jail. He is not released yet.

41. Sardar Amar Singh applied to the Punjab Government and the Government of India, which have replied to him advising to withdraw all his claims on his wife and accept Rs. 20,000/ from the Maharaja. This offer is not accepted by Amar Singh.

Evidence in support of the allegation

42. The following is the evidence in support of this count.

(1) Statement of Suhawa Singh, the younger brother of Amar Singh, Ex. 39.

(2) Copies of correspondence with the Government Ex. 39 A, Ex. 39 B, & Ex. 39 C.

Examination of the evidence

43. This charge stands on altogether a different footing. The correspondence that passed between the Political Officers of the Governmnt of India on the one hand and Sardar Amar Singh on the other, distinctly proves the same to the hilt.

44. The letter of the Political Agent admits that the woman is the wife of Amar Singh. The letter further admits that she is with the Maharaja. The letter moreover seems to encourage and connive at the whole affair by recommending to the husband the offer of Rs. 20,000/- made by the Maharaja. So the whole charge is completely proved by this correspondence.

45. In Sikh Law divorce is not allowed. One married woman cannot marry another man under any circumstances. Even if Sardar Amar Singh withdraws his claim, that would absolve the Maharaja only from the civil liability and not from the criminal liability of adultery or enticing or taking away a married woman if the Maharaja is a private citizen.

Conclusion

46. we consider that this case is completely proved and the Maharaja deserves the same conviction which any other citizen of Patiala would have suffered under the Criminal Law in force in the State.

Count five : Illegal arrest and confinement of Sardar Harchand Singh without any trial and confiscation of his properties worth about twenty lakhs.

Substance of the allegation

47. Sardar Harchand Singh was one of the biggest and the most respected Jagirdars in the Patiala State. For a long time he was an A. D. C. to the Maharaja. His wife frequently got invitations from the Palace along with other aristocrats and officers of the State. Harchand Singh did not like to accept these invitations. Just after Sirdar Kharak Singh's tour in Patiala, Harchand Singh was arrested and is now in Patiala Jail. All his properties worth about 20 lakhs have been confiscated by the State. His wife and children were driven out penniless in the street. His wife Sardarani was not allowed to take even her shoes; her person was searched by a mohameden officer and they could travel by the railway only when the station master gave them a loan of Rs. 10/-. Sons of the Sardar were likewise confined in their Patiala residence in company with their servants for some time. They were then released. All this has happened without any trial and without any legal proceedings taken against him. No wrtitten order of any kind has been passed by the State.

Evidence in support of the allegations

48. Following is the evidence in support of this count :

(1) Evidence of Sardarani Rajihdar Kaur, Ex. Ex. 29 A, Ex. 29 B.

(2) Evidence of Sardar Vajir Singh, Ex. 3o and Ex. 3o A.

Examination of the evidence

49. Sardar Harchand Singh is in jail in Patiala. His wife and children are outside Patiala. They appeared before the Committee. The Committee took their statements aud examined them thoroughly. The Committee has found that their statements are true and they deserve to be relied upon completely.

50. No more proof is necessary to prove the allegations. Everything that is necessary and possible to be adduced has been adduced before the Committee.

Conclusion

51. The Committee is therefore of opinion that the whole charge is proved in toto. The State of Patiala and the Maharaja of Patiala are responsible for this high-handed and outrageous *Zulum* practised on Sardar Harchand Singh and his innocent family.

Count six : concoction of false cases

Substance of the allegation

52. Patiala Police concocts false cases against individuals who are the objects of the Maharaja's wrath. The following is the list of cases that have been brought to the notice of the Committee:

1. The case concocted by the Patiala Police against Santa Singh and others for keeping bomb materials, wapons, etc.
2. The case concocted by the Patiala Police against Bakshis Singh for keeping bomb materials, weapons, etc.
3. The case concocted by the Patiala Police against Sardar Dewan Singh for keeping cocaine, etc.
4. The case concocted against Sardar Amar Singh and his brother for different offences.

Evidence in support of the allegation

53. The following is the evidence in support of this count:

(1) Evidence of Pratap Singh, Ex. 33.
(2) Evidence of Bakshis Singh, Ex. 36.
(3) Evidence of Suhava Singh, Ex. 39.
(4) Evidence of Ram Singh. Ex. 42.
(5) Evidence of Diwan Singh, Ex. 42 B.

Examination of the evidence

54. Evidence of the first four Exhibits has been already discussed under former heads and the Committee has accepted their statements as reliable.

55. The statement of Sardar Diwan Singh the editor of the 'Riyasat' in this connection makes a very instructive reading. There has been a series of concoctions against him and in all of them Sardar Diwan Singh has been honourably acquitted once by the Court of Law and then by the Executive of the Government of India. In one case when, according to Sardar Diwan Singh, Patiala got cocaine placed in his house, the case went up to the Law Courts. Then the Court did find that the cocaine was placed by the hirelings of Patiala, and some police officers concerned were dealt with by the Government. One of these officers Mr. Jiwanlal was then taken up in the Patiala Service and made the Chief of C. I. D. That shows the mentality of the Patiala Darbar and has an important bearing on the question dealt with under the count.

56. The evidence of Pratap Singh in this connection is very illuminating. He is the man who on instructions from the Maharaja placed bombs etc. into the house of Santa Sing. It is he who gave false evidence in the Court. It is he who suffered sham confinement. For all that he has received his reward from the Maharaja, of course not to his satisfaction. He has made a voluntary and full confession before this Commitee and has rendered himself liable to legal penalties for all that he has said before us

of a self-incriminating nature. We are therefore inclined to believe in his statement of concoctions of false cases by the Patiala State through him.

57. One further fact that goes to strengthen our belief in the allegations under this count is that although the Patiala State Judiciary issued warrant against Dr. Bakshis Singh, the authorities in British India have refused to hand him over to Patiala; evidently they must have refused to believe in the truth of the cases sent by Patiala against him.

58. Sardar Amar Singh, whose wife is detained by the Maharaja, is in Patiala Police custody even to-day under some trumpery charge. Evidence of his brother shows that both he and Amar Singh were once arrested and imprisoned; but there being no material to put up a case even before the Patiala Court, they were released.

Conclusion

59. Thus we find that it has been a common practice in Patiala to bolster up false cases against persons who are in disfavour of the Maharaja. We find that the cases particularly mentioned above have been proved to be false by the judicial courts and as deliberately instituted to harass the individuals concerned.

Count Seven: Inhuman tortures, illegal arrests and imprisonments, and high-handed consfiscations of property.

substance of the allegations

60. The Maharaja of Patiala arrested one Sardar Seva Singh Thikri wala, a prominent Akali leader. Sardar Kharak Singh, the well-known leader of the Sikh Community took it into his head to go to the Patiala State to ascertain facts in this

connection. His programme was advertised. So a number of people attempted to go to meet him or to treat him where he encamped. Persons found to be so co-operating with Sardar Kharak Singh were arrested, confined and tortured by the Patiala Police. Statements received in this connection make a staggering reading of the inhuman tortures, indiscriminate arrests and imprisonments without any trial, and illegal confiscations of property, and disclosed the utter absence of rule of law in Patiala.

Evidence in support of the allegations

61. Following is the evidence in support of this count :

Exhibits 6, 6A, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 2, 3, 4, 7, 54 and 55.

Examination of the evidence

62. There can be only three kinds of witnesses in such cases: (1) victims themselves, (2) eye witnesses, (3) persons through whom these oppressive acts were committed.

63. Of the first there are so many. We have ourselves examined about a dozen of these witnesses. We cross-examined them too, and then there were written statements of not less than a hundred in number. We selected only specimen statements for our file; because we did not wish to make our file needlessly cumbersome. All these victims are the subjects of Patiala. Most of them are still residing in that territory. They have got their lands and families there. This fact coupled with the fact that they are giving minute details of the tortures, make their statements very reliable.

64. Then comes the class of eye-witnesses, who are all evidently the subjects residing in Patiala. There were many who came before the Committee to say that the allegations made were absolutely true. Particulary at Buldhana, where Bishvedar Ridha Singh, the principal victim, appeared before the Committee not less than fifty persons were persent in the hall of the Committee. These people themselves were not the sufferers, but they were the eye-witnesses to what had befallen Ridha Singh.

They were unanimous in narrating in the most pathetic and touching manner that even the Devil would not do what Patiala Police did to Ridha Singh.

65. There remain the Patiala servants of whom at least some are reported to be appearing sympathetic. But that evidence is naturally not available, and can only come forward when the British Government makes a public enquiry and the witnesses have got an immunity.

Conclusion

66. On the strength of evidence produced before us we find that there is a strong *prima facie* case to hold that the Patiala Police is guilty of illegal arrests, imprisonments and tortures of Sardar Ridha Singh and others; that further the Patiala State authorities are guilty of illegal confiscations of the properties of Sardar Ridha Singh and others.

Count Eight : Ruinous consequences of the Maharaja's Shikar

Substance of the allegation

67. The State of Patiala abounds in Bids and Forests. It also consists of hills near Simla. Simla itself belongs to Patiala, although the same is now given to the Government. But the Maharaja had no lake in the State. This has been specially made by erecting a big bund in the river Chunal. This dam is 1/2 miles wide and two miles long. Special canals have been constructed to join other canals with this dam, so that when the Maharaja wants to shoot, superflous water can be taken away to other canals and *vice versa*. During the winter the Maharaja goes for a shoot in this lake. Weeds grown in water are to be cut off. So the poor agriculturists of the surrounding villages are impressed to do this work in cold winter and are required to stand in water for the purpose.

This dam is full of serpents and such other dangerous reptiles. So the people are exposed to the consequences of cold and the risk of snake-bite in the water. The fields near this dam are not allowed to be cultivated although the assessment for the same is recovered by the State. Roads nearby are not allowed to be used by the people. All provisions required by the Maharaja and his camp, namely ghee, milk, eggs etc. are to be supplied by the people without proper cost. The same is the case with summer-hunts in Pinjore etc.

68. Moreover the Shikar-laws are causing ruin to the agriculturists. All wild animals are protected by law. They cause serious damage to the crops. The agriculturists have to witness the destruction of their own crops with utter helplessness.

Evidence in support of the allegation

68. Following is the evidence in support of thisc ount.

Exhibits 8, 10, 2, 4, 2, 17, 46 and 56 to 64.

Examination of the evidence

69. This Committee is concerned with the consequences of the Shikar by the Maharaja. These Shikars involve a huge waste of time and energy of the Maharaja which ought to be spent by him in the work of the State. Further they entail enormous loss to the poor people. One can very easily imagine what must have been the cost of such a big lake like Bhupinder Sagar which is specially built for the Maharaja's shoot. One canal is specially constructed to facilitate the shooting in the lake. Agricultural fields near this lake and forests specially reserved for the hunts, could be very profitably utilised for cultivation. That is another loss to the State caused by this expensive luxury of the Maharaja. But the worst feature of this luxury is the great harassment to which the people are subjected to minister to the comforts of the Maharaja in this Shikar. Let us see what all that means to the people.

70. When the Maharaja is shooting in the lake, weeds grown in water naturally come in his way. So the people from the surr-

ounding villages are compulsorily summoned to cut these weeds which they have to do in the intense cold of the Punjab, and that too, while standing in water. Further the water contains serpents and other reptiles which mean danger to the life of the people who are compelled to work there. Thus people are exposed to grave risk to their health and life in this forced labour. It is a good news that people were not compelled to do this work last year and are not called for the work this year also.

71. All necessary provisions for the camp of the Maharaja have to be supplied by the people without adequate consideration. This is another serious grievance. It may be that the State might be giving some paltry return in money for these provisions, but the fact remains that people are compelled to provide these articles at the cost of even their family necessities when the Maharaja and the Tikka Saheb are camping for the shikar. Just at the time when the Committee was recording evidence in Ludhiana, a direct victim belonging to Lunda Tahsil informed the Committee that at the very moment the Tikka Saheb was camping near his village and the whole village was compelled to send all their stock of milk, ghee etc to the camp, so much so that they could not keep any surplus even for their children.

72. When the Maharaja is going to the hills for the hunt he requires bullock carts to carry his camp equipage as also to bring it back. Villagers are compelled to supply all the necessary carts with a very inadequate remuneration for the same.

73. People are further collected together in great numbers for the purpose of beating the forests. For this purpose they must leave their homes and cultivation and must come to the camp to facilitate the hunt by the Maharaja.

74. All the evidence in support of these allegations was further tested by the cross-examination of witnesses by the Committee, and the Committee sees no reason to disbelieve the statements made before them.

Conclusion

75. The Committee has therefore come to the conclusion:

(I) That the Maharaja's shikar costs enormous expenditure to the State.

(2) That the people are put to all sorts of harassment to their persons and suffer hardships in their cultivation in various ways during the shikars by the Maharaja and the Tikka Saheb or the guests of the Maharaja.

(3) That the Begar meaning forced labour and the system of exacting provision with very inadequate payments is in full vogue during these shikars.

Count nine : Tyranny of Begar

Substance of the allegation

76. Begar is rampant in the State. It is enforced by the State as under:

(1) During the hunts arranged for the Maharaja and the Tikka Saheb or for the guests.

(2) During the time when army moves for manouevres.

(3) During the visits of Revenue and Police officials including even the smallest of them like Patwaris.

77. Begar can be classfiiedd as under:

Begar of men

(1) To construct even the banks of the canals or to repair them, irrespective of the fact that these particular canals are not at all intended for irrigation purposes.

(2) To dig the canals. A canal five miles long, twenty feet broad and ten feet deep was so dug for Shikar purposes only.

(3) To cultivate State Gardens.

(4) To construct and repair roads, at the time of the Shikar.

(5) To build urgent works like amphi-theatre for wrestling matches.

(6) To serve as village-guards during the night, known as Thikri Pahera.

(7) To beat the forest and do similar work for the Maharaja during his Shikar.

Begar of cattle

(1) Of goats and calves required as bait for hunting the animals.

(2) Camels required for camps.

(3) Bullocks with carts for camps.

Exaction of provisions without proper price

(1) Rations for the army.

(2) Fuel, Grass, Milk, Ghee.

(3) Eggs and fowls.

Just at the time when the Committee was taking evidence at Ludhiana, the Tikka Saheb was camping nearby and we were informed that for four days all milk and butter of the whole village was taken away forcibly.

Evidence in support of the allegations

78. Following is the evidence in support of this count:

Exhibits 7, 8, 9, 14, 22, 27. [see appendix D.]

Exhibits 2, 3, 4, 5, 18B, 46, 56, 57, 58, 59, and 61 to 84. [see appendix B. & D.]

Examination of the evidence

79. All the statements received have been very minutely examined by the Committee. With regard to the allegations under this count the Commitee had the particular advantage of meeting the agriculturists from various districts; and they were anxious to

be cross-examined with a view to disclose the real truth of the whole affair; and the Committee is satisfied that the statements produced in support of the allegations under this count are substantially true. Although in the written statements it is not mentioned that payments were received by the people for forced labour etc. the Committee did find during their examination, that some payments, of course quite negligible, were made in some cases. For the digging of a canal in Bhupender Sagar, for the cutting of the weeds in water, for bullock-carts taken in hills as also for the building of the amphitheatre for wrestling matches, some wages were paid. But they were so poor that in some cases they were not even accepted by the people. For example in the case of building the amphitheatre, it was an ordinary work of the P. W. D. which ought to have been carried out in the usual way by that department; but the authorities compelled the agriculturists from a distance of even 20 to 30 miles to go to Patiala to build the theare. A single journey railway-fare from one such village is nine annas. So the poor villager has to pay one rupee and two annas for going and returning once and has also to pay for his food during the day; and still he was paid annas 3 only as his wages. No wonder therefore that in many cases people did not accept the payment; and one does not know what happened to the amount so refused. It is said that the people were made to sign the receipts of the money although they did not care to receive the same. It is possible that the petty servants may have appropriated the money thus remaining unpaid. That is the history of payments for the forced labour.

80. But the question of payments is not one that really matters. The crucial point is the compulsion which is regularly resorted to, by the State for works that are of an ordinary nature and can be carried out in the ordinary way by the P. W. D. of the State.

81. The case of compulsion to supply milk, ghee and such other provisions has a peculiarity all its own. It is pointed out under the count of Shikar how the compulsion interferes with the daily

necessities of the children of each family. But it is not the camp alone that harasses the villagers. Movements of the State Army also cause the same hardships. The movement of the Army at the time of the tour of Sardar Kharag Singh, as also the annual manoeuveres of the Army in different parts of Patiala territory, have the same story to tell. Shikar and the Army-movements are particularly mentioned because on such occasions the entire stocks of provisions from the villages are requisitioned, while the visits of Officers etc. are not mentioned because they do not require such wholesale stocks. Otherwise they too require all the varieties of provisions these Ahikar-camps and the Army require.

82. One special feature of this Begar is the compulsory night-service as a village-guard, to be rendered by every house-holder in the village. The system is that every house has got its turn when one of its members should go to do the service; thus even if he is the only earning member of his family, he is paid nothing; and if he fails to go, he is punished. This is known as Thikri Pahera and is in force throughout the State. It means that the elementary duty of protection also is not only not done by the State but is imposed forcibly on the people themselves. Almost all the witnesses that appeared before the Committee complained against this system and there is no reason to disbelieve them.

Conclusion

83. The Committee is therefore of opinion :

(1) That forced labour and exacting of provisions mentioned in the opening para of this count, are prevalent in the Patiala State.

(2) That in some cases payments are made to the people, but they are negligible.

(3) That the whole system couses great hardship to the people.

Count ten : Non-return of the war Loan

Substance of the allegations

84. During the time of the Great War Patiala State took some War Loan in the name of the State. People of the State

were asked to contribute towards this War Loan. Some people then received some of their money back, but the remainder is not still forthcoming, while some people have not received back anything till now. It appears that this is the case in spite of the fact that the State has been refunded the Loan in its name, from the Government.

Evidence in support of the allegation

85. Following is the evidence in support of this count :

(1) Ex. 40. [This is printed in full in Appendix D.]

(2) Exs. 2, 3, 4, 5, 18B, 20B, 15, 17, and 56 to 84 (See appendix B & D.

Examination of the evidence

86. One great point in connection with this count is that the people contributed to the War Loan Fund, because they were under the impression that as the British Government was a party to this Loan, they were sure to recover their amount. Although money was given directly to the State, it was the credit of the British Government that was pre-eminently in view and it was this credit which inspired such an assurance in their minds. This is the reason why in all the statements mentioned above, the witnesses have laid considerable stress on this grievance. Although the disillusionment has come a little late, it has come and people are convinced that whosoever be the other party and whomsoever's credit may be at stake, there is little hope of recovering their money back if the State is the intermediary.

87. A peculiar feature of the whole affair is that the people do not know in what kind of War Loan their money was invested. Most of them have not got even the receipts of the money contributed by them. They do not also know why some of the money is returned and why the remainder is not so returned, as also why some people are paid while others are not paid at all. They are quite unaware of what is the actual state of affairs, that is, whether the money is received in the State Treasury or not; or whe-

ther the money is lying somewhere in the transit in other departments of the State. All this confusion is due to one defect, which is that the whole amount was contributed in the name of the Patiala State. If the amount had stood in the name of each individual in the books of the Government, there would have been no room for all these vagaries and the credit of the British Government would not have been shaken in the minds of the people. Anyhow the statements of the witnesses in this connection are thoroughly reliable.

Conclusion

88. We believe that some of the War Loan money alth ugh recovered by the State from the British Government is not refunded to the people and if this would prove to be true to that extent, it would amount to misappropriation of the War Loan money by the State. The matter deserves to be thoroughly enquired into by the British Government.

Count eleven: Increment in Revenue Assessments, impositions of new taxes and other Revenue grievancies

Substance of the allegations

89. It is found that the land revenue assessment of some villages has been raised from Rs. 700 to 1175 and so on without any formal or informal enquiry simply by the order of the Darbar. New taxes, such as 3 as. per Bigha, which is called 'Khush Haisyat' tax–that is 'cheerful tax'-are being imposed and collected without any ceremony. Water–tax is being recovered even though agriculturists dug and buit wells at their own expense, the State contributing absolutely nothing.

90. A number of villages have been given over to the Maharaja's favourites who invariably have abandoned the cash system of levying assessment and have resorted to a system of levy in kind-recovering

a share of produce involving innumerble hardships to the Ryots. Agriculturists of some villages are treated as possessing no proprietory rights in the land which means that these agriculturists are looked down as degraded by their caste people, and in consequence they do not get girls in marriage. This is proved by the fact that out of every four adults only one is married in these villages.

91. Nazal Act which takes away the right of inheritance of the legitimate heirs removed to more than 5 degrees, is another hardship of the people of Patiala.

92. Bribery Is the order of the day.

Evidence in support of the allegations

93. Following is the evidence is support of this count:

Exs. 21, 25, 26, 48, 5o, 16, 58, 63. [See Appendix D.]

Exs. 56 to 84. [See Appendix B.]

Examination of the evidence

94. The Committee has not gone minutely into the Revenue Administration of the State. It does not therefore propose to deal exhaustively with the subject. It only refers to some of the complaints against the department as found in some of the statements tendered before the Committee.

95. It was stated to the Committee by some of the witnesses that the Tehsildar went to their village and declared an increment of 33% in the assessment. This method of the Revenue Department is stated to be very common. All the witnesses that have appeared before us agree on this point.

96. Still more curious are ways of the department as seen in the levy by it of the water-tax, even though no water is supplied to the cultivators. A cultivator constructs a well from his own funds, the State rendering no help whatsoever, but when the cultivator begins to use the water of the well, the State comes forward and charges the water-tax.

97. All the statements referred to above in connection with this count are short summaries. Witnesses have come before the Committee and the Committee is considerably impressed by them.

98. The Committee therefore believes that there are *prima facie* grounds to hold that:

(1) The Land Revenue Assessment is increased according to the whims of the Revenue Department.

(2) That different kinds of taxes are levied with no justification and with no ceremonies whatsoever.

(3) That the Maharaja gives away villages to his favourites who adopt methods of harassment to the Ryots of these villages for the purpose of extorting more money from them.

(4) That non-recognition of proprietory rights in some villages has caused great hardship to them.

(5) That the Nazal Act is bitterly resented by the people.

Count twelve : Misappropriation of funds raised for public purposes

Substance of the allegation

99. The Maharaja is habituated to raise from the people various funds for public purposes; but as a matter of fact such works of public utility are rarely carried out and the money collected is spent by the Maharaja for his private use. The following are some of the funds brought to the notice of the Committee :

(1) PARTITION OF PROPERTY FUND : This is raised in many villages saying that the state would take steps to effect partition of the property. Partition was never made and the money is not returned.

(2) X RAY FUND: This was raised from most of the villages of the state, stating that the new instrument is nece-

ssary for the Hospital in the interests of the people. People do not know what has become of that Fund.

(3) CONFERENCE FUND : Villagers were told that a Conference or Congress was to be held in Patiala for their benefit. People do not know what that Conference was and whether it was held or not.

(4) CANAL BRIDGE : Most of the villages have got canals and it is a great hardship to them to cross these canals to go to the other side. It was represented to them that the fund was needed to construct bridges on these canals. Bridges have never been built and the money is not at all returned.

(5) SCHOOLS : Fund for schools was raised. Neither the school nor the money which left their pockets was visible.

(6) LOCAL CESS : This cess is collected by the State from the villages for education, dispensary and roads. But the fact is that in a Tehsil of 400 villages there are hardly half a dozen schools. As for dispensaries, they are rarely to be found even in Tehsil towns, not to speak of villages which have got none. Metalled roads there are none for the use of the villagers.

Evidence in support of the allegation

101. The following is the evidence in support of this count:

Ex. 2, 4, 5, 12, 16, 20A, 20B, 67, 68. [See Appendix D.]

Ex. 15, 17, 18, 56 to 66 and 69 to 49. [See Appendix B.]

Examination of the evidence

102. We find this to be quite a novel feature in Patiala, rarely found in other States, namely the raising and collecting of such funds. It is certainly a very ingenious way of adding to the revenues of the State; no doubt it shows the utter bankruptcy of constructive genius and gross immorality and dishonesty.

103. We have found from a volume of evidence that a fund known as X Ray Fund was raised and collected from the Patiala

territory. We really wonder why a special fund is necessary for this purpose. It is an apparatus of the hospital. If the State thinks it to be necessary the State has got to provide the money from the State treasury, or some charitably inclined gentleman may donate that sum. But why and how a special fund was raised for this purpose passes our comprehension. It can only be explained this way–that the money was to be taken from the people under some pretext. This one was thought convenient and it was adopted. The same is the reason for the rest of the funds.

104. The Local fund cess is an imitation of British India. Unfortunately it is an imitation only for the purpose of collection and not for expenditure. We can understand that the State cannot open schools in all villages from this fund; but only six primary schools in a Tehsil of 400 villages is certainly scandalous. With no dispensaries, no roads and with such a meagre number of primary schools from a fund which charges two annas per Bhiga, it is very easy to say that not only no extra money is spent by the State from its general resources as is done in the British India, but even this money which is specially raised for the purpose does not seem to be fully utilised for its legitimate purpose. It is certainly discreditable as the facts are found to be true. We accept all the evidence tendered in this connection and it makes out a *prima facie* case.

Conclusion

105. We therefore find that the Maharaja raises money by way of puclic funds and does not render any account of them for the purposes they were meant for. This is a sheer breach of faith.

3. OPINION

106. We are asked by the Working Committee to state our opinion on the substance contained in the Memorial presented to H. E. the Viceroy by ten citizens of the Patiala State. With this purpose in view we have examined in the foregoing chapter the material

that came to us. We are concious of the fact that all this material was gathered behind the back of the ruler of Patiala and it does not bear that value which a cross-examination by the opposite party would give to it. But that is one way of looking at it. There is another as well. The tour of the Committee was widely advertised in the Press. The Committee was quite prepared to give quarters to the other party if they meant to present their side of the question. But while Patiala State could spare their police to surround the Committee-room everywhere and attempt the stopping of evidence that was forthcoming, they made no attempt to respond to the public invitation given to all by the Committee to help in the Committee's work. After that the Committee had to fall back upon the only alternative which was to go on exparte. None of the members of the Committee has any interests, friends or relations in the Patiala State. None of them even knew any citizen or the ruler of Patiala. Theirs has been a perfectly disinterested task. They tried their level best to ascertain the truth as far as possible and to convince themselves about the reliability of the witnesses. All that could be done under the circumstances, was done by them to fill up the gap of the absence of the other party.

107. At the worst our enquiry can be said to resemble a police investigation. In the case of offences alleged against ordinary people, the police hold an investigation behind the back of the accused, and when there is sufficient material for a *prima facie* case, they send up the case for enquiry before a magistrate; and then the magistrate has to hold a regular enquiry. That is just our position. We have had in our possession a complaint against the Maharaja of Patiala. We held an investigation behind the back of the Maharaja; and as a result we proceed to state our opinion as to the substance in the allegations, that is, whether there exists *prima facie* grounds in support of the Memorial.

108. We have in the second chapter exhaustively dealt with all that came in our possession in this connection, and we have stated our conclusions on each of the count framed by us. Certainly our conclusions do not cover all the allegations mentioned in the

Memorial. They cover only a few of them. But the point is, that not even one of the allegations mentioned in the Memorial has been found by us to be either wrong or malicious. Naturally we could cover only a small field, but whatever came to us in that small field has all gone to support the allegations in the Memorial. As a matter of fact, in some of the matters the material was even sufficient for a final verdict. Thus judging from what we had an occasion to examine, we have no hesitation in stating that the allegations made in the Memorial are not made lightly or irresponsibly, but have the backing of very solid and in many cases startling and shocking facts.

109. We therefore find it as our deliberate opinion that the Memorial submitted to H. E. the Viceroy by the citizens of Patiala has a great substance in it and is one which must be taken up very seriously by all, be they individuals or a system, if they have a soul to swear by.

Amritlal V. Thakker
G. R. Abhyankar
Amritlal D. Sheth

I am sorry I could not accompany the Committee of Enquiry, due to an act of social *force majeure*–a Committee which was appointed at my suggestion, if not initiation. I am glad to sign the Report, and can say that on evidence a case of "*J' Accuse*" has been made out by the Committee, and I think that the Indian States' People's Conference has justified its *'raison d'etre'* and may well consider the Report a feather in its cap–not that in holding the enquiry, it has done anything but its duty to the People of Indian States on whose behalf it speaks. I suggest that the Report be dedicated to the Sovereign British State whose duty *vis. a vis* the Report is now clear. Will the Government of India take up the matter and hold a judicial enquiry ? The enquiry if held, would demonstrate in deed more eloquent than words, that the Sovereign

State cannot be passive spectators of what is going on in the Indian States, as what is true of Patiala is true, more or less, of many an Indian State. The very fact that the Sovereign Power, if proper materials are placed before it,will hold an enquiry will to a great extent put the rulers of Indian States to thinking and this cannot but be beneficial in its effects.

But the questien is : will the British Sovereign Power do so? If it does not, it will be "non-co-operating" with the people of Indian States, and the implications and dangers of non-co-operation are too well-known to be impressed on the British Raj.

The Maharaja of Patiala is reputed to be a sportsman. Will he be 'Sport' enough to ask for an impartial judicial enquiry and thus seek to free his state and person from the allegations so openly made by his subjects and established by the Committee of Enquiry.

I trust neither the Government of India nor the Patiala State will treat the Report as *'non-est'* and in that trust and hope I sign the same.

Lakhmidas Rowjee Tairsee

The Patiala Enguiry Committee Report was submitted to the working Committee of the Conference which unanimously adopted the same in its meeting of the 5th February, 1930, specially convened for the purpose.

[*A NOTE : With regard to the Count Six about the concoction of false cases, Statement of Sardar Diwan Singh (Ex. 42 B) could not, through inadvertence, be printed in Appendix G, as announced under that count in the Evidence Setcion. (See page 125. Appendix D, Evidence Section.) So, the statement referred to above is printed here.*]

Statement of Sardar Diwan Singh Maftoon Editor "Riyasat", Delhi, Ex 42 B.

The ill-fated pamphlet "Khun-i-Shahadat Ka' ek Qatra" ("A drop of the blood of martyrdom") captivated the attention of the Maharaja of Patiala for the first time in 1917, and since then the evil eye of the Maharaja is on me. He not only got the pamphlet confiscated by the Government of Sir M. O'Dwyer, but secured my arrest also as an author of the offensive pamphlet. I was produced before Mr. Tollinton the then Deputy Commissioner of Lahore, who, inspite of my bold stand to take my trial in order to expose the atrocious activities of the Maharaja, ordered my release on the ground that I was very young. I was in those days acting as the sub-editor of "Hindustan" of Lahore and the Pamphlet in question was written as a protest against the tyranny of the Maharaja with respect to the religious and social reformer Bhai Teja Singh of Bhasor.

There were other papers also which had been writing against the actions of the ruler of Patiala. The entire country was in those days labouring in the throes of the Great War and the Maharaja of Patiala had been successful in gaining the favours of the British Government by a show of extreme loyalty and concern in that struggle. My arrest therefore under the Defence of India act was not a difficult job for the mighty ruler, but the result proved abortive.

In 1922 I started a daily by name "Panth" at Lahore and in that I explained in detail the mal-administration of the ruler

and further exposed the mystery of the murder of Sardar Lal Singh. In order to punish me, the Maharaja got some hired mercenaries who succeeded in planting cocaine at my place. I was arrested and put on my trial. The trying Magistrate found me absolutely innocent and acquitted me. In his order the Magistrate held that cocaine had been planted at my house by hired persons and that Patiala had his hand in the affair. As a result of this acquittal, several police officers at Lahore got into trouble which led to the dismissal of one and the resignation of another.

In 1923 when the administration of Nabha State was taken up by the Government of India, the Maharaja of Patiala got me arrested by the Administrator on charge of Sedition. I was kept in the lock up for four months without any trial, but before I could be extradited and handed over to Patiala, I was released by orders of the Viceroy, Lord Reading. I thus escaped from the cruel clutches of Patiala.

The same year another attempt was made against me in shape of a Criminal Case. It was alleged that in 1914 I had taken a sum of Rs. 200/- from a Baniya by name Jotram at Mansa (Patiala State) with the object of giving that money to some other person, that the money had not been repaid by me to Jotram and that I had thus committed criminal breach of trust. The State submitted the papers to the agent to the Governor-General Punjab States, with a view to obtain extradition warrants against me. The Agent thought the whole story a clumsy concoction and refused the warrants. This rebuff and disappointment should have been sufficient for an ordinary prudent man to stop all his nefarious activities against me, but the Maharaja was indefatigable in his attacks, and the heads of the hydra sprouted again, when one fine morning in 1927 my house at Darya Gunj, Delhi was suddenly besieged by Patiala Police and the whole place was ransacked under the name of "Search". I was arrested and the charge against me was the same old interesting incident

of criminal breach of trust with respect to the sum of Rs. 200/- of Jotram Baniya of Mansa. This incident led to a lengthy discussion in the Assembly and a series of questions in the House of Commons and the outcome of all this was that the Government of India acknowledged my innocence in the matter and refused handing me over to the State.

Being baulked of his prey a fourth time, the Maharaja in 1928 and prior to this also, made unwarrantable attempts through hired and desperate persons to put my life in jeopardy. But as I became aware of such activies, I informed the Government of India, Local Government and Police, with the result that Local Government gave me a licence for keeping a revolver for self-protection. Inspite of the fact that I have never cared for the mean and ugly attempts of the Maharaja, I still maintain that my life is not free from danger at the hands of a relentless and unscrupulous enemy.

During the course of the last year also, the Maharaja made several attempts to move the Government to prosecute me, but the Government always refused to take any such action against myself.

PART II
EVIDENCE

APPENDIX A

PROCEEDINGS

PROCEEDINGS

Budhladha : 18th December 1929

1. The Committee held its sitting to-day at about 10 A. M. in the Mandi of Budhladha when Messrs. Amritlal Thakkar and Amritlal Sheth, members of the Committee, were present. Mr. Thakkar was in the chair.

2. Sardar Jaswantsingh Danewalia working president of the Punjab Riyasati Praja Mandal, Shriyut Labhuram Kalia secretary of the Mandal and Sardar Taja Singh member of the executive committee of the Mandal were present to help the Committee in its work.

3. The gentlemen of the Praja Mandal intimated to the Committee that although the Committee had come to inquire into the allegations made by the Patiala state people against the present Maharaja, there was a great desire on the part of other states as well to place their grievances before the Committee. Praja Mandal, therefore, wished the Committee to hear the people of other states as well. On these representations of the Praja Mandal, the Committee decided to take the statements of the people of other states as well. But as the Committee is not authorized by the parent body to enlarge its scope of work, these statements would be taken only for the matter of information of the Indian States' People's Conference and all this material would be handed over to the Hon. General Secretary of the Conference at the end of the Committee's labours.

4. Just at the commencement of the business it was found that the witnesses that came forward to give evidence before the Committee were numbering more than a thousand. It was impossible to deal with them all. So it was decided as under:

(1) Written statements of the witnesses present which are already tendered should be first examined.

(2) All important points from the written statements so examined should be noted and the written statements that cover up these points should be taken up.

(3) Witnesses who have made these statements should then be called in. Their statements be read out to them and get them confirmed.

(4) These witnesses and other people of the same village and tehsil should be collected together and a sort of cross-examination of the particular witness in company with the rest should be held.

(5) Witnesses who have not given their written statements but who have something new and important to communicate should then be examined in company with witnesses of their villages and tehsils.

(6) As regards Patiala witnesses examination should relate only to principal important heads mentioned in the now famous Patiala Memorial to the Viceroy signed by ten gentlemen and should not go into minor or individual grievances.

5. After this procedure was decided upon, the question arose as to whether the inquiry should be public or private. It was pointed out to the Committee that a number of police officials and constables from Patiala State had arrived and they were asking people not to give evidence. The Committee was informed that Patiala state had taken very strict measures to see that the people did not at all go to the Committee and that people had taken great risk in approaching the Committee. There was a belief that if the police were allowed to be present during the Committee's proceedings, there was a certainty of harsh repressive measures being taken against the witnesses that may come forward to give evidence. The gentlemen of the Punjab Riyasati Praja Mandal, therefore, requested the Committee that the state

police officials or constables should not be allowed to be present while the Committee was recording the evidence.

6. On these representations of the Praja Mandal the Committee resolved as under :

"While the Committee does feel that the inquiry should better be public which every one can attend with absolute freedom, the committee does not want to shut its eyes to the fact that there is a very great probability-which may even be termed certainty-that the witnesses may be harassed by the Patiala state officials in many illegal ways in consequence of their having appeared before the Committee; and in the circumstances when the Committee has no power to afford any protection to such witnesses, the Committee resolves that none except the members and officers of the Praja Mandal and the witnesses that express their desire to give evidence be allowed admission without the permission of the chairman of the Committee, which will certainly be accorded to all bonafide spectators. The Committee notes that inspite of the fact that a very wide publicity is given to the holding of the inquiry here and at other places and although a number of Patiala police officials have arrived here, none of them have approached the Committee or otherwise expressed their desire to be present at the time of recording evidence of witnesses. The Committee would be quite willing to allow them to be present if they intend to present the other side of the picture, but would not allow them for merely 'policing' the proceedings."

7. Shriyut Labhuram acted as an interpreter during the Committee's work to-day.

8. The Memorial submitted by Patiala citizens to the Viceroy was then taken on file. Sardar Bhagwan Singh of Langowal, one of the signatories produced it. Ex. 1.

9. Following statements were recorded:

One statement signed by ..... and five others out of whom five were present, was taken up.

Original statement in Urdu is marked Ex. 2.

English translation is marked Ex. 2A.

Another statement signed by.....and three others out of whom.....was present was taken up.

Original statement in Urdu is marked Ex. 3.

English Translation is marked Ex. 3A.

One more statement signed by..... and eight others out of whom five were present was also taken up.

Original statement in Urdu is marked Ex. 4.

English Translation is marked Ex. 4A.

All the statements were then taken up together and read out to witnesses who confirmed them.

Oral examination of witnesses in company of the villagers is marked Ex. 5.

Statement of.....in Urdu is marked Ex. 6.

English translation Ex. 6A.

Oral examination Ex. 6B.

Oral examination of witness..... Ex. 7.

" " " ..... Ex. 8

" " " ..... Ex. 9.

" " " ..... Ex. 10.

" " " ..... Ex 11.

" " " ..... Ex. 12.

10. All important statements having been taken and nothing more remaining to be done here, the Committee closed its proceedings at 7 P. M. and left for Ambala the same night.

Ambala : 19th December 1929

1. The Committee held its sitting in the Kothi of Lala Dunichand. Messrs. Thakkar and Sheth were present. Mr. Thakkar was in the chair. Sardar Teja Singh acted as an interpretor for this day's session.

2. The Committee began its work at 3 P. M. and closed the sitting at 7 P. M. The procedure adopted at Budhladha was followed and the following statements were recorded :

Statement of	.....	Ex. 13.
,,	.....	,, 14.
,,	.....	,, 15.
,,	.....	,, 16.

3. During the course of the proceedings the Committee was informed that round about the Kothi where the evidence was being recorded Patiala police officials and constables were seen in large numbers and the witnesses complained about this. The Committee therefore went out to see things for itself. Some men looking like police were shown as Patiala police men. To their face they were pointed out as such and still they kept quiet and did not protest that they were not police men. The Committee thought that there appeared to be a good deal of truth in the complaint made to them.

4. Sardar Kapursing of Ambala and one Mahomedan gentleman who introduced himself as the vice president of the local Congress Committee were present during the greater part of the Committee's work. They were allowed admission by the chairman.

5. The Committee left for Ludhiana the same night.

Ludhiana : 30th December 1929

1. The Committee was ready for its work here at 9 A. M.. It went at the office of one vakil Raghbir Singh whose office room he had kindly lent for the purpose, as intimated to the Committee by the officers of the Punjab Riyasti Praja Mandal. But when the Committee reached there the vakil was found unwilling to allow the use of his room. He would neither come out and talk to the Committee nor was he willing to let the members of the Committee see him in his room, even though the Committee intimated its desire to see him to understand the situation directly from him. The Committee was informed by the

gentlemen who had arranged for this room that a great pressure was brought upon him by the Patiala officiers then in Ludhiana and he was therefore unable to allow the Committee to work in his office room. The Committee had therefore to leave his place.

2. The arrangement for holding the sitting of the Committee was then made in the Sikh Gurudwara. There too it was soon found that certain sikhs, said to belong of the Patiala state, expressed their determination to remain present during the session of the Committee without its permission in case it was held in that Gurudwara. It was therefore thought inadvisable to hold the Committee's sitting there. Under these circumstances that place too was given up.

3. Workers of the Punjab Riyasati Praja Mandal ultimately secured a place on the first floor of the building situated in the middle of the bazar where the Committee went and began its work at 1 P. M.. Messrs. Thakkar & Sheth were present, Mr. Thakkar presiding. Sardar Teja Singh acted as an interpretor.

4. The following statements were recorded:

Statement of	.....	and others	original	Ex. 17.
,,	,,	,,	English	Ex. 17A.
,,	,,	,,	oral exam.	Ex. 17B.
,,	,,	and others	original	Ex. 18.
,,	,,	,,	English	Ex. 18A.
,,	,,	,,	oral. exam	Ex. 18B.
,,	,,	,,	original	Ex. 19.
,,	,,	,,	oral exam	Ex. 19A.
,,	,,	and others	original	Ex. 20.
,,	,,	,,	English	Ex. 20A.
,,	,,	,,	oral exam.	Ex. 20B.
,,	,,	oral examination		Ex. 21.
,,	,,	,,		Ex. 22.
,,	,,	,,		Ex. 23.
,,	,,	,,		Ex. 24.
,,	,,	,,		Ex. 25.
,,	,,	,,		Ex. 26.
,,	,,	,,		Ex. 27.
,,	,,	,,		Ex. 28.

5. Having no more Statement to take, the Committee left the place, the same night.

Lahore : 23rd December 1929

1. The Committee met to-day here in the office of the Punjab Riyasti Praja Mandal, 3, Lodge Road, Lahore. Pro. G. R. Abhyanker, another member of the Committee joined the Committee to-day. Thus there were present Messers Thakkar, Abhyanker and Sheth. Mr. Thakkar presided.

2. Sardar Sardul Singh B. Sc., acted as interpreter for to-day's session.

3. Evidence of Dr. Bakhshish Singh was recorded for about three hours. It was incomplete when the Committee adjourned for da .

Lahore : 24th Decmber 1929

1 The Committee specially went to record the evidence of Sardarani, Rajindar Kaur wife of S. Harchand Singh Jeji in the house of Captain Janmejai Singh C. B. E. the place where Sardarani was temperorily staying. Messrs Thakkar, Abhyanker and Sheth were present. The evidence began at 11-15 A. M. and lasted upto 12-45 P. M.

2 Sardar Vazir Singh the eldest son of Sardar Harchand Singh, worked as interpreter for the witness, who is his step-mother.

3. The original statement in Urdu was read out to the witness. She confirmed the same. The statement is marked Ex. 29.

4. English translation of the statement is marked Ex. 29 A.

The oral examination of the witness is marked Ex. 29 B.

5. In this connection a statement of Sardar Vazir Singh was tendered later Ex. 30.

6. A list of property confiscated by the state, valued at about twenty lakhs, Ex. 30A.

7. It may be noted here that while the Committee was approaching the house where Sardarani was staying, the Committee

found a Patiala Policeman standing in the street just near the house, apparently to watch who visited the place. He was asked by a member of the Committee whether he was a member of the Patiala police and as to why he was there. He replied that he belonged to Patiala police; and he was there for some private business of his own. The Committee member noticed that the brass label of Patiala police was on his shoulder.

Lahore : 24th December 1929

1. The Committee held its sitting in the rooms of the Riyasti Praja Mandal Office. Messrs Thakkar, Abhyanker and Sheth were present. Mr. Thakkar presided.

2. S. Tara Sing of Amritsar appeared before the Committee to-day. He showed the originals of the following documents to the Committee and handed over to the Committee the photo copies taken from them.

(1) Kesher Singh's petition to Maharaja of Patiala Ex. 31.

(2) Maharaja's instructions at the time ef Pinjore Shoot Ex. 33.

(3) He also produced the game protection notification of Patiala state Ex. 33.

Lahore : 24th December 1929

1. Messers Thakkar, Abhyanker and Sheth, the members of the Committee went to see, late in the evening at about 8-30 P. M. the condition of Kashmiri agriculturists, who annually migrate for casual labour to Lahore in winter, in company with Mr. S. N. Kaul Bar-at-Law, the President of the Kashmiri National Board and other members of the said Board.

2. A statement of what the Committee saw is attached herewith and marked Ex. 34.

Lahore : 25th December 1929

1. The Committee held its sitting in the morning in the Committee's own head quarters, 31, Lodge Road, Lahore.

Messers Thakkar, Abhyanker and Sheth were present. Mr, Thakkar Presided.

2. Evidence of Pratap Singh was recorded. It took three hours. It is maked Ex. 35.

3. Evidence of Dr. Bakhshish Singh was concluded. It is maked Ex. 36.

4. The Affidavit of Dr. Bakhshih Singh before the honorary Magistrate at Dehra Dun was produced by him. It is marked Ex. 36. A.

Lahore : 25th December, 1929

1. The Committee held its sitting at 8 P. M. in the head quarters of the Committee. Messrs Thakkar, Abhyanker & Sheth were present. Mr. Thakkar presided.

2. The following gentlemen representing All-India Muslim Kashmiri Conference appeared to give evidence before the Committee.

(1) Sh. Din Mohmad, M. A., L. L. B., M. L. C., Advocate, 10, Nephere Road, Lahore.

(2) Sayed Mohsin Shah, B. A., L. L. B., Advocate, 10, Mozand Road, Lahore.
Gen. Secty., All-India Muslim Kashmiri Conference.

(3) Khwaja Allah Buxh Girnari, Secretary, Kashmiri National Board, Lahore.

(4) Khwaja Ghulam Mohmad Khan, Haveli Pir Nizam Din Ekki Gate, Lahore.

3. Evidence of the deputation was recorded. It is marked Ex. 37.

4. The following three documents were produced by the deputation and are marked as under :

(1) Grievances of Kashmiri Pandits, Ex. 37 A.

(2) Muslims in Kashmir, Ex. 37 B.

(3) Presidential Address by Pt. P. N. Kaul at the first annual session of the Kashmiri National Board at Ludhiana on 27-4-29, Ex. 37 C.

Lahore : 26th December 29

1. The Committee held its sittings hoth in the morning and in the evening. Messrs. Thakkar, Abhyanker and Sheth were present, Mr. Thakkar presiding. Sardar Sardulsingh B. Sc. acted as interpreter.The following statements were recorded :

2. Statement of Jay Singh marked Ex. 38

3. The witness produced the following documents :

(1) A copy of the statement of S. Nanak Singh, which he wrote in his own hand-writing, Ex. 38 A.

(2) copy of the Judgment in Nanak Singh's case in, Patiala Court, Ex. 38 B.

(3) A copy of the memorial of S. Nanak Singh to the Viceroy, Ex. 38 C.

(4) A copy of the draft of divorce deed in the hand writing of Sir Kishan Kaul, Ex. 38 D.

(5-6) Copies of two letters of Sir Kishan Kaul, Es. 38 E. & F.

(7-8) Copies of two letters of S. Sunder Singh Majithia, Ex. 38 G. & H.

(9) Letters of Gurnam Singh, father-in-law of Maharaja Ex. 38 1.

4. Statement of Suhava Singh. Ex. 39.

5. He produced copies of the following four documents :

(1) Political Agent's Letter, Ex. 39A.
(2) Punjab Govt.'s Letter, Ex. 39B.
(3) Viceroy's Letter, Ex. 39C.

Lahore : 29th December 1929

1. The Committee held its sittings in the morning. Messrs Thakkar, Abhyanker, and Sheth were present, Mr. Thakkar presiding. Sardar Sardulsing, B. Sc, acted as interpreter.

2. Sardar Balwantsingh presented his statemənt, Ex. 40.

3. Sardar Seva Singh presented his statement, Ex. 41. Its English Translation. Ex. 41A.

4. Sardar Sardulsing B. Sc., produced from his possession a statement given to him by Bhai Ram Singh. Bhai Ram Singh has used third person for himself in this statement. Ramsingh himself is not present, and the statement appears to have been made by a third person. Thus it cannot carry much weight by itself. All the same as a statement giving the idea of the whole affair, it is taken on record and marked Ex. 42.

5. Sardar Dewan Singh, Editor "Riyasat" appeared before the committee and gave a statement, which is marked Ex 42 B.

The statement of Sardul Singh, Ex. 42A.

Lahore : 30th, December 1929

1. The Committee held its sittings in the morning. Messrs Thakkar, Abhyanker and Sheth were present, Mr. Thakkar presiding.

2. A Deputation of Bikaner State people residing in Ganga cannal area came before the Committee and stated their grievances. Their statement is marked Ex. 43.

The State publication about the Ganga Canal, produced by the Deputation is marked Ex. 43 A.

3. A gentleman named Atmaram C/o. Rudhir Dutta of Theog State in Simla Hills, gave his evidence before the Committee. His statement is marked Ex. 44.

4. Vakil Tijasinghji of Nabha produced the following documents :

(1) Govt. of India Resolution on Nabha-Patiala Dispute, Ex. 45.

(2) Statement of grievances of Nabha subjects against the present-day administration, Ex. 45 A.

(3) English version of the same, Ex. 45 B.

5. Sardar Jaswantsinghji, Acting president of the Punjab Riyasati Mandal then presented the statements which are exhibited and marked, Ex. 46 to Ex. 91.

Many of these signatories were present, but as they had to say nothing in particular, they were not called in and their statements were taken on file.

6. No more statements remained to be taken. The Committee therefore concluded its labours in the Punjab.

7. As resolved in the first sitting of the Committee exhibits 24, 34, 37, 37A, 37B, 37C, 43, 43A, 44, 45, 45A, 45B concerning other states, were taken out of the file and entrusted to Mr. Amritlal Sheth for being handed over to the General Secretary, The Indian States' Peoples' Conference, Bombay.

8. It was resolved to keep the records of the Committee with Amritlal D. Sheth, till the next meeting of the Committee to draft the Report. It was resolved provisionally to meet at Poona on the 1st. of February, for this purpose.

Poona: 2nd February 1930

The Committee held its meeting to-day here in the rooms of Law Society. Messrs. Thakkar, Abhyankar, and Sheth were present. Mr. Thakkar presided.

The scheme of the report was discussed and adopted and frame work of the report was ready in the evening, which was approved.

Poona: 3rd & 4th February 1930.

The Committee held its sitting continuously for two days. Messrs. Abhyankar and Sheth were present Mr. Abhyankar presided.

The final draft of the report was adopted. The same was handed over to Mr. Sheth, to be presented to the Working Committee meeting to be held on the 5th. Feb. in Bombay.

Appendix B

LIST AND SUBSTANCE OF EXHIBITS

LIST AND SUBSTANCE OF EXHIBITS

Ex. 1 : Patiala Memorial signed by Bhagwan Singh and nine others. Bhagwan Singh was present. This is printed in full elsewhere.

Ex. 2 & 2A: English and Urdu statements of Santa Singh and 5 others. All were present at the time of the oral examination. They state : (1) most of the war loans raised have not been returned to us. (2) Some years back one rupee per head from all people was collected by the state for the expenses of some congress, to be held, of which we knew nothing. (3) Game Laws of the State give full freedom to wild animals, which destroy our crops but which we are not permitted to kill. (4) We are forced to give free bullock-carts, camels, milk, fuel, forced labour or Begar. If we do not give it, police take us to a police station and we are mercilessly beaten. Last year on 14th Jeth Samvat 1985 there was the camp of a C. I. D. officer, in our village with the result that, for a number of days not a drop of ghee or milk was allowed to be used, even for children. Everything was taken away by the police. (5) In Magh of Samvat 1985, when Sirdar Kharag Singh was touring in the villages of Patiala State, a part of the Patiala army was also moving with him. That army collected free rations from the villagers without payment, as also fowls, fuel etc. Collection of these materials was so big, that a good deal of it was left unconsumed and was taken away by police to their homes. (6) When Sirdar Kharag Singh toured, we were not allowed to go to him. We were severely beaten by Police; veils were removed from the faces of Pardah women in the presence of the general public and all of us were kept under the guard of policemen and Lumbardars. (7) Our village is built since Samvat 1881 (A.D. 1825) and our family is residing there, since that period. We were enjoying proprietary rights in the land in the same way as other Patiala

subjects; but the Maharaja recently gave away the whole village to his favourite, who has changed revenue system from the cash-assessment to the payment in kind and our harassment knows no bounds.

Ex. 3 & 3A: English and Urdu statements of Sinder Singh who was present and of three others. They state, (1) posts in police department are filled with favourites of the Maharaja and these people therefere, cannot be controlled by any. They encourage crimes and get shares in the spoils. They practice all sorts of devices to take bribes from people and harass them to their hearts content. (2) We are taken out to repair the banks of canal, just in the rainy season, when we are busy with our cultivation and are paid nothing for it. (3) Game-animals destroy our crops. (4) Begar (forced labou) is rampant. (5) War loans are not returned. (6) Police guard was stationed in our village and we were not allowed to go outside, at the time of visit of Sirdar Kharag Singh.

Ex. 4 & 4A : English and Urdu statements of Bishan Singh and 8 others. 5 signatories were present. they stated: (1) Our village is 30 miles from Pinjore, where the Maharaja goes for hunting. 30 or 40 men of our village have to go with the Maharaja, to help him in hunting; besides that, bullock-carts, fowls, eggs, milk, ghee, etc. are taken from us without payment. (2) Game animals destroy our crop. (3) We are compelled to dig and repair canals. Sometimes this work goes on for many days. If we do not go, we are mercilessly beaten and heavy fines are imposed. (4) War loan share not returned. (5) A fund was raised by the state from our village, to effect partitions of village lands, but partition was not effected and the fund was not returned. (6) In the month of Magh of 1985, about a year back, a special fund was raised from us, for the purchase of Xray apparatus for Patiala Hospital. The Apparatus was not received and the money was not returned. (7) At the time of Sirdar Kharag Singh's visit we were severely beaten.

Ex. 5 : This is the oral examination of about 2 dozen people collected together of the same village. This is printed elsewhere. This examination substantiates tne Statements of exhibits 2, 3, & 4.

Ex. 6, 6A & 6 B : English and Urdu statements of Bishwedar Ridha Singh stating about his illegal arrest, imprisonment, torture and confiscation of his property. His statement is printed separately.

Ex. 7 : Statement of Sajan Singh in the oral examination by the Committee, stating the details of police torture for (1) not doing Shikari Pahera. (2) expressing a desire to appear before this Committee.

Ex. 8 : Statement of Mehar Singh in the oral examination by the Committee, stating how the whole of the canal digging is done by Begar. This particular canal is only meant for Shikar purposes.

Ex. 9 : Witness Hira Singh and two others state in the oral examination by the Committee: (1) Begar done by them in the Garden of Umlo twice a year, each time for two days. 20 or 25 villages have to do this. (2) Pritam Singh says about Shikari Pahera. (3) Witness Bishare Singh states, canal charges are still collected, though water is not supplied.

Ex. 10 : Statement of witness Man Singh in the oral examination by the Committee, giving the description of Lake Bhupindra Sagar, the Lake for shooting and all details of Begar taken for the purpose. It is printed elsewhere.

Ex. 11 : Statement of witness Phuman Singh given in oral examination by the Committee stating the debased and immoral ways of the Maharaja giving particular instances. This is printed elsewhere.

Ex. 12 : Statement of witness Partap Singh in oral examination by the Committee stating, (1) great police precautions are taken to prevent people, from going to the Committee. (2) we are doing Begar of weed cutting in water in Bhupindra Sagar amidst most

wretched condition. (3) We pay school and road taxes but there is neither road nor school in the village.

Ex. 13 : Statement of Dewan Singh in oral examination by the Committee stating (1) people were ordered not to appear before Committee by a beat of drum. There is great police-bandobast. (2) some newspapers like 'Riyasat' 'Akali' are prohibited. (3) people are also asked not to go to Lahore to attend any conference or Congress in Lahore in the Congress week of 1929.

Ex. 14 : Statement of Bakhtawar Singh made during oral examination by the Committee stating forced labour was exacted for building an amphitheatre for wrestling This is printed elsetwhere.

Ex. 15 : Statement of Amar Singh in oral examination about non-return of the War loans.

Ex. 16 Statement of Partap Singh in oral examination stating how illegal revenue is collected by the state. It is printed elsewhere.

Ex. 17 & 17 A & 17 B : English and Urdu statements of Balvant Singh and five others, two signatories being present. They stated (1) war loan is not returned. (2) Game animals destory crops, (3) Begar of all sorts is taken. (4) Shikari Pahera i. e. compulsory night service as village watchman without payment. (5)Villagers were not allowed to go to Sirdar Kharak Singh and those who gave food materials to Sardar's party had their lands forfeited.

Ex. 18 & 18 A. & 18 B : English aud Urdu and oral statements of Bir Singh who was present stating about illegal trial and War loan nonpayments. It is printed elsewhere.

Ex. 19 & 19 A : English and Urdu statements of Ajmer Singh who was present stating that was he himself moved in some villages of Patiala where he found that great police Bandobast was kept everywhere to see that people do not appear before this Committee.

Ex. 20 : Statement of Hakam Singh in the oral examination by the committee stating about War loan non-payments and contributions exacted for a bridge fund. It is printed elsewhere.

Ex. 21 : English and Urdu and oral statements of Pritam Singh and four others who were all present in the oral examination by the Committee, stating about the illegal and fanciful increment in revenue assessment. It is printed elsewhere.

Ex. 22 : Statement of Kehar Singh in oral examination by the Committee, stating that milk etc. of the whole village was compulsorily taken away, without payment, for the Tika Saheb that is the heir-apparent. It is printed elsewhere.

Ex 23 : Statement of Sunder Singh in oral examination by the committee describing Police Zulam.

Ex. 24 : Statement of Hakam Singh in oral examination about Malerkotla prisoners.

Ex. 25 & 26 : Statement of Ralla Singh in oral examiation and another about Revenue Zulum.

Ex. 27 : Statement of Ranjodh Singh in oral examination stating Begar Zulum at the time of the Tika Saheb's camp. It is printed elsewhere.

Ex. 28 : Statement of Tirath Singh almost same as Ex. 21.

Ex. 29 & 29A & 29B : English Urdu and oral statements of Sirdarni Rajindar Kunvar stating about illegal arrest by imprisonments of her husband and servant and confiscation of property worth alnt 20 lakh of rupees and driving her with her children. It is printed elsewhere.

Ex. 30 & 30A : Statement of Sunder Vazir Singh Coroborating Ex. 29. A list of property confiscated by the state valued at about 20 lakhs.

Ex. 31 & 32 : Photo copies of certain documents (1) Krishna Singh's applications (2) Maharaja's letter about Pahadi girls.

Ex. 33 : A copy of Patiala game laws

Ex. 34 : Condition of Kashmiri Agriculturists tempoararily residing in Lahore.

Ex. 35 : Statement of Sirdar Partap Singh in oral examination stating concoctions of false cases and bomb-makings by the Maharaja of Patiaia. It is printed elsewhere.

Ex. 36 & 36 A : Statement of Dr. Buxi Singh in oral examination stating history of Bomb-factory and murders of his wife and daughter. Affidavit of Dr. Buxi Singh made by him before the Magistrate at Dehradu.

Ex. 37 & 37 A & 37 B. & 37 C : Statement of Kashmir deputation consisting of gentlmen with accompaniments.

Ex. 38 : Statement of Jaya Singh,-uncle of Nanak Singh-who was present, stating how Nanak Singh was arrested and convicted and how documentary evidence in his possession implicating Maharaja in Lal Sing's murder was taken away by fraud from him. It is printed elsewhere.

Ex. 38 A : Sardar Nanak Singh's own statement giving true history of Maharaja's share in the murder of Lal Singh. A copy of the same produced by his uncle Jay Singh.

Ex. 38 B : Judgment in Nanak Singh's case.

Ex. 38 C : Nanak Singh's Memorial to the Viceroy.

Ex. 38 D : A copy of the draft of divorce deed in the hand of Sir Daya Kishan Kaul.

Ex. 38 E & F : Copies of 2 letters of Sir Daya Kishan Kaul.

Ex. 38 G. & H : Copies of 2 letters of Sardar Sundar Singh Majithia.

Ex. 38 I : Letters of Gurnam Singh, father-in-law of the Maharaja.

Ex. 39 : Statement of Sardar Amarsingh' brother who was present, stating how Amar Singh's wife has been kidnapped and kept by Maharaja and history of the offer of Rs. 20000. It is printed elsewhere.

Ex. 39 A & B & C : Letters of the Political Agent, the Punjab Govt. and the Viceroy.

Ex. 40 : Statement of Sardar Balvant Singh showing the clause of Begar in his pension certificate.

Ex. 41 : English and Urdu Statements of Sardar Seva Singh who was present detailing history of his long imprisonment and his conversations with the Maharaja.

Ex. 42 : Statement of Bhai Ram Singh stating the history of Baber Akali Jatha and Bomb factory.

Ex. 42A : Statement of Sardul Singh stating how the statement of Ram Singh was received as also corroborating the statement of Buxis Singh.

Ex. 42B : Statement of Diwan Singh giving the account of a false case started by Patiala against him.

Ex. 43, 44, 45 : Statements about other states.

Ex. 46 : Written statement of Sobhar Singh and three others (1) Revenue grievances, (2) Maharaja's bad character, (3) begar, (4) Maharaja's shikar and guests, (5) Sardar Kharag Singh's visit to the state, resulting in state Army going round villages taking forced labour & provision.

Ex. 47 : Written statement of Kirtar Singh and two others stating revenue grievances.

Ex. 48 : Written statement of Mai Inderkuvar stating that for not paying tax on four Bighas of land according to a false claim made by the state, all her 50 Bighas of land is confiscated and she is turned a beggar.

Ex. 49 : Written statement of witness Nahar Singh about revenue grievances.

Ex. 50 : Written statement of witness Harnam Singh stating that their village belonging originally to British Government, was given to Patiala for services to British Government on condition of treating them well. It narrates revenue grievances also.

Ex. 51 : Written Statement of Badha Singh same as Ex. 50.

Ex. 52 : Written statement of Nirmal Singh stating tyranny of the Maharaja's favourites residing in his village.

Ex. 53 : Written statement of Mai Ditta stating that Patiala state collected the state boundary demarcation taxes from them

although the state recoveres the expenditure from British Govern: ment. It describes Police Zulum also.

Ex. 54 : Written statement of Trilok Singh about Police Zulum, arrest and imprisonment without any warrant and commission hf all sorts of violence.

Ex. 55 : Written statement of Dayal Singh same as above.

Ex. 56 : Written statement of Partap Singh and 21 others of Tehsil Sirhind, stating various grievances as under. (1) Game Animals ruining crops. (2) begar. (3) land resumption. (4) taxes on land. (5) Shikari Pahera. (6) War loan not returned. (7) Tax for roads and schools leived; yet no facilities provided. (8) Bribery rampant. (9) Religious liberty not allowed. (10 Maharaja is debaucherous.

Ex. 57 : Written statement of Santa Singh aud one other of Tehsil Rajpore; almost same as 56.

Ex. 58 : Written statement of Chanker Singh and 10 others of Saimpore; Almost same as Ex. 56.

Ex. 59 : Written statement of Surbaje Singh and 5 others of Maradanpore. Almost same as Ex. 56.

Ex. 60 : Written statement of Bishan Singh and three others of Tehsil Rajpore. Almost same as 56.

Ex. 61 : Written statement of Bhujanga Singh and 2 others of Birkalam. Almost same as Ex. 56.

Ex. 62 : Written statement of Mota Singh and 6 others of Tehsil Sunam. Almost same as Ex. 56.

Ex. 63 : Written statement of Bagga Singh and two others of Tehsil Sunam. Almost same as Ex. 56.

Ex. 64 : Written statement of Lal Singh aud 5 others of Tehsil Sunam. Almost same as Ex. 56.

Ex. 65 : Written statement of Sundar Singh and three others Tehsil Jakhepal. Same as Ex. 56.

Ex. 66 : Written statement of Kabla Singh and 3 others of Tehsil Pail. Almost same as Ex 56.

Ex. 67 : Written statement of Jiba Singh and another of Tehsil Pail. Almost same as Ex. 56.

Ex. 68 : Written statement of Tara Singh and another of Tehsil Sirhind. Same as Ex. 56.

Ex. 69 : Written statement of Sadhu Singh and 22 others of Tehsil of Bhawani Garh. Almost same as Ex. 56.

Ex. 70 : Written statement of Ganga Singh and 26 others. Almost same as Ex. 56.

Ex. 71 : Written statement of Natha Singh and 11 others of Tehsil Rajpore. Almost same as Ex. 56.

Ex. 72 : Written statement of Dalip Singh and 12 others of Tehsil Rajpore. Almost same as Ex. 56.

Ex. 73 : Written statement of Hari Singh and 27 others of Tehsil Rajpore. Almost same as Ex. 56.

Ex. 74 : Written statement of Chalar Singh and 11 others of Tehsil Rajpore. Almost same as Ex. 56.

Ex. 75 : Written statement of Ismail and 12 others of Tehsil Rajpore. Almost same as Ex- 56.

Ex. 76 : Written statement of Pritam Singh and 19 others of Tehsil Rajpore. Almost same as Ex. 56.

Ex. 77 : Written statement of Chatar Singh and 13 others of Tehsil Rajpore. Almost same as Ex 56.

Ex. 78 Written statement of Hazara Singh and three others of Tehsil Rajpore. Almost same as Ex. 56.

Ex. 79 : Written statement of Warayan Singh and 12 others of Tehsil Kagar. Almost same as Ex. 56.

Ex. 80 : Written statement of Kaka Singh and 4 others of Tehsil Kagar. Almost same as 56.

Ex. 81 : Written statement of Ram Singh and 11 others of Gurudattpura. Almost same as Ex. 56.

Ex. 82 : Written statement of Nanak Singh and 16 others of Gurudattapura etc. Almost same as 56

Ex. 83 : Written statement of Baja Singh of the village Kadnijika. Almost same as Ex. 56.

Ex- 84 : Written statement of Gaja Singh of Tehsil Patiala. Almost same as Ex. 56.

Ex. 85 : Written statement of Ajmer Singh of the Tehsil Bernaru about violence practised on him by Police at the time of Sardar Kharag Singh's visit. It is printed elsewhere.

Ex 86. Written statement of Ram Singh of Melowal. Almost same as above. It is printed elsewhere.

Ex 87. Written statement of Pala Singh and 18 others, of Farwahi. Almost same as above. It is printed elsewhere,

Ex 88. Written statement of Karana Singh of Tehsil Sunam. Same as above. It is printed elsewhere.

Ex 89 : Written statement of Anokh Singh and 4 others Same as above. It is printed elsewhere.

Ex 90 : Written statement of Sucha Singh of Tehsil Burma Same as above. It is printed elsewhere.

Ex 91 : Written statement of Nand Singh of Langowal of Police violence. It is printed.

Appendix C

MEMORIAL TO THE VICEROY BY TEN CITIZENS OF THE PATIALA STATE

MEMORIAL TO THE VICEROY BY TEN CITIZENS OF THE PATIALA STATE

Exihibit 1 : *the full text of the memorial addressed to the Viceroy by ten citizens of the Patiala state who are on the executive board of the Punjab Riyasati Praja Mandal, is given below :*

To

His Excellency,

The Right Hon'ble Edward Fredrick Lindley Wood,

Baron Irwin of Kirbey-under-Dale,

G. M. S. I., G. M. I. E.,

Governor-General & Viceroy of India,

Delhi.

Sir,

The humble petition of the undersigned representatives of the subjects of his Highness the Maharaja of Patiala most respectfully sheweth :

1. That it is not without considerable hesitation and with a feeling of the deepest regret and helplessness that the petitioners, who are representatives of the inhabitants of the Patiala State, most humbly beg leave to approach Your Excellency with this petition. The petitioners have no other avenue of redress for the terrible wrongs, the calculated oppression, and gross mal-administration of His Highness the Maharaja of Patiala and his officials, except to approach Your Excellency with a humble request for an immediate and effective intervention, to rescue the people of the state from the ruthless oppression, to which they have been subjected ever since the present Maharaja became the ruler of

the state. There are no representative institutions in the state through which the people can get their grievances redressed; and to approach the Maharaja or his officials to get their wrongs righted, is worse than useless; as those who have had the temerity to do so in the past, have been visited with various penalties for daring to complain. The Indian Legislative Assembly is also definitely precluded by law from dealing with the affairs of the states. The subjects of the Patiala State have, therefore, no other course open to them, but to approach Your Excellency, as the representative of His Most Gracious Majesty the King Emperor of India, and lay their grievances before the British Government with the earnest, prayer that the oppression under which a million and a half of people are compelled to live in the Patiala State be speedily terminated.

2. That your Excellency's distinguished predecessor, Marquis of Reading, in a memorable letter, dated March 27, 1926, to His Exalted Highness the Nizam of Hyderabad, was pleased to lay down the policy of the British Government towards the internal affairs of Indian States in the following clear and unequivocal words, which have emboldened the petitioners to make this humble and earnest appeal to Your Excellency:

> "..... ..the internal no less than the external security which the Ruling Princes enjoy, is due ultimately to the protecting power of the British Government, and where Imperial interests are concerned or the general welfare of the people of a state is seriously and grievously affected by the action of its Government, it is with the paramount power that the ultimate responsibility of taking remedial action, if, necessary, must lie. The varying degrees of internal sovereignty which the Rulers enjoy, are all subject to the due exercise by the Paramount Power of this responsibility."

The British Government has always claimed the right to intervene in the internal affairs of Indian States, when such

intervention is necessary on account of mal-administration and oppression by the rulers of the states. The petitioners most respectfully submit, as they hope to conclusively establish by facts mentioned hereinafter, that the present is a fit case for intervention by the Paramount Power in the discharge of its utimate admitted responsibility for preventing oppression and mal-administration in Indian States.

3. That the subjects of the Patiala State have a long and terrible tale of woe; and the misgovernment, extravagance, oppression and immoral conduct of His Highness the Maharaja of Patiala are well known to every one who knows anything about Patiala and its people. At the root of all this, is the moral depravity of the Maharaja, who, the petitioners submit, is utterly incapable of administrating the state and has no scruples whatever to recklessly use the revenues and administrative machinery of the state, to minister to his licentiousness and personal fancies. Thousands of instances can be cited to prove, how the Maharaja has grossly abused his position to gratify his immoral propensities; but the petitioners beg leave to mention below only a few such instances, the truth of all of which can be established on enquiry and some of which are, the petitioners believe, already known to Your Excellency's Government:

(a) The Maharaja has scores of regular and irregular wives, and his harem contains a large number of women, who have been abducted by force or deceit from their homes. In many cases the husbands and parents of these unfortunate women have been paid large sums of money from the state revenues to sell their wives or daughters to the Maharaja; in others, the husbands or parents have been put out of the way by being implicated in false cases or by being murdered. The Maharaja has a regular agency for procuring women to gratify his moral depravity.

(b) Soon after S. Lal Singh, the younger brother of His Highness's father-in-law, S. Gurnam Singh, had refu-

sed the request of the Maharaja and his ministers to divorce his wife, he was murdered at the instance of the Maharaja; and S. Lal Singh's wife was subsequently forced to marry the Maharaja.

(c) As to the afore-said Gurnam Singh (Maharaja's father-in-law) the Maharaja with the object of punishing him for attempting to defeat his immoral designs on his brother's wife, complained to the British authorities that he was conspiring to kill the Maharaja. The complaint was found to be false on enquiry by the Government of India.

(d) Sardar Bakhshish Singh, who held the office of the Commander-in-chief of Patiala forces, was imprisoned by the Maharaja on a false charge of petty theft, because he was a friend of the afore-mentioned father-in-law of the Maharaja and had protested against the murder of S. Lal Singh and against the forced marriage of Lal Singh's widow with the Maharaja.

(e) There was a quarrel between the Maharaja and his two A. D. C.'s, Colonel Sewa Singh and Major Gurdial Singh, about a dancing girl; and a few days later the two A. D. C.'s were found murdered.

(f) Narain Singh, Superintendent Chail Hills, was publicly disgraced and put in prison by orders of the Maharaja without any trial, because he had failed to supply Maharaja, with hill girls for immoral purposes. On the intervention of the Political Agent, the Maharaja had to release the innocent man.

(g) On account of an immoral intrigue of the Maharaja, Raja Ranbir Singh, uncle of the Maharaja, was insulted by him at the Moti Baga Palace; he had to save his life by escaping in a motor car. Sometime after this, Raja Ranbir Singh died under suspicious circumstances.

(h) After the afore-mentioned Raja Ranbir Singh's secret murder, his property was confiscated by the Maharaja and his widows placed under restraint. A man who has the evil reputation of being a procurer to the Maharaja was appointed guardian of the household of the deceased Raja Saheb.

(i) The Maharaja made indecent overtures to one of his mothers, a young Rani of the former Maharaja; and she complained to the British Government against the evil intentions of the Maharja. On the intervention of the Political Agent, the Rani was permited to live in British territory; but still the servants of the Maharaja continued to worry her. The immoral proposal of the Maharaja ceased only when the British authorities placed a British Guard over the uufortunate Rani for her protection.

(j) The Maharaja brutally ill-treated his wife, named Rarewali Rani; and the Political Agent had to intervene.

(k) The Maharaja had, as his mistress a Muslim nautch girl, Anwar by name, whom he wanted to marry. Her parents refusing to marry their daughter to the Maharaja, the girl was kept under restraint in the Palace, where she eventually died in captivity.

(l) Another Muslim nautch girl, Mogaljan, was forcibly detained in fort, under similar circumstances in spite of the protests of her parents. She also died in Maharaja's captivity.

(m) The Maharaja keeps another Muslim nautch girl, named Amirjan in the fort and does not allow her to go back to her home on the false plea, that she was a mistress of his father. The protests of Amirjan's parents have not been heeded.

(n) A deputation of some respectable Mussalmans waited on the Politieal Agent, Phulkian states, requesting him

to intervene and secure the release of the Muslim girls who were being forcibly kept by the Maharaja, for immoral purposes.

(o) Some time ago the Maharaja forcibly abducted one Kesar, the wife of a poor peasant of the state. Her husband was given a sum of Rs. 10,000 as the price of his wife, and threatened to be put to death if he ever afterwards attempted to claim back his wife. It is a fact that the Maharaja later married Kesar, and moved the British Government to recognise her offspring as legitimate.

(p) The daughter of a Banya shopkeeper of Junga State (near Simla), was forcibly abducted by the Maharaja and is now in his Palace. The complaints of the father are alleged to have been disregarded by the British authorities on the ground, that he had been given a large sum of money by the Maharaja as the price of his daughter.

(q) The Maharaja made immoral proposals to one Mrs. Zohra an actress of the Alfred Theatrical Co., which was on a visit to Patiala on the invitation of the Maharaja. The proprietor of the Company (Mr. Khatao) and the husband of the actress had to seek the protection of the Political Agent, as their life and honour were in danger, at the hands of the Maharaja.

(r) The twelve years old daughter of one Capt. Gurdial Singh Dhak died as the cause of a criminal intercourse forced on her by the Maharaja.

(s) Four Rajput girls, who were compelled to lead an immoral life by the Maharaja, tried to escape from the Palace; while they were slipping down the walls of the Maharaja's palace, they were arrested by the police and put back into the Palace, in spite of their protests and the protests of the people who had gathered on

the scene of the occurence. The same day the unfortunate girls were burnt alive in the palace and no trace left of them.

(t) Miss Mackey, daughter of an old servant of the state, complained to the Political Agent, Phulkian States, that after the death of her father, the Maharaja made immoral overtures to her and her life and honour were not safe. The Maharaja had to pay a large sum to the girl as compensation, and she was allowed to leave the State.

(u) It is a matter of common knowledge that the Maharaja had illicit connection with his cousin (daughter of the chief of Shahzadpore), as the result of which she became pregnant. The Maharaja and the girl's father, thereupon, tried to bring upon abortion of the child. As the crime was contemplated in British India, the Police getting scent of it duly warned the father of the girl to beware of the legal consequences if the offence was committed. The Maharaja and the chief of Shahzadpore, thereupon hastily married the girl to the son of a well-known Punjab Sikh and the child was born before the usual period of nine months.

(v) One Ganesho of Chail Hills, in Patiala State territory, was forcibly abducted by Sardar Jiwan Singh of Shahzadpore, uncle of the Maharaja, with His Highness the Maharaja's knowledge and connivance. The woman's husband complained to the Deputy Commissioner, Simla, that she was being forcibly detained by the Maharaja. Eventually a sum of Rs. 1,000 was paid to the husband by the officials of the Patiala state and the matter was hushed up. Later, however, Ganesho reported to the British Police at Ambala, where she was being kept by her abducter, that she was being harassed by the Maharaja's officials and that her life was in dan-

ger. Soon after this report the unfortunate woman died under suspicious circumstances.

(w) When the Maharaja visited England in connection with his cricket team, it was reported to the police that he frequented disreputable quarters and led a notoriously immoral life.

(x) At Simla the Maharaja's immoral conduct gave rise to scandals of a grave character, and for sometime the British Government took steps to curtail his visits to the summer capital of India.

(y) During the Maharaja's pleasure trip to Kashmere one Pandit Harimohan complained to the British resident in Kashmere that, by orders of the Maharaja, his wife was forcibly taken away in broad daylight by Maharaja's men to Maharaja's boat for immoral purposes. Eventually the Maharaja paid the sum of Rs. 10,000 to the husband of the victim to hush up the matter.

(z) The licentiousness and debased habits of the Maharaja have for many years been a standing menace to respectable women in the state; and it is a notorious fact that the honour of no woman, who has the misfortune of being young and beautiful, is safe at Patiala.

4. That the present administration of the state amounts to a veritable reign of terror in which the honour and liberty of no man who has displeased the Maharaja or his henchmen is safe. From amongst the more glaring cases of respectable men who have been locked up in prison in utter disregard of law and justice, the petitioners beg to mention only a few which have created a stir in Patiala:

(a) General Sardar Bakhshish Singh, Sardar Bahadur, Commander-in-Chief, Patiala Army,

(b) Colonel Sardar Jewan Singh, Dewan Bahadur, Patiala State,

(c) Sardar Nanak Singh, Superintendent, Police; Officer in Charge, C. I. D.

(d) Sardar Gamdur Singh, Private Secretary,

(e) Pandit Rup Lal, Superintendent, Foreign office,

(f) Sardar Narain Singh, Superintendent, Chail,

(g) Major Sardar Kishen Singh, Officer Deori Mubarik,

(h) Sardar Hamir Singh, Secretary Historical Department,

(i) Sardar Kishan, Sardar Deori,

(j) Sardar Sewa Singh, Jathedar, Akal Takhat.

5. That the Maharaja squanders away lacks of rupees annually to satisfy his immoral whims, and the officials of the state are not unoften supported and promoted to high posts not on the score of merit, but because they directly or indirectly minister to the Maharaja's vices. The result is that the Maharaja is incapable of properly administering the State. The petitioners beg leave to quote a few of the many instances in which disreputable men have been given an asylum in Patiala and appointed to important offices by the Maharaja :

(a) One Chatterjee, who had been dismissed by His Highness the Maharaja of Kapurthala for treachery and misconduct was employed by the Maharaja of Patiala soon after his dismissal from Kapurthala.

(b) Similarly one Raghunath Singh, who had been dismissed by the Maharaja of Jind, was given an appointment by the Maharaja of Patiala.

(c) One Jiwanlal, an Inspector of Police in the Punjab who was dismissed by the Punjab Government for being dishonest and corrupt in his work, was appointed by the Maharaja to an important office in the state.

(d) One Madholal, a Sub-inspector in the Punjab police who was prosecuted at Lahore for smuggling cocaine and was later dismissed by the Punjab Government, was likewise employed in Patiala.

6. That as a result of the misgovernment, extravagance, oppression and immoral conduct of the chief the administration of the State is, the petitioners submit, in an extremely disreputable condition, as would be evident from the following facts :

(a) Adequate arrangements do not exist for the education of the people, and the population is steeped in illiteracy and ignorance. The expenditure on education is extremely inadequate; and institutions maintained at head quarters by the state are simply intended to serve as a spectacular show to deceive the British Government and the outside world.

(b) As compared with the preceding decade, during the last fifteen years, the amount spent from the state revenues on public works and roads has dwindled down ten times; while the expenditure on building royal palaces and furnishing them has gone up fifty times.

(c) A substantial portion of the money formerly spent by the state for public charities and religious endownments is now used by the Maharaja for his personal needs; and the help received by the religious institutions,—Hindu, Muhammadan and Sikh—has either been altogether stopped or substantially reduced. To give only two glaring instances, the building of the 'Victoria Diamond Jubilee Library,' founded by the late Maharaja to comemorate the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria of blessed memory, and the building of the Victoria Memorial Poor House, established by public subscriptions on the death of the Queen Empress, have both been appropriated by the Maharaja for his personal use; the former forms part of the Palace while the latter is used by the Maharaja as his stables.

(d) The incidence of direct taxation per head is now almost ten times of what it was before the present Maharaja's reign, inspite of the fact that the population has greatly

decreased in the interval. The enormous increase in the taxation has been accompanied by a steady deterioration in the administration of the State.

(e) In order to preserve wild animals for Shikar, the Maharaja has promulgated new game laws, which are extremely prejudicial to the poor peasants, who are prohibited by law from killing the animals which are permitted to roam at large and destroy their crops. Sometime back the Maharaja let loose in the jungles many ferocious tigers for shooting; and these tigers have killed many human beings and cattle living within a considerable distance of the game preserves. The Maharaja's game department and dog kennel swallows up lakhs of rupees every year.

(f) The extravagance of the Maharaja has brought the state to the verge of bankruptcy. The public debt of the state now amounts to about a hundred times of what it was when the Maharaja assumed charge of the state. As against this the amount of the Government of India and other valuable securities held by the State has dwindled down to the vanishing point.

(g) A recent instance of the reckless extravagance of the Maharaja is his expenditure of over two lakhs of rupees on the purchase and setting up in his Palace apparatus for physical exercise.

(h) The efficiency of the public services has immensely deteriorated and corruption is rampant in every department owing to Maharaja not being able to find time from his licentious engagements to supervise the affairs of the state. The Maharaja's hobbies and immoral whims swallowing up a large proportion of the revenue, the services are grossly underpaid, and corruption, nepotism and inefficiency prevail in all departments of the State.

(i) Very little attention is paid to public health and the rate of mortality amongst the people of the state is very much higher than that in similarly situated areas in the British India and other progressive states.

(j) There are no representative institutions whatever in the state; and complete autocracy prevails, the people having no means whatsoever to get their legitimate grievances redressed or improve their miserable lot. The Maharaja treats the state as his personal estate, from which he may derive as much money for his personal luxuries as he can.

7. That several times the complaints of the licentiousness, extravagance and incompetence of the Maharaja have been brought to the notice of the Government of India. From time to time the high officials of the state have reported to the Indian Government about the Maharaja's mal-administration and immoral conduct. It is believed that Col. Abdul Majid Khan (late Foreign Minister of Patiala), Nawab Sir Zulfiqar Ali Khan (late Chief Minister), Hon. Sirdar Jogindersingh (late Home Minister), Khalifa Hamid Hussain (Late Revenue Minister), Mr. Warburton (late Inspector General of Police) and Sir Daya Kishan Kaul (Late Prime Minister) are amongst those who have at one time or another submitted such reports to the Government. Numerous representations have also been made by the people of the state to the Viceroy during the last twenty years complaining of the oppression of the Maharaja.

8. That the liberty of the press and platform does not exist in Patiala state. So far not a single newspaper has been allowed to be published in the Patiala state territory. Newspapers published outside the State, if they criticise the administration, are placed under a ban and not permitted to circulate in the State. Nor are public speakers from outside allowed to address meetings in the Patiala State without permission of the State officials, which permission is in all cases reluctantly given and is

always refused when it is apprehended that the speakers would not say what was agreeable to the officials.

9. That the Indian Government more than once contemplated taking action against the Maharaja, and in the times of Lord Minto's Viceroylty in India, the Government held its hand simply because the Maharaja promised to reform himself and improve his administration This, the petitioners beg to submit, the Maharaja has signally failed to do.

10. That, on the contrary, the Maharaja has been emboldened by the passivity of the Government of India. He openly boasts that owing to his War services, which were no greater than those of other Indian Princes and for which no less credit is due to the people of Patiala, and owing to other services rendered by him to the Government of India as well as on account of his lavish hospitality towards British officials, the British Government will not touch him, whatever iniquities he may perpetrate against his subjects.

11. That the petitioners place no credence whatsoever on the aforementioned boasts of the Maharaja; and firnly believe in the sense of justice of the British Government. The petitioners are prepared to prove to the hilt every allegation made by them if an independ nt and impartial inquiry is instituted into the conduct and administration of the Maharaja, and if they are assured immunity from the Maharaja's oppression for bringing to light his terrible atrocities and horrible immorality. The petitioners most humbly pray that Your Lordship may be pleased to intervene and rescue the subjects of the state fro n their pitiable condition by removing the present Maharaja from the State, for which act of justice and humanity the British Government and Your Excellency will earn the ever lasting gratitude of 15 lakhs of human beings, who are suffering unmentionable wrongs and unmitigated oppression under the tyrannical and imm ral regime of the present Maharaja of Patiala.

Praying for Your Lordship's long life and prosperity:

Beg to remain,

Your Lordship's

Most humble servants,

1. Prem Singh of Tehsil Sunam, Patiala State.
2. Nand Singh of Tehsil Sunam, „ „
3. Bhagwan Singh of Langowal, „ „
4. Churh Singh of Tehsil Sarhand, „ „
5. Sarwan Singh of Tensil Sarhand, „ „
6. Sant Singh of Tehsil Rajpura, „ „
7. Amar Singh of Tehsil Mansa, „ „
8. Kishan Singh of Tehsil Mansa, „ „
9. Sital Singh of Tehsil Sarhand, „ „
10. Sajjan Singh of Tehsil Mansa. „ „

Appendix D

EVIDENCE IN SUPPORT OF ALLEGATIONS ON EACH ONE OF THE COUNTS

EVIDENCE IN SUPPORT OF ALLEGATIONS ON EACH ONE OF THE COUNTS

COUNT ONE : SARDAR LAL SINGH'S MURDER

Evidence in Support

(1) *Sardar Jay Singh's Statement, Ex.* 38.

(2) *Sardar Nanak Singh's own statement, Ex.* 38*A*.

(3) *Judgement in S. Nanak Singh's case in Patiala Court, Ex.* 38*B*.

(4) *Memorial of S. Nanak Singh to the Viceroy, Ex.* 38*C*.

(5) *Draft of divorce-deed in the hand-writing of Sir Kishen Kaul, Ex.* 38*D*.

(6) *Two letters of Sir Kishen Kaul, Ex.* 38*E & F*.

(7) *Two letters of Sardar Sunder Singh Majithia, Ex.* 38*G & H*.

(8) *Letters of Gurnam Singh, the father-in-law of the Maharaja, Ex.* 38*i*.

1. Sardar Jay Singh's Statement (Ex. 38.)

Jai Singh S/O Prem Singh, 46 years old, sikh, trader, of Gujarkhan Dt. Rawalpindi.

1. Nanak Singh is my sister's son. I am in charge of his interest.

2. I produce the following documents :

(1) A copy of the statement of S. Nanak Singh which he wrote in his own hand-writing (Ex. 38 A.)

(2) A copy of the Judgement in Nanak Singh's case in Patiala Court. (Ex. 38 B.)

(3) A copy of the Memorial of S. Nanak Singh to the Viceroy. (Ex. 38 C.)

(4) A copy of the draft of divorce-deed in the hand of Sir Daya Kishan Kaul. (Ex. D.)

(5-6) Copies of two letters of Sir Daya Kishan Kaul. (Ex. 38 E. F.)

(7-8) Copies of two letters of S. Sundar Singh Majithia. (Ex. 38 G. H.)

(9) Letters of Gurnam Singh, father-in-law of the Maharaja. (Ex. 38 I.)

3. Nanak Singh had left certain papers with me. One Gyani Hamir Singh, a man of Sir Daya Kishan used to say to me that if I handed over those papers to Maharaja, Nanak Singh would be released. I gave the following original documents to one Gulab Singh, photo copies of which I still had with me. He took these documents to Maharaja.

(1) Original draft of divorce-deed in the hands of Sir Daya Kishan Kaul.

(2-3) Two letters of Sir Daya Kishan Kaul.

4. Nanak Singh was still not released. I had some more papers still with me. I had also photo copies of the original letters given to the Maharaja. They are as under :

(1-2) Nanak Singh's two diaries. I had got them read by S. Sant Singh, the father-in-law of Nanak Singh. These diaries contained all details of everything of Nanak Singh, more particularly in the matter of Dalip Kaur.

(3-4-5) The photo copies of the original letters given to the Maharaja.

(6) One register of Nanak Singh's work.

(7) Original plates of the photo prints of the letters.

(8) There was a bundle of letters of which some were in the hand-writing of the Maharaja.

For all these papers negotiations were continued. Sardar Sir Sundar Singh Majithia took part in the affair. I gave all these papers to him. He promised me that he would get Nanak Singh released on one hand and then hand the papers to the Maharaja. Papers were however given over to the Maharaja and Nanak Singh was not released. I used to go to Sardar Majithia very often in connection with this matter.

6. Once he gave me a letter for Sir Daya Kishan. Sir Daya Kishan gave a reply in a sealed cover and said to me that the cover contained a cheque of Rs. 40,000/- on Alliance Bank. I handed the same cover over to Sardar Majithia.

7. After that Majithia wrote to me and also told me orally that when Government asked Nanak Singh, he should say that the Maharaja was innocent and everything was done by himself of his own accord. I instructed Nanak Singh accordingly. He did also the same way, and still he is not released.

8. He is in Jail for these 12 years. He is undergoing all sorts of violence.

Dated the 30th December, 1929.

❧

2. Sardar Nanak Singh's own statement (Ex. 38A)

Gujar Khan : D/. 12-8-75

To properly understand what follows, it is necessary, to say a few words regardiag Lal Singh and Dalip Kaur.

Sardar Lal Singh was the Son of S. Hira Singh, Jat sikh of the village Raju Mazarya, Patiala State, and was the cousin of Sardar Gurnam Singh, Home secretary of Patiala. At first he joined the Sangrur army as a bugler, but after the marriage of S. Gurnam Singh's daughter to the Maharaja of Patiala, he got employment in Patiala army as an N. C. O, and was later on

promoted to the rank of a Lieutenant. He was occupying this post at the time of his murder.

Dalip Kaur's father S. Jagat Singh of Abbuwal was a Subedar in tbe Sangrur army. As both the families were living together in Sangrur, they became acquainted with one another and Sardarani Gurnam Singh's relations with S. Jagat Singh's family members grew vary intimate. On the death of the first wife of Sardar Lal Singh, he was married to Dalip Kaur, evidently through the efforts of Sardarani Gurnam Singh. In the summer of Sam. 1968 when Maharaja Kishan Garh was putting up in the Patiala House at Simla, the Maharaja of Patiala was himself living at his Bungalow Mount Everest. In the same year when S. Lal Singh, after Muklawa ceremony brought Dalip kaur to his house for the first time, she was straight away taken to the Maharaja in the Mount Everest It is said that the Maharaja fell in love with her at the first sight and he kept her there throughout the whole season. In the beginning, the Sangrur Maharani thinking that like other girls the Maharaja will give her up too after some time, did not mind it, but when she saw that the situation was becoming serious, she mentioned the fact to her mother. After the summer when they returned to Patiala, S. Lal Singh was persuaded to take Dalip Kaur to their native village Raju Mazarya, but at this the Maharaja was greatly upset and restless. His Highness was persistently pressing the Sangrur Maharani to get back Dalip Kaur. At first she protested and refused to accede to his wishes, but later on she was prevailed upon and Dalip Kaur was again brought back to the Royal Palace. She was regularly employed as a female attendant to Her Highness the Sangrur Maharani. This state of affairs continued for three years. During this period she gave birth to a daughter. After this the Maharaja began to love her very strongly, but the Sangrur Maharani was proving a great obstacle in their way. Dalip Kaur became pregnant for the second time and she again left for Raju Mazarya. The Maharaja seriously doubted that her enemies might even poison and kill her

there. Accordingly Sardar Kishen Singh went in a motor car and brought Dalip Kaur back and put her in the Moti Garden and it is here that she gave birth to another female child. I got service in Patiala in Sam. 1970, and did not know anything of this affair till 1973. In that year the Maharaja was living at Mussorie Hills and it was there that he mentioned this fact to me for the first time. His Highness bitterly complained against S. Gurnam Singh that at first he himself sent her to the palace, and now when he had begun to love her so deeply that he was unable to bear even a moment's separation, Sardar Gurnam Singh was doing his best to prevent her from coming to the palace.

After two hours' conversation the Maharaja disclosed his real object and said that so long as Lal Singh was living, there could be no peace for him. I was stunned to hear this from his lips. After two-three minutes, since he once more uttered the same words and enquired of me the reason of my reticence, I replied that since he was a great benedictory chief, he should not do it so light-heartedly. There are serious dangers in this course, but my suggestion was a cry in the wilderness. His Highness insisted that I should make arrangements to clear his way by disposing of Lal Singh. At first I hesitated, but then, thinking that since the Maharaja was bent upon doing it, he may mention it to somebody else, and if Lal Singh was murdered the Maharaja may be involved in this affair, I consented and assured the Maharaja that I would do my best to achieve this object. As soon as I said this, he at once sent for his cheque book and gave me a cheque for Rs. 7000/- to the Amballa Cantt. Branch of the Alliance Bank of Simla. I returned from Mussorie with the cheque and got it cashed from Ambala Cantt. This cheque, which was of Course endorsed by me, may even, now be traced in the Amballa Branch of the Alliance Bank. I knew that the Maharaja was not a strong-willed person and when after sometime he would cease to love Dalip Kaur, he would himself ask me not to carry out his instruction. With this object in view I simply tried to pass away the time.

In January 1915 Dalip Kaur told the Maharaja that the Sangrur Maharani had tauntingly said that Dalip Kaur might live in the Royal Palace as long as she chose, but she could, under no circumstances, become the Maharani. Whether this was a fact or whether Dalip Kaur herself manufactured it, I cannot say definitely; but after hearing this the Maharaja got furious. His Highness at once sent for me and enquired of me as to the progress of the project to murder Lal Singh. I replied that since I was more or less a stranger to that place, I tried but I failed. On hearing this he was greatly disappointed and asked me to withdraw. In the same year the Princes' Conference was held in Patiala. After the Conference was over, and on the night when the Maharaja of Jamnagar, who was the last Prince to leave, was preparing to go, Maharaja of Patiala called Sardar Gurnam Singh in the Moti Bag and pressed him that since His Highness was in great love with Dalip Kaur, he should persuade Lal Singh to divorce his wife; but Gurnam Singh plainly refused to be a party to such a matter and thereby he incurred the perpetual displeasure of the Maharaja. On the next day I was again called and was admonished for not properly managing the affairs. I was told that in case, I could not arrange for his murder I might, at least, manage to persuade Lal Singh to divorce his wife, Dalip Kaur. I myself was strongly of opinion that there was no harm if Lal Singh divorced his wife. I tried to sound Lal Singh through two reliable men, but Lal Singh plainly refused to agree to the proposal. I informed the Maharaja accordingly. After this we decided that a false divorce-deed be obtained from the Magistrate of Dhuri. For this purpose Sardar Sukhdev Singh was transferred from Narnaul to Dhuri. I arranged to get stamped paper from Nau Lal Stamp dealer. While we were making these arrangements, the Maharaja mentioned this matter to Sir Diya Kishal Kaul. He welcomed it as a God-send opportunity, because it gave him a convenient handle by which he could always keep the Maharaja in his hands. First of all he managed to send S.

Gurnam Singh to the battlefield and when he was gone he called S. Lal Singh and asked him to divorce his wife, but Sardar Lal Singh asked the Dewan Saheb, if next day the Maharaja fell in love with his (Dewan's) wife could he too agree to divorce his wife. The Dewan Sahib, of course, could not say anything. The Dewan Sahib pressed Lal Singh three or four times again, once even seriously threatening him, but Lal Singh was adamant and did not yield to his persuasions or threats. When all attempts failed to get divorce from Lal Singh, the Maharaja thought that there was no other course, but to marry her. Accordingly with the help of Sardar Deorhi a marriage ceremony was performed with Naz, Anwar, and Dalip Kaur simultaneously, and thus without getting divorce and even without the tacit consent of Lal Singh, Dalip Kaur his wife was made the Maharani.

When Sardar Lal Singh came to know of it, naturally, he was upset and he said that he would get back his wife through the British Government. When the Maharaja heard that Lal Singh was determined to move the British Government, His Highness called me and told me that somehow or other Lal Singh must be finished. Like the previous occasions I put off the matter saying of course that I would see to it.

One day the Maharaja was standing with Col. Jogender Singh with two pistols in his hands. His Highness called me inside and handing over both the pistols said "Keep it with you for the present and give them to the man whom I will name." I took the pistols and came home. After a few days the Maharaja ordered me to give one of those pistols to one Ujjagar Singh, Electrical Engineer. After recording the report in the City Kotwali of Patiala, I gave one pistol to Ujjagar Singh. On the 8th Bishak, my own orderly came to my house and informed me that the Maharaja wanted me immediately. I at once hastened to the Moti Bagh, where the Maharaja was already waiting for me. S. Ujjagar Singh was also there with the Maharaja. As soon as I came there, the Maharaja asked me to immediately proceed to

Dhuri and get from Ghamdur Singh a written petition asking permission to reside in Patiala. I was greatly surprised to know this because the Maharaja refused to allow Ghamdur Singh to reside in Patiala-so much so that even the British Government failed to get that permission for Ghamdur Siugh. The Maharaja took me aside and told me that Lal Singh and Ghamdur Singh were very fast friends, and S. Ujjagar Singh assured him that Ghamdur Singh would be able to persuade Lal Singh to divorce his wife. Accordingly I reached Dhuri and saw Ghamdur Singh. Taking the petition from Ghamdur Singh I returned to Patiala on the following day. The application was granted and permission was given to Ghamdur Singh to reside in Patiala and on the 12th Bishak Sam. 1975 Ghamdur Singh came to Patiala and insisted that the Maharaja should personally give that order to him. I conveyed his wishes to His Highness.

On the 16th Bisakh His Highness inspected the accounts of the C. I. D. and gave me a certificate for my good work and keeping accounts properly and asked me to take Ghamdur Singh and wait for His Highness before the poor House at 8 P. M. At 8-30 P. M. on the same night a dinner was to be given on the eve of the Maharaja's departure for the front. Exactly at 8 P. M. His Highness' car arrived and passed on to the Cavalry, but His Highness shouted to the C. I. D. to keep to their places. After going to the Bungalow of S. Bhagwan Singh, His Highness returned within a few minutes. Tika Ram Singh of Shazad Pur, Kanwar Ram Narain Singh of Patiala and Kanwar Birender Singh were accompanying the Maharaja in the same car. His Highness alighted from the car and took both of us aside. Ghamdur Singh presented nazar to His Highness. After accepting the nazar, His Highness came to the real object. At first conversation was about the divorce, but then His Highness addressing Ghamdur Singh said that Nanak Singh was a coward. and asked him if he could finish Lal Singh. I repeated the same objection and said that no good would come out of it; but His Highness rebuked me and took Ghamdur Singh a few paces apart from me. After

talking in private for 10 or 15 minutes they came back to me and the Maharaja, in a loud voice so that I may also hear, said to Ghamdur Singh that I would give him the draft of the divorce deed, and that he should do his utmost to get it signed by Lal Singh. As the Maharaja was absorbed in the thoughts of murder of Lal Singh, after getting into the Motor Car he again loudly said that by his return the thorn must be removed from the way. "All right, Sir" said Ghamdur Singh and saluted His Highness. The above-mentioned thing happened before my very eyes, and I have heard the final order with my own ears. Thus was hatched the conspiracy to murder Lal Singh. Although His Highness took extraordinary precautions, witnesses to this conspiracy are available even up to this time, and may prove dangerous to His Highness at any time.

To resume the story again, after the dinner, the Maharaja left for Simla the same night ordering me to wait for His Highness on the 3rd day at Ambala. On the next day Ghamdur Singh told me that divorce affair is all a ... ... The real object was to murder Lal Singh, and H. H. had given him (Ghamdur Singh) clear orders for his murder to which I replied that he might do as he pleased; so far as I was concerned I was not going to take part in this affair. Ghamdur Singh asked me to help Sardar Nihal Kaur to get her property from Col. Gurbox Singh. "Well" said Ghamdur Singh. "you are accompanying H H. to Bombay, are not you ? You please get straight away an order from H. H. direct to the effect that one half of the moveable and immoveable property should be given to Sardar Nihal Kaur. Furthermore also try to get the share of the produce of the land for the last five or six years." On the 3rd day as ordered by H. H. I reached Ambala. When the Special from Simla carrying the Maharaja arrived, a large number of Patiala officials and gentry presented nazars, and garlanded the Maharaja. When the train was about to start, the H. H. took out all the wreathes from his neck and in the presence of all H. H. himself garlanded me. On the second day we reached

Bombay. H. H. called Sir Daya Kishan Kaul, and in my presence ordered him to prepare the draft of the divorce deed himself and give it to me so that I might give the same to Sardar Ghamdur Singh. I could not say how the Maharaja had taken Sir Daya Kishan Kaul into the confidence regarding the affair, but on that day no other talk except that of divorce took place in my presence. After Daya Kishan Kaul had left, H. H. and myself were sitting in the dining room. I presented the application of S. Ghamdur Singh. H. H. remarked that it was not proper to pass an order for the division of the property straight away without referring it to the lower authorities. But as it was a special case, H. H. at once called in Buta Ram and left an order to the Judicial Secretary. H. H. also asked me to impress upon Ghamdur Singh that if by his return from England that work was not done, H. H. would be very much angry with him. I submitted to H. H. that "In the first place murder in itself is a hedious crime and in the second place Your Highness is a ruler of a State. In case it is proved there will be an end to Your Highness as well as to the State." H. H. replied that he had studied the Gita and there was no use of talking about merit or sin. While talking in this strain H. H began to weep and addressing me said : "Well, Nanak Singh, if, before starting from England, I do not hear the news of Lal Singh's murder, I will drown myself by jumping overboard the ship." This pathetic appeal had the desired effect on me and from that moment I too was converted, but I desire to tell the whole story plainly, that I joined this conspiracy not from any monetary consideration or from any other worldly greed. I would not bear the miserable plight of the Maharaja and I was convinced that in case Lal Singh was not killed the Maharaja would certainly kill himself. Now, whatever the world may say, I cannot help saying this that the Maharaja succeeded in dragging me into the conspiracy to murder Lal Singh. Although personally I was against it, nay I was thoroughly afraid of it, I promised the Maharaja that I would tell Ghamdur Singh to do this work and I would help him to the best of my

ability. The Maharaja told me that as soon as the news of Lal Singh's murder wonld reach him in England, he would at once wire Sardar Gurnam Singh to proceed to France from Mesopotomia lest he should come to Patiala and help the investigations. H. H. also gave orders to Sardar Kishan Singh that if in addition to Rs. 7000/- for which I had already got a cheque, I required more money, that money should be given to me and afterwards H. H. also instructed Chanan Singh Nafar that if and when I required men they will at once be placed at my disposal. The next day the Maharaja left for England and we all returned to Patiala. On the way Dewan Daya Kishan Kaul asked me to see him at Patiala and that he would give me the required draft for divorce. On reaching Patiala I told the whole story to Ghamdur Singh. I could not see Dewan Sahib in Patiala as after two days stay only he went to Chail. From Chail Dewan Daya Kishan Kaul sent the draft for the divorce which was written in his own handwriting. He also under a separate cover sent me a letter asking me to get this draft signed by Lal Singh. Some days afterwards Ujagar Singh came and told me that Ghamdur Singh was bent upon killing Lal Singh and he was nowadays searching for professional murderers. On hearing this I was alarmed and we both went to the house of Sardar Ghamdur Singh and we both tried to dissuade him from committing the murder for the present and that he should at least wait for the return of H. H., Ghamdur Singh replied that if he did not do this the Maharaja would be angry with him and said: "I have with great difficulty got, my property this time, and if he gets angry with me second time, God knows what may happen." I tried to satisfy him saying that just as I had already managed to pass two years, I would again pacify the Maharaja; but he would not listen to me. At last he got angry and said that if I was afraid of it I need not join them in the matter. On this I left him and returned to my house. If luck had favoured me I would have completely withdrawn from this affair, but I could not abstain from taking interest in this matter. Once Ghamdur Singh sent me a word that he was prepared to wait upto H. H.'s return.

I was anxious to save Lal Singh and thinking that if he went away somewhere else his life might be saved. I wrote to Gurnam Singh in Mesopotomia that Lal Singh's life was in danger and that he should make some arrangements. This letter duly reached Gurnam Singh. In reply to it he wrote to me that he would manage, but fate had decreed otherwise. Mehra Jamadar Deori who was posted at the residence of Gurnam Singh had old connections with the family of Ghamdur Singh and it was through him that he generally sent for S. Lal Singh for interview. Ghamdur Singh told Lal Singh that it was through the help of the British Government that he had got permission to reside in Patiala, otherwise the Maharaja would not have allowed him to come to Patiala After two or three interviews Ghamdur Singh told Lal Singh if he wished, he (Ghamdur Singh) could get his wife through the British Government. Naturally Lal Singh welcomed the suggestion and began to make repeated requests to Ghamdur Singh to help him to get back his wife. Ghamdur Singh told Lal Singh that he would let him know after he had seen the Agent and that meanwhile he should keep it secret. He also told me that Lal Singh should not see him frequently, and that whenever he wanted to see him it should be done in a secret place. In these days through his cousin Ujagar Singh he sent for Harnam Singh of Kadon, the father-in-law of Ujagar Singh. He was also taken into confidence. They decided that since Nanak Singh is a coward the murder should be committed outside the Patiala state in the village Choral. Lal Singh had to go with Sardarni Gurnam Singh to Sangrur, but before leaving Patiala he saw Ghamdur Singh and told him to send him a word as soon as he would come back from the Agent and that he (Lal Singh) would come to the appointed place and time. It was further decided that Ghamdur Singh would send a man with a letter of cross mark and that Lal Singh would follow the man without informing anybody.

Sardar Ghamdur Singh had a Kothi at Jakhal near Choral, his own village. It was in this very Kothi that the material for murder was collected. Harnam Singh took with him

to Jakhal his two associates, Bhagwan Singh of Rampur Katni and Sada Singh Lumardar Bharthala. S. Ghamdur Singh sent Harnam Singh with a letter of cross mark. On seeing the letter S. Lal Singh without informing anybody else accompanied Harnam Singh to Jakhal. They reached Jakhal in the evening. Ghamdur Singh had already arranged that as soon as Lal Singh had come he would be taken to the well near his Kothi. They would continue to talk till it was dark, when a man from behind would attack him suddenly and would make him unconscious. Then he would be carried to the Kothi, murdered and burnt there and then. When S. Lal Singh got down at Jakhal he spent some minutes in walking on the Railway Platform. After that S. Lal Singh came out to the side of the Garden where S. Ghamdur Singh was standing. On meeting S. Ghamdur Singh asked him the reason of his delay at the Station to which Lal Singh said that he was talking to an acquaintance. This upset the whole arrangement. Ghamdur Singh's plan was that no one should know that Lal Singh had come to Choral that day. Now that somebody had come to know, he at once changed his mind and informed his men. Lal Singh spent the night with Ghamdur Singh at Choral. Ghamdur Singh gave the fictitious account of his interview with the Agent. Next day Lal Singh returned to Sangrur. Ghamdur Singh asked him to see him at Dhuri Railway Station with the idea that while talking he would take Lal Singh away from the Station and there Harnam Singh and others would kill him in such a manner that it would appear that Lal Singh had been drowned in the canal. As arranged between them Lal Singh went to Dhuri. Ghamdur Singh too reached there in time and every other arrangement was complete. But as Lal Singh had to catch the train for Sangrur, he refused to go outside the Railway Station. After sometime Lal Singh left for Sangrur and Ghamdur Singh and others returned to their place. By this time S. Lal Singh returned to Patiala with Sardarni Gurnam Singh and therefore it was decided that he should be killed in Patiala.

One day Ujagar Singh came to me and asked for the automatic pistol of 38 bores for Ghamdur Singh. I refused to give another pistol saying that as desired by the Maharaja I had already given him one pistol. On my refusal to give him this pistol, he gave his father's pistol of 22 bores. Now the question to be decided was how and where Lal Singh should be murdered and how he should be called, so that his family people might not know of it. After much consideration it was decided that he should be murdered near the well of Sardar Gurnam Singh and that he should be asked to come on telephone in such a way that his people should not know where he had gone.

On the 28th March Sam. 1975 Dula Singh of Dadon reached Patiala and informed Ghamdur Singh that Harnam Singh with another companion will reach Patiala soon. On the next day Harnam Singh and Kala Singh of Nanod reached Patiala. One came on horseback while the other was riding a camel. Harnam Singh leaving both the animals behind the bandh of the rivulet under the charge of Kala Singh came to the house of Ujagar Singh. Ujagar Singh gave to Harnam Singh one gun and some cartridges and asked him to hand over the same to Kala Singh and come back immediately. At about 6 P. M. S. Ghamdur Singh called Lal Singh on the Phone and spoke in a changed voice. When Lal Singh came on the phone. Ghamdur Singh said that Narain Singh contractor of Delhi was speaking and that he had just came by the evening train and that he was leaving the same evening and Lal Singh should see him immediately at his residence in Lahori Gate. On hearing this message S. Lal Singh took his cycle and started towards the Lahori Gate. When he came in front of the bungalow of Ghamdur Singh. Harnam Singh who was posted there by Ghamdur Singh was waiting for him. Harnam Singh told Lal Singh that the message, that had been sent on behalf of S. Narain Singh was in fact, sent by Ghamdur Singh. He had just come from the Agent and wanted to talk to him and that he was waiting for him at the Railway crossing. They saw S. Ghamdur Singh waiting for them. He said that he wanted to talk

to Lal Singh in seclusion. Lal Singh said that Gurnam Singh's garden near the Sarhand Gate is quite a secluded place where we can sit and talk freely. See how his fate itself was leading him to destruction. This was exactly what Ghamdur Singh wanted. He asked Harnam Singh to accompany Lal Singh and go to the garden by the canal road and he himself went to the canal bund and from their he signalled Lal Singh to go there. Owing to heat Lal Singh had already taken off his turban and put it on the wall. Leaving the turban there he went there bareheaded. Ghamdur Singh and Lal Singh sat down and began to talk. Ghamdur Singh was waiting for the dark. After an hour's conversation Lal Singh saw Kala Singh and Dulla Singh. Lal Singh enquired as to who those men were. Ghamdur Singh said that they were grass-cutters. When it grew dark, on the prearranged signal Harnam Singh attacked Lal Singh from behind. While struggling both fell down in the canal. By this time Kala Singh and Dulla Singh also reached the spot. At this time Lal Singh shouted to Ghamdur Singh that he had deceived him by posing as a friend. He also cried for help two or three times, but Harnam Singh strangled him very tightly. Lal Singh was a strong man, he tried to free himself. If at this moment Ghamdur Singh had not fired at him with a pistol, it was just possible he might have run away from them. Ghamdur Singh fired his pistol four times, twice at his head and twice at the chest. This finished Lal Singh and after a few minutes he died. The dead body was tied in clothes and put on the camel. When they reached the other canal, Ghamdur Singh went to Patiala and others taking the body with them went towards the village Kadon and burnt it somewhere in the way. But as desired by the Maharaja and as instructed by Ghamdur Singh, Harnam Singh had taken out his ring. On the night of occurence Dewan Diya Kishan Kaul and Kishan Singh Lasewala arrived at Patiala from Chail. Although I have no reasonable grounds, but I doubted that Ghamdur Singh had kept the Dewan well-posted of all the developments from time to time. At about 10 P. M. Ujagar Singh informed

me that Lal Singh had been murdered. Although I was already prepared to hear such a news, but I did not think that it would come that very night. As Ghamdur Singh himself told me afterwards, he purposely did not think it proper to infrom me lest I should out of fear prove an obstacle in their way or I should effect some arrests immediately.

It was now four months and a half since Lal Singh was murdered, but from that time my happiness and sleep had completely gone. I felt very miserable and even now whenevar I think of the murder of innocent Lal Singh, I shiver as if an electric spark passes through my body.

On the morning of 30th Harh Sam, 1975 at about 10 a. m., a servant of S. Gurnam Singh came to me with a report that Lal Singh was missing. I directed him to the Kotwali for recording a report and myself went to see Dewan Diya Kishan Kaul. I cannot say how Dewan Diya Kishan Kaul know of it before I went there. He enquired all the details from me. The most amazing phase of our conversation was that both of us were trying to hide our secrets from each other. He gave me necessary instructions and apparently we started the investigations. Before his departure the Maharaja had given instructions to Lala Tara Chand Inspector General of Police in my presence that if any occurence took place in the family of S. Gurnam Singh he should take care of it and try to hush up that matter. Thus outwardly the investigations were vigorously going on, but as a matter of fact the case was being hushed. On the 3rd Sawan Dewan Saheb called me to his residence and offered me the post of the Inspector General together with the sum of Rupees fifty thousand on the condition that I should write a report against the Maharaja and hand over the file to him. The Dewan Sahib said that they would not in any way gain if the Maharaja was involved in the case in a court of law, but if they kept the file in their possession they would always be able to hold out the threat and thus keep the Maharaja in their hands. The Dewan Saheb would be secure in his post of a Minister and I in that of the Inspector General.

Although I had consented to become a party to the dirty conspiracy, but my conscience did not allow me to accept this offer and I quietly refused saying that he would consider the matter. But I was greatly alarmed that the life of H. H. was in danger. From the day of the murder I was always feeling that some calamity was imminent. As desired by the Maharaja, His Highness was informed of the murder by wire. H. H. wired Gurnam Singh to go to France from Mesopotomia, but Sardar Gurnam Singh ignoring that telegram came back to India. When the news of the murder reached the Maharaja in England, he celebrated the occasion by distributing prizes amongst his staff. Prizes of Rs. 1100/- each were given to Sher Singh Nafur, Tikka Raghunath Singh and Bishen Singh I was in a very awkward position. Sir Diya Kishan Kaul was trying to prepare a file against the Maharaja and the Punjab C. I. D. had deputed their own officers for the investigation and Mr. Newman was working in his own way. S. Tara Chand Inspector General plainly told Sir Diya Kishan Kaul that the murder had been committed with the instigation of the Maharaja himself, but he could not give its details as to how and where it was committed. S Gurnam Singh did his utmost, but as all of us were spoiling the case how could he succeed? Once there was a strong rumour that the Maharaja was coming to Bombay. At this time S. Ghamdur Singh urged upon me and Ujagar Singh that we should go to Bombay and tell the Maharaja the whole story. We went to Bomday for this purpose but there was no information of his arrival. We therefore had to come back disappointed, but one week after our arrival in Patiala information was received that H. H. had reached Bombay. All of us including s Gurnam Singh went to Bombay to welcome the Maharaja. S. Gurnam Singh tendered his resignatiou then and there. As Sir Diya Kishan Kaul himself wanted this he frightened the Maharaja. When the dinner was ready, in addition to the Maharaja of Dhaulpore and Jamnagar, out of the whole staff H. H, only allowed me to dine with the royal party.

The rest of the staff took it very badly and myself felt awkward, but there was no other course except to obey the order. Although Gurnam Singh was responsible for creating some misunderstand ing with H. H. about me, but as I had the fullest confidence in the Maharaja I did not mind it. I tried to explain the whole matter in detail, but I could not get any suitable opportunity. In reality as I came to know subsequently, Sir Daya Kishan Kaul frightened the Maharaja by saying that the British Government suspected him for murder and that if H. H. freely mixed with me and others he (the Dewan) would not be able to save His Highness. H. H. was caught in the trap laid by the clever Brahman. The Dewan Saheb asked the Maharaja not to see me at all. We returned to Patiala and after staying there for a few days the Maharaja went to Chail. All the time I was trying to see the Maharaja so that H. H. may hear in detail the account of the murder. On the 29th Assuh I received a message on telephone from Sir Diya Kishan Kaul that H. H. wanted me there. On the next day I went to Chail.

There I saw quite a different scene. The Council was in session, and I was asked to give my statement about various matters. The Maharaja was himself present in the Council, but he would not even look at me. After giving my statements I came back to Patiala. I thought that since the Maharaja was playing in the hands of Sir Diya Kishan Kaul I was not safe, I packed up my things and came to Gujar Khan my native place, but Ghamdur Singh and others would not leave me. He wired me to see him at Lahore in the Bombay Hotel. When I saw him at Lahore in Bombay Hotel he pressed me to come back to Patiala to which I replied that I would let them know after further consideration. During these days Sir Diya Kishan Kaul asked me to give him all those letters which he had written me regarding the divorce affair, but I flatly refused to do so. Then I sent S. Mehtab Singh Sahni to Dewan Diya Kishan Kaul with a message that if no case was started against me I would be prepared to hand over these papers. Sir Diya Kishan Kaul assured

S. Mehtab Singh that he was my brother and that he would help me to the best of his ability.

Ujagar Singh wired me from Patiala that H. H. had gone to Dhaulpore and that Sir Diya Kishan Kaul had not accompanied him and I should see the Maharaja there. Taking Prabh Singh with me I went there. I put up in the Dak Bunglow and sent a word to the Maharaja that I wanted to see H. H.. He at first refused an interview saying that I should better see him at Patiala, but when I insisted he gave me a few moments. As the time was very short, I only said that Diya Kishan Kaul was trying to prepare a murder case against H. H. for he was trying to get a decent jagir for himself, but it appeared that Maharaja's mind was already poisoned. H. H. said that it was not true that Lal Singh had been murdered, that Diya Kishan kaul had assured him that we people were keeping Lal Singh hidden somewhere and that we were simply deceiving him. I replied that I wished that it was so, but the truth was that Lal Singh had been murdered. Thus when H. H. was assured that Lal Singh had been actually murdered, H. H. warmly thanked me although I was feeling ashamed of the dirty work we had done. Then the Maharaja enquired of me why I had left Patiala. H. H. swearing his father said that if I was to desert him who else would remain with him. On the 27th Kartak from Dhaulpore I came straight away to Patiala. At the time of writing these lines I had come to Gujar Khan to take my family, but as I had already often said I had been thoroughly upset since the day of murder, I was always feeling sorry that if I could postpone it for two-three years, why I joined it in the last resort. Sometimes I felt that I was not guility at all. The Maharaja and Dalip Kaur instigated and Ghamdur Singh and Harnam Singh and others committed the murder; but I was feeling always miserable and was expecting some calamity every moment. I felt that the murder of innocent Lal Singh always haunted me. Although I was neither the murderer nor the abettor and at the time of the murder I was absolutely unaware, but I felt the share of my responsibility in this affair. If I had

refused to join from the beginning, or if I had parted company with Ghamdur Singh and others after the matter was entrusted to them, I would have been not quilty. If I had been courageous enough and If I had not cared for my service, I would have certainly saved the life of Lal Singh. For these reasons I was also guility.

Out of the sum of Rs. 7000/- I returned the sum of Rs. 5300/- to the Maharaja at Dhaulpore for the expenses on murder were not very large. Ghamdur Singh either spent from his own pocket or from that money which was realised out of sale of the wheat of Col. Gurbox Singh, but still I sometimes doubted that I had joined this plot out of monetary considerations. The Maharaja at first refused to accept the balance of Rs. 5300/- which I offered him at Dhaulpore, because he wanted to present it as a prize. But I regarded even a single pie as a deadly poison. While we were struggling, the Maharaja Dhaulpore entered in the room and he saw the Maharaja putting the notes into his pocket. I even did not like to serve the Patiala Government, because the world will say that I had joined the plot for monetary gains. At first I joined the plot for postponing the murder. But thinking that meanwhile the Maharaja became so desperate that H. H. was even prepared to commit suicide, I joined it although even now I do not know what impelled me to do so. Now that the inevitable had happened, I must be prepared to suffer the consequences.

Although I was going to Patiala with my family in spite of the fact that I did not like to set my face towards that side, I doubted that I might not even reach Patiala. Dewan Diya Kishan Kaul's position had been considerably weakened by Lal Singh's murder because in K he was also charged of a similar crime. Although Ghamdur Singh assured me that Sir Diya Kishan Kaul was with them in this plot and he was aware of its details, but as besides his efforts to obtain divorce of his wife from Lal Singh, I had no direct knowledge of his complexity in the crime and I therefore, am unable to say anything definitely. As Diya Kishan Kaul was anxious to

make himself safe, and also to keep the Maharaja always in his hands. I have every hope that the case of Lal Singh's murder will in all probability, be started. If the case is started in my life-time I shall state the facts plainly and thus will satisfy my conscience. But if, as I think, I die immediately and case is started after that, it is possible that certain innocemt person may be punished. I have therefore recorded these facts and I am leaving them in a sealed envelope with my wife with the clear instructions that in my life-time she would not open it without my order nor shall she give it to anybody else. She shall regard these papers more precious than her life. In case I die and no case is started for two years this envelope should be burnt unopened. If the case is started, this envelope should be opened. If the case is in accordance with the facts stated above, no interference is called for and let the justice have its own course. But if other than the above persons are involved in this case and some innocent persons are accused of murder, then my wife is authorised to produce this writing in the court and thus save the innocemt persons. It is possible that my crime may be forgiven and God may have mercy upon my innocent guilty soul. I do not know what further miseries are in store for me. A voice from my heart says that some evil will befall me. Maharaja is thoroughly enjoying and whenever I talk to Ghamdur Singh on this topic he dismisses it with the remark that to commit crime in obedience to an order is no sin. Ujagar Singh does not mind it. I alone am repentent and expecting trouble at every step. Sometimes I thank God that I remember my sins and I pray that out of his abundant mercy God may save me from any future crime. Nothing can now be done. The inevitable has happened. I am always absorbed in these gloomy thoughts and it seems to me that there is no happiness for me in this world.

I give below the summary of the whole case once more.

Cause of murder

The cause of Lal Singh's murder is that the Maharaja

forcibly made his wife Dalip Kaur his Maharani. The Peop of Patiala, Sangrur, Rajumazara and Abbval will stand witnes to it. The letter which I received from S. Gurnam Singh from Mesopotomia and letters of Dewan Diya Kishan Kaul and several drafts of divorce-deeds are all with these papers.

Murderers

S. Ghamdur Singh and Harnam Singh of Kadon. Dula Singh and Kaka Singh were not aware of the murder.

Conspiracy for murder

The plot for murder began with Maharaja and myself. Dalip Kaur was with the Maharaja in this conspiracy because during our conversation the Maharaja used often to go in her private rooms to inform and consult her. The real plot for murder was hatched between S. Ghamdur Singh, M[illegible] poison. Wh[illegible] and myself on the 16th Bisakh at 8 P. M. near the [illegible] entered in [illegible]ka Ran Singh of Shahabad pore, Kunwar Birender Singh, Kunwar Ramnarain Singh of Patiala are witnesses to it. Later on S. Ujagar Singh and Harnam Singh Kadon joined the Conspiracy. Dewan Diya Kishan Kaul and S. Tara Chand Inspector General of Police to a certain extent were aware of it. Its proof is available. The Maharaja himself provided the weapon for murder and he gave me Rs. 7000/- for this purpose out of which Rs. 5300/- were personally returned by me at Dhaulpore. In order to please S. Ghamdur Singh and to carry out His Highness' intention, after three months stay he was by a special order permitted to reside in Patiala and the Maharaja gave the most unjust order directly simply with a view to benefit and please Ghamdur Singh, so that he might murder Lal Singh. His Highness got the name of Dalip Kaur strike off from the list of female attendants where she was employed on Rs. 15/- per mensum. Not only that but in order to make her a junior Maharani along with Naz and Anwar, the Maharaja married Dalip Kaur in the lifetime of her husband. I have stated the true facts without fear or favour and in doing so I have not omitted my own share in the crime for

which I am always praying to God for pardon. May the Merciful Akal Purkh take pity on me and forgive my sins.

Gujar Khan
D/ 13. 8. 75
finished.

(Sd.) **Nanak Singh**
Supdt. Police, Patiala, I/c Special Service, Patiala.

3. Judgment in S. Nanak Singh's case in Patiala Court, (Ex. 38B.)

Crown Versus

1. Nanak Singh, S/o Mehtab Singh, resident of Gujar Khan; District: Rawalpindi.
2. Ghamdur Singh, S/o Sardar Giar Singh resident of Chural; Dist: Sunam.
3. Dulla, S/o Attra, resident of Kadon; District Sunam.
4. Partap Singh, S/o Hakim Singh, resident of Kadon; District: Sunam.
5. Ujagar Singh, S/o Mal Singh, resident of Jarag; District: Sunam.
6. Harnam Singh, S/o Hakim Singh, resident of Kadon; District: Sunam.
7. Kaka, S/o Jagta, resident of Ajnor; District Sunam.

Under Sections 302 I. P. C. 109 I. P. C. 120 B. I. P. C. and 209 I. P. C.

This case was committed by Sardar Bhagwant Singh Magistrate 1st: class of Patiala to this court in its original jurisdiction. Accused No. 5, 6, & 7 were absconding in the committing Magistrate's court and they are absconding in this court also and orders under Sec : 512 cr : Pr : code have been duly passed against them.

The charges against accused No: 1, 2, 3, & 4 are as follows;-

(1) That you Nanak Singh S/o Mehtab Singh about the month of Jeth 1975 entered into a criminal conspiracy at Patiala and elsewhere along with Ghamdur Singh, Ujagar Singh and Harnam Singh for murdering Lal Singh and that in persuance of the said conspiracy you abetted the murder of said Lal Singh on or about the 29th of Har 1975 at Patiala.

(2) That you Ghmdur Singh S/o Sardar Gian Singh about the month of Jeth 1975 entered into a criminal conspiracy at Patiala and elsewhere along with Nanak Singh, Ujagar Singh and Harnam Singh to murder Lal Singh and that in persuance of the said conspiracy on or about the 29th on Har 1975 you did murder or abetted the murder of the said Lal Singh at Patiala.

(3) That you Dulla S/o Attra on or about the 29th of Har 1975 murdered Lal Singh at Patiala.

(4) That you Partap Singh S/o Hakim Singh about the month of Bhadon 1976 went to Lal to Calan to purchase the camel on which the corpse of the deceased Lal Singh was conveyed and in the month of Bhadon 1976 you procured the mare which was used by the accused on the occasion of the murder of Lal Singh and with the object of hiding that mare you left her at the village Mehdudan and then these two animals were subsequently destroyed by Ghamdur Singh and that you are charged with an offence under Sec : 201 of the I. P. C. Nanak Singh & Ghamdur Singh unambiguously pleaded guilty.

It was perfectly legal for this court to have convicted these two accused on their pleas of guilty, but it is not in accordance with the usual practice to accept a plea of guilty in a case where the sequence would be a sentence of death and in such cases the Court would be loathe to shorten its trial by accepting the plea. In order therefore to remove all possible doubt from my mind I considered it expedient to take evidence against them and so this court passed an order to that effect and proceeded to take the evidence in this case.

Before going into the evidence against the accused, it would be better to give a short history of the two principal accused Nanak Singh and Ghamdur Singh and their state of mind when they conspired to bring about the death of Lal Singh. Nanak was presented before His Highness Maharajadhiraj of Patiala some time in the early part of 1923 at Simla and Chail where he showed some card & conjuring tricks to His Highness. Thereupon he was taken into service as a court magician on 29th jeth 1970 on Rs. 100/- p.m. This has been proved by the evidence of Sardar Bahadur Tara Chand, Sardar Buta Ram and S. Amrik Singh. His Service Book has been proved in this Court by Mr. Ram Muni the State Accountant. General. From a mere adventurer and performer of conjuring tricks he was suddenly appointed Superintendent of Police in charge of Special Service on Rs 200/ p. m. on 22nd Chet 1970. This is indeed one of the most imporant and responsible posts in the State as it is intimately connected with the honour of the State and other responsible persons in it. Only a few months afterwards, that is on 4-10-1971, he was appointed Superintendent of the Regular Police with an extra allowance of Rs. 50/- p.m. On 1-9-72 he was made permanent. On 3-10-72 he was dismissed. This will show how dramatic his rise was. During all this time he was directly under Sardar Gurnam Sihgh. In early 1975 he found that his influence was waning. He was losing his hold on His Highness and further which was the most important factor in his sudden rise, that S. Gurman Singh was no longer in charge of his department. It was in this frame of mind that Nanak Singh thought, ambitious as he was, that it was necessary to resort to some drastic measure in order not only to keep his position intact but to capture the whole administration. An opportunity afforded itself to him by his close connection with Sardar Gurnam Singh. He learnt that Sirdar Gurnam Singh who is a father-in-law of His Highness was carrying on some intrigue through Lal Singh. On account of his close relations with Sardar Gurnam Singh he naturally came in touch with Lal Singh who used to live at Sirdar Gurnam Singh's bungalow

and became quite friendly with him to gain his own ends. By cajolery and cunning of which he is a past master, he became quite intimate with Lal Singh. He (Nanak Singh) learnt that S. Gurnam Singh was pressing Lal Singh to somehow or other get his alleged wife out of the palace. Nanak Singh being a Special Service Officer knew fully well the position of Lal Singh's alleged wife in the Palace and he in conjunction with Ujagar Singh at once decided to obtain a writing from Lal Singh declaring the real state of affairs. Nanak Singh tried by all possible means to secure this writing from Lal Singh but could not succeed because he was under direct influence of S. Gurnam Singh. It was then that Nanak Singh and Ujagar Singh thought of Ghamdur Singh and brought him into their own ring and tried to get the desired writing from Lal Singh through Ghamdur Singh. It was this writing on which Nanak Singh and Ujagar Singh had set their hearts to obtain by means fair or foul and it was about this writing that Ujagar Singh threw a hint at Ghamdur Singh at their meeting at Dhuri. It was at this stage that the seeds of this criminal conspiracy to murder Lal Singh were being sown and Ghamdur Singh was being taken into confidence. When Nanak Singh and Ujagar Singh found that Lal Singh would not give away the facts in writing to pressure from S. Gurnam Singh, they at once decided to murder him and Ghamdur Singh threw in his lot wholly and completely. All this is borne out by the confession of Nanak Singh and coroborated by that of Ghamdur Singh.

(2) Ghamdur Singh-for generations his family enjoyed confidence of the Rulers of Patiala and held responsible posts. Ghamdur Singh himself occupied a responsible position, his brother was Commissioner of Excise. In 1910 he was dismissed and banished from the state. After he and his family had enjoyed all that honour, this was a great blow for a man of his position. He made all lawful attempts to regain that position, but had failed. Later on he was allowed to live in his village Chural but was not allowed to touch the precincts of Patiala. He was in

short an exile and must have been smarting under severe indignity. He was in this psychological state of mind when Nanak Singh and Ujagar Singh got hold of him

The most important evidence against Nanak Singh is his confession before this Court. When I look into his confession his plea of guilty becomes absolutely clear. It is necessary therefore to examine his confession rather minutely as he is of course the brain of the consipracy. It is admitted by him that the idea of murdering Lal Singh first originated with him and Ujagar Singh. The first interview according to Nanak Singh's confession between him, Ujagar Singh and Ghamdur Singh took place at Jakhal. This is coroborated by Ghamdur Singh in his confession as well as independently borne out by his own diary which he submitted to His Highness in his capacity of officer in Charge Special Service and also from the testimony of Sardar Harchand Singh P. W. 12. Th's diary is marked No. 56 and is proved by Sardar Buta Ram P W. 11. This diary is extremely important because it clearly shows that Nanak Singh was distorting facts even at that early stage and was trying to deceive no less a person than His Highness himself. This is also an important corroboration of that early step in the conspiracy and shows Nanak Singh's guilty mind.

The Next step taken by Nanak Singh and Ujagar Singh was a message to Ghamdur Singh through his Mukhtar Chuhar Singh to the effect that they were devising some chance for his (Ghamdur Singh's) betterment and that he should meet them at Dhuri. This is corroborated by the independent testimony of Chuhar Singh and Ghamdur Singh's own profession. As a result of this message the second interview between these three took place at Dhuri and this is also corroborated by the evidence of Chuhar Singh P. W. 10. At that place Nanak Singh got an application written dated 6-5-1918 on behalf of Gamdur Singh for obtaining permission to live in Patiala and only four days after the application Ghamdur Singh was allowed through the intercession of Nanak Singh to live in Patiala till the 31st of August 1918. What effect this had on Ghamdur Singh's mind is

mentioned by him in his own confession. The original application and the order thereon has been proved by Buta Ram P. W. 11; and Chuhar Singh P. W. 10 has admitted before this Court that the application was written by him and signed by Ghamdur Singh. It was at this interview that Ujagar Singh who is the son of Ghamdur Singh's maternal uncle and thus very closely related to him just threw a hint at Ghamdur Singh about some writing to be obtained from Lal Singh. It appears that at this stage of the conspiracy Ujagar Singh and Nanak Singh had not taken Ghamdur Singh into their Complete Confidence. This is borne out by Ghamdur Singh's own profession.

The next move of Nanak Singh and Ujagar Singh to bring Ghamdur Singh more into their mehes was their attempt to present him before His Highness. Whether this attempt was genuine or not is not material, but this portion of Nanak Singh's confession is borne out by that of Ghamdur Singh's and the evidence of Chuhar Singh P. W. 10 about their meeting at the Singh Sabha in Patiala.

After that Nanak Singh went to Bombay with His Highness, when he went to England to attend the Imperial War Cabinet. It is stated by Nanak Singh in his confession that it was on that occasion that he learnt that His Highness was displeased with him. It has been deposed by S. Buta Ram P. W. 11 that his Highness was displeased with Nanak Singh. There is also an order of His Highness produced by the prosecution and proved by Baboo Bije Ram P. W. 35. The order runs as follows:

"Sardar Nanak Singh of the special service has not worked to our satisfaction and we do not consider him to be a desirable officer to continue in charge of this extremely resposible work." I compared this with the original and found it correct. The original order bears His Highness' Signature. A certified copy of this order is on the file.

How Nanak Singh came to know of the existence of the order is not material for the purpose of this case, but the fact

that there was a substantial ground for Nanak Singh's belief of His Highness' displeasure is proved by this order. Nanak Singh has also stated in his confession that the special service was transferred to Foreign aud Financial Secretary and this is also borne out by Sarder Buta Ram's evidence. It is at this stage that Nanak Singh seriously began to think some drastic measure to restore his lost position and as Ghamdur Singh had been trying to get the desired writing from Lal Singh and had failed, he, Ujagar Singh and Ghamdur Singh conspired to put Lal Singh to death and forge the required writing. They lost no time in putting the conspiracy into execution. Ujagar Singh was deputed to buy a stamp paper from Ambala in the name of Lal Singh. The prosecution has not been able to prove as to who was sent to buy the stamp paper, but its purchase on behalf of Lal Singh has been proved by P. W. 13 and 14 and its subsequent discovery at the pointing out of Ghamdur Singh by the testimony of Rup Ram P. W. 45 and Dewa Singh P. W. 46 and Sardar Raghbir Singh P. W. 44. Nanak Singh admits in his confession that he, Ujagar Singh and Ghamdur Singh used to meet together at Ujagar singh's house for the purpose of the conspiracy. This is also corroborated by Ghamdur Singh's confession. It was during these meetings that the three conspirators divided their respective duties. According to Nanak Singh' own confession, his duty was to see that the investigation does not proceed on correct lines and no clue is traced out and to quote Nank Singh's words, that "I should meet His Highness in the matter and afterwards to make efforts for the accomplishment of our plans of success" and the duty of murder was undertaken by Ujagar Singh and Ghamdur Singh. How they carried out their respective duties is borne out by the confession of Nanak Singh and Ghamdur Singh and other independent evidence. It is also amply proved by the evidence of Hira Lal Chobdar P. W. 8 that it was Nanak Singh who first established a link between Ghamdur Singh and Lal Singh and his evidence corroborated that portion of Nanak Singh's confession. Nanak Singh has also admitted that attempts to murder Lal Singh were made at Jakhal and

Dhuri and this is more than amply corroborated by Ghamdur Singh's confession and by the independent evidence of Harnam Singh and Sada Singh. I will discuss these two attempts fully when dealing with Ghamdur Singh's confession. After the second attempt failed at Dhuri, Nanak Singh and Ujagar Singh thought that the deed could not be accomplished without their support, and so it was decided by Nanak Singh that Lal Singh should be murdered at Patiala. The two Chief conspirators, Nanak Singh and Ujagar Singh thought that they would see the thing done under their very eyes as they concluded that Ghamdur Singh was too weak to carry out the sinister design by himself. According to the first compact, it was the duty of Ghamdur Singh to carry out the murder but now it devolved upon Nanak Singh and Ujagar Singh to suggest the ways and means of this horrible crime. This was corroborated by Ghamdur Singh's confession. It was suggested that whoever of the two e.g. Nanak Singh and Ujagar Singh devised the plan of calling out Lal Singh would get a dozen of whisky bottles from Ghamdur Singh. It was Nanak Singh's clever brain that devised the ingenious idea of calling out Lal Singh by the telephone. In this there was the least risk of detection and it appealed to the conspirators and Ghamdur Singh gave one dozen of whisky bottles to Nanak Singh. This is corroborated by Ghamdur Singh's confession. The incident is very important in the histroy of the Criminal conspiracy, because it was then that the ways and means of the murder were discussed and agreed upon by these three conspirators. The actual delivery of the bottles of whisky is proved by the evidence of Kishanji P. W. 9 and its payment by Raghbar Dass P. W. 7. It was a sort of wager at the cost of Ghamdur Singh. It has been proved by the independent evidence of Barkat P. W. 50 that Lal Singh went out on the fatal evening of the 29th of Har 1975 on receiving a telephone message. This is corroborated by Ghamdur Singh's confession and also by the testimony of Ram Kishan P. W. 5. and Islam Din P. W. 6. Harnam Singh Kadon with his companions had reached the place of the occurrence on

the morning of the 29th of Har 1975. How poor unfortunate Lal Singh was decoyed by Ghamdur Singh and afterwards murdered is clearly stated in Ghamdur Singh's own confession and it will be better to discuss it when I deal with it. Nanak Singh states in his confession that Ujagar Singh came to his house on the night of the 29th Har 1975 at 19-3o P. M. and informed him that Lal Singh had been murdered by Ghamdur Singh, Harnam Singh, Dulla, and another of their companions, and that the dead body had been taken towards Mulepore for being burnt and that Rs 200/- had been given to them by Ghamdur Singh. This incident of taking the dead body towards Mulepore and the payment of Rs. 200/- is amply corroborated by Ghamdur Singh's confession and that of Dulla. The only thing that is found in Nanak Singh's confession about Dulla is that he saw him a day previous to the murder at Ujagar Singh's house. This is also corroborated by Gamdur Singh's confession and that of Dulla himself. Nanak Singh has stated before this Court that he gave a pistol to Ujagar Singh and that Lal Singh was shot by that very pistol. How this pistol came into Nanak Singh's possession is proved by the evidence of Mata Din Store Keeper, Games Department P. W. 40. The fact of Nanak Singh's giving of the pistol to Ujagar Singh, is independently corroborated by a report in the Police Roznamcha to the effect that A. V. B. Scott automatic pistol No : 28222 bore 6.35 was given to Ujagar Singh Electrical Engineer Patiala by Nanak Singh Superintendent of Police on the 27th : Besakh 1975. This has been proved by the evidence of Mr Sowlat Jung Inspector of Police P. W. 59. The entry about the number of the bore is rather unintelligible. This very pistol was subsequently found in the search of Ujagar Singh's house and this fact is proved by the independent evidence of Sheikh Fazal Rahman Electrical Engineer Patiala P. W. 30 and Lalaram Sishan P. W. 31 and that of the Search Officer Sardar Hazura Singh Inspector Police (P. W.29). Nanak Singh's second trip to Bombay as admitted by him has been corroborated by the evidence of Bakhtawar Singh P. W. 60 and Ujagar Singh's report. This

report has been proved by S. Amrik Singh D. I. G. of Police P. W. 49. This trip of Nanak Singh's to Bombay is important in that it corroborates the theory of the conspiracy. This visit was connected with the real objects of the conspiracy e. g. to abuse His Highness' mind about the murder and to put him on the wrong track and Nanak Singh's story that he had gone to Bombay to consult a Dentist has been proved to be palpably false by his own confession. This also shows that he was concealing something and proves his guilty mind. This trip was undertaken as a part of the duty allotted to him in the conspiracy, quoting his own words "to mislead His Highness about the murder and to prepare the ground according to the conspiracy". This is also corroborated by Ghamdur Singh's Confession.

The objects of the conspiracy were twofold (1) to murder Lal Singh and (2) to throw suspicion on innocent persons by diverting the right clue and running investigation in wrong channels. The second part was exclusively allotted to Nanak Singh, suitably situated as he was as a Superintendent of Police Patiala. Nanak Singh has not only admitted this in his confession but it has been more than amply corroborated by his own acts when investigating the case as officer in charge of Lal Singh's murder case. The first report about the disappearance of Lal Singh was made by Gujar Singh servant of S. Gurnam Singh on the 30th Har 1975 at the Kotwali Patiala. This has been proved by the evidence of Devindar Singh Sub Inspector of Police P. W. 4. In the very beginning Nank Singh tried to mislead the investigation by having a report made at the Kotwali Patiala for the disappearance of Lal Singh and not for his murder. The first form report of the murder of Lal Singh was made by his brother Sundar Singh on 5th Sawan 1975. This has been proved by the evidence of S. Tara Chand p. w. 43. But inspite of this clear report of murder Nanak Singh and himself showing Nanak Singh's efforts to defeat enquiry in this connection are also proved by the evidence of Mr: Fazal-i-Karim Inspector-Police P. W. 69 in the matter of the original report of the Imperial Serologist regarding the

blood discovered on the spot. Sardar Tara Chand has also deposed about his issuing urgent orders from time to time insisting on Nanak Singh to make special efforts in finding out the clue; but Nanak Singh took little heed of his superiors' orders in this matter. This he has proved from his various orders in writing and which are on the file of the comitting Magistrate and it would be unnecessary to reproduce them here. This witness has also deposed that Nanak Singh did not submit daily diaries of the case inspite of special instruction to that effect. He also proved an extract of Mir Munnawar Hussain's daily diaries Nos. 87 to 102 and which is on page 159 of the committing Magistrate's file. Mir Munnawar Hussain being an old and experienced police officer was specially deputed by this witness, only a few days after the murder of Lal Singh for the investigation of this case. Mir Mannawar Hussain P. W. 51 has also deposed to the submission of the diaries to Nanak Singh as his immediate superior officer. In these diaries Mir Munnawar Hussain had suspected Harnam Singh Kadon. Nanak Singh instead of submitting these diaries in original to Sardar Tara Chand sent up an extract which runs as follows : 'I saw these reports on the 3rd Maghar and in those reports Inspector made attempts to find out but nothing useful to the case has been found out". This extract is proved by S. Tara Chand P. W. 48 and Mohammad Bux Head constable P. W. 53 to be signed by Nanak Singh. It would be well to quote Sardar Tara Chand's own words in this connection, "I have seen original diaries No: 87 etc. on the Judicial file and the extract given by Nanak Singh is not a correct one, because in diaries No: 87 to 102 etc Harnam Singh Kadon was suspected but his name was not mentioned in the extract. Reasons are given for the suspicion. Because I knew Harnam Singh Kadon and had started Criminal cases against him and if I had been informed of this man having been seen in Patiala during those days as was mentioned by Mir Munnawar Hussin in his Diaries, I would have certainly got Harnam Singh arrested for the purpose of investigation in the case. There were men forthcoming then who had seen Lal Singh with a stranger

at the well of Sardar Gurnam Singh, on the evening of the murder and who were able to identify that man. From my experience as a police officer and my knowledge as to Harnam Singh's previous antecedents and the fact that he was alleged to be in Patiala in those days I would have at once arrested that man and confronted him with those men who had seen Lal Singh with a stranger at the well on the evening of the murder."

I quite agree with S. Tark Chand and believe that If Harnam Singh had been confronted with Amausi P. W. 21 and Phuman P. W. 22, the whole case would have come to light.

Nanak Singh clever as he is must have foreseen all this and deliberately suppressed all mention of Harnam Singh in this extract. This action of Nanak Singh more than amply corroborates the conveying out of the part allotted to him in the conspiracy.

Another very important point which has been proved and which shows Nanak Singh's attempt to defeat the enquiry at that early stage is the finding of the list of the persons to whom the pistols were distributed in his search. This has been proved by the independent testimony of Rikhi Ram S/o Mula P. W. 43. S. Tara Chand P. W. 48 has deposed that when cartridges were found on the spot, he at once wrote to the Military Secretary to send him a list of persons to whom pistols had been distributed and the Military Secretary sent a list, but it was not received by him. This very list was afterwards found at the search of Nanak Singh and his object in keeping that list from the Inspector General of Police is obvious.

The natural benefit which Nanak Singh had conspired to derive by defeating the enquiry and putting it into wrong channels was to defame the responsible officer of the State and possibly its ruler. If this diabolical scheme had succeeded it would have probably implicated innocent men. It is necessary to mention here that the then I. General of Police took all possible measures to trace cut the clue of the murder and this is amply borne out by his repeated orders to Nanak Singh to take rigorous steps in the investigation. There

is also abundant proof in Police. files 2801, 2801/2 and 2801/3 that the judicial Secretary in charge of the Police was taking very great interest in the investigation and was issuing repeated orders to the Inspector General of Police to take all possible measures to find out the clue of the murder. S. Tara Chand has also proved two letters from Diwan Bahadur Sir Dia Kishan Kaul who was at that time the President of the Administrative Committee in the absence of His Highness to Europe, enjoining the I. G. P. to take vigorous steps in finding out the clue of the murder. His Highness' Government had offered a reward of Rs. 2000/- for the information that would lead to the detection of the crime. Proclaimation had been sent out to all parts of India and even abroad. All this proves that the authorities were taking all possible steps for the detection of the crime; but all efforts proved unsuccessful, Nanak Singh being in charge of the case was defeating the investigation at very step.

It was about a year after the murder that L. Sahib Chand Inspector of Police P. W. 67 was put in charge of the investigation. The first step he took was to turn to Radha Lal for the clue. Radha Lal was not only a reader of Nanak Singh but his confident. It was this move that subsequently led to the unravelling of this diobolical conspiracy, and all credit is due to Lala Sahib Chand for this tactical move. In response to L. Sahib Chand's enquiries Mehta Radha Lal sent in a detailed written report. This report is on the file of the committing Magistrate. The counsel for the crown has argued before me that it is admissible in evidence in this case against the accused under clause 2 Sec. 32 of the Indian Evidence Act. I have given my careful consideration to the arguments of the learned counsel and I hold that it cannot be admitted into evidence against the accused in this case, as it cannot be said, to have been made in the ordinary course of his duty. Nor it is admissible under any other section of the Indian Evidence Act. Moreover it would be most dangerous to rely on the statement of a man who is dead and whom the accused got no opportunity to cross-examine. But for the purpose of

showing how the prosecution got on with the investigation, it is relavent that Radha Lal did make a statement in his own handwriting. This helped the police to question Nank Singh who made different statements at different times, but nothing definite to help the police to find out the clue. The most important result of his (Nanak Singh's) statements was the arrest of Gamdur Singh who made a full and frank confession at the very first opportunity. When Nanak Singh saw that all was up, he thought it was better to make a clear breast of the whole thing. Both these accused made their first confessions before the Political Agent Patiala. They are not admissible against them but they prove that they also show that they made the confessions of their own free will and under no pressure whatsoever.

As a result of the examination of Nanak Singh's confession which is corroborated by independent evidence on most of the material points, I have not the slightest doubt that he abetted the murder of Lal Singh and as a member of the conspiracy fully carried out his part of the duty. I therefore find him guilty of abettement under Sec. 302 read with 109 I. P. code.

Gamdur Singh

The most important evidence against this accused is also his frank, full and detailed confession to which he has stuck to the last. His confession is corroborated in all material particulars like that of Nanak Singh right up to the evening of the 29th of Har 1975 and it is not necessary to repeat all that evidence over again except about the two attempts at Jakhal and Dhuri because he is directly connected with them. Gamdur Singh's confessiou is more clear and detailed than that of Nanak Singh not only with regard to these two attempts but on the whole history of the conspiracy. The first attempt was made at Jakhal. Gamdur Singh in his interview with Lal Singh at Patiala had fooled him into the belief that he was in a position to help him in getting his wife out of the Palace. This is borne out by the confessions of both Nanak Singh and Gamdur Singh. He at that interview had very cleverly suggested to Lal

Singh that whenever hs had to give him any informarion of the steps that he was going to take, he would send for him and give him a sort of masonic emblem to indicate that whosoever brcught a cross-mark written on a piece of white paper to him, he should consider that as a message from him (Gamdur Singh) and should accompany him. It was thus that Lal Singh was first inveigled into going to Jakhal by Gurnam Singh through Harnam Singh. Lal Singh's coming to Jakhal is proved not only by Gamdur Singh's confession but by the testimony of Sada Singh P. W. 26 and Bhagwan Singh P. W. 15. This visit of Lal Singh to Jakhal is also indirectly corroborated by the evidence of Sardar Tara Chand P. W. 48 who has deposed to having learnt from Sardarani Sahiba (Gurnam Singh's wife) after Lal Singh's murder that Lal Singh had remained absent for the whole night from Sangrur. Harnam Singh had brought Lal Singh to Jakhal from Sangrur and he had spent the whole night at the Jakhal Station. On this occasion Gamdur Singh fully knew that he had sent for Lal Sing in order to murder him or have him murdered. The attempt failed because Ghamdur Singh could not muster sufficient courage to carry out their sinister design and allowed Lal Singh to return safely and this is corroborated by the testimony of Sada Singh and Bhagvan Singh. I have not the slightest doubt that these two P. Witnesses knew much more than what they have said before the Court. The second attempt was made at Dhuri only 4 days afterwards where Lal Singh arrived as previously arranged. Nanak Singh and Ujagar Singh had gone to the Railway Station Patiala to see Lal Singh off when he left for Dhuri. Ghamdur Singh met him at the Station. Ghamdur singh had also instructed Harnam Singh to wait near the canal with his confederates.

Lal Singh's coming to Dhuri is again proved not only by Ghamdur Singh's confession but by the testimony of Bhagwan Singh and Sada Singh who have also deposed to Kaka's presence on this occasion. This attempt also failed because Ghamdur Singh though playing the part of a villain as a member of the conspiracy had not the courge of a villian. When Nanak Singh and Ujagar

Singh saw that Ghamdur Singh had not sufficient courage to carry out his part of duty by himself. It was decided to murder him at Patiala. How Lal Singh was called by the telephone from S. Gurnam Singh's house is proved by the evidence of Barkat P. W. 50 and has been dealt with in Nanak Singh's confession. The fact of Lal Singh's going away on cycle after receiving the telephone message is corroborated by Ram Kishan P. W. 5.

After this there is no evidence but the confession of Ghamdur Singh himself. Lal Singh was met by Harnam Singh outside S. Narain Singh's house near the hospital and was told that he was to meet Ghamdur Singh who was waiting near the Railway crossing which is quite close to that place. It deems as if fates were driving Lal Singh to the scene of murder. For according to Ghamdur Singh's confession it was Lal Singh who suggested to go to S. Gurnam Singh's well for having a talk with Ghamdur Singh. I also find from this confession that the spot near the Bandha had been selected by Nanak Singh and Ujagar Singh and that Ujagar Singh showed that spot to Ghamdur Singh. This is corroborated by Nanak Singh's statement recorded under Section 342 before this Court. We also find from Ghamdur Singh's confession that Harnam Singh had arrived on the appointed day with one of the confederates, Kaka and the two animals, one camel and a mare. The other one Dulla having arrived a day previous in Patiala was staying at Ujagar Singh's house. This is corroborated by Nanak Singh's confession. He left Kaka and the two animals at the spot and went to the city to give the information to Ghamdur Singh and arranged a meeting with him at Ujagar Singh's house at 4 P. M. telling him that in the mean time he would take Dulla and would also leave a gun with them for their protection. The presence of Kaka and Dulla with the two animals near the spot is corroborated by the evidence of Fateh Mohamad P. W. 16 and of Abdulla P. W. 17. To my mind it has not been conculsively proved that the gun produced by the prosecution is the same gun that was employed on that occasion, but from the evidence of Inait

Hussain P. W. 25 and Bolleh Khan P. W. 19 it is proved that Ujagar Singh had borrowed Inait Hussain's gun about that time and returned it to him after one week. From this evidence which I have no reason to disbelieve it may he safe to draw the inference that this very gun was borrowed from Inait Hussain by Ujagar Singh and was the same which was used on this occasion.

It is again Ghamdur Singh's confession which tells us how he himself arrived at the band by which road Nanak Singh and Harnam Singh went to S. Gurnam Singh's well.

The fact of Lal Singh going to the well on that very evening i. e. the 29th of Har 1975 with another man is proved by the independnt evidence of Amousi P. W. 21. and Phuman P. W. 22. and is very important piece of evidence corroborating Ghamdur's Singh's confession about Lal Singh's going to S. Gurnam Singh's well with Harnam Singh. It is proved by the evidence of Amousi that Nanak Singh with another man in khaki clothes came to the well that evening about sunset and Phuman has also deposed that Lal Singh came to the well near the quarters with another man and sat on a cot sometime. Both these witnesses have deposed to their having seen Lal Singh for the last time that evening. What happend after this is told by Ghamdur Singh in his confession. He says that Lal Singh and Harnam Singh walked towards the Band on catching sight of him. It was about 8 o'clock. When Lal Singh came near the Band he (Ghamdur Singh) walked down towards the slope on the other side of the Band and when he (Lal Singh) came actually on the Band he saw Dulla and Kaka towards the cremation-ground and enquired from Harnam Singh who these men were, to which he replied that they might be grass-cutters. Lal Singh hesitated a little over this and then walked down to meet Ghamdur Singh and sat down at a little distance from him. Ghamdur Singh saw a bunch of keys in his hand at that time and the finding of the keys on the spot has been corroborated by the evidence of Mohammad Bux P. W. 20, Ram Partap P. W., 23, Rikhi Ram P. W. 24. and Devindar Singh P. W. 40.

After Lal Singh had talked a little with Ghamdur Singh, Harnum Singh came near him saying that he wanted to make a request. When he came quite close to Lal Singh he jumped at him by the throat. They struggled together and rolled towards the nadi (river). It was then that Lal Singh cried "Mar dia, Mar dia". This is corroborated by the evidence of Ghulam Hussain who was coming towards the city from his well and I have no reason to disbelieve his evidence. Then Ghamdur Singh goes on to say that when Lal Singh cried "Mar dia Mar dia" the other two Dulla and Kaka who had come behind the band came to spot to help Harnam Singh and gagged Lal Singh. According to Ghamdur Singh's confession Harnam Singh fired 4 shots of the pistol at Lal Singh and he (Lal Singh) expired there and then and that he himself (Ghamdur Singh) took no part in the actual murder.

Afterwards Harnam Singh, Dulla and Kaka dragged his body for a little distance and after tying the dead body in a piece of cloth loaded it on the camel. Gamdur Singh mounted on the mare and took charge of the gun and lead the way as far as the railway line and then returned home. Before leaving the party Ghamdur Singh gave the gun to Harnam Singh and took back the pistol from him and also gave him notes for Rs 200/. These notes were the same which Ghamdur Singh had borrowed from Raghbar Dass P. W. 7 and sent them to Ujagar Singh through Kishaji P. W. 9. On reaching home Ghamdur Singh met Ujagar Singh who had been waiting for him and gave him the news which he subsequently communicated to Nanak Singh that very night. This is corroborated by Nanak Singh's own confession. The only corroboration of the confession of Ghamdur Singh and Nanak Singh are the circumstances of Lal Singh's disappearance. Ghulam Hussain's testimony of his having heard frantic shrieks of "Mar dia" when taken along with Ghamdur Singh's confession is a very important corroboration of Lal Singh having been murdered on the evening of the 29th Her 1675. It is impossible for Ghulam Hussain to say that these were Lal Singh's shrieks but the probability is so very great considering

the time and Ghamdur Singh's confession that the shrieks could be nobody else but Lal Singh's, I look upon his evidence as the most absolute and clear corroboration of Ghamdur Singh's confession about the actual murder. Another corroboration is the subsequent finding of the bunch of keys, comb and cartridges on the spot. The finding of all these things on the spot and the identification of the keys and comb as belonging to Lal Singh and the report of the imperial serologist about the blood to be human (this report has been proved by the evidence of Mr Fazal Karim Khan P. W. 29) prove uncontrovertibly that Lal Singh was murdered. In this connection it is very important to give reference to the telegram of S. Prem Singh, father of S. Gurnam Singh dated 17-7-1918 and the receipt of which has been proved by Tara Chand. This telegram mentions the finding of the blood, keys and comb, on the spot. This is an indirect but independent corroboration of the things having been found on the spot and not manufactured by the police.

"Corpus Delicti"

I will now deal with the fact of the corpus delicti. Taking all the facts mentioned above along with Dulla's confession into consideration which in fact lead to the discovery of the spot in Halotali Bir where Lal Singh's body was burnt and finding of the bones at the spot which has been proved to be human by the testemony of doctor Ganga Bishan, Civil Surgeon, Principal Medical Officer of Patiala, there remains no doubt as to the corpus delicti. Taking also into consideration the evidence of Chanan Chamar p. w. 32 and Beru p. w. 36 and Ranjha P. W. 33 along with Dulla's confession there is no doubt that the human corpse seen by the Halotali Bir was of no one else but Lal Singh's.

Motive

Before proceeding further it is necessary here to discuss the motive. The question of motive is not all important in criminal cases when evidence otherwise clear and unambiguous is forthcoming to prove the offence. Proof of motive is therefore

by no means necessary to establish the offence. This of course does not mean that proof of motive is altogether irrelevant. For proof of motive is always relevant not indeed as proving the offence but as a spring of human action supporting the proof of intention, explaining and connecting it with the act. Proof of murder is so clear and unambiguous in this case that it is not necessary to go into motive at all but as it is, the motive given by the accused Nanak Singh and Ghamdur Singh is fairly clear. It is apparent from their confessions. I quote Nanak Singh's own words " we committed this murder in order to gain our selfish end. " to quote Ghamdur Singh " When S. Gurman Singh returned from Mesopotamia he made no effort to help the enquiry. On the other hand he was defeating the enquiry and wanted to derive personal advantage out of the case. Under such circumstances I was compelled to keep silent. " The motive, thus becomes quite clear.

Ghamdur Singh's confession gives a detailed history of the events after he left Patiala for his village on the 31st of August 1918. Oen of the most important events is Ghamdur Singh's receipt of Lal Singh's ring and the stamp-paper from Ujagar Singh. According to Ghamdur Singh's confession Harnam Singh had taken off the ring from Lal Singh's finger before burning his body in the Halotal Bir and had given it to Ujagar Singh. This is corroborated by Nanak Singh's confession. The ring and the stamp paper have been discovered burried in a glass bottle behind Ghamdur Singh's house near Jakhal at the pointing out of Ghamdur Singh. This is amply proved by the testimony of Rup Ram P. W. 45, Dewa Singh P. W. 46 and Sirdar Raghubir Singh Superintendent of Police P. W. 44. This ring which has "L. S." inscribed on it has been identified by Ram Kishan P. W. 5 and Islam Din P. W. 6. as belonging to deceased. Ram Kishen has even deposed that he saw Lal Singh wearing this very ring before he went out that evening on receiving a telephone message. I have no reason to disbelieve the evidence of this man as it after all corroborates Ghamdur Singh's confession, While at Chural Ghamdur Singh

received two letters from Nanak Singh and two anonymous letters. All these four letters have been proved by Fazali-Karim Khan Inspector of police P. W. 69. The first two from Nanak Singh and the other two from Sardar Tarlok Singh brother-in-law of Nanak Singh. Nanak Singh has also admitted these two anonymous letters to be very likely in the hand-writing of S. Tarlok Singh. These letters in themselves do not tell us very much about the actual the crime but taken along with other evidence they throw a good deal of light on the case. Ghamdur Singh's statement about the purchase of the mare and the camel is indirectly corroborated by the evidence of Thakar Singh P. W. 27 and Kishan Singh of Lalton Kala P. W. 71, but how the camel passed through various hands and Partap Singh's share has not convinced me at all and I will show this when dealing with Partap Singh's case. It is sufficient to know that Ghamdur Singh did purchase the mare and the camel through the agency of somebody and subsequently destroyed them in Katik 1976; of course there is absolutely no evidence forth-coming to corroborate the destruction of the two animals and I must rely on Ghamdur Singh's confession on this point. Gamdur Singh has also admitted that he kept Harnam Singh, Dulla and Kaka under his protection. first at Jakhal and Chural (this is corroborated by the evidence of Sada Singh) and subsequently kept Harnam Singh and Kaka under the fictitious names of Bishen Singh and Bakhtawar Singh respectively at his village Kothal near Dakshai. This is corroborated by the testemony of Sundar Lal Mukhter of Ghamdur Singh P. W. 54. According to Gamdur Singh's confession the evidence of Sundar Lal a parcel of clothes was received at Kothal Kathal addressed to Bishan Singh after his departure and under Ghamdur Singh's instructions Sundar Lal kept that parcel with him. This parcel contains some clothes which are proved to belong to Harnam Singh by Mst Panjabo's testimony. All this goes only to show that Harnam Singh did go to Kothal and lived there for sometime under the protection of Ghamdur Singh and corroborates Ghamdur Singh's confession. Afterwards Ghamdur

Singh sent Kaka to village Uggo in Barnala District and this is corroborated by the evidence of Bawa Daya Singh Pandit P. W. 47.

Not only Ghamdur Singh's and Nanak Singh's confession fit into each other in all the important particulars of the origin of the conspiracy and the subsequent murder but there is overwhelming corroboration of their confessions. It is true that there is no direct evidence of the murder except the confessions of Nanak Singh and Ghamdur Singh, but the circumstantial evidence taken along with these confessions is so strong that it leaves absolutely no doubt in my mind that Lal Singh was murdered on the evening of the 29th of Har 1975 as the result of the conspiracy between Nanak Singh and Ghamdur Singh, Ujagar Singh and Harnam Singh. What part Dulla took in the actual murder is told by Ghamdur Singh in his confession but there is absolutely no corroboration forthcoming and I will discuss about the value of Gamdur Singh's confession as far as it relates against Dulla when dealing with his case.

Conspiracy

Conspiracy necessarily connotes planning, designing and arranging means and measures necessay for the commission of an offence. The acts of one co-conspirator are thus the acts of all and for which they are responsible. It has been held by couch C. J. vide 17 W. R. 15 (18). "Where several persons are proved to have combined together for the same illegal purpose, any act done by any of the parties in persuance of the original connected plan and with reference to the common object is in the contemplation of the Law the act of the whole. Each party is an agent of the others in carrying out the objects of the conspiracy and doing any thing in furtherance of the common design."

It has also been held per Johnston J. in 17 P. R. 1915 "Where the prosecution has produced prima facie proof of a conspiracy to murder and the apellants were one and all members of that conspiracy anything said or done by any one of the con-

spirators whether accused or not in reference to the said common intention, after that intention was first entertained by any one of them, is a relevant fact against each and all of the accused as well as for the purpose of proving the existence of the conspiracy as for the purpose of showing that "any person" was a party to it."

The existence of the conspiracy to murder and the different parts played by the conspirators namely Nanak Singh, Ujagar Singh, Ghamdur Singh and Harnam Singh have been proved by the confession of Nanak Singh and Ghamdur Singh corroborated as they are by overwhelming independent evidence. Whatever Nanak Singh and Ghamdur Singh said and did in furtherance of the conspiracy is admissible in evidence against each and all of the conspirators. The fact that Lal Singh was actually murdered on the 29th Har 1975 as a result of this conspiracy has also been proved by the confessions of Nanak Singh and Ghamdur Singh and other independent and circumstancial evidence. It is no doubt that Ghamdur Singh was not the originator of the conspiracy to murder but here is not the slightest doubt that he not only entered it with his eyes open but gave it all possible assistance. It is of course not necessary that all conspirators should join the conspiracy at the same time. Some may form it while others may join afterwards. In that case they will be all equally guilty vide 17. P. R. 1915 and 27 Calcutta 667. His criminal intention was complete from the time when he called Lal Singh to Jakhal. The actual murder of Lal Singh at Patiala on the 29th of Har 1975 was the outcome of this conspiracy. In that murder he, according to his own confession, not only played the contemptible part of a decoy but lent his support by his presence at the actual murder; in point of culpability the law discriminates between an absent and the one who is actually present at the fact. Indeed, between a person who both abets and countenances the crime by his presence and one who actually engages in it there is no difference. The one is as culpable as the other. In England both are regarded as principals.

I visited the place of murder on the morning of the 26th Sawan 1977 and my note about that visit is on the record. Ghamdur Singh pointed out to me the workshop from where the telephone was sent to Lal Singh and the place where he was met by Harnam Singh. He also pointed out the road by which Lal Singh and Harnam Singh went towards Gurnam Singh's well. The spot where Lal Singh was actually murdered and the place where his body was tied and loaded on the camel are also pointed out to me by this accused. The prosecution has produced a plan of the site of the murder also showing other important places which have come into evidence in this case. The plan has been proved to be prepared by Badhawa Ram Patwari of Patiala P. W. 68 S. Tara Chand P. W. 48 and Mr. Fazal Karim Khan P. W. 69 have both deposed to the correctness of the plan. I also compared the plan on the site and find that all the places are correctly marked.

Nanak Singh and Ghamdur Singh have both pleaded guilty and left themselves at the mercy of the Court. The Court offered them more than once the assistance of a Counsel but they declined to accept the offer. They were also given every opportunity to cross-examine the P. Witnesses, but they would not have it. This was in fact in conformity with their attitude throughout the trial before this Court. In fact when this Court asked Nanak Singh if he had anything to say in reply to the arguments of the counsel for the crown, his reply was "I leave myself entirely at the mercy of the Court. I have nothing to say."

Ghamdur Singh took full responsibility of the crime but as to his intention he argued that "The inference drawn by the Prosecution against him is not true." In support of this he pressed before this Court that if he had any intention to murder Lal Singh he would have murdered him either at Jakhal or Dhuri. The fact that he sent Lal Singh away on both those occasions showed that he had no intention of murdering Lal Singh. He also argued that whatever he did, he did under pressure. and deception. About the attempt at Patiala which resulted

in the actual murder of Lal Singh he argued that he never believed that Lal Singh would come to the spot. Ghamdur Singh has also explained that he kept Harnam Singh, Dulla & Kaka under his protection for handing them over to the Police and also bought camel and mare for the same purpose, but when I read his confession along with that of Nanak Singh and take into consideration other independent evidence about the working of the conspiracy I cannot help coming to the only conclusion that Gamdur Singh joined the conspiracy with full knowledge of its intention and took prominent part in it right up the very murder of Lal Singh. Intention after all being a state of mind is incapable of direct proof by the testimony of witnesses. It can be ascertained only from the statements of the party the state of whose mind is in question or by drawing inference from physical facts which constitute the outword manifestation of the parts of mind. In considering the inferences as to intention to be drawn from a particular series of acts, the Court has to be guided by the rule of Law which lays down that every person is to be presumed to have intended to produce those consequences which are the result of his acts.

Before I proceed to convict Nanak Singh and Ghamdur Singh I should like to remark that it is rather unfortunate that the prosecution had not been able to produce Pakhar Singh, Sundar Singh and Gujar Singh before this court, as I believe their evidence would have thrown a flood of light on the case. It is proved from the evidence of Mehar Singh P. W. 72 that the prosecution made every possible effort to get hold of Pakhar Singh and I have no ground to disbelieve the evidence of this witness. Registered Summons were also sent to Sundar Singh and Gujar Singh but they are nowhere to be found.

I therefore find both Nanak Singh and Ghamdur Singh guilty of the murder of Lal Singh, the former of abetting and the latter of committing the most cold-blooded and deliberate murder. They are guilty of the murder of an innocent man who had not given these people the slightest provocation. It was done

for gaining their selfish worldly ends. Here is a murder planned for months and months and carried out with the cruelest details. Even Nanak Singh's nonpresence at the murder does not entitle him to any mercy. He is the man with whom the original idea started. While he was in charge of Public safety he not only planned the murder but made every possible attempt to defeat the enquiry. Another serious thing which aggravates his offence is that he made every attempt to throw mud on or even incriminate other responsible officer of the State. The circumstances of the case call for the maximum penalty under the Law. The only alleviating circumstance in this whole campaign of murder is that both Nanak Singh and Ghamdur Singh have confessed their crime in the most frank and fullest possible manner and stuck to them upto the last. But for their frank and full confessions, I am inclined to think that the prosecution would have been at a great disadvantage. This in my opinion shows that both of these accused are genuinely repentant and their attitude throughout the trial before me has convinced me that genuine and true repentance has actuated them to confess their guilt. This in my opinion is a little atonement of their horrible crime. I therefore convict Nanak Singh under Section 302/109 I. P. C. and Ghamdur Singh under 302 I. P. C. and award them the lesser penalty of the Law provided under Section 302 and sentence both Nanak Singh and Ghamdur Singh to transportation for life.

Dulla

This accused has pleaded not guilty. The case against Dulla starts with his presence in Patiala in the house of Ujagar Singh a day previous to the murder. This is corroborated by the confession of both Nanak Singh and Ghamdur Singh. His presence on the 29th of Har 1975 near the place of murder is proved by the evidence of Abdulla P. W. 17. I have no reason to doubt his evidence.

Regarding Dulla's share in the actual murder we have no direct evidence except the confession of Ghamdur Singh. Before dealing with Ghamdur Singh's confession I propose to discuss Dulla's

own confession. The fact that his confession was duly recorded under Section 164 C. P. C. is proved by the testimony of Razi Mohammad Suleman Naib Nazim of Patiala P. W. No: 3. This witness has deposed before this Court that he took every precaution in recording the confession and that it was given voluntarily and that Dulla made no complaint to him, when he recorded his confession. From the confession itself I find that all the requirements of Law Provided under Sec : 164 C. P. C. were observed by this witness when recording the confession and there are no circumstances patent on the face of it to vitiate the voluntary character of the confession. This witness is an old experienced Judicial Officer and I have no reason whatsoever to disbelieve his evidence. Dulla subsequently retracted his confession in the Committing Magistrate's Court, as well as before this Court. His explanation about his confession is contradictory. In his statement before this Court under Section 342 Cr : Pr : Code Dulla has stated that he did not know what Qazi Suleman wrote as he was bleeding from the mouth and the rectum, and in the same breath has stated that he made the confession under Police torture. The minute details which Dulla has given of his journey to Patiala and his description of even trifling events subsequent to the murder, events which could not have been known to anybody but himself, prove the voluntary nature of his confession. I have therefore not slightest doubt that Dulla made his confession voluntarily. As to the admissibility of retracted confession the Law is perfectly clear.

"A mere subsequent retraction of a confession which is duly recorded and certified by a Magistrate is not enough in all cases to make it appear to have been unlawfully indeed," 25 Bombay 168 (1900). All the High Courts are practically unanimous on the fact that it can not be laid down as an absolute Rule of Law that a confession made and subsequently retracted by a prisoner cannot be accepted as evidence of his guilt without independent corroborative evidence. But even this confession when taken fully into consideration as a piece of evidence admissible against this accused,

cannot make him guilty of the offence with which he is charged. The finding of the bones and "Dhora" in which the corpse was tied are the result of Dulla's own confession. The evidence of Chanan P. W. 32 Attar Singh P. W. 34. Mahant Hira Dass P. W. 37. and Narain Singh P. W. 38 as to the pointing out by Dulla of the places where Lal Singh's body was burnt and as to the findings of the bones from that spot corroborate Dulla's own confession. The finding of the "Dhora" and its indentification by Dulla accused is proved by the evidence of Thakar Singh P. W. 27, Mohammad Hussan P. W.63. Kashambri Dass P. W. 70 and L. Sahib Chand Inspector of Police P. W. 67. Thakar Singh, Mohammad Hussan and Kashambri Dass Patwari come from British India and it cannot be said against them that they are giving evidence under any pressure from Patiala Police. Dulla has admitted in this Court that he has no enmity against any of these witnesses and I have no reason whatsoever to disbelieve their evidence. It is also proved by the evidence of Sada Singh P. W 26. that he went and lived under Ghamdur Singh's protection at Chural. This also affords some illustration of Dulla's connection with the crime.

The only evidence against Dulla of the actual murder is Ghamdur Singh's confession. There is absolutely no other evidence whatsoever to corroborate Ghamdur Singh's confession as regards Dulla's part in actual murder of Lal Singh. The counsel for the Crown has argued that as Ghamdur Singh has implicated himself in his own confession it is admissible in evidence against a co-accused.

The attention of this Court is drawn to Sec. 30 of the Indian Evidence Act. It runs as follows :-

"When more persons than one are being tried jointly for the same offence and a confession made by one of such persons affecting himself and some other of such persons is proved, the Court may take into consideration such confession as against such other persons, as well as against the person who makes such confession." The

principle underlying this Section is that selfimplication affords a guarantee of the truth of the accusation against the other. The Counsel for the Crown has cited two cases in support of his arguments E. I. 29 Illahabad 434 (1907) and 30 P. R. 1914. It was held in 29th Illahabad 434 (1907) "As regards other co-accused although corroborative evidence may be necessary, it is not necessary that such corroborative evidence should by itself be sufficient to support a conviction; and that a conviction based on the unsupported evidence afforded by the confession of a co-accused would not be unlawful."

It was held in 30 P. R. 1914 that when it is a question of using a confession against a co-accused of the person confessing the Court would not be prepared to accept the confession per so as sufficient. The corroboration ought to be of the kind that not only confirms the general story of the crime but also unmistakably connects the said co-accused with the crime.

While giving due deference to the views expressed by the Learned Judge, it cannot be admitted that the courts are deprived from exercising their discretion in the use of an uncorroborated confession of a co-accused. The use to be made of such confession is a matter rather of prudence than law. In fact the very wording of Sec: 30 Indian evidence act shows that the Legislature has only bestowed a discretion upon the Courts to take into consideration such confession. The wording of this Section shows that such a confession is merely to be an element in the consideration of all the facts of the case, while allowing it to be so considered it does not do away with the necessity of other evidence. For even when regarded as evidence and taken at its highest value, it is of too weak a character to found a conviction upon it alone and hence corroboration is invariably required in such cases.

It has been held in 15 Bombay 66 (190) that "The conviction of a person who is being tried together with other persons for the same offence cannot proceed merely on an uncorroborated statement in the confession of one of such other persons." It was

also held in R. V. Jafaar Ali 19 W. R. Cr 57. (1873) that "The confession of persons tried jointly for the same offence may be considered sa against other parties then on their trial with them, but such confession when used as evidence against others stand in need of corroboration." "When confessions of one co-prisoner are admissible against another co-prisoner the utmost value that can be claimed for them is that if there is other untained evidence against the accused, they may be "considered" together with such evidence. Weir 3rd : Edition 499 A (1886). I am in full conformity with the views expressed in these judgments. In fact the test of a confession in joint trial is that the confessing prisoner must tar himself and the person or persons he implicates with one and the same brush and when applying this test to Gamdur Singh's confession I have no hesitation in holding that it falls short of this test. After all the confession of Gamdur Singh is limited to just so much as he chose to say especially with regard to the actual murder and guaranteed by nothing except the peril into which it brings the speaker and which it is generally fashioned to lessen.

Another very imprtant fact which must be taken into consideration when judging Dulla's complicity in the crime is that there is absolutely no evidence forthcoming to show that Dulla had any knowledge of the sinister design of Harnam Singh and his co-conspirators. I am inclined to think that he was forced into the position of rendering assistance to rhe murderers after the act. I have threfore no hesitation in holding that Dulla is not guilty of the charge of murder but of a much minor offence. I have absolutely no doubt in my mind as to the veracity of the witnesses who have deposed to Dulla's pointing out the spot where the corpse was burnt and his identification af the 'Dhora" in which the corpse was tied. Dulla has admitted in his own confession that he and Kaka collected the wood with which the corpse was burnt. He knew that an offence of murder had been committed and still he assisted Harnam Singh in the destruction of the corpse with the intention of weakening the prosecution against

him and the other accused. He declined to produce any witness in his defence. His offence in my opinion falls under Section 201 I. P. C. This Section presents the case of accession after the fact. I therefore find Dulla guilty under Sec: 201 I. P. C. and sentence him to 5 years' rigorous imprisonment.

Note :- It is rather unfortunate that this accused, inspite of being told many a times that if he wished the Court would appoint a counsel for him, refused to have the assistance of a counsel.

Partap Singh

This man has been charged under Sec: 201 of the I. P. C. He has pleaded not guilty. It is alleged by the prosecution that he procured the mare and the camel which were used on the occasion of the murder of Lal Singh and sent them to Ghamdur Singh for their being subsequently destroyed.

Thakar Singh P. W. 27 has deposed to Harnam Singh'a having bought the mare from him for Rs. 120/-. Ghamdur Singh in his confession has admitted that the mare was sent to him by Ujagar Singh through Bulle Khan P. W. 9. The omission of the prosecution to have this point cleared from Bulle Khan when he appeared before this Court must be presumed to be in favour of the accused. The evidence of Dharma P. W. 56 and Bagga P. W. 57 is entirely worthless. Bagga says that Partap Singh left a mare with him and then took it away after 2½ months and that he took no money from Partap Singh on account of grazing and keeping the mare. This seems to be palpably false. He has admitted that he was detained in Karakhas for fifteen or sixteen days. What he was doing there for so many days is not difficult to guess. I attach no importance to his evidence. Ralla P. W. 58 is not an impartial witness as he admits his ill-feeling against Partap Singh. The other witnesses Thakar Singh, Mangal, Dia Ram, Urjan and Kishan are about the camel.

There are material contradictions in the statement of Thakar Singh on one side and Mangal and Dia Ram on the other. Thakar

Singh P. W. 27 has deposed to his having sold the camel at Kadon to Mangal for Rs. 160/- in the presence of Harnam Singh Kadon, while Mangal P. W. 61 says that his uncle Dia Ram bought the camel from Thakar Singh who had brought the camel to his (Mangal's) house at Khodani Village. Mangal has also deposed that Pratap Singh and Sada Singh came to enquire from him about the camel and he told them that the camel had been sold to Arjan of "Chhoti Lalton." This witness also mentions of a second visit from Sada Singh who was accompanied by another man and that (Mangal) took this man to Lalton and introduced him to Harnam broker. Dia Ram P. W. 62 does not say anything about the coming of Sada Singh and Partap Singh for the purpose of making any enquiries about the camel. Sada Singh P. W. 26 says nothing about his first visit to Mangal but has deposed to his having gone to Mangal with Bugar. This is also corroborated by Ghamdur Singh's confession. I am of opinion that Mangal had only one visit from Sada Singh in the company of Bugar and his evidence about the first visit of Sada Singh. Partap Singh does not seem to me to be true.

The next witness is Arjan. He says that Partap Singh had gone to him in company with Sada Singh to buy a camel which he had bought from Diya Ram. If we believe this man there was no necessity of Sada Singh's going to Mangal along with Bogar and asking Mangal to get him the camel, because if Sada Singh had been to him previously with Partap Singh he would have naturally taken Bugar to Arjan direct. I am of opinion that this man is also not telling the truth about Partap Singh's visit to him.

The next witness is Kishan Singh P. W. 71. His story about Partap Singh's first visit seems to me absolutely false. Even if Partap Singh knew anything about the connection of this camel with the murder of Lal Singh it is absolutely impossible that he who was an absolute stranger to him should think that the camel he had come to buy from him was connected with such a henious crime as murder. The camel was no doubt bought through the help of Mangal and Sada Singh from Kishen Singh, but I am

not prepared to believe that Partap Singh had any connection with its purchase. Even if I take all the evidence about Partap Singh's share in the purchase of this camel to be true, there is absolutely no evidence forthcoming that it was Partap Singh who delivered the camel to Ghamdur Singh. On the other hand there is Ghamdur Singh's confession which tells us that he sent his man Bugar with Sada Singh to buy the camel and the camel was brought by his man.

The prosecution has entirely failed in proving that Partap Singh had any knowledge that the camel and the mare had been connected with Lal Singh's murder. The counsel for the prosecution has argued that as Partap Singh is a brother of Harnam Singh and father-in-law of Ujagar Singh he must have known about the connection of these two animals with the crime. I think it is a far-fetched inference to draw and it would not be fair to judge his knowledge and criminal intention simply from his being closely related to two of the accused in this case in absence of any clear evidence to that effect.

It is also essential for the prosecution to prove that Partap Singh was procuring the animals with the intention of having them subsequently destroyed and the prosecution has entirely failed in this respect also. Partap Singh in his statement before me under Sec. 342 C. P. C. has stated that he was arrested on the 2nd: Katik 1976 and has been in the Kar-I-Khas since. He states that he was arrested by Faiz Mohammad Khan and taken to Doraha and was asked about his brother Harnam Singh; and as he could not give Harnam Singh's whereabouts he was arrested. He declined to produce any witness in his defence as he stated that no one would give evidence for him out of fear of the Police.

I am not in a position to say how far this is true, but there is one thing of which I am certain and that is, that this man's misfortunes were entirely due to his being related to Harnam Singh and Ujagar Singh.

Under the citcumstances I hold that the prosecution has entirely failed to prove any case against Partap Singh under Section 201 I. P. C. and therefore I acquit him and order him to be released forthwith.

I should like to put on record the great ability with which Mr : Naranjan Prashad conducted the case for the prosecution. His position had been made doubly difficult owing to the accused having been unrepresented throughout the trial before this Court and it gives me pleasure to record that while fully safeguarding the prosecution he was always anxious to be fair to the accused.

According to the practice that has hitherto been followed in this Court, I direct that the records of this case be submitted to the Judicial Secretary for confirmation of the sentence of transportation for life passed on Nanak Singh and Ghamdur Singh.

Dated 8. 5. 77.

Sd. **S. Dina Nath.**
Judge High Court Patiala.

4. Memorial of S. Nanak Singh to the Viceroy, (Ex. 38C.)

I most solemnly affirm on oath that when I last saw my husband Sardar Nanak Singh, Late Superintendent of Police, in charge C. I. D. Patiala, on the first of December 1928, he asked me to make the enclosed representation to His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor General of India on his behalf duly signed by me as he said he could not do so himself on account of the restrictions put on him in Jail by the Patiala State authorities.

I also declare that to the best of my knowledge the statement made by my husband is true and correct,

(Sd.) TEJ KAUR,
WIFE OF SARDAR NANAK SINGH,
Formerly Superintendent of Police, and in charge C. I. D.,
Patiala State.

To

HIS EXCELLENCY THE VICEROY AND
GOVERNOR GENERAL OF INDIA,
SIMLA.

Your Excellency,

Your petitioner who untill 1918 held the responsible post of the Superintendent of Police, Patiala State, was soon after disgraced and put into jail, on a charge of murder of one Lal Singh with whose wife, Dalip Kaur, the Maharaja carried on an intrigue and eventually, after the removal of Lal Singh, he married her, and who is now the accepted Maharani of Patiala.

2. Lal Singh was the cousin of Sirdar Gurnam Singh who held the post of Home Member in the Patiala Government and was also Maharaja's father-in-law. It can be proved without the shadow of a doubt that almost immediately after the performance of the *Gauna* ceremony of Lal Singh when he brought his wife from her father's home in Sangrur she was spirited away from her lawful husband and carried to the Maharaja who was then in residence in Simla in the summer of Sambut 1968 or 1969 (A. D. 1912). The Maharaja conceived an extraordinary passion for the girl and he soon afterwards busied himself in devising means of making her his wife.

3. He first tried persuation and invoked the assistance of Sirdar Ghurnam Singh and of his Diwan Sir Daya Kishen Kaul– to prevail upon Lal Singh to divorce his wife whom indeed he was compelled *nolens volens* to surrender to the amorous embrace of his king and ruler the Maharaja Dhiraj of Patiala but not devoid of all sense of honour this man refused voluntarily to seal the infamy of his wedded wife by himself inscribing the document of relinquishment and divorce. He resolutely set his face against the proposal and the draft deed which Sir Daya Kishen Kaul had drawn up is still in my possession as an infructuous document of release which be it said to the honour of the dead man never became a *fait accompli*.

4. Foiled in his attempt to encompass his ends by conciliatory methods the Maharaja and his Diwan were not slow in adopting a more violent policy with Lal Singh. He was threatened, he was coerced. But all this failing a scheme almost unparallelled in the history of human crime was conceived and carried into execution with the full knowledge, sanction, and authority of the Maharaja himself, though care was taken to accomplish the foul deed of murdering Lal Singh in cold blood, in the temporary absence of the Maharaja in England. His confederates had however assured him and forsworn themselves that the life of Lal Singh will be extinct before the Maharaja returns to India from his sojourn in Europe.

5. For sometime I was asked to assist in this scheme of murder. I was paid Rs. 7,000/- by cheque on the Alliance Bank of Simla and my active intercession was demanded to procure a divorce or, if need be, the ultimate removal of Lal Singh. An attempt was made to procure a forged divorce deed and for this purpose a magistrate with a more pliable conscience–a man by the name of Sardar Sukhdev Singh was transferred to Dhuri and a stamp was purchased from Mannu Lal Stamp Vendor, but Lal Singh was obdurate and threatened to expose the scheme to the British Government.

His Highness not being satisfied with the progress of events employed through the instrumentality of one Ujagar Singh, Electrical Engineer of Patiala, the services of Ghamdur Singh, a man of a reckless disposition and capable of desperate deeds.

6. On a certain day of Baisakh (April) His Highness gave your petitioner two pistols from the State armoury. He asked your petitioner to make one of them over to Ujagar Singh which I did, after making due report to the Police. The second pistol remained with your petitioner awaiting instructions of His Highness and His Highness told your petitioner and Ghamdur Singh on the 16th Baisakh 1975 when he was passing in his car near the Poor House (by appointment) that Lal Singh should be done

away with before his return from Europe. I went to see His Highness off at Bombay where he again exhorted me to help Ghamdur Singh and told me that he would jump into the sea if he did not hear the news of Lal Singh's removal before he returned from England.

7. But your petitioner was sick at heart and left Ghamdur Singh to manage the foul deed alone. He pursuaded Lal Singh to meet him alone telling him that he would assist him in the recovery of his wife through the British Government. He told him that through the British Governmeut he recovered his lands although they were really released to him under the orders of the Maharaja dictated by His Highnes to Boota Ram at Bombay and addressed to his Judical Secretary as a reward for Ghamdur Singh's promised service in this nefarious scheme. Thus Lal Singh walked into the trap and met Ghamdur Singh who accomplished the deed with the help of Harnam Singh of Kadon, and two others and Dulla and Kaka Singh. The pistol which did to death the unfortunate man was secured by Ghamdur Singh from me and was the second of the two pistols entrusted to me from the State armoury by His Highness. After the man was dead Sir Daya Kishen Kaul came from Chail to Patiala and the Maharaja who was apparently apprised of the deed cabled to Sirdar Ghurnam Singh the cousin of Lal Singh deceased (who in the meanwhile had been cleverly removed from India to Mesopotamia) to immediately proceed from Mesopotamia to meet the Maharaja in France—a step that was obviously taken to prevent him from trying to unearth the true story of the tragedy surrounding his cousin's death. Indeed the plan of removing Sirdar Ghurnam Singh and keeping him from India until it would be too late, was discussed and decided between His Highness and Sir Daya Kishen Kaul before the Maharaja left for England, doubtless in anticipation of the complete success of the scheme. Prior to this I had warned Sirdar Gurnam Singh in Europe of the activities of Ghamdur Singh and I have in my possession the reply I received. On receipt of

the eagerly awaited news of Lal Singh's death the Maharaja in his glee, revolting as it may seem, distributed rewards to his attendents on a lavish scale.

8. On his return to India at Bombay the Maharaja was pleased to invite me to dinner at the Taj Mahal Hotel along with the Jam Sahib of Navanagar and the Maharana of Dholpur. But Sir Daya Kishen Kaul fearing that his influence might wane, and being angry with me for refusing to return to him the draft deed of divorce and his letter managed to wean the Maharaja from me, although at one time he was mean enough to offer me a douceur of Rs. 50,000/- and the Inspector-General-ship of Police, Patiala State, if as the officer in charge of the investigation of Lal Singh's murder I would make a report showing the complicity of the Maharaja in the death of the unfortunate man, but your petitioner refused to do so for sake of the Maharaja though the truth was known to me and also to L. Tara Chand Inspector General of Police, Patiala and other officers concerned with the investigation of this crime.

9. Later when free from the trammels of law the Maharaja openly married Dalip Kaur, who indeed had been virtually his wife ever since her marriage to her husband Lal Singh, and she became the Maharani of Patiala and it is somewhat difficult to persuade one's self to believe that this woman was not cognisant of the designs on her husband's life. The actual murderers and conspirators in the plot against Lal Singh's life benefitted largely by helping the Maharaja in securing possession of Dulip Kaur as his wife. Ghamdur Singh who had been in consequence of a serious crime banished from Patiala and his return to Patiala inspite of the recommendation of the British Government had so far been refused by Patiala was allowed to come back and was in fact given possession of a share (through his near relation Mt. Nihal Kaur) of the estate of Colonel Gurbakhsh Singh; and Sir Daya Kishen Kaul rose high in the favour of his illustrious master.

10 Of the investigation that followed and the mock trial in the law courts of Patiala the less said the better. The murder when committed was first tried to be concealed but when the British Government pressed for it, formal enquiries were instituted and a reply was sent to the Government in terms which were altogether unsatisfactory and untrue. Mr. Newman who was entrusted with the investigation was kept in the dark and the whole case was put before him in a garbled form. On account of your petitioner's having gained great esteem in the eyes of His Highness, Sir Daya Kishen Kaul was always after his ruin. In order to satisfy his grudge, he had several false charges lodged against him and had him arrested. Your petitioner being in possession of such correspondence as incriminated both Sir Daya Kishan Kaul and His Highness in the murder of Lal Singh and they being afraid lest your petitioner might disclose it to the public, arranged to have your petitioner sentenced to such punishment as would keep him in the prison for the rest of his life and would thus prevent him from making any disclosures about the evil deed. Later on with a promise of early release, all the original papers in the possession of your petitioner were taken away from him with the halp of Sardar Gulab Singh contractor of Kashmir, Sardar Singh son of Sardar Bahadur Sundar Singh of Gujarkhan, and the Hon'ble Sir Sardar Sunder Singh Majithia. Your petitioner was instructed through Sardar Tirlok Singh Suri of Kallar District Rawalpindi and Sardar Jai Singh of Gujarkhan to admit the charge of murder. He was promised that he would be treated as an approver and released and that by doing so he could prevent the Maharaja being punished, disgraced, and dishonoured by the British Government.

11. Having received innumerable favours from His Highness, the spirit of loyalty being still strong in him, having been pressed by his near relations and confiding in His Highness' words, Your petitioner fell in the trap, and willy nilly admitted the commission of the murder by him, and was consequently sentenced to transporation for life. For the services rendered by

Sir Sundar Singh Majithia in prevailing on your petitioner and his relatives to make a confession and for extracting from him on false pretexts the papers in his possession that Sir Sundar Singh Majithia for himself and his confederates received a substantial cheque of Rs. 40,000/- from the Maharaja of Patiala. Your petitioner was so surrounded and hedged in by people who were working in the interest of the Maharaja and who successfully played upon your petitioner's feeling of personal loyallty to the Maharaja that by giving him hopes of an early release they ultimately pursuaded him to confess the crime even in front of the Political Agent to the British Government, when your petitioner was confronted before that officer in Motibagh in company with the Maharaja himself and Sir Daya Kishen Kaul. Would it have been possible for your petitioner inspite of tha questions asked by the Political Agent to turn against his own Maharaja and accuse him to his face of the dastardly crime ? Those who have dealt with and analysed situations similar to the one in which your petitioner was placed should have no difficulty in appreciating the truth of your petitioner's remark that such confession has no more value than an eye-wash and can never be used as a declaration of truth. Was it possible for any one shorn of help and in a state of desperation in which your petitioner was not to surrender to the combined influence of threat and inducement, and specially when impelled by the predominant sentiment of loyalty to his King and Sovereign the Maharaja whose personal honour and safety was at stake ? Fate sealed your petitioner's lips and the Political Agent mechanically went through the necessary formality of a few stereo-typed questions and came to the conclusion that your petitioner's confession though dominated by the presence of the murderer Prince himself and his archconfederate Sir Daya Kishen Kaul was a true and voluntary confession ! Need it be said that such a confession would not be looked at by any British Court and common sense would repel it as a worthless piece of evidence ?

12. Of subsequent events it is enough to say that consistently with the traditions of the Patiala officials and their tactics I appealed in vain to Sir Sirdar Sundar Singh Majithia and Sir Daya Kishen Kaul and to all and sundry who had promised to obtain your petitioner's release to help him, but it was a cry in the wilderness. Nor could your petitioner get back his papers from Sir Sunder Singh Majithia who had by this time risen to the post of an Executive Counciller with the Punjab Government and who unceremoniously brushed aside all entreaties for assistance and admitted before your petitioner's friends that he had made over the papers to Patiala and with a cool effrontary advised your petitioner's relations to appeal for mercy to Patiala as the only path of salvation that he could point to. But of course all this proved useless for not only were these petitions rejected but your petitioner was forced by tortures and compulsion, by house-searches of your petitioner's relations etc., to sign other papers to prove his own guilt and of course thereby to exonerate the real culprit.

13. The judgment of the Criminal Court of Patiala in dealing with the so-called confession is hopelessly muddled and surprising as it may seem, the Political Agent was satisfied (for such is the rumour) with the absurd tale that your petitioner had killed Lal Singh during the Maharaja's absence in England, as he thought that by doing so he would please the Maharaja. In other words your petitioner committed the foul crime of murdering a fellow-man and the cousin of Sirdar Gurnam Singh in an outburst of loyalty for the Maharaja, so that seducer of Lal Singh's wife might enjoy the company of Dalip Kaur untroubled: by fear of revenge from her husband whose hand was convulsed in death and whose tongue stilled for ever.

14. To add insult to injury the Maharaja having turned a deaf ear to all representation on your petitioner's behalf, in March 1929 S. Hazura Singh Dhillon sent a messenger to Gujarkhan informing the relative of your petitioner that he (Nanak Singh) had committed some more criminal acts and for that reason his

release had become impossible. Your petitioner is quite sure that this fresh development has been manouvred to keep him in jail for ever. Sardar Jai Singh your petitioner's uncle sent a registered letter in reply to Sardar Hazura Singh and a telegram was also sent to His Highness as under :

> " Informed Nanak Singh being cruelly treated in Jail, can't tolerate further mal-treatment, pray removal of such undue harshness, if any mishap occuring all responsibility yours. "

15. Being afraid of the exposure of the facts of the case and the consequent risk to his own position, the Maharaja has now refused to release your petitioner and when your petitioner's relatives make any complaint they are threatened with vengeance on your petitioner and he is cruelly treated in the Jail. Your petitioner's life is now in grave danger and unless some step is immediately taken to protect him, he might be killed in Jail. Besides personal evidence your petitioner has got documentary evidence to prove that the murder of Lal Singh was the direct result of the plans of His Highness and Sir Daya Kishen Kaul Your petitioner can produce all this as soon as your petitioner is removed to some British jail and given an assurance that he could no more be sent back to Patiala. If after an independent enquiry or re-trial your petitioner is proved to be guilty, he is prepared to undergo any punishment and pay any penalty for it.

16. It is possible that when this petition reaches your Excellency, the Maharaja might try to produce some forged confessions or other so-called admissions by your petitioner or even some letter contradicting the statements made above. Your Excellency, your petitioner most humbly prays that no such confession or admission or contradictory statement should be considered as coming voluntarily from your petitioner.

17. In conclusion being impelled after lapse of eleven years by sheer desperation and by the courage borne of a sense of truth and justice in my case, I approach Your Excellency to redress a

grievous wrong even though the wrong-doer be no less a person than His Highness the Maharaja Dhiraj of Patiala, and once more uphold the lofty traditions of British justice between man and man and order institution of an independent inquiry when your petitioner can assure Your Excellency all necessary papers, on proper condition being secured, will be forthcoming to prove his innocence and the guilt of the Maharaja, not to speak of the heroine of the tragedy Dalip Kaur and their henchman Sir Daya Kishan Kaul. Justice demands prompt and proper enquiry and on Your Excellency, as the representative of His Majesty the King of England as the final upholder of truth and jusice, lies the responsibility to secure justice even to the meanest individual under your paramount sway even if he be a subject of a Native State. Your petitioner is confident that Your Excellency will not for moment be deterred from the straight path of duty by any sentiments of avoiding the odium of Patiala Government or its Ruler who loudly boasts that he can do what he likes being in favour with the British Raj and officials.

I beg to subscribe myself,
Your Excellency's humble and obedient servant,
(Sd.) TEJ KAUR,
WIFE OF SARDAR NANAK SINGH,
Formerly Superintendent of Police,
and Incharge C. I. D.,
PATIALA STATE.

5. Draft of divorce-deed in the hand-writing of Sir Kishen Kaul, Ex. 38 D.

6. Two letters of Sir Kishen Kaul, Ex. 38 E & F.

7. Two letters of Sardar Sunder Singh Majithia, Ex. 38 G & H.

8. Letters of Gurnam Singh, the father-in-law of the Maharaja, Ex. 38 I.

(*For these see Appendix F*)

COUNT TWO : SETTING UP AND MAINTENANCE OF A BOMB FACTORY IN THE FORT OF BAHADUR-GADH IN THE PATIALA STATE

Evidence in Support

(1) Dr. Bakshis Singh's Statement Ex. 36.

(2) Dr. Bakshis Singh's affidavit Ex. 36 A.

(3) Sardar Partap Singh's Statement Ex. 35.

(4) Bhai Ram Singh's Statement Ex. 42.

1. Dr. Bakshis Singh's Statement Ex. 36.

I, Sardar Bakshish Singh s/o Sahib Singh of Shahzadpur Tehsil Khard, District Amballa, aged 35 years states as under :

1. The true and full story of my part in Patiala affairs is as under :

when I was under the thumb of Patiala I have made some statements before Rai Sahab Bhagwan Dass, the Superintendent of C. I. D., Government of India. They were all made at the instance of Maharaja Patiala and his the then Prime Minister Sir Daya Kishen Kaul. They are not true.

2. The first true statement that I made was before Nand Singh, Inspector C. I. D. Punjab, in Nabha. After that I made one before Abdul Aziz at Jullunder, then before Mr. Ice Monger, I. G. P., III. D., Punjab, then to S. G. P. C. at Amritsar. I have also made one affidavit before an Honorary Magistrate at Dehradun. I have also given my statement to Messrs Mardy Jones and Saklatwala, Members of Parliament, when they came to India. I have made one statement to Mr. Nariman of Bombay also.

3. In all the above statements made by me after I got out from Nabha prison, there may be slips here and there; but all of

them are correct in substance. But I wish to point out that at the end of all the above statements, I have always stated that I am holding back certain things, because otherwise my life would be in danger. Herein too I do keep back certain things which fact may please be noted.

4. With the qualifications mentioned above I give herein a full and connected account of my part in the Patiala Affairs.

5. My family have been living in Shajahanpur from ancestral times. We have got our landed property there. From my young age I was working with a doctor who taught me medicines. So I too began to work as a private medical practitioner. Of course I am not a qualified doctor, nor do I know English. Reputation of myself and my family in my village and round about has been always high, both among officials and non-officials. Except my part in the Patiala affairs which I am stating herein and my share in Akali agitation of those days, for which a case was started against me by the Government, there has never been any criminal case against me. I was living the life of respectable citizen.

6. My story begins from the year 1922. In the month of January of that year one Bijla Singh and his wife were holding Diwans in my part of the Province. They were programmed to be in the village of Barwala-Batod on a certain day when they were to address a public meeting convened by the Congress Committee. I had gone there to attend that meeting.

7. It so happened that while coming to the place of meeting they passed by the Thana of Mubarakpur. Here the Thanedar abruptly besieged the party by the help of his two policemen. But Bijla Singh bolted. Thanedar, however, took his wife under his custody. Mr. Jiram, Secretary of the Congress Committee was accompanying the party. In spite of his arrest Mr. Jiram managed to bring the wife of Bijla Singh to the meeting place. This became possible probably because the Thanedar was not in possession of regular warrants then.

8. The woman came in the meeting under the Police guard. She addressed the meeting and related the story how her husband

had absconded and how helpless she had been. I was in the meeting, I heard her address. One Kuka Namdhari then stood up. He said among other things: 'Once there was a time when Sikhs could rescue sixteen thousand Hindu women from the clutches of Muslims, but today we are incapable of rescuing even one woman who has been reduced to helplessness in our midst." I heard this all and was touched.

9. I thought out a plan to her rescue. I went near her and whispered in her ears my plan. She consented. So I took out my mare which was the best animal in the District to the Bank of a river which is flowing by that village. The woman came near me under the pretext of going to ease herself. I picked her up, seated her behind my back, tied her with my breast and started off. I showed myself to the Police and declared to them that I was rescuing the woman and they may do their best to capture us. So saying I left. None came behind us. I took her to a place about 25 to 30 miles distant where Bijla Singh had gone and handed his wife to him. He was addressing a Diwan at the time when I reached there. They all congratulated me for my chivalry.

10, There was one incident in my rescue journey with Bijla Singh's wife. While we were crossing the river Ghaggar in deep waters the woman accidentally fell down in the river and began to be dragged with the floods, and was about to be drowned. I jumped down, went behind her and brought her back. She had lost her senses. I got her warmed in fields nearby and handed her safe to her husband.

11. A few days after this I addressed the people in the Railway compound of Dhulkota in the presence of Mr. King, the Special Magistrate at Amballa. For that a Criminal case was started against me in the Amballa District. Warrant of arrest was issued against me but I did not appear. My property was therefore attached by the Government. I was then staying in Faridkote territory and was practising medicine there and round about. Thus I stayed there for about 10 months or so.

So far as my rescue of the woman is concerned nothing was done to me, probably because there was no warrant for the woman and she was arrested unlawfully.

12. Then I had an occasion to meet Bijla Singh and his party. He and his party had got into the confidence of Maharaja of Patiala through one Ram Singh Dhariwalia. They told me that Maharaja and Diwan would help me in getting my property back because they thought very highly of my bravery. They then took me to the Dewan sir Daya Kishan Kaul who talked to me very sweetly and told me that I won't be required to beg pardon and that my property would be restored. Diwan said that D. C. Amballa was his friend and he would use all his influence to help me. I did not know then what was in their view. and why they promised me all that. They asked me to bring my family to Patiala; which I did and we were all accommodated in the Fort of Bahadurgarh. Bijla Singh and his party were also there.

13, After that I was introduced to the Maharaja by Sir Kishan Kaul. Sir Daya Kishan had asked me to concur in what the Maharaja may say. So, when Maharaja said to me that my services are required and I would get handsome recognition I concurred; but I had no idea there of what I had to do.

14. Then came the time. I was told that I had to take part in the affair of bomb making and had to make a statement to C. I. D. of the Government of India as I may be asked to do. Ram Singh was the man who first talked to me about the part I had to play and Diwan used to say to me that I had to do what Ram Singh asked me to do. He asked me to say that bombs were regularly made by Maharaja Nabha in his territory in the villages of Phul, Bheni, and Bharochor. Bombs were then sent to S. G. P. C. on horseback for Babar Akali Jatha. S. G. P. C. Wanted the same to be thrown on Prince of wales and on Maharaja Patiala, when the Prince may go in the Patiala State territory. I had to say that my instructions were to anyhow throw some bombs in Patiala State territory, if for nothing else for a

mere purpose to defame Patiala, and I had to say these instructions I received through General Kala Singh of Nabha. I had also to state that I had instructions to go even as far as Bombay to throw Bombs on the Prince of Wales. I had to say that Nabha had paid three lacs of rupees for these purposes. Nabha had further taught bomb making to many Sikhs and for this purpose he was spending a lot of money. In brief I was asked to implicate Nabha and S. G. P. C. in this bombs affair.

15. I had never any idea of such a proposal. It shocked me. Sir Daya Kishan offered me the following as a recompense:-

Two Villages
800 Bighas of land (free from revenue)
Rs 3000/- in Cash.
One Motor Car
One Bungalow and
Rs 500/- per month during my lifetime.

Even then I said no. I was not prepared to thus falsely implicate Nabha and S. G. P. C. Sir Daya Kishan was upset. For this he locked us all up in our residence. During our detention gentlemen mentioned below came to me at different times, and informed me that in case I did not fall in with them I should not expect to be alive.

1. Murabat Ali, (2) Two Sardars whose names I do not know, (3) Bijla Singh, and (4) Ram Singh.

I would quote one phrase that they used "Those who obey Maharaja, them he makes gold from dust : those who don't, go buried deep in dust." They pointed out to me that particularly after getting me in the mystery, Maharaja cannot allow me freedom. Either I had to take part in the affair or die. All the same, I was unrelenting.

16. I then consulted my wife Bibi Bichater Kaur. She said that we should not love our lives so much as to sacrifice the community and an innocent Maharaja. She quoted instances from the Sikh History and said that we should make sacrifice of us

all for the sake of Panth, but should never submit to these wicked designs. For herself she was prepared to face death and everything. I remember one thing in particular, that she said on this occassion:

She said: "Maharaja is giving this, that and all. Please ask him whether he is empowered to guarantee the time for which we can use all that. If he guarantees that also, we will obey."

17. But then I thought that we should not die without doing anything. We must do something so that Patiala be exposed and we can render service to Panth. So I thought out a plan as under:

i. That I should prepare small notes to the following effects: "This Bomb is made in Bahadurgarh Fort at the instance of Maharaja Patiala and his Diwan dated ..... Sd. Bakshish Singh.

One such note I should manage to put in all bombs that may be made in Bahadurgarh.

ii. That I should keep a diary detailing therein all the incidents and works of every day. My idea was that if at any time and at any place the bombs be found and examined, the truth may be known of itself; and when the same be compared with my diary the fact may receive confirmation.

iii. That just in the beginning of the work I should warn to S. G. P. C. that this sort of thing was being done against them.

With all these things if it be proved that I was staying in Patiala in Bahadurgarh Fort then Patiala may be surely clapped. This was my plan and I proceeded to enforce the same.

18. Because I had accepted the proposal, I was given a Car No. 6026 and one driver named Desonda Singh used to drive it. I was also shown the Kothi that was to be given to me. It is situated near Station. I also began to receive Rs. 250/- P. M.

19. I then sent one letter to S, G. X. C. with one Lachman Singh the substance of which was as under:

"That a conspiracy is being hatched in Bahadurgarh Fort to get you and Nabha involved. I have had to take part in it of compulsion, but I give you this information, and that, I do that with a view that in future if I am so circumstanced as to say things other than true, you can use these notes for the exposure of the conspiracy.'

I sent this note with one Lachman Singh. I don't know what S. G. P. C. did with these notes.

20. I now state how bombs were being made in the Fort of Bahadurgarh. Two Bengali youths were brought in the Fort of Bahadurgarh for this purpose. Their names were Raghbar Dayal and Bishumbhar Dass. I mean that they were known by these names there. They told me that they were told that bombs were required to be used against the Government, that was why they had come. They had brought some four or six bombs ready. They contained brass pieces. But such expert bombs were not necessary there. So Zinc bombs were asked to be made. These Bengalis made all bombs. I, Ram Singh, Bijla Singh, Maratab Ali, Sundar Singh and Jugat Singh helped them in the work. I used to go to the city for bringing materials. I used to purchase all materials from the shop of Dr. Nanak Chand at Patiala. I paid cash for all materials. I used to keep all materials in a room in my possession. Thus was all bomb work done in Bahadurgarh Fort Bomb Factory.

21. I used to insert identification notes in bombs as under :

When I went to the city to purchase materials I also brought small glass tubes. In these tubes I used to pack the notes as stated in para 17. For this purpose I used to go to the room during the night-time alone and I inserted the notes in that fashion. I have not mentioned these facts in my diary.

22. I used to write four diaries in all. This I did during the night. I had a separate room where I locked myself for

this purpose. All the incidents that happened during the day, I used to write in the diary giving in detail all talks with important persons, progress of the work of bomb making and the disposal of bombs. These diaries I used as under:

1. I sent one to Colonel Minchen at Lahore by post from Ruped.
2. One to the Viceroy, Delhi by post from Ruped.
3. One to the S. G. P. C. with one Bishan Singh Kahar of the Village Raisalpur, District Amballa.
4. One I kept with myself in the Fort which I had concealed in one window. I think the Patiala people must have found out this diary.

23. I remember that in all about 1526 bombs were made, in the Fort of Bahadurgarh. They were disposed of as under :

(1) Six big bombs, three of brass and three of zink were taken away by the Maharaja himself. Just in the beginning he had come to the Fort in the Company of Sir Daya Kishan Kaul and Sardar Kishan Singh in charge of Deorhi. Bijla Singh and Ram Singh were present. I myself packed the bombs in a box. Sardar Kishan Singh took the box and the three left the Fort. I don't know what happend of these bombs. This fact I have noted in my diary.

2. Following sets of bombs were buried in Nabha territory :
   (a) 3 or 4 Bombs were buried in the village Phul.
   (b) 3 or 4 in Behni.
   (c) 3 or 4 in Bhulharresi.

All these bombs were taken away by Meher Singh, Pritam Singh and Harnam Singh. I was given a chart to show the actual place where these bombs were buried. This was done with a view that I may show the actual places to the C. I. D. saying that Nabha got the bombs buried in these places. That map I left in Bahadurgarh. I had got it copied in my diary. All these facts are stated in my diary with minute details.

3. Mehar Singh, Pritam Singh and Harnam Singh were taking away some bombs. I do not know how many they took away in that way and what they did of them.

4. Some I buried in the Fort of Bahadurgarh, with a view that at an opportune time I can show to the Government that all this had happened in Bahadurgarh. After I bolted from Patiala, Patiala knew about this burying of bombs. They therefore got many spots dug out and they might have found them out. Some might still be there. This I have mentioned in my diary.

5. When I left Patiala, there were some bombs still in stock. I do not know what has happened about them.

24. I was then told that Rai Saheb Bhagwan Dass Superintendent, C. I. D., was coming and I have to make a statement. The letter of pardon from the Viceroy was shown to me at that time by Sir Daya Kishan Kaul. I and my family were then taken to Ruped by Pritam Singh and Sham Singh. This was done to show that I was free in British India and whatever statement then I would make, would be under no fear or compulsion.

25. While we all came here, I asked my wife and children to go to my village and stay there. I said that I would take care of myself. But my wife refused. She would be my companion in all my troubles and woes. I could not bolt; because I had already committed myself to a lot of things and I had to be present to take my plans to end. So it was thought that I and my wife had an opportunity to bolt, but we did not.

26. As arranged, Ram Singh who had arrived there subsequently sent a wire to Rai Saheb Bhagwan Das, saying 'Bakhshish had come to Ruped to give evidence.' They replied by wire, to take me to Patiala. From there i. e. Ruped, I had posted my diaries to Viceroy and Col. Mincheon.

27. I came to Patiala with my wife. We were lodged in the State Guest House. Rai Saheb Bhagwan Dass and a European came to record my statement. On the first day, I gave some

statement. I got a little indisposed that day. and recording of further statement was stopped. The next day, Ram Singh told me that some Bishen Singh had handed one diary to C. I. D at Amritsar, saying that it was my diary. I said that it must be all wrong; I did not know Bishen Singh. That evening C. I. D. Officials began to record my statement further.

28. My wife then came to me and said that food was ready. She took me out and said that some one had given a note to her that everything was over, and that I should make arrangements to save myself. We also saw that military and Police had surrounded the guest house. My wife asked me to bolt. I first refused, but she pressed me hard to go and I consented. She took all my dress and dressed herself in that dress of mine and began to stroll in the verrandah reading a newspaper. I came out wearing a shirt and pant, with a dish, thus showing that I was merely a servant, who had come to give food to Sardar Saheb, meaning myself. Police asked me who I was. I said that I was a servant and S. Bakhshis Singh was strolling in the verrandah. They saw the figure of Sardar moving and so they allowed me to pass. I threw off my vessels and ran over towards the Railway line on the way to Nabha which was about 16 miles from Patiala. I thought I would go to Nabha and acquaint the Maharaja with all facts and would thus be able to expose the whole conspiracy.

29. On the second day of my statement, when my wife was calling me out, I said to Rai Saheb Bhagwan Dass that I was a British Indian subject and was then with my wife and children in an Indian State. I said that I did not know what would happen. I requested Rai Saheb Bhagwandass to take care of my wife and children if anything happened. Rai Saheb consoled me saying that I need not fear. They would speak to all concerned and would give all protection. There the matter had ended and thereafter I had bolted.

30. I reached Nabha and went to Prime Minister Gurudial Singh. I informed him why and how I had come etc., but I soon found that I had made a mistake in informing him correctly; so I

played a little trick and saved myself. This incident is worth mentioning briefly : when I acqainted the Prime Minister with my identity, he looked at once taken aback, and asked me to sit in a separate room. From the room I heard whispers taking place between the Prime Minister and someone else. I heard that a motor-car was being immediately made ready for Patiala and I was to be put into it to be handed over to Patiala. I knew then in whose hands I had really fallen. So I changed my plan altogether. I feigned ignorance about the identity of the Prime Minister himself. I carried out a plan of telling him that if he himself was really the Prime Minister, I was not really Bakshis Singh, but a man sent by Patiala Maharaja to pose as Bakshis Singh to entrap the Maharaja of Nabha; and I was partly successful-I say partly, because the Prime Minister donbted my latter statement. So I suggested and he accepted that a motor be immediately sent to Patiala to ascertain real facts from Sir Daya Kishen or the Maharaja. The motor was so despatched and I was locked up in a small room in the garden. I thus got about a couple of hours to plan for my rescue. During this time from the window of my room I kept looking on for any man to carry my news to the Maharaja of Nabha- Luckily for me just a little after, one A. D. C. of the Maharaja of Nabha pased by. I called and ascertained form him his loyalty to the Maharaja of Nabha, and after giving him oaths I related to him how I was entrapped by the Prime minister who was really in the pay of the Maharaja of Patiala. I requested him to acquaint the Maharaja of Nabha with my fate. He did go and the Maharaja ordered that I be put in Jail

31. My purpose in going to Nabha, was, to see the Maharaja who, I thought would be able to present me to the Viceroy before whom I would state the whole account of Bahadurgarh. No one else can take me to the Viceroy. That was why I went to Nabha, but I failed.

32. Just at this time an Inspector of C. I. D. Punjab, Mr. Nand Singh by name was in Nabha. He heard about my coming

to Nabha. So he came to me and asked me about the affair. I told him my correct story. He then took me to various places, to find the bombs and bombs were found. I was kept in the Nabha Jail till the dethnement of Maharaja Nabha. After that I was released.

33. I went at once to Amritsar to see the members of S. G. P. C. and I gave my statement to Master Tara Singh and S. G. P. C. I then returned to Amballa.

34. At Amballa one Sub-Inspector Shah Jee of C. I. D. met me. He took me to D. C. Amballa. D. C. heard my story and told me that my property which was forfeited would be returned to me and I would be allowed freedom. Sud-Inspector Shah Jee then took me to Jullundur where the whole C. I. D. Staff of the Punjab was present. There Abdul Aziz Superintendent C. I. D. took my statement. After that I. G. P., C. I. D. Mr. Icemonger took my full statement and told me that I was not guilty and I should not be anxious. He promised me all help. So long as Mr. Icemonger was in the Punjab, he protected me; but he was transferred from the Punjab after about seven months. And Patiala was trying utmost to get me in Patiala. So I left my place and am hiding myself since then. Most of my days I have passed in jungles under most trying circumstances. I am moving a little freely only recently; because Partap Singh has made a statement in public about his complicity in a case against me in Patiala. That has given me a sort of protection.

35. All this time Patiala was making all attempts to catch hold of me or to murder me. Once I was moving with two friends of mine. I was fired upon thrice; but the bullet grazed only my hair and I escaped alive.

36. I now relate what I have known and heard of my wife and children. Of course, all this is not my own knowledge, but I used to try my best to get correct information, about my family, and my informant in particular is Meher Singh.

37. I may state here that just after reaching Nabha, I had despatched three telegrams to protect my wife and children to (1) Rai

Saheb Bhagwan Dass, Patiala, (2) Colonel Minchen, (3) Viceroy. When I reached Amballa I applied to D. C. Amballa to get me my wife. I had also applied to Maharaja Patiala and Dewan Sir Daya Kishan Kaul, but all this to no purpose. She was locked up in Bahadurgarh and the following fell to her lot.

38. My wife Vichitar Kaur was asked to make a statement that I had done all at the instance and in the interest of Nabha. She refused to do this. So, every sort of violence was practised upon her by Bijla Singh and his party by orders of the Maharaja.

39. Her hands were put under the legs of a bed stead and Bijla Singh sat over it. Her hair was pressed between the doors of the room and she was pulled. She was made naked and severely beaten. Pepper was put into her eyes, nose, mouth and in her private parts. Her little son was hung overhead before her eyes and was attacked by the bayonets of the gun. Such violence was practised upon her.

40. On the last occasion, in the Fort of Bahadurgarh, in royal palace, my wife was made naked under the Borsilli tree and hung by her hair with the tree. Her son was also hung opposite to her. Maharaja, Sir Daya Kishen Kaul, Ram Singh, Mehar Singh and Bijla Singh were present. A stick was kept between her two legs. Her two hands were also tied with sticks like a cross. The Maharja then asked: "Where is your Panth now ? Where is your Maharaja Nabha and where is your Brtish Government ? I am Bhupinder Singh ! you obey me or you die." My wife said "I am a mere woman under your power and this a mere child. You are a great Maharaja. What bravery is there in thus murdering these helpless creatures ?" Maharaja then ordered that she be shot dead. Mehar Singh who was there, took his gun and shot her dead. My son was crying. He was then untied and taken away.

41. Mehar Singh, then got his hand hurt by an accident of bomb and the whole of his hand had to be cut. He stated to me, that it was all due to the fact, that the hand had shot Vichitar

Kaur. He said that he was not guilty. He did it by the order of Maharaja. Maharaja should have been punished more than him, he said.

42. I had heard the story from different sources and finally Mehar Singh himself confessed before me. But he said that he would not make such a statement before any other; because then he would be guility of murder. He has therefore stated that my wife was poisoned etc. Ram Singh etc., also have given currency to the poison theory. But I believe, that she was shot dead.

43. My little daughter and son were handed over to Bijla Singh's wife. She killed my daughter with her own hands by pressing her finger on the neck of the baby. This is the woman whom I had rescued, just in the beginning of my unfortunate career.

44. My son was then taken to Patiala. Pokher Singh, his wife and Sham Singh were keeping that boy of mine. They then handed the boy over to Maharaja himself in Moti Bagh. It is not known what has happened to the boy afterwards; but I believe he is still alive. Maharaja Patiala knows it and I believe C. I. D. of British India also know it. My boy must now be of about 12 years of age.

❧

2. Dr. Bakshis Singh's Affidavit (Ex. 36A.)

[*For this see appendix B.*]

❧

3. Sardar Partap Singh's Statement (Ex. 35)

Witness Partap Singh S/o Ishar Singh, aged 32 years, of Gulbatti, stated as under, in his oral examination by the Committee:

I came from Patiala, after the wife and daughter of Dr. Bakhshish Singh were murdered and when his son was staying in Patiala under the care of Pokher Singh, his wife Dhan Kaur and Sham Singh. I saw the boy there. Once the boy was being taken to Moti Bagh in Company with Mr. Jiwan Lal C. I. D. Superintendent and Ram Singh. I also got into the car with Ram

Singh. We approached the Maharaja and handed the boy over to the Maharaja. I do not know what happened to the boy afterwards. This happened in the winter of year 1925.

When I was in my village one Jagat Singh come to me and told me that I was required by Ram Singh and Bijla Singh at Patiala . I went there. I saw Ram Singh at Moti Bagh. He made me sit in a room there. Then Jiwan Lal Supdt. C. I. D came. They told me, that my services were required to start one case against Dr. Bukhshish Singh. They said that that was the desire of the Maharaja. I said that I would like to receive orders from the Maharaja direct. So they took me to the Maharaja who was at Chail. Daya Kishan Kaul, Ram Singh, Jiwan Lal and myself were all present. There the Maharaja asked me to do whatever was asked to be done by Ram Singh. Then Ram Singh explained the whole scheme to me in the presence of the Maharaja and all. I did not like the scheme; but I thought that if I said "No" I would be in an awkward position; so I consented. Maharaja promised me there that I would be given three thousand cash, 100 pucca Bighas of land and Rs 50/- per month, for the whole of my life. The scheme then explained to me was this: that I should take bombs, go to Santa Singh and tell him, that Bukhshish Singh had sent those bombs and they were meant for work.

After that there should be a raid and Santa Singh and Harbhajan Singh should be arrested. In our presence Maharaja asked Daya Kishan Kaul to give me two bombs, from the spare bombs of Bahadurgarh. But Daya Kishan said, that all those had been taken away by the Maharaja. So Maharaja said that in that case he himself would give those bombs and that I should go to Private Secretary Kishan Singh to receive those bombs. Here ended our interview. Then I went to my village. Then Jagat Singh again came to me to call me. I went to Patiala. I was told, that I should go to the village of Chhat Band, where I would receive the bombs. There I went. Jiwan Lal was also there. Bijla Singh's wife gave me bombs from her house. Jiwan Lal then left. I went to Sirhind Station and with me came two

constables in Akali dress, to see the whole situation of the village. They then returned. Their names are given as under :

(1) Sulekh Singh (2) Sampuran Singh.

The day for the Police raid was fixed as 9th of Asadh. Jiwan Lal came in time and camped at Basi. I was called at Maswa a village near Kalod. Sant Singh was staying in Kalod. At Maswa Jiwanlal gave me one watch; he kept another with him. Time in both was compared and the time of police raid was fixed.

I met Santa Singh in the meantime. He trusted me. I told him all that the Maharaja had asked me to say. He was enthusiastic. He brought a gun for the work. I gave him some cartridges etc. It was settled that I should call in Santa Singh at my place and the arrest should take place at my place. Sant Singh's place should remain vacant. Another raid at the same time should take place there. The programme was carried out accordingly. I had called in Pritam Singh also in my place. All of us were arrested. Bombs etc., were taken possession of from the house of Santa Singh.

We were all taken to Patiala. I was asked to be an approver. I refused, saying that that was not my business. Maharaja did not ask me to do that. I was then taken to the Maharaja who told me to do that, because the case was a big one and I must be an approver. So I consented.

Pritam Singh was released by Police, and I, Santa Singh and Harbhajan Singh were committed to the Court of Special Magistrate Achhru Ram who asked a bail of Rs 5000/- from me, and as I could not give that, he sent me to the central jail. I went on hunger strike, saying that that was not our condition and I was being mal-treated. The Maharaja therefore transferred Achhru Ram and appointed Gehal Singh of Barnala, as the Magistrate. Then I was released on bail even though it was Sunday. I do not know who became my surety and for what amount. We all were committed to sessions court of Tirath Singh. After the case was over, Jiwan Lal called Tirath Singh in his Kothi; and in my pre-

sence communicated to him the orders of the Maharaja that I was to be released and all the rest were to be sentenced to seven years' imprisonment and a fine of Rs. 200/- each. The Session Judge gave his judgment accordingly. A warrant was issued against Dr. Bakhshis Singh.

At the time when I first met Maharaja, I was paid Rs. 25/-. When I went to receive bombs I was paid Rs. 50/-. When I was staying at Patiala I was paid Rs. 50/- monthly and a house of the monthly rent of Rs. 10/- was rented by the State for me.

After the case was over, I was given 100 Kacha Bigha of land, standing in the name of Jagtu s/o Moin in the village of Shudulgarh, Tehsil Bhatinda, as mentioned in the margin. An order to that effect was read out to me by Home Minister Nawab Liaqat Hayat Khan. I have got a copy of it. I saw these lands and I found that they were no good. So I refusd to accept them. Maharaja then said to me that I would be given another.

In the mean time Daya Kishan Kaul and Jiwan Lal left Patiala. Maharaja then called me and told me not to be anxious, and that I should go to Hazura Singh (C. I. D. Supdt. then) and told me to do as he may ask me to do. Hazura Singh asked me to make a statement, that Kalod case was manufactured by Daya Kishan and Jiwan Lal, and Maharaja had nothing to do with it. I concurred and continued to receive my pay, but I did not receive any cash money.

When I was staying in a house at Patiala in Jiwan Lal's time, Hira Singh the brother of Amarkaur, the wife of S. Amar Singh was staying near my house, and he used to come to me very often. Once I got him drunk and asked him, how it was that he was getting food from the palace. He said that his sister was in the palace. He said that the Maharaja had kept her. She was staying with the Queen Chelanwali. Maharaja was paying Rs. 300/- P. M. to him and also food twice. He said "Sardar Amar Singh is pushed aside; what can he do to the Maharaja."

This I had reported to Jiwan Lal. Ram Singh and party were staying in the Fort of Sinor. I too used to go there frequently. Once the whole party consisting of gentlemen mentioned in the margin was collected in Sinor by Gurudial Sing Supdt. C. I. D. Bharpur Singh, the then C. I. D. Sub. Inspector and Hazura Singh the then I. G P, and we were asked to do away with certain individuals, including Bakshish Singh and Siwan Singh and others who were enemies of Patiala and do certain other things. such as putting of bombs at some place and Bolshevik literature at the other.

We said that "lands were not given to us. Other conditions also were not being fulfilled. So we can't say just now; but we would reply after constideration". Thereafter we were called in the office of Gurudial Singh. Revenue clerks also came with Revenue maps and we were told that we would receive lands as we desire. We were called one after another in a separate room and all of us were locked up. We were thus detained for 13 Months. Then one day we were asked to make a statement that Maharaja had no hand in any case whatsoever and that everything was the handiwork of Daya Kishan Kaul and Jiwan Lal. After that, we were released. The next day we were again arrested. A statement was again taken from us saying that the Maharaja Saheb was responsible for everything. That very day again we were asked to sign a statement before a Magistrate named Gian Singh who is the Brother-in-Law of Maharaja. We do not know what was written therein.

After release Ram Singh and others bolted. I still remained. I was trusted by the Police. They then sent me to Amritsar to manage to bring Bhagwan Singh Langowalla to Patiala. They paid me Rs 30/- for this purpose. I went to Amritsar and got a further amount of Rs 100/-. After that I did not want to work for Patiala. A lot of attempts were then made to take me to Patiala, but I did not go in. They then tried to take me to Patiala Kothi in Lahore. There was a great row about that also. I have got my account published in papers about this Lahore row.

4. Bhai Ram Singh's Statement (Ex. 42)

In the year 1921, on the occasion of the annual fair there, Maharaja Bhupendra Singh, went on a pilgrimage to Fatehgarh near Sirhand. An Akali Jatha was specially invited by the Maharaja to Sirhand and its members were rendered every assistance by the state. Bhais Kishan Singh, Gurgaj and Bijla Singh, the Babar leaders were also amongst the members of the Jatha. With the Maharaja's consent a big public meeting was held in, which Bhai Kishan Singh Gurgaj in a very impressive speech spoke against the British Government. All the responsible State officials took part in the meeting and afterwards a big procession was arranged at the instance of the Maharaja. Bhai Kishan Singh deliverd lectures at 9 or 10 places which in tone and substance were meant to spread hatred against the British Government. It should be remembered that Bhai Kishan Singh and Bijla singh were already charged with the conspiracy to murder Government officials and the British C. I. D. was after them. Their movements were watched by the C. I. D. Besides the warrants from the British Officials, warrants had also been issued by the Patiala State Police against Bijla Singh. He was charged with dacoity and the State Police had not been able to lay hands on him. About 50 or 60 members of the Akali Jatha, interviewed Maharaja Bhupendra Singh in one of the private rooms in the Moti Bagh Palace and Kishan Singh, Bijla Singh and Gurucharan Singh held secret interviews with the Maharaja and as their interview was arranged with Bhai Ram Singh Dharowalia he also took part in the secret conversations. The Maharaja gave a patient hearing to Bijla Singh, who explained and placed his difficulties before the Maharaja. The Maharaja gave him an assurance that the State officials will no longer chase and trouble him and added that, if Bhijla Singh were to act according to his wishes, he would be fully remunerated for it. The Maharaja assured that he considered him to be his own man and expected much assistance from him. Bijla Singh assured the Maharaja, that he was prepared to carry out his instructions,

The Maharaja agreed to meet all his expenses, It was thereupon arranged that Bijla Singh was to have his permanent residence in the Nabha State boundary and that place was selected to be his centre of operation and all the necessary instructions were to be conveyed to him through Bhai Ram Singh. Necessary amount of money was to be remitted monthly. Bhai Bijla Singh was also offered a large sum of money for immediate necessary expenses and directed to offer one sword with Gatra to each member of the Jatha. But as swords were not available in such a large number locally, those had to be ordered from outside. The swords were supplied to the Jatha, after about a month's time.

The Jatha arrived at Amritsar by train and the absconders Bijla Singh and Kishan Singh were brought to "Doaba" by a special motor car belonging to the Maharaja. A short time after Bhai Bijla Singh reached Nabha and established himself there. He first resided at Bheni and Bhallar Heri and then at Bhalon. He used to receive money from Patiala, regularly every month. Under instructions of Maharaja Bhupendra Singh, he cultivated great influence amongst the Nabha State officials. The effect of this was, that whatever information he could obtain from the State officials, he used to pass on to Patiala.

In the meanwhile Bijla Singh, Gurguj, Gujan Singh and Hira Singh Bathal etc., acting under the instructions of Maharaja Bhupendra Singh removed forcibly Yakub Khan, Sub-Inspector Khewa (Patiala State) to Nabha where he was charged with dacoiting and sentenced to 3 years' rigorous imprisonment.

Bhai Ram Singh used to visit Nabha every month and pay Bhai Bijla Singh money which approximately amounted to about Rs. 300/- a month. This amount was paid by the Maharaja Patiala from his private pocket. Bhai Bijla singh once demanded Rs. 500/- for the purchase of a few pistols which amount was at once sent to him. He then purchased two or three pistols. Some time after he again asked for another Rs. 2000/- with which he purchased 4 or 5 guns.

When the British Government consented to hold enquriy into the affairs of Nabha-Patiala dispute, Maharaja Bhupendra Singh sent words to Bhai Bijla Singh through Bhai Ram Singh that he would now within the course of two or three months send for him to Patiala where he would be required to give evidence before the British Government officials according to the Maharaja's instructions. Bhai Bijla Singh was also informed that the Maharaja was carrying on negotiations with the British Government and he hoped that he would be able to pravail upon it to agree to allow Bijla Singh to live and move freely in the Patiala state. He hoped to get this done within a period of 2 or 3 months. Bijla Singh was also required to be ready to come to Patiala along with his party men. He was also told that the greater the number of the Nabha men in the party the more advantageous it would be to the Patiala Government. The Maharaja assured Bijla Singh through the intermediaries that he was much pleased with the services already rendered by Bijla Singh and when he would come to Patiala along with his party and act according to the instructions of the Maharaja and give evidence before British officials as desired by him, he would be liberally awarded. Bijla Singh replied that he was already a slave of the Maharaja and would not hesitate to do anything in his power for him. His party-men however were yet to be satisfied on this subject and as soon as this was arranged, the needful would be done. Bhai Ram Singh went to Chail to deliver this message to the Maharaja who took an oath (by placing his hands on Tika's head) and promised that the interest of the Jatha would be properly looked after and that he would never hand over any one of them to the British Government. He also promised to render every sort of help and assistance to those people and to award them lands etc liberally. Bhai Ram Singh went again to Bhai Bijla Singh in the Bhullar Heri Gurudwara and gave him every assurance on behalf of the Maharaja.

Bhai Harbans Singh and Jagat Singh in reply to this assurance said that although they had full faith in Bhai Ram Singh it would be better if someone from amongst them were to

go and see Maharaja personally. Bhai Ram Singh agreed to this and Bhai Jagat Singh who previous to this also used to deliver Bhai Bijla Singh's letter etc to Bhai Ram Singh accompanied him. Both of them went straight to Chail where the Maharaja gave them satisfaction on every point. Bijla Singh then started making necessary arrangements. Maharaja Patiala informed the British Government that the Maharaja Nabha had conspired to kill the Prince of Wales by throwing a bomb on him and that he could put forth positive proofs for this. He also said that whatever Bijla Singh and his absconding friends have done, considerable help had been rendered to them by the Nabha state. It was also hoped that Bijla Singh's evidence whould be conclusive evidence of the fact that a number of bombs were manufactured at Nabha with the object of murdering the Prince of Wales and several other British and Patiala state Officials. The removal of sub-inspector of police of Patiala to the Nabha boundary, the false charge against him and then sending him to imprisonment for 3 years and other similar facts would be brought to light.

The British Government having accepted Maharaja Bhupendra Singh's proposals allowed Bijla Singh to have his residence in the Patiala state on the following two conditions:—

1. That Bijla Singh should submit a detailed statement with regard to his past actions.

2. That he should live as a peaceful citizen and Maharaja Bhupendra Singh should stand surety for his good behaviou.. Upon this Maharaja Bhupendra Singh enquired of Bijla Singh about the names of the persons who were coming to Patiala in order to help him in the fulfilment of his schemes. Bijla Singh gave the following names:—

1. Bijla Singh (2) Dr. Bakhshish Singh (3) Kishan Singh Heron (4) Jagat Singh (5) Harban Singh (6) Sundar Singh.

The list of these people was perhaps also supplied to the British Government by the Patiala state and when the British Government agreed to the proposal of importing these people to

Patiala, Maharaja Bhupendra Singh sent the following message to Bijla Singh:

" Pistols and guns which you have purchased for money paid by me to you for this purpose should be brought by you. You shold also keep in possession one or two weapons bearing Nabha state numbers so that it may be easy to prove that these particular weapons originally belonged to the State. you have already sent the mare which belonged to Yakub Khan and should bring the rest of his articles with you when coming to Patiala. You must have some bombs in your possession so that I may be able to prove the allegations brought by me against Nabha."

To this Bijla Singh sent a reply to the effect that everything else would be properly arranged, but it was not possible to get the bombs manufactured, necessary materials being not available in Nabha. On receiving this message the Maharaja grew very anxious knowing that the day on which Bijla Singh's evidence was to take place was getting nearer and it was not possible to get the bombs manufactured. Maharaja Bhupendra Singh sent another message to Bijla Singh asking him to come without bombs and to get the same manufactured at Patiala and in case of bing questioned by the British officials, he should reply that the bombs were not brought to Patiala because they were afraid of being detected and that they could produce these from various places where they have got them hidden below the surface of the earth in the Nabha state territory. The Maharaja of Patiala also instructed Bijla Singh to be ready to leave Nabha at a moment's notice. Bijla Singh assured that they would be able to get weapons bearing Nabha state marks within two or three days time.

Three days before the time fixed for Maharaja Bhupendra Singh's interview with the British officials Bijla Singh sent a message through Jagat Singh that the Nabha state authorities had come to know of their scheme and that they suspected great danger from that quarter. Maharaja Bhupendra Singh after due deliberation sent reply through Ram Singh asking Bijla Singh to

reach the same day the State Fort of Tehsil Bhawanigarh along with his party members and prepare necessary materials there. He had already instructed Dewan Diya Kishan Kaul to make proper arrangement for their food and lodgings secretly through the help of the tehsildar there. Bijla Singh was further warned about the serious nature of the then state of affairs saying that if the matter came to the notice of the British officials that those people were produced before them from the Bhawanigarh Fort, the Maharaja would be doomed. Bijla Singh was therefore instructed to act most continuously and not to allow any informations with regards to his affairs reach the British officials. According to the Maharaja Patiala's orders Bhai Ram Singh removed Bijla Singh, Jagat Singh. Harbans Singh, Kishan Singh and Sundar Singh along with all guns and pistols and all necessary articles from the Nabha state to a private room in the Bhawanigarh Fort where all these people stayed for 2 days. The British officials reached Bhalan according to the programme proposed by the Maharaja, Bijla Singh and his party came out of the Bhawanigarh Fort, entered the Nabha state boundary and then posing as if they were coming directly from Nabha state they handed themselves over to British officials at 12 in the night. Mr. Mackenzie, secretary Agent to Governor General's, Khan Bahadur Nawab Liyaqat Ali Khan Supdtt., Punjab C. I. D. police and Rai Bahadur L Bhagwandass Supdtt. Imperial C. I. D. were the officials appointed by the British Government for the purpose of holding an enquiry into the matter. These officials prepared a list of all the articles in possession of Bijal Singh and took charge of the entire party. They were seated in the motor car and having locked the door the British officials kept the keys in their possession. Next day Maharaja Bhupendra Singh without the knowledge of the Britis officials applied duplicate keys to the motor car and succeeded in opening the doors and in the presence of Bhai Ram Singh informed Bijla Singh that he would soon be required to accompany Nawab Saheb to Lahore where his statement will be recorded, Maharaja Bhu-

pendra Singh had a few notes on a sheet of paper, on the basis of which Bijla Singh was requested to give his statement. (This was the same statement which doctor Bakshish Singh was required to give.)

After the Maharaja Patiala's having given instructions to Bijla Singh the doors were locked and Jagat Singh was made ready to accompany Bijla Singh. He was also given the necessary instructions to keep matter strictly confidential. After about half an hour Nawab Liyaqat Ali Khan came to Lahore along with Bijla Singh and Jagat Singh. The other members of the party were now under charge of Patiala Govt. They were removed from inner parts of Moti Bagh to the upper storey of the quarters meant for Indian guests and it was given out that some lady guest was staying there. The Moti Bagh establishment was instructed not to look towards that side. Wadhawa Singh in whom the Maharaja had confidence was appointed to deliver food and other necessities to the party. The staircase of this room was locked from outside which no body except Mir Maratab Ali the officer in-charge guest house could open and Wadhawa Singh used to go up after informing Mir Saheb. Harbans Singh, Kishan Singh and Sundar Singh were the people kept there.

It took Nawab Liyaqat Ali Khan about 18 to 19 days to record Bijla Singh's statement and Maharaja Patiala in order to satisfy himself sent Bhai Ram Singh to Lahore two or three times; the letter interviewed Bijla Singh privately, encouraging him and enquiring as to whether everything was being done according to Maharaja Patiala's wishes or not.

After his statement Bijla Singh returned to Patiala. Maharaja Patiala while interviewing Bijla Singh in his private chamber in the Moti Bagh enquired of him as to why Doctor Bakshish Singh had not come so far. In reply Bijla Singh informed the Maharaja that if he and his party were treated properly Bakshish Singh would also come. The Maharaja in reply to this told Bijla Singh that whatever promises were held out there through Bhai

Ram Singh, were all being fully complied with and in future also all the promises will be kept and acted upon. Doctor Bakshis Singh was badly needed and without his help it was not possible to work out the scheme. Besides the Maharaja desired to get 5 bombs manufactured within the course of a week or 10 days. Bhai Ram Singh delivered this message to Bijla Singh who in reply said that the needful would be done. Bijla Singh had before leaving for Lahore instructed Bhai Harbans Singh to fetch Bakshish Singh. Harbans Singh accordingly brought Bakshish Singh the third day. The Doctor was accommodated in the same room where Bijla Singh's party was putting up. The Maharaja came down personally to interview the Doctor and encouraging him said that he (the Doctor) should work in co-operation with Bijla Singh's party and that he would be very generously rewarded. The Doctor having agreed to carry out Maharaja's instructions enquired of him as to whether the five bombs which he was asked by Bijla Singh to prepare were immediately needed. The Maharaja replied in the affirmative and said that if you rquire any materials for the preparation of the bombs, Mir Martab Ali will at once make the necessary arrangements. The Doctor thereupon gave a list of his requirements which were supplied to him by Mir Martab Ali. The bombs were got ready the third or fourth day and the Doctor left the place saying that he would come back as soon as Bijla Singh needed his presence. He however added that the man bringing Bijla Singh's message should also bring with him some money to meet necessary expenses. The Maharaja was informed that the bombs were ready. The Maharaja saw them and was much pleased. He took them away in his Motor Car. Four or five days later the Maharaja held an interview with S. Ram Singh in the guest house and saying that he had some very important business to be transacted at Nabha enquired as to whether anyone from amongst Bhai Bijla Singh's party could go over there and deliver one or two of these ombs to a certain person at Phul in the Nabha State. Bhai Ram Singh replying said that all of those people were brought from

Nabha, therefore Nabha State authorities were trying their utmost to make enquiries into the matter and possibly Nabha State C. I. D. might be hiding somewhere near the guest house trying to find a clue. It would therefore be a very dangerous thing for anyone of them to proceed to Nabha. The Maharaja agreed to what he was told and decided to entrust some other person with this job.

On receiving information from Lahore that Bijla Singh was leaving for Patiala in the company of Police officials, the Maharaja saw Bhai Ram Singh and told him to allow these officials to reach the upper storey of the guest house. Bijla Singh came the same day and began to reside in the same room. The next day Maharaja Sahib sent for Bhai Ram Singh and informed him that Bijla Singh and his party would now be transferred to Bahadurgarh Kothi where they were to be very hospitably treated. A little after they were all removed to the new place in carriages used for Parda ladies. At the time of their removal all the lights were put off and complete darkness prevailed in the vicinity. Maharaja's domestic cooks and servants were also sent there to make necessary arrangements for the food of the party. The Maharaja used to see Ram Singh daily and impress upon him the necessity of Dr. Bakshis Singh's presence. On Maharaja's repeated requests Bijla Singh sent for Dr. Bakshis Singh through Harbans Singh and the Doctor came along with his wife and children with the intention of residing there permanently. They had their residence in the same Kothi, so that nobody could see the inmates and all the roads leading to it were ordered to be closed and it was given out that some female member of the Royal Family was putting up there. A week after Maharaja informed Bhai Ram Singh that after mature consideration he had come to the conclusion that the Kothi could not help them in the fulfilment of their desire, the place being not a safe one. He therefore suggested to shift them to the Royal Palace at Bahadurgarh. After about an hour Sardar Deorhi came and the entire party was removed to the Bahadurgarh Fort. Bhai Harnam Singh of Khatra, Mehar

Singh Salana, Kartar Singh Salana, Sham Singh Salana and Kartar Singh Granthi had also by now joined this party.

Next day the Maharaja visited the place himself and aftar making searching enquiries he appointed several C. I. D. men to guard the place and instructed them not to allow anybody to enter the gate of the Kothi. Wadhata Singh was the only employee who was allowed to go in and he used to supply all the necessities of life to them. No officer except Sir Daya Kishan Kaul was allowed to go in to the Kothi.

Bijla Singh informed the Maharaja and Sir Daya Kishan Kaul that the Punjab C. I. D. Officials had while recording his statement, left out certain very important things. The Maharaja instructed Sir Diya Kishan Kaul to write to the British Officials in this connection and on his doing so, L. Bhagwandass, Supdt. Imperial C. I. D., reached Patiala and recorded Bijla Singh's statement at Sir Diya Kishan's residence at Patiala. Previous to this Maharaja Patiala had explained to Bijla Singh the fact that their case would remain weak if bombs could not be discovered from the Nabha State territory and Bakshish Singh being there it was easy for them to place bombs under the surface of the earth at some selected places. So Bijla Singh was also required to fix any three or four places which he knew of and where at a later stage bombs could be hidden. Accordingly Bijla Singh in a statement before L. Bhagwandass Supdt. Imperial C. I. D. said that they had placed bombs numbering about 6 or 7 at each of the following places. 1. Bagh Kala Singh, 2. Bheni Gurudwara & Bhalla Heri 3. Sarkari Bagh Phul. After L. Bhagwandass had left, the Maharaja, thinking that the investigatin may soon be started, asked Dewan Daya Kishan Kaul to arrange to send the necessary number of bombs at places selected for this purpose. The Maharaja and Dewan Daya Kishan Kaul alongwith Bhai Ram Singh then came to the Fort and after giving necessary encouragement to Dr. Bakshis Singh asked hin to prepare three bombs immediately. S. Deudhi and Mir Martab Ali were ordered to arrange for the necessary material. The Maharaja

also requested Dr. Bakshis Singh to get the requisite material through his own men if possible. Dr. Bakshis Singh agreed to all that he was asked for and he in the company of Jagat Singh went to Patiala in a State Car the next day and got Mansel, Potash and two other chemicals from Nanak Chand's shop. Zinc, Iron and lead etc. were ordered through Sardar Deodhi and Mir Martab Ali. On returning to Bahadurgarh Dr. Bakshis Singh confined himself to a separate room and devoted himself to the manufacture of bombs. Bijla Singh, Harbans Sigh, Jagat Singh, Sundar Singh, Harnam Singh and Mehar Singh used to render assistance to Dr. Bakshis Singh in the preparation of bombs. As soon us three dozen bombs were got ready, Maharaja Saheb and Diwan Daya Kishan Kaul came to the Fort and the Maharaja was very much pleased with the work done. He explained to Daya Kishan Kaul as to where those bombs were to be hidden. Other necessary details were also settled and accordingly Mehar Singh and Harnam Singh were deputed to Kala Singh's garden and Bheni who came back the same night after hiding the bombs under the ground. Dr. Bakshis Singh had according to the instructions of the Maharaja also prepared a chart showing the places where the bombs were placed to help him to name the particular places with exactness and promptitude at the time of making his statement before the Govt. officials. The Maharaja also oredred Dewan Daya Kishan Kaul to write to the Government to send some officers to record Bakshis Singh's statement. Rai Bahadur L. Bhagwandass was appointed for this purpose and on receipt of a telegraphic message about his arrival at Patiala Daya Kishan Kaul and Bhai Ram Singh asked further instructions in the matter. The Maharaja replied that Dr. Bakshis Singh was staying at Bahadurgarh Fort without the knowledge of the British Government and if the secret was somehow or other to leak out he would be doomed. It was therefore proposed by the Maharaja that Dr. Bakshis Singh should be sent to the British territory from where he should come for the purpose of

giving his statement. In order to carry out instructions in this respect Bhai Ram Singh was ordered to proceed to Roper at once and inform Dewan Saheb telegraphically about the needful having been done. Dewan Sahib was then to proceed with his telegram to Lahore and send a reply to this offer showing the same to the Palitical Agent. On receipt of a reply Dr. Bakshis Singh was to be brought from Roper to Sirhind by motor and from Sirhind to Patiala by train so that they could produce Railway tickets in support of the facts that Dr. Bakshis Singh was brought from British territory. Accordingly Bhai Ram Singh sent a telegram from Roper and Dewan Daya Kishan Kaul sent a reply to this telegraphically. And Dr. Bakshis Singh along with his wife and children was carried to Gurudwara Bhalla near Roper. Dr. Bakshis Singh used to keep notes of his daily movements in a diary and before proceeding to Roper he had placed many letters which he wanted to produce in support of his statement against Patiala in fort of Bahadurgarh underneath the surface of the earth. One or two bombs and some bomb matarials were also similarly placed. Dr. Bakshis Singh handed over his diary to Bishan Singh Jhiwar and asked him to deliver the same to the Gurudwara Parbandhak Committee Muktisar. From Bhalla Sahib Gurudwara Dr. Bakshis Singh was removed to Patiala and was placed in charge of L. Bhagwandas in the guest house where Rai Bahadur began to record his evidence.

The next day Dewan Daya Kishan Kaul got information about Dr. Bakshi Singh's sending a diary to Shiromani Gurudwara Committee and he brought this fact to the notice of the Maharaja. Bhai Ram Singh was asked to make enquiries into the matter. Dr. Bakshis Singh refused having done so and left the place quietly the same night. In the morning when L. Bhagwandass heard about it he at once informed Dewan Daya Kishan Kaul and when the news reached the Maharaja he got puzzled and looked confused and worried. Dewan Daya Kishan Kaul in every possible way tried to console him and asked the Maharaja to think of the future and not to worry for what had already ta-

ken place. Dr. Bakshis Singh's wife was under Patiala custody and Dewan Daya Kishan Kaul was of opinion that she should be allowed to act as she desired but the Maharaja scented great danger in this and did not allow her to leave.

Maharaja Saheb, Dewan Sahib and Bhai Ram Singh now held a conference. Dewan Sahib still held the same view and was strictly of opinion that to keep Bakshis Singh's wife in the Patiala State would be detrimental to their interests, but the Maharaja would not agree and was of opinion that by keeping her there they may be able to catch hold of Dr. Bakhshis Singh. Dewan Daya Kishan Kaul was therefore asked to assure Rai Saheb Bhagwandass that they were going to allow Bakshis Singh's wife to go to any place she liked and that money for the necessary expenses would be paid to her. The Maharaja also instructed Sukhdev Singh Nazam to prepere a false statement saying that Bichitar Kaur was produced before him and as she was innocent she was allowed to go and live anywhere she liked. On the other hand the Maharaja instructed that she was to be taken secretly to Bahadurgarh, for in the opinion of the Maharaja there could be no better place for her safe custody. Bakshis Singh's wife was taken to Bahadurgarh in a State motor. At the night time Maharaja and Dewan visited the Fort and encouraged the party men there; all the Akalis there were warned not to tell anybody about the presence of Bichiter Kaur. Special instructions were now issued and a strong military guard was placed there and nobody was allowed to go in. About 12 C. I. D. men were posted outside the Fort to see that no Akali could come out of or go into the Fort.

Every possible effort was made by the Patiala authorities to find out Dr. Bakhshis Singh. Under instructions from the Maharaja a dozen persons under the charge of Bhai Ram Singh, busily engaged themselves to the task of finding out a clue about the Doctor and after a week's hard work they found out that he had gone to Nabha and submitted a detailed report to the State authorities.

Dewan Daya Kishan Kaul now approached the Supdt. Shiromani Committee Tarantaran and succeeded in obtaining from him a copy of the diary submitted to him by Dr. Bakshis Singh. Some time after the Superintendent was handsomely rewarded for this and came down to Patiala to discover the various places where Bakshis Singh had hidden bombs and other materials pertaining thereto. Now Bibi Bichiter Kaur, wife of Dr. Bakhshis Singh was approached by Bijla Singh to unearth the whole secret. Bijla Singh is a professional dacoit. He is very well-known for his inhuman and cruel disposition. The Maharaja authorized him to resort to force in case of Bichiter Kaur not agreeing to supply the correct information with regard to her husband's secret movements and the place where he had hidden letters and bombs. Bijla Singh put this lady to every sort of torture and one day when Bhai Ram Singh along with his other savage companions and Dewan Sahib was out, he committed rape on this poor unfortunate woman. She was not allowed to sleep for several days and nights, in succession and kept locked up. Her little child was separated from her and kept in a separate cell where he was not given anything to eat. On many occasions she was made to walk all naked in the presence of several others. Some times Bijla Singh would put her hands under the legs of his bedstead and sit tight over it and sometimes he would tie her hair with beams in the roof. She was put thus to almost all sort of torture. One day Bijla Singh went to the extent of placing red pepper in her private parts and when she could no longer stand this treatment she gave out every information that she had. Inspite of this she would have continued to be troubled and humiliated had not some Akalis intervened and asked Bijla Singh to stop all this. It may be remembered that all this inhuman treatment was meted out to her at a time when she was about to give birth to a child. As the result of this she fell very seriously ill. The Maharaja's anxiety with regard to her began to increase and he sought Bhai Ram Singh's advice in the matter. The Maharaja himself proposed that if she could be made to agree to marry some

member of that Bijla Singh's family or Jatha, then of course there would be no more danger. Bhai Ram Singh proposed this arrangement to several members of his Jatha and with great difficulty Bhai Teja Singh agreed to keep her as his wife.

The Maharaja once visited Bahadurgarh and enquired of Ram Singh as to whether Bichiter Kaur's affairs were then settled. Bhai Ram Singh said that he was not satisfied with this arrange ment as Bichiter Kaur still considered every member of the Jatha to be her enemy and as such she would not hesitate to divulge the whole secrets when she got an opportunity to do so. The Maharaja said that some solution must be found out to avert this calamity. He added that whenever he had any talk with Dewan Daya Kishan Kaul in this respect he would advise that it was his desire to let the woman go; for when the Doctor himself was not able to do any harm to the Maharaja what harm could be done by this woman. But the Maharaja did not agree with Dewan Daya Kishan Kaul in this respect. He anticipated great danger in doing so.

Bichitar Kaur gave birth to a girl. There was nobody to attend to her and she fell seriously ill. The news of her illness were convyed to the Maharaja and the Maharaja sent his personal physician (Dr. Balmukund) to attend to her. The Doctor used to visit her daily and Bhai Ram Singh had to fetch medicine from Patiala. The Maharaja now desired to get rid of her and the more she was being attended to, the worse her condition became. After four or five days the Maharaja enquired of the Doctor as to why Bichitar Kaur was not making any improvement and getting worse instead. The Doctor promised to make enquiries into the matter and said that perhaps the patient was not using the medicine at all. Bijla Singh was now instructed by the Maharaja to make her drink the medicine in his presence. The next day Doctor prescribed some other medicine which was forced into the stomach of Bachiter Kaur who on taking a few drops said that poison was being adminstered to her. She threw away the medicine. Next day the Doctor was surprised to find that

the medicine had no effect and said that the medicine was evidently not given to her. Bijla Singh warned Bhai Ram Singh against the consequences. The latter replied that Bichitar Kaur had refused to take the medicine and had thrown it away on the floor. Bijla Singh now took upon himself the duty of administering medicine to her, but in the first instance she refused to take it; but she was forced to take it. Four or five hours later life was extinct in Bichiter Kaur and the poor lady breathed her last and thus fell a victim to Maharaja's cruelties and highhandedness. Bijla Singh conveyed the news of her death to Bhai Ram Singh who went over to Patiala and informed Dewan Daya Kishan Kaul of it. The Dewan was very sorry to hear this and proceeded to Moti Bagh to take instructions in the matter. The Maharaja seemed to have been relieved of great worry and trouble. On hearing this he asked Dewan Saheb to cremate the dead body within the Fort compound. "There is enough fuel for this purpose" said he, but still if more was needed "wooden beams from the roof could be used to serve the purpose." He also asked Bhai Ram Singh not to let anybody know about the matter. The body of the deceased woman was therefore cremated within the walls of the Fort. Ashes were thrown away into the ditch. Bibi Bichitar Kaur's son and daughter were entrusted to Dhan Kaur wife of Pakhar Singh. After about a week the Maharaja visited the Fort again and pressed Bhai Ram Singh not to let anybody know anything about this matter, for, if somehow or other it was brought to the notice of the British officials, the Maharaja was sure to suffer heavily for that.

Average monthly expenses on the jatha kept in Bahadurgarh Fort now amounted to Rs 5 to 6 thousands monthly and as there was not much to be afraid of, Maharaja Nabha having already abdicated and Bichitar Kaur also removed from the way, the Maharaja Patiala now thought of cutting down these expenses. He therefore in consultation with Bhai Ram Singh and Dewan Daya Kishan Kaul ordered the Bir Chhat land to be given to the Jatha and the building used for Police Station Banor was

given to them for residence quarters. Bijla Singh and his other friends were granted an allowance of Rs 120/- and Rs. 50/-per mensem each respectively, and this amount was to be paid by the Maharaja from his own pocket. Bijla Singh and his party were also awarded a sum of Rs. 12 thousand in cash for service rendered. They had complete liberty to go and hunt in the Bir. They stayed there for some time and then shifted to Bir Chhat State Bungalow. Before going there Prem Kaur and Bijla Singh killed Bichitar Kaur's infant daughter. Bijla Singh admitted having committed this murder under Maharaja Patiala's instructions. Dr. Bakshis Singh's little boy was now under the charge of Bijla Singh and Prem Kaur who used to beat this boy mercilessly and otherwise treated him badly. When the news of Dr. Bakshis Singh's daughter's death reached Dewan Saheb he was very sorry to hear of this and told Pandit Jiwanlal and Bhai Ram Singh that there was every possibility of Dr. Bakshis Singh's son being murdered by that savage beast. The Maharaja had already a talk with him in this respect, in which he had expressed a desire to take a house on rent in Patiala, and to make better arrangements for the education of the boy. A h ouse was therefore taken on rent through Pt. Jiwan Lal Inspector C. I. D. on Rs. 20/- per mensem where Pakhar Singh, Dhan Kaur and Dr. Bakhshis Singh's son were made to stay. Nobody except Bhai Ram Singh was allowed to enter this house. This arrangement continued for about a year when the Maharaja again scented danger in it. He one day talked to Dewan Daya Kishan Kaul and Bhai Ram Singh about this matter and said that somehow or other news about Dr. Bakhshis Singh's son had gone out and some British Officer might come for the purpose of making enquiries privately or Shiromani Committee people might succeed in removing him from there. He therefore decided to make some better arrangements for him. After a considerable thought the Maharaja decided to remove the boy to Moti Bagh and ordered Bhai Ram Singh to do so who carried out the instructions of the Maharaja immediately.

Maharaja Patiala now paid to the leaders of the Akali Jatha a sum of Rs. 3000/- only The amount was paid throguh Bhai Ram Singh. Once the Maharaja invited Bhai Kishan Singh Gurgaj and B. Santa Singh and sent his personal car to fetch them there. Princely treatment was accorded to them and the Maharaja held conversations with them on certain points. Reference to all this can be had from Punjab C. I. D. records.

As soon as Dr. Bakshis Singh was let off from Nabha he submitted statements before Deputy Commissioner Ambala, Jullunder, Punjab C. I. D. and Shiromani Gurudwara Committee. He delivered a number of public lectures at Guru Ka Bagh Amritsar. The Maharaja Patiala was very much afraid of Dr. Bakhis Singh and held conversations with Dewan Sahib, Pt. Jiwan Lal and Bhai Ram Singh and said that as long as Dr. Bakhshis Singh was to remain in the British Territorty, the Maharaja was in great danger. He therefore suggested that they should start some false criminal case in which Dr. Bakshis Singh should be involved and the British Government be moved to extradite the Doctor to Patiala. Bijla Singh promised to help in the carrying out of this. The Maharaja entrusted Bijla Singh with this task who sent for Bhai Pratap Singh. Bijla Singh had great enemity with Santa Singh Kibirwala and he therefore requested Bhai Pratap Singh to involve Dr. Bakshis Singh, Santa Singh and his brother in a false case. Pratap Singh agreed to work according to the instructions given by Bijla Singh. Bijla Singh informed Bhai Pratap Singh in very clear words that he shall have to go and place a few bombs and guns and certain other materials in the houses of all these persons. He asked Pratap Singh to come to his house after 4 or 5 days and to have these things. Pratap Singh said that he was also in a position. to arrange for some of these materials himself. He then went away to Kilor to make necessary arrangements and was paid a sum of Rs. 50/- for expenses of reaching Kilor. Bhai Pratap Singh in order to give practical shape to his scheme saw Santa Singh and Bhai Harbhajan Singh. He told them that the Panth was in danger. Daya Kishan Kaul of Patiala was bent

upon ruining the nation. Gurudial Singh was doing his best to ruin Nabha. Under the circumstances the best course he proposed was to end the tyranny. He told them that Dr. Bakshis Singh was also there to help him and is prepared to supply "bombs" etc. for the purpose. Santa Singh and his brother were greatly impressed by what Pratap Singh said and they got ready to help him in the carrying out of this mission.

Pratap Singh and Santa Singh arranged to get a gun through Mistri Gopal Singh and they acquired other materials in the same way and placed the same in Santa Singh's house. Four or five days after Pratap Singh came to see Bijla Singh who sent for Dewan Jiwan Lal and Bhai Ram Singh from Patiala. They came on motor the next day and had a talk with Pratap Singh and consented to do all that he was asked to do by Bijla Singh. He was also told that the Maharaja would be highly obliged if the work entrusted to him was carried out and that he would be handsomely rewarded. It was also then decided to discover the case on the 9th day of Har. Two of the Patiala C. I. D. men were ordered to satisfy themselves about the road being quite clear. Bhai Ram Singh and Pt. Jiwan Lal went back to Patiala. Later on Bijla Singh handed over a bomb (tied up in a blue piece of cloth) to Pratap Singh who took it away to Kilor and placed it in Santa Singh's house.

As previously settled the Patiala C. I, D. reached Kilor. Partap Singh, Santa Singh and Harbhajan Singh were arrested on search being made; bombs, guns etc. were discovered from Santa Singh's house. They were sent to Patiala along with Pritam Singh who was let off at the time of investigation. Harbhajan Singh and Santa Singh were kept under Judicial lockup and Pratap Singh who now posed as an approver passed a life of ease in a kothi where every sort of comfort was provided to him. On Bhai Ramsingh's initiative Pratap Singh got ready to submit a statement on the followng lines:

"That they had started this conspiracy with the object of murdering Colonel Minchen Political Agent, Dewan Daya Kishan

Kaul, S. Sundar Singh Majithia and Gurdayal Singh of Nabha; because all of these people worked against the interests of the Panth and were enemies of the Maharaja of Nabha with whom the accused had great sympathy. They had therefore chosen to murder these enemies of the nation."

Bhai Ram Singh had informed Pratap Singh that Maharaja had approved of this sort of statement being given. The accused were first produced before the Magistrate who committed them to sessions. The Sessions Judge sentenced Santa Singh and Harbhajan Singh to a period of 7 years each and Dr. Bakhshish Singh was treated as an absconder and the sanction of the Punjab Government obtained to effect his arrest within the British Territory.

Every sort of assistance was afforded to Pratap Singh. He was given a decent house to live in and a sum of Rs. 50/- was sanctioned as his monthly expense. He was also awarded a tract of land for these services.

No sooner Dr. Bakshish Singh came out of Nabha than he gave the first statement before the Deputy Commissioner, District Ambala; second statement before the Jullunder C. I. D.; third statement before the Shiromani Gurudwara Prabhandak Committee; and for 3 or 4 days, he delivered speeches at the Amritsar Guru-ka-Bagh, with all of which the Maharaja of Patiala was very much terrified, and in this complication the Maharaja consulted Dewan Saheb and suggested to Pandit Jiwan Lal and Bhai Ram Singh that as long as Dr. Bakhshish Singh was at liberty in the British territory, he (Maharaja) was in danger. So, after due consideration, such a case was to be got up wherein his complicity could be proved, and the Patiala Government could take him personally from the British Government. As soon as this conspiracy was disclosed to Bijla Singh, he said, that he had several such men under his influence who could aptly accomplish such business. So he sent for Bhai Pratap Singh. Bijla Singh had an old enemity with Santa Singh Kalaurwala; so on the suggestion of Bijla Singh, Pratap Singh consented to entangle Dr. Bakhshish Singh, Santa Singa and his brother in a false case. He told Bijla Singh that every-

thing would be done accordingly. Bijla Singh had openly told Pratap Singh that with connection to that matter he had to place a bomb or two, a few guns and the other explosives, in the houses of all those three men who were to be entangled. He warned him to think over the matter and if he could act upon the suggestion, he (Pratap Singh) should report within 4 or 5 days. and he would be supplied with necessary articles. Pratap Singh assured that, that was not a difficult task; even he could obtain such articles. Bijla Singh gave him Rs. 50/- and Pratap Singh went away to Kalaur to hatch up the conspiracy. On his arrival at Kalaur Pratap Singh persuaded Bhai Harbhajan Singh and his brother for the task, by pointing out to them the atrocities which were inflicted upon the *Panth*. "Daya Kishan Kaul of Patiala had sunk the boat of the community, and Gurdial Singh was doing harm to the Nabha subjects. They were Singhs (Lions). Everybody has to die, let them earn virtue, and with the help of each other they would ruin the atrocious persons. Dr. Bakshis Singh was with him in that case and he was ready to give bombs." With this sort of persuation of Bhai Pratap Singh, Santa Singh and his brother consented to his opinion, and they said that nothirg was better than that. After consultation with one another, they obtained a gun through Mistri Gopal Singh, and in the same way other explosives were also obtained and were placed in the house of Bhai Santa Singh. After four or five days Pratap Singh again came to Bijla Singh and from Patiala he sent for Dewan, Jiwan Lal and Bhai Ram Singh through telephone. The phone was rung by one Jagat Singh. Dewan Saheb and Ram Singh both arrived there by car next morning. In the upper flat of the Kothi in the presence of Bijla Singh they both assured and encouraged him that that was the work of the Maharja Patiala and was to be accomplished with great efforts and he would gain very much. Pratap Singh answered that he was ever ready to obey them. Upon that Pratap Singh was asked to do everything according to the wishes of Bijla Singh. It was also decided then and there, that on the 9th day of

Har, the case was to be brought out; and just before bringing that out, two Patiala C. I. D. constables would satisfy themselves by going through the matter.

Bhai Ram Singh and Pandit Jiwan Lal returned to Patiala. After that Bijla Singh wrapped a bomb in a blue cloth and gave that to Pratap Singh. Pratap Singh arrived at Kalaur with the bomb and that too was placed in the house of Santa Singh on the 9th day of Har. According to the programme decided, the Patiala C. I. D. set to work at Kalaur, and then and there Pratap Singh, Santa Singh and Harbhajan Singh and others were arrested. Bombs, guns, spears, etc., were produced at the time of search of the house of Bhai Santa Singh. Pratap Singh, Santa Singh, Harbhajan Singh and Pritam Singh were arrested by the Police and were brought to Patiala. Pritam Singh was released during the enquiry of the matter. Harbhajan Singh and Santa Singh were put in the lock up, in Kari Khass. Pratap Singh was detained in one cell and was provided with every kind of comfort and facility, besides one cook was also given to him. Bhai Pratap Singh was an approver in that case. Bhai Ram Singh made Pratap Singh give the statement that they (the accused) plotted the conspiracy only to kill Col. Minchen, the Political Agent, Dewan Daya Kishan Kaul, S. Sundar Singh, Majithia and Gurdial Singh of Nabha, for all those were the enemies of the Sikh community and Maharaja Nabha, and they (the accused) themselves were faithful to the Panth and Nabha.

Bhai Ram Singh at the time of persuading Bhai Pratap Singh for the above statement said also that he was telling him according to the order of Maharaja Patiala. The case was proceeded with. First the case was brought before the Magistrate. He made that over to the Sessions Court, and the Sessions Court awarded seven years' imprisonment to both of them (Harbhajan Singh and Santa Singh) and Dr. Bakshish Singh was proclaimed under section 512 as an absconded accused and got the approval of the Punjab Govt. for his arrest. Policemen were appointed to arrest him. In Patiala City a house was hired for Bhai Pratap Sinh and Rs. 50–were fixed

for his monthly expenses. The square of land for him was also granted and moreover some money in cash was also ordered to be given to him through Ram Singh. Rs. 50/- P. M. and house rent were given to him from the private purse of the Maharaja Patiala.

Maharaja through his procuress Harnam Kaur procured Harmel Kaur and Jasmer Kaur from Mani Majra. Both of these were the young virgin daughters of Jahagirdars. Their parents had also accompanied them to Patiala and they stayed there with one of their relatives. A special Buggy of Maharaja was daily taken to convey them to Mahindar Kothi for several days. S. Ishar Singh, the father of Harmel Kaur and S. Gurbachan Singh, the brother of Jasmer Kaur used to accompany them. One day the Maharaja had fixed night time for interview. Several more females were then present. Then Harmel Kaur uttered 'Vahi Guru Ji ki Fateh' when all the rest bowed their heads at the feet of the Maharaja. Maharaja asked Harmel Kaur: 'Why did you not bend your head and why have you come here with Kirpan?" Harmel Kaur replied: "We are the daughters of Sikhs and Sikhs might bid Fateh." The same question was put to Jasmer Kaur. She became frightened on seeing Maharaja and began to tremble. Maharaja assuring Harmel Kaur said: " I have sent for you for the marriage." Then he sent her back to her house and asked Harnam Kaur to bring her the next day to Moti Bagh. The next evening Harnam Kaur along with Harmel Kaur got into the Buggy and reached Moti Bagh and leaving her with Maharaja, she went back. At night, Maharaja had sexual intercourse with her and in the morning before sunrise Harmel Kaur was conveyed to her house. After that Ishar Singh and Gurbachan Singh waited for several days for the answer from Maharaja about the marriage, and besought the Deorhi officer to kindly get them the information from Maharaja as to when he would marry. Deorhi officer replied: "Maharaja fully intends to marry, but he has ordered that your entertainment may be arranged in the upper flat of the Kothi of Tikka Raghunath."

So, S. Ishar Singh, Gurbachan Singh, Harbans Singh, Harmel Kaur and Jasmer Kaur went there to reside. Maharaja also used to go there to do evil work and to satisfy his evil desires with Harmel Kaur. At last Maharaja went away to Hill Station and Deorhi Sardar asked them to go away for the time being, as they would get the information from the hills. Those persons awaited at Mani Majra, but were disappointed after waiting for the reply for some days. But because at the time of departure from Patiala, even the railway fares were not given to them, they repented very much that they were dishonoured and nothing had been given to them. After much repentance, they made up their mind to complain to the Punjab Political Agent against Maharaja, and intended to bring before the public through the Press the evil deeds of the Maharaja. When Bhai Ram Singh came to know about this and thinking it will be disgraceful for the Maharaja, he informed Daya Kishan Kaul about the whole matter. Dewan told the Maharaja that "such and such a thing is going to happen." Maharaja was about to sail for England. He directed Dewan Saheb not to let Harmel disclose the matter till his return and he ordered Rs. 50/- for her monthly expenses and Rs. 500/- in cash which might be sent to her with Ram Singh. Moreover, those fifty rupees were to be paid in advance every month. Hence Rs. 500/- were given in cash and fifty rupees per mensem used to be given regularly. On the return of His Highness, he suggested Ram Singh to bring Harmel Kaur from Mani Majra and to put her in Bahadur Garh Kothi. Hence a car was sent there and then and Ishar Singh, Harbans Singh and others were brought and were detained in Bahadur Garh.

In the presence of Daya Kishan Kaul, the Maharaja said to Bhai Ram Singh : "This blame stands against me till now. The girl is a disgraceful knave and she is a British Subject. you therefore bring her down to give the statement that "Sardar Kishan Singh Deorhi officer violated my chastity but not the Maharaja." The Maharaja gave Ram Singh the sum of Rs. 300/- to award to Harmel Kaur and promised to appoint

her brother on a high post. Bhai Ram Singh gave her Rs. 300/- An entertainment was already arranged for her. She was intimated about the promise of the post for her brother, and then expressing the intention of the Maharaja everything was told to Harmel Kaur, her father and brother. She agreed to act according to the intention of Maharaja. She gave her statement before Maharaja, Dewan Daya Kishan Kaul and Lyaqat Hyat Khan. The Maharaja issued orders for the arrest and forfeiture of property of Kishan Singh and he was sent to jail. C. I. D. instituted a regular case and after taking the statements of Harmel Kaur, her father and her brother, Kishan Singh was awarded punishment. Harmel Kaur is still getting Rs. 50/-per mensem and is living with a badmash and a rogue-a police Sub-Inspector without having performed the marriage ceremony and is enjoying her hour of pleasures. During this time she has given birth to two daughters.

COUNT THREE : DISAPPEARANCE OF BICHITER KAUR: HER DAUGHTER AND HER SON

Evidence in Support

(1) *Sardar Pratap Singh's Statemeut Ex. 35.*

(2) *Dr. Bakshis Singh's Statement Ex. 36.*

(3) *Dr. Bakshis Singh's affidavit Ex. 36 A.*

(4) *Bhai Ram Singh's Statement Ex. 42.*

All these statements are printed in full under the foregoing count i. e. count two regarding the setting up and maintaining of of a bomb factory.

COUNT FOUR : KEEPING AND NOT RELEASING THE WIFE OF SARDAR AMAR SINGH

Evidence in Support

(1) Statement of Suhawar Singh, the younger brother of Amar Singh, Ex. 39.

(2) Copies of correspondence with the Government, Ex. 39 A, 39 B, and 39 C.

1. Statement of Suhawar Singh, the younger brother of Amar Singh, Ex. 39.

Suhawar Singh S/O Budh Singh, aged 45 years, village Rurki Budhsinghwala, Patiala State.

I am the younger brother of Sardar Amar Singh whose wife Amar Kaur is taken away by Maharaja Patiala..

After her marriage with my brother she stayed for five years with us. After that she is taken away to Patiala. She is there for the last 18 years.

It so happened that this woman was beautiful Some. one took this news to Maharaja. One procuress named Harnam Kaur took her to the palace. She was detained and has never since been returned.

Her mother was given Rs. five to six thousand. Her brother was given Rs. 300/- (three hundred) per month. After that he purchased some lands from the money given to him by the Maharaja. He is still getting one hundred per month. This woman has produced one daughter and one son. Both of them are alive and are staying in the palace.

Maharaja had through all concerned asked us to accept Rs. 20,000— and renounce the right on the woman. But my brother has always refused.

My brother approached the Political authorities. All the correspondence I produce herewith.

For the refusal on the part of my brother, he was arrested in 3 or 4 cases by Patiala Police. But as they could not prove anything against him he was released.

Lastly after the publication of the correspondence in the Press my brother is again imprisoned under Sec. 216 I. P. C. I too was arrested under various excuses but was released. There is a statement of my brother in Urdu. I have read the same. It is true. I produce it.

My brother is in jail today and he is being asked to say that everything published about him is wrong. He is further asked to divorce.

(2) Copies of correspondence with the Government, Ex. 39 A, Ex. 39 B, and Ex. 39 C.

[*Political Agent's two leters to. S. Amar Singh, Ex. 39 A*]

(1)

Memorandum No. 969 A. 6. 7. d/ 10th Dec. 1917.

In reply to his petition dated 21st. August 1917 the undersigned is directed by Government to inform Sardar Amar Singh once again that if he is not prepared to accept His Highness the Maharaja of Patiala's offer to accept Rs. 20,000/- and to withdraw all claims over his wife, no further action will be taken on any petitions that he may in future submit on the subject.

(Sd.) **Illegible**
Political Agent
Phulkian State.

To

Sardar Amar Singh
Biswadar, of Village Roorkee,
Patiala State.

(2)

No. 258 A. 677

Patiala

Dated the 7th May 1918

Sir

In reply to your letter dated the 20th April 1918 I write to say that as your previous communication contained no definite acceptance of His Highness' offer and as the delay in doing so has exceeded four months, I had previously informed the Darbar that I would not take any official action in the matter.

In these circumstances I am unable to intervene further on your behalf and consequently your only hope is to appeal to His Highness' personal generosity and good feeling in the matter.

Yours sincerely,

To

S. Amar Singh, Biswedar,
of Roorkee, Patiala State.

[*The Punjab Government's letter, EX. 39. B.*]

Office Memorandum: No. 21676 F.

To

Bhai Amar Singh,
Bisawdar of village Roorkee
Tehsil Patiala, Patiala State.

Political.

N. States. *Lahore dated the 16th of October 1919.*

With reference to his petition dated the 2nd September 1919 on the subject of the offer of Rs. 20,000/- by His Highness the Maharaja of Patiala Bhai Amar Singh Bisawdar of village Roorkee, Tehsil Patiala, is informed that His Honour the Lieutenant

Governor declines to take up the matter afresh and that he should approach the Maharaja himself.

By order
Assistant Political
For Under-Secretary to Government Punjab.

[*The viceroy's letter, EX. 39 C.*]

OFFICE MEMORANDUM; D. O. No. 1711-G. P.

Viceregal Lodge.
Delhi.
Dt. lst March, 1929

Dear Sir,

In reply to your letter dated the 25th February, 1929, I am desired to inform you that your petitions dated the 25th April 1928 and the 10th September 1928 were transferred for consideration to the Political Department of the Government of India. I am, therefore, to ask you to kindly address all future communications on the subject to the Secretary of that Department.

Yours faithfully,
Sd/-
Assistant Private Secretary
to the Viceroy.

To,

Sardar Amar Singh
C/o Mr. Raj Kishore Tandan,
B. A., LL. B., pleader,
Chandni Chowk, Delhi.

COUNT FIVE : ILLEGAL ARREST AND CONFINEMENT OF SARDAR HARCHAND SINGH WITHOUT ANY TRIAL AND CONFISCATION OF HIS PROPERTIES WORTH ABOUT TWENTY LAKHS

Evidence in Support

(1) Statement of Rajindar Kaur, Ex. 29 A.
(2) Oral examination of Rajindar Kaur, Ex. 29 B.
(3) Statement of Sardar Vazir Singh, Ex. 30.
(4) A list of property of Sardar Harchand Singh, Ex. 30 A.

1. Statement of Rajindar Kaur, Ex. 29 A.

Statement of Sardarani Rajindar Kaur, wife of S. Harchand Singh, Rais village Chaural Thana, Patiala State. On solemn affirmation oath the witness recorded the following statement on 5th Sawan Sambat 1886.

Sardar Ghamdoor Singh, brother of my husband S/o S. Gian Singh has on account of family jealousy great enemity with my husband and is a mortal foe of his.

As S. Ghamdoor Singh killed S. Lal Singh according to the instructions and desire of Maharaja Patiala, he is a great favourite of the Maharaja. Prior to this S. Ghamdoor Singh's property was confiscated and he was expelled from the Patiala State but on giving an undertaking to kill S. Lal Singh he got back all the confiscated property and was allowed admission in the Patiala State. It is now ten or eleven years since S. Lal Singh was murdered, but it so appears that the facts relating to this incident are brought to light every now and then and therefore the Maharaja is always ready to help S. Ghamdoor Singh. In order therefore to please him the Maharaja either orders for the internment of

my husband in the Patiala City or confiscates his ancestral lands. At one time this portion of the estate is confiscated and at the second time the other one. Three or four years back my husband was kept interned in his Kothi in the Patiala City under Police guard for three long years continuously; and a very magnificient Kothi, valued at two to two and a half lacs of rupees has been confiscated and taken possession of by the State about 3 years back from now.

On the 23rd February 1929 we had to face very odd circumstances suddenly and we were made victims of State Zulam, account of which is reproduced below :

At about 10 o'clock on the aforesaid date Jamil Hussain, Nazim of District Sunam, Asa Singh Tehsildar of Sunam and Sodhi Bakhshish Singh Sub-Inspector of Police Station Darha, Sub-Inspector Long and Sunam along with 30 constables came to our Kothi Deh Choral, two miles from Jakkhal. They were all armed. At the time of arrival the policemen were without uniform and they surrounded the Kothi from all sides but later on they were seen guarding the Kothi with uniform. On enquiring from the Sub-Inspectors about Sardar Saheb, one servant informed them that he had gone out in the fields. Upon this a few constables and Sub-Inspectors went out to the field and kept the Kothi under Police guard. My husband was arrested and brought handcuffed to the Kothi. We were in the upper storey and listened to the Sardar Saheb's requesting the Sub-Inspector to allow him to go to the Gurudwara just to bow his head in the presence of the Guru Granth Sahab, but this was not allowed to him. Then he asked permission to see his people and explain to them certain family and business affairs. But this request was also not granted aud he was taken to Sunam Police Station and was not allowed to see or meet the members of the family before leaving. He was then taken to Patiala. Upon this some of our servants ran away and the following people were arrested and taken along with Sardar Sahab:

(1) Pertap Singh Mukhtiar Kar (2) Jwala Singh Granthi (3) Jwala Singh Langei (4) Phuman Singh store-keeper. All of them

were kept in jail for three months and later on released on bail for Rs. 500/- each, and no charges were framed against them. As soon as my husbad was taken to Sunam the Ahalkar and Police entered our 'Males' and "Females" quarters without informing us and the entire house was at once locked up.

Ours being a respectable family, we observe Parda but no heed was paid to our "Izzat" and "Abru" (honour). On the contrary Jamil Hussain, Nazim Sunam, who is a Mahomedan by caste came to me and told me that he wanted to search my person, which he accordingly did. The Nazim took possession of my golden bangles and ring along with a sum of Rs. 9/- which was found in my pocket. Search of my person was effecteed without the help of any woman, although one barber woman Mussamat Bishni alias Shajno of Chanry village, who was sent for by the Nazim, was sitting outside and her services were easily available in the search. The Sub-inspector, Constables and Tehsildars were all standing around the Nazim who was effecting the search. As soon as this was finished the Nazim expelled me from the house and told me that I had no longer to do anything with that Kothi, that it was then in the possession of the State and that it was to remain under Police guard. I was asked to go anywhere I liked. I was not allowed to put on my slippers which I usually do I then requested the Nazim to allow me the use of my Rath (Bullock Chariot) and this was allowed to me Then I begged him to pay me Railway fare upto Sangrur to enable me to proceed to my father's house and the Nazim paid me a sum of Rs 4/- only out of the money that was recovered from me at the time of search. I then started for Railway Station Gorna with 2 sons, 2 daughters and 2 maid-servants for whose Railway fare I obtained on loan a sum of Rs. 10/-from the Station Master of Gorna, and went crying. A few hours back I held possession of thousands of Bighas of lands, Kothi and gardens; and there were hundreds of servants to obey my command and mine was a life of ease in the company of my husband; but within less than an hour my husband who was a very big Rais and so belonged to a very

high family was handcuffed and taken by the Police and I was expiled from my Kothi penniless. I was then fainting and had lost my senses. Whenever, even now, I think about the search effected by the Nazim. I begin to shiver and tremble. Whereas on the one hand the aforesaid treatment was meted out to us, our two sons, Wazir Singh and Jasmer Singh who were staying in the Haveli inside the city at Patiala and were students of Khalsa Scool in Patiala were kept locked up in the Kothi for ten days along with the servants Niranjan Singh, Mukhtiar Kar, Ram Singh, Hari Singh and Biria. They were not allowed to move out and our sons could not even go to school. The Kothi was raided by messrs. Kishan Chand, Deputy Superintendent, Shamsher Shingh, Inspector of Police, with sufficient number of Police Constables, Assistant-Tehsildar and Ram Saran Das Tehsildar Patiala.

On the day next to the 23rd February we were informed that a search was being carried out in our Kothi situated in Deh Chaural without our information or knowledge behind our back. Neither myself nor any other responsible person from our side was called at the time of the search. A few days later I was infomed that the search was completed On my enquiry the Tehsildar informed me that there was no mention of any jewellery or cash etc. in the search-list except old coins worth ten annas. No other cash or jewellery was reported to have been recovered. I was surprised to hear that in such a big house a sum of 0/10/- only could have been found out. I append herewith a list of my jewellery and my personal cash which I had left in the house before I was evicted. I am however not aware of the jewellery and cash which was in my husband's charge in the house at the time of search and he knows all about it.

Besides the grains, cotton, seed furniture and clothes etc., that were taken possession of by the State I also understand that crops and stores were sold by auction at a nominal price. Sugar cane etc. have also been auctioned. Although I am told that the entire furniture has been ordered to be auctioned, it is not known when they are going to do so. I am in these days

putting up with my parents at Sangrur, capital of Jind State. My son Kaka Jasmir Singh is with me and my elder son has rented a house for Rs. 2/8/- per month and is studying in Amratsar.

My husband S. Harchand Singh is still kept a prisoner in Kotwali, Patiala. Neither any charge has been framed against him nor has he been tried in any court. It is said that my husband has been orally informed that in the month of Magh Samat 1985 when S. Kharak Singh was going about holding Dewans in the Patiala State, my husband happened to travel with him in the same train from Amritsar to Chhajti. It is said that my husband who was then travelling on his own business and boarding the train at Sangrur, went up to Chhajti about 10 miles only. Chhajti Railway Station is situated two stations ahead of Railway Station Sangrur. Baba Kharak Sing was also travelling in the same compartment in the same train and my husband bade respects to him. S. Ghamdoor Singh and the Police reported the matter to the Maharaja who ordered the imprisonment of my husband and confiscation of our property. My husband is now in jail and our property is confiscated, but no charges have been established against my husband in a Court of Law nor has he been tried. Nor all my other family members including myself have been informed as to why we have been expelled from our house and as to why the servants are put in to the jail. The whole case is shrouded in mystery.

2. Oral examination of Rajindar Kaur, Ex. 29 B.

In the house of Captain Sardar Bahadur Janmejai Singh O. B. E., Messrs. A. V. Thakker, Sheth and Abhyankar were present.

Sardarni Rajindar Kaur W/o S. Harchand Singh, Rais village Chaural, Patiala, with her mother and her son Vazir Singh who acted as interpreter were present. Her written statement was read out to her and she confirmed the same. She stated as under in oral examination by the Committee:

Q:— You give one reason in your statement for the displeasure of the Maharaja; do you think there was any other reason ?

A:— Yes : as you know my husband was an A. D. C. to His Highness the Maharaja till the year 1919 A. D., *i. e.* for about 8 or 9 years. I am a second wife to my husband. His first wife is dead. In her life, she, and after her, I used to receive calls from the palace. Sometimes a carriage and sometimes a car used to be sent for us, but my husband was strict. He refused all invitations, because the Maharaja had a bad character. This brought to my husband the disfavour of the Maharaja. He dispensed with the services of my husband. Invitations to go to palace came after that also, four or five times, but I never went there. The last invitation came on the Basant Panchmi of the last year, but I did not go. This was just a little time before the arrest.

Q:— Would you explain whether there was any ground to believe that Sardar Saheb gave any information to Baba Kharak Singhjee ?

A:—All that is false. My husband was that day coming from Singrur to Gurna. He got in the train at Singrur in the 2nd class compartment. There was only one 2nd class compartment for males in the train. It so happened that Baba was also in that compartment. Baba and my husband were not alone. There was one revenue officer of Singrur State also in the compartment from Singrur; so there was no chance of any confidential talk between my husband and Babaji. From the next Station, Sunam, Patiala Police Officials also travelled in the same compartment. At the station of Chhayli Baba Saheb and Patiala Police got down while my husband continued his journey and got down at the Station Gurna. So, there was no substance in the charge. It was merely an excuse.

Q:- How do you maintain yourself now ?

A:- We are in difficulty. I am staying with my mother. I have incurred debts to the extent of Rs. 2000/- from my relatives. Our property is all confiscated; therefore people would not lend us. Moreover there is also the Maharaja's displeasure. That is another reason why people don't lend us money. Only God knows our difficulties.

Q:- Did you try for any relief ?

A:- Yes : My uncle went to the Maharaja but he paid no attention. And we have no money to take our case to the British Government. We are helpless.

Q:- What was your income ?

A:- It was about Rs. 40,000/- a year. We have not a pie now, and we are driven out of our houses. We are now, so to say, the beggars in the street.

3. Statement of Sardar vazir Singh, Ex. 30.

Statement of S. Vazir Singh s/o S. Harchand Singh, aged 18 years, Sikh by religion, student by profession, resident of Chural, District Sunam, Patiala State.

Present address: White House Hostel, Khalsa College, Amritsar or, Haveli of S. Haqiqat Singh, Sangrur.

We are one of the biggest Zamindars of the Patiala State. I have given in a separate statement a list of our lands in Patiala, as also that of our properties that we had in our house when we were driven out from the same. From ancestral times, members of our family used to hold high offices in the State. My father was taken up as an A. D. C. to the Maharaja when he was 20 years of age. He remained in service for about 8 or 9 years.

My father having seen the inside of the character of the Maharaja which he found to be immoral, used to remain on

leave for a major portion of his service. He did not resign simply because Maharaja used to take such an action as an insult and the life and property of the man who may do it may be in danger. Eventually, the Maharaja himself dispensed with the services of my father in 1919.

One practice of the Maharaja has been that, when he finds that a particular gentleman has good character and that he hates him for his misconduct, he tries to violate the ladies of that man's family, so that the lips of that man may be sealed up for ever. Having found that my father was a gentleman of this type the Maharaja used to send summons to the ladies of our family, to go to the palace, but my father used always to refuse these summons. But that brought on his head the displeasure of the Maharaja. Another reason of the displeasure of the Maharaja was that my father showed great sympathy with the Akali movement. Further, my uncle was a favourite of the Maharaja, because he had murdered Lal Singh. We are on bad terms with my uncle. That is one more reason why we incurred this displeasure of the Maharaja.

We had begun to taste the fruits of his displeasure as early as 1923. In that year my father was put under arrest. This detention continued for three years, but then he was allowed to stay in our Kothi. Orders were that he should not leave Patiala boundaries. This detention was ended by the intervention of the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee.

Six month after his freedom, my father was called by Mr. Rafiq Mahamad, Private Secretary of the Maharaja, who asked him to give over our Kothi to the State for the use of the Maharaja's dogs. We were offered Rs. 7,000/- (seven thousand) as the price for the same. As the Kothi was worth not less than Rs. 70,000/- my father refused the offer. The Kothi was therefore confiscated to the State and we were asked to vacate it within 24 hours, although we were residing in it. This Kothi is still with the State. It is not used for any purpose by the State.

On 23rd February 1929, I returned from my School at 10–30 in the morning. I found police loitering near my house. Just a few minutes after Tehsildar Ramsarandass, Assistant Tehsildar Shamsher Singh, and Inspector of Police with about a dozen of constables came into my house. Shamsher Singh told me that he had orders to confiscate all my property and to arrest my father. We too, i. e., myself, my younger brother and four of our servants were placed under arrest and all of us were detained in our Haveli for seven days. After seven days Assistant Tehsildar ordered us to leave the Haveli at once. So, we all went to Sangrur, where our mother had gone.

On the 24th we heard that our father was brought to the Kotwali of Patiala from Sunam. On the 25th he was specially taken through the streets of Patiala, handcuffed for the purpose of demonstration and public humiliation.

After 20 days I returned to see my father and found that he was receiving only As. 4 a day for his food and medicine. Next day I saw my father from whom I knew that he was made to sleep on the floor with his hands cuffed and tied with the legs of the bedstead. My father was then ill, suffering from fever and cough. I then approached the authorities who ordered after about a fortnight that my father be given all necessaries, the charges to be paid by me. My father's weight was reduced by 30 lbs in 3 months. He is still ill, but no medical aid is given to him. For the last 15 days he is taken to Kar Khas, which is a notorious place for detention.

4. A list of property of Sardar Harchand Singh, Ex. 30 A.

List of immoveble property confiscated on the 23rd February 1929, in different villages.

Lands

Total cultivation amounting to 58½ squares of land (6821 Bighas) worth Rs. 14,50,000/-, Rs. 25,000/- per square.

Buildings

Kothis at Chural and Patiala, Haveli at Patiala, stables and menial barracks and houses for storing grains worth Rs. 2 lacks and a half, parks at Patiala and chural aud Gurudwarshab building at Chural worth Rs. 75,000/-.

House in the village of	Chural worth	Rs.	1,500/-
,, ,, ,,	Kehargarh	,,	2,000/-
,, ,, ,,	Govindgarh	,,	1,000/-
,, ,, ,,	Dharamgarh	,,	1,000/-
,, ,, ,,	Simla Hills	,,	3,000/-

Ornaments and Jewellery

Mother's ornaments and jewellery at present in Chural in an iron box worth Rs. 35,000/-.

Cash

Cash of mother at Chural	worth Rs.		38,000/-
,, father ,,	,,	,,	15,000/-
Old coins of gold	,,	,,	25,000/-

Crops

Cotton present in the store in Chural when father was arrested, 2300 maunds worth	Rs.	23,000/-
Wheat and other crops present in the field at the time of arrest worth about	Rs.	18,000/-
Income from cotton every year amounting to	Rs.	35 000/-
Income from wheat and other crops ,,	,,	20,000/-
,, ,, straw ,,	,,	5,000/-
,, ,, Sugar cane ,	,,	2,000/-
Sugar cane present at the time in field worth	Rs.	1,500/-

Clothes & Furniture

All clothes of the family members	Rs.	25,000/-
Furniture at Chural nearly	,,	15,000/-
,, ,, Patiala	,,	5,000/-

Bullock cart : one	Rs. 400/-
Cycles 3	,, 300/-
Other miscellaneous things worth	,, 10,000/-
One Rifle, one shot gun and five swords	,, 1,000/-
Cattle, mares & horses numbering about 100, worth	Rs 15,000/-
Tam Tam at Patiala worth	,, 300/-
Yearly Income	,, 50,000-
	Rs. 20,13,000/-

WAZIR SINGH JAIJEE
S/o
Sardar Harchand Singh Jaije of Patiala

Count Six : Concoction of false Cases

Evidence in Support

(1) *Evidence of Sardar Pratap Singh, Ex. 35.*
(2) *Evidence of Dr. Bakshis Singh, Ex. 36.*
(3) *Evidence of Suhawa Singh, Ex. 39.*
(4) *Evidence of Bhai Ram Singh, Ex. 42.*
(5) *Evidence of Sardar Diwan Singh, Ex. 42 B.*

(1) **Evidence of Sardar Pratap Singh (Ex. 35) is printed under count two.**

(2) **Evidence of Bakshis Singh (Ex. 36) is printed under Count two.**

(3) **Evidence of Suhawa Singh (Ex. 39) is printed under count four.**

(4) **Evidence of Bhai Ram Singh (Ex. 42) is printed under Count two.**

(5) **Evidence of Sardar Diwan Singh (Ex. 42 B.) is printed in Appendix G.**

Count Seven : Inhuman tortures, illegal arrests and imprisonments and high-handed confiscations of property

1. *Statement of Ridha Singh, Ex. 6A.*
2. *Statement of Gaja Singh, Ex. 85.*
3. *Statement of Ram Singh of melowal, Ex. 86.*
4. *Statement of Pala Singh & 18 others, Ex. 87.*
5. *Statement of Karan Singh, Ex. 88.*
6. *Statement of Anokh Singh and 4 others, Ex. 89.*
7. *Statement of Sucha Singh, Ex. 90.*
8. *Statement of Nand Singh, Ex. 91.*
9. *Exhibits 2, 3, 4, 7, 54 and 55.*

1. Statement of Ridha Singh, Ex. 6A

Statement of S. Ridha Singh S/o S. Partap Singh Biswedar, resident of Ghuga Tehsil Bhawanigarh, Patiala State, aged 32 years, taken on 31st August 1929.

I state nothing but truth on solemn affirmation :

I heard that Sangat had started an Akhand Path (the uninterrupted reading of Guru Granth Sahab) in reception of Bakhshish Singh Sahab at the Gurudwar Sahab of Darba, which place was included in the touring programme of Baba Kharak Singh. The Sangat had taken a vow to have fine Akhand Path to pray Almighty to abridge the gulf of differences between Maharaja Patiala and Panth (Sikh Community). They hoped that this will be accomplished at the visit of Baba Kharak Singhji, the Jathedar of Sikh community. I reached Gurudwara Sahab Darba on the 20th Magh Sambat 1985 at sunset, because I had started from my village in the

afternoon after disposing of all household work. When I reached Gurudwara Sahab I learned that one Akhand Path had been conducted and the second had been started. But Gurudwara Sahab was strongly guarded on all sides by the Police. I was astonished to see so much police force surrounding the Gurudwara. But seeing that Akhand Path was going on I with the intention of going in had hardly entered the outer door when I was at once arrested by the Police. Two more Singhs who were following were also arrested on the spot. I was then taken to the Police Station. Sadhr Raunak Ram Police Clerk and another seargent were present on the spot. I was then take to the Police Station Darha. The seargent, whose name I don't know ordered the Police constables to shut me into a cell and bring me to my senses. Thereupon the constable Basakha Ram and others laid me down flat on the ground and gave me severe shoe-beating. Two Other Sikhs were similarly maltreated. Kirpan was forcibly snatched from me. I saw more Akalis sitting there who had been arrested in the day time prior to my arrest. We were made to sit without any warm quilt or blanket through out the whole severe winter night.

On the morning of 21st Magh I was sent for by the Thanedar Bakhshish Singh, who asked me why I had gone there. I told him that I had gone to hear the recitation of Akhand Path. Thereupon Bakhshish Singh Thanedar pulled my beard thrice and rebuked me. Then he ordered the constables to take me to the same place back.

It was 8 or 9 in the morning when I was again taken out where I saw Bakhshish Singh Thanedar of Darba, Baldev Singh Thanedar Dhuri, Bhurpur Singh Supdt. of Police and a dozen of Police constables. Bakhshish Singh asked me if I was not checked by my brothers S. Basant Singh, Safed Posh and S. Sundar Singh Tehsildar. I said "They did, but I, considering it a religious matter have come because I had only gone to the place for attending Akhand Path, a religious ceremony, and for no other purpose. If I would have come here considering it an evil work

I would not have come at all." At this, Bharpur Singh of Supdt., Police instructed S. Bakhshish Singh and Baldev Singh to take me round the village and treat me harshly by making a public demonstration. Both the Sub-Inspectors assisted by a large number of Police constables took me to the village. Only a few paces I had gone, when my Pyjama and Kachha were removed. Constables laid me prostrate on the ground and began to beat me on the naked back with shoes. They continued this process for a long time and I went on uttering "Vahi Guru" every time A large number of persons from Darbar and adjoining villages had assembled there, because the Police had summoned Zaildars and Numbardars of all adjoining villages for assistance. I cannot say exactly what number of shoe-beats I was subjected to but this I can say that they stopped beating only when they thought-thatenongh of it had been adminstered and all the persons had witnessed it. Then I was made to walk few paces and when they found people assembled, the demonstrations were repeated with increased severety. When I tried to tie my waist-cord of the Pyjama and Kachha, then the sub-Inspectors ordered the constables to hold the ends of my waistcord in their own hands. It had become a frightful scene to the men and women of the villages. I was held by two constables by my both arms. I was then taken shamefully in the naked state before the men and women of the village. As far as I remember, the shoe-beating was repeated violently for seven or eight times. Blood was flowing down on the ground from my back. In a next street, where fodder was to be secured for the horses, a large number of men had gathered. There they took me over a mound of earth and again repeated the shoe-beating. Blood sprouted out from my back. The two sub Inspectors and other constables not caring a bit began to call the other people who were standing at a distance to come and spit over my back turn by turn. They hesitated to come. Again the Sub Inspectors ordered them to do it, but none dared to comply. Then the Sub Inspector ordered the constables to bring all of them and treat similary those who do not obey. At his all of them came one

by one and being threatened by the Police, unwillingly spat upon my back. Then the Sub–Inspectors ordered the constables to begin the shoe–beating afresh as my back which had become wet on account of spitting. The Constables complied. I was thrice treated similary at short intervals.

When they entered the street to escort me back by the rout I was taken out, Bharpur Singh Supdt. of Police met us and enquired from the Sub–Inspectors if they had accomplished and brought back to my senses. The Sub Inspector replied "enough of demonstration has been given to the people, which they would have neither witnessed nor heard of. But he has not changed." At this Bharpur Singh asked them to show him the process and said he would see what comes out of this demonstration. So saying he came out of his Motor Car and the demonstration began. This time the Police Constables spent their whole skill and strength to please their higher officials. At this place as at other places both the Sub–Inspectors delivered speeches that "This person is a resident of Ghyga and is by inheritence Biswedar and Sardar. He was up till now respected in the Ilaqa. People considered him a big aristocrat. He is not caring for H. H. 's orders and has come apparently to attend Akhand Path. Therefore whoever would disobey His Highness' orders like him will be similarly treated publicly. Witness the maltreatment that he is receiving. His whole property would be attached and he would pass his whole life in Jail and will die inside it." After so much lecturing the shoe–beating was recommenced.

But I continued repeating 'Wahi guru' with what little weakened voice. I possessed. Then Bharpur Singh sent for water for wetting my back. The same was pressed on with their feet and then they commenced shoe–beating. A cupfull of water was supplied by an old crippled man, an inhabitant of Darba. I continued uttering 'Wahi guru' my with humble voice. Bharpur Singh ordered to repeat the process.

It was repeated four times in the presence of Bharpur Singh. Blood oozed out from my back in such a large quantity that the

tutn on earth underneath was blood-drenched. Once I turned my head and noticed that my body had gone black and blue and the blood was flowing profusely. A Thanedar said "what are you seeing ? you will see more of it just now." I said that instead of doing all that it would have been better if my throat had been cut which I would have considered an act of decency. Then the reply was given that I would be killed not by throat-cutting but by slow tortures and persecutions. I again uttered 'Wahi guru Wahi guru...'

When Bharpur singh thought he had done more than enough and had spared no violence upon me, and people had also been terrorised, he ordered my removal to the police station giving the same demonstraations to the villagers on the way. On return at two or three places similar treatment was accorded. When we reached Thana, I was again laid on my back and gave one stroke of the shoe, saying that it is enough to give one stroke ceremo niously at the Gadi of Great Baba Ala Singh.

The Sun Set. The winter of 21st Maghar is well-known over the of whole India. There was so much cold on the one hand and on the other hand my whole body was aching on acconnt of two days torturle, what agonies I was passing through at the time, is known only to me, and to God. Raunak Ram Police clerk placed some straw and blankets in a cell and shut me in. In my opinion Raunak Ram was feeling very much for me but he was quite helpless to do anything for me. I was neither his acquaintance nor in any way connected with him. But he looked quite terrified with the harsh and beastly treatment meted out to me. A Mahomedan constable and a Chaukidar were also shut in with me in the same cell to guard me. The Constable had the cot and the Chaukidar was lying on the floor. I was in chains. The cell was locked over us from outside. Two guards were heard talking outside. The adjoining portion was used as a stable for the Thanedar's cows and buffaloes. I remained for three days i. e., from 20th Magh to 23rd Magh in the Darba lock-up. I had no call of nature for five days. My whole body had stiffened, so I could neither lie flat on back nor

the other side for full ten days. The whole body ached severely. I wished to keep standing the whole day and night. On account my confinement I could not find any space to walk about. The chain of my handcuffs was tied to the cot of the guard. But to stand all day and night was also a terrible thing. So whenever I got tired of standing and was on the verge of falling down on account the giddiness of the brain and weakening of heart, I used to unwillingly sit down to rest. I could not sit properly on account of my injuries nor could I sit on my feet because in that case the heels touched the back and caused pain, nor could I lie flat on the back or the other way because then it painful effect on the bruises. thus I could only lie on my right or left either shoulder or I had to sit on my knees. I was in such a pitiable plight that I preferred death and many times prayed for it But at that time I could not even die because there too I had no option. I tolerated all this suffering anyhow. On the 23rd Magh I was transferred to Sunam Judicial looc up. In the same way I was put to great terror in order to compel me to beg pardon. But at Sunam no violence was used, I was frequently abused. Food arrangements were very bad and troublesome.

Words fail to express the exact heinousness or the vulgarity of language, because to express it plainly puts a man to shame it. When violence was being used on 21st Magh, the police used so foul and dirty language that even the most wretched scoundrels would feel reluctance to use. (The exact words were:-"This rascal has got no hair on his back. His fair colour of his body is like a girl's. Take him in and commit.....with him. Then he would become a pacca Sikh.")

When I was shut up at Darba Police Station, a Chaukidar on being asked told me that Jamil Hussan, Nazim and Sundar Singh, Tehsildar accompanied by Police had gone to my village on the evening of 21st Magh and had locked my Haveli. All the property and quadrupeds were auctioned without providing protection and maintenance for my wife, my son Kaka Sukhdev Singh aged 12 years, one daughter aged 10 years, another daughter

two years old, and formy sister. The whole of my granary was auctioned and the house was locked up and after placing State guard in front of my house my wife and children were drived out of the house penniless.

At last Jasmal Husen Nazim and Bharpur Singh Superintendent Police visited me in the Sunam Police Station and released me saying that at the petition of the panth H. H. has ordered my release.

After being released I have directly to Amratsar to have my sacred dip at the sacred tank in accordance with the custom. I have not been so far to my house. Now after bathing here I will go and enquire about my house and family.

2. Statement of Gaja Singh, Ex. 85

I and.....were arrested on the 10th Magh 1985, on the occasion of Diwan at Ghaloti by Tara Singh Kotwal, Bisan Singh Thanedar and Tirat Singh Nazim of Patiala. From there we were taken away to Patiala, from where we were transferred to Barnala judicial lock-up on the 12th Magh. On 16th Magh we were produced in the court of S. Sukhdev Singh, Nazim of Barnala. Sukhdev Singh enquired of us as to what were our demands. I replied. " Our demands are fourteen in number. These we make in the form of a resolution in every Diwan." in At this Sardar Sukhdev Singh ordered the Inspector of Police with a malicious sneer, to fulfill our demands. I was, then prostrated on my back in a cell adjoining to the court room. I was fettered, then I was caught hold of by a constable while the other let loose my Kachha and I was made naked. Sukhdev Singh pressed my head by placing his boot on my Keshas (heir) and jailor stood on my back. Standing Inspectors of Police and Babu Sub Inspector began to beat me with shoes. Then Inspector of Police left beating and commenced

flogging me with a hunter. I retained my senses only for two or three minutes. Then I became unconcious. When I recovered my senses, Sukhdev Singh induced me to give him a written declaration to the effect that Sardar Kharak Singh should leave the Patiala State territory immediately and that we never wished that Sardar should come to pay visit to Patiala, and that we have nothing to do with Sardar Kharak Singh.

I flatly refused to give him any such undertaking and told him clearly that I was not going to make any such Statement. At this I was once more subjected. to the same torture and shoe-beating and I again became unconcious Then I was taken back to the lock-up, where similar violence was used on me thrice that day by the Sub Inspector, who was assisted by the Jailor and three constables. But I persistantly refused to give undertaking.

We had been on the hunger-strike for the last six days. Then they again beat me and said to me that I would be released if I broke the hunger-strike. After a discussion I was shown..... taking his meals. Then I too followed him and broke the fast.

I was in the habit of consuming opium. Deprivation of opium, hunger-strike and violence reacted on my body very heavily. Owing to the physical weakness and uneasiness I could not even speak with the Inspector of Police, whenever he happened to talk with me. Then the police officer used to pull my beard to make me sit and stand. Nearly whole of my beard was pulled out. Then they began to refer to S. Kharak Singh in an insulting manner and pressed me to write to all Akalis a letter in the capacity of secretary ro Akali Jatha, Patiala, that S. Kharak Singh should leave Patiala State and go away.

Then I was removed to Barnala look-up. On 20th Magh 1985, ...was seperated from me and like me subjected to violence and torture day and night. I saw other 15 to 20 Akalis shut up in the Barnala lock-up. In their presence I was subjected to the same sort of shoe-beating. Then I was shut up in a solitary cell. After two days I was transferred to Barnala Jail and... .....to

Mansa police station. They again took me back to Barnala police station on the 28th Magh and entreated me to write a letter to S. Kharak Singh that he shonld go away. After that they asked me to beat with shoes the other Akalis, who were detained in the Thana. I refused to do so, saying that I could not beat my brethren. Then Babu Sub Inspector abused me shamelessly using dirty language and kicked me with the toe of his shoes, and again shut me in the lock-up. On 29th Magh, Salamat Ali Sub Inspector came to my cell and took me out. He then repeated the violence. Then I was transferred to Barnala judicial jail on 2nd Phagan.

Then on 5th Phagan Inspector of Police visited me in the Barnala jail and asked me either to give them an undertaking that I would not in future participate in the national work as well as in the anti-Patiala propaganda or to write a letter to S. Kharak Singh, asking him to leave Patiala. But I refused to do either.

I was once again shifted to the Barnala police station on the 7th Phagan 1985. It was 10 in the fore-noon, when I was taken to the office of Dalip Singh, the Superintendent of Police and Sukhdev Singh, Nazim. They mnquired from me about the locality in which the offices of the Praja Mandal and the Akali Jatha were situated and also the place and time when the election of the Praja Mandal was carried out. I told them that I did not know anything about it. Then both of the officers went away to take their meals, but left instructions with a mohmedan Sub Inspector to punish me and extract from we information about the whereabouts of both the offices and a list of the War loan. He also pressed for a written undertaking to abstain from any national work in future. After a short time Sukhdev Singh accompanied by Dalip Singh returned and insisted on getting a written undertaking and a deed of giving away my whole property to the state. But I refused to do either. Then beating was continued for many days.

On the 12th Phagan, instead of being taken to Patiala Central Jail, I was taken to Kar Khas, Patiala where I was shut

up in a solitary cell up to 15th Jeth 1985. A curtain was being put in front of the door of the cell. My food and latrine arrangement was made in the same cell. From first to the last, my feet were chained. On the 17th Jeth, the entrance of my cell was a bit widened but my feet were always chained. On the 9th Bhadon, Gurdial Singh Dhillou visited me in the Kar Khas and warned me against taking any part in the national work and told me that I would be required to be always present on the state duty.

I was let off on the 10th Bhadon 1985. I had learnt on the 19th Phagan that my house also was searched, but except some documents nothing was found.

The pardon was secured from me forcibly and by use of force. I had been put to severe violence the whole month. I contracted desease and vomiting, on being deprived of the use of Opium. It developed into dysentry. I could not eat anything. I could not digest anything. My life had been embittered. I preferred death to this sort of life. Although the undertaking had been secured forcibly against my will, yet I stood guilty. I pray to be excused by the Panth for this. I have come here at Amritsar to seek pardon from the Panth and I solemnly declare that I have never thought of deviating from the Panthik Sewa even for a moment. I will carry out the orders of the Panth. I have suffered good deal at the hands of the Maharaja of Patiala. I hate his Government. Even at the time of giving the undertaking I had firm determination to go before the Panth and narrate the whole story and fall at Panth's feet for pardon after being released from the clutches of the tyrant. I curse the forcible pardon and I take firm vow with true heart to carry out the commands of the Panth with all zeal and integrity.

3. Statement of Ram Singh of melowal, Ex. 86

This year there was a great agitation in the state and people demanded release S. Seva Singh. But the Maharaja in-

stead of agreeing to the public demand, resorted to the policy of repression. I had my due share and the Sub Inspector of police, Sunam, according to the wishes of the Maharaja gave me a very severe beating with lathies. I was made to lie down prostrate with my face downwards and the Sub Inspector and the constables continued beating till I fainted. Then they repeated the same process on my recovery from unconsiousness.

I was mercilessly beaten: I was dragged like a dog and considering me dead I was thrown out on the 18th day of Phagan 1985. But I was destined to live longer in the world and so..... took me to his village on the camel and treated me very gently. I still bear marks on my body due to the beating of the Police. But the Almighty has saved me. The Sikhs of the Ilaqa including myself have no control over the Gurudwara; and its property affairs and the possession are in the hands of the Lambardars. The Gurudwara property and its buildings are utilised for state purposes. I am poor and helpless and nobody is prepared to listen to my requests. I do not expect justice from the state authorities. I am being forced to undergo all these punishments with the knowledge and consent of the Mahraja. My only prayer before the Almighty is that the present rule should discontinue and some better rule be established. We, the member of the Sikh coummunity in the Patiala State desire to change the present administration and to entrust the same to the Sikh nation.

❧

4. Statememt of Pal Singh & 18 others, Ex. 87.

On solemn affirmation witnesses stated as follows :

"We the witnesses numbering 9,11,6,8,10,5,7 and 13 were going with a Jatha on the 12th Magh, 1985 to join a Dewan at Chanarthal. The Jatha consisted of 113 members. Out of these two were old ladies and one was a woman aged 35, a resident of Mahal. We were conveyed in lorries to Patiala and served with food after two days. We received beating one after the other. In the

morning we were all at a time entered into one latrine to pay the call of nature. It was very distressful. The two ladies were not put to any trouble.

We the witnesses No. 14, 16, 15, 2, 18, and 17 were severely scourged on 16th Magh 1985 at 4 P. M. by Sukhdev Singh the Nazim and Superintendent of Police, Mohan Lal the Sub Inspector, and Inspector Stanels. All passers-by were beaten. We all were standing on our stick. Then we saw them beating..... who were passing the street.....was beaten because he had not uttered 'Fateh' to the Nazim Nand Kaur W/o. Harnam Singh was abused by dirty names and a lathi was raised to give her a blow, but the other people held her back. A barbed bludgeon was used for beating. They only stopped giving blows when they thought the man had become unconscious.

I, the witness No. 17 was cutting fodder into bits at the house of Mangal Singh, when the police constables commenced beating me. In the meanwhile witness No. 18 came out carrying a basket full of fodder. He was also beaten. After a while they began beating Chanda Singh witness No. 2. Whomsoever they met on the road they gave severe thrashing.

On the 16th Magh 1985, our houses i. e. of those of the witness No : 18, 3 12, 9, 11, 8, 7, 5, 4, 2, 1, 6, and 10 were locked. The children and wives of all except witness Atma Singh were driven out homeless. All the children were weeping and bewailing. No one knew the fate of one's family. Wherever they could find place they spent their time. They lived on begging. The houses of.....were opened on the 13th Baisakh 1986 and those of the others on the 4th Chet 1986. We spent these wintry nights and days by taking protection sometime in one house and the next day in another house for two months. We borrowed quilts etc. from other people. On account of this locking up of our houses, we were put to enormous trouble and inconvenience. Sometimes our families had to go without food for days together spending winter-nights exposed to severe cold. People being afraid of the State

officials none gave us protection, lest their property may be confiscated. We had never witnessed such hardships before. The bitterness of the State tyrannies was enhanced by the severe cold weather. The cold weather of those days is well-known all over the country. All the trees became bald. The crops were destroyed. They prayed to God that they had become heart-sick of such a rule. My ..... house was searched on 19th Phagun 1985 and the Police took away with them a few documents and I had been called to the thana many times at Barnala and they pressed me to write a deed to disinherit my son ..... The domestic quadrupeds also passed many days without fodder.

We the witnesses who were confined at Patiala in the Sarai of Ganda Singh were released on 3rd Chet 1985 after thumb-impressions were forcibly secured.

I,.....was taken to Barnala under arrest on 19th Phagun. There we received severe thrashing and were released on 13th Chet. We arranged for our own food. In short we were troubled so much by this rule that we prayed to God to end this form of Government.

Thumb impressions of.....

5. Statement of Karan Singh, Ex. 88

It was on or about the 22nd of Magh Sambat 1985 (I am unable to recollect the exact date) that a Dewan was to be organized in honour of S. Kharak Singh's arrival. 15 or 20 days previously a similar Dewan was held at village Ghorani and on that occasion we were instructed by the Sunam police not to proceed to any village for the purpose of attending Dewan nor to allow anybody to enter our own village. We were prohibited from holding any Dewan in our own village. A few days before the date fixed for the holding of the Dewan a complete list of the property land, goods, furniture and animals of the village was prepared through the local Patwari. It was then proclaimed that

anybody disobeying police orders or offering any sort of help in the shape of providing food etc. to S. Kharak Singh shall be externed from the State and his property confiscated. We were even prohibited from going to see him and in case of doing so our properties would be confiscated. Three days prior to the date fixed for the holding of the Dewan the village was surrounded by military force and nobody was allowed to enter or move out of the village boundary. The military guarded us even when we went out to make water or satisfy the call of nature in the open. Our animals were not allowed to go out as usual and we kept them chained in the houses. We were not even allowed to make any purchase. On the day of S. Kharak Singh's arrival in the village every street and mohalla was guarded by armed police and we were not allowed to come out of the village even for satisfying the call of nature. A couple of days previous to this we had collected food stuff in the local Gurudwara in sufficiently large quantity. This was done under instructiosns from the Lambardars who said that the ration should be collected in time because as the date of holding the Dewan was drawing nearer it would not be in their power to do so. They themselves liberally subscribed to it. Except Captain Jaimal Singh (pensioner) everybody else was willing and reday to organize the Dewan. The Lambardars said that they were very much afraid of the Police and there fort they could only help privately. Three days previous to the date fixed for the holding of the Dewan, the Military people removed all the utensils, fuel and grains, etc. to the house of..... Nambardar who had clear instructions not to allow any body to remove the same from that place as it was all forfeited. He had also to execute a personal security bond. After removing food stuff etc. the Police got it locked and placed Guru Granth Sahab into the almirah which was also locked. Our village is divided into nine Mohallas and the Gurudwara is situated in the centre and all the roads leading to different Mohallas meet there.

On the day of S. Kharak Singh's arrival all the Kuchas roads leading to our village were guarded by the Police who

would not allow anybody to enter the village and on the previous night the police sent for the Granthi and ordered him to open the door of the Gurudwara and the Guru Granth Sahab was read by Bhai Harnam Singh. It was so arranged that neither should anybody be allowed to come to the village in the company of S. Kharak Singh nor anybody from the village could move out. It was therefore very difficult for S. Kharak Singh to find out the way that leads to Gurudwara Sahab. But fortunately Baba Sahab saw the Nishan Sahab from a distance and thus come to the Gurudwara. At the time of Babajee's entering the village the constables on duty hid themselves in the streets so that the Babajee may not be able to know the real state of affairs. Everybody in the village was desirous of seeing Baba Sahab but it was not possible. Fresh grass, fodder, fuel, ghee, butter, milk, hen, eggs etc. were collected from villages situated within a radious of 12 to 15 miles from our village and brought there for the use of the Army officials and the hired gundas. They used out of it as much as possible and the surplus was removed by them to their houses. The carpenters were compelled to supply boxes, wooden planks and other things free of cost.....Mahajan was asked to vacate his *Chubara* (a room in the upper storey) for the Police but when he replied that it contained cotton the Sub-Inpector Atma Singh assaulted him and ordered the Begaris to throw out the the cotton and vacate the Chaubara which was accordingly done. Thus the poor Mahajan suffered much inconvenience and humiliation at the hands of the police for no fault of his. Bhan Zamindar was assaulted because as usual he did not give up his work of twisting the rope on this occasion and the police considered it to be an offence. .....

* * *

The police had also brought with them all the Badmashes and ex-convicts of the village. They numbered over a hundred and the object of bringing them there was to create awe in the minds of the people. Many other well-known drunkards and Badmashes from Bahya were brought there with a similar object and

they were all given plenty of wine to drink. Bharpur Singh, Superintendent of Police and Jailal Singh Captain, along with these Badmashes, went to Babajee and they told him that the villagers were very much against his arrival and he could do them no good. The Lambardars of the village were forcibly taken there but they never uttered a single word against the Baba nor did they obey the instructions of the Police in this respect. No other person from the village joined this party.

Three or four days later Asa Singh Tehsildar brought a list of the property owned by the Akalis in the village and gave out that as they respected S. Kharak Singh their properties were going to be confiscated This was done simply to over-awe the people. On the occasion of S. Kharak Singh's arrival, they posted several handbills on the doors and walls of our houses in which Baba Sahab was accused of various charges which were to a very large extent defamatory.

The Tehsildar of the village attempted to get our thumb impressed affixed on blank papers but he could not succeed in doing so as none of the village people agreed to it.

6. Statement of Anokh Singh and 4 others, Ex. 89

"We, ... were arrested at Chanarthal on the 12th Magh 1985. We joined the Akali Jatha consisting on 113 Akalis, which had gone to join the Dewan at Chanarthal. We were taken to Patiala in lorries.

We, ... were arrested probably on the 22nd or 23rd of Magh by Sheikh, Sub-Inspector, a resident of Sunam, who pulled our beards and beat us till we both became senseless; they again commenced beating when we recovered and used to stop beating on our becoming unconscious. This went on continuously. I, ... was arrested on the 16th Magh, 1986 at Khoje Majra by a constable and the constable then brought me to Shanipur.

There the Nazim Tirath Singh, Superintendent of Police and other officers had arrived to attach the property of ..... and others. After a few days I was transferred to the Police Station Bara in a lorry and on 24th Magh 1985 from there to Sarai Mai. At 9 in the night Sub-Inspector, Gurubux Singh Head Constable, Police Ram Sarup and three or four Constable, stripped me naked of my Kachha and gave me a sound beating till I was senseless. They continued beating us for 9 to 10 days regularly. They wanted us to say that we agree to place a garland of shoes round the neck of Kharak Singh and use filthy language for him. Seargent Ram Sarup many tims pulled my beard, and thrust a shoe into my mouth. Many days after this beating, when once I was reading a text on the life of Bhai Turu Singh Sahab, Constable Charanji Lal beat me severely at the instance of Ram Sarup. The text was snatched away. On 16th Baisakh again I was beaten twice by H. Constable Ram Sarup and Constable Mansur Khan. They always advanced some excuse for beating. Once I was reciting my daily prayer when they once more began to lash me. On the 7th Bhadon Constable Mansur Khan and Baskat beat me with shoes on the bare head till I became unconscious. Again when I recovered, they laid me down on the floor.

On 1st Phagun 1985 I was again severely beaten by Sub-Inspector Bishan Singh at Barnala where I had been removed to the preceeding day. I was taken back to Patiala again about 8th Phagun and there I was shut up in a cell at Seraj Jail. After a month my door was thrown open but I was not permitted to go about. Then I fell ill, and my hands, feet and shoulders began to ache. I remained ill for 15 or 20 days. On my request a doctor used to see me but he only used to suggest medicine which was never supplied.

On the 10th Bhadon, I was released saying that the whole Panth had approached His Highness and had prayed to His Highness for my release. We have come straight to Amritsar for having a dip in the Sacred Tank and after it we shall proceed to our villages.

7. Statement of Sucha, Singh Ex. 90

" On the 12th day of Magh Sambat 1985 I had gone to Chainarthal to attend the Dewan where along with other hundred members I was also arrested and taken to Patiala. We were not given anything to eat for three days and had to face very much inconvenience on account of there being no arrangements. All of us were one time admitted further in to a small room and severely beaten. Brahman Sant Ram used violence on me and when I *came to senses my hair was tied to the roof and I was thus left hanging*. In that position also I was given a severe beating. As a result my *right side ribs were broken*. Even now I am not able to move and *keep myself confined to bed*. This is a treatment meted out to those who go to attend Dewans but the thieves and dacoits are passing their time very happily.

8. Statement of Nand Singh, Ex. 91

"The day on which S. Kharak Singh left Sangrur via Moranwala Road by Motor car in order to hold the Dewan at Darba Tehsil, Sunam, I happened to be at Moran, Jind State; and on hearing the news about Baba Sahab's arrival I came on the road. S. Bharpur Singh Superintendent of Patiala State got me arrested at Moran in the Jind State bounday and took me to Darba.... .. were simultaneously arrested in the Jind State bounday. .....was taken away to Patiala and the witness and the Janger Singh were assulted by seven Constables under the instructions of the Superintendent of Police who was an eye-witness to all this repression. We were put to several kinds of tortures Two people would stand up on our heads, two on arms the other two would beat us severely with shoes. We became senseless and did not know where we lay. After an hour or so we came to senses the beating commenced again. After that we were brought to Sunam. At that time we were about 64 prisoners of this class.

Violence was freely used on us. I have not been able to know the reason why I was put to so much trouble. My movements are even now watched by the police and they have got in their possession a list of my property etc.

9. Exhibits 2, 3, 4, 7, 54 and 55.

(*See Appendix B*)

Count Eight : Ruinous Conseqeuces of the Maharaja's shikar

Evidence in Support

1. *Statement of Mehar Singh, Ex.* 8.
2. *Statement of Man Singh, Ex. 10.*
3. *Statement of Santa* Singh *and 5 others, Ex. 2.*
4. *Statement of Bishan Singh and 8 others, Ex 4.*
5. *Statement of Pratap Singh, Ex. 12.*
6. *Statement of Balwant Singh and Five others, Ex. 46.*
7. *Statement of Sobhar Singh, and Three others Ex. 40.*
8. *Exhibits 56 to 84.*

---

1. Statement of Mehar Singh, Ex. 8

"For the out flow of surplus water in Bhupinder Sagar about five years ago a canal about five miles in length, 20 feet in breadth and about 40 feet in depth, was ordered to be dug from Bhupindar Sagar to Ghaggar river. All the villagers of the surrounding villages were required to dig out a certain portion allotted to them. Every family of our villages had to give one male member; each was paid annas three a day. This work continued for two months. Rich people paid some bribe money to the officers and got

out free; those who could not give bribe were told by Numberdars that if they would ask for their wages, they shall have to work for some time more. So a great deal of money was not paid but thumb impressions and signatures of the villagers were taken on receipts. Thus most of the wage money went into the pockets of the officers and we poor villagers had to work free of charge. This canal is not meant for any irrigation purposes. It is only meant for the Shikar purposes in Bhupendar Sagar.

I was conducting a compaign against the forcible grass-cutting in Bhupindar Sagar; a false case was therefore made against me and I was sentenced to one year's imprisonment. I was put into solitary confinement in the jail and was on hunger strike for one month.

Both the digging of the canal and cutting of grass in Bhupindar Sagar were meant for the purpose of making shikar convenient and easy.

2. Statement of Man Singh, Ex. 10

Witness Man Singh stated as under in oral examination of the Committee :

Q. Do you know anything about Bhupindar Sagar ? What is it and what hardships are suffered by people on that account ?

A. Bhupindar Sagar is an artificial lake made by the construction of a big Bund across the stream of Chunala and the dam so constructed is named Bhupindar Sagar. This is two to three miles in lengh and half a mile in breadth. Near this lake there grows a sort of grass having very long blades. Every winter this grass has got to be cut off. For this purpose villagers of about 40 to 50 surrounding villages have got to give one man per family.

These villagers have got to stand in water in such a cold season and consequently all of them contract Pneumonia. On both the sides of Bhupindar Sagar there are our private fields and we poor people are obliged to pay the land revenue to the State though the land is being utilized by the Maharaja himself for Shikar purposes and no cultivation is allowed there. There is a metalled road of about 19 miles in length going to this Bhupindar Sagar tank. No public conveyance is allowed to move on this road and if any one goes per chance the conveyance and the animal driving the conveyance are both confiscated by the State.

Q. Since how long is this practice in force ?

A. For the last ten years; but last year this was not done i. e. villagers were allowed to cultivate. This was probaly due to the public agitation.

Q. Was anything paid by the State for this construction ?

A. It is understood that the State pays annas three to six per villager thus employed, but that money is paid by the officers to Numberdars and Biswedars who may or may not distribute to us the money so received. Even the officers themselves may not some time pay the money to Numberdars and Biswedars etc., but though the money is not paid to us, our thumb-impressions and signatures are taken by the Numberdars saying that we shall have to work for some time more if we did not give thumb-impressions.

3 Statement of Santa Singh and 5 others, Ex. 2.

On account of there being strict orders not to kill animals of shikar and the wild animals being let off under orders of the State near the crops, we sustain very heavy losses. Practically half of our production is eaten up by the wild animals.

4. Statement of Bishan Singh and 8 others, Ex. 4

On solemn affirmation the witnesses recorded the following:

"We are undergoing so many kinds of hardships and troubles during the reign of this Maharaja Patiala that it is not even possible for us to relate our woeful story.

1 The practice of Begar is in full force. Whenever the Maharaja goes to Pinjore, which is 30 miles from the village of which we are residents, we are required to supply 30 to 40 men from our village to assist the Maharaja in shikar (hunting). Besides that bullock carts, partridges, pocks, eggs, milk, ghee, goats, etc. are also taken from us without paying even a single penny in return. Anybody refusing to supply his quota is beaten very severely. Calves and goats are tied up to trees in order to attract the attention of the tigers and other wild beasts. No care is taken of our crops and the harvest is destroyed by the shikar (hunting) animals and many a time our labours prove fruitless.

The wild beasts eat away a very big portion of our crops and a Zamindar using a cracker for the purpose of overawing them receives very harsh treatment at the hands of the police. We have therefore given up the practice of even overawing the animals. The laws of the State are strange. A murderer can be aquitted, but a person charged of the crime mentioned above, is not released unless he offers bribe.

5. Statement of Pratap Singh, Ex. 12.

Witness Pratap Singh said as under in the oral examination of the Committee:

'We are obliged to make roads for shikar purposes. We have also to cut the long grass (Butair) that grows in the Bhupindar Sagar in which pigs and serpants are in abundance. Last year the

Maharaja came there four times and for all these four times we were taken in Begar. The ordinary labour market is at rupee one per day where as we are paid only -/2/- or three at the most.'

6. Statement of Balwant Singh and five others, Ex. 17.

Restriction having been imposed by the state authorities and the people being not allowed to kill the wild animals, they are found roaming about in the fields and destroying crops. Practically half of the crop-product is thus wasted.

7. Statement of Sobhar Singh and three others, Ex. 46

Maharaja maintained special places for shikar for his personal use. Shikar animals, some of which are purchased and many of which are obtained in Begar, are let off in particular tracts of land where either the Maharaja plays shikar or takes his European friends for this purpose. Shikar is strictly prohibited for general public. Our crops are destroyed by the wild animals Two-thirds of the total produce is thus wasted and we get only one third after hard labour of days and nights. We plough our fields during the day time and all the members of the family keep watching feilds throughout the nights. They are also required to continue crying in order to terrify the wild animals and to keep them away. This being our fate the people from neighouring villages do not like to enter into matrimonial connections with us and the result is that hardly one out of every four male members is successful in getting a bride; the rest remain unmarried and die as such.

8. Exhibits 56 to 84

[*See Appendix B.*]

Count nine : Tyranny of Begar or Forced Labour.

Evidence in Support

1. *Statemcnt of Sajan Singh, Ex. 7*
2. *Statement of Hira Singh and two others, Ex. 9*
3. *Statement of Bakhtawar Singh, Ex. 14*
4. *Statement of Keshar Singh, Ex. 22*
5. *Statement of Ranjod Singh, Ex. 27*
6. *Statement of Mehar Singh, Ex. 8*
7. *Statement of Santa Singh and five others, Ex. 2*
8. *Statement of Sirdar Singh, Ex. 3*
9. *Statement of 24 Villagers, Ex. 5*
10. *Statement of Bir Singh, Ex. 18*
11. *Statement of Sardar Balwant Singh, Ex. 40*
12. *Extracts from the Exhibits 4, 46, 56, 57, 58, & 59*
13. *Exhibits 61 to 84*

1. Statement of Sajan Singh, Ex. 7

Sajan Singh stated as under in the oral examination by the Committee:

Four Chamarans named (1) Godhu, (2) Bhoga, (3) Dhattu and (4) Sobha had had to fill up their turns of Thikri Pahera, but as they had some business at home, they could not do it and wanted to do their duty next day. So they were taken to the Police station. There they were made absolutely naked, and then made to lie down with faces downwards. Dust was thrust in their backs, water was sprinkled on it and then they were given severe beating by means of thick-soled shoes. They were kept that day in the residence of the Thanedar Habib Ellah Khan and all sorts of household work was taken from them. They were made free in the evening. I was an eye-withess to this scene, because I was myself in the police lock-up at that time, being an Akali.

On the 14th, December (First of Poh, Sambat 1986) 1929, the Police Sub Inspector Zafar Khan of Pakhi Thana came to our village. He asked all villagers not to go to Budhladha before the Enquiry Committee. Sub Inspector met me and asked me whether I was going to Budhladha. I said. "Till now I have no information to go there. When I get it I will consider what to do." Then he said: "You are disobeying the orders of the Maharaja Patiala, but mind if you will go there, some prosecution will be started against you and you will go to jail for ten or fifteen years" So saying the Police went to my house, searched it, took away some of my books, beat me severely by hunters and gave slaps on my face and then enjoining me not to go to Budhladha, they made me free. The Police is petrolling in the village and on roads and are preventing people from going to Budhladha. I started by night through zig zag path avoiding the Police and thus have come here stealthily. This is the condition in all the other villages to-day. A sort of cordon is placed along the boundary of the whole Patiala territory and people are not allowed to come here.

2. Statement of Hira Singh and two others, Ex. 9

Hira Singh and two others stated as under in the oral examination by the Committee :

From my village about 200 agriculturists are being taken for begar for the purpose of doing work in the garden of Umlo twice a year. It is situated about 8 miles from Nabha and abounds in fruit-trees. Each time we were taken in begar for two days and not a single pie was paid to us as wages. This has been going on for the last five or six years and never a pie has been given to us. This practice extends to about 20 to 25 villages surrounding this garden and none of the people of these villages get anything in return.

Regarding Thikri Pahera, Witness Pritam Singh states that in his village Thikri Pahera is taken from village Zamindars. Two men for every gate of the village are taken every night. This lasts for all the 12 months of the year. Whoever is found absent from this Pahera for one reason or the other, is fined Rs. 5 and 8 days' imprisonment.

Witness Bishare Singh states with regard to the canal water that it is allowed only once for irrigational purposes and still the full tax is recovered. This is on accouut of the greadiness on the part of the canal officers, who supply water five times or even more than that to those who give bribe to them. On the other hand, harvests of poor men like us are thus wasted for nothing.

3. Statement of Bakhtawar Singh, Ex. 14

Bakhtawar Singh stated as under in the oral examlnation by the Committee:

My village is about six miles away from Patiala. Two years before, at the time of Gama's contest, villagers from different villages were called in to construct the amphi-theatre. Our village sent 125 men every day continuously for nine days. We 125 men received Rs. 106/- in all as wages thereof. It comes to about 1½ annas per day. This amount was sent to Numberdars, but we refused to accept that amount, as it was too low.

About five to six hundred men worked continuously for the amphi-theatre for about a month. Some people came from very long distances also; for instance, villagers came from village Dhusi, which is about 39 miles from Patiala. As these people came from long distance they were paid annas -/2/- per man per day, while the others who came from surrounding villages got 1½ annas per man per day as their wages. Some of these wages were swallowed by the Numberdars because either people refused to take it or the former did not give them.

4. Statement of Keshar Signh, Ex. 22

Keshar Singh in the oral examination by the Committee stated as under :

Just at this time the Tikka Sahab of Patiala is camping near this village in Patiala State. For this purpose the reader of Tehsildar came to our village and the whole village was told by the beat of drum that all the milk that every villager may get should be handed over to the State for sending the same for Tikka Sahab and his staff. Therefore in the last four days all the milk of the village is going to Tikka Sahab's camp. Every day about four or five mounds of milk is thus being taken away. State servants are also collecting eggs, fowls and butter. I do not know how much of all the above materials is being taken away.

5. Statement of Ranjod Singh, Ex. 27

Ranjod Singh stated as under in the oral examination by the Committee :

The Tikka Sahab is camping near my village just at this moment. So every day we the villagers have got to send milk and other materials for the camp. I have got a buffalow which is giving about five seers of milk. Most of this milk is being taken by the State servants and we are not paid anything for it. All the same we manage to keep some milk for our purposes. At twelve in the night yesterday, State servants came and took away the whole vessel of curd from my house without giving me any price whatsoever. I am taken sometimes for cuttiug the fire wood in the Tehsil. When I was so taken last time, I was not paid anything whatsoever. I had to take my food with me.

6. Statement of Mehar Singh, Ex. 8.

[*This statement is printed under count eight*]

7. Statement of Santa Singh and five ohers, Ex. 2

We are required to supply bullock-carts, camels, chari, milk, fowl, etc. in begar free of cost. If anybody refuses to supply the same, he is taken to the Police Station, where the Policemen besides giving him a beating with shoes, cause him annoyance in various other ways and leave him only when he has rendered double the amount of usual begar. Last year on the 14th Jeth Samvat 1985 S. Gurbux Singh, Colonel, Biswedar of village Chaural got injuries as a result of fighting in the village. Upon this, C. I. D , and the Police stayed in our village for about two or three months and during this period not a drop of milk or ghee was left even for our children. The Police removed fuel and collections of other material from our village to their houses. We were thus plundered.

In the month of Magh Samvat 1985 when S. Kharak Singh was touring in the villages of Patiala State and holding Dewans wherever he went, the State army Risala and Police were also moving with him from one place to another. The entire Lashkar collected rations for their use from the poor villagers. Milk, ghee, fodder, fuel, cocks, etc., were duly supplied by them. Nothing was paid to them for this and the ration that was left unconsumed was taken away by the State servants and officials in our own Bullock-carts. Our crops were all spoiled. All the unconsumed materials were first taken to Sunam and some of it was taken away direct to Sunam Police Station.

8. Statement of Sirdar Singh, Ex. 3

In rainy season we are ordered not to engage ourselves in the task of cultivating and sowing the seeds etc, but we and our animals are taken out to make the level of the canal-sides smooth and equal. We are clearly told that unless the sides of the canal are made smooth and equal, we would not be allowed to culti-

vate our lands. We are told that if on the occasion of the Maharaja Sahab's visit the road is not in order, the whole village would be doomed. If per chance an animal happens to pass by the side of the canal it is taken in custody and its owner punished for this offence. All the canal-officials take milk and ghee free of charge. *Oads* who render assistnce to the State reside in our villages and their goats etc. eat away our crops.

Begar is rampant and the servants of the State, down from the junior most to the senior most, avail themselves of it.

9. Statement of 24 Villagers, Ex. 5

The following oral examination of about 2 dozen villagers was recorded at Budladha by the Enquiry Committee on the 17th December, 1929 :

Q. How many forms of Begar are there ? Give us the list of things that you have to supply in Begar.

A. Bullock carts, fuel, grass, butter, milk, ghee etc.

Q. Do you get anything as a remuneration for these things

A. No, nothing.

Q. How much Begar is taken from each of you, at what time and for what purpose ?

A. As for the Maharaja himself, he takes Begar only when he goes on tour, but other officers such as Lumbardars, Patwaris, Sub-Inspectors of Police, Girdawars, Tehsildars and other officials of the state, take Begar in their every trip.

Q. Do all these officers take all sorts of Begar mentioned above when they come to the village ?

A. Yes, the villagers have got to pay sthi Begar according to the terms.

Q. Have you to give Begar to Army forces also ?

A. Yes, the Army forces come at the interval of a year or two and all the materials stated above have got to be supplied by us and if we have not got them at that time, we have got to purchase the same from the bazaar and give it to the Army. As for grass, if our stocks are exhausted, we have got to go to cut it and supply the same to the Army. Our stocks in ghee, butter, fuel, and milk etc get absolutely exhausted when the Army comes.

Q. Do they get any money whatsoever in any form for the material they supply to the Army ?

A. No, they get not a single pie for this service.

Q. Did any of your village people ever refuse to give it to them either because they did not possess it or for some other reason ?

A. Nobody dares refuse Begar. Every one of us is much afraid of their inhuman treatment.

Q. Have you yourselves ever given these things in Begar ?

A. Yes, we ourselves have given them several times.

Q. Have you given this Begar of your own accord ?

A. Oh no, we are giving it under compulsion.

Q. Is there any canal-Begar in your village ?

A. Yes,

Q. How many people are taken from your village for this purpose and how much work is entrusted to each ?

A. Every year we have got to cleanse the canal, and for that purpose every house has to supply one male member. About 200 people have just been taken and the work has been done. Not a single pie is paid to us for this labour. We regularly pay for the canal water that we receive. The tax is called *Abiana*. This work that we do is not done as a compensation for water taken by us.

Q. Does Thikri Pahra Duty prevail in your village? and how many people from your village are taken for this purpose?

A. Yes, Thikri Pahra Duty is the order of the day and we have to give 8 people from our village for this purpose every night. We have got to do the patrolling duties in the village as well as outside it. Nothing is paid to us by the State for this service in the village gives this service by turns.

Q. What happens when you refuse to attend to your Thikri pahra Duty?

A. We are taken to the Police Station and punished.

10. Statement of Bir Singh, Ex. 18B.

Bir Singh confirmed his written statement and stated as under in the oral examination by the Committee.:

Q. Were you asked to do Begar at any time?

A. Yes, in the Samvat year 1985 on the 25th Makar I was asked to supply grass to Thanedar Raghbir Singh who was collecting it from all villages for his own purpose. I said that I was an ex-soldier of a British regiment and as such I was exempted from Begar by the certificates given to me by the States; so I would not give Begar. After that he started a criminal case against me, called me once in the Thana, and gave me severe beating. Even to-day there are marks of beating on my finger, which I hereby show to you. In the above case of the Tonga I was sentenced and fined as above. We paid the fines and were serving the sentence. When we completed two months in the Jail, we were released and were told that we were pardoned. But the fine has not still been returned to us. I show you a receipt given to me at the time of recovery of the fine.

11. Statement of Sardar Balwant Singh, Ex. 40

I am a pensioner and quote below clause No. 4 of my pension certificate :

"Recruits to the Indian Army will be exempted from the lawful labour (Begar)."

It shows how begar is a lawful practice in the Patiala State, Thikri Pahera is in vogue and the Lambardars and Chaukidars act up to it on this authority. Even those who are all alone and have nobody to attend to their affairs in their absence are not exempted from this duty.

12. Extracts from the Exhibits 4, 46, 56, 57, 58, & 59

Exhibit 4 : Bishan Singh and eight others state : 'In the month of Magh year 1985 S. Kharak Singh was touring over the Patiala State in connection with the agitation for the release of S. Sewa Singh. It was publicly announced in our village that everybody participating in the Dewaa would forfeit his property. Asa Kam S/o. Nanak Chand Zaildar collected milk, ghee, cocks eggs, grass, etc. from our village in a very large quantity and sent it to Rajpura. Barud Munshi Tirkhan (carpenter) resident Mohi Khurd not being able to carry out the instructions of the Police in preparing a certain kind of carpentry-work was fined and the poor fellow had to attend the courts for about 20 days daily. Consequently he had to under go a severe loss.'

Exhibit 46: Sobhar Singh and three others state: "All expenses incurred on the maintenance of the Army and the Police in this connection were realised from the poor State subjects. So much so, that the poor people were forced even to supply them eggs, ghee butter, milk, ghatka (meat) and other materials even to ordinary constables.

"The Military and Police Officers, Tehsildars and others were putting up at S. Jaswant Singh Biswedarsa's house. They stayed there for three days and collected fodder, milk, ghee, etc., through the constables from the poor peasants. Our ladies and children

were not allowed to move out of the houses and they were kept there without food and drink. The state authorities did not at-all pity their lot."

Exhibit 56 : Pratrp Singh aud twenty one orthers Vs State : "The Kar Begar (compulsary labout) is also in full force. We are compelled to supply the authorities bullock-carts, fodder, cocks, eggs, fuel, milk, etc., free according to their requirements. If anybody is unable to supply this share of the required articles he is assaulted and the poor fellow is thus compelled to make the necessary supplies. In many cases, the required articles are purchased by us from the Bazar. We have no permanant source of income and what little we manage to get is thus taken away. We are also required to dig canals for which we are not paid anything. Some time we have to do cleansing work of the canal extending over several miles. If our cow or buffalo happens to be on the canalside we are fined and assaulted for the fault of our letting her go there. We are unnecessarily annoyed and the animal is let go after two or three days.

"Thikri Pahra is another evil practice on account of which we are heavily suffering. If somebody is all along in his house and thus unable to go out on Pahra he is severely beaten. On certain occasions the Pahrawala who returned to his house a moment or two earlier was very severely beaten for this. When there is no constable on duty the beating becomes all the more severe."

Exhibit 57 : Santa Singh states : "The Begar system is proving to be a source of great trouble to us, and we are compelled to supply camels, bullock-carts, fuel, milk, ghee, cocks, eggs, etc., to the officials free of charge.

"Twelve persons from our village are required to go out for Thikri pahra for which we are not paid anything.

6. We are also required to supply Begar at Branch No. I Kotal canal which keeps us busy for days together. We are unable to attend to our personal affairs. The Patwaris compel us to supply food and fodder to them for themselves and their animals."

Exhibit 58 : Chander Singh and 10 others state : "Begar practice is in vogue and we are forced to supply milk, eggs, hens, carts, horses, camels, partriges, ghee and fodder etc., according to their requirements free of charge. Every Lambardar of the village is required to supply partriges and Bater. He again troubles the poor Zamindars for the supply thereof. If a Zamindar is not able to send the necessary supplies, the Police give cause annoyance and otherwise troubles him. He is asked to pay ten times the price of the required number of partriges he was asked to supply. The Zamindars have even to supply Lhassi in Begar."

Exhibit 59 : Surbage Singh and five others state : " Kar Begar practice is in vogue and we are required to supply milk, ghee, grass, etc, free to the State Ahalkars and other junior staff on several occassions, Our babies and children have to remain hungry because the milk is taked away in Begar for the use of the Ahalkars. We have also to do canal-digging and other similar work in Begar. Generally we are required to go out for this duty five times in a year and have to work for five or six days at a time. It means that we spend one month every year on State business for which we are not paid. If any person is unable to join the Begar party, he is required to pay for his substitute at the rate of one rupee a day and fined Rs. 10/- If any of our cattle drinks water from the canal, fines are imposed on us for this negligence.

"In the month of Magh year 1985 when S. Kharak Singh according to his Programme reached Bhaglan, we had to supply milk, ghee, cocks, and eggs etc. All things were taken by Olia Singh and Abdul Majid, constables of Rajpura. For four days continuously no milk enough to feed our children was left with us and they had consequently to fast for this period."

13. Exhibits 61 to 84.

(See Appendix B)

Count ten : Non-return of War Loan money

Evidence in Support

1. *Statement of Santa Singh & five others, Ex. 2*
2. *Statement of Sinder Singh and three others, Ex. 3.*
3. *Statement of Bishan Singh and eight others, Ex. 3.*
4. *Statement of 24 villagers, Ex. 5.*
5. *Statement of Bir Singh, Ex. 18 B.*
6. *Statement of Hakam Singh, Ex. 20 B*
7. *Exhibits 15, 17 and 56 to 84.*

1. Statement of Santa Singh & five others, Ex. 2.

From amongst us Messers.....have not even yet received back their amount of War Loan.

2. Satement of Sinder Singh and three others, Ex. 3

The War Loan has been refuned to a very few people and the rest of is has been taken by the Maharaja for his personal use.

3. Statement of Bishan Singh and eight others, Ex. 3

The War Loan has not so far been refunded to anyone of us.

4. Statement of 24 villagers, Ex. 5.

The following oral examination of 24 villagers was recorded at Budhladha by the Enquiry Committee on the 17th December 1929.

Q. How much War Loan has been taken from your village ?

A. I know of my share only, but not of the whole village. I can give an approximate amount which comes to about Rs. 1200/- Rs. 7-12-0 per family were charged and I also paid my share.

Q. Have you got any proof that this amount has been given to the State ? Do you possess any receipt or document of the sort to support the above fact ?

A. As a rule we are not given any receipt but this amount is being credited into the account-books of the State.

Q. Has any one of you received his Loan back ?

A. Yes, half of the village people have been paid and the others have not been paid still.

Q. How is it that half of your village people have been paid and the other half not paid ?

A. The State pays Loan according to its financial conveniences.

5. Statement of Bir Singh, Ex. 18 B.

About his War Loan Bir Singh states as under :

"When I was serving in a regiment in France, War Loan was being raised whereby the State recovered Rs. 20 in all on account of the War Loan from the manager of my land named Shera. I have got the receipts for Rs. 20/-which I show you hereby. The date is not mentioned in the receipt. These receipts were not given to my manager Shera at the time of the payment of the War Loan. But when I came from the War I asked the Patwari to give me the receipt which he gave me after recovering Rs. 2/- in all i. e. Re. 1/-for each receipt. None of these amounts has been paid to me.

6. Statement of Hakam Singh, Ex. 20 B

Witness Hakam Singh confirmed his written statement and stated as under in cross examination by the Committee :

Q. Have you yourself given any amount to the State as a War Loan ?

A. Yes, I have paid to the State Rs. 80/- as War Loan which has not yet been paid back to me. I paid this War Loan in the name of my younger brother Sobha Singh. He too, I am sure, has not received the War Loan amount from the State. We both brothers are residing together. We are a joint family. Neither, nor my brother has received this amount back upto to-day. I had the receipt in my possession for this War Loan amount, but the Patwari said that he would return the amount if the receipt was given back to him. So saying he took away the receipt and the money has not come to us.

7. Exhibits 15, 17 and 56 to 84.

(See appendix B)

Count eleven : increment in revenue assessments, imposition of new taxes and other revenue grievances.

Evidence in Support

1. *Statement of Pritam Singh and four others, Ex. 21.*
2. *Statement of Ralla Singh Ex. 25 & 26.*
3. *Statement of Mai Inder Kaur, Ex. 48.*
4. *Statement of Harnam Singh, Ex. 50.*
5. *Statement of Pratap Singh, Ex. 16.*
6. *Statement of Chander Singh and eight others, Ex. 56.*
7. *Statement of Bagga Singh and two others, Ex. 63.*
8. *Exhibits 56 to 84*

---

1. Statement of Pritam Singh and four others, Ex. 21

Pritam Singh states as under in the oral examination by the Committee :

The assessment of my village was Rs. 700/- before. The State Revenue Officer of our Tehsil has given us information that the assessment of our village has been increased by R. 1175 and the Patwari futher informed me that this increment of Rs. 1175 would also be increased by 25 % so as to include in it the subscriptions of roads, school etc. etc,

witness..... says; "The assessment of our village Shahwazpura was about Rs. 1400, but now it has been increased by Rs. 500 more.

Witness..... says; "The revenue assessment of our village was Rs. 16,000. The Patwari now tells us that it is going to be increased by 33 % of the whole assessment. No regular survey has been made for the purpose of this increase, but the Patwari has simply classified the fields."

Witness..... .. says that he used to pay as assessment to the extent of Rs. 60, and now it has been increased to Rs. 100/- This was the order of the revenue officer to me. At this time the people of 18 villages were call ed and all of them were told about the increase in the assessment.

2. Statement of Ralla Singh, Ex. 25 & 26

Witness Ralla Singh stated as under in the oral examination by the Committee:

"We the villagers are decendents of Chacho who founded this village. We herewith show to you the geneological tree which is a copy from the Government record. That will prove our heritage from Chacho. In spite of this the whole village has been given away to a favourite of Maharaja and we are all reduced to mere tenants. Thus for no fault of ours we are deprived of our rights of proprietorship and converted into mere tenants."

3. Statement of Mai Inder Kaur, Ex. 48

A false civil case was filed against me for the recovery of land tax amounting to Rs. 207/- and a decree obtained for this by foul means. Now 50 Bighas of my land has been confiscated for not paying (as they allege) tax on 4 Bighas only. I submitted many applications to the Maharaja and requested him personally at Chail and Patiala to do justice to me, but in spite of his promise to do so, nothing has so far been done in the matter. I have now been compelled to go a-begging for my daily food, because I have no other source of livelihood. I have no other landed property to fall back upon to pass my days.

4. Statement of Harnam Singh, Ex. 50

Harnam Singh ..... stated:

"We are residents of Dunia Kot, Burnala (Patiala State) and were Biswedars of this village for our last eight generations. But now our rights have been confiscated. We are helpless. Formerly our village fromed a part of the British teritory, but now it has been given over to Patiala State. The State has deprived us of our possession from our landes and houses and thus has made us suffer heavily. We are now so poor that we cannot get food and other necessities of life. We are practically starving. The state has also taken possession of our Kothis. We are unable to understand as to why we have been subjected to this grave injustice. We have done our best to secure justice and it has been denied to us in spite of our best efforts."

5. Statement of Pratap Singh Ex. 16

Pratap Singh stated as under in the oral examination by the Committee:

"I constructed a well in my field at a cost of Rs. 1,000/- in cash over and above all the manual labour done by myself and

by the members of my family. From this well my surrounding fields are being irrigated. For this irrigation a water-tax is being taken by the State, although the State has not contributed anything towards the construction of the well. Taxation is drawn from us for nothing. The same condition prevails throughout the State.

6. Statement of Chander Singh and eight others, Ex. 56

Taxes on the land irrigated by canal and wells have been increased by annas two and annas three per Bigha respectively. This additional texation is termed as "Khush Haisyat."

7. Statement of Bagga Singh and two others, Ex. 63

Our ancestors count amongst the founders of this village and we have held possession of this land since the beginning, but still we are treated as tenants of the land with no proprietory rights. Instead of charging us land-taxes in cash, the State compels us to make payment in kind in the following proportion:-

Crops : 1/3 of the total production plus one seer per maund.

Fodder : 1/4 of the total production.

This Batia system is no longer in vogue in any Ilaqa except the Patiala State villages. For services rendered to the Maharaja in person the Sardars and capitalists are given away villages and we the original proprietors are considered tenants with no proprietory rights. Our women folk are not allowed to dig grass etc. in the field; the person of those doing so is searched and they are insulted. The rich help the Maharaja in his acts of debauchery in order to win favour and profit thereby, while on the other hand our life and honour are in constant danger and we even consider it disgraceful to relate our woeful story to anybody. During the last 25 of 30 years we have been constantly fighting

our case in one Court or the other, but to no effect. We have suffered considerably and have lost every penny that we had. The Maharaja pays no heed to our repeated requests. Our appeals for justice have gone in vain. He, in fact does not find any time for state affairs and is either busy making merriment in Europe or with his Shikar parties. Ahalkars and other officials by offering the hand of their sisters or daughters to the Maharaja become independent and they are at liberty to do whatever they like. Justice cannot be had in the State at any price. If anybody cares to go through the files of our cases, the real state of affairs can be very easily brought home to him.

8. Exhibits 56 to 84

(*See appendix B*)

Count twelve : misappropriation of funds raised for public purposes

Evidence in support

1. *Statement of Santa Singh and five others, Ex. 2*
2. *Statement of Bishan Singh and eight others, Ex. 4*
3. *Statement of 24 villagers, Ex. 5*
4. *Statement af Pratap Singh, Ex. 12*
5. *Statement of (another) Pratap Singh, Ex. 16*
6. *Statement of Hakam Ringh, Ex.* 20
7. *Statement of Jiva Singh, Ex. 6*
8. *Statement of Tara Singh, Ex. 58*
9. *Exhibits 15, 17, 18, 56 to 66 and 69 to 84*

1. Statement of Santa Singh and five others, Ex. 2

Besides this about ten or twelve years back we and other subjects of the Patiala State had subscribed one rupee each for a fund said to have been started for the purpose of meeting the expenses of the congress session, which they said was going to

take place at Patiala, but neither the congress has held its session in Patiala nor the money paid back to us. This subscription was raised through the Tehsildars.

2. Statement of Bishan Singh and eight others, Ex. 4

We had subscribed liberally to the fund raised for the purpose of making partitions in the village but neither the money has been refunded to us so far nor the requisite partition effected.

6, We are required to pay subscription for the purpose of opening new schools and hospitals and for the maintenance of the existing ones, but the whole amount is being spent by the Maharaja in the pleasure-trips to Europe and similar other acts. Whenever the Maharaja stands in need of money, he orders the raising of such loans. In the month of Maghar year 1986 a special fund was raised from amongst us and it was given out that this money would be used for the purchase of a peculiar kind of "Mirror" with the help of which it would become easy to acertain every kind of disease, but neither the "mirror" was purchased nor money refunded to us. Apparently this money has also been utilised by the Maharaja for his pleasure-trips to Europe.

3. Statement of 24 villagers, Ex. 5

(From the oral examination by the Committee)

Q. Is there any school in your village. If so, do you pay any amount as a subscription thereof?

A. No, there is no school in our village, but we have to pay for it regularly. We have to pay As. 2 for this purpose which is being forcibly recovered from us.

4. Statement of Pratap Singh, Ex. 12

We are also obliged to pay subscriptions for school and roads which are drawn according to the land-revenue such as -/-/6 per rupee. There is not a single school in our village. All the same we are obliged to pay taxes. There is a school at a distance of 5 or 6 miles from our village. There is a badly made road near our village. On the road to Bhupindar Sagar (Tank) the public vehicles are not allowed to go. Only human beings can walk on it.

5. Statement of (another) Pratap Singh, Ex. 16

Our Tehsil consists of about 400 villages and in all these villages there are only six primary schools in all. Besides the land tax, -/-/6 per rupee is being charged from all the agriculturists for the purpose of roads and hospitals. In fact there is not a single dispensary in the villages of my Tehsil. As regards roads they too are in a bad condition.

6. Statement of Hakam Singh, Ex. 20

About five years back a sum of Rs. 5,000/- was collected from us for the purpose of building a canal bridge. but so far neither the bridge has been constructed nor any money paid back to us. We understand that this money has also been used by the Maharaja for his pleasure-tours in Europe. There are several instances when funds are raised for public welfare but it is utilized by the Maharaja for his personal use. About three thousand rupees were also collected from the village :Dhamotwaly for the purpose of building a school, but this money too has been similarly wasted.

Hakam Singh stated the following in the oral examination by the Committee:

Q. How much did you contribute as your quota towards this Rs. 5,000 collected for the construction of canal-bridge ?

A. The whole village together gave Rs. 5,000/- out of which I paid Rs. 30/- The rest of my village-people paid the subscription according to their financial conditions. Some have even paid Rs. 300. No receipt has been given for this money to us. I myself had got no money to pay for this canal-bridge and as a matter of fact I had to take a loan from Banker Narayan at 18% interest per year to pay this amount. Similar is the case with other people as well.

Q. Has that bridge been constructed ?

A. No, no bridge has been constructed nor any work done for its construction up to now.

7. Statement of Jiva Singh, Ex. 67

Subscriptions for the maintenance of public roads and schools are raised along with land-taxes every half year, but neither roads are made nor schools started. There are no schools even at distances of 20 to 25 miles. The public funds are not used for the welfare of the public and are spent by the Maharaja for his pleasure-trips to Europe.

8. Statement of Tara Singh, Ex. 68

Every year money is raised from us for public schools and roads etc. but it is never used on works of public welfare. The Maharaja spends this money on acts of debauchery, pleasure-trips

to England and other distant places. The Maharaja pays no heed to the welfare of the people and minds his own enjoyments and luxuries.

About two years back money was realised from us for erecting partition etc., but nothing has been done in this direction so far. Instead of this expense being incurred out of the State treasury, even the money realized from the poor State-subjects has been spent by the Maharaja on his own luxuries.



9. Exhibits 15, 17, 18, 56 to 66 and 69 to 84

(*See appendix B*)

Appendix E

A SELECTION FROM FULL STATEMENTS

A SELECTION FROM FULL STATEMENTS

(1)

Statement of Santa Singh and five others, Ex. a

On solemn affirmation the above-mentioned witnesses recorded the following statement on the 29th of Harh, 1986 Sambat.

We the subjects of the Patiala State have suffered very heavily on account of the atrocities and persecutions of Maharaja Bhupindar Singh. Leaving aside a number of such cases of injustice and Zulam (persecution), we content ourselves by reproducing, out of them a few which have acutely affected us. They are given below:

From amongst us Messers.....have not received back amount of the War Loan so far. Besides this, ten or twelve years back we and other subjects of the Patiala State had subscribed one rupee each for a fund said to have been started for the purpose of meeting the expenses of Congress session, which they said was going to be held in Patiala; but neither the Congress held its session in Patiala nor was the money paid back to us. This subscription was raised through the Tehsildars. On account of there being strict prohibition against the shikar and wild animals being allowed to roam at will under the orders of the State near the crops, we sustain very heavy losses. Practically half of our harvests are destroyed by the wild animals.

We are required to supply bullock carts, camels, milk, fuel, etc, in begar free of cost and if anybody refuses to supply the same he is taken to police station where the policemen besides giving him a beating with shoes, cause him annoyance in various other manners. Delinquent is left only when he has rendered double the amount of usual begar. On 14th Jeth Sambat

1985 S. Gurbux Singh, Colonel, Biswedar village Chaural got injuries as a result of fighting in the village. Upon this C. I. D. and the Police stayed in our village for about two of three months and during this period not a drop of milk or ghee was left even for our children. The Police removed collections of fuel and other material from our village to their houses. We were thus plundered. S. Gurbux Singh named above is the uncle of Colonel S. Ghamdur Singh who is a special favourite of the Maharaja. On account of his having killed S. Lal Singh, a fracas took place in our village between two parties of S. Gurbux Singh and S. Ghamdur Singh, in which the former received injuries. In order therefore to safeguard the interest of S. Ghamdur Singh much violence was used on the villagers. Shadi Hussain Sub-Inspector was in charge of this investigation.

In the month of Magh Samvat 1985 when S. Kharak Singh was touring in the villages of Patiala State and holding Dewans. Wherever he went, the State army, Risala and Police were also moving with him from one place to another. The entire Lashkar collected rations for their use from the poor villagers. Milk, ghee; fodder, fuel, cocks, etc. were duly requisitioned by them. Nothing was paid to them for this and the ration that was left unconsumed was taken away by the State Servants and Officials for which our own bullock-carts were used. Our crops were all spoiled. All the unconsumed material was first taken to Sunam and some of it was taken away direct to Sunam Police station.

In the month of Magh last year at the time of S. Kharak Sing's arrival we were subjected to various sorts of humiliations and we were ordered not to attend any Dewan. Sub-Inspector of Sunam threatened us and did his best to induce us to abuse S. Kharak Singh in his presence and to ask him if we were his sons-in law that he had come to our village ! We were asked to use even more abusive language, but we submited quietly to all sorts of violence and never obeyed this foolish order, because we were fully aware of the fact that S. Kharag Sing had come there to listen to the story of our woe and we had therefore great re-

gard for him as it is so even now. Violence was most freely used against us. Veils were removed from the faces of our ladies and they were insulted in the presence of the general public. Kaku Singh of Benjiana was arrested after he was given a severe beating. Hoshiar Singh Akali of Sunam was asked by the Tehsildar in the presence of witness..... neither to entertain S. Kharag Singh at the time of his arrival nor to bid him Fateh (respects.) He was beaten and kept in judicial lock-up for many months. This took place on the day when S. Kharag Singh had returned from Deh Darha to Sunam aud proceeded to Sheron.

All of us were kept under the guard of the Police and Lambardars.

Our village is in existence since the year 1881 i. e. a period of one hundred and five years has elapsed since it was founded. The ancestors of the witness have been occupying the village from its start. The Maharaja handed over the possesion of their village to S. Birsingh under the new regime. Land revenue is realized in the shape of cash. The State may either retain this or pay it to any Biswedar for the services rendered. But our village is very unfortunate inasmuch as its possesion has been handed over to S. Bir Singh. Instead of paying him his salary from the State treasury he has heen given possession of this village with the result that he has been misusng our hard-earned money. Although S. Bir Singh died in the year 1887, up to 1901 the income from our village was being realized by S. Bir Singh's heirs. Between the years 1901 1916 the State undertook to realize land-revenue etc., but again in the year 1917 the heirs to S. Bir Singh's property were given charge of our village. They collect a portion of the total production of our land in the following manner till to-day:

1/3 of the production of crops from land of either description, whether fed on by rain or canal-water.

1/4 of the fodder of total production.

1/5 of the production of crops and 1/6 of fodder from the land which is irrigated by a well.

Besides this they also collect one seer per maund of the total production, known as Serina. Although we are in possession of our land since the year 1881, we do not enjoy hereditary tenancy rights under section 5 and are treated as tenants-at-will.

If any of our relatives comes from the fields with vegetables etc. his person is searched and he is otherwise insulted. We cannot give green fodder even to our bullocks to eat. We are leading a wretched slave-life. After all we are also men like other subjects of the State, but we have been treated as menials. After five generations our ancestral rights are also consficated.

We have tried our utmost to get a solution of our difficulties and a redress of grievances, but to no effect. The Courts and the Maharaja, although approached many times, have done nothing to get justice for the poor people of the Patiala State. The Maharaja does not care at all for justice being given to the poor. When he is at Patiala he passes his time in Shikar and leads a life of ease and pleasure. Most of his time is also spent in pleasure-trips to European countries. We are in fact experiencing great hardships in the reign of this Maharaja. We are losing one after the other whatever rights and privileges we posessed. Harnam Singh S/o Pratap Singh has been served with a notice to give up the possession of his land, on account of his being an Akali. There are many other such instances; in fact we are being made to suffer persecutions and atrocities in various ways. Our comfort, honour and life are always in danger. Witness Dharam Singh aged 80 years has been externed from his villages for the last six years and his 4 Biswas of land has been confiscated. He along with other members of his family is now wandering from one place to another. He is not even guilty of being an Akali. He is a poor Zamindar and is Sikh by caste. If this state of affairs continues, we are nearing our ruin.

Decrees have even been issued against us for sums varying from 20 to 50 rupees on account of Begar.

Statement of Sinder Singh and three others, Ex, 3 A

The above-mentioned witnesses recorded the following statement on solemn affirmation and to the best of their knowledge:

Dated the 2nd day of Sawan Sambat 1986 Bikram.

In the reign of Maharaja Bhupinder Singh we are experiencing troubles and hardships. It appears that our end is drawing near.

In our village there are two Rajbahas (parts of a canal) which are under the control of two different Girdawaras and Zaildars. The Zamindars making use of this water compulsorily pay to the canal-Patwari one rupee per head besides the usual water charges This is not considered enough and we have to do Begar also. No heed is paid to our protests. Our village comprises of a very small area and one Patwari is quite enough to complete the whole work, but the higher authorities in order to provide for their own people with jobs create new posts which are quite unnecessary. They become a heavy drain on the state-revenue.

All the posts in the Police Department are filled up by the higher officials' favourites. Respectable persons are made to suffer humiliations by being forced to offer bribery. The Police has made common cause with miscreants and the Police people are generally seen putting up with the Badmashes and encouraging them to commit crimes. Brahma Zamindar and Puran Barber etc., are quite well known rascals and they have given the poor villagers very great trouble. Sardar Ul Din, Sub-Inspector of Police Station Sunam, and the S. I. Samanwala and Bharpur Singh always stay with the miscreants and give them refuge whenever necessary. Our animals are stolen very often because the Police instead of punishing the criminals render them every sort of assistance in the perpitration of the crime. This in fact is a source of income to the Police.

At the time of rains we are ordered not to engage ourselves in the task of cultivating and sowing the seeds, while on the other hand we and our animals are taken out to level

off, smooth and equal the canal-side. We are clearly told that unless the sides of the canal are made smooth and equal we would not be allowed to cultivate our lands. It is said that if on the occasion of Maharaja Sahab's visit the path is not in order, the whole village will be doomed. If per chance any animal happens to pass by the side of a canal it is held up and its owner punished for this offence. All the canal officials take milk and ghee free of charges. Oads who render assistance to the State reside in our villages and their goats etc eat away our crops.

The Shikar animals destroy our crops.

Begar is rampant and the servants of the State from junior-most to the seniormost avail themselves of it.

The War Loan has been refunded to a very few people and the balance has been used by the Maharaja for his personal needs.

On the occassion of S.Kharag Singh's arrival the Army paraded the Ilaqa and the burden of their expenses lay on the poor people. Police guard was set up in every village and the people ware not allowed to move about. If any one ventured to bid respects to S. Kharag Singh considering him to be the Community's leader, violence was used on him. The possession of Gurudwaras was taken over from the Sikhs, and the management was entrusted to others.

Our life and honour are in constant danger and it is our earnest prayer that inquiries be made into the administration of the State and better arrangements be made thereafter. We are vary much disappointed with Maharaja Bhupinder Singh.

Statement of Bighan Singh, Ex. 4A

On solemn affirmation the witness recorded the following statement on the 11th day of Sawan, year 1986 Bikrimi :

"We are undergoing so many kinds of hardships and troubles during the reign of Maharaja Patiala that it is not even possible for us to relate our woeful story.

1. The practice of Begar is in full force. Whenever the Maharaja goes to Pinjore for the purpose of hunting, we are required to supply 30 to 40 men from our village to assist the Maharaja in Shikar (hunting). Besides that bullock carts, partridges, cocks, eggs, milk, ghee, goats etc. are also taken from us without paying us even a single penny in return. Anybody refusing to supply his quota is beaten very severely. Our calves and goats are tied up with trees in order to attract the attention of the tigers and other wild beasts. No care is taken of our crops and the harvests are destroyed by the Shikar-animals and many times our labours are thus turned fruitless. We poor Zamindars are also required to dig and maintain the canals without being paid anything. Sometimes we do the digging work extending over houses for several days continuously. If any Zamindar refuses to discharge his duties entrusted to him, he is beaten mercilessly and in certain cases fines are also imposed on him. On the other hand if a cow or a buffalo belonging to a Zamindar is found drinking water from the canal the master of the animal is assaulted and humiliated. In fact the Begar system is proving to be a source of constant worry and trouble to us. The Nazul act becomes operative after five generations and in this way our rights and privileges are confiscated and this apparently means that the poor Zamindars should be deprived of the morsel of food that they are getting.

The wild beasts eat away a very big portion of our crops and a Zamindar using a cracker for the purpose of overawing them receives very harsh treatment at the hands of the Police. We have therefore given up the practice of even overawing the animals. The laws of the State are strange. A murderer can be acquitted but a person charged with the crime mentioned above is not released unless he offers bribe.

The War Loan has not so far been refunded to any one of us.

We have subscribed liberally to the fund raised for the purpose of making partitions in the village, but neither the money

had been refunded to us so far, nor the requisite partition has been effected.

We are required to pay subscription for the purpose of opening new schools and hospitals and for the maintenance of the existing ones. But the whole amount is being spent by the Maharaja. Whenever he stands in need of money, he orders for the raising of any such fund. In the month of Magher year 1986 a special fund was raised from amongst us and it was given out that this was needed to bring a peculiar kind of 'Mirror' with the help of which it would become easy to ascertain every kind of desease, but neither the 'Mirror' was purchased nor money refunded to us. Apparently this money has also been utilised by the Maharaja for his pleasure-trips to Europe.

The Maharaja always keeps himself within the four walls of the Royal Palace and never attends to the State business. In the month of Magh year 1985 S. Kharak Singh was touring over the Patiala State in connection with the agitation for release of S. Seva Singh. It was publicly announced in our village that anybody participating in the Dewan would forfeit his property. Asa Ram S/o Nanak Chand Zaildar collected milk, ghee, cocks, eggs grass, etc. from our village in very large quantity and sent it to Rajoura. Barud Munshi Tirkhan (carpenter) resident Mohi Khurd not being able to carry out the instructions of the Police in preparing a certain kind of carpentry-work was fined and the poor fellow had to daily attend the court for about 20 days. Consequently he had to undergo severe loss.

Witness.....while proceeding to Bhoglan to attend the Dewan was taken to.....assaulted and kept in jail for about four months simply on this account.

9. Witnesses.....were arrested at.....and taken to Patiala where we were severely beaten. We were tied up with the roof by our hair and made to hang for hours together. Some times we were made to lie down with our faces downwards and beaten with shoes and canes. We got senseless many times. Gurbux

Singh Sub-Inspector and Munshi Pandit were responsible for all those atrocities and they both personally assaulted us. Since the time of our release Asa Ram Zamindar is giving us a lot of trouble

On the 22nd day of Magh Zahid Ali constable informed witness .....resident ..... that he was wanted by the Sub-Inspector Larowal at ..... When he went there he was severaly beaten by the Sub-Inspector and his Mohemaden Munshi. The name of this Sub-Inspector as I afterwards came to know is Syed Safir Hussain. While we lay unconscions, our thumb-impressions were affixed on certain documents, the contents of which have not been made known to us. We were realeased thereafter.

Statement of 24 villagers, Ex. 5

The following oral Examination of 24 villagers was recorded at Budladha by the Enquiry Committee on the 17th December 1929 :

Q. How much War Loan has been taken from your village ?

A. I know of my share only and not of the whole village. I can mention an approximate amount which comes to about Rs. 1200/- Rs. 7/12 per family were charged and I also paid my share.

Q. Have you got any proof that this amount has been given to the State ? Do you possess any receipt or document of the sort to support the above fact ?

A. As a rule we are not given any receipt but this amount is being credited into the account-books of the State.

Q. Has anyone of you received this Loan back ?

A. Yes, half of the village people have been paid back and others are not yet paid.

Q. How is it that half of your village-people have been paid and the other half not paid ?

A. The State pays Loan according to its financial convenience.

Q. How many types of Begar are there ? Give us the list of things that you have to supply in Begar ?

A. Bullock-carts, fuel, grass, butter, milk, ghee etc.

Q. Do you get anything as remuneration for these things ?

A. No, nothing.

Q. How much Begar is taken from each of you, at what time and for what purpose ?

A. As for the Maharaja himself, he takes Begar only when he goes on tour, but other officers such as Lumbardars, Sub-Inspectors of Police, Girdawars, Tehsildars etc. take Begar in every trip of theirs.

Q. Do all these officers take all sorts of Begar mentioned above when they come to the village ?

A. Yes, villagers have got to undertake this Begar according to their turns.

Q. Have you to give Begar to Army forces also ?

A. Yes, the Army forces come every year or two and all the material stated above have got to be supplied by us; If we have not got it at that time, we have to purchase the same from the bazaar and supply to the Army. As for grass, if our stock is exhausted, we have got to go to cut it and then supply the same to the Army. Our stocks in ghee, butter, fuel, milk etc. get absolutely exhausted when the Army comes.

Q. Do you get any money in any form for the material you supply to the Army ?

A. No, not a single pie.

Q. Did it ever happen that any of your village-people refused to give it to them either because they did not possess it for some other reason ?

A. Nobody dares refuse to give Begar. Everyone of us is much afraid of their inhuman treatment.

Q. Are you the persons who have given these things in Begar ?

A. Yes, we ourselves have given it several times.

Q. Have you given this Begar of your own accord ?

A. Oh no. We are giving it under compulsion.

Q. Is there any canal-begar in your village ?

A. Yes.

Q. How many people are taken from your village for this purpose and how much work is entrusted to each people ?

A. Every year we have got to cleanse the canal, and for that purpose every house has to supply one male member. About 200 people have just been taken and the work has been done. Not a single pie is paid to us for this labour. We regularly pay for the canal-water supplied to us. The tax is called *Abiana*. This work that we do is not done as a compensatoin for the water received by us.

Q. Does Thikri Pahra duty prevail in your village ? and how many people from your village are taken for this purpose ?

A. Yes. Thikri Pahra duty is the order of the day and we have to give 8 people from our village for this purpose every night. We have got to do patrolling duties inside the village as well as outside it. Nothing is paid to us by the State for this service. The village is giving this service by turns per house.

Q. Is there any school in your village ? If so, do you pay any amount as a subscription thereof ?

A. No, there is no school in our village; but we have to regularly pay for it 0-2-0 per head. It is being forcibly recovered from us.

Q. What happens when you refuse to attend your Thikri Pahra Duty ?

A. We are taken to the Police-Station and punished.

Statement of Sajan Singh, Ex. 7

Sajan Singh stated as under in oral examination by the Committee :

Four Chamarans named (1) Godhu, (2) Bhoga, (3) Dhattu and (4) Sobha had had to fill up their turns of Thikri Pahra, but as they had some business at home they could not do it that day and promised to do their duty the next day. So they were taken to the Police Station. They were made absolutely naked and made to lie down with faces downwards. Dust was thrust into their backs, water was sprinkled on it and then they were given severe beating by means of thick-soled shoes. They were kept that day in the residence of the Thanedar Habib Ellah Khan and all sort of house-hold work was taken from them. They were set free in the evening. I was an eye-witness to this scene beacuse I myself was in the Police lock-up at that time simply because of being an Akali.

On the 14th of December 1929 (First of Poh, Sambat 1986) the Police Sub-Inspector Zafar Khan of Pakhi Thana came to our village. He asked all villagers not to go to Budhladha before the Enquiry Committee. Sub-Inspector met me and asked me whether I was going to Budhlada. I said "Till now I have no information to go there. When I get it I would consider what to do." Then he said "You are disobeying the orders of the Maharaja Patiala, but mind, if you go there some prosecution will be started against you and you will go to jail for ten of fifteen years." So saying the police went to my house, searched it, took away some of my books, gave me a severe whipping and gave slaps on my face; then enjoining me not to go to Budhladha

they made me free. The police is patrolling in the village and on roads and are preventing people from going to Budhladha. I started by night through zig zag path avoiding the Police and thus have come here stealthily. This is the condition in all the villages to-day. A sort of cordon is placed along the boundary of the whole Patiala territory and people are not allowed to come here.

Statement of Phuman Singh, Ex. 11

Phuman Singh confirming his written statement stated as under in the oral examination by the Committee :

About last year Maharaj Sahab had come to Ubhowal. He went for a drive on the canal bank in his motor car. He saw two village youngmen there. They were (1) Arjan Singh and (2) Indar Singh of village Chima. Maharaja called both of them and seated them in the car. Maharaja asked these youngmen to commit rape on the women with him. They had no alteration but to obey. Maharaja was present all along. Maharaja then gave them Rs. 4 or 5 each. There were three motors in all with the Maharaja at that time. I know both these youngmen personally. They talked to me personally at that very time. They talked this matter to other people of the village also. These youngmen may give their statements also.

My village is near Ubhowal where Maharaja Bhupindar Singh is married. He has built a special bungalow in this village. He goes there very often. When he goes there he gets all the girls aged under twenty called in his bungalow and compells them to sing songs. Then he selects certain girls from the party and after committing rape on them dismisses them. This is the story known throughout the village. Names of girls and their parents are obtainable. We will have them at Lahore. As the Maharaja visits the village very often such accidents happen very frequently. It means that a multitude of girls is thus spoiled by the Maharaja.

Their parents do not come forward to make the story publicly known, because of either shame or fear. However we would be able to get some names at Lahore.

Statement of Dewan Singh, Ex. 13

Dewan Singh stated as under in the oral examination by the Committee:

Only four or five days before, Numberdar Indar of our village got a tomtom beaten in the village to the effect that anyone going to either Budhladha, Ambala, Ludhiana or Lahore or to any Conference or Committee would be externed from the territory and his property would be confiscated. No one is allowed to go out of the village for the purpose of trade or for the purpose of purchasing materials for marriage function or for any such purpose. Some people are even prevented from going to their fields. Numerdars took security bonds from the people who were suspected of intentions to go before the Committee. Some of these who have signed these bonds are present here. There is a very great Police arrangement (bundobast) in the village. And here also a number of big and small police officials have come and are moving near our place of enquiry. We show you these constables and Police officers standing near our place and also in the bazar.

Further I state that in our village Police came to our houses at night and awoke us from sleep to assure themselves that we had not gone to the Committee. The following newspapers also have been prohibited from entering the Patiala territory and anyone found with these newspapers is ordered to be punished for six months' imprisoment besides being fined. Names of the newspapers that are prohibited are as under:

(1) Akali, (2) Riyasat, (3) Akali Te Pardesi, (4) Sucha Tandora, (5) Kirpan Bahadur, (6) Pratap etc., etc.,

It is ordered by the beating of drum that no one is allowed to go to any meeting, procession or even to religious Dewan. All this is printed in the Patiala Gazettee. I was deputed by the Punjab Rayasati Parja Mandal to inform the people of the Tehsil Sirhind, Rajpura and Patiala to give their evidence before the Committee. When I reached village Sanipura to inform the people there, I found that before my going there Numbaradars were already asking people not to go to the Committee. Tehsildar himself was moving in the village asking people not to go to the Committee. I moved onward in 49 villages, where I found just the same situation.

I further state that correspondence from and to the Akali Dal Amritsar and Shiromani Gurdwara Parabandhak Committee is torn open on the way and destroyed by the Patiala Government. The same is the fate of the correspondence of the Punjab Riyasati Parja Manadal. Post offices in the Patiala State belong to the State itself. There is no British post office in any of the Patiala State villages.

Statement of Sobhar Singh and three others, ex. 46

The foundation of our village named Sodhi Garh was laid by S. Bir Singh in the year Sambat 1884. Our ancestors have had their residence in this village since the very begining and were originally invited by the Biswedar of the village to this new land in order to people it. We have all along been carrying on our cultivation as proprietors of the agricultural land without any hindrance and the rights of our proprietorship have never been infringed and we have been paying land-revenue in kind in the fallowing manner :-

1. Out of the crops of the land irrigated by canal including fodder ¼.
2. Out of the crops of land dependent on rain for irrigation ⅕ and fodder from such land ¼.

3. Cotton Seeds 5 seers per Bigha.

We were entitled to hereditary proprietorship of the land and because we have held it for a sufficiently long period we had complete rights over our ancestral land. But we the witnesses were so far not regarded eligible for hereditary rights. A number of Zamindars are entitled to such rights, but the witnesses are not priveleged to ownership. In spite of having held permanent possession of the land we are being deprived. of it in an arbitrary manner. Witness..... .. had about 188 Bighas of cultivable land in his possession and the Patiala Court have issued decrees by which he has been ordered to give up the possession of the entire land held by him so far. Then the witness filed a suit against Jaswant Singh Biswedar claiming compensation but the case was dismissed. About twenty people of our village have thus been made to suffer heavily. They are now practically ruined.

As soon as Mota Singh, Rur Singh, Syam Singh and Jota Singh (who are all brothers) lost their father they were deprived of two hundred Bighas of land even when they had not attained majority. At present the witnesses do not own even a bigha of land out of their proprietory land. We twelve persons belong to the same family and have lost all that we possessed. We have been deprived of our hereditary land only this year. The cause of our ruin is that Jaswant Biswedar Deh is related to S. Gurdat Singh Wazir of Ret Garhya aud he can therefore influence his opinion in any way he likes.

The Maharaja bears bad moral character and he is therefore mostly to be seen in England where he can satisfy his passions. Shikar is the other engagement which occupies the Maharaja's attention. In order therefore to get help from the Ahalkars of the State in the attainmeut of these objects or to check the publicity connected with these affairs he either agrees to whatever the Ahalkars do or if he suspects anybody, the poor fellow is sent to jail for ever. The Ahalkar is not given an opportunity to explain his position lest the real facts may be known to the

public. That is why the Ahalkars never go against the wishes of the Maharaja.

Officials of different departments such as Tehsil, Canal, Police etc., collect hundreds of maunds of fodder (chari, niar etc.) at the harvest time as Begar. We are also required to supply camels, bullock-carts, milk, ghee etc. free of charge. When the Maharaja goes to Shikar along with a large Lashkar (sometimes other Maharajas are also invited and a dog-show is arranged.) the poor subjects are forced to supply them free every article. This practice is being followed by other State officials who also resort to Begar for every article which they require. Two-thirds of our income goes to the pockets of the Biswedars and the officials; and only one-third is left with us. If the Maharaja could give up the practice of getting his requirements in Begar, the State officials would never venture to resort to it.

The Maharaja maintains special places for Shikar for his personal use. Some pet animals are purchased, and others obtained in Begar. They are let loose in particular tracts of land where either the Maharaja plays Shikar or takes his European friends, for this purpose. Shikar is strictly prohibited for the general public, and the crops are therefore destroyed by the wild animals. 2/3 of the total production is thus wasted and we get only 1/3 after our hard labour night and day. We plough our fields during the day-time and all the family members keep awake throughout the nights watching the fields. We are also required to continue shooting in order to terrify the wild animals and keep them away. The result is that the people from the neighbouring villages do not like to enter into matrimonial alliances with us and that hardly one out of every 4 male members is successful in getting a bride, the rest remaining unmarried and dying without leaving any issue.

Every attempt is made by the State authorities to put us to loss and humiliation. This year our ponds where water is stored for the drinking purposes of our animals. were allowed to dry up and no water was stored from the canals as before. We were

thus very much inconvenienced and had to dig a very big well in order to keep our animals alive and not leave them to die of thirst. It is therefore quite clear that the State authorities do not even feel for the poor speechless animals.

In the month of Magh when S. Kharak Singh was touring in the Patiala State they were not allowed to go and explain their grievances to their great leader and many who very much desired to go and see S. Kharak Singh to pay their respects were not allowed to do so. Lacs of people were made to suffer heavily and violence was used against thousands. Hundreds of the poor State subjects, were expelled from the State and made homeless. All expenses incurred on the maintenance of the Army and Police in this connection were realised from the poor State subjects. The poor people were forced even to supply them eggs, ghee, butter, milk, ghatka, (meat) and other materials. Even the ordinary constables were to benefit by this.

The Military and Police officers, Tehsildars and others were putting up at S. Jaswant Singh Biswedar's house. They stayed there for three days. Fodder, milk, ghee etc. were collected through the constables from the poor peasants. Our ladies and children were not allowed to move out of the houses and they were kept there without food and drink. The State authorities did not at all pity their lot.

In order to win the favour of the officials the Biswedar of the village was affording them every encouragement to perpetrate Zulum (persecution) on the poor villagers. He was anxious to please the officials as they helped him in his personal gains. All the people of the State are very much discontented with the present Maharaja's rule and wish that nature may influence the Government of India to redress of the grievances of the poor subjects of the Patiala State.

Statement of Pratap Singh and 21 others, Ex. 56

Witnesses named above stated on oath and to the best of their knowledge the hardships they were experiencing in the reign of the present Maharaja of Patiala.

Restrictions having been imposed on the public not to hunt wild animals, the latter are causing us very heavy losses. Deer and other animals wander about in thousands and whenever they happen to pass any tract of field with crops, they destroy the crops entirely. How are we to save our crops from so many of them ? We are in great trouble and it appears that the day is not far off when we shall be completely ruined.

The Kar Begar (compulsory labour) is also in full force. We are compelled to supply the State authorities bullock-carts, fodder, cocks, eggs, fuel, ghee, milk etc, according to their requirements free of cost. If anybody is unable to supply his share of the required articles he is assaulted and the poor fellow is thus compelled to make the necessary supplies. In many cases the required articles are purchased from the Bazaar. We have no permanent source of income and what little we manage to get is thus taken away. We are also required to dig canals for which we are not paid anything. Some times we have to do the cleansing work of the canal extending over several miles. If our cow or a buffalo happens to be on the canal side we are fined and assaulted for letting her go there. We are unnecessarily harassed and the animal is left after two or three days.

The Nazul Act is put into force after five generations and our rights have been forfeited. This was not the practice before Maharaja Bhupindar Singh's rule. All that our fields yield is wasted on Kar Begar or by wild animals.

Taxes on lands have been raised particularly under the circumstances when our other expenses have also gone high with no proportional income and when we have to pay a large percentage in fines and Kar Begar. Our lot is apparently miserable.

Thikri Pahra is another evil practice on account of which we are heavily suffering. If somebody is the only member of his family and thus unable to go out on Pahra, he is severely beaten. On certain occasions the Pahrawala returned to his house a minute or two early. He was very severely beaten for this. When there is no constable on duty the beating becomes all the more severe.

Although the State has recovered War loan from the British Government the money has not yet been paid back to us.

Money is realized every half year from us for public roads and schools; but instead of using it for these purposes, Maharaja Bhupindar Singh spends it on his own enjoyments. He visits England every year and spends lacs of rupees in pleasures and enjoyments. He has strange fancies and sometimes he spends any amount of money on pets including snakes and dogs. Whenever he returns to the State he confines himself to the palace and whenever he comes out, it is for the purpose of Shikar. Here again we are required to make provisions of food etc. for the Maharaja and the Shikar party. One or two hundred villagers are also required to be present with the Shikar party. In this way we are unable to attend to our crops which are eaten up by the wild animals in our absence. We are tired of Maharaja Bhupindar Singh's rule.

Every officer takes bribe and always decides cases in favour of those who are in a position to offer large amounts as bribe. There is no life in our State. We are even worse off than slaves and prisoners.

We are not even allowed to attend a religious Dewan nor entitled to participate in other religious functions. Great saints like S. Dewa Singh are rotting in jails for no fault of theirs. But who cares ?

Insult was offered to Guru Granth Sahab at Bhawani Garh under the reign of Maharaja Bhupindar Singh. Many Sikhs were insulted at Heron Tehsil Mansa. The whole nation should revolt

against the present maladministration and people from outside the State should join hands with us to relieve us from the miserable plight that we are in.

The Maharaja is a debauchee and has no time to do anything but debauchery Shikar etc. We are tired of his reign.

Statement of Bagga Sihgh and two others, Ex 62

On solemn affirmation the witnesses named above recorded rhe following stated on the 30th of Har year 1986 :

We are experiencing great trouble and hardship in the reign of Maharaja Bhupindar Singh.

I. We are forced to supply fodder, fuel, cocks, eggs etc. to the Ahalkars and others free of charge. In fact all the officials and employees of the Tehsil including the Police meet all their household requirements through Begar. So the entire burden has to be borne by us.

2. In the month of Magh at the time of S. Kharak Singh's visit the Military Platoon, Mounted police etc. were visiting the villages. All the crops were destroyed and the horses and motor cars passed through the fields thus ruining the production. We were also compelled to supply food stuff and bedding etc. for the use of the Police who made a very liberal use of all those things. We were thus undergoing severe hardships. The people going out to attend the Dewan were openly assaulted and beaten. A number of villagers were surrounded by the police and the poor people were threatened in various ways. Orders were proclaimed through the Tehsil and Police officials that the property of all who make complaints against the Maharaja or attend S. Kharak Singh's Dewan will be confiscated. It was due to this severe repression that we could not explain our difficulties.

3. The wild animals let loose in the jungles by orders of the Maharaja for Shikar (hunting) destroy our harvests, but we are not allowed to kill them.

4. The Nazul Act has come into operation after five generations. This has caused us huge losses. The Act was not in existence prior to the reign of Maharaja Bhupindar Singh.

5. In the past S. Khan Singh son of Colonel Sant Singh, who was Maharaja's kitchen officer, influenced the Maharaja and got possession of our village for his father-in-law. The present Biswedar of our village S. Bhagwan Singh belongs to that family. Our village is in existence since the year 1903 Bikrami. Our ancestors count amongst the founders of this village, but still we are treated as tenants of the land with no proprietory right. We have held possession of this land since the existence of the village. Instead of recovering land taxes in cash we are compelled to pay it in kind in the following manner:

Crops: ⅓ of total produce and one seer of seed per maund.

Fodder: ¼ of the total produce.

This Batal system is no longer in vogue in any Ilaqa except the Patiala State villages. For services rendered to the Maharaja in person the Sirdars and other rich people are given rights over the vllages and we the original proprietors are considered tenants without such rights. Our women-folk are not allowed to cut grass etc. in the field. The persons of those doing so are searched and they are insulted. The rich help the Maharaja in his acts of debauchery in ordert o win favour and gain personal profit, while our life and honour are in constant danger. We even consider it disgraceful to relate our woeful story to anybody. During the last 25 or 30 years we have been constantly fighting our case in one Court or the other, but to no effect. We have suffered considerably and have lost every penny that we had. The Maharaja pays no heed to our repeated requests. Our appeals for justice have gone in vain. He, in fact, does not find time for state affairs and is either making merry in Europe or busy with Shikar parties. Ahalkars and other officials by offering their sisters or daughters to the Maharaja become independent and are at liberty to do what they like. Justicse cannot be had in

the State at any price. If anybody cares to go through the files of our cases the real state of affairs can very easily be brought home to him. The following people have fallen prey to the tyrannical rule of the Maharaja and have thereby lost all that they possessed. They were even compelled to leave the state altogether.

1. S. Sawa son of Bhola Singh, was practically a ruined man when he left the State.
2. The Landed property of Wazir son of Tirloka was confiscated.
3. Begar, Wazir and Hira, sons of Dal Singh were ruined and forced to leave the State. They have now shifted to village Ailwal, Jind state.
4. Santa Singh son of Sardar Singh Zamindar was forced to pass the remaining days of his life with some of his relatives. We can therefore safely expect that our village will soon be in ruins if no heed is paid to our repeated requests.

There is another practice in vogue which has caused us very huge losses. Instead of collecting their share of the produce after it is ready, the officers and the village Biswedars force us to part with the produce of our harvest according to the estimate fixed by them prior to its being ready. In many cases lands which do not yield crops even at the rate of 5 maunds per Bigha are estimated to the actual production. Cattle belonging to the Biswedar and other officials are let loose in our green fields thus causing us heavy losses. From the Police Constables to the Maharaja himself, all are busy in the advancement of their personal interests. We have no hope left in the present Maharaja nor do we expect to be able to live peacefully in his reign.

Statement of Mota Singh and 6 others, Ex 63

During the reign of Maharaja Bhupindar Singh the State subjects are unhappy and miserable. A few of the chief grievances are mentioned below:

All the Police and Court officials take bullock-carts, bullocks, camels, fodder, milk, ghee, fuel, hens, eggs, grass, etc., in begar from the village people, for which they are not paid anything. If anybody is not able to satisfy them, he is humiliated and violence is used freely against him. In many cases in order to save themselves from insults, the people purchase some of the articles to be given in begar, when they have not got them in their homes,

The Maharaja is not content by merely setting apart areas for Shikar; but the animals of his Shikar are left to wander about freely in the whole of Ilaqa. Wild deer sometimes numbering about a thousand in one group alone and hundreds of Rohjas wander about. Anybody killing these animals is given severe punishment. Our crops are thus spoiled by these animals in spite of our foiling the whole day and keeping watch over our crops throughout the night. We hardly get any crops at the end of the year. It is all being eaten up by Shikar animals.

About 13 or 14 years back War Loan was raised from us. The Government has since refunded it to the State but we have not got our money back, because the entire amount has been spent by the Maharaja for his personal expenses in connection with his visits to England etc. The Loan has been given to some of the favourite Lambardars and Biswedars who help the Maharaja in using violence on the poor subjects.

The services of nearly all the high officials of tbe Police Deparment are utilized in hatching conspiracies and the Maharaja always gives his assent to whatever they do. As a result of this the Inspector-General or Superintendent of Police always enlists his own people in the police and allot all posts from Head Constable to the higher official to their own near re'atives. As the members of the Police Department know fully well that nobody can check or prevent them from doing as they desire and as even the Maharaja never intervenes, they resort to coertion pubilcly and the perpetrators of heinous crimes are let off by offering bribes to the

Police. In certain cases the Police join hands with the Badmashes in committing dacoities and share the booty. Notorious people pay regular monthly allowances to the Police and this is the reason why the number of dacoities, theft, murder and abduction cases is the largest when compared with any other place in the British Territory. This can very well be ascertained from the Police record. On account of bribery being rampant no separate files are prepared for even very important criminal cases. In several cases on account of bribery even the report of the crimes is not recorded in the Police Register. Selfish people are promoted to the higher ranks. When S. Amrik Singh was appointed Inspector-General of Police, 15 the posts of Sub-Inspectorship were filled by his own relatives. Jagdish Singh Sub-Inspector was responsible for the insults caused to Guru Granth Sahib at Bhawanigarh; and although there was a lot of agitation in the State no action was taken against him. Jagdish Singh is very well-known for acts of high-way robbery committed by him at Dhari, Bhawanigarh, Panchour etc., Similarly Bakhshish Singh Sub-Inspector rendered practical assistance in many of the well-known robbery cases. S. Kalwant Singh was appointed Sub-Inspector at the early age of 18 because he was Bakhshish Singh's favourite. When S. Hazura Singh was appointed Inspector General of Police he too followed in the foot-steps of his predecessor. His real brother S. Bharpur Singh Sub-Inspector enacted the tragic deeds at Dhuri, Herm etc. and he soon became notorious for his misdeeds. All his family-members were appointed on responsible posts and his brother Kapur Singh who was appointed Zaildar through his influence helped him materially in perpetrating Zulum (persecution).

Sardar Raghbir Singh at present holds the charge of Inspector-Generalship and in a short period all his relatives have been recruited to important posts in the Police Department. The name of his father-in-law Asa Singh Sub-Inspector Sherpore has become a terror to the poor villagers and he is at liberty to do injustice in his jurisdiction to any extent he likes. We have

therefore got tired of this rule and our life and honour are in constant danger.

After five generations Nazul Act is put in force. By it the landed property is publicly auctioned and annexed to the State property. This was never in force before the reign of Maharaja Patiala. In the month of Magh last when S. Kharak Singh was holding Dewans in the State and carrying on an agitation in the public to win the sympathy for justice being done to S. Sewa Singh, the Police from Sunam guarded our village on all sides and even animals were not allowed to move out. Our ladies were taken under a Police guard when going out for satisfying the call of nature. After this we were not allowed to leave our village and for more than a month we could not even go to the adjoining villages to make petty purchases, nor could we go out to see our relatives.

We were forced to supply milk, ghee, fuel, grass, fodder, hens, eggs etc., to the officials at Sherin very much against our will. The Police and tne Army traversed the Ilaqa and all their expenses were met with by poor villagers aud our crops were destroyed. On this occasion violence was used on thousands of people and hundreds were made homeless. Their properties were confiscated and they were jailed. Complete terror prevailed in the villages.

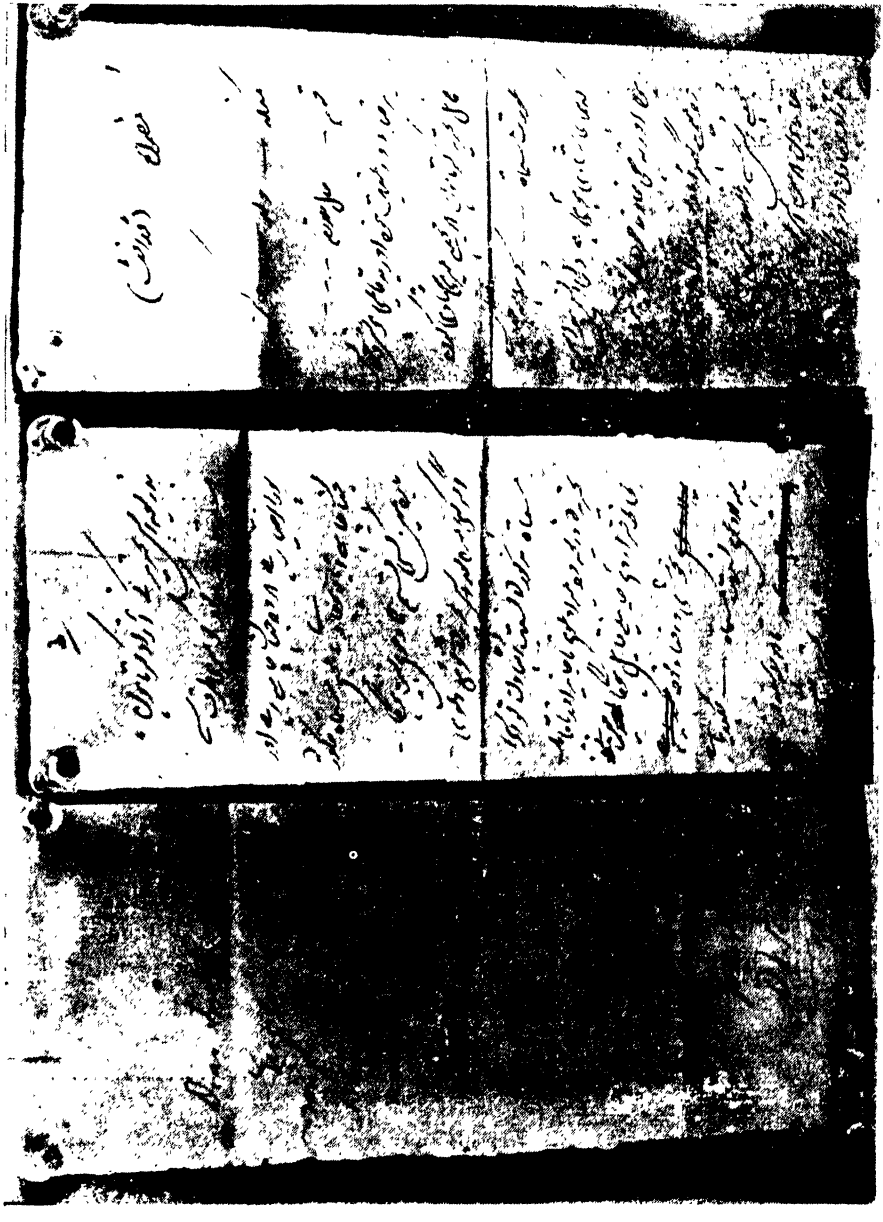
Even at present our movements are watched and we cannot move out without first informing the Lambadars. Failure to do so gives the Police an opportunity to arrest and cause trouble to us.

It is our desire that a thorough investigation should be held in the numerous acts of injustice done by Maharaja Bhupindar Singh and the Government be requested to intervene.

Appendix F

PHOTO--COPIES OF THE IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS

Draft of the divorce deed in the hand-writing of Sir Daya Kishan Kaul, the then Prime minister of Patiala, with his covering letter



Text of the covering letter of Sir Daya Kishen Kaul accompanying the draft of the dvorce deed

Dear Sirdar Nanak Singh,

Enclosed is rough draft of what you had asked for. Some thing of this sort should do, but the document will have to be witnessed by two reliable persons.

Please let me know how the matter is progressing.

Yours truly,

1/ 6/ 18. D. K. Kaul

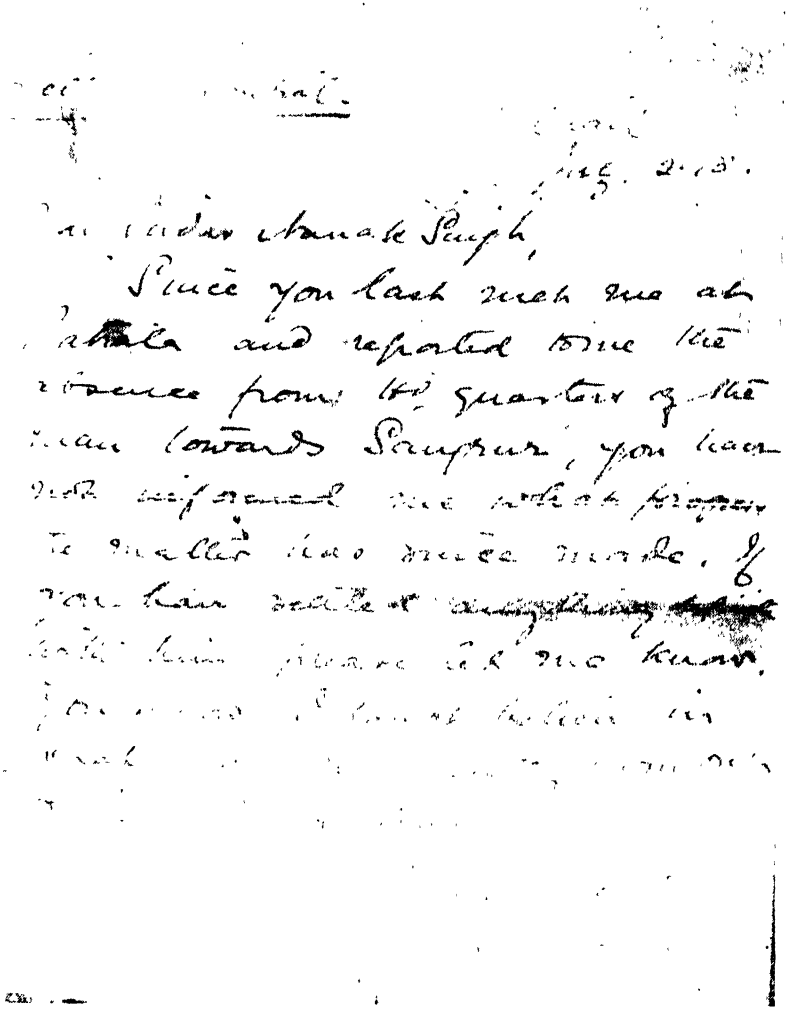
Translation from the Original Urdu draft of the divorce deed

I ..... son of ..... resident of ..... caste ..... at present employed ..... do hereby declare of my own free will and in full possession of my senses that since my marriage with my wife ..... I never contracted real love for her and we never had relations of husband and wife with each other. She never lived at my house. So I have no attachment with her and I wish that we be freed from this relationship of husband and wife. So I free her by this written deed. I hereby give full right to .... to go wherever she likes and marry anybody she likes. I shall have no right upon her in future. If ever I go to law court regarding the above named lady my suit will be fit for dismissal on account of this document. I am writing this document of my own free will, so that the above named lady may have this document in her possession. ..... date of writing

Witness Witness .....

[*For original photo-prints see preceding page*]

The letter of Sir Daya Kishan Kaul to Sirdar Nanak Singh referred to in count one about the murder of Sirdar Lal Singh



Maharaja's Confidential Circular regarding viceroy's Pinjore-Shoot

MOTIBAGH PALACE,
PATIALA.

(2).

making other Police arrangements, and call[illegible]
Sirdar Lt. Bhawan Singh, A.S.P. for [illegible]
duties if necessary.

6. S.P. C.I.D. is solely responsible for making [illegible]
Cleary and his subordinate staff [illegible]
forthcoming during their stay at Pinjore.

Maharaja Bhupal.
15.4.24.

[As the blocks of Photo-Copies of the following letters could not be printed legibly, the same are given below in typography.]

Maharaja's remarks in his own hand-writing on the petition of Sirdar Kishan Singh

(In the following letter, the Maharaja's remarks are on the left, and are printed in italics)

To,

His Highness,
Shri 108 Maharaja Dhiraj,
Mohinder Bahadur of Patiala.

Your Highness,

Most humbly and respectfully I beg to lay the following facts for your kind perusal and sympathetic consideration.

Corruption

1. Since last one year or so Your Highness is unfavourably disposed towards me, and up till now I have not been ordered what fault I am responsible for.

2. The work of Bhupinder Kothi Pahari girls which was formerly supervised by me and Hazura Singhji is now taken away from me altogether, although I am yet unaware of its cause.

3. Dr. Ganga Bishen's removal and Dr. Narinjan Singh's appointment for Bhupender Kothi Medical supervision has also come, but I hope it will not be misunderstood that I had anything to do with Pt. Ganga Bishen or vice versa.

No

4. Tikka Raghunath Singh's attitude towards me as your Highness knows is inimical since Budha Singh has been promoted to the rank of Jamadar by your gracious Highness. I have already requested the Prime Minister to listen to me and satisfy Tikka Sahib to forgive me. I do not know whether the Prime Minister has done anything yet or not. I hear Tikka has also written a very long letter to the P. M. It is very unfortunate that both of the trusted servants of Your Highness have strained relations between themselves. I am told that Hazura Singhji who is my greatest enemy in these days has taken Tikka Sahib into his party and has made him make false complaints against me to Your Highness. I hear that a particular complaint has been made with regard to Harmel Kaur who was kept at Tikka Sahib's house under your express orders to await further instructions.

Will sack Tikka alsto B. S.

Yes, But not to ravage her. B. S.

5. I am told by a very respectable official of the State that Your Highness suspects that I have outraged the modesty of *Parbhi* in Bhupender Kothi and that she made a serious complaint against me to Your Highness when she was taken to the Palaces. I can swear by my only son that it is entirely false. How I could play with my master's trust–a person whom I consider as my mother. I am sure she is tutored to make a complaint against me.

Yes

6. Before leaving for Geneva Your Highness ordered me to look after the Kangra matter which I have done. The mother of the girl has been paid Rs. 2,000/– and I hope she will

not speak any more This I wanted to sumbit to you personally but since after Your Highness' return from Geneva Your Highness has scrupulously avoided to see me.

7. My devotion is just the same what it was before. According to your orders I have kept my wife in a regular prison and at the same time I am highly indebted to Your Highness for the action you took towards Sher Singh and Ghamdoor Singh, but now I hear that Your Highness is going to release them.

Believe me my kind master, that since last one week
Lie I have taken no food and pray that the charge of this responsible post may be taken from me and given to any one in whom Your Highness confides the most. In the end, may I request my gracious master to let
Why? me retire on pension.

P. S.
Bhupinder Singh
11-11-25

I have the honour to be,
Your Highness's
most obedient and devoted servant
S/d Kishan Singh
10-11-25

Letters from Sirdar Sunder Singh Majithia to Bhai Jai Singh, uncle of Nanak Singh

[*Translation from Gurmukhi*]

(1)

Sarya Estate,
Post Office Chori Chora.
Distt Gorakhpur. 31-12-19

God is One.

Shreeman Bhai Jai Singh Ji,

I have received your kind letter. The envelope which you mention in your letter under reference to have (been) sent before has not at all reached me. I have reached here leaving Amritsar on the 25th instant, and the same did not reach me there till then, nor here till now. This letter of yours dated the 25th instant is your first letter which I have received since you saw me.

I am glad to read it. Whatever God will do, will be the best. The truth should be told by which His Highness may be pleased and Nanak Singh's release may be possible. When the matter ends there is every possibility of achieving our end in view. All is well.

Yours own

(Signed in Gurmukhi) Sunder Singh Majethia

(2)

Simla
25-7-1920

God is one.

Sri Wahi Guru Ji Ki Fateh.
Shreeman Bhai Jai Singh Ji,

I have received your as well Trilok Singh Suri's letters. This reply would suffice for your letters.

Yours

(Signed in Gurmukhi) Sunder Singh Majethia.

Letter from Sirdar Gurnam Singh from Egypt

My dear Sardar Nanak Singh Sahab,

Praise be to Shree Vahi Guru !

You letter reached me on 26th June and I felt very glad at it. From the first I was quite sure of getting such a reply from you. My dear, now I am expecting ups and downs. I am straining my health a good deal, but the circumstances do not change. Your letter has been destroyed after perusal. As regards Kirtar Singh he must be positvely knowing. However everything will be done on his advice. He will not hesitate to act when asked. Anxiety of the life of my bai ba ..... is now intensely disturbing me. I am deeply thinking as to what I can do for the one who sacrificed for us. But I have grave misgivings about the life of ..... 15th July 1918.

Sd/ Gurnam Singh

MAHARAJA's CONFIDENTIAL CIRCULAR REGARDING VICEROY'S PINJORE-SHOOT

Motibagh Palace
Patiala.

Strictly Confidential. To be returned to us personally after Pinjaur Shoot.

Note of instructions for Superintendent of Police C. I. D. in Connection with Viceroy's visit at Pinjore.

1. To note that no villager may have access to H. E. or his staff to make any complaints with regard to Begar.
2. That relatives of Pahari girls do not approach H. E. or his staff with any petitions.
3. That Amar Singh of Rurki does not appear anywhere in or near the Camp with any representation.
4. During H. E. 's stay at Pinjore our menial servants do not mix up with H E.'s ministerial establishment or menials.

5. S. P. C. I. D. should always remain with Mr. Cleary and watch all movements and report to us if there is anything of interest.

6. As far as possibbe C. I. D. men in plain clothes should not be in evidence.

7. S. P. C. I. D. should assist Col. Amrik Singh in making other Police arrangements and can utilize Sirdar Lt. Bhagwan Singh A. S. P. for detective duties if necessary.

8. S. P. C. I. D. is solely responsibbe for making Mr. Cleary and his subordinate staff perfectly comfortable during their stay in Pinjore.

Sd. BHUPINDER SINGH
Maharaja Dhiraj
15-4-24.

PINJORE

The letter of Sir Daya Kishan Kaul to Sirdar Nanak Singh referred to in count one about the murder of Sirdar Lal Singh

Strictly Confidential

Chail
July 2. 18

Dear Sardar Nanak Singh

Since you last met me at Patiala and reported to me the absence from Headquarters of the man towards Sangrur, you have not informed me what progress the matter has since made. If you have settled anything definite with him, please let me know. You know I do not believe in what may eventually turn out to be a mere hoax.

Yours Sincerely
Sd/. Daya Kishan Kaul

Appendix G

IMPORTANT STATEMENTS RECEIVED AFTER THE ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

IMPORTANT STATEMENTS RECEIVED AFTER THE ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

(1)

Statement of Sardar Bhagwan Singh

[*Sardar Bhagwan Singh is one of the signatories to the Memorial presented to H. E. the Viceroy.*]

Statement of S. Bhagwan Singh S/o Rur Singh, caste Zamindar, Village Langowal, Patiala State, aged 38 years.

The witness on solemn affirmation stated that : Since the time of Maharaja Bhupindar Singh's enthronement, unrest and tyrannies are prevailing in the State. Instead of maintaing peace and order and administering justice. His Highness launched on a life of debuchery, treachery, hunting etc. and thus made the Darbar of Patiala a house of all vices. For this purpose His Highness enlisted in his staff persons who would help him in his vicious designs. From one end to the other of the State people are talking of His Hignness' debauchery, dance, drinking, hunts etc., It has become an open scandal in every village.

Evil-doers, to win over the favour and rewards of the Maharaja began to visit villages in search of beautiful virgins as well as married women and abduct them away in broad daylight to offer them to High Hignness. Thus they often obtained high offices in the State.

Because the abduction of the girls of helpless and unprotected State-subjects had become the source of livelihood with some people, whoever went to complain against this immoral offence to the authorities was, instead of receiving justice, made to breathe the air of jail and put to various sorts of troubles. According to the saying "The ruler is the mould of subjects" the subordinates

of this Prince were also the birds of the same feathers who, many a time, in order to obtain high offices, offered their own young and innocent daughters to His Highness and are consequently raised to their coveted high offices. Whoever hesitated to pacify the lust of this Prince, was at once thrown into jail without any trial. There are several instances of this type. This lusty tyrant violated the chastity of many women belonging to respectable and reputed families by getting them abducted forcibly. The true stories are on the tongue of all males and females of the State.

Therefore, on seeing this sort of affairs, my mind rebelled against this tyrannical and beastly rule, and I resolved to stop the abduction and the evil plans of the ruler. I discussed this matter with many other people and narrated all such misdeeds in the meetings of the Akali Jatha. Then a strong voice of opposition was raised against His Highness and his agents in a large public meeting of Akali Jatha at Dhuri in 1921 where large number of State subjects of Patiala had also assembled Resolutions were passed to this effect. At this, instead of abstaining from the vile acts His Highness got furious and resolved on doing more Zulam. He levied new taxes and started to exact forced labour. He laid waste extensive land for his hunting purposes. I along with all my co-workers was arrested and sentenced to a long imprisonment of eight years and one month, with fine of Rs. 1800/. Many false and concocted charges of dacoity and illegal confinement and detention were brought against me. My only fault was that I protested against His Highness misrule and did propaganda in public to this effect.

When I entered the Patiala Cental Jail, to my utter astonishment I found many innocent personages, including three Sardars, Amirs, Wazirs, and other officers of the State imprisoned for not complying with the immoral proposals of this debauch Prince. They had withstood all the temptations of His Highness and had not offered their married daughters and ladies. Amongst them the name of Sardar Jiwan Singh is worth mentioning. He was an Ex-

-Diwan of the State, who preferred to undergo the hardships of the Jail instead of offering his wife. I found him locked up day and night in a solitary cell and saw the head-convicts many a time beating this self-respecting and bold Sardar. Besides I saw Sardar Gurdial Singh Dhak, who told me most shameful and self -debasing story. He struck his forehead with the palm of his hand and with eyes full of tears he disclosed his story : how he offered his young virgin daughter to His Highness; how being immature and very young she could not bear the shock of the intercourse with a big beast; and how she died as a result of an intercourse with His Highness; how instead of favouring him His Highness had put him into the prison to stop the publicity of this vile act. He was complaining of this injustice. But I found the other convicts in general saying, "he is reaping the seeds that he has sown.'

In this connection, I also met another Sardar named Ghamdur Singh, but his condition was totally different from other interned Sardars. He was simply interned in name, otherwise he was leading the life of great comforts in the Jail and was supplied with all kinds of conveniences privilleges. He was given decent food and fruits to eat; a big cot to sleep, and two convicts to attend upon him. I inquired the reason of this difference in treatment from my fellow-prisoners. They told me a very thrilling and dreadful story of it: how His Highness expressed to Sardar Lal Singh his intention of marrying Dalip Kaur the wife of the said Sardar who was His Highness's father-in-Law, and asked Sardar Lal Lingh to divorce his wife; how S. Lal Singh refused to do so and then finally how His Highness engaged S. Ghamdur Singh for murderiug S. Lal Singh; how Ghamdur Singh with the aid and counsel of S. Harnam Singh Kadon and one Kaka Singh committeed the bloody and shameful crime of putting an end to the life of S. Lal Singh; then how His Highness in order to save himself from the hostile criticism of the public and the suspicion of the British Government put his fellow-accomplice nominally into Jail. I was simply shocked to heart his tragic story. I thought that I had heard about such things outside but now

had seen it with proof inside, and determined to disclose all these facts to the public after my release. I had served only 14 months' imprisonment when in common with others I was released.

According to the vow that I took while in the jail I started telling people all those stories which I had heard from different Sardars during my stay in Jail. Public meetings were held at different country-places, where speeches were delivered against the immoral acts of His Highness and his agents. Resolutions were passed, at which the people bit their fingers between their teeth in utter astonishment and terror.

During this time, a religious public meeting was convened at my village Langowal in 1924. I had already offended His Highness personally and his other officers by my open rebellious propaganda against their corruption. I was arrested under the charge of sedition under sections 124 A I. P. C. for delivering seditious speeches at that Diwan, I stood my trial and was sentenced to four years.' term of imprisonment, the forfeiture of my property to the State and a fine of Rs. 500/- I welcomed this conviction and was taken to Bathinda Jail. Dr. Bakhshis Singh and nine other Akalis were arrested and convicted along with me. I was put to different kinds of tortures which all have been published by now in details in newspapers. We all three were kept in Jail with Sardar Nanak Singh Ex-Superintendent C. I. D. Patiala State, Sardar Harnam Singh Kadon and Kaka Singh in solitary cells. We started to cultivate acquaintance. with them. At times we were taken out of the cells and we used to talk with them. I heard the whole story of the murder of S. Lal Singh from them. Sardar Nanak Singh told me that he had been allotted the work of putting an end to S. Lal Singh's life, for the execution of which His Highneess had given him a big sum. But he said he had always used to put is off. S. Harnam Singh Kadon told me that S. Ghamdur Singh who was to actually do the bloody deed had told him that if he would finish S. Lal Singh he would be given a high office in the State in addition to the monthly remu-

neration. So he said he with the assistance of his friend Kaka Singh and S. Ghamdur Singh had murdered Sardar Lal Singh.

S. Nank Singh told me that at all times he had tried to prevent the commission of this shameful and black deed, but in spite of his efforts S. Ghamdur Singh, with the active assistance of S. Harnam Singh Kadon and Kaka Singh had succeeded at last in killing S. Lal Singh. This is known all over the country like a favourite song.

Nanak Singh further said; "to prove my fidelity to His Highness and to throw dust into the eyes of the public with the joint and common agreement I have taken over the responsibility of that black and inhuman crime upon myself, for which the Maharaja had promised me an early release. This is however the result of my fidelity and honesty; that I am rotting in jail under untold miseries uptil now." The above facts were corroborated by S. Harnam Singh of Kadon.

At last the Jail authorities some how or other came to know of our daily meeting over this topic and we were shut in separate cells and were subjected to mal-treatment. To add insult to our everyday torture they began to mix tobacco in our daily food against our religious beliefs. They annoyed and teased us in this way for many days. No remedy being left to us, we three started hunger strike. At this we all three were subjected to harsh violence. At 3 P. M. on 23rd Bhadon 1925 A. D. and at 8 in the night the same day I was beaten so severely that I became unconscious. If a Mohamedon Havaldar had not intervened that day, my fate would have been quite different. He dismissed the previous warder and posted his own subordinate warders in front of my cell and said that he would not permit this sort of inhuman beating even at the risk of losing his service.

At last early in the morning on the 24th Bhadon 1925 A. D. the Jailor came to me in the cell when I was in a very week state of health, exhorted me to take food, but I replied, "first we all three may be put together." Jailor said "It is impossible." After

that they inserted a long tube into my throat and fed me forcibly with milk, which made my condition still worse. At 11 in the night the same day a convict came to me, opened the cell and carried me on his shoulders to the Jail-gate. S. Sham Sher Singh was also brought there. We both asked the jailor as to where Dr. Gurmukh Singh was. We were told that Dr. Gurmukh had already been despatched to Bathinda jail, by the 11 o'clock train under custody of the Police-guards. We reached there at 4 in the evening. A sweeper convict had also accompanied us from the Patiala Central Jail to Bhatinda. On reaching there I enquired from the Akali prisoners of that place if Dr. Gurmukh Singh had also arrived there. At this the sweeper-convict who had come with us informed us that Doctor Sahib had been cremated in the Central Jail Patiala, where he expired as a result of the voilence used on him. We felt it very much. Being pressed hard by other Akalis, I then broke the hunger-strike.

Then came the release of all Sikh leaders by the British Government and so, we were also set free some time after that.

All this had impressed us very much. Having heard the heart-rending stories of murder and abduction and having known the sad death of Dr. Gurmukh Singh during my jail sojourn, my mind began to hate the Maharaja more bitterly and further strengthened my resolution of terminating the gross tyrannical misrule of this Prince. I also made up my mind to approach the British Government with a petition to right the wrongs done by the Prince to his subjects and to tell the people in the State about the stories of the Maharaja's lust and intrigues.

With this aim in view, I gave an open invitation to the aggrieved subjects, in order collect from them the different instances of debauchery, abduction and similar other Zulum in details.

Then in a meeting of the Parja Mandal some members were allotted the work of going into the villages and collect this material. When we got all the possible materials, we arranged it in the form of a memorial and got it signed by S. Nand

Singh Ugar Ahan, S. Sajjan Singh Bapiana, S. Sant Singh Tehsil Rajpura, S. Bahag Singh Khaila and others in concurrence with the opinion of the whole public of Patiala; because they had gone to the villages for holding inquiries into the grievances of the subjects on behalf of the Parja Mandal.

This Memorial was sent to the Government of India, Imperial parliament in Great Britian and All India States' People's Conference Bombay, with a request to hold an inquiry into this state of affairs. The occurrences given in the Memorial were collected by the above mambers and myself and are supported by proofs.

(2)

Statement of Bhai Jagat Singh

[*Bhai Jagat Singh was a companion of Bijla Singh in the Bomb Factory Conspiracy.*]

Statement of Bhai Jagat Singh S/O Bhai Pehhor Singh Akliana Thawbale Chem, Hosharpore.

I used to live in Chak No. 50 Dist. Loyalpore where Bijla Singh met me and we both went to Loyalpore. As People of Chak No. 50 knew Bijla Singh very well, therefore I came to be acquainted with him. Bhai Bijla Singh wrote to me a letter from Bhaini (Nabha) to see him there. I accordingly went there. On my arrival there Bijla Singh asked me to stay with him as he had some particular work to be done by me. I went to see Bhai Bakshis Singh of Chak 38 at Rohtak. On my return from Rohtak Bijla Singh gave me a letter to hand it over to Bhai Ram Singh Dharowala at Amritsar. I gave the letter to Bhai Ram Singh at Amritsar. When I was ready to leave for my Chak Bhai Ram Singh requested me to bear a letter from him to Bijla Singh. In those days the Morcha at Guru Ka Bagh had been started and I went with one of the Jathas in Morcha and

so could not take his letter. I received some beating in the Morcha, and was sent to Hospital. During these days Bijla Singh had sent a man, named Jota Singh, who had gone to Bagh to find me out. I could not be found there. He then met me at Amritsar and told me that Bijla Singh wanted me. We both left Amritsar. When we reached Bhaini we found that Bijla Singh had gone to Nabha. Then we found Bijla Singh in a Gurdawara at Nabha. During our talk Bijla Singh told me that he received a sum of Rs. 60/- from Nabha State and he further asked me to put up with him and serve him to bring and convey messages. Then I decided to stay with him and used to carry his messages and execute his orders. He used to feed me.

One day I was sent with a letter to Ram Singh and I took Ram Singh of Dharowal to Bhuler Heri where we found Bijla Singh also. They both met there privately. The following other persons were also present; Kishan Singh, Mit Singh, Kala Singh, mother of Kishan Singh of Bhaini and myself with my wife Saran Kaur. Bhai Ram Singh came back after seeing Bijla Singh and after that Ram Singh used to see him frequently at Bhular Heri.

One day Bijla Singh told me that Patiala people were saying that they would cancel his warrants if he would consent to live in Patiala. This fact was mentioned by Bhai Ram Singh to Bijla Singh. To ascertain this Bijla Singh sent me to Ram Singh of Dharowal because he suspected that Bhai Ram Singh might perhaps entrap him into the hands of Patiala. I and Ram Singh both met Pandit Daya Kishan Kaul who corroborated the statement of Ram Singh and satisfied me and told me that they would settle the matter of warrants against Bijla Singh with the British Government, and that should not mind that. Pandit gave me a sum of Rs. 100/- the receipt of which I gave to Ram Singh. I then returned to Bhuler Heri and gave that money to Bijla Singh. From that day Bijla Singh began to receive 100/- from Patiala and Rs. 60/- from Nabha out of which he used to pay Rs. 20/- to

Bhai Kala Singh of Bhaini; the rest he used to keep himself to buy arms.

A pistol of 11 bullets was bought for Rs. 300/- which is now deposited at patiala and another of 5 bullets for Rs. 100/- which was of ivory handle. That too was deposited at Patiala. Besides these, guns were bought with the Patiala money and they wereal so deposited in Patiala. Bhai Bijla Singh again sent me to Patiala to ask Panditji for more money for bying arms. Bhai Ram Singh was sick in those days, therefore I went alone to see Panditji. Pandit inquired from the Maharaja on phone that a man from Bijla Singh named Jagat Singh had come and demand more money for the arms. Maharaja ordered him to pay me as much as I wanted. Panditji gave the sum of Rs. 500/- which I gave to Bijla Singh at Bhular Heri. Bijla Singh sent me to the Patiala authorities to inform them that we were ready. Pandit Daya Kishan Kaul instructed us to wait till he obtained permission from the Maharaja. After consulting Maharaja, Panditji asked us still to stay at Bhular Heri and further added that we could have whatever we required; the same time he asked us to keep the Patiala authorities well-informed of everything that happened in Nabha State. I conveyed these words to Bijla Singh accordingly. Bijla Singh wrote a letter to Pandit containing the names of several persons, mentioning also that he had received Rs. 500/- which I took to him from Patiala. Instead of going to Patiala I went to Nabha with the letter and met Col. Kala Singh. I asked him to arrange an interview with the Maharaja Sahib of Nabha. At first he promised me that he would arrange my interview but after a while he told me that Maharaja Sahab could not see me. But he further told me that he could arrange for the interview with Gurdial Singh; but I did not think it worth while to deliver that letter to Gurdial Singh as I was told by Pandit that Gurdial Singh was paid by the Maharaja Patiala. Therefore I went to Patiala State and delivered the letter to Pandit Daya kishan Kaul. Pandit detained me there saying that he had something to do with me. The

next day Pandit asked me the number of men we had and I asked him the nature of work. He told me his object. Moharaja told us that he would be indebted to us for that piece of business for his whole life. I came back to Bhular Heri and there we met together to decide as to which persons to be retained in the party. We sent a message to Kala Singh of Nabha to the effect that we did not like to remain there and that our residence should be changed. Our residence was changed to Bhalwan. We sent Harbans Singh of Khetri and asked him to bring Dr. Bakshis Singh with them. He brought Dr. Bakshis Shingh. Bijla Singh requested Dr. Bakhshish Singh to manufacture some bombs for which he would be paid whatever money the Patiala authorities would give us. We paid Rs. 301 to Doctor Bakshis Singh at the very moment and requested him to manufacture bombs. He gave us a promise to supply the bombs and left for Salvarah village. Bhai Ram Singh sent to Babu Jaint Singh to report as to what the party of Bijla Singh was doing. After seeing the Jatha Bijla Singh went back to Amritsar and afterwards Bijla Singh sent me to find out Bhai Ram Singh. I reached Amritsar and met Bhai Ram Singh who told me that Kishan Singh Gargaj wanted him and I should accompany him. We left for Bhai Kishan Singh Gargaj and saw him at Paragpure (Jullundhar). After giving him money we came back and brought with us a few papers and then I went to Bhalwan (Nabha) and Ram Singh went to Amritsar.

Bijla Singh wrote to Patiala authorities that Nabha authorities had come to know of their relations with Patiala and requested them to let them live in Patiala State because it had become impossible for them to stay there longer. We left for Patiala three or four days earlier than the appointed time.

We were instructed by Patiala authorities to bring any arm bearing the mark of Nabha State and also leave certain hidden things at the palace where we were living.

A day preceeding our departure from Bhalwan I brought from Col. Kala Singh's son a gun which bore Nabha insign. We

left some cartridges, some powder and certain letters in the house which was occupied by Bijla Singh.

I was sent to Bhawani Garh from where I phoned to Pandit Daya Kishan Kaul about our arrival and Pandit informed me that he with Ram Singh was coming. Then Pandit, Bhai Ram Singh and Ujagar Singh reached Bhawani Garh. On their orders the Tehsildar brought us a horse to a place on a roadside and gave it to us. We left Bhawni Garh at night and reached Bishan Pure, a village in Nabha State. At that place we found six or seven motor cars.

It was about 10 or 11 P. M. in the night. These cars were occupied by two or three English officers and some military soldiers. Each of us was seated in a separate car, we were disarmed and taken to Moti Bagh Patiala, where Bijla Singh, Jagat Singh, Aishan Singh, Harband Singh and Sundar Singh Kheri met together. We took our food there early in the morning. When we woke up we found the Maharaja Patiala among us. Maharaja at first addressed me and said "Bhai Jagat Singh. whatever you have done is alright, I trust you all; and you should be ready to accompany Bijla Singh to Lahore." He satisfied the others also by saying that they had done well.

The Maharaja took Bijla Singh in a separate room and talked about some confidential matter. We at once left for Lahore in Maharaja Sahab's own motor. At our departure Maharaja gave a sum of Rs. 100/- to Liacat Hayat Khan D. S. P. C. I. P. which was meant for our expenses. Maharaja Sahab instructed him to provide us all the comforts. We stayed at Lahore for 19 days and for the whole period Bijla Singh had been giving his statement. During the night time we were put into the lock-up room and during the day I could go to the city or cook my food and Bijla Singh was busy giving his statements.

Bijla Singh was all along placed under strict surveillance. During our stay at Lahore Bhai Ram Singh of Dharowalia twice came to see us and he delivered us the message of Maharaja

Sahab that we should not mind being placed in this trouble. After 19 days the same car of Patiala took us from Lahore along with Liaqat Hussain Khan and Sadhoo Singh Sub-Inspector C. I. D. to Patiala. We were entertained in the Kothi of Royal guest-house for two days. After that we were entertained in the Kothi of Bahadur garh fort where we were conveyed by the Maharja. We were taken in a closed car. The screens were put upon the doors. There we were taken to the Royal Palace and there we were introduced to the following men :

Mehar Singh Salana (Nabha), Kartar Singh Salana (Nabha), Pakhar Singh Salana (Nabha), Dr. Bakhshis Singh and Harnam Singh Khetre (Ludhiana).

With these persons the manufacturing of bombs was started and Maharaja used to visit every third day. Maharaja used to back up us during his visit saying that we should not fear as he was responsible and we should go on manufacturing bombs. I was sent to see Babars in my District Hoshiarpore and to deliver them certain things.

After doing this I went again to Patiala. Besides I met them (Babars) two or three times. The bombs that were manufactured at Bahadur Garh were buried secretly in Nabha State. The persons employed in burying the bombs were as under :

Bhai Harnam Singh Khetri, Harban Singh Khetri, Mahar Singh and Sundar Singh Khetri. They were assisted by some state officers (Patiala) who went in their own cars. On return Dr. Bakshis Singh fully informed of the place where the bombs were buried. Then Dr. Bakshis Singh was taken to Roper. He took his family also with him. Fictitious telegrams were sent to Patiala from Roper. Dr. Bakshis Singh was brought to Patiala and was lodged in a bungalow.

Bhagwan Dass, Supdt. of C. I. D. was deputed to record his statement. After taking a few notes he said that he would make the rest of the statement next day.

Before giving the statement Dr. Bakshis Singh had sent a copy of the diary to the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbhandhak Committee Amritsar. The Patiala authorities were informed of this by some one from Amritsar. Dr. Bakshis Singh had also come to know about it. He escaped during the night time out of fear. As there was strict guard, he could not take his family with him. Next day his children aud wife were conveyed to Bahadur Garh fort. After great deal of search his wife Bibi Bichiter Kaur was pressed hard to disclose the whereabouts of the Doctor. As she refused to tell them as to where the Doctor had gone, she was beaten severely. Then as a result of this beating she deposed that the Doctor had escaped whith the help of Bhai Jagat Singh.

They also abused me and pressed me hard to give them the clue, but I pleaded innocent. Letters and bomb matetials were discovered from the Bahadur Garh fort and from the guest house. Bibi Bichiter kaur, who refused to disclose the secet, was so shamelessly tortured that one feels ashamed to repeat it. As she was pregnant she fell ill and gave birth to a baby (daughter). A doctor was sent by the authorities to her. I did not know what the doctor used to give her, but she died.

After her demise our party was given salaries and lands in Birh Chhat and we were instructed not to mention anything relating to this incident to any man.

We were also given a Sarkari Kothi in Bir Chhat. There as a result of bomb-explosion Bhai Mehar Singh's arm was injured. After staying there for about a year I and Bhai Mehar Singh left the land and came to our own village.

Then Maharaja Sahib sent us a message that if we did not like to live with Bijla Singh we would be given land at other places. We consented to it and we said that the land be given to us at separate places.

I was given a piece of land in the Ghan Jungles near Tapa Railway Station but I did not take posession of the land and wrote to Maharaja that I was going to my house and needed no land.

Then on my refusal to take the land Patiala authorities offered us the choice of taking land on some water side. On the pretext of giving us lands, we the under-mentioned seven people were arrested :

Ram Singh, myself, Harnam Singh, Harbans Singh, Mehar Singh, Partap Singh and Babu Jaimal Singh; and we were detained for 14 months. In the month of Jeth 1928 we were released and told that we were kept only for the sake of keeping watch over us because Maharaja was a bit afraid of us, but that in reality Maharaja was very pleased with us. We were also told that we should not fear and we would be given the same right as before and same lands as before. After release I went to recieve my monthly salary two or three times. Then I ceased to go. Then Bishan Singh Sub Inspector C. I. D. wrote to me letters which are in my possession at present; I did not go and replied that I had work to do and I would not come as I was afraid that I might be arrested again as before.

(3)

Statement of Bhai Mehar Singh

[*Bhai Mehar Singh was a companion of Bijla Singh in the Bomb Facory Conspirary.*]

Statement of Bhai Mehar Singh S/o Nihal Singh of Salana (Nabha).

I am of Salana village in the Nabha State. I went to see Harnam Singh Khetri at Patiala, where he told me that Bijla Singh aud Ram Singh Dharowalia had asked him that they were told by Maharaja Patiala that I (Mehar Singh) should inform the Patiala authorities more about the Nabha authorities.

It was arranged that at first I should be paid Rs. 40/-per month and that afterwards when I would satisfy them with the informatian I should be paid Rs. 70/-P. M. I lived in the Guest House which was in charge of Maratab Ali.

Somebody informed Patiala authorities that the authorities at Nabha had come to know about me. Then I was taken to Bahadur Garh Fort from Patiala.

The undermentioned persons with other party were also there : Bijla Singh, Ram Singh Dharowalia, Dr. Bakshish Singh with his wife Bibi Bichittar Kaur and his son Brijinder Singh. One day during night at about 8 or 9 P. M. Maharaja came there and addressing Dr. Bakshis Singh, Bijla Singh, Ram Singh Dharowalia, Kartar Singh Salana and Sunder Singh Kheri, directed them to begin to manufacture bombs. Ghipiwala, which was a part of the Royal place, was suggested for the storage of the material and the bombs thus manufactured.

All materials for the manufacture of bombs were brought by the Maharaja himself from some druggists and powder was supplied from the Magazine of the State.

Once more Maharaja came there with the Sardar of Deori and asked if the bombs were ready. Bijla Singh said that they were ready. Reaching Patiala Maharaja sent two motor cars with two Sub-Inspectors of Police and two police-men. Sub-Inspectors had pistols with them.

Dr. Bakhshish Singh gave one bag containg several bombs to Harnam Singh Khetri. As I was in the Guest House on that day, one Sub-Inspector with Bhai Harnam Singh and a police-man came to me in a motor at about 6. p. m. and asked me to accompany them.

We were supplied with a Battery and Khurpa (a weapon for digging earth) and some sweetmeat to eat.

They started the motor and reached Dhuri via Dhoda and Sangrur. When we reached the bank of the canal of Babanpur

and Harigarah the motor was stopped near the bridge. Then the Sub-Inspector took us with him and we went to the garden of S. Kala Singh at Bhaini, a village in the Nabha State. There was a house in the garden. The Sub-Inspector measured the place which was about six yards from the house. After measuring he asked Bhai Harnam Singh to dig a pit there which was dug accordingly. The above-mentioned bag, which contained bombs, was buried there, and then we came to the motor and reached Dhode. Lala Hari Chand Tahsildar of Banur who was in charge of this was present at Dhode. We took our meals there and went to Patiala where we informed the Maharaja about this in detail.

After a few days Dr Bakhshish Singh was sent to Roper for giving his statement before the European Officer that the Maharaja of Nabha used to manufacture bombs through him to be thrown on the Prince of Wales. The Doctor was fully informed about the place where the bombs were buried. They stayed at Roper in the Gurdawara Bhate Sahib. Dr. Bakhshish Singh sent a diary of the above Conspiracy to the Shiromoni G. P. Committee Amritsar, informing them that the Maharaja was preparing a bomb conspiracy against the Maharaja Nabha and the S. G. P. C. through him, that the bombs were buried in the Nabha territory and that he had to give a statement before an European Officer. He further requested that it should not be considered as a true statement.

Dr. Bakhshish Singh was then taken to Patiala where he was entertained in the Guest House. Patiala authorities came to know from Amritsar that the S. G. P. C. has received a letter against Maharaja Patiala for which an inquiry was about to be held. The Doctor also came to know of it and being afraid, escaped during the night. After his escape, his wife with his son was taken to Bahadurgarah Fort. Four or five days afterwards the Maharaja came to the Fort and asked Bijla Singh to enquire of Bibi Bachitttar Kaur about the things, which the Doctor had concealed. From the same day Bibi Bachitrar Kaur began to be beaten severely. She was so shamlessly tortured that all her clo-

things were taken off, she was made naked and she was also hung to the roof by tying her hair. Besides this chillies were deposited in her private part and rape was committed upon her by many men by the order of the Maharaja. When she was thus compelled she told them about some things concealed. As she was in the state of pregnancy she gave birth to a baby daughter. After a few days she fell ill. Dr Balmokand was appointed to attend to her by the Maharaja.

Once again the Maharaja came there and enquired about the health of the wife of his enemy (Dr. Bakhshish Singh). Moreover he consoled them saying that they should not mind about it for Dr. Bakhshish Singh could do nothing against them, "as he was an independent ruler and might do what he liked in his fort."

Bijla Singh informed the Maharaja that the Doctor's wife was ill. The Maharaja replied that he would send a doctor with his instructions. Next day Dr Balmokand came in a motor and gave her medicine. When the medicine was given to her she refused to take it saying that it was poison. On the next day according to the instructions of the Maharaja Bijla Singh forcibly poured the poison into her mouth which caused her death. When the Maharaja was informed of her death he ordered to burn her dead body in the fort, so that no one might come to know about it. She was burnt accordingly and her ashes were dispersed in the ditch of the fort by Sunder Singh. Her son and the daughter were placed under the care of Dhan Kaur the wife of Pakhar singh Salana.

After a few days the Maharaja came there and told us that we had satisfied him with our help and that it was through our kindness that he had defeated his enemy. (the Maharaja of Nabha) He further added that he would never overlook our services. He further added that he would give a grant of land in the Bir of Chhat and Rupees fifty monthly to every one. The State would supply us with quarters also.

We lived for a year in the Bahader Garh Fort where we were guarded by the military soldiers, and none of us was allowed to go out without permission.

After distributing prizes to us, we were taken to Banur Thana which was specially evacuated for us. Prem Kaur the wife of Bijla Singh joined us there.

One day when the daughter of Dr. Bakhshish Singh was crying Prem Kaur put her to death by pressing hard her neck saying that she was the daughter of their enemy. Her dead body was burnt in the Thana and her ashes were thrown in the canal by Kartar Singh Salana.

We were informed by the authorities that they had decided about our lands and we should have to go to Chhat Bir. We complied with the above orders. Next day we received orders there from the Maharaja to see him at Patiala at Moti Bagh. The motors were arranged to convey us to Patiala by the Maharaja. We reached Moti Bagh with our families. The Maharaja came with Buta Ram, Kishan Singh and Sardar Deori. Daya Kishan Kaul the Prime Minister met us near Lachhman Jhhula. There he rewarded us each with Rs. 125/-, a dress costing Rs. 25/-, and a Siri Sahib (sword). Our wives were also rewarded with dresses costing Rs. 25/- each. After distribution of the rewards the Maharaja thanked us very much and we were asked to go back to Chhat Bir.

Many rogues used to see Bijla Singh there, and we could not bear it. We complained about it to Patiala authorities. We were there upon given lands at different places in the Patiala State. Dewan Diya Kishan Kaul had left Patiala State at that time, After that the Maharaja sent for Ram Singh Dharowalia through Amrik Singh and told him that he would pay Rs. 400/-more to our party for expenses and we should have to live in the Sanur Fort for the future. We agreed to this. After six or seven months, S. Hazoora Singh, I. G. of Police, S. Gurdial Singh, in charge of the C, I. D. and S. Bharpoor Singh Inspector of Police

came to us in the fort and said that Maharaja Patiala wanted to send the Maharaja of Nabha somewhere away from Dehra Dun. For this, they would supply us with some bombs and letters from the Bolshevisks, as ordered by the Maharaja. The bombs were to be buried in the Kothi of Maharaja Nabha at Dehra Dun and the letters were to be placed in the houses of some nationalist leaders. Moreover, a motor was to be supplied to us to kidnap S. Diwan Singh Maftun from Delhi and to bring him to the Patiala territory. We replied that we would think over it. After thinking for som etime, we decided tha tit was a very bad move for us. What was done was done. But thence we refused to do that. The refusal reached the Maharaja. We were sent for to Patiala on the pretext that we would be rewarded with more lands. We were arrested in the C. I. D. Office there.

We were kept in prison for about fourteen month, where several false cases were instituted against us. After fourteen months we were released. The authorities addressing us said that they had got the Maharaja away from Dehra Dun, therefore there was no need to keep us in the prison then, and they therefore released us; that we might enjoy all our previous concessions that we had before admittance to the jail. They asked us to be loyal to the Maharaja.

After that, we went two or three times to Patiala for our salaries and then ceased to go. We were afraid that the State may again arrest us as before on some false charges. For some time I used to live in my own native village Salana and afterwards left that also. Fearing that the Nabha State may hand me over to the Patiala authorities, I took my residence in British territorries..

Sd/ Mehar Singh Salana

(4)

Statement of Harnam Singh

[*Bhai Harnam Singh was a companion of Bijla Singh in the Bomb Factry Conspirary.*]

Statement of Bhai Harnam Singh village Khatre, Distt. Ludhiana Illaqa Sarhind.

I state what is nothing but truth on oath. I am a resident of village Khatre. Bhai Bijla Singh has his relations in our village. That is how I am so thoroughly acquainted with him. When he had gone to Patiala, he sent me a message through Bhai Harbans Singh to see him there. I enquired from Bhai Harbans Singh how he had managed to enter Patiala State, when there were warrants agianst him in the State. Bhai ji replied that Bijla Singh had cultivated close relations with His Highness. Bijla Singh had also promised His Highness to blackmail the Maharaja of Nabha. I accompanied Bhai Harbans Singh to Patiala. I was taken to a kothi outside Bahadur Garh Fort. The kothi was screened around. The people in the vicinity were told that the kothi was occupied by Maharanees. I met Bhai Bijla Singh, Bhai Kishan Singh, Bhai Sunder Singh Khetri, Bhai Kartar Singh Kakarwal (Nabha State), Dr. Bakhshish Singh, his wife and his children inside. There were several dependants besides. Baba Wadhawa Singh used to bring tea, sweet-meats and foods etc. for us, I stayed there for three or four days. One day I asked Bijla Singh the nature of business for which I had been sent for. He told me that I should procure him two or three such Nabha subjects who would consent to give false evidence of various sort. I gave my consent to it and further enquired the rate of pay that they could be given. He told me that he would give them a start of Rs. 50/- P. M. and on approval of their work they will be given a promotion of Rs. 20/- They will be given travelling allowance and return fare for the journey they undertook on behalf of Patiala. After four days Muratab Ali in charge of the Ladies' guest-house came to us with

closed Buggis and said that he had been sent by H. H. to take us all to Bahadur Garh Fort as that place was not safe. We were accordingly carried to Bahadur Garh Fort. There, the inmates were instructed not to mention to any one outside that any man or woman had come into the Fort. I stayed there for about four days. Then I was given Rs. 20/- to fetch those men. I went to my village and despatched Harbans Singh and Bhai Jowahar Singh of Salana to Bahadur Garh Fort. This man was my old acquaintance. After four days I sent Bhai Mehar Singh of Salana to Bahadur Garh Fort. I told him to meet Harbans Singh and Bhai Jowahar Singh there, who would escort him further. I told him that in the beginning he would be given Rs. 20/- P. M. Then he would he given an increment of Rs. 20/- next month, if he proved useful and diligent. I warned him to work secretly and cautiously lest the authorities may come to know of his work and may confiscate his property. I also made it clear to him that if he proved to be clever His Highness would grant him property worth double his own. On his arrival Bhai Mehar Singh was sent to the Nabha territory to bring some intelligence. After a week Bhai Jowahar Singh came back to his village with the permission of Bhai Bijla Singh for a week under a pretext to see his wife. On his arrival at Khatre he plainly told me that he did not intend to go back. He said he had sufficient property of his own and his uncle had a big money-lending concern. So, there was the danger of confiscation of his property by Nabha, if discovered. I said "Alright, if you don't intend to go back, you should not mention this fact to any one else, because we were on the first day pledged not to disclose this secret to any one." Two persons more from Salana (Bhai Sham Singh and Bhai Kartar Singh) were procured for this purpose by some other man who had also gone to Bahadur Garh fort. I also reached there. There I saw Bhai Bijla Singh and Bhai Ram Singh Dharowalia talking with Pandit Daya Kishan Kaul. They asked me the reason for overstaying at my village. Then they told me

that H. H. will see me in the evening and will satisfy me thoroughly as to the rewards that he had promised for my honestly doing the work in obedience to his wishes. At night at 10 o'clock H. H. Sardar Kishan Singh Deohri Officer, and Dewan Daya Kishan Kaul came to us and assured us that if we should do the work whole-heartedly in obedience to his (H. H's) orders, he would give us handsome remunerations and kothies constructed at state expense. He promised us also to supply us with all possible comforts. He said that the Maharaja Nabha was not to remain long on his throne. Then H. H. took Bhai Bijla Singh and Bhai Ram Singh Dharowalia aside and told him certain things. After about four days I again went to my village, where I only stayed for about four days. I again went back to Bahadur Garh fort. There I found Bhai Bijla Singh, Dr. Bakhshish Singh, Bhai Kartar Singh Salana, Bhai Kartar Singh Kakarwalia and Bhai Sundar Singh Khetri putting up in Royal Ladies' quarters. None else was permitted to come inside. These five men used to work inside for long hours. Later on, H. H. came to us there and asked us if the bombs had been manufactured. We said everything had been done according to H. H.'s orders. and we were waiting for his next orders. H. H. told us that he would send some Police officers with motor-cars to carry us to certain places in the Nabha territory and we were to bury those bombs under the instructions of Police officers. Then H. H. went away. In the evening at six o'clock arrived two Sub-Inspectors of Police and two policemen in motor-cars who had pistols with them. They asked us to be ready with the bombs that we had manufactured and to go with them. Bhai Bijla Singh and Ram Singh Dharowalia appointed me for this work and further directed me to take Bhai Mehar Singh with me from Patiala on my way. Doctor Bakhshish Singh gave me an earthen pot full of bombs and warned me to handle them cautiously. We picked up Bhai Mehar Singh from the Guest-house. On our way to Patiala, we met Sardar Kishan Singh, Deohri Officer, near a canal which is a mile off from Patiala. He stopped us there and said that H. H. had

despatched him to tell them to use extraordinary intelligence and care in concealing the bombs in the State, because the matter was very delicate. Then we reached the guest-house of Patiala where we met H. H. who gave us a battery which had been previously brought for us, and two more bombs to Harbans Singh. These bombs were to be buried in Bhullar Heri village. We were served with sweetmeats on our way. We started at nine at night by motor cars and arrived at the Canal-bridge near Hari Garh (Nabha State) via Dhuri. We stopped there and a Police constable was posted to watch the cars. The Sub-Inspector of Police took us to a garden near Bhaini Maharaj in Nabha State. This garden belonged to one Kahla Singh. There, one of our constables threw some stones in different directions to know if anyone was there. He shouted also many times for this purpose. The constable was told that if somebody responded to his shouts then he should ask the man the path to Badbar, and if he found none, then the Sub-Inspector should measure six sticks' length from a house in the garden and should direct some one to dig the place and bury the bombs there. The day was about to break. Then we went back to the Canal bridge, got into our cars and left for Patiala. At Patiala we related the whole story to H. H. and then all left for Bahadur Garh fort, where we spoke of the place where we had buried the bombs. After a few days Bhai Ram Singh Dharowalia left for Amritsar. A few days after this Bijla Singh asked me to go to Amritsar to send Ram Singh to Rupar because he was wanted there in connection with the statements that Dr. Bakhshish Singh was to give to a British officer. I accordingly reached Amritsar and brought back with me Bhai Ram Singh to Patiala. We left Patiala in a closed buggy for Bahadur Garh fort, where Sardar Kishan Singh Deohri Officer joined us and told us that H. H. intended us to send Bhai Ram Singh to Rupar at once. I and Bhai Ram Singh left in a state motor car, which was driven by Bhai Dasondha Singh to Rupar, where we found Bhai Sundar Singh Khetri, Bhai Harbans Singh Khatre, Dr. Bakhshish Singh, Bibi Bichi.

ttar Kaur his wife, and Barjindar Singh his son and others in Gurdwara Bhatta Sahib. I came back by the same car to Bahadur Garh fort. All others returned on the fourth day. Dr. Bakhshish Singh, Bibi Bachitter Kaur his wife, and Barjindar Singh his son, were put up in the English guest-house where his statement was recorded by an English officer. Later on, we came to know that Dr. Bakhshish Singh had sent his diary to Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee at Amritsar, explaining that His Highness the Maharaja of Patiala was fabricating a false bomb case against the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee and the Maharaja of Nabha with his help, that he himself was compelled to depose false statements before an English officer and further, that these statements may not be taken to be true. We learnt of this matter in Bahadur Garh fort. His Highness enquired from us as to who this informer was. Investigation was held for this purpose and we were convinced that all this betrayal was done by Dr. Bakhshish Singh. The Maharaja was duly informed of this fact. Doctor Sahib was placed under strict State surveillance. Bijla Singh suggested some strong measures to be adopted. Then we learnt that Dr. Bakhshish Singh had run away. H. H. had ordered to find out Dr. Bakhshish Singh. Bibi Bachittar Kaur and her son were brought to Bahadur Garh and for five or six days were put to torture that they might give us some clue of Dr. Bakhshish Singh. One day H. H. himself went to see Bibi Bachittar Kaur and said, "Your husband is my enemy, so you disclose to me if anything has been buried in the fort by him, otherwise you will be tortured." Bibi Bachittar Kaur being tortured handed over some bomb material, explosive powder and certain objectionable letters to H. H. On this account all the residents of the Fort had sexual intercourse with her without her consent, at the strict command of the Maharaja, and powdered chillies were put into her vaginal passage and she was belaboured heavily. She gave birth to a daughter and then fell dangerously ill. She could not sit up. One day by the orders of H. H. poison was administered

to her in a medicine, which she first refused to take, crying aloud that she was being killed by poison. At last the liquid was forcibly poured in her mouth, on account of which she died at once and she was cremated in a room in the Ladies' quarters of the Palace. Her ashes were thrown into the ditch of the fort by Bhai Sundar Singh Kheri, Pakhar Singh Salana and Sundar Singh Sataujia. Then, one day His Highness and Sir Diya Kishan Kaul came to us and informed us that the orders for the grant of land in Bir Chhat had been issued and that the houses were also to be supplied to us at state expense. They further told us that handsome money would also be given to us in addition to a salary of Rs. 50/- P. M. to each for pocket expenses as a reward. Our luggage was conveyed in cars and lorries to thana Banur. On the day of Lohri festival, the youngest daughter of Dr. Bakhshish Singh was strangled by Prem Kaur the wife of Bijla Sing. We stayed for a year in Bahadur Garh fort and for three months at Banur. At the latter place one day the Dewan came to us and asked if we had any trouble. He told us that a Revenue clerk was appointed to allot us lands and certain money had been ear-marked for construction of our houses. He said, "You should go and cultivate your lands". We in obedience to these orders went there, from where one day His Highness sent for us to see him in Moti Bagh and His Highness addressed us as follows:-

"I am extremely pleased with you and I wish to keep you always with me, but lands here are not so good as you deserve, so you are being sent there." As a token of appreciation the Maharaja gave us each one sword and a sum of Rs 125/-, a dress worth Rs 25/- and to the ladies he gave a dress worth Rs. 25/- and a small Kirpan. He said that he would never forget the services we had rendered to him and that he and his descendents will always be at our command. For some months we stayed at Banur. Dacoits and Badmashes, who had stolen a mare belonging to Sub-Inspector of Police at Moranda and given the same to Bijla Singh began to visit Bijla Singh at that place. A police constable from British

territory reached there in search of the stolen mare and was severely belaboured by Bijla Singh and his Badmashes. The constable remained in the Patiala Hospital for a long time, As we considered the visits of the Badmashes and dacoits to Bijla Singh a very bad thing, we did not like to stay there under the circumstances. So, we went to Patiala and there told Pandit Jiwan Lall, Officer of the C. I. D. and Ram Singh that we were not prepared to stay there on account of Bijla Singh's association with the Badmashes and dacoits. They told us to go back and promised that we shall be given lands in the villages. After some time we were given lands in villages. I was given 123 Bighas of land in village Lampur. We were told that if the lands were not to our liking, we shall be given other lands. After inspecting, we told them that the lands were not to our liking and they said that they would change them.

At the time of the Prince of Wales' visit to Patiala we were appointed by the Home Minister to attend on him in his hunt and for our good services and loyalty in this connection we were given certificates by the State.

A little while after this Diwan Daya Kishen left the State. We were at that time in Sanor fort. Maharaja sent Sardar Amrik Singh Deorhi Officer to us there. He told us that we should rest assured that our lands would be changed very soon, that the Maharaja had sent for Bhai Ram Singh and that after the departure of Daya Kishan, the Maharaja had increased the amount by Rs. 500/- for the expenses of all the Sikhs there. We used to get our salaries at the interval of even three or four months. Some five months after this S. Hazura Singh Dhilon, Gurdial Singh Dhilon, and Bharpur Singh Thanedar came to Sanor fort and told us that the "Maharaja of Nabha sitting at Deora Dun is still engaged in hostile activities against Maharaja Patiala. We have therefore to send him to some more distant place and we tell you the way to do it. We give you some bombs, which are still with us, and also one or two letters from the Bol-

sheviks which you should carry to Dehra Dun and somehow or other conceal the bombs within the bounds of Maharaja Nabha's Kothi there and try to place the letters within his Kothi. Secondly, you should try to kidnap Diwan Singh Maftune Editor "Riasat" Delhi, and also throw Bolshevik letters in the houses of selected national leaders." We promised to give a reply after considering these things. We were also of opinion that we should not do such a dirty thing. The matter was still under our consideration when a C. I. D. man from among us informed S. Hazura Singh that we won't do their work. Sardar Huzara Singh skillfully sent for us and told us that we should come to his office after inspecting the lands when we would be delivered possession of them. After some days when we went to the office, we (Ram Singh Dharowalia, Harbans Singh Chatat, Jaimal Singh Chak Dana, Harnam Singh Khatre, Mehar Singh Salana, Jagat Singh Akaliana and Partap Singh of Nabha State) were arrested and taken to Kar Khas. We were kept in the lock-up for fourteen months and then after taking our thumb-impressions on a stamped paper we were set free with the words, "You remain faithful to the Maharaja and you will be given land and pay as before." We then came to our respective villages and also got our salaries once or twice. But then as we were afraid lest some false case should be fabricated against us, we did not go to Patiala.

Appendix H

MISCELLANEOUS DOCUMENTS

An arbitrary order of the Maharaja for the confinemant of Sirdar Kishan Singh and confication of his property.

Copy of Patiala Government Gazette Order

No. 27. Dated Moti Bagh Palace, the 19th November 1925

We are shocked at the sudden disclosure of the systematic corruption and serious misconduct of Major Sardar Kishan Singh. It has been proved that taking mean advantage of the position as our Sirdar Deohri, he had been guilty of outraging the chastity of Sirdar girls. He had further been guilty of rank disloyalty to Our Person and State.

Such betrayal of trust, confidence, and rank disloyalty in the case of a highly trusted officer as the Sirdar Sahib Deohri Mualla deserves very severe punishment.

We therefore order :

1. That Major Kishan Singh is hereby deprived of his military rank and dismissed from the State service.

2. That he shall be confined in jail till further order.

3. That all the moveable and immoveable property be confiscated to the State.

4. That his ancestral Haveli in Patiala city be treated as free of confiscation.

5. That the I. G. P. and the Revenue Secretary shall see that Our Orders are carried out promptly

Sd/-
Maharaja Dhiraj.

An order of the Maharaja cancelling his previous arbitrary order for the forfeiture of Akalis' properties.

No. 25, Dated Moti Bagh Palace, the 7th April, 1926

* * *

(12) In all cases connected with the Akali Movement in which Akalis have been deprived of their properties the orders of forfeiture are hereby set aside.

Sd/-
Maharaja Dhiraj

A List of Patiala subjects whose properties have been confiscated arbitrarily without resort to any process of law.

No.	Name	Village	Date of confiscation	Tehsil
1	Tarlok Singh	Sanipur	22. 1. 29	Sirhind
2	Lal ,,	,,	,,	,,
3	Sarwan ,,	,,	,,	,,
4	Chuhar ,,	,,	,,	,,
5	Pritam ,,	,,	,,	,,
6	Teja ,,	,,	,,	,,
7	Man ,,	,,	,,	,,
8	Sawan ,,	,,	,,	,,
9	Sital ,,	,,	,,	,,
10	Gurbux ,,	,,	,,	,,
11	Hira ,,	,,	,,	,,
12	Hira ,,	,,	,,	,,
13	Jago ,,	Bapiana	24. 1. 29	Mansa
14	Randhir ,,	Ralla	,,	,,
15	Waryam ,,	Nangal	,,	,,
16	Jaswant ,,	Gadhar	,,	,,
17	Bhola ,,	Bapiana	,,	,,
18	Sajjan ,,	,,	,,	,,
19	Rur ,,	,,	,,	,,
20	Sapuran ,,	Khiala	,,	,,
21	Mangal ,,	Phurwahi	28. 1. 29	Barnala
22	Thakra ,,	,,	,,	,,
23	Atma ,,	,,	,,	,,
24	Lal ,,	,,	,,	,,
25	Ishar ,,	,,	,,	,,

No.	Name	Village	Date of confiscation	Tehsil
26	Gurdit Singh	Phurwahi	28. 1. 29	Barnala
27	Ishar ,,	,,	,,	,,
28	Harnam ,,	,,	,,	,,
29	Inder ,,	,,	,,	,,
30	Amar ,,	,,	,,	,,
31	Bachan ,,	Sekha	,,	,,
32	Hari ,,	,,	,,	,,
33	Nika ,,	Karam Garh	,,	,,
34	Ridha ,,	Ghagga	,,	Bhawani Garh
35	Jagir ,,	Rauni	22. 1. 29	Pail
36	Khazan ,,	Ghaloti	,,	,,
37	Udham ,,	Dhanot	,,	,,
38	Ude ,,	,,	,,	,,
39	Hari ,,	,,	,,	,,
40	Sunder ,,	,,	,,	,,
41	Gian ,,	Bhogle	25. 1. 29	Rajpura
42	Gurnam ,,	,,	,,	,,
43	Jawand ,,	,,	,,	,,
44	Nagina ,,	,,	,,	,,
45	Santa ,,	Chhajli	,,	Sunam
46	Jawahir ,,	,,	,,	,,
47	Kapur ,,	Mandi	30. 1. 29	Patiala
48	Waryam ,,	Jhand Maghole	25. 1. 29	,,
49	Naher ,,	Raghbirpur	23. 1. 29.	,,
50	Six Numberdars	Ghaloti	21. 1. 29.	Pail