

INDICTMENT
OF
PATIALA

(Containing the reports of the first and the second Inquiry Committees and extracts from the evidence tendered before both).

1939

Published by
The General Secretaries
**THE ALL INDIA STATES' PEOPLE'S
CONFERENCE,**
138, Meadows Street, Fort, Bombay.

Price Rs. 5

(with postage)

FOREWORD.

It is not without certain hesitation amounting almost to reluctance that we publish the report. For one reason or another its preparation had been considerably delayed. While it was getting ready for publication the sad news of the demise of His Highness the Maharaja of Patiala on the 30th of March last reached us. So far as the publication of the report was concerned it created a complication. The report mainly relates to certain events which took place during the time of the late Maharajah. It was felt that considerations of decorum as well as obligations of courtesy demanded that the report should not be published unless an opportunity was given to the successor of His Highness the Maharaja of Patiala to receive a deputation from the A.I.S.P.C. with a view to the avoidance if possible of all need for such a publication at all. The prolonged correspondence carried on for several months in this behalf has not been fruitful in results. If the correspondence on the both sides could be published in full it could have been made plain that every step was taken to avoid any offence or discourtesy but the necessary permission has not been forthcoming from the other side. On the other hand the proposal was not agreed to. Under the circumstances we can only say that the publication of the report has become inevitable. The Public will appreciate what has been said at the outset of this foreword that certain hesitancy amounting to reluctance was felt in regard to it.

FINDINGS

This Committee was constituted by the following resolution of the Working Committee of the All India States' People's Conference, passed in its meeting held on the 17th February 1935. "This Committee appoints a Special Committee consisting of Sjt. Govindlal Shivilal Motilal, President of the Central India States' People's Conference, Sjt. S. G. Vaze, Member of the Servants of India Society, Sjt. Mulraj Kursondas, President Cutch State People's Conference, Sjt. Amritlal Sheth, and three other members to be co-opted by this Special Committee, to enquire into and report on (1) the causes of the death of Sardar Sevasingh Thikariwala (2) condition of the political prisoners in the Patiala Jail (3) and other matters arising out of the report of the previous enquiry Committee appointed by the Conference. The Committee is requested to make the enquiry and to report to the Working Committee as soon as possible."

In pursuance of this resolution it was not possible to secure the services immediately of Messrs. Govindlal and Vaze. The Committee was reconstructed by the working committee in its meeting on 3rd March, 1935 as under. Sjt N. V. Gadgil, Esqr. B.A.L.L.B., M.L.A., (2) Sjt. Mulraj Kursondas (3) Sjt. Balvantray Mehta and (4) Sjt. Amritlal Sheth, with powers to co-opt three more members.

The Committee started its work on 16th March, 1935 and held its first meeting in Amritsar, when Messrs. Gadgil, Mehta and Sheth, were present. Mr. Gadgil was voted to chair. There were nine sittings of the Committee and the Committee recorded oral and documentary evidence, examined over witnesses and

admitted various documents relevant to the issues under consideration.

It will be out of place at this stage to give briefly a summary of and narrate the circumstances in which this Committee was appointed investigate and report. On the 11th of August 1929, The States' People's Conference had passed a resolution appointing a Committee consisting of (1) Mr. C. Y. Chintamani, (2) Sjt. L. R. Tairsee, (3) Sjt. Sardul Singh Kaveesher (4) G. R. Abhyankar, (5) Sjt. Amritlal Thakkar, (6) Sjt. Amritlal Sheth, to enquire into various allegations contained in the memorial presented by 10 respectable and distinguished citizens of the Patiala State to His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor General of India. The said Committee made enquiries into the

allegations picked up twelve main counts, recorded evidence and submitted a report, which was duly published and which is now known as "Patlaia Indictment." Its publication was followed by a great political stir in Patiala territory and the public opinion in India was so stirred that in the month of May 1930, it is stated the Maharaja of Patiala wrote a letter to the Viceroy and asked for an enquiry. The Maharaja of Patiala wanted vindication of his honour and it is clear from the Government of India Communique, which was published on the 9th May 1930 that the Maharaja of Patiala agreed to the enquiry, only because Hon'ble Mr. J. A. O. Fitz Patrick, Bar-at-Law, Agent to the Governor General in the Punjab States, was to be the sole person to examine the results of the enquiry contained in the publication known as 'Indictment of Patiala'. The Working Committee of the All India States, People's Conference, soon after this communique of the Government of India, held a meeting on 15th May 1930 and passed several resolutions recording its dissatisfaction that it was not an independent enquiry and that the officer appointed was merely a nominee of the Maharaja of Patiala. The resolution further stated that Mr. Fitz Patrick was intimately connected with the administration of Patiaia

and that he was not a fit person to undertake this enquiry. What the Working Committee desired was an impartial judicial enquiry but that was not granted. The full text of the resolution of the Working Committee is separately printed and for reasons stated in the resolution the Working Committee decided to boycott this enquiry. After this resolution of the Working Committee, Mr. Amritlal Sheth, issued a statement giving reasons fully justifying the steps taken by the Working Committee, namely the boycott of the said enquiry. After the enquiry by Hon'ble Mr. Fitz Patrick was over, the Government of India issued a communique on the 4th of August 1931, in which it is stated that Hon'ble Mr. Fitz Patrick recorded statements of 105 witnesses, examined 430 documentary exhibits and that he had submitted his report to the Government of India and that the Government itself was satisfied that the evidence failed to substantiate any of the charges made against the Maharaja of Patiala in the publication 'Indictment of Patiala', and that the charges were the outcome of a deliberate conspiracy between certain individuals and public bodies with the object of vilifying His Highness and disgracing him in the eyes of his subjects and of the Government of India.

For the purpose of clarification we framed the following issues and recorded evidence relevant to the consideration of these issues.

Was there a fair and impartial enquiry into the allegations which were held to be proved substantially in the Report known as "Patiala Indictment"? Secondly, what were the circumstances in which Sardar Sevasingh Thikariwala died?

In the "Patiala Indictment" as already stated, twelve main counts were drawn and we propose to give below briefly the summary of each count so that it will be possible to understand and appreciate the entire oral and documentary evidence.

(1) LAL SINGH'S MURDER.

It was alleged in the memorial that one Sardar Lal Singh

was murdered at the instigation of the Maharaja, because he refused to divorce his wife, Dilip Kaur. The Committee held that there were reasons to believe that Sarrad Lal Singh was murdered by one Ghamdur Singh to secure Maharaja's favour under instructions received directly or indirectly.

(2) It was alleged that with a view to concoct evidence against the Maharaja of Nabha, Maharaja of Patiala set up a bomb factory in the fort of Bahadur Garh in Patiala State and commissioned one Dr. Baxis Singh to supervise over the same. The Committee came to the conclusion that this allegation was *prima facie* proved and that a bomb factory was set up at Bahadur Garh

(3) It was alleged that Bichiter Kaur, wife of Dr. Baxis Singh, was murdered by the order and in the presence of the Maharaja, and his son was taken into custody and not restored to him. The Committee held that Patiala Darbar was accountable for the disappearance of Bichiter Kaur and her daughter while the Maharaja was personally liable for the wrongful custody of the son.

(4) It was alleged that one Amar Kaur, wife of Sardar Amar Singh, was taken possession of by the Maharaja and that she was in the palace and that Amar Singh was continuously harassed by false prosecution. The Committee found this case to have been proved.

(5) Confiscation of property, arrest and imprisonment of Sardar Herchand Singh Jaijee. It was alleged that Sardar Hurchand Singh, refused to send his wife to the palace, and his property was confiscated and he was detained without trial. The Committee held the whole charge to have been proved.

(6) It was alleged in the memorial that the Patiala Police started false criminal cases and certain instances were pointed out. The Committee held that this allegation was substantially proved.

(7) Inhuman torture, illegal arrests and imprisonment and illegal confiscation of properties. It was alleged that many citizens of Patiala who tried to meet Sardar Kharak Singh, a well-known Sikh leader were arrested, imprisoned by the Police of Patiala, and in many cases their property was confiscated. The Committee held this was true.

(8) Ruinous consequences of Maharaja's Shikars.

It was alleged that the Maharaja exacted compulsory work from agriculturists during his Shikar trips, and that food supply was requisitioned without payment on such occasions. The Committee held that these allegations were proved.

(9) Tyranny and Begar.

It was alleged that Begar of men, provision and cattle was enforced during movements of the army and visits of State Officers. The Committee found this to have been substantially proved.

(10) There was an allegation of non-refund of war-loans.

The Committee came to the conclusion that in some cases war-loan was not refunded.

(11) Increment in Revenue assessment and imposition of new Taxes and other matters. The Committee came to the conclusion that the Maharaja raised taxes of all kinds, and the land-revenue assessment was increased at the sweet will of the Revenue Department.

(12) Mis-appropriation of funds for public purposes. They believe that the Maharaja raised large sums of money by way of public funds and rendered no account showing how much money was raised and to what purpose it was diverted.

The report of the enquiry held by Hon'ble Mr. Fitz Partick has not been published. We have, therefore, no opportunity to know what has been actually stated by the witnesses or what was the course of the enquiry, and this has worked as a great handicap. It would have been better both for the public & for the Maha

raja of Patiala, if the report of the Hon'ble Mr. Fitz Patrick had been published. We have, therefore, to be guided by what has been stated, firstly, in the report known as 'Patiala Indictment' and whatever evidence has been laid before us, oral or documentary. The question that we have formulated for decision has been already stated and we have just to see whether there was a fair and impartial enquiry in connection with what has been published in the 'Patiala Indictment.' The enquiry by Hon'ble Mr. Fitz Patrick was held at Dalhousie—a place 76 miles away from any Railway Station. In the memorial submitted to His Excellency, the Viceroy by the subjects of Patiala in March 1932, they have stated that the enquiry by the Hon'ble Mr. Fitz Patrick was a farce. The conditions attending the enquiry and the procedure adopted precluded people from laying their grievances against the Maharaja and they further alleged that the Maharaja procured evidence by means of intimidation, pressure and in many cases, bribes. Specific cases have been cited by the memorialists to show that certain witnesses, who would not depose as desired by the Maharaja, were not produced, and in fact spirited away. We now propose to deal in some detail with the evidence we have recorded to show that no facilities were offered to the people to substantiate the charges made against the Patiala Durbar. Sardar Harchand Singh of the Riyasati Praja Mandal, states in his evidence "that an Officer like Hon'ble Mr. Fitz Patrick, who himself was concerned in the Patiala Durbar in his official capacity was hardly a person to give a fair and impartial decision. He further states that a request was made to Hon'ble Mr. Fitz Patrick to transfer to British Indian Jail certain witnesses whose evidence would be most relevant in this connection, but this was not done. A special representative of the Punjab Praja Mandal, in his evidence, states that the bungalows, the residences and the places where the witnesses were staying were all guarded by the Police. Special care was taken not to permit any approach to witnesses from British India. Nawab Liyaquat Hayat Khan saw every witness before

he was produced for recording his evidence. In the enquiry room itself the Superintendent of Police Patiala, was sitting. In these circumstances it was impossible to have a free and fair enquiry and he further states that he drew the attention of the A. G. G., to this but to no purpose. Another witness before us says", a statement was prepared for me to be made before the enquiry officer, I was asked to commit it to memory. I made certain mistakes while under examination, when the Home Member looked at me in a resentful manner. Another witness states that while he was being examined, Nawab Liyaquat Hayat Khan was present in the Court room, in fact Nawab Liyaquat Hayat Khan was for all purposes associated with the enquiry and so apparently, was controlling it. Several witnesses have come and stated before us that they were given type-written papers and asked to say in course of the enquiry what has been stated in those papers. Precaution was taken beforehand to get signatures on such typed papers. The Superintendent of Police and two Inspectors were always there. Pratap Singh who also gave evidence before us stated that at the door of the Court, the Superintendent and two Inspectors of Police were always present. The Superintendent used to send messages through the Inspectors to the next witness. All round, Patiala Officers were managing and controlling the show inside the Court. Nawab Liyaquat Hayat Khan used to make signals to witnesses. No oath was administered to me nor was my statement read out. My signature was taken next day at a place three miles away and in the Court Room of the Patiala Camp. We have only given a few extracts from the statements made by various witnesses before us, which will be enough to indicate that the enquiry was hardly free and fair. We have, therefore, no hesitation in coming to the conclusion that it was not a judicial enquiry, it was all a one-sided affair controlled and conducted in reality by Patiala Officials. The next question that we have to decide is whether all the 12 counts that have been held to have been proved or substantially proved by the last Com-

mittee in its report known as 'Patiala Indictment,' are to be resubmitted and re-considered. We think that the enquiry held by Hon'ble Mr. Fitz Patrick has not in the least disproved in any way what has been stated in the said 'Indictment'. In fact, having regarded to the appointment, conduct and control of the whole enquiry it is impossible to draw any other conclusion. In as much as some evidence has been laid on the different counts enumerated hereto before, we propose to discuss it as briefly as possible. In this connection we do not propose to take count by count and specify additional evidence we have taken, but we propose to deal all the counts together.

Sardar Nanak Singh who was sometime Chief of the Patiala C.I.D., has been examined by us. The fact which Sardar Nanak Singh stated in his memorial to the Viceroy have been already proved. Much of evidence has already appeared in the previous report, but we only refer to his evidence which he gave before us. "My letter, which appears on page 5 in "Patiala Indictment" and which I wrote on the 12th Maghur is correct." He then gave a long history of the dealings he had in Patiala, then he says "I was made to escape from the Jail by the Maharaja in 1930 at the time of the Hon'ble Fitz Patrick Enquiry held at Dalhousie. On the 4th April 1930, the Jailor of Patiala came to me and took me to Sardar Hajura Singh who told me that all were of opinion that unless I took all the responsibility upon my shoulders, the Maharaja would be held responsible for the murder of S. Lal Singh. In reply, I told Hajura Singh that in view of the past tricks played upon me by the Maharaja I would not be prepared to make false statements in order to feed his whim. On 23rd April the Superintendent of Jails came to me at 9 p. m. and told me that I was being taken away to see the Maharaja and as I declined to go with them of my own accord, he reminded me that I was a prisoner and as such had to carry out orders. The Jailor and I drove to Kothi No. 13 adjoining the Water Works. After a shortwhile the Maharaja came inside the

Kothi. The Maharaja put his hand on my shoulder and enquired about my health. As I was very much disgusted with him, I made no reply. After about two minutes the Maharaja again enquired about my health. I replied that as I was feeling very much displeased with him I would not be able to observe that regard in conversation which was due to His Highness. Hardly I had uttered these words when the Maharaja threw off his turban and began weeping bitterly and said, "Where is my respect now?" Everything has appeared in the newspapers and posters against me have been put up upon the walls, every body is malingning me. The British Government has also left me in the lurch. I have ruined you, prosecuted you....at that time the Maharaja was behaving like one mad.....The Maharaja told me further that though he expected very little help from me, still he had taken courage to approach me on the advice of his legal advisers. I was moved to hear this and forgetting all his past, told him that after consulting my friends if I found that I could do anything for him I would be willing to help him regardless of consequences to myself. The Maharaja asked me to accept monetary help from him but as I refused to take help from him, the Maharaja again began to weep and said that if I did not accept any help from him he could not depend upon my help. I agreed. The Maharaja called Sardar Amrik Singh and ordered him to send for my relatives by wire and upon their arrival to pay them Rs. 25,000/- and further that I should be made convict warder forthwith, and that quarters should be vacated for my family and I should be permitted to put up with them. On the 24th April 1930 telegram was sent to my relatives to the effect that they should come at once to see me. I was made convict warder on 25th April. On 26th April I was brought to the quarter of S. Gurugachan Singh where my wife and others were already staying. We talked for a couple of hours together and in the meantime Sardar Amrik Singh came with Rs. 25,000/- and gave me Rs. 24,000/- in currency notes of Rs. 100/- each, £18 sterling at the rate of Rs.

13-10-0 per £, 5 notes of 10/- each and gave Rs. 4-12-0 in cash and took my receipt for it. I gave Rs. 2,000/- to Bhagat Singh, £18 to my daughter. I kept with me Rs. 254-12-0 for my own expenses and the remaining Rs. 22,500/- I gave to my wife. I further told her that in a few days I would be transferred to the Hospital where she would have to put up with me. I was sent to Rajendra Hospital. Two rooms were allotted to me. On 3rd May 1930 my family reached Rajendra Hospital. On 5th May I met Sir Daya Kishan and Nawab Liyaquat Hayat Khan at the Kothi. They had told me that the Maharaja was compelling Sardar Gurunam Singh, his father-in-law to make such a statement as will exculpate the Maharaja from the murder of Sardar Lal Singh. I was also informed that after Sardar Gurunam Singh's statement, Sardar Ghamdur Singh would state that Sardar Lal Singh had illicit connection with the wife of Sardar Gurunam Singh and that was why he was done to death. I was asked to corroborate what Ghamdur Singh would state as to the motive of the crime, which I refused pointblank, saying, that I would not be a party to that fraud. On 13th May 1930 the Nawab again met me in the Old Club House and informed that the A. G. G. had been appointed to conduct the enquiry and that summons had been issued to witnesses in the State. The Nawab told me that as the State had already won the favour of the A. G. G. and still hoped to win him over to its side, it was a wise course for every body connected with the enquiry to side with the Maharaja. He asked me to look to my interest only. The State of Patiala was in possession of the names of all the witnesses over whom they had influence and control and on account of the pressure of all the promises which was being brought to bear upon the Government it was strongly hoped that the Maharaja would remain in the Gadi. I asked what our fate would be if we sided with him, if the decision of the enquiry went against the Maharaja. The Nawab replied smilingly that if the decision would go in favour of His Highness he was sure to fulfil all the promises made. On the other hand if the Maharaja

was dethroned, the Nawab would become President of the Council of Regency and he would then fulfil the promises. On the 22nd May 1930, I was informed that the enquiry was being conducted solely by the A. G. G., and that the Riyasati Praja Mandal and the Indian States' People's Conference had decided to boycott it. I was in a dilemma. If I refused to make any statement before the enquiry Committee I would have to go back to Jail and if I deposed against the Maharaja I would not be able to prove what I had to say because all the relevant documents were in the hands of the Riyasati Praja Mandal and over and above all these I could not go against the decision of the Praja Mandal. The news of the boycott of the enquiry was received with joy in official circles. I was again called to Baradari and the news of the boycott was conveyed to me on behalf of the Maharaja and that the success of the Maharaja was then sure. The State succeeded in making the Praja Mandal to boycott the enquiry and that by *ex parte* proceedings the position of the Maharaja would be made strong. First of all almost all the witnesses had been brought over and if there was any one unwilling to help them they would not mind it now. All this was being said to me to impress upon me the futility of my going against the Maharaja. He further told me that the Agent had been completely won over and had assured the Maharaja that the enquiry would not in any way harm His Highness but would only benefit him. I was also told that I should decide without further loss of time. On return from Baradari, S. Kalawant Singh, Superintendent of Jails told me that I had two alternatives to choose. Either I should give evidence in favour of the Maharaja who would release me after the expiry of the enquiry or I should leave the State for which facilities would be given to me. I enquired from the Superintendent what he meant by my leaving the State. I was told that if I went away, the State would announce me as an absconder and thus eliminate my evidence and the Maharaja would then be quite safe. Within six months of my going away from the State I would be declared

pardoned and all the promises made to me would be implemented. I promised to reply after due deliberations. As I did not want to give any occasion to Master Tara Singh and other friends to complain afterwards that I had betrayed them, I sent my younger brother to Master Tata Singh at Lyallpur to enquire from him if the enquiry had actually been boycotted by them, suggesting that in that case it would make little difference if I stayed in the State or left it as they did not want my statement to be recorded and that in the circumstances, if I left the State I would not be displeasing them in any way. Master Tara Singh sent me word that it was immaterial to them whether I stayed in the State or left it, and that the main consideration that might decide the matter should be the future welfare of my wife and children. On receipt of this reply from Masterji I made up my mind to leave the State. On 29th May 1930 at about 9 p.m. I was sent for by the Nawab. He told me that a statement was being prepared for me. I protested and asked how they knew that I would participate in the enquiry proceedings. The Nawab told me in reply that they did not believe me to be so foolish as to go against the interest of His Highness in the changed circumstances. I was going back to the hospital when the Superintendent of Jails enquired about my real intention. I replied that if I could be assured that no harm would be done to me afterwards I was prepared to leave the State and further I asked him to give me a written order that I was released from the Jail which I would return after the proclamation of my pardon. I further told him that I would only make use of that order if the State ever deceived me. The Superintendent of jails refused to do so. I too remained adamant. On 30th May 1930, the Superintendent again paid me a visit in the Hospital. He said that if some other way out of the difficulty was suggested he would be prepared to consider it. I then told the Superintendent that I had to settle up accounts with my uncle Sardar Jai Singh to whom I wanted to send my younger brother Baxi Bhagat Singh with a letter hinting therein that the State au-

thorities wanted me to leave the State and that he should attest it. At first he hesitated to accept it but ultimately he agreed to do so on condition that the letter would not be made use of against the Maharaja and that within six months of the incident the letter would be returned on the announcement of my pardon being made. The draft letter was prepared by me and handed over to the Superintendent. He told me he would let me know of his decision after consulting His Highness. On the morning of the 1st June 1930 the Superintendent came to me and said that though the letter in question was ruinous to His Highness, His Highness had expressed he had full faith in my sincerity, that in spite of his mal-treatment I had never deceived him, and therefore, he wanted the draft letter to be attested as I could not be satisfied with anything less. Accordingly I wrote the letter which I now produce. This is the very letter that was written by me at that time which was duly attested and stamped. The same day an interview was arranged with His Highness. The Maharaja assured me that after the announcement of my release he would soon implement all the promises made to me. He urged me to see that the letter in question did not fall into undesirable hands. The Maharaja told me that he would keep that matter secret even from his Council and would keep them under the impression that I had escaped from Jail. The Maharaja ordered Sardar Amrik Singh and Sardar Kalwant Singh to complete all arrangements for my departure from Patiala and send me out on 6th June 1930 when the Home Minister would be away from Patiala. On 5th June 1930 I sent my wife to Bujerkhan and having no confidence in the State authorities I asked my brother to wire to the effect that he would be coming back with the papers in a day or two and would conclude from the message that my relatives had arrived safely with the attested letter. On 6th June 1930 at 7 p. m. Gurubaksh Singh and Kalwant Singh came to me and handed over to me a telegram containing the message referred to above. At 9 p. m. the Superintendent of Jails and Sardar Amrik Singh

both came to me and took me to the big tank in front of the Baradari where a motor car was waiting for me. I got into the car which took me to Moti Baug. The Maharaja was standing on the platform. Once again he repeated the old assurance. At about 9 p. m. Car No. 207 of the Patiala State took me along with Amrik Singh and Kalwant Singh to Ambala Cant. As arranged my man was waiting for me. We boarded the mail train at about 11 p. m. and Sardar Kalwant Singh and Sardar Amrik Singh after handing over to me a sum of Rs. 21,000/- for my expenses returned to Patiala. I reached Delhi and hired a car and from there I went to Agra and caught the Grand Trunk Express for Madras. On the 11th June 1930 I took boat to Singapore. I came back to India on the advice of doctors. I reached Nander on 5th July 1930 and after waiting for six months for the pardon addressed several letters to Sardar Amrik Singh but received no reply. I sent my brother Baxi Bhagat Singh to see Sardar Amrik Singh at Ambala. On meeting my brother Sardar Amrik Singh complained that as my relatives had handed over the letter attested by the Superintendent to Amritlal Sheth, the Maharaja was very angry and that in the circumstances there was no possibility of any announcement being made. On receiving that news I was very much upset and I came back home in the month of March 1931. On 10th April 1931 I saw Master Tara Singh. He told me that the Nawab had met him and wanted an application from me praying for mercy, on the plea that as the State had declared me as an absconder it would not be possible for them to announce the pardon without any application. Masterji, however, could not agree to the Maharaja's proposal to put in an application for mercy. At last the Nawab made a proposal to Master Tara Singh to the effect that he would hand over the Master an order of my pardon if Masterji would be able to persuade me to write a few words by the way of an application for mercy. Masterji replied he could not do anything without first consulting me. As I had no objection to this proposal I wrote the application dated 11-12-1931

for mercy and handed it over to Masterji. On 15th April I received a wire from my brother from Ludhiana saying that the order of my pardon and application for clemency had been duly exchanged. The order was with the Masterji as the Home Minister of Patiala had still to approve of the application for mercy. On 19th April my brother returned from Tikriwala with Sardar Sewa Singh's message that the Home Minister had approved the draft application on the 20th April. On the 25th April Masterji handed the order for my pardon to me."

This extensive extract from the deposition of Nanak Chand speaks for itself. We have also examined Chaudhery Jaya Singh and Master Tara Singh. They fully corroborate the circumstances with respect to pardon and other matters referred to in the deposition of Nanak Singh, Chaudhery Jaya Singh has something more to say which we think worth quoting. "Further more I state that after the receipt of the news of Sardar Nanak Singh's escape from Jail I saw Sjt. Amritlal Sheth at Lahore showed him the letter that was written to him by Sardar Nanak Singh, which was duly attested by Kalwant Singh, Superintendent Central Jail of Patiala and this shows that the State of Patiala made him escape from the Jail." Mr. Amritlal Sheth asked for a photo copy of the letter which I have sent to his Ranpur address and the original of which I now produce." The letter referred to runs as follows:—

"Messrs. Prem Singh, Jaya Singh etc., As I am persuaded to take the step that shall oblige me to hide myself for a while. I hereby authorise my brother Bhagat Singh to settle my accounts with them.

Patiala Rajendra Hospital,
1st June 1930.

Yours faithfully,
Sd/- Nanak Singh, Prisoner.

Attested,
Sd/- Kalwant Singh,
Superintendent, 1-6-1930.

The production of the original letter and the statement of Chaudhery Jaya Singh are enough to prove the fact that Sardar Nanak Singh was allowed to go deliberately as his evidence would be disastrous for the Maharaja of Patiala, had it been taken by Hon'ble Mr. Fitz Patrick; it is clear that the allegations made by Sardar Nanak Singh before the 1st Commission through his note would have been proved once more and in order to avoid this calamity, he was allowed to go away. We have no doubt that Nawab Liyaquat Hayat Khan, Sardar Amrik Singh and Sardar Kalwant Singh, Superintendent of Jail, were parties more or less to this pretended escape of Sardar Nanak Singh, and it is impossible to believe that these high officials of the State could have been guilty of such an act without the knowledge and consent of the Maharaja.

There were other counts from the main report on which many witnesses have given their statements before us. We particularly pick up the evidence of Dr. Baxis Singh, as he had given a long statement before the first Commission in which he had made statements in full details about the Bomb Factory at Bahadur Garh. In this enquiry of ours, Dr. Baxis Singh, Messrs. Ram Singh and Pratap Singh, have made additional statements corroborating the events which have been already detailed in the first report. These statements are separately published. We, however take an extract from Ram Singh's evidence before us. "I state on oath that I was connected with the Maharaja of Patiala as journalist and his propogandist. The whole statement was prepared by me and the whole of it is correct. I produce original provision chits, books and also produce a pucca register of expenses incurred by me and through me in the Bahadur Garh in Savant 1882. Further he adds "A statement was prepared for me to be made to the enquiry officer, I was asked to commit the said statement to memory. I made that statement, and I was paid Rs. 20,000/- about a week after I made that statement, the money was paid to me in cur-

rency notes of Rs. 100/- each. It was about 9-30 p.m. in Bakrota House at Dalohusie. Sardar Amrak Singh and Nawab Liyaquat Hayat Khan were there. I and Pratap Singh were paid at the same time. "What I have stated in the statement published in the 'Indictment' is true, and what I have stated before Fitz Patrick's enquiry is untrue. I had to do so in the circumstances mentioned in the affidavit." In his affidavit, which is Ex. 33 B/1, he gives out several facts connected with the Bahadur Garh Bomb Factory and how he was persuaded not to divulge facts—the real story, which would undoubtedly involve the Maharaja. The following portion from his affidavit is worth noting. "In the month of June 1930, the Maharaja of Patiala's messengers visited me twice with the message that I was wanted by the Maharaja, I refused to go. About February 1930, Nawab Liyaquat Hayat Khan sent for me to the Kothi and told me that an enquiry was going to be instituted in connection with Patiala and that my safety lay in giving a statement as he desired and if I utter a single truth it would go against me. The enquiry officer had given a promise that whosoever would bring any serious allegation against Patiala Maharaja would be prosecuted and that if I disclosed anything in connection with the Bahadur Garh affairs, prosecution would follow and the punishment would be transportation for life. He further states in his affidavit, "the Maharaja himself met us in Patiala House and he addressed us," if you want to save your skin, you must do what the minister told you at Amritsar to. The enquiry Officer is under our thumb; no sooner you utter the truth you will be arrested and prosecuted. "The Maharaja, then on their refusal to accept his proposal said "well don't make a statement either in favour or against. I will be pleased if you do this and you will be paid at your home the allowances which are due so far", and after the Dalhousie Enquiry these amounts were paid as promised at Amritsar through me and at my house as under:—
 Bhai Jayamal Singh Rs. 2,000/- Harban Singh Rs. 2,000/-,

Harnam Singh Rs. 2,000/- and Jagat Singh Rs. 2,500/-.

Several other witnesses have stated before us as to how they were either bribed or terrorized to give their statements which they actually did before Hon'ble Mr. Fitz Patrick. With respect to Dr. Baxis Singh's son the said affidavit contains the following matter. "On 16th June 1930 two motors came to my house at Amritsar to take us at Dalhousie Dr. Baxis Singh's son and I seated ourselves in one while the Patiala officer and Bhai Pratap took their seats in the other." "We were taken to Dalhousie, lodged in a room of Bakrota House, under a strong guard of Patiala Police. Bhai Pratap Singh was also examined by us and he has produced an affidavit that he made before the Magistrate in connection with his share in the said Fitz Patrick Enquiry. He admits that he was paid Rs. 5,000/- It is needless to go through the statements of several witnesses who have come and stated the same facts which have been already stated by them or others in connection with the 12 counts in the original "Indictment." We think, it is sufficient from what has been written above that all the allegations that were made and were found to be substantially true in the "Indictment" of Patiala, have been more fully proved by the additional evidence both oral and documentary which was produced before us. We are not asked by the terms of our reference to re-agitate what has been already enquired into and in a way decided by the first Committee, but we thought that in as much as the Government Communique, published after the submission of the report by Hon'ble Mr. Fitz Patrick, stated that the evidence failed to substantiate any of the charges made against the Maharaja in the publication, namely "Patiala Indictment", it was necessary just to briefly deal with the several counts. Enough evidence both oral and documentary have been produced before us and if we are to go fully into the same we will have to write as big a report as the former one and we cannot come to any other conclusions, in fact nobody can come to any other conclusions,

than those arrived at by the First Committee.

The first issue we formulated for our consideration was whether there was a fair and impartial enquiry by Hon'ble Mr. Fitz Patrick and we have no hesitation in stating our considered conclusion that the said enquiry was neither fair nor free nor impartial; for the enquiry was a deliberate attempt by parties concerned to absolve the Maharaja of Patiala by whatever methods possible. The Maharaja of Patiala against whom the 'Patiala Indictment' was drawn up and for whose good reputation Hon'ble Mr. Fitz Patrick was appointed to make enquiry, is unfortunately no more; but the charges made in the Government Communique that the 'Patiala Indictment' has been the outcome of a deliberate conspiracy between certain individuals and public bodies with the object of villifying His Highness and disgracing him in the eyes of his subjects and the Government of India, are baseless. From the evidence that has been recorded before us as we have already stated, the allegations made in the original memorial by the Patiala subjects have been even otherwise proved. We have no personal interest, no personal grudge and we have been only actuated by the single motive of finding the truth. The events which are referred to in the various statements are a matter of the past. We have no doubt that the new Maharaja will do his best to do justice wherever it is still possible. It is with that end in view that we have drawn this report. The only thing that now remains for us to consider is the circumstances in which Sardar Seva Singh Thikariwala died.

Sardar Seva Singh Thikariwala was the President of the Riayasati Prajamandal. He went on hunger-strike while in Jail and died there under circumstances which have given rise to a number of inferences. It is alleged that the treatment meted to him was so inhuman and that it was the desire of persons in power in Patiala State to put an end to his life. We are now asked by the terms of our reference to investigate the

circumstances in which Sardar Seva Singh Thikriwala's death took place. Master Tara Singh who was arrested with Seva Singh in 1923 states that Sardar Seva Singh was a very quiet, gentle and obliging man. Whatever may have been his differences with the Maharaja of Patiala he never entertained any feelings of bitterness, and rancour against His Highness. From the evidence which he have recorded it appears that Sardar Seva Singh was approached again and again to stop agitation in the State, which he very likely declined stating all along that he and his colleagues were fighting for the rights of the people. From the statement of Sardar Nanak Singh we have this "on 2nd May 1930, Nawab told me that it will be better if Seva Singh helped him at that time, if he, namely Maharaja, is deposed, he might be helpless, but on the other hand, if he remained on Gadi, he would take revenge upon Sardar Seva Singh, in a manner, that would be a lesson for others". Sardar Nanak Singh further states that on 17th May 1930 Sardar Seva Singh met him in the Rajendra Hospital and he was informed of the wishes of the Maharaja but he replied that he only minded losing everything in the discharge of his duties. Since 1922, it is in evidence that time after time pretty prosecutions were launched against Sardar Seva Singh, first he was sentenced to six years, he was released in 1929, then again in October 1930 Sardar Seva Singh presided over States' Peoples' Conference at Ludhiana; he was arrested in his village Thikarivala; soon after this he was sentenced to six years with a fine of Rs. 1000. As a result of great agitation in the Punjab he was again released in March 1931. In 1933 August, he was again arrested in January 1934, was sentenced to six years and a fine of Rs. 1500. This long history will show that Seva Singh Thikariwala was a man of steady purpose and speedy determination. It is obvious from the evidence on record that Patiala Authorities never looked on his activities with kindness. Soon after his conviction in January 1934 news was received by his wife that he was being ill-treated in jail, that he had resorted to hunger-strike.

She states in her statement that on 4th January 1935, she saw Sardarjee in the jail. "I am on hunger-strike being compelled to resort to do so by the ill-treatment and disrespect of the jail officials. It is on record that he was confined in a solitary cell and he was not treated properly. In his interview with his wife he states i. e. his conversation given by his wife before us, "I am convinced that the Maharaja is bent upon putting an end to my life". After this interview Sardar Seva Singh's wife sent several petitions, but she was not allowed to interview, nor was she allowed to perform the obsequies ceremonies of her dead husband. Several other witnesses have been examined, and we particularly refer to the statement of Sardar Jasamal Singh. He says no one had access to his, i. e. Seva Singh's cell. The walls were very high, there was no ample air. Seva Singh was lying in a precarious condition, he could hardly move or speak. We learnt from him that the jail officers, at the instance of higher authorities had mal-treated and subjected him to humiliation to such an extent that he was forced, as a protest, to resort to partial hunger-strike first, then complete hungerstrike later on. He was forcibly fed with milk for some time. His weight when he entered jail was 145 lbs., and on the day when he fainted it had been reduced to 88 lbs. Sardarji was fully convinced that the authorities had decided to do him unto death, he, therefore, asked them to request the people of Thikariwala to forgive him etc." The purpot of this interview was published in several Punjab papers and they have not been so far contradicted. We have a number of statements of co-prisoners of Sardar Seva Singh, who have stated how he was badly treated by the jail authorities. Sardar Jogendra Singh states that several prisoners insisted on having a Darshan of Seva Singh, but they were refused. Another prisoner Sardar Bhagat Singh was told by the jail authorities that "if 20 dogs like you die every day His Highness would not care a button for it." "What are you, you will find how your leaders like Sardar

Seva Singh are dealt with". Bhai Harnam Singh in course of his evidence states "the jail authorities used to say that Seva Singh and the whole of your lot will die in jail. Maharaja cared a fig for you all. On my release I was taken to Diwan Bahadur Pindi Dass, who told me that the whole of our lot with Seva Singh will die like dogs". This Sardar Haranam Singh sent a petition to the Viceroy on the 21st June 1934 and informed His Excellency about the hunger-strike of Sardar Seva Singh. By another letter dated 26th January 1934, he informed His Excellency that Sardar Seva Singh was in a critical condition and he requested His Excellency the Viceroy to order an enquiry into the circumstances that have led Sardar Seva Singh to go on hungerstrike.

Mit. Singh, who was in Patiala Jail for seven years states "the third time Sardar Seva Singh was confined in separate Cell (Kumar Hata), the door of this ward remained locked all the time.

Another prisoner from Patiala Jail Bhai Gajjar Singh states as follows. "In 1936, when Sardar Seva Singh Thikariwala was in prison, prisoners had gone on hunger-strike as a protest of mismanagement of the jail. Seva Singh was held responsible for this although he had nothing to do with it and himself was not on hunger-strike then. Bhai Hari Singh also states before us how badly Sardar Seva Singh was treated and when he complained, it is stated that the Superintendent accosted Seva Singh in following words 'you oppose the Maharaja and still expect better food from him?' 'Eat what is given, it is jail, not your house'. Later on in his statement, when the jail authorities were asked to take notice of the hunger-strike the Superintendent is reported to have said "let the Sala die, so much the better for us".

Sardar Mangal Singh, Member of the Central Legislative Assembly, was also examined by us. In his statement he states that he had an interview in 1927 with the Maharaja of Patiala

along with Master Tara Singh. In course of his talk the Maharaja told us that as the attitude of Sardar Seva Singh was not that of a loyal subject and was defiant "I will make him straight so long he does not mend his ways."

From the extract we have given from various statements made by respectable and responsible persons before us, we are able to deduce certain conclusions, which we think we ought to mention in public interest freely and frankly. (1) It is abundantly clear that Maharaja of Patiala never looked kindly on Sardar Seva Singh and his attitude towards Seva Singh was vindictive and revengeful. (2) That Sardar Seva Singh was deliberately maltreated and humiliated in jail and that as a last resort he took to hunger-strike. (3) That it was possible for the jail authorities and other authorities of the Patiala State concerned to remove the causes which led Sardar Seva Singh to go on hunger-strike, but they deliberately refused and thus brought about the death of Sardar Seva Singh, the most honourable, honest leader of the States' people in Patiala. We therefore think that the circumstances in which Sardar Seva Singh had died are such, which ought to be investigated by the paramount power as we think that a prima facie case for such a case has already been made out. We had written to Patiala Authorities to co-operate with us in this enquiry by leading evidence, which they declined, therefore in the absence of any such evidence, we have come to the findings given above, but we think, as we have stated above, that the matter is one which ought to be enquired into by the paramount power.

There were other cognate matters, such as the ill-treatment of political prisoners in Patiala State, which were indirectly referred in course of our enquiry. There is enough evidence led before us to show that the treatment given to political prisoners was far from happy or fair. Similarly as a result of exhortation of this enquiry persecution of public workers increased in Patiala State. The same tale of forfeiture of

properties, prosecution of workers, appears once more, but it is no good going at this stage to what happened subsequently of the Hon'ble Fitz Patrick's enquiry. The old Maharaja of Patiala is dead and his son has come to the Gadi. We hope that his regime will be better from every point of view. Now the political events are moving fast in the whole of India, we trust that the popular and responsible government will soon be inaugurated in Patiala State and fundamental rights guaranteed. The object of publishing this report is that the past wrongs which are still capable of being righted should be righted. The test of the present Maharaja's sincerity to do justice will be judged by what action he takes on wrongs which are proved beyond doubts. The properties unlawfully confiscated in the old regime should not merely be returned, but due compensation ought to be paid. The lives lost cannot be recalled, but those who held them dear and near should at least have the consolation that justice has been vindicated, if not by punishment, atleast by regret and repentance. It is certainly not our object to prejudice the present Maharaja or to do anything which will handicap him in inaugurating the new regime of popular representation, which we are told is his object in the best interest of justice and as dictated by our sense of duties which we owed to the States' people.

27-7-1938,
Bombay.

Sd. N. V. Gadgil,
,, Mulraj Karsandas,
,, Balwantray Mehta,

SECTION II

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE

—:0:—

APPOINTED BY THE WORKING COMMITTEE OF THE
ALL INDIA STATES' PEOPLE'S CONFERENCE,
FOR
AN ENQUIRY INTO THE CAUSES AND CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE
DEATH OF SIRDAR SEVA SINGH THIKRIWALA IN THE
PATIALA STATE PRISON.

First Sitting :

Date : 16th March 1935 : Time 10 A. M.

Place 12, Contonment, Amritsar.

The following members were present :

1. N. V. Gadgil, M.L.A.
2. B. G. Mehta,
3. Amritlal D. Sheth.

Mr. Gadgil was voted to the chair.

PROCEEDINGS:

1. The Committee took on record the resolutions of the Working Committee of the Indian States' People's Conference passed in its meeting at Bombay on the 17th February 1935. Ex. 1.

The Resolutions dated the 17th February 1935. Ex. 1 (a)

2. Mr. Sheth informed the Committee that he had circulated a sort of questionnaire covering sub-clauses 1 and 2 of the resolution. He asked the committee to put it on its record.

Questionnaire. Ex. 2.

3. Mr. Sheth intimated to the Committee that a communique of the Patiala Government concerning the hunger-strike of a political prisoner, Sardar Bhagwan Singh Longowalia, in the Patiala jail was published in the Lahore Press on the 13th March. As the matter concerned the work of the Committee he had telegraphed to the Patiala Government asking for an interview with the said prisoner to which replies had been received. The whole correspondence, therefore, was taken on record.

The Patiala Government Communique Ex. 3.

Mr. Sheth's first telegram Ex. 3 (a).

Mr. Sheth's second telegram Ex. 3 (b).

The Jail Superintendent's reply by telegram Ex. 3 (c).

The Minister, Jail Department's, reply Ex. 3 (d).

4. Mr. Sheth intimated that he had written a letter and sent a telegram to the Prime Minister, Patiala Government, asking for his co-operation in the working of the Committee. The letter and the telegram were taken on record.

Mr. Sheth's letter to the Prime Minister Ex. 3 (e).

Mr. Sheth's telegram to the Prime Minister Ex. 3 (f).

5. The Committee then considered the question of co-opting more members as authorised by the resolution of the Working Committee.

Master Tara Singhji and Mr. Balvantray Mehta informed the Committee that they had talks with various friends in New Delhi and Lahore and some of them had consented to work on

the Committee, but that none of them could come earlier than the 19th.

In view of the fact that some scores of witnesses were waiting to tender their evidence for some ten or twelve days, the work of the Committee had got to be started immediately and the same was expected to be finished at Amritsar before the 19th. The question of co-opting more members, therefore, was dropped for the time being.

3. Discussion then took place about the arrangement of the work of the Committee :-

The following decisions were taken :—

- (1) That Sardar Hari Singhji, President Patiala Riyasati Praja Mandal, on whose request the Committee had been appointed, be asked to lead the evidence.
- (2) That an interpreter be appointed for each sitting of the Committee.
- (3) That a translator be appointed for the Amritsar sitting of the Committee.
- (4) That evidence on all the three clauses of the resolution be taken and all exhibits be numbered in a serial order.

7. Discussion then took place about whether the sittings of the Committee be kept open to the public and the Press and the Committee decided as under :—

- (1) That admission to the sittings may only be granted to those who obtain the Committee's permission.
- (2) That information about the proceedings of the Committee be supplied to the Press orally or by means of a Press communique to be issued by the Committee.

8. In pursuance of the above resolution No. 6, sub-clause (2) Sardar Sohan Singh Josh was appointed interpreter for the two day's sittings.

9. In pursuance of the above resolution 6, sub-clause (3) Sardar Thakar Singh, B.A. of Kapurthala was appointed to work as translator.

1. Statement of S. Harisingh President, Patiala Riyasati Praja Mandal. Ex. 4.

Documents submitted by S. Harisingh as matter pertaining to the work of the Committee Ex. 4 (a) to (i).

2. Statement of S. Kishan Singh in Urdu Ex. 5.
English translation of the above Statement Ex. 5 (a).

3. Statement of S. Sajjan Singh in Urdu Ex. 6.
English translation of the above Statement Ex. 6 (a).

4. Statement of Sardar Jai Singh in Urdu Ex. 7.
English translation of the above Statement Ex. 7 (a).

5. A photo copy of S. Nanak Singh's letter attested to by the Superintendent of Jail, Patiala Ex. 7 (b).

The Committee then rose at 12-30 p.m. to meet again at 3 P. M.

Second Sitting:

Date: 16th March 1935:— Time 3 P. M.

Place: 12, Cantonment, Amritsar.

The following members were present:

1. N. V. Gadgil, M.L.A.
2. B. G. Mehta.
3. Amritlal D. Sheth.

Mr. Gadgil presided. Sardar Sohan Singh worked as the interpreter.

1. Statement of Sardar Wazir Singh Jaiji Ex. 8.
Correspondence submitted by S. Wazir Singh Ex. 8 (a)
1-38.

2. Joint Statement of Giani Pratap Singhji and Sardar Sohan Singhji in Gurumukhi Ex. 9.

English translation of the above joint Statement Ex. 9 (a)

3. Statement of Sardar Sohan Singh in Gurumukhi
Ex. 10.

English translation of the above Statement Ex. 10 (a).

4. Statement of Sardar Ram Singh in Gurumukhi Ex.11.
English translation of the above Statement Ex. 11 (a).

5. Statement of Sardar Dhanvant Singh Ex. 12.
Correspondence submitted by S. Dhanvantsingh Ex. 12 (a) 1-21.
6. Statement of Sardar Nanak Singh Ex. 13.
His application to the Patiala State Ex. 13 (a).
Patiala Government order of Pardon Ex. 13 (b).
7. Supplementary Statement of S. Nanak Singh Ex. 13 (c).

The Committee then rose at 7 P. M. to meet again at 9 A. M. the next day.

Third Sitting:

The Committee met on the 17th March 1935 at 9 A. M. in its usual office.

The following members were present:—

1. N. V. Gadgil, M.L.A.
2. B. G. Mehta.
3. Amritlal D. Sheth.

Mr. Gadgil presided.

1. On the request of Master Tara Singh the Committee went to the residence of Sardar Harchand Singh Jaiji and took the following statements. Sardar Wazir Singh worked as interpreter.

2. Joint Statement of Mrs. Sewa Singh Senior and Mrs. Sewa Singh Junior in Urdu Ex. 14.

English translation of the above joint Statement Ex. 14 (a).

3. Statement of Mrs. Harchand Singhji Ex. 15.

4. Statement of Sardar Jasmer Singh Jaiji Ex. 16.

English translation of the above statement Ex. 16 (a).

Extracts from the "Tribune" giving account of the interview with Sardar Sewa Singhjee Ex. 16 (b).

5. The Committee then returned to its office and took the following statement:—

6. Statement of Master Tara Singhji Ex. 17.

The Committee then rose at 12 O'clock to meet again at 3 P. M.

The Committee met on the 17th March 1935 at 3 P.M. in its usual office. All the members were present. Mr. Gadgil continued to preside and Sardar Sohan Singh worked as interpreter.

1. Joint Statement of Mrs. Bhagwan Singhji and Prem Singh in Urdu Ex. 18.

English translation of the above statement with a record of the oral examination Ex. 18 (a).

Statement of Bhai Jogindar Singh Ex. 19.

English translation of the above statement Ex. 19 (a).

3. Statement of Sardar Bhagat Singh Ex. 20.

English translation of the above statement with a record of the oral examination Ex. 20 (a).

4. Statement of Bhai Harnam Singhji Ex. 21.

English translation of the above statement with a record of the oral examination Ex. 21 (a).

Correspondence Ex. 21 (b).

5. Statement of Mitsingh Ex. 22.

English translation of the above statement Ex 22 (a).

6. Statement of Anok Singh Ex. 23.

English translation of the above statement Ex 23 (a).

7. Joint Statement of Bagga Singh and Sher Singh
Ex. 24.

English translation of the above joint Statement
Ex. 24 (a).

8. Statement of S. Gajjan Singh Ex. 25.

English translation of the above statement and a record of the oral examination Ex. 25 (a).

9. Statement of Bukhtar Singh in Urdu Ex. 26.

English translation of the above statement Ex. 26 (a).

10. Statement of S. Ganda Singh Ex. 27.

English translation of the above statement Ex. 27 (a).

The Committee then rose to meet again at 9 P. M.

Fifth Sitting:

The Committee met again on the 17th March 1935 at 9 P. M. in its usual office. All the three members were present. Mr. Gadgil continued to preside and Mr. Talib Hussein worked as interpreter.

1. Statement of Sardar Hari Singh of Naujuvan Mazdur Ex. 28.

2. Statement of Nihal Kaur Ex. 29.

Photograph of affidavit in Urdu Ex. 29 (a).

English translation of the above affidavit Ex. 29 (b).

Two applications to the Deputy Commissioner Ex. 29
(c) & (d).

Memorial to the A.G.G. Punjab Ex. 29 (e).

Letter from her Counsel to the A.G.G. Ex. 29 (f).

Reply from the Agent to the Governor-General Ex. 29 (g).

Memorial to the Political Secretary Ex. 29 (h).

3. Statement of Rani Kirpal Kaur Ex. 30.

Affidavit in Urdu Ex. 30 (a).

English translation of the above affidavit Ex. 30 (b).

Memorial to the Agent to the Governor-General

Ex. 30 (c).

4. Statement of Sardar Jehangir Singh of Karamgarh
Ex. 31.

English translation of the affidavit Ex. 31 (a).

A copy of the order of His Highness the Maharaja

Ex. 31 (b).

Five photo copies of the records of the Revenue register
Ex. 31 (c), (d), (e), (f), (g).

English translation of the Revenue record Ex. 31 (h).

A copy of the petition to the Agent to the Governor-General Ex. 31 (i).

5. Statement of Sardar Samsher Singh in Urdu Ex. 32.

English translation of the above statement Ex. 32 (a).

The Committee then rose for the day.

Sixth Sitting:

The Committee met again on the 18th March 1935 at 3 p. m. in its usual office. All the three members were present. Mr. Gadgil was voted to the Chair. Sardar Sohan Singh worked as interpreter.

1. Bhai Ram Singh's statement in Urdu Ex. 33.

English translation of the above statement with a record of the oral examination Ex. 33 (a).

Affidavit Ex. 33 (b).

English translation of the affidavit Ex. 33 (b)

Rent receipt Ex. 33 (c).

Pucca register Ex. 33 (d).

Kutchra register and provision chits Ex. 33 (e), (f) & (g).

A copy of the memorial to the A.G.G. in Urdu Ex. 33 (h).

English translation of the above memorial Ex. 33 (i).

2. Record of the oral examination of Sardar Pratap Singh Ex. 34.

Affidavit of Sardar Pratap Singh Ex. 34 (a).

English translation of the above affidavit Ex. 34 (b).

A copy of the memorial to the A.G.G. Ex. 34 (c).

3. Statement of Dr. Baxish Singh in Urdu Ex. 35.

English translation of the above statement Ex. 35 (a).

Photo of Baxish Singh with his wife and child Ex 35 (b).

Photo of Baxish Singh with his son restored to him.

4. The witness informed the committee that he was not in possession just then of the file of his correspondence with the A.G.G. He said he would send the same to the committee later.

5. Statement of Sardar Ujagar Singh Ex. 36.

English translation of the above statement Ex. 36 (a).

6. Statement of Bhai Hari Singh Margend Ex. 37.

English translation of the above statement Ex. 37 (a).

7. Statement of Sardar Jaimal Singh Ex. 38.

8. His application to the A.G.G. Ex. 38 (a).

9. Statement of Sardar Jagat Singh Ex. 39.

English translation of the above statement Ex. 39 (a).
The committee then rose for the day.

Seventh Sitting:

The Committee met again at New Delhi on the 23rd March-1935 in the afternoon during the Legislative Assembly's Session in the room of the Nationalist Party of the Assembly.

The following members were present:—

1. N. V. Gadgil, M.L.A.
2. B. G. Mehta.

Mr. Gadgil presided.

1. Statement of Sardar Mangal Singh Ex. 40.

Eighth Sitting:

The 8th Sitting of the Committee was held at Royal Hindu Hotel, Matheran on 11th and 12th June 1935.

The following members were present:

1. Amritlal D. Sheth.
2. Balvantray Mehta.

Mr. Amritlal Sheth presided.

Sardar Wazir Singh of Patiala Riyasati Praja Mandal was present.

1. Statement of Sardar Ravel Singh Ex. 41.
2. Extracts from the "Kkali Patrika". Ex. 41 (a).
3. Sardar Wazir Singh informed the Committee that some important evidence was forthcoming and some time be therefore given for the purpose.

The committee acceded to his request and adjourned indefinitely.

4. Statement of Sardar Harchand Singh Jaiji submitted by Sardar Wazir Singhji Jaiji, former's son Ex. 42.

His statement before Fitzpatric enquiry Ex. 42 (a).

Fitzpatric Compromise Ex. 42 (b).

Application to the Prime-Minister Ex. 42 (c).

Application to the A.G.G. Ex. 42 (d).

The Committee then rose for the day.

Ninth Sitting:

Mr. Balvantray Mehta, a member of the Committee took on hand the Committee's work on the 9th, 10th, 11th & 12th June 1937 in the office of the All India States' People's Conference.

1. Statement of Sardar Bhagwan Singh Longowalia
Ex. 43.

2. His application to the A.G.G. Ex. 43 (a).

3. Following documents handed to the committee by an Ex-officer of Patiala were taken on record Ex. 44 (a) to (i).

P.A's letter to Supdt. Reception Patiala Ex. 44 (a).

Controller of Palaces to Prime Minister Ex. 44 (b).

Prime Minister to Controller of Palaces Ex. 44 (c).

Sardar Devri to Supdt. Reception Dept. Ex. 44 (d)

Correspondence containing Maharaja's orders Ex. 44 (e).

Originals of cash orders Ex. 44 (f).

Hazura Singh's note about Ram Singh and Pratap Singh
Ex. 44 (g).

Nawab Liyakat Hayat's note about Dr. Bakshis Singh's
son Ex. 44 (h).

A statement about the grievances, demands etc., of Bahadurgarh Akalis, alleged to have been submitted by Patiala C. I. D. to the Maharaja Ex. 44 (i).

Original note of the I. G. P. Patiala about Bijla Singh
Ex. 44 (j).

Tabular statement about Bijla Singh mentioned in the above note Ex. 44 (k).

SECTION III

LIST AND SUBSTANCE OF EXHIBITS

No.	Exhibit No.	Name of the Witness	Substance of the Evidence.
1.	I	.....	Resolutions of the Working Committee of the All-India States' People's Conference appointing the Committee of Enquiry.
2.	Ia		
3.	II	.....	Questionnaire issued by the Committee regarding the death of S. Seva Singh and the treatment of Political prisoners in Patiala Jail.
4.	III	.....	Communique issued by the Patiala Durbar regarding the death of S. Seva Singhjee.
5.	III a		Mr. Sheth's first telegram to the Patiala authorities asking for permission to interview S. Bhagwan Singh in Patiala Jail.
6.	III b	.....	Mr. Sheth's second telegram regarding the same.
7.	III c	.....	Reply received from the Patiala jail Superintendent by telegram.
8.	III d	.....	Reply of the Minister in charge of the Jail Department.
9.	III e	.....	Mr. Sheth's letter to the Patiala Prime Minister regarding the same.
10.	III f	.....	Mr. Sheth's telegram to the Prime Minister.

11. IV S. Hari Singh, Produces certain documents relevant to the objects of the enquiry.
President, Patiala Riyasati Praja Mandal.
12. IV a Memorial submitted to the Viceroy in March 1932 by 12 representatives of the Patiala People regarding the Fitzpatrick Enquiry and other grievances of the People of Patiala.
13. IV b Memorial to the Viceroy by the representatives of the Patiala State People submitted in March 1933.
14. IV c Memorial to the Viceroy submitted in June 1933.
15. IV d Petition of the Patiala Riyasati Praja Mandal against the findings arrived at by the Fitzpatrick Enquiry praying for an open enquiry.
16. IV e Representation to the Viceroy by certain Patiala citizens submitted in February 1934.
17. IV f Petition to the A.G.G. Punjab States by S. Hari Singh, President Patiala Riyasati Praja Mandal.
18. IV g Copy of the Patiala Government Gazette dated 27th April 1927 conferring the title of Raja on Gurdit Singh and conferring certain certain other rights on him.
- 19 to 35 IV h 1 to 17 Papers relating to the Will affair of Raja Gurdit Singh, ex-Prime Minister of Patiala.

No.	Exhibit No.	Name of the Witness.	Substance of the Evidence.
36 to 45 IV i 1 to 10			Papers relating to the daughter and grandson of S. Indra Singh claiming the status of Maharani for Ranee Sutendra Kaur and alleging the murder of her infant boy in Patiala Palace.
46.	V	S. Kisan Singh of Tehsil Mansa of Patiala States.	Says that he, as a signatory to the first memorial to the Viceroy was never summoned before the Dalhousie Committee.
47.	VI	S.Sajjan Singh of Tehsil Mansa. ,
48.	VII a	S. Jey Singh Chaudhary.	Describes the transaction of exchanging free pardon to S. Nanak Singh with his application for pardon between Master Tara Singh, S. Seva Singh and himself on one side and the I.G.P. of the Patiala State on the other.
49.	VII b	.....	A Photo copy of S. Nanak Singh's letter attested to by the Superintendent of the Patiala Jail.
50.	VIII	S. Vazir Singh Jaijee.	Describes the efforts to get information regarding the hunger-strike, illness and death of S. Seva Singh Thikriwalla in Patiala Jail.
51.	VIII a 1 to 38 to 88		Correspondence with the Patiala and Political authorities regarding the treatment and death of S. Seva Singh.

No.	Exhibit No.	Name of the Witness.	Substance of the Evidence.
89.	XI	Gyani Pratap Singh, Representative of the Shiromani Akali Dal and S. Sohan Singh, representative of S. Vazir Singh.	Describe the efforts to get the remains of S. Seva Singhjee from the Patiala Jail authorities.
90.	X	S. Sohan Singh	.....
91.	XI	Bhai Ram Singh.	.....
92.	XII	S. Dhanvant Singh, joint secretary, the Shiromani Akali Dal	.....
93 to 103	XII a-1 to 2f		Correspondence carried on by the Shiromani Akali Dal with the Patiala and Political authorities regarding treatment of S. Seva Singhjee.
104.	XIII	S. Nanak Singh, ex. Supdt. of the C.I.D. of Patiala State.	Gives the story of his talks with the Maharaja and other officials of Patiala before the Fitzpatrick Enquiry and the circumstances of his escape from the Patiala Jail.
105.	XIII a	.....	S. Nanak Singh's application to the Maharaja of Patiala.
106.	XIII b	.....	Maharaja's Pardon to S. Nanak Singh.
107.	XIII c	.....	Supplementary statement of S. Nanak Singh regarding the treatment of Political prisoners in Patiala Jail.

No.	Exhibit No.	Name of the Witness.	Substance of the Evidence.
108.	XIV	Mrs. Seva Singh senior and Mrs. Seva Singh junior.	Narrate the incidents leading to the death of Sardar Saheb.
109.	XV	Mrs. Harchand Singh Jaijee.	Regarding non-restoration of some of her property as agreed upon at the time of the Fitzpatrick Enquiry.
110.	XVI a	S. Jasmer Singh Jaijee.	Describes the efforts to get an interview with S. Seva Singh as also the details of the interview.
111.	XVI b		Extracts from the 'Tribune' giving an account of the interview.
112.	XVII	Master Tara Singh.	Regarding his interview with the Maharaja of Patiala in connection with the release of S. Seva Singh.
113.	XVIII	Mrs. Bhagwan Singh Longowalia and S. Prem Singh.	Regarding the treatment of S. Bhagwan Singh in Jail.
114.	XIX	S. Jogindra Singh.	Regarding the feelings of prisoners in Patiala Jail on account of the treatment meted out to S. Seva Singh.
115.	XX	S. Bhagat Singh.	Describes treatment of Political prisoners in Patiala jails.
116.	XXI a	S. Harnam Singh.	Treatment of Political prisoners in Patiala Jails.
117.	XXI b		Correspondence with the authorities regarding the treatment accorded to S. Seva Singh.

No.	Exhibit No.	Name of the Witness.	Substance of the Evidence.
118.	XXII	S. Mit Singh.	Regarding treatment of S. Seva Singh and other prisoners in Patiala Jail.
119.	XXIII	S. Anok Singh.	Refusal of interview with Dr. Gurumukh Singh in Patiala Jail and the occurrence of his death the very next day.
120.	XXIV	B. Bugga Singh and B. Sher Singh.	Treatment of Political prisoners in Patiala Jail.
121.	XXV	B. Gajjan Singh.	Circumstances in which death of Dr. Gurumukh Singh took place in Patiala Jail.
122.	XXVI	S. Bakhtavar Singh.	..... „ ..... Also treatment of prisoners.
123.	XXVII	S. Ganda Singh „
124.	XXVIII	S. Hari Singh Chakwalia, Editor, the 'Naujuvan Majdoor'	Describes his talks with certain Patiala officials.
125.	XXIX	Rani Nihal Kaur	Produces certain papers bearing on the question of her marriage with the Maharaja of Patiala.
126.	XXIX a		Photo copy of her affidavit in Urdu before the Magistrate.
127.	XXIX b		English translation of her affidavit.
128.	XXIX c		Her petition to the Deputy Commissioner, Simla, asking for protection for herself for the young Prince, son of her sister, and for her sister.
129.	XXIX d	 „

No.	Exhibit No.	Name of the Witness.	Substance of the Evidence.
130.	XXIX e		Memorial to the A.G.G.
131.	XXIX f		Letter of Barrister Tekchand to the A.G.G. asking for an interview on behalf of the two sisters, Ranees of Patiala.
132.	XXIX g		Reply from the Secretary of the A.G.G. refusing the interview.
133.	XXIX h		Requests of the Ranees to the Political secretary to Government of India for an interview.
134.	XXX	Ranee Kirpal Kaur.	Produces certain documents bearing on her marriage with the Maharaja of Patiala and the birth of a Prince.
135.	XXX a		Photo copy of her affidavit in Urdu.
136.	XXX b		English translation of the affidavit.
137.	XXX c		Memorial to the A. G. G. by Ranee Kirpal Kaur.
138.	XXXI	S. Jahangir Singh of Karamgarh.	Produces certain documents bearing on the question of the ownership of his property.
139.	XXXI		English translation of the affidavit made by him before a Magistrate.
140.	XXXI b		Copy of the order of the Maharaja regarding the disposal of the property.
141.	XXXI c,d,e,f,&g. to 145.		Five photo copies of the entries in the official Revenue Register
146.	XXXI h		English translation of the Revenue records.

No.	Exhibit No.	Name of the Witness.	Substance of the Evidence.
147.	XXXI i		Copy of the petition to the A.G. G. regarding confiscation of his property.
148.	XXXII	S. Samsher Singh.	Regarding the death of Dr. Gurumukh Singh and the treatment of Political prisoners.
149.	XXXIII a	Bhai Ram Singh Dharowalia.	Regarding his connections with the Bahadurgarh Fort conspiracy He also produces certain documents regarding the same.
150.	XXXIII b (1)		English translation of the affidavit.
151.	XXXXII c		Rent receipt.
152.	XXXIII d		Pucca register of the expenses incurred in Bahadurgarh Fort.
153.	XXXXII e, f, & g. to 155		Cutch Register of expenses incurred in Bahadurgarh Fort.
156.	XXXIII h		Copy of the Memorial to the A. G.G. in Urdu.
157.	XXXIII i		English translation of the above memorial.
158.	XXXIV	S. Pratap Singh.	Oral Examination when he produce certain documents in connection with his share in the Bahadurgarh conspiracy.
159.	XXXIV a		His affidavit in Urdu before the Magistrate.
160.	XXXIV b		English translation of the above affidavit.
161.	XXXIV c		Copy of the Memorial to the A. G.G.

No.	No. Exhibit	Witness. Name of the	Substance of the Evidence.
162.	XXXV	Dr. Buxis Singh.	Statement in Urdu.
163.	XXXV a		Translation in English of the above narrating the circumstances in which he found his lost son.
164.	XXXV b		Photo of Dr. Buxis Singh with his wife and child.
165.	XXXV c		Photo of the Doctor with his long lost son.
166.	XXXVI	S. Ujjagar Singh.	Regarding attack on himself by some Patiala Police official.
167.	XXXVII	S. Hari Singh Margend.	Regarding treatment of Political prisoners and treatment accorded to S. Seva Singh.
168.	XXXVIII	S. Jaimal Singh	Regarding preparation of Patiala case for the Fitzpatrick Enquiry.
169.	XXXVIII a		His application to the A.G.G.
170.	XXXIX	S. Jagat Singh	Regarding his participation in the Bahadurgarh Fort conspiracy.
171.	XL	S. Mangal Singh.	Regarding his interview with the Maharaja about S. Seva Singh's release.
172.	XLI	S. Ravel Singh	Regarding the publication of the interview of S. Jasmer Singh in the paper 'Akali Patrika'.
173.	XLI a		Extracts from the 'Akali Patrika'.

No.	Exhibit No.	Name of the Witness.	Substance of the Evidence.
174.	XLII	S. Harchand Singh Jaijee	Produces certain documents regarding the non-restoration of certain of his property in conformity with the Sapru-Fitzpatrick compromise.
175.	XLII a		patrick Enquiry. His statement before the Fitz-
176.	XLII b		Fitz-Patrick compromise.
177.	XLII c		His application to the Home Minister.
178.	XLII d		His application to the A.G.G.
179.	XLIII	Bhagwan Singh Longowalia.	Relates his kidnapping from British India and his trial.
180.	XLIII a		His application to the A.G.G.
181.	XLIV		Documents handed over to the Committee by an ex-officer of Patiala.
182.	XLIV a		P.A.'s confidential letter to the Supdt. Reception Department of Patiala regarding giving of provisions to Bhai Ram Singh's party in Fort Bahadurgarh.
183.	XLIV b		Letter of the Controller of Palaces to the Prime-Minister of Patiala regarding entertainment of confidential guests.
184.	XLIV c		Prime Minister's reply to the above.
185.	XLIV d		Letter of Major Sirdar Kishan Singh to the Supdt. Reception Patiala regarding entertainment of guests in Bahadurgarh Fort.

Ex. IV. A.
MEMORIAL

(Submitted in March, 1932).

To,

His Excellency the Viceroy of India.

From

Representatives of the doomed public of Patiala State.

The humble petition of the subjects of Patiala State respectfully showeth:—

1. That previous to this occasion the subjects of the State of Patiala have several times submitted an account of their tale of woe and misfortune with the request of securing their release from the iron hand of the Maharaja of Patiala and for purposes of redressing their grievances against the tyrannical rule of the present ruler.

2. That the Government of India through its Political Secretary assured us on many occasions that our sufferings and troubles would soon be put an end to and justice would be meted out to us. Yet our misfortune is still on the increase, and the dispensation of justice is still in the coming.

3. That in consequence of our hue and cry and as the result of our agitation, the States' People's Conference through its enquiry committee published a book under the name and style of the "INDICTMENT OF PATIALA" which was vehemently approved of by the renowned leaders and famous politicians of the country and the Government of India was also moved to order an enquiry into the matter.

4. That when the Government of India had taken the wise step of ordering an enquiry, it would have been more in the fitness of things if that enquiry was to be conducted without any

favour and by impartial and independent judges, but it is a matter of great regret that the Government of India was pleased to appoint Col. J. A. O. Fitzpatrick, the Agent to the Governor General, Punjab States, for that purpose at the special request and choice of the Maharaja of Patiala.

5. That the States' People's Conference and the Riyasti Parja Mandal had from the very start a strong belief in their mind that Col. Fitzpatrick who was a confirmed friend of the Maharaja of Patiala, would certainly side with the Maharaja, and in consequence of this belief and after failing in all their attempts to get the personnel of the enquiry changed, both these societies declared to boycott the Fitzpatrick Enquiry and the subjects of Patiala had no other alternative, but to follow this declaration of boycott. Hence the enquiry and the report of Col. Fitzpatrick were both 'ex-parte' and incomplete, and contrary to the ends of justice.

6. That though we did not participate in the Fitzpatrick enquiry, we secretly watched the internal and external proceeding of the said enquiry, and later on tried to ascertain and confirm the truth of our informations, and as the result of all such endeavours on our part, we are ready to contradict every point of that enquiry and if the file of that enquiry and the final report are to be put on the anvil of a judicial trial, we would be able to prove the following:—

- (a) That during the course of that enquiry large sums of money had been given to the witnesses on behalf of the Maharaja.
- (b) That the Maharaja and his agents exercised undue influence and coercion in the name of the Agent to the Governor-General, and threats were meted out to people that if any one would make any deposition against the Maharaja, he would be subjected to extreme penalties both in person and property.

- (c) Forged and imaginary documents were inserted in this enquiry by the Maharaja and his agents.
- (d) False witnesses were produced.
- (e) Oral and documentary evidence was tampered with,
- (f) That the completion of the record was carried out under the instructions, and according to the wishes of the Maharaja.

7. That through several agencies we were made to believe that due to the exigencies of times and as a matter of policy the face of the Maharaja would be saved as the result of this enquiry, but that the wrongs of the subjects would be redressed in an indirect way, and arrangements would be made whereby the Maharaja would be made absolutely helpless and void of all means of taking his revenge on his subjects. We very eagerly awaited for this happy termination of things.

8. That the practical experience of the last two years has shown to us that instead of inaugurating the reign of peace and prosperity, the Maharaja, as the result of the enquiry, has been emboldened to such an extent that he has made it a mission of his life to ruin his subjects in all possible manner, following being some of its instances:—

- (a) Great repression was practised on the people on the occasion of a Dewan at Dhuri last year. Some innocent people were imprisoned, and those persons who memorialised the Government of India or participated in demonstration at Bombay, or made complaints to the Government against the Maharaja, were all interned in Mahendragarh Fort.
- (b) Public properties and Gurdwaras are being confiscated and declared as State properties.

- (c) That an institution of Capitalists and Biswedars has been inaugurated, which works for the gain of the Maharaja and as a reward for their services, the Biswadars are given possession of the lands and cultivations of thousands of non-occupancy tenants.
- (d) In order to conceal the causes of the murder of Sardar Lal Singh of Rajumajra, Sardar Gurnam Singh was prepared to give false evidence, and as a reward for this act, he had been given the lands of thousands of cultivators of the village Rajumajra. Numberless men, women and children are thus ruined and wandering about as paupers.
- (e) Similarly Sardar Jagat Singh Subedar, the father of Maharani Daleep Kaur, wife of Sardar Lal Singh (murdered) and presently the favourite wife of the Maharaja, is being favoured and pampered at the cost of the blood of thousands of cultivators

Instances of this nature can be well multiplied; suffice it to say that the inhabitants of 700 villages of Patiala State are in a pitiable state of misery and penury at the hands of the Maharaja.

- (f) For the purposes of weddings, the Jagirs of innumerable Jagirdars have been confiscated in the name of Necta.
- (g) The rigours of Begar System have increased considerably to carry out the operations of constructing Bhupendra Sagar, Ladha Kothi and Dog Show houses.

9. That immediately following the wake of the Dalhousie enquiry Sardar Sewa Singh Thekriwala was arrested, and was awarded 5 years' imprisonment and one thousand rupees fine on false and concocted evidence. The case should have been tried by some court in British India. The Maharaja subsequently released Sardar Sewa Singh as he wanted to play another game with the people of his State.

10. That shortly after the Fitzpatrick enquiry, a policy of great repression was adopted so far as the people of Sunam were concerned. A false case of conspiracy was got up there, and, those persons who had submitted their memorials against the atrocities of the Maharaja were implicated in it, and were awarded long terms of imprisonment.

11. That the report published by the Maharaja in reply to the Indictment of Patiala before the Fitzpatrick Enquiry was so shallow and futile that it hardly contradicted the points involved in the Indictment, but described only the life history of the Maharaja. The tyrannies, atrocities, and the misdeeds of the Maharaja have found so much publicity and notoriety that the entire Indian Society has got thoroughly disgusted with the Maharaja with the result that, in that report the following institutions, papers and persons have been designated as the enemies of the Maharaja :

INSTITUTIONS.

- (a) 1. Shromani Gurdwara Parbhandak Committee.
2. Shromani Akali Dal.
3. Central Sikh League.
4. Punjab States Dewan.
5. Punjab States' Shiromani Darbar.
6. Malwa Pritinidh Khalsa Dewan.
7. Parja Sankat Haren Committee.
8. Punjab Riyasti Parja Mandal.
9. Indian States' People's Conference.
10. All India Congress, etc., etc.

NEWSPAPERS.

- (b) 1. Akali Te Pardesi.
2. Kirpan Bahadur.
3. Bande Matram.
4. Pratap.
5. Milap.
6. Kesari,

7. Riyasat
8. Diler-i-Hind.
9. Sachha Dhandora.
10. Beer Akali.
11. Hindustan Times.
12. Indian Daily Telegraph.
13. New Herald etc. etc.

PERSONS.

- (c) 1. Baba Kharak Singh.
2. Baba Gordit Singh.
3. Sardar Sardul Singh Kaveshar.
4. Master Tara Singh.
5. Sardar Mangal Singh.
6. Sardar Sewa Singh Thikriwala.
7. Sardar Surain Singh.
8. Sardar Sewa Singh Kirpan Bahadur.
9. Sardar Mool Singh Chonda.
10. Sardar Teja Singh Samundri.
11. Sardar Diwan Singh Maftoon.
12. Sardar Bhagwan Singh Lohngowalia.
13. Sardar Katar Singh Nangal.
14. Sardar Jangir Singh.
15. Sardar Harnam Singh.
16. Sardar Wazir Singh.
17. Sardar Bhagat Singh.
18. Sardar Teja Singh, Vakeel Nabha.
19. Giyani Sardar Singh.
20. Maulanas Shaukat Ali and Mohammad Ali.
21. Pandit Moti Lal Nehru.
22. Mrs. Sarojini Naidu.
23. Lala Lajpat Rai.
24. Mr. Amrit Lal Seth.
25. Baba Amrit Lal Thakur etc. etc.,

When all the above-said leaders of India and innumerable papers of the country have condemned the Maharaja in the most

unequivocal terms, the question remains, who is the supporter and helper of the said prince? The only answer is—his untold wealth and the unboundable store of flattery and hospitality on the part of the said ruler that has always stood him in good stead.

(12.) The Maharaja has taken the clever protection of collecting some records of reports made by his own underlings such as Sardar Amrik Singh, Sardar Hazura Singh Dhilon, Fazal Kareem etc. These reports aim at representing that some of the above named persons had made a design of making an attempt on the life of the Maharaja, but that their attempts were frustrated owing to the timely information given by Mr. Dighe and Sardar Sampuran Singh. That this contemptible step on the part of the Maharaja is proof positive of the fact that the Maharaja has left no stone unturned in concocting false cases, entering into conspiracies and getting innocent persons implicated on disgraceful charges. But it is for us a matter of great pleasure to state that some of the responsible officials of British India had become fully aware of all the tactics and machinations on the part of the Maharaja, and it was only on account of this that certain individuals from British India could not be victimised by the Maharaja while his own subjects have been made an easy prey to the lust and caprice of the said ruler.

(13.) That it is not difficult for the Maharaja of Patiala who is an independent Chief to get any of his subjects implicated on a serious charge through its own police and get him convicted in his own Courts within his territory, especially so when he has been successful to enlist the sympathies of a responsible Government official in the person of Col. J. A. O. Fitzpatrick the Agent to the Governor-General in Council, and has also been able to draw a curtain to his own misdeeds and foul tactics in foreign territories by creating false and perjured evidence.

The Charges.

(14.) That the Indian States' People's Conference had laid the following charges against the Maharaja as the result of their thorough enquiry;

- (a) Intentional and cold-blooded murder of Sardar Lal Singh, husband of Maharani Dalip Kaur.
- (b) Manufacture of bombs in Bahadurgarh Fort.
- (c) Murder of Bichhetar Kaur, wife of Dr. Bakhshish Singh and the disappearance of his son.
- (d) Illegal confinement and internment of Sardar Harchand Singh Jeiji and the confiscation of all his property.
- (e) Illegal confinement and imprisonment of Sardar Sewa Singh Tekhriwala and acts of tyranny and oppression on Akalis such as Sardar Ridha Singh etc.
- (f) Forcibly snatching away the wife of Sardar Amar Singh and keeping her in his palace.

15. All the evidence produced by the Maharaja to refute the above said charges is false and concocted, and we beg to take the fullest responsibility to completely substantiate the above-said charges. As a matter of fact, the Panjab Riyasti Parja Mandal in its conference at Ludhiana on the 12th October 1930, had passed a regular resolution to the effect that it was ready and prepared to prove that the report of the Fitzpatrick enquiry was not correct, as it was the outcome of fraud. We have all the material in our possession to prove the charges if an impartial enquiry is to be instituted by the Government.

In connection with the above said grave and serious charges laid against the Maharaja, we beg to draw particular attention to the following few points of the Fitzpatrick enquiry:—

- (a) That Lala Dina Nath, Judge, High Court, Patiala, has not been able to arrive at any definite conclusion as to the motive of the murder of Lal Singh in his judgment

dated the 8th Bhadon Sambat 1977, but Sardar Nanak Singh, Superintendent of Police who was an accused in the case had described the motive of the murder to be his own selfishness. Now Sardar Nanak Singh had no enmity with Lal Singh nor did he ever desire to get the property of the deceased. What were then those selfish motives which goaded him to participate in such a brutal act? The reply is plain and simple, it was to gain further favours from the Maharaja, and this explanation solves the riddle of "Motive" of this heinous act.

Sardar Ghamdur Singh, the co-accused in the above case did not explain any other motive in his statement, which could be interpreted as contrary to that given by Nanak Singh.

The States' People's Conference has stated in the Indictment that the motive of the murder was to get Sardarni Daleep Kaur, the wife of the deceased for the harem of the Maharaja.

Subsequent happenings prove that it was so, as Dalip Kaur was made the favourite Maharani of the great Maharaja.

The Dalhousie Enquiry gives a wonderfully curious account of the motive of the above murder, and that again, after the lapse of 12 long years after the incident. This account is not only surprising but really a disgraceful and regrettable one. Ghamdur Singh, the murderer of Lal Singh has been made to make a shameful statement to the effect that Lal Singh deceased, and he himself, were the two rival candidates who had their carnal connections with the wife of Sardar Gurnam Singh, and the jealousy of this rivalry led Ghamdur Singh to commit the murder of Lal Singh. This melancholy, mean statement does not

appear in any of the previous proceedings connected with the trial of the case, and if this was actually the object of this murder, it is very strange that Ghamdur Singh who had been guilty of the commission of two offences, that is, the murder of Lal Singh and adultery with the wife of Gurnam Singh has been released after undergoing an imprisonment of three years only, instead of his being sent to the gallows for the cold-blooded and ruthless murder of Lal Singh. . . . Again the honour and prestige of the Maharaja is absolutely mixed in dust, when we realise that a scandalous imputation of such a nature has been made against the fair name and reputation of the wife of Gurnam Singh, who is the maternal grand-mother of the heir-apparent of Patiala and the mother of the Maharani of Patiala. The depravity and profligacy of the Maharaja becomes self-evident by his resorting to such a device of blackening the face of his own near and dear relative, in order to save his own skin and to purchase a temporary peace.

New Phase and Colour.

During the course of the enquiry and shortly preceding the same, Sardar Nanak Singh was made to run away from custody, when his statement was essential and necessary in this connection. This was a design in order to avoid his statement coming in, as he was bound to give entirely a different tale of the whole affair. The Maharaja compelled Sardar Sundar Singh Majitha to tell a lie in order to corroborate some portion of the previous statement of Nanak Singh; and although it was publicly announced that Nanak Singh had run away from under arrest and warrants were also issued for his re-arrest, yet those warrants were cancelled after few months. Sardar Nanak Singh is now freely moving about, and his statement alone would give the lie direct to all the new phase and colour that has now been introduced in the matter of the murder of Lal Singh.

Sardar Gurnam Singh in his turn is in the strong grip of the Maharaja, and in the situation that he has been placed at the present moment, it is impossible for him to admit his former letter which contains matter against the theory now set up.

Sardarni Daleep Kaur the wife of Lal Singh is immune from making any statement in this connection as she enjoys the proud position of being the favourite Rani of the Maharaja and her father Sardar Jagat Singh is also favoured and pampered by the Maharaja.

Sardar Ghamdur Singh, the admitted murderer of Lal Singh was under orders of banishment from Patiala, but a month prior to the murder, the orders of banishment were annulled, and he was induced to commit the murder, and though he was confined in jail to all appearances, he was provided with all sorts of comforts and conveniences there, and was awarded large sums of money. In order to please him further, his cousin Sardar Harchand Singh Jaijee was made to suffer all sorts of disgrace and iniquity, as Ghamdur Singh was not on good terms with his cousin, Harchand Singh Jaijee. In this connection, the statement made by Sardar Harchand Singh before Mr. Fitzpatrick can be studied with great advantage. In this way the charge of the murder of Lal Singh can well be proved against the Maharaja.

16. As regards the manufacture of bombs in Bahadurgarh Fort, the following points are noteworthy:—

- (a) Bijla Singh, a witness on behalf of the Maharaja, was an absconder as he was mixed up in several serious crimes, but by the grace and kindness of the Maharaja, he is in the enjoyment of the position of a Sardar and respectable man, instead of being punished for the offences that he had committed. This is all as a reward for his services in Bahadurgarh Fort. He has been given thousands of rupees in cash and large areas of land for cultivation by the orders of the Maharaja of Patiala.
- (b) Mehar Singh is that person who lost his arm as the result of an explosion of a bomb while in preparation

in Bahadurgarh Fort. This man has embezzled lots of money and is in the know of the murder of Bichhatar Kaur, and is therefore enjoying the patronage of the Maharaja.

- (c) Bhai Jaimal Singh Chakdania, Bhai Harbans Singh Kheri, Bhai Harnam Singh Kheri, Bhai Jagat Singh Aqlia, Bhai Ram Singh Dharovalia etc. etc the witnesses in connection with the manufacture of bombs in Bahadurgarh Fort and know the real facts of the murder of Bichhatar Kaur. Nawab Liyaqat Hayat Khan the minister and the Maharaja both went to Amritsar in person, and there made attempts to win over these men to their side. They succeeded in the case of Ram Singh and Partap Singh, but the above mentioned four gentlemen refused to perjure themselves, and they were therefore prevented from appearing before Mr. Fitzpatrick and making true disclosures of things. Bhai Ram Singh and Bhai Partap Singh were the only witnesses who could thus be procured to make false statements in this connection. If an impartial enquiry be now made, this matter of making bombs could be proved to the hilt.
- (d) It is a significant fact to note that the Maharaja could not succeed in inducing Sardar Bakhshish Singh to make any statement in his favour in spite of the fact that he was summoned before Mr. Fitzpatrick to get back his son at Dalhousie. Dr. Bakhshish Singh has made a clear and open statement at Amritsar and Ludhiana shortly after the enquiry.
17. (a) That during the enquiry, the son of Dr. Bakhshish Singh was handed over to him after lapse of eight

years. This boy was with his mother, Bibi Bichhatar Kaur and one sister. Both of them are not traceable now. This proves that they have been done away with.

- (b) From the very statements of Bijla Singh, Kishan Singh, etc. who are the protegees of the Maharaja, it is abundantly clear that the account of an accidental death of Bichhatar Kaur was merely a got up affair and that she has actually been murdered and her son kept in wrongful confinement for eight long years.
- (c) For eight years there was a great hue and cry and agitation in papers in connection with the whereabouts of Bibi Bichhatar Kaur and the son of Dr. Bakhshish Singh. No response was made to this either by the Maharaja or his underlings, when all of a sudden owing to some reason or the other, Dr. Bakhshish Singh was summoned before Mr. Fitzpatrick at Dalhousie to get back his son. The whole thing remained completely shrouded up in a mystery all this time, and it is queer circumstance to note that the son of Dr. Bakhshish Singh was given to him only when he had made his approach to the Government of India with a number of applications and memorials. The return of the son and non-return of Bichhatar Kaur and her child daughter shows positively that she and her child were both murdered,

18. (a) That it was proved before Mr. Fitzpatrick that Sardar Harchand Singh Jaijee had been kept in wrongful confinement, and he was ordered to be released while the enquiry was going on.

- (a) It is only in name that his cultivable land and the proceeds of the sale of his property have been given to him,

(b) That with a view to humour the feelings of Ghamdur Singh who bears a grudge to Sardar Harchand Singh, and with the further object of disgracing him, his valuable jewellery, cash and all other things taken possession of at the time of his arrest have not been returned to him up to this time nor his property situated in Patiala. A treatment of retaliation and revenge still continues in his case, and in spite of the fact that Sardar Harchand Singh has adduced ample proof of his loss and damage, the matter is being put off indefinitely. The only reason for all this delay and dilatory tactics is that owing to the true and unrestrained statement made by Sardar Harchand Singh before Col. Fitzpatrick, the Maharaja regards the Sardar Sahib as an eye sore, and as such the life and honour of the Sardar Sahib is always in great jeopardy and danger. His son Sardar Wazir Singh, a college student who made great efforts in bringing the case of his father to the notice of the authorities is not safe either. On account of his standing by his father like an obedient and dutiful son, he is to be punished by the Maharaja as a hostile rebel !

(19) That the Maharaja has become an adept in the art of mischief, fraud and conspiracy and has now gained a considerable experience in these lines. Therefore those men who are the slaves of lust and greed become easy tools in the hands of the Maharaja to carry out his campaign of ruthless plunder and exploitation of the poor subjects. This has now become an open secret that the blame of the atrocities and crimes committed by the Maharaja was in the first instance laid against Sardar Gurdit Singh Wazir, and Sardar Pritam Singh Bakhshi. In the second place, Sardar Ghamdur Singh and Sardar Nanak Singh had to bear the brunt of the murder of Sardar Lal Singh, although the murder was committed for the satisfaction of the personal lust

and greed of the Maharaja. Similarly on this third occasion, when the Maharaja was guilty of ruthless oppression and tyranny in wrongfully arresting and confining Sardar Sewa Singh, Sardar Ridha Singh and all other public workers, the Maharaja could think of no other device to save his face and to draw a curtain over all his misdeeds but to approach Sardar Hazura Singh Dhillon to take the blame of all that on his shoulders just as Nanak Singh had taken upon himself the responsibility of the murder of Lal Singh. Thus Sardar Hazura Singh was persuaded to take upon himself the responsibility of all the atrocious conduct of the Maharaja. We have now to wait and see if the Maharaja fulfils all his tall promises of favour and kindness made to Sardar Hazura Singh !

(20) That the count in the indictment with respect to Sardarni Amar Kaur wife of Sardar Amar Singh has been proved in all manner.

- (a) The letter of Mr. Crump A. G. G., Punjab States, which has seen the light of the day in certain papers has not been contradicted or proved to be false by the Maharaja.
- (b) There is no denial of the fact that Amar Kaur is the legally wedded wife of Amar Singh.
- (c) That it is amply proved that since the month of Bhadon Sam. 1967, when Amar Kaur was forcibly abducted from her husbands's place, she has been kept in confinement in the Royal harem and being treated all along as the wife of the Maharaja.
- (d) That it is proved that from the Mahraja she has given birth to a daughter who is now aged 19 years and a son who is aged five years.
- (e) The Maharaja himself celebrated the marriage of this daughter last year.

(f) Sardar Amar Singh has given his detailed statement in this connection before Col. Fitzpatrick and as in the case of Dr. Bakhshish Singh, the wife of Amar Singh has not been given back to him nor has he been paid any compensation for all the iniquity and disgrace that he has been made to suffer at the hands of the Maharaja.

21. That the grievances and demands of the public have not been satisfied for so long, the subjects are silently bearing all the suffering and misery they are subjected to.

22. That in order to stop all agitation against himself and with a view to gag the mouth of the complaining public, the Maharaja has very cleverly succeeded in getting a joint mandate issued from the three Phulkian states that whosoever would open his lips against the Maharaja or would write or take any step against the Maharaja would at once be killed.

23. That the Maharaja is proverbially extravagant and a spend-thrift, wasting the public treasury in his licentious pursuits with the result that the state has become indebted to a great extent. Since the finish of Fitzpatrick enquiry, the Maharaja has entered into three more matrimonial alliances for his own self while there are about 30 children registered as the Maharaja's offsprings, and hundreds of wives in his harem. In marrying the daughter of Anwarjan prostitute last year and in the second marriage of Sardarni Amar Kaur's daughter, the Maharaja spent 7 lacs of rupees in each marriage.

24. That the land revenue in the state and abiana was already at a higher scale than that in British India, and though the authorities in British India have allowed remissions and rebates in their collections, the Maharaja has not even brought

down the revenue to the ordinary level in British India, thus he has refused to afford all relief to his suffering peasantry.

25. That news have just arrived that the prisoners of Mahendra Garh Fort have started fasting owing to the bad treatment meted out to them. It is necessary that steps should be taken to save their lives.

Wanted Responsible Govt.

26. We the public of Patiala State beg of your Excellency a number of times that arrangements should be made for establishing responsible Government in Patiala State and Sri Hazoor Tikka Sahib should be placed at the Gadi of Patiala just as it has been done at Indore. In the alternative, we are all present here in the capital of India and we pray that arrangements should be made for our livelihood and residence in British India territory as our lives, property and honour are every moment in very great danger.

(27) As we appear before your Excellency as the mute and silent victims of the wrath and caprice of the Maharaja, we pray that arrangements for the protection of our lives and property be made forthwith, for which act of kindness and grace we shall for ever pray.

The Subjects and Members of the Riyasat Patiala through the representatives of the doomed public of Patiala State.

- (1) S. Sewa Singh Thikriwala, President Punjab Riasti Parja Mandal, Vice-President Shiromani Akali Dal, President, Malwa Pratinidhi Khalsa Diwan and President, Parja Mandal Patiala State.
- (2) S. Katar Singh, Acting President Parja Mandal Patiala.
- (3) S. Amar Singh Roorkee, Vice-President Parja Mandal Patiala.

- (4) S. Jagir Singh Joga, General Secretary Parja Mandal, Patiala.
- (5) Sardar Jagir Singh Phagu Singhwal, Secretary Parja Mandal Patiala.
- (6) S. Ridha Singh, President Akali Jatha Patiala State.
- (7) S. Paritam Singh Gujran, Vice-President Akali Jatha Patiala State.
- (8) S. Ujagar Singh Thikriwala, General Secretary Akali Jatha.
- (9) S. Chanan Singh Chanarthal, Secretary Akali Jatha Patiala State.
- (10) S. Balwant Singh, Vice-Secretary Akali Jatha Patiala State.
- (11) S. Jaswant Singh Gardar, Cashier, Akali Jatha Patiala State.
- (12) S. Bhagwan Singh Longowalia, Secretary, Punjab Riasti Prajamandal.

—:0:—

FITZPATRICK ENQUIRY.

STATEMENT OF THE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE. RIYASTI PARJA MANDAL, PUNJAB.

I was deputed by the President and the Secretary Riyasti Parja Mandal, Punjab, on the first June 1930, to proceed to Dalhousie and report about the proceedings of the Patiala enquiry. I accordingly reached Dalhousie on the 3rd June 1930, and learnt that the enquiry would be held at Jandri Ghat, in the Bungalow of Maharaja Sahib Chamba and that Mr. Fitzpatrick, Agent to the Governor General would also stay there. The staff of the A. G. G. consisted of a Hindu Camp Clerk and four stenographers and typists. The Patiala Camp was located at a distance of one and a half miles from that place towards Dalhousie. Many bungalows including Backroad House, Portland House, Portland Hall, Good Naitan etc., had been rented for that purpose. Backroad House was reserved for the

residence and office of Nawab Liyaqat Hayat Khan, and all secret and special business of importance was transacted there. Sardar Amrik Singh, in-charge of Deorhi, Mr. Fazal Khan, Superintendent C. I. D. and some other Military and Police Officers were staying at House. Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru, Mr. Aney, Miss Shama Nehru and other lawyers were staying at Portland House. Goodnaitan was set apart for witnesses from Patiala, with whom there was a force of Patiala Police with a number of head constables and sub-inspectors. Diwan Pindi Das, Sir C. P. Rama Swami Ayer and other Madrasi lawyers were staying at Portland Hall. Sardar Hazura Singh Dhillon, Sardar Raghbir Singh Inspector-General of Police and Dewan Niranjana Parshad stayed at the Bungalow of Raizada Bhagat Ram.

Sheikh Imdad Ali was in charge of the board and lodging. Many tents were pitched in the open space of Portland House for the use of servants and police. Patiala officials began to arrive at Dalhousie on the 5th June and on the 6th June, Sardar Amrik Singh, Deorhi Officer, Sardar Raghbir Singh Inspector-General of Police and Fazal Karim Khan, Supdt. of Police arrived. At about 6 p. m. on the evening of the 6th June two motor cars were seen near the Post office. In one of these, Bhai Partap Singh and a Patiala Police Officer were seen, and in the other Bhai Ram Singh, Deorhi Officer, Sardar Raghbir Singh Inspector-General no other occupant could be recognised. The curtained car waited near the Post Office till after dusk, when somebody covered with a white sheet, as if a lady in Pardah, was transferred to a Dandi, which was taken by the back approach to Backroad House. The Dandi was guarded by Police and Bhai Ram Singh also accompanied it.

Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru, Sir C. P. Rama Swami Ayer, Nawab Liyaqat Hayat Khan and Diwan Pindi Das arrived on the evening of the 7th. Witnesses were produced before the lawyers on the 8th and on the same day Sardar Nanak Singh's absconcion became

known in the Patiala Camp, but there was no visible sign of anxiety about it.

The enquiry started on the 9th June 1930, at Jandri Ghat. On the previous day I went round all the bungalows but except Goodnaitan, where witnesses from Patiala were staying, nobody was allowed to enter any of the bungalows. Special care was taken not to permit any approach to witnesses from the British Territory. Restrictions were at their climax at Backroad House, and I learnt that in that bungalow Bhai Ram Singh and others were lodged and nobody except two trusted Agents of Nawab Liyaqat Hayat Khan could visit them.

At the enquiry on the 9th June, the following lawyers were present for Maharaja Sahib of Patiala.

(1) Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru; (2) Mr. Aney; (3) Sir C. P. Rama Swami Ayer with his junior; (4) Mr. Sham Sunder Suxena; (5) Miss Sham Kumari Nehru and (6) Diwan Pindi Das.

Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru delivered his opening speech on the first day, and on the next day witnesses were produced by Patiala regarding manufacture of bombs at Bahadar Garh and murder of Bachhittar Kaur.

About the Bahadar Garh affair the contention of Patiala was that neither manufacture of bombs took place at Bahadar Garh Fort nor did Dr. Bakhshish Singh reside there at any time.

Regarding the murder of Bachhittar Kaur the contention of Patiala was that Bhai Ram Singh Dharowalia brought Dr. Bakhshish Singh, his wife and child from Ropar and they were lodged in the European Guest House with R. B. Lala Bhagwan Das Superintendent of the Imperial C. I. D. Doctor Bakhshish Singh eloped and his wife and child were sent to Phool by Rail. There she developed intimacy with Kartar Singh Akali of Salana who brought her

back to Patiala and kept her secretly in a house at Banaur. Bichhittar Kaur was pregnant at that time and gave birth to a daughter. Both Bachhittar Kaur and the newly born child died after some illness. The boy was brought up by Kartar Singh who left him with Sardar Sant Singh at Sargodha telling the latter that the boy was Kartar Singh's own son. Sardar Sant Singh on learning that the boy was Bakhshish Singh's son has brought him to Dalhousie and produced him before the Agent to the Governor-General.

About the murder of Sardar Lal Singh, the case for Patiala was that Sardar Lal Singh and Sardar Ghamdur Singh both had illicit connection with the wife of Sardar Gurnam Singh. So on account of this connection and the consequent rivalry, enmity grew between the two and resulted in the murder.

The contention of Patiala regarding Amar Kaur, the wife of Sardar Amar Singh of Rurkee was that she did not want to go back to Sardar Amar Singh.

About the forfeiture of the property of Sardar Har Chand Singh, the plea was that this was done on account of his anti-government activities.

The following were the leading witnesses, produced by Patiala:—

1. Sardar Bahadur Sir Sundar Singh Majithia.
2. Sardar Bahadur Gurnam Singh.
3. Rajah Sir Daya Kishan Kaul.
4. Bakhshi Mahtab Singh Vakil.
5. Pandit Jiwan Lall Mattu.
6. Bhai Ram Singh Dharowalia.
7. Bhai Partap Singh Safri.
8. Bhai Mehar Singh Salana.
9. Sardar Sant Singh Sargodha.

10. Sardar Dalip Singh Shaikhupura.
11. Bhai Kartar Singh Salana.
12. Bhai Jetha Singh Katri.
13. Sardar Hazura Singh.
14. Mr. Fazal Karim Khan and
15. Sardar Amrik Singh Sardar Deorhi.

There was so much show of police that nobody could come near any witness. The police officer standing near the door of the room in which the enquiry was held, sent each of the witnesses after he had finished his statement to the next witness. The witnesses were not made to sit in the court after finishing their statements, nor did the A. G. G. take precautions that the witnesses did not communicate the substance of their own statements to the remaining witnesses. Although the statements were recorded at Jandri Ghat, they were not signed by the witnesses on that very day. A Patiala lawyer and the Police Superintendent were deputed to get the signature of the witnesses at the Patiala Camp on the following day.

I have also learnt in this connection that some pages of the typed statements were even changed in the Patiala Camp.

As far as my information goes Nawab Liyaqat Hayat Khan even reprimanded one or two witnesses for stating a few things in excess of what they were told to state. They were told that if they continued like that, the Agent would order them to be arrested.

The Superintendent of Police, Patiala was sitting in front of the door of the enquiry room and was communicating the substance of the statements made to the C.I.D. Inspector standing near him who was responsible for coaching the next witness according to instructions.

Nawab Liyaqat Hayat Khan always remained with the Agent. He entered the Court room with him and left it when

he left, and was also taking his lunch and tea with the Agent. Inside the room Nawab Sahib's seat was near that of the Agent and by this the witnesses were influenced and the threat held out to the witnesses, was countenanced. This threat was that the agent had been won over and he had promised that whoever would make any statement against Patiala would be put under arrest.

Some writing work was going on throughout the night in the Police Camp. On one of the nights, and on private enquiry I learnt new Zimmies about the arrest and detention of Bhai Ram Singh Dharowalia and his companions, have been prepared.

Dr. Bakhshish Singh was also seen in Dalhousie one day and his son was made over to him by the A. G. G. at Jandri Ghat but nothing was said about his wife and daughter.

The staff of the A. G. G., including the stenographers etc., were being lavishly entertained at the Patiala Camp throughout the day. Nawab Liyaqat Hayat Khan and Sardar Raghbir Singh Inspector General of Police Patiala told 2 or 3 of the witnesses that as the A. G. G. had been won over, they did not mind any irregularities.

I was also successful in my attempt to have an opportunity of seeing the A. G. G. and narrated the irregularities and illegalities to him but he paid no heed.

-----:0:-----

Ex. IV. i-1 to i-10.

**Copies of the conflicting letters from the Hon'ble the A.G.G.
Punjab States, dated 16/17-5-34 and 22-5-34.**

S. INDRA SINGH'S DAUGHTER.

Sardar Indra Singh is hereby informed with reference to his letter dated 14th May 1934, that the Hon'ble Agent to the Governor-General, Punjab States, has carefully considered his petitions Nos. 38 and 39 and has directed that a reply be duly sent to him. **He regrets that he is unable to attempt to intervene**

in the circumstances of marriage said to have been solemnised between the petitioner's daughter (with her and her father's consent) and His Highness the Maharaja of Patiala, which he regards in the circumstances explained by the petitioner as a private and domestic affair.

In the circumstances he sees no object in granting further interview to Sardar Indra Singh who has already had an opportunity of explaining his case at length to Mr. Griffin.

Camp Mashobra,
Dated the 16/17-5-1934.

Indra Singh C. E.

* * * * *

Dated Camp Kapurthala the 22-5-34.
(No. K. 60, R/P-34.)

Dear Sir,

With reference to the correspondence ending with your petitioner No. 39 dated the 3rd May 1934, I am desired to inform you that Hon'ble the Agent to the Governor-General is prepared if you wish to use his good offices to try to arrange for your daughter to be sent back to you but that he is unable to intervene in connection with the matrimonial alliance which you claim to have been concluded, and which is a private matter between you and His Highness the Maharaja of Patiala.

Yours truly,
sd/- L. C. L. Griffin,
Secretary.

Indra Singh C. E.

* * * * *

To

THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL IN COUNCIL,

Through:—

The A. G. G. Punjab States,
(Simla), Mashobra.

No. 48, Dated Simla the 9th July 1934.

May it please your Excellency,

Your memorialist begs to submit the following facts for your Excellency's kind consideration which would show that His Highness the Maharaja of Patiala has been not only guilty of cheating the memorialist and his daughter *Rani Sutendra Kaur* but has actually been guilty of murder, and the following facts would further disclose a state of misrule in the Patiala State so gross that your Excellency would find it absolutely indispensable to extend your generous hand of interference and render justice (Vide copies of the case attached herewith.)

They are as follows :—

1. That the memorialist is a respectable bonafide subject of Patiala State and owns a considerably large immovable property in Patiala proper and its surrounding villages; besides this he has been holding responsible posts in Patiala and several other states as well in British India as an Engineer.

2. That the memorialist got a notice served on His Highness the Maharaja of Patiala through his counsel Captain Surendrapal Singh Advocate, High Court, on 12-3-34 in which all the grievances of the memorialist were put down very clearly a copy whereof is attached herewith for your Excellency's perusal.

3. That His Highness the Maharaja of Patiala, fraudulently and deceitfully got the memorialist's highly educated daughter *Bibi Sutendra Kaur* married with himself on 7th Magh Samat 1933 at Mahindra Kothi, (the place of His Highness) at Patiala, with the solemn promise that the marriage which we duly performed according to Sikh Dharma and rites would be announced and Bibi Sutendra Kaur would be given the status of a Maharani thereafter.

4. That inspite of repeated requests of the Memorialist to His Highness the Maharaja of Patiala, the memorialist's daughter *has not been made one of the Maharanis of Patiala.*

5. That out of this lawful wedlock, the memorialist's daughter gave birth to a male child on 28-12-32, in the palace of Patiala, but the news of the birth of the child was kept under strict secrecy for the reasons best known to His Highness and a little after the new born child was murdered by the criminal conspiracy of Maharani Ubhowalia, Sister Steels, Sardar Buta Ram and Sardar Jai Singh at the instance of His Highness the Maharaja of Patiala, so much so that the memorialist's daughter had a providential escape, as the naval chord was cut before the child was born fully along with its naval chord and Aul.

6. That the memorialist finding that his representations are not cared for and his requests for redressing his grievances are falling on deaf ears waited upon the Hon'ble the Political Secretary, Government of India and explained the whole case to him who directed the memorialist to see the Hon'ble the A.G.G. Punjab States.

7. That the memorialist made numerous representations requesting most respectfully to His Highness to make enquiries as to the mysterious death of the child, but His Highness being an abettor to all intents and purposes in the crime deliberately avoided any investigation.

8. That the memorialist saw the Hon'ble A.G.G. Punjab States and submitted his petitions (copies of which are attached herewith) for the redress of his grievances, but the memorialist was informed (vide a letter dated 16|17-5-34. from the Hon'ble A.G.G.) that he is unable to attempt to intervene in the matter as it is a private and domestic affair. Copies of the correspondence which passed between the memorialist and the Hon'ble A. G. G. are enclosed herewith.

9. That the memorialist is further informed that on account of the steps that your memorialist is taking to redress his just grievances *His Highness is subjecting the memorialist's aforesaid daughter to untold torture and further contemplating the forfeiture of memorialist's situated in Patiala State and is inspiring his officials to accord unfair treatment in his cases and hinder execution of his decrees etc. in state courts.*

10. That the memorialist cannot even enter the Patiala State territory to pass his last days (as he is already just over 55) amidst his Baradari under such disgrace and constant fear of His Highness who may imprison him and subject him to unknown torture and tyranny and put him under wrongful confinement as was already done on 1-4-34 by decoying him from Lahore to Patiala by pretending that the memorialist would interview his daughter and have his grievances redressed there and then (vide his petitions Nos. 38 and 39). Your Excellency will no doubt concenter that the memorialist on account of such ill treatment to him and to his daughter is naturally feeling miserable, worried, helpless and heart-broken. The above stated facts cleanly establish that the Maharaja of Patiala is committing great oppression and atrocities on his own subjects and is actually guilty of wrongul confinement and perpetration of slavery brought about by fraudulent means maintained by high-handed abuse of powers, guided by unscrupulous principles, perpetrated under your Excellency's regime, of which there are numerous instances of such misrule and tyranny. Should an opportunity be granted, which your memorialist fervently hopes, your Excellency will be graciously

pleased to do, of hearing them all, all the allegations made and facts stated above will be proved to the very hilt.

Your memorialist accordingly prays Your Excellency will be graciously pleased to institute an investigation into the matter and to grant redress to your memorialist and his daughter Rani Sutendra Kaur, which is so long denied to them with vengeance in violation of the solemn pledges which a ruler of a State is bound to adhere to morally and legally.

Your humble memorialist prays that Your Excellency will be graciously pleased to institute and open enquiry wherein your memorialist be allowed a fair chance and free hand in adducing all evidence unhampered by the Maharaja and his employees, for which act of kindness your memorialist will ever pray for your Excellency's long life and prosperity.

Your Excellency's,
most humble memorialist,
Sd|- Indra Singh C. E.

Indra Singh C. E.

COPY OF THE ALLEGED ORDERS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

Conveyed by the Hon'ble the A. G. G.

No. 1604—R. C. P.—4|34.

From

L. C. L. Griffin Esq; I.C.S.,
Secretary to the Agent to the
Governor-General, Punjab States.

Dated Camp Mashobra the 30th August 1934.

Dear Sir,

With reference to the correspondence resting with your letter No. 52 dated the 16th August 1934, I am desired to inform you that *the Government of India to whom your Memorial addressed to the Governor General in Council was submitted have intimated that they are not prepared to intervene on your behalf with the object of raising the status of your daughter as this is purely a domestic matter.*

2. *The second request in your Memorial viz., that a general enquiry should be held into the conduct of His Highness the Maharaja of Patiala has also been rejected by the Government of India.*

Sd|- L. C. L. Griffin,
Secretary.

Indra Singh C. E.

No. 65, dated 1st February, 1935, New Delhi.

To,

The Hon'ble Colonel Wilberforce Bell, C.I.E.,
The Agent to the Governor General,
Punjab States, Lahore.

Subject:—Petition of Sardar Indra Singh C. E., in the matter of his daughter Bibi Sutendra Kaur, who has been married by the Maharaja of Patiala by false and deceitful promises.

Respectfully showeth,

That, the Maharaja of Patiala wrote a letter on the 25th December, 1931, to the petitioner asking for the hand of his daughter Bibi Sutendra Kaur and suggesting that the lady be brought to Patiala where a formal marriage will be performed.

2. That, the petitioner on receipt of this letter took his daughter to Patiala and on the 18th January, 1932 the marriage between His Highness the Maharaja and his daughter Bibi Sutendra Kaur was quietly solemnised before Shri Guru Granth Sahib. In the presence of the Shri Guru Granth Sahib the Maharaja took the oath and solemnly declared to take her as his lawful wife and make her his Maharani.

3. That, soon after the marriage was performed the petitioner found that the Maharaja has played fraud and that he had no intention of keeping to the pledge. He did not confer upon her the rank and privileges of a Maharani and *in fact began to treat her in his harem as one of his nearly 200 slave keeps.*

4. That, as soon as this information reached the petitioner he approached the Maharaja to fulfil his promises and the Maharaja once again disposed of the petitioner by making a promise that the necessary formalities will be completed shortly. These assurances given by the Maharaja never fructified, hence the petitioner was forced to approach the Paramount Power for justice and for the rectification of the great wrong done both to the lady and the family. The honour both of the lady and the family has been trampled under dust by the fraudulent and deceitful action of the Maharaja.

BIRTH OF A MALE CHILD.

5. *That, a male child was born to his daughter on the 28th December 1932 as is amply proved by a letter of Sister Nailor, which is in his possession. Sister Nailor attended upon her at the time of the birth of the child and during her ailment. This child was deliberately done away*

with. The news of the birth of the child was kept a strict secret and the reasons why he was deliberately done away with is still shrouded in mystery.

6. That, the Hon'ble the Agent to the Governor-General, Punjab States, in his letter No. K.60-R|P-4|34, Dated Camp Kapurthala the 22nd May 1934, has been pleased to inform the petitioner that he is prepared to use his good offices to try to arrange for the return of his daughter but he is unable to intervene in connection with the matrimonial alliance which is a private matter. This reply, the petitioner humbly begs to state is most unsatisfactory. The matter is not private affair. It is a matter of public fraud leading to the commission of other serious offences worth interference by the Paramount Power. The reply of the Hon'ble the late Agent to the Governor-General simply aims at shelving the vital question and thus saving the Maharaja who is guilty of a very very serious offence.

7. That, on the other hand, this is a case in which the interference of the Paramount Power is most essential as the Maharajah has by fraudulent and deceitful method robbed an innocent girl from the lawful protection of her father.

8. That, the Maharaja has threatened the petitioner's daughter with torture and imprisonment if the petitioner still persists with the representation to the Paramount Power for the redress of this great wrong done, and *the Maharaja has at several times attempted by force and fraud to get a statement from the lady denying the allegations of the petitioner made in several representations but he has ignobly failed in these attempts.*

NOT A DOMESTIC MATTER.

9. That, it is not quite correct on the part of the Hon'ble the late Agent to the Governor-General to say that the matter is a domestic one. *In cases of similar nature such as those of Maharanis Ubhowalia Narruwali and, Koulgarthwali, the Paramount Power has not only acted otherwise but taken very strong measures against the Maharaja and made him to recognise them properly.* It is absolutely ignoble on the part of the Maharaja to advance this argument that the matter is a domestic one. For the Ruler of the State there does not exist any such right. All his measures are open to public because the State is directly concerned with them. In this case a novel departure is being made to shield the Maharaja from the grave consequences to which he has left himself open.

10. That, the Maharaja has made it absolutely impossible for your petitioner to reside in Patiala where he owns a large property because he was wrongfully confined and is now being threatened by the Maharaja with arrest and prosecution. His Highness would not have thought of such a course had the Paramount Power not taken into consideration his plea of this case being of a domestic nature. The Maharaja is even threatening the petitioner with the confiscation of all his property within the territory of the Patiala State.

11. That, the above-mentioned incident has brought the whole family of the petitioner into disgrace and dishonour and at the same time created a scandal of the highest magnitude. The redress of this illegal action on the part of the Maharaja will only be able to rehabilitate the social status of the family in the eyes both of the caste and the general public.

12. That, the petitioner, therefore, humbly and respectfully prays that your honour will be pleased to take full facts of the case into consideration and deal out British justice, and undo the great wrong done both to the girl and the family, and that your honour will be pleased to direct:—

- (i) That the lady be permitted inter-alia to immediately return from the tyrannical control of the Maharaja's clutches and inter-alia put under the protection of the Paramount Power or restored to her parents, as her life is in imminent danger.
- (ii) That the Maharaja be then asked to fully redress her grievances in a manner befitting her status and position in life.
- (iii) That a full enquiry be made into the death of the child of his daughter and full justice done in the matter as mentioned, in the memorials No. 54, dated 6-9-34, and No. 57, dated 3-11-34.
- (iv) That the Maharaja be asked not to molest petitioner's person or that of his family while the petitioner stays in Patiala territory, and all illegal orders so passed in his cases be rescinded and replaced by due legal orders as mentioned in his memorial No. 54, dated 12th November, 1934.
- (v) That the Maharaja be asked that his property should not be confiscated or damaged on flimsy grounds and pretexts.
- (vi) That the Maharaja be asked to fully redress the grievances of the family for the loss of honour and for the disgrace suffered by the family through these misdeeds committed by the Maharaja knowingly.

(vii) That besides all this the Maharaja be asked to grant the lady a monthly allowance befitting her position and a proper residence both in British India and the State territory, or rather a lump sum amount sufficient for her to lead an honourable life.

That, for this act of kindness, justice and mercy the petitioner will, as in duty bound, ever pray for your honour's long life and prosperity.

Yours Honour's,
Most obedient humble servant,
Sd|- Indra Singh, C.E.
6, Tooty, Pahargunj, New Delhi.

No. 200—R|P-4|34.

From,

L. C. L. Griffin Esquire, I.C.S.,
Secretary to the Hon'ble the Agent to the
Governor-General, Punjab States.

To

Sardar Indra Singh, C. E.,
6, Tooty, Pahargunj, New Delhi.

Dated Lahore, the 7th February, 1935.

Dear Sir,

In continuation of my letter No. 26-R|P-4|34, dated the 9th January, 1935, I am desired to inform you, with reference to the request contained in your representation to His Excellency the Viceroy dated the 3rd November, 1934 *for the return of your daughter, that the Hon'ble the Agent to the Governor-General has ascertained that your daughter has refused to leave Patiala and that His Highness the Maharaja of Patiala has intimated that she is free to go to you at any time she chooses to do so.* In these circumstances the Hon'ble the Agent to the Governor-General regrets that he is unable to interfere further in the matter.

As regards your letter dated the 15th January, 1935, I am to say that the Hon'ble the Agent to the Governor-General is not prepared to reconsider the question of granting you an interview.

Yours truly,
Sd|- L. C. L. Griffin,
" Secretary.

No. 69.

Dated 10-11th February, 1935.

To

His Highness Shri 108 Maharajadhiraj,
Mahindra Bahadur, Patiala.

May it please your Highness,

Herewith I beg to confirm the telegram I sent to my daughter, through your Highness with copy to your Highness, which ran as follows:—

- (1) Bibiji Sutendra Kaur through Maharajadhiraj Patiala.
- (2) Copy Maharajadhiraj Patiala.

Your mother seriously ill. Reach Delhi immediately. Agent conveyed Maharaja's intimation about your freedom in visiting us. Wire reply.

Sd|- Indra Singh, Engineer.

By his letter No. 200, R|P-4|34, dated 7-2-35, the Hon'ble A. G. G. has conveyed to me that ".....His Highness the Maharaja of Patiala has intimated that she (my daughter) is free to go to you at any time she chooses to do so....." Your Highness is requested to graciously send her to New Delhi immediately so as to relieve the intense anxiety of her ailing mother to see her.

Your Highness'

Most obedient humble servant,
Sd|- Indra Singh, C. E.,
6, Tooty, Pahargunj, New Delhi.

No. 70.

Dated 10-11th February, 1935, New Delhi.

Copy submitted to the Hon'ble A. G. G. Punjab States, Lahore, with the request of doing the favour of securing compliance and oblige.

Sd|- Indra Singh, C. E.,

No. 73.

Dated 23-2-35, New Delhi.

To

Bibiji Maharani Sutendra Kaurji through
Maharajadhiraj Patiala.
Copy Maharajadhiraj Patiala.

Daughter dearest,

Telegram uncomplained unreplied. Please wire reply when we may expect your arrival for seeing your mother.

Sd|- Indra Singh, C. E.,

(2) I have not received any reply either from you or from His Highness as yet and am hence constrained to send this telegram again to request for a wire reply.

Your affectionate father,
Sd|- Indra Singh, C. E.,

EX. 5.

STATEMENT OF KISHEN SINGH, RESIDENT OF NATHIANGAL IN
TEHSIL MANSA OF PATIALA STATE.

The memorial which appears as Exhibit 1 in Indictment of Patiala and which was presented to His Excellency Lord Irwin, the then Viceroy of India was signed by me.

I was never summoned by the Dalhousie Enquiry Committee which was presided over by Mr. Fitz-Patrick. I never appeared before the said Committee nor gave any evidence.

Amritsar.

D 16-3-1935.

Sd|- Kishen Singh.

Read over to Kishen Singh and confirmed.

Translated from Urdu by me.

Sd|- Thakur Singh.

EX. 6.

STATEMENT OF SAJJAN SINGH, RESIDENT OF PATIALA IN TEHSIL
MANSA OF PATIALA STATE.

The memorial which appears as Exhibit No. I in Indictment of Patiala and which was presented to His Excellency Lord Irwin the then Viceroy of India, was signed by me.

I was never summoned by the Dalhousie Enquiry Committee which was presided over by Mr. Fitz-Patrick. I never appeared before the said Committee nor gave any evidence.

Amritsar.

O| 16-3-1935.

Sd|- Sajjan Singh.

Read over to Sajjan Singh and confirmed.

Sd|- Thakur Singh.

D| 16-3-1935.

EX. 7 (A).

STATEMENT OF CHOUDHRI JAI SINGH S/O CHOUDHRI PREM SINGH.

On 13th April 1930 at the request of S. Nanak Singh my nephew, Bakhshi Bhagat Singh and I went to Amritsar to see Master Tara Singh. After seeing the masterji, we sent a telegram to S. Nanak Singh at Gujjar Khan saying:

"Everything will be all right. We are going along with Masterji to Ludhiana to-night".

The same evening we three reached Ludhiana by train and went into the waiting room where S. Sewa Singh Thikriwala who had arrived there already from Patiala by car, along with S. Raghbir Singh I.G.P., was waiting for us. Master Tara Singh went out of the waiting room along with S. Sewa Singh to the place where S. Raghbir Singh was waiting for them. For a few minutes S. Raghbir Singh, S. Sewa Singh and Master Tara Singh had a private conversation. After the conversation was over, S. Raghbir Singh I.G.P. handed over a paper to Master Tara Singh. All the conversation, that took place outside the waiting room where I was sitting, was reported to me by Master Tara Singh after his return to the place. Afterwards at the request of S. Sewa Singh I signed the application of S. Nanak Singh, which was in the possession of Masterji. That signed paper was handed over to S. Raghbir Singh I.G.P. After going through the application, S. Raghbir Singh remarked that it was not sufficient. In reply Masterji informed him that Nanak Singh was not prepared to give anything in writing more than that, and that he should show it to the Nawab, and in case it was not approved by him, it could be exchanged for the order, and further the Masterji would not give that order to Nanak Singh for three days, after which if no intimation was given to him, he would hand over the order to S. Nanak Singh. After this S. Raghbir Singh I.G.P. and S. Sewa Singh Thikriwala motored back to Patiala. We came back to our respective homes.

Further more, I state that after the receipt of the news of S. Nanak Singh's escape from the jail, I saw Mr. Amritlal Sheth at Lahore and showed him the letter that was written by S. Nanak Singh to me, and which was duly attested by S. Kulwant Singh, Superintendent, Central Jail Patiala, and which showed that the State of Patiala had intentionally made him escape from he jail. Mr. Sheth had asked for a photogra-

EX VII B

General Merchants
Gujarkhan

Dear Sirs,

As I am persuaded to take a step that shall oblige me to hide myself for a while I hereby authorise my brother Bhatkshi ——— Bhagatsingh to settle my accounts with you

Patiala
Rajinder Hospt
1st June 1930

Yours faithfully
Nanak Singh
Prison

Attested
Kulwant Singh

1 ⁶/₃₀

SUPERINTENDENT
CENTRAL JAIL PATIALA
M. H. G. PATIALA

Document attested by the Superintendent, Central Jail, Patiala, showing the method of escape of S. Nanak Singh from Patiala Jail at the time of the Dalhousie Enquiry.

phic copy of the letter which I sent to him at his Ranpur address and the original of which I now produce.

Sd|- Jai Singh,
Read over to Choudhri Jai Singh and confirmed.
Sd|- Thakar Singh.

Translated from Urdu by me
Sd|- Thakurdas.

Ex. 7 (B).

To

Messrs. Prem Singh Jai Singh,
General Merchants,

GUJJAR KHAN.

Dear Sirs,

As I am persuaded to take a step that shall oblige me to hide myself for a while, I hereby authorise my brother Bakshi Bhagat Singh to settle my accounts with you.

Yours faithfully,
Sd|- Nanak Singh,
Prisoner.

Patiala

Rajindra Hospital,
1st June 1930.

Attested

Sd|- Kalwant Singh,
Superintendent.
1-6-1930.

EX. 8.

STATEMENT OF S. WAZIR SINGH S/O S. HARCHAND SINGH
JAIJEE OF PATIALA STATE.

I record this statement on oath.

Late Sardar Sewa Singh Sahib of village Thikriwala was my father-in-law. He had no male issue. He had only one daughter who is my wife,

and hence the whole responsibility of looking after S. Sewa Singh's family and other domestic affairs came on my shoulders.

S. Sewa Singh was arrested in August 1933, and was sentenced by the Special Magistrate of Barnala to six and half years' rigorous imprisonment and a fine of fifteen hundred of rupees or in case of non-payment of fine, a further imprisonment of one and a half year. He was admitted to the Central Jail, Patiala, immediately after his sentence, that is in the second week of January 1934.

In June 1934 disquieting news about the death of S. Sewa Singh reached me, which naturally created a great anxiety. Under the circumstances I made telegraphic enquiries from the Patiala State authorities as under:—

1. His Highness Maharaja Adhiraj Patiala, Chail.
2. Prime Minister, Patiala.

“Death of father-in-law S. Sewa Singh Thikriwala rumoured. Wire confirmation and deliver body if news true.”

Sd/- Wazir Singh Jaijee.

After 24 hours the Minister in charge of jails contradicted the rumour.

I then sent two telegrams, that is, one to Prime Minister Patiala at Simla. I got no reply. I again wired the H. H. the Maharaja Sahib on 12th June 1934, and, mother-in-law (who was at Amritsar) on 14th of June 1934 wired to H. H. the Maharaja. Neither I nor she got any reply. This silence of the state authorities disgusted us to a great extent. I, then, seeing no course open before me, on 16-6-1934 wired to H. E. the Viceroy, Political Secretary and A.G.G. Punjab States. Some four hours after these telegrams I got a reply from Minister in charge of jails permitting an interview. I then wired this telegraphic message of the Minister in charge of jails to H. E. the Viceroy, Political Secretary and A.G.G. Punjab States.

My younger brother S. Jasmer Singh and mother-in-law went to Patiala on 18th of June to interview S. Sewa Singh and S. Jasmer Singh put in a regular application. The Jail Superintendent, however, verbally informed S. Jasmer Singh that as no arrangement for Purdah existed, S. Sewa Singh was not prepared to interview his wife.

On hearing this strange reply, S. Jasmer Singh put in another application on 19th June, 1934, requesting permission to see S. Sewa Singh from some distance in order to satisfy himself as to his health. On

this he was referred to the Minister in charge of jails, who in his turn informed S. Jasmer Singh that the Prime Minister had been communicated with. Thus on the 20th June having wasted three days over this affair S. Jasmer Singh and mother-in-law came away disappointed after having lodged a written protest with the jail Minister.

But on 21st of June 1934, S. Jasmer Singh received a wire at Amritsar from Minister in charge of Jails, Patiala, asking Mrs. Sewa Singh to write for an interview to S. Sewa Singh herself. This wire in a way implied that S. Sewa Singh himself was not prepared for the interview.

On 23-6-34 the Minister in charge of jails was informed that Sardar Sewa Singh should be shown at least, if he did not want the interview. I or Mrs. Sewa Singh got no reply up to 28th of June, when A.G.G. Punjab States was requested for intervention. Again there was silence. These telegrams remained unacknowledged till the second of July 1934, when Mrs. Sewa Singh was informed by the Superintendent of the jail to come to see the prisoner.

The interview took place at 7-30 p.m. on 4th July 1934 when the rest of the prisoners were shut up in their places. A few days after the interview, H. H. the Maharaja Adhiraj was duly informed by Mrs. Sewa Singh of the actual condition of S. Sewa Singh, by means of a registered petition which as usual brought no reply. Another telegraphic request was made to H. H. to permit daily interviews in view of the advanced age and shattered health occasioned by ill-treatment and hunger-strike. But the authorities sat mum over all this. They neither cared to inform anxious relations nor even issue bulletins daily or bi-weekly about the health of Sardar Sahib despite repeated requests.

The only alternatives for the relations was to approach the Hon. A.G.G. Punjab States and seek his help in the matter. The Hon A.G.G. was requested by means of applications and wire dated 30-7-1934 and 6-8-34 and 18-8-34, but on the 19th of August the Hon. the Agent informed me through his Secretary that interview with the Agent would serve no useful purpose in the matter. This reply, refusing an interview, was followed by another telegram which runs as follows:—

"MASHOBRA, 21st August, 1934.

Sardar Wazir Singh Jaijee, AMRITSAR.

1494 C Your telegram of the 18th latest reports of Sardar Sewa Singh condition show that he is comfortable and has gained weight health reported good. He is at liberty to abandon hunger-strike when he chooses. In circumstances no need for interview".

PUNSTATES.

But this one reply after so long a time satisfied me to some extent but for more information I again petitioned to the Hon. the A.G.G. requesting him to advise the Patiala authorities to keep us informed of the daily health of Sardar Sahib.

This petition has brought no reply up to this time.

There after we remained in the dark as to how Sardar Sahib was passing his days in the jail. We did not know whom to address on the subject when the Patiala authorities had conveniently ignored our repeated requests and the political department had thought it fit not to interfere.

All of a sudden the rumour of Sardar Sahib's death reached us on the 21st January 1934 morning, and we hastened to inquire from the jail authorities. The authorities this time replied to my wire after nearly twelve hours to say that the news about the rumoured death of Sardar Sahib was true. It may be noted here that the authorities did not think it desirable to inform the relatives about the dangerous condition of Sardar Sahib, which necessitated his removal to the hospital. Nor did they inform the relatives of his death except on inquiry as noted above. The body was not delivered to the relatives inspite of telegraphic requests, thus depriving the survivors of the privilege of performing his last rites.

It is even doubtful whether he was given a decent cremation like that of a Sikh. Above all his relics which according to Sikhs should have been sent to Kiratpur Sahib (Anandpur Sahib) were not handed over to the man specially sent by mother-in-law for the purpose. He was told by the jail Superintendent that the relics were lying with him, but on approaching the Minister in charge of Law and Justice, a different and contradicting story about the handing over of the relics was given.

The authorities received a communique about Sardar Sahib's death trying to show thereby that his death was due to his self-imposed hunger-strike. But the communique itself would go to show that this is not a fact. The authorities are silent as to why Sardar Sahib was compelled to take this step.

There can be no other possible reason for this extreme step than that he was ill-treated. Thus the blame lies with the authorities and not with the deceased.

I am submitting this statement, copy of the telegrams which have been referred to about and other correspondence which Mrs. Sewa Singh S. Jasmer Singh, Miss Sewa Singh (Mrs. Wazir Singh) and myself had with the State authorities and with the Political Department.

Ex. 8A. (1).

To,

Reply paid

His Highness Maharaja Adhiraj,
Patiala, (Chail, Simla).

Death of father-in-law Sardar Sewa Singh Thikriwala rumoured wire confirmation and deliver body if news true.

Ex. 8A. (2).

To,

Reply paid

Prime Minister,

Patiala.

Death of father-in-law Sardar Sewa Singh Thikriwala rumoured wire confirmation and deliver body if news true.

9-6-34.

Wazir Singh Jaijee.

Ex. 8 A. (3).

To,

His Excellency, Viceroy,

Polindia, Punstate,

Simla.

Death of father-in-law S. Sewa Singh Thikriwala reported in Patiala Jail due to atrocities State authorities suppressing news ignoring telegraphic inquiries and request for delivery of body. Pray intervention and inquiry.

10-6-34.

Wazir Singh Jaijee.

Ex. 8 A. (4).

20|25 Simla, 1920.

Wazir Singh Jaijee care Akali Dal, Amritsar.

Your Telegram about Sewa Singh's death unfounded.

Minister in Charge Jail department, Patiala.

Ex. 8 A. (5).

His Excellency Viceroy, Simla,
Polindia Simla, Punstate, Simla.

After previous telegram received following telegram from Minister in charge Jail Patiala.

Your telegram Rumour about Sewa Singh's death unfounded.
10-6-34. Wazir Singh Jaijee.

Ex. 8 A. (6).

Reply paid.

To,

Prime Minister Patiala at Simla,
Minister Jail Department Patiala at
Simla.

Jail Minister's Telegram permit mother-in-law and younger brother Sardar Jaswar Singh to interview father-in-law Sardar Sewa Singh wire sanction.

11-6-'34. Wazir Singh Jaijee,
Khalsa College, Amritsar.

Ex. 8 A. (7).

Express Reply paid.

To,

His Highness Maharaja Adhiraj,
Patiala, Chail, (Simla).

Awaiting reply to my telegram dated eleventh morning addressed to Prime Minister and Jail Minister stop Great anxiety please permit interview if father-in-law Sardar Sewa Singh living.

12-6-34. Wazir Singh Jaijee,
Chail, (Simla).

Ex. 8 A. (8).

To,

His Highness Maharaja Chail.

Reference jail department telegram to son-in-law pray grant interview with my husband S. Sewa Singh earliest.

Khalsa College, Bhagwan Kaur,
14-6-34. C/o Wazir Singh Jaijee.

Ex. 8 A. (9).

To,

His Excellency Simla,
Polindia Simla,
Punstates Simla.

Reference telegram dated tenth requesting Patiala State authorities since eleventh for interview with father-in-law Sardar Sewa Singh stop Patiala authorities silent great anxiety pray intervention.

16-6-34. Wazir Singh Jaijee.
* * * * *

Ex. 8 A. (10).

Wazir Singh Jaijee, Khalsa College, Amritsar.

Your Telegrams Sewa Singh allowed relations interview.
Minister Jail.
* * * * *

Ex. 8 A. (11).

His Excellency Viceroy, Polindia,
Ponstates, Simla.

Reference previous telegram stop Received following telegram this evening from Minister Jail Patiala. Your telegram Sewa Singh allowed relations interview.

16-6-34. Wazir Singh Jaijee.
* * * * *

Ex. 8 A. (12).

TRANSLATION FROM URDU,
Copy of Application.

Department of Central Jail, Patiala.

Jasmer Singh S/o S. Harchand Singh Jaijee, resident Chural Tehsil Sumen, Applicant.

Application to enquiry why inspite of a telegraphic permission from the jail department S. Sewasingh was not allowed to interview.

Sir,

I humbly state that I received a telegram from your department on the 16th of June 1934 at Amritsar. Accordingly I submitted an application on the 18th of June after duly affixing the court fee of one rupee for

an interview. But you informed me that Sardar Sewa Singh has refused to have an interview. According to your instructions I saw Minister of Jails who has instructed me to put in an application praying that Sardar Sewa Singh be shown to me, but petitioner had not been favoured with any reply so far.

Now I am leaving Patiala under protest.

In submitting this application, therefore, I respectfully pray that I should be definitely told whether S. Sewa Singh has really refused to an interview or there is some departmental objection to the interview.

Dated 7th Mar., 1991.

Sd|- Jesmer Singh,
C/o. S. Harchand Singh Jaijee.

* * * * *

EX. 8 A. (13)

21st June, 1934.

Jasmer Singh Jaijee, Khalsa College, Amritsar.

Let Mrs. Sewa Singh wire or write Sewa Singh for interview and get reply.

Minister Jail.

* * * * *

EX. 8 A. (14)

23rd June, 1934.

Minister Jail, Patiala.

Your Telegram to Jasmer Singh. According your verbal orders if Sardar Sewa Singh declines interview, I do not want interview. Pray show him and remove anxiety.

Mrs. Sewa Singh.

* * * * *

EX. 8 A. (15)

28th June, 1934.

Polindia Simla, Punstates Simla.

Requesting Patiala authorities for interview with Sardar Sewa Singh Interview was permitted and later refused in peculiar manner. Applied to show at least to remove anxiety. Strange news from Patiala appearing in Lahore papers great anxiety Pray intervention.

Mrs. Sewa Singh.

EX. 8 A. (16)

2nd July, 1934.

Mrs. Sewa Singh, C/o Jasmer Singh Jaijee,
Khalsa College, Amritsar.

Reference your telegram to Minister of Law and Justice Patiala you can come to Patiala and see Sewa Singh.

Superintendent Jail.

* * * * *

EX. 8 A. (17)

3rd July, 1934.

Superintendent Jail Patiala.

Received Telegram late yesterday evening reaching to-morrow along Jesmer Singh.

Mrs. Sewa Singh.

* * * * *

EX. 8 A. (18)

Translation from Urdu.

To,

Shri Hazur Maharaja Sahib Bahadur of Patiala state ,Chail.

Request regarding the protection of Sardar Sewa Singh's life and faith.

May it please your Highness.

I respectfully state that my husband Sardar Sewa Singh of Thikri-wala is imprisoned for the last six months in Central Jail Patiala.

It was generally rumoured that Sardar Sewa Singh had died,

I therefore applied telegraphically to your Highness praying for an interview with him.

On the 4th July 1934 corresponding I had an interview with Sardar Sahib and found that Sardar Sahib was on death bed on account of hunger-strike extending over two months.

If any steps were not taken to save his life, his life would be in danger.

I therefore pray that your Highness may graciously remove all the complaints of my husband and save his life.

EX. 8 A. (19)

10th July, 1934.

His Highness Maharaja Adhiraj Patiala,
Chail (Simla.)

Sardar Sewa Singh lying on death bed praying considering prolonged
hunger-strike permit relations daily interview earliest and oblige.

S. Wazir Singh Jaijee,

* * * * *

EX. 8 A. (20)

11th July, 1934.

Minister Jail Patiala.

Please wire Sardar Sewa Singh's to-day's weight temperature and
pulse.

S. Wazir Singh Jaijee.

* * * * *

EX. 8 A. (21)

16th July, 1934.

Minister Jail Patiala.

Reference eleventh telegram great anxiety about Sardar Sewa Singh
health wire to-day's temperature weight and pulse.

S. Wazir Singh Jaijee.

* * * * *

EX. 8 A. (22)

21st July, 1934.

His Highness Maharaja Adhiraj Patiala,
Chail (Simla.)

Reference my telegram dated eleventh Pray orders earliest. Jail
authorities ignoring telegraphic enquiries about S. Sewa Singh's health.
Your Highness earnestly requested for intervention and to instruct jail
authorities to supply me daily Sardar Sewa Singh's temperature and
pulse as long as hunger-strike.

S. Wazir Singh Jaijee.

EX. 8 A. (23)

From

Sardar Wazir Singh Jaijee,
Khalsa College, Amritsar.

To,

Hon'ble the A. G. G.
Punjab States, Simla.

Sir,

I have the honour to request an interview with your honour in order to place before you the condition of my father-in-law Sardar Sewa Singh who is at present in Patiala Jail and about whose health news are being received from Patiala.

I shall be obliged if the date and time convenient is communicated to me at the address, above noted.

* * * * *

EX. 8 A. (24)

6th August, 1935.

From

Sardar Wazir Singh Jaijee,
Kothi near
Khalsa College, Amritsar.

To,

The Hon'ble the A. G. G.,
Punjab States, Simla.

Sir,

I have the honour to draw your attention to my letter dated 30th July 1934, and to request that an interview may kindly be granted at an early date in view of the fact that Sardar Sewa Singh is reported to be being in a precarious condition.

Thanking you in anticipation.

EX. 8 A. (25)

Punstate Simla, 18th August, 1934.

Reference my telegram dated July 13, pray grant early interview matter very urgent Sardar Sewa Sing being precarious condition.

S. Wazir Singh Jaijee.

* * * * *

EX. 8 A. (26)

From

L. C. L. Griffen, Esq.

To,

S. Wazir Singh Jaijee, Amritsar.

Mashobra, 17th August, 1934.

Dear Sir,

With reference to your letters dated the 30th July 1934, and 6th August 1934 respectively I am desired to inform you that the Hon'ble the Agent to the G. G. does not consider that in the circumstances of the case any useful purpose would be served by granting you an interview.

* * * * *

EX. 8 A. (27)

S. Wazir Singh Jaijee, Amritsar.

21st August 1934.

1494-C Your telegram of 18th latest reports of S. Sewa Singh condition show that he is comfortable and has gained weight health reported good. He is at liberty to abandon hunger-strike when he chooses in circumstances. No need for interview.

Punstate, Simla.

* * * * *

EX. 8 A. (28)

Amritsar, 7th September, 1934.

From

Sardar Wazir Singh Jaijee,
Khalsa College, Amritsar.

To,

The Hon'ble, The Agent to the Governor-General,
Punjab States, (Mashobra), Simla.

Sir,

I have to express my heartfelt thanks to the British Government that on receipt of telegrams and representations from the relations of Sardar Sewa Singh Thikriwala, the Government was pleased to intervene and afforded the wife and another relation of S. Sewa Singh to have an interview with the said Sardar in Patiala Jail. It is a fact known to everybody that as a protest against the inhuman treatment meted out to S. Sewa Singh in Patiala Jail, he is observing a complete fast and it is essentially necessary that owing to this hunger-strike the health of S. Sewa Singh is being adversely affected. I being the son-in-law of S. Sewa Singh, am naturally very much concerned about his health and feel very anxious to know about him every day. I would, therefore, request you most humbly to advise Patiala authorities to supply me with a daily bulletin about the health condition of S. Sewa Singh for which act of kindness and grace, I shall for ever pray.

* * * * *

EX. 8 A. (29)

21st January, 1935..

Jail Minister, Patiala.

Rumour of Sardar Sewa Singh's death afloat. Please wire facts.

Sd|- Wazir Singh.

* * * * *

EX. 8 A. (30)

21st January, 1935.

Wazir Singh Jaijee, Khalsa College, Amritsar.

Sewa Singh Thikriwala died yesterday 1-30 A.M. Rajendra Hospital.

Superintendent Jail.

* * * * *

EX. 8 A. (31)

22nd January, 1935....0-15 A.M.

Superintendent Jail, Patiala.

Deliver remains my father-in-law S. Sewa Singh Thikriwala representative Akali Dal.

S. Wazir Singh.

EX. 8 A. (32)

22nd January, 1935.

Minister Jail, Patiala.

Superintendent Jails Telegram confirming Sardar Sewa Singh's death how long he was ill.

S. Wazir Singh Jaijee,

* * * * *

Ex. 8 A. (33)

22nd January, 1935.

Superintendent Jail, Patiala.

Deliver Sardar Sewa Singh's remains Bhai Sohan Singh my man coming along Akalidal's representative."

Wazir Singh Jaijee.

* * * * *

EX. 8 A. (34)

23rd January, 1935.

Superintendent Jail, Patiala.

"Our man coming with maisahib's letters according verbal orders kindly don't throw away relics of S. Sewa Singh."

Sd|- Harchand Singh Jaijee.

* * * * *

EX. 8 A. (35)

26th February, 1935.

His Excellency the Viceroy, New Delhi.

Her Excellency the Vicerine, New Delhi.

Political Secretary, New Delhi.

I, the daughter of late S. Sewa Singh Thikriwala, pray you to appoint an independent Commission of Enquiry into the matter of the murder of my father by Patiala. Hope my tearful prayers will bear fruits."

Gurcharan Kaur,

Care

Sardar Harchand Singh Jaijee,
Khalsa College.

EX. 8 A. (36)

Punstates, Lahore.

I, the daughter of late S. Sewa Singh Thikriwala pray you to appoint an independent Commission of Enquiry into the matter of the murder of my father by Patiala. Hope my tearful prayers will bear fruits."

Gurcharan Kaur,
Care
S. Harchand Singh Jaijee,
Khalsa College.

* * * * *

EX. 8 A. (37)

28th February, 1935, Amritsar.

From

S. Wazir Singh Jaijee,
Kothi, Near Khalsa College,
Amritsar.

To,

The Nazim,
Barnala (Patiala State.)

Sir,

With due respects I beg to request you to send me per Value Payable Parcel through urgent fee a certified true copy of the whole file of the case against my father-in-law, S. Sewa Singh of Thikriwala who was convicted in January 1934 by the Nazim Sahib Barnala.

I beg to remain,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
Sd|- Wazir Singh.

* * * * *

EX. 9.

JOINT STATEMENT OF GYANI PRATAP SINGH, REPRESENTATIVE OF
SHIROMANI AKALI DAL AND S. SOHAN SINGH DORA,
REPRESENTATIVE OF S. WAZIR SINGH.

Under the instructions of the Shiromani Akali Dal we both left by Bombay Express and reached Patiala at 3 in the evening. We hired a

tonga and by 4 p.m. we were in front of the gates of the Patiala Central Jail. A letter from the Shiromani Akali Dal in connection with S. Sewa Singh was shown to the Superintendent, Jail. An application had also been submitted that the ashes of S. Sewa Singh be made over to us. After about half-an-hour the Superintendent sent for us for an interview. When we enquired of the Superintendent about the death of S. Sewa Singh, he asked us if we had with us any letter of authority for being the representatives of Shiromani Akali Dal. We delivered the required letter and we mentioned about the telegrams also which were sent to the jail authorities at the time of our departure from Amritsar. Superintendent then informed us that S. Sewa Singh had died of some internal disease on the 20th January, 1935 at 1.30 in the night in Rajindra Hospital and at dawn of the day his burning ceremony was performed under the supervision of State officials.

In reply to our enquiry the Superintendent said that one S. Hari Singh, a relative of S. Sewa Singh, who resides at Patiala was present at the time of cremation of Sardar Sahib. After that the Superintendent expressed his inability to say anything more than what he had already stated about the illness and death of S. Sewa Singh.

Thereafter we asked the Superintendent as to what his reply, written or oral, was in regard to the request made by the Shiromani Akali Dal for the ashes of S. Sewa Singh, but he answered that he could not say anything more without consultation with the higher authorities. At this he left by car for consulting the higher authorities. He returned within half-an-hour and told us that we were wanted by the Minister at his bungalow and that we should accompany him and should have a talk with him in regard to S. Sewa Singh. After having this reply he got into his car which drove us to the Kothi of R. B. Lala Pindi Das Sabharwal. We saw R. B. L. Pindi Das. At our enquiry about the death of S. Sewa Singh R. B. Pindi Das answered that he (Sardar Sahib) had died and his body had been cremated under official supervision. None of his relatives but one Hari Singh was present at the time of his cremation. When we asked for the remains he replied that they had no departmental concern with S. Sewa Singh after his death and, therefore, they had no objection if his remains were taken away by anybody although legally they could give his ashes to his heirs only. Though it is true that he was the Vice-President of the Shiromani Akali Dal and a leader of the Sikh community but his ashes could not be given to any organisation. He suggested that if we could go to Thikriwala and bring a written authority from the wife of Sardar Sahib then they would have no objection in giving the ashes. He further said that some other two men also had come to him and

demands the ashes of S. Sewa Singh but a similar reply was given to them that they should procure written authority from Sardar Sahib's wives and both of them, as he thought, and gone to Thikriwala to secure a written authority for that purpose.

We then said if we showed him the letter from S. Wazir Singh, a nearer relative of S. Saheb and who, at present, is at Amritsar whether he could make the ashes over to us. The Minister said that he could not. Upon this we asked Rai Bahadur whether he could keep safe the ashes till our return from Thikriwala. He answered he would, and he had no objection to handing over the ashes to us. He further said that no obstacles would be put in our way officially, but he was afraid that the object of the Shiromani Akali Dal in taking over the remains to Amritsar was to make a parade against the Patiala Government which he thought would be harmful to the said organisation as the Patiala Government was bound to take action in the matter.

Before we left we asked the Minister if the ashes would not be disposed of officially. He assured that that would not be done. At this we enquired of him how long he could wait for us? He said that he could not be definite about the period but the ashes could be kept safe for some days. When we wanted all this in writing, he said that nothing could be given in writing in connection with the death of S. Sewa Singh and that we should rely upon his word.

After that we left his bungalow. What we could gather from the attitude of Patiala State Officials whom we could see was that the remains of S. Sewa Singh would be disposed of within a day or so.

We, therefore, left Patiala by the midnight train for Amritsar, so that the Shiromani Akali Dal and the relatives of Sardar Sahib could be informed for necessary action in time.

Sd|- Pratap Singh,

Sd|- Sohan Singh.

Translated from Gurmukhi by me.

Sd|- Thakar Singh.

* * * * *

EX. 10.

**STATEMENT OF S. SOHAN SINGH DORA, REPRESENTATIVE OF
S. WAZIR SINGH JAIJEE.**

I left for Patiala on 23rd by the night train and reached there on the 24th January at 10 a.m. and reached the bungalow of R. B. Pindi Das, Minister-in-charge, Jails, at 10-30 a.m. The Superintendent of the jail,

was also standing there outside. It was enquired of him about what had been done in regard to the ashes of S. Sewa Singh. He replied that they were still lying safe. After waiting for more than an hour I was called in. The Superintendent of the Jail was also there. I handed over the letter of S. Sewa Singh's wife in which it was written that the ashes of her revered husband be made over to the bearer thereof. After going through the letter the Minister remarked that he had no knowledge of the remains. Turning to the Superintendent he enquired where the ashes of S. Sewa Singh were. He replied that on account of the Chautha ceremony they were taken away the previous day by S. Hari Singh. More than that he knew nothing about them. I tried in vain to remind him of his former promises but he made no reply nor did he return the letter from Mrs. S. Sewa Singh. I came back hearing this flat refusal.

Sd|- Sohan Singh.

Translated from Punjabi by me.

Sd|- Thakar Singh.

Sardar Sohan Singh on examination by the committee stated as under:—

When I went to the bungalow of D. B. Pindi Das with a note from Sardarni Sewa Singhji. D. B. Pindi Das was not in. I waited in the Verandah. Then came in Sardar Arjan Singhji, the Superintendent of Jail. I informed him that I have brought a note from Mrs. Sewa Singhji, as required by him. He informed me that the ashes of the deceased were with him. Then came in D. B. Pindi Das. He saw me waiting, but went in without exchanging salam. The Jail Superintendent also went in. D. B. Pindi Das and the Jail Superintendent were together in the bungalow for some time. I was then called in. D. B. Pindi Das asked me why I had gone. I informed him that, as asked by him he had brought the note from Mrs. Sewa Singhji to take possession of the relics of S. Sewa Singhji, and I should, therefore, be given the same. He said to me in an irritated manner that the relics were not with him, and that they had been handed over to some relatives of S. Sewa Singhji. He then referred me to the Jail Superintendent for the confirmation of his story. But the Jail Superintendent kept mum. I immediately reminded the Jail Superintendent that only outside the room, just then, he had informed me that relics were with him. Even then the jail Superintendent kept mum.

I had then to leave the place without the relics of the late Sardar Sahib.

Ex. 12 A. (1).

Amritsar, December, 22, 1933.

0 15:30 RAJKOT 22 16

SHIROMANI AKALI DAL AR

SARDAR SEWASINGH THIKRI WALTYA BHUK HARTAL SEVENTH
POH PATIALA OFFICIALS OPPRESSION
AJMERSINGH

* * * * *

(2)

10th May, 1934.

0 12 35 PATIALA 10 20

SHIROMANI AKALI DAL AR

REFERENCE YOUR TELEGRAM SEWASINGH OF THIKRIWALA
NOT ON HUNGER STRIKE

MINISTER IN CHARGE JAIL DEPARTMENT

* * * * *

(3)

4-10-34.

JAIL MINISTER PATIALA

ACCORDING YOUR LETTER DATED TENTH AUGUST AND JAIL
MANNUAL SARDAR SEWASINGHS INTERVIEW DUE WIRE
PERMISSION IMMEDIATELY

AKALIDAL

Sd|- Dhanwant Singh,
Secretary,
Shiromani Akali Dal, Amritsar.

* * * * *

(4)

- (1) H.H. Maharaja Adhiraj.
- (2) Prime Minister.
- (3) Inspector General Police.
- (4) Superintendent Jail

PATIALA.

INFORMED ABOUT DEATH OF SARDAR SEWASINGH THIKRIWALA
DUE TO JAIL ATROCITIES WIRE TRUTH.

DHANWANTSINGH SECRETARY SHROMANY AKALI DAL
AMRITSAR 8-6-34.

- (5) (1) HIS EXCELLENCY GOVERNOR
 (2) HIS EXCELLENCY VICEROY
 (3) POLITICAL AGENT OF STATE

SIMLA

STRANGE RUMOURS AFLOAT ABOUT SEWASINGH THIKRIWALA
 PLEASE INQUIRE FROM MAHARAJA PATIALA IS SEWASINGH DEAD
 OR ALIVE WIRE

AKALIDAL

Sd/- Dhanwant Singh,
 Asstt. Secretary.

9-6-34.

Shiromani Akali Dal, Amritsar.

* * * * *

(6)

12-6-34.

0 11 PATIALA 12 19

DHANWANTSINGH SECRETARY SHIROMANI

AKALIDAL AMRITSAR

YOUR TELEGRAM RUMOUR ABOUT SEWASINGHS DEATH
 UNFOUNDED

MINISTER IN CHARGE JAIL DEPARTMENT PATIALA

* * * * *

(7) MINISTER INCHARGE JAIL PATIALA.

KINDLY ALLOW SHIROMANI AKALIDALS REPRESENTATIVE
 INTERVIEW SARDAR SEWASINGH

SECRETARY

Sd/- Dhanwant Singh,
 Secretary,

13-6-34.

Shiromani Akali Dal, Amritsar.

* * * * *

(8)

Patiala, 16-6-34.

No. 520 G.

The Secretary,

Shiromani Akali Dal, Amritsar.

Dear Sir,

Reference your telegram dated 13-6-34. I am desired to inform you

that there is absolutely no objection to Sewa Singh interviewing any of his relations whom he desires to meet.

Yours faithfully,
Sd|- Niranjan Prashad,
Minister I|C Jail Department.

* * * * *
(9) No. 428 Dated, Amritsar, 2nd. Aug. 1934.

From,
The Secretary,
Shiromani Akali Dal,
Amritsar.

To
The Minister incharge Jails,
PATIALA.

Sir,

I have the honour to submit that, in view of the precarious state of the health of Sardar Sewa Singh of Thikriwala at present a prisoner in the Central Jail, Patiala, the Shiromani Akali Dal has resolved that its representatives should see the said Sardar so that the Dal may be in a position to console the Sikh Community which is anxiously awaiting the correct information about the matter.

It is requested, therefore, that the representatives of the Shiromani Akali Dal may kindly be allowed to interview Sardar Sewa Singh at an early date.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant.
Secretary,
Shiromani Akali Dal, Amritsar.

* * * * *
(10) MINISTER INCHARGE JAILS
PATIALA

REGISTERED LETTER No 68 DATED 2nd AUGUST PERMISSION
INTERVIEW SARDAR SEWASINGH THIKRIWALA NO REPLY YET
DELAY CAUSING ANXIETY PRAY GRANT INTERVIEW

SHIROMANI AKALIDAL

Secretary,

9-8-34.

Shiromani Akali Dal, Amritsar.

(11) Ministry of Law and Justice, Patiala.

No. 109|C.

Dated, PATIALA 10-8-1934.

26-4-91.

From,

D. B. Sardar Pindi Das Sabherwal,

Bar-at-law,

Minister of Law and Justice, Patiala.

To

The Secretary,

Shiromani Akali Dal,

Amritsar.

Subject:—

Sir,

With reference to your letter No. 428 dated 2-8-34 and your telegram dated 9-8-34, just received, I have the honour to inform you that the wife and another relation of Sewa Singh son of Dewa Singh of Thikriwala, a convict prisoner now confined in the Patiala Central Jail, have had an interview with him on 4th July 1934. Interviews with convict prisoners are regulated by the Jail Manual rules. It is not possible to depart from the rules or to make any exceptions. It may also be mentioned for your information that the said prisoner is by no means in a serious or precarious condition of health. His health is as good as could be expected under the circumstances. He is steadily putting on weight ever since the so-called forced feeding.

I have &c, &c, &c,

Sd|- Pindi Das Sabherwal,

Minister I/C Jail Department.

* * * * *

(12)

0 12|5 PATIALA 16 9

16-10-34.

SHIROMANI AKALIDAL AR

YOUR TELEGRAM LETTER FOLLOWS

PINDIDAS

* * * * *

(13)

Ministry of Law and Justice, Patiala.

No. 177|C.*

Dated, PATIALA 16. x . 34

31-6-34.

From,

Dewan Bahadur S. Pindi Das Sabherwal, Bar-at-law,

Minister of Law and Justice, &

Minister I/C Jail, Department, Patiala.

To

The Secretary,
Shiromani Akali Dal, Amritsar.

Subject:—

Sir,

With reference to your telegram dated 5-10-34, I have the honour to invite your attention:—

1. to the concluding portion of my letter No. 109/C dated 10-8-1934 to your address.

2. to the proviso to para 549 of the Jail Manual, under which the privilege of an interview with a convict prisoner can be withheld in the discretion of the Superintendent for such period as he may think fit.

I have however no objection to the wife or a near relation of Sewa Singh convict prisoner interviewing him in the Central Jail, Patiala, in accordance with the rules. Application for the contemplated interview be made accordingly to the jail authorities at Patiala.

I may also mention that Sewa Singh convict prisoner is steadily putting on weight.

I have &c, &c,
Pindi Das Sabherwal.
Minister I/C Jail Department.

* * * * *

(14)

Telegram.

MINISTER INCHARGE JAILS
PATIALA

AS PREVIOUSLY REQUESTED KINDLY ALLOW OUR REPRESENTATIVES INTERVIEW SARDAR SEWASINGH OUR VICE PRESIDENT NOW PRISONER CENTRAL JAIL

14-10-34. SHIROMANI AKALIDAL

* * * * *

(15)

Reply Paid As. 9/-

SUPERINTENDENT JAIL PATIALA

KINDLY PERMIT OUR REPRESENTATIVE INTERVIEW SARDAR SEWASINGH

SHIROMANI AKALIDAL

Sd/- Dhanwat Singh,

Asstt: Secretary,

18-10-34.

Shiromani Akali Dal, Amritsar.

(16)

(1) PRIME MINISTER

(2) SUPERINTENDENT JAIL PATIALA

REFERENCE PREVIOUS TELEGRAM SARDAR SEWASINGH REPORTED
ON HUNGERSTRIKE KINDLY ALLOW INTERVIEW OUR REPRESENTATIVES

SECRETARY SHIROMANI AKALI DAL

19-11-34.

Sd/- Dhanwat Singh,
Secretary,
Shiromani Akali Dal, Amritsar

* * * * *

(17)

No. 616.

Dated, the 30th Nov. 34.

The Agent,
to the Governor General,
Punjab States, Lahore.

May I humbly request you to allow a deputation on behalf of Shiromani Akali Dal to wait upon you in connection with the hungerstrike and imprisonment of S. Sewa Singh Thikriwala in Patiala State

I shall feel highly obliged if your honour fix an early date for this purpose.

The deputation will consist of five men only.

I am

Sir,

Your most obedient servant.

Sd/- Ishar Singh, Secretary,
Shiromani Akali Dal

* * * * *

(18)

No. 645.

15th Dec., 1934.

The Agent,
to the Governor General,
Punjab States, Lahore.

I have the honour to draw your kind attention to this office letter No: 616 dated 30th November, 1934 and to request you to kindly allow a deputation of the Shiromani Akali Dal to wait upon you in connection with the hunger-strike and imprisonment of S. Sewa Sing 'Thikriwala' Vice-President of the Shiromani Akali Dal. The deputation will consist of 5 members only.

I shall feel highly obliged if you will kindly fix an early date for this purpose.

I have the honour to be,
 Sir,
 Your most obedient servant.
 Dhanwat Singh, Asst. Secretary,
 SHIROMANI AKALI DAL.

* * * * *

(19)

No. 639-R Misc-6-33.

From,

L. C. L. Griffin, Esq., I.C.S.,
 Secretary to the Hon'ble the Agent to the Governor General,
 Punjab States,

To

S. Ishar Singh, Amritsar,

Dated Lahore, the 24th December, 1934.

Dear Sir,

With reference to your letter No. 616, dated the 30th November, 1934, I am desirous to inform you that the Hon'ble the Agent to the Governor General regrets that he will not be able to receive a deputation as requested in your letter.

Yours truly,
 Sd/- L.C.L. Griffin,
 Secretary.

* * * * *

EX. 13.

STATEMENT OF SARDAR NANAK SINGH S/o BAKHSHI SINGH OF
 GUJAR KHAN, DISTRICT RAWALPINDI, LATE SUPERINTENDENT OF
 POLICE-IN-CHARGE OF C. I. D. POLICE, PATIALA STATE.

In regard to the assassination of S. Lal Singh, my letter that appears on page 5 of the Patiala Indictment and which I wrote on the 12th Maghar 1975 Bikrami is word for word correct. Only one word "Dewan" that occurred in the original has been changed in the English rendering of the above letter into "Sir". The original Urdu letter appeared in the "Urdu and Gurmukhi Akali" in the year 1929 and the Patiala "Darpan" also. The word "Dewan" before Daya Kishan Kaul has been wrongly translated by the word "Sir" as at that time Daya Kishan Kaul was not made "Sir" at all.

I joined the Patiala State Police service in the year 1913, as Superintendent of Police and in charge of C. I. D., Patiala State. I had Rs. 25,000/- every year for the Department and the authority to spend as I thought proper. In the year 1918 I was arrested on a false charge of misappropriating Rs. 2|13|- and was sentenced to five years' rigorous imprisonment with Rs. 4,000|- as fine. I was convicted only to overawe me and thus make me give a statement shouldering all the responsibilities about S. Lal Singh's murder in a place of the Maharaja himself. As I was the only man who knew all the true facts about the murder, naturally the Maharaja wanted to silence me.

I was kept in jail for 11 years and 6 months, out of which I had to pass seven years in solitary confinement, always with the promises of an immediate release. I was made to escape from jail by the Maharaja in the year 1930 at the time of Fitz Patrick Enquiry held in Dalhousie.

In 1928 having got tired of waiting in jail and being disgusted with the Maharaja of Patiala's false promises, I addressed some half a dozen open letters to H. E. the Viceroy and the Maharaja of Patiala, which appeared from time to time, besides other papers, in the Urdu and Gurmukhi "Akali" about the latter part of the year 1928. As a result of the agitation going on against the Maharaja from the Press and the Platform the Indian States' People's Conference appointed an Enquiry Committee to investigate the allegations levelled against the Maharaja. The findings of this Enquiry Committee were published in the form of the Patiala Indictment.

On 4th April, 1930 the Jailer of the Patiala Jail came to me and informed me that the Home Minister Nawab Liaquat Khan had called the Superintendent of the Jail to Kothi Baradari and had instructed him to make arrangements for my meeting S. Hazura Singh Dhillon in a quarter outside the jail. Accordingly I was brought outside the jail, and was closetted with S. Hazura Singh in a quarter. He told me that the Maharaja had a mind to ignore the findings of the Indictment by remaining silent, but in the last week of March when the Maharaja was in Delhi, the Viceroy, in view of the ever increasing agitation, had told him plainly that his remaining silent any longer would not do, that he would have to clear his position either by prosecuting the Enquiry Committee members, or would have to refute the allegations before a committee appointed by the Government. The Maharaja came back from Delhi on about the 2nd April, 1930, and had consultations with Dewan Daya Kishan Kaul and others. All were of the opinion that unless I took all the responsibility upon my shoulders the Maharaja would be held responsible for the murder of S. Lal Singh, and that he was deputed to know what my position

would be in the matter. In reply I told S. Hazura Singh that in view of the past tricks played upon me by the Maharaja, I would not be prepared to make false statement in order to shield his guilt. S. Hazura Singh entreated me to help the Maharaja, but I refused point blank.

On 23rd April, about 6 p.m. a Jail Official came into my room and told me that as Sir Sapru, Sir Mohd. Shafi and other Counsellors of the Maharaja were of the opinion that the Maharaja could not be absolved of the murder of S. Lal Singh without my help, and therefore it was decided that Maharaja should personally see me and should make me agree to the proposal. For this very purpose the Superintendent of the Jail and Sardar Amreek Singh, Deohri Officer, were coming to take me to the Maharaja. At 9 p.m. the Superintendent of the Jail came to myself and had me unlocked by Motiram, Head Warder. Upon being told that I was being taken away to see the Maharaja, I declined to go with them of my own accord. The Superintendent reminded me that I was a prisoner and as such had to carry out his orders. I accompanied them. A car was waiting for us outside the jail gate with Sardar Amreek Singh sitting inside. He made me sit in the car along with the Superintendent Jail, and the Jailor and I drove to Kothi No. 13 adjoining the Water Works. After a short while, the Maharaja accompanied by Kanwar Birinder Singh came there. The Kanwar remained sitting in the car while the Maharaja came inside the Kothi. I, S. Amreek Singh and S. Kalwant Singh touched the knees of the Maharaja out of respect. While I stood by, the Maharaja advanced towards me, and putting his hand on my one shoulder enquired about my health. As I was very much disgusted with him I made no reply. The Maharaja asked us to take our seats on the rug, and seated himself on the chair. After about 2 minutes the Maharaja again enquired about my health. I replied, that as I was feeling very much displeased with him I would not be able to observe that regard in conversation which was due to his Highness. It would therefore, be better to send S. Amreek Singh and S. Kalwant Singh away. Hardly I had uttered these words when the Maharaja threw off his turban and began weeping bitterly, and said, "Where is my respect now? Everything has appeared in the newspaper. Posters against me have been put up upon the walls, everybody is maligning me. The British Government, whose behest I was carrying out, has also left me in the lurch. People are blaming me without any grudge. I have ruined you, persecuted you, and injured you, you can say whatever you please. I shall patiently listen to all you say." At that time the Maharaja was behaving like one mad. At one time he would sip some wine and at another, he would light a cigarette, and after smoking only once would throw it out weeping bitterly all the time. I reminded him if I had not remonstrated with him in re-

gard to the assassination of S. Lal Singh, and on all occasions whether I had not tried to dissuade him from that act, and whether he had not threatened me that if Dalip Kaur would not become his Rani, and if S. Lal Singh would not be murdered he would jump into the sea and drown himself, and whether he was not aware that at the time of murdering Lal Singh, S. Ghamdur Singh had kept me quite in the dark in regard to that matter. And that whatever I deposed before Major Crump was there simply to save his life. The Maharaja admitted everything. I was wonder struck at his confessions in the presence of two of his State Officials. At this I told him that if that was the case I could not understand for the life of me why I was kept in jail for 11 years and six months without any fault of mine, and why I was ruined and dishonoured. Upon this the Maharaja began to weep again and said that he had no reply to make in defence, and that he oppressed and betrayed me, and that his conscience was repeatedly rebuking him for it. He could not face me but there being a question of life and death for him, he had approached me for help. The Maharaja told me further that though he expected very little help from me still he had taken courage to approach me on the advice of his legal advisers. I was moved to hear this, and forgetting all his past, told him that after consulting my friends, if I found that I could do anything for him I would be willing to help him regardless of consequences to myself. Upon hearing this, the Maharaja took heart and sent S. Amrik Singh and Kalwant Singh out and asked me to send for my relatives and to discuss with them the present situation. The Maharaja said further that he knew my financial position well and asked me to accept monetary help from him. But as I refused to take help from him, the Maharaja again began to weep and said that if I did not accept any help from him, he could not depend upon my help. I agreed. The Maharaja called S. Amrik Singh from outside and ordered him to send for my relatives by wire and upon their arrival to pay them Rs. 25,000/- and further that I should be made a Convict Warder forthwith, so that I might freely move in and outside the jail and that a quarter should be vacated for my family and I should be permitted to put up with them. Maharaja further added that if he continued to be on the 'gadi' of which he had very little hope, he would make good all losses incurred by me, and would release me without further delay, and would send along with my family to Europe to recoup my health at his expense, and for the remaining part of my life would make such provisions as would enable me to live comfortably. As in those days Nawab Liaqat Hayat Khan was consulted on all important matters, the Maharaja told me that those promises would be repeated in Nawab's presence who would be at liberty to make good those promises whenever he thought fit. He further said

that he was prepared to let me off then and there, but as Sir Sapru and Sir C. P. Rama Swami were against the proposal on the ground that if I would be released there and then, it would weaken the case, he therefore could not do so. On the 24th April, 1930, at about 8 a.m. the Superintendent of the Jail arranged to have a telegram sent to my relatives on my behalf at Gujar Khan, to the effect that they should come at once to see me and the expenses of telegram were paid out of my deposit with the Jail authority. On the 25th I received a reply that my relatives would be reaching Patiala on the 26th. In accordance with the Maharaja's order I was made a Convict Warder on the 25th April. On the same day at about 6 p.m. the Superintendent and the Jailor drove me to the Baradari and there took me to Nawab Liaqat Hayat Khan who was sitting in the European Guest House. The Nawab received me warmly and told me that the Maharaja had mentioned to him all the details of my interview with His Highness that took place on the 23rd, and now he was in full possession of the true facts, connected with the murder of S. Lall Singh. He was very sorry for the gross injustice done to me and would try his best to compensate me for losses suffered by me. He enquired of me what my future attitude would be in regard to that matter. I replied that I could do nothing without the previous consultation of my friends. In the meanwhile His Highness also reached there, and repeated the promises made to me on the 23rd April and authorized Nawab to fulfill them. My interviews with my family, since the year 1929, used to last for an hour or two in a separate quarter. I drew His Highness's attention to this fact, upon which the Maharaja and the Nawab intimated to me that they had decided to place me in the Rajindar Hospital under the pretext of sickness, so that I might be able to live with my family. Further the Maharaja, in my presence, addressed the Nawab, thus: "Look at these English people only to-day (25th April, 1930) I have received three letters from the Viceroy in which he has addressed me as "My dear." I have replied two of His Excellency's letters but the 3rd remains to be answered still. On one side I am 'My dear,' on the other, they have made my life miserable in connection with the Patiala Indictment. How sad our lot is; in spite of paying lacs of rupees to the Political Department and dancing to the tune of these people day and night, we are still harassed like this. The difficulty is that there is no unity among the princes, otherwise we would make them understand what it meant to trample under foot the loyal princes like us. May God save me this time. I shall never oppose the Congress or any other national movement in future." Saying this, the Maharaja began to curse the Government. The Maharaja ordered the Nawab to pay Rs. 25,000;- to me in jail on the 26th April and ordered that arrangements should be made to have me transferred to hospital. On the

26th April, I was brought at 10 a.m. to the quarter of Sardar Gurbachan Singh, Assistant Jailor, where my wife, brother, daughter, son-in-law and my brother's wife were already sitting. We talked for a couple of hours together, and in the meantime S. Amrik Singh came up with Rs. 25,000,- and he gave me Rs. 24,700|- in currency notes of Rs. 100 each, 18£ Sterling (at the rate of Rs. 13-10-0 per £) 5 notes of Rs. 10|- each and Rs. 4-12-0 in cash and took my receipt for it. I gave Rs. 2,000|- to my brother Bakshi Bhagat Singh for the payment of a part of my debts and £18|- to my daughter and son-in-law. I kept with me Rs. 254-12-0 for my own expense. The remaining Rs. 22,500|- I gave to my wife and instructed her to deposit the money in the Imperial as well as the Punjab and Sind Banks, Rawalpindi. I further told her that in a few days I would be transferred to the hospital where she would have to put up with me, and that she should go home, and, on the receipt of my telegram, should come at once to Patiala with necessary equipment. On the 26th April, S. Kushdev Singh, Medical Officer, Jail, was made to submit a report that I was ill and should be transferred to the Rajinder Hospital for treatment. While on three previous occasions, i.e., on the 26th of Jeth, 1977, 20th of Har, 1978 and 28th of Jeth 1983, I was taken to seriously ill that for days together I lay in a precarious condition, but no body cared to administer medicine to me at all and now when it suited their purpose, they immediately arranged to lodge me in the Rajinder Hospital. On the 27th April at 9 a.m. as previously arranged Mrs. Wins, the Civil Surgeon of the Rajindar Hospital examined me and recommended my transfer to the hospital for treatment of insomnia, dyspepsia and constipation. On the 28th April Bakshi Atma Singh came to see me. The Superintendent told him that a telegram from my wife should come, praying for her stay with me in order to look after my health, and further a similar application was obtained from Bakshi Atma Singh. On the 30th when the Home Minister came back after two days' absence from Patiala, he, on the report of the Superintendent, Jail, based on the Civil Surgeon's recommendation ordered my transfer to the Rajindar Hospital and accordingly I was sent there accompanied by two jail warders. Two rooms were allotted to me. On the same day or the day following, the Superintendent, Jail, told me that the Home Minister wanted me to send for S. Sewa Singh and request him at least to stop the agitation going on within the State. Accordingly the Superintendent of Jail sent Sarda Singh, Jail Warder, to Thikriwala with my letter to S. Sewa Singh and paid him Rs. 2|- for the fare. S. Sewa Singh came to me, and I told him every thing. While S. Sewa Singh was sitting by me the Superintendent of Jails went to see the Nawab and the Nawab sent words to me through him that it should be made clear to S. Sewa Singh that if he would not help the Maharaja in

this time of need the Maharaja might possibly be deposed, but the Sardar would gain nothing. On the other hand, he would bring upon himself trouble. I gave Nawab's message to S. Sewa Singh but he sneered at this threat, and quoted some verse meaning: "Death has no fear for a man who has decided to lay down his life for a noble cause." Adding further that when he had made up his mind to serve the dump driven States' subjects, he knew it perfectly well that he would be persecuted and every harm would be done to him. But before commencing the work, he had taken into consideration all the pros and cons of the matter. The very day S. Sahib went back to the village Thikriwala. On the 2nd of May 1930 the Superintendent of Jails took me to Kothi Baradari where Diwan Daya Kishan Kaur and Nawab Sahib were sitting. We had a long talk. Diwan Sahib told me that the Maharaja had disclosed to them the true facts about S. Lall Singh's murder and he was sorry for the oppression to which I was subjected through ignorance, and further added that I should once more help them to save the Maharaja. I told them that as I had no occasion to consult my friends who had stood by me in all my troubles nor had any chance of studying their views about the matter I could not make any promise off hand. At that time the Maharaja also put in his appearance and in the course of conversation requested me to devise a plan to win over S. Sewa Singh and Master Tara Singh. I assured His Highness that inspite of the fact that S. Sewa Singh was kept in the prison for such a long period without any fault of his, and was made to suffer heavy losses at His Highness's hands. S. Sewa Singh or Master Tara Singh had never had any personal malice against him, but if the Maharaja repented of his past deeds of oppression and made a promise to be just in the future he would find in M. Tara Singh and S. Sewa Singh his best well-wishers. Upon this the Maharaja said that he had succeeded in overawing some, had been able to win over others by bribing them, had silenced others through influence but Master Tara Singh was the only exception whom he had not been able to win to his side. Even though he had sent him a blank cheque empowering him to draw as much money as he liked for some Panthic Cause, even that failed to produce any effect on him. The Maharaja further told me that it would be better, if S. Sewa Singh helped him at that time. If he was deposed, he might be helpless. but, on the other hand, if he remained on the 'gadi' he would take revenge upon Sewa Singh in a manner that would be a lesson for others. Even after uttering these words, the Maharaja continued asking me to induce S. Sewa Singh to help him. On the 3rd of May, 1930 my family reached Rajindar Hospital and rooms Nos. 5 & 6 were allotted to me in the special ward. On the 5th May again, I met Diwan Daya Kishan Kaul and Nawab Liaqat Hyat Khan at Kothi Baradari. They told me that the Maharaja

was compelling S. B. Gurnam Singh, C.I.E., (his father-in-law) to make such a statement as will exculpate the Maharaja from the murder of S. Lall Singh; further he (Gurnam Singh) should depose that Maharani Dalip Kaur was never married to S. Lall Singh was a public affair, S. Gurnam Singh hesitated to give any statement to that effect, but pressure was being brought bear upon him through his daughter Maharani Sahiba Sangrur, and there was very likelihood of S. Gurnam Singh's coming round. I was also informed that after S. Gurnam Singh's statement, S. Ghamdur Singh Jaiji would state that S. Lall Singh had an illicit connection with the wife of S. Gurnam Singh, and that was why he was done to death. The Maharaja had no motive whatsoever to bring about his death. I was asked to to corroborate S. Ghamdur Singh as to the motive of the crime, which I refused point blank, saying that I would not be a party to this fraud. On 13th May, 1930 Nawab again met me in the Old Club House and informed me that A.G.G. had been appointed to conduct the enquiry, and that summons had been issued to the witnesses in the State. On my enquiring, the Nawab told me that the State was fortunate in having the A.G.G. in sole charge of the enquiry. As the State had already won the favour of A.G.G. and still hoped to win him over to its side, it was a wise course for everybody connected with the enquiry to side with the Maharaja. He asked me to look to my interest only. The Nawab also told me that the authors of the Patiala Indictment were unaware of the fact that an enquiry would be set up to go into its findings; the book, therefore, contained many legal flaws. Secondly, because the State was in possession of the names of all the witnesses over whom they had their influence, and thirdly on account of the pressure of all the princess, which was being brought to bear upon the Government, it was strongly hoped that the Maharaja would remain on the 'gadi'. I asked, in case the decision of the enquiry went against the Maharaja what our fate would be, in case we side with him. The Nawab replied smilingly that, if the decision would go in favour of His Highness, he was sure to fulfill all the promises made, on the other hand if the Maharaja was dethroned he (Nawab) would become the President of the Council of Regency and would then fulfil the promises. Over and over again, the Nawab impressed upon me the necessity of my helping the Maharaja in my own interest, stating that even if the Maharaja was dethroned, no body would release me. On 15th May, 1930 a man was sent by the Superintendent of Jails to fetch S. Sewa Singh from his village Thikriwala. Sardar Sewa Singh came on the 17th and met me in the Rajindar Hospital. I gave him Nawab's message, but he replied saying that if in the course of his discharge of his duty he lost all, he will not mind. I narrated my whole story to him and requested him to assure all my friends that I

would stick to the truth inspite of the temptations of the Maharaja and the persuasion of the Nawab Saheb.

On the 22nd May, 1930 I was informed that, owing to the enquiry being conducted solely by the A.G.G., the Rayasti Praja Mandal and the All-India States' People's Conference had decided to boycott it. I was much taken aback at this news. I was in a dilemma. If I refused to make any statement before the Enquiry Committee, I would have to go back to jail, and if I deposed against the Maharaja, I would not be able to bear out what I had to say, because all the relevant documents were in the possession of the Rayasti Praja Mandal and over and above all this, I could not go against the decision of the Praja Mandal. The news of the boycott of the enquiry was received with joy in official circle. I was again called to Baradari, and the news of the boycott was conveyed to me on behalf of the Maharaja and that the success of the Maharaja was then sure. The State had succeeded in making the Praja Mandal boycott the enquiry, and that by exparte proceedings the position of the Maharaja would be made clear. First of all, almost all the witnesses had been bought over, and if there was anyone unwilling to help them they won't mind it now. All this was being said to me to impress upon me the futility of my going against the Maharaja. He further told me that, on the top of all this, the Agent had been completely won over, and had assured the Maharaja that the enquiry would not, in any way, harm His Highness but would actually benefit him, because his position would be made clear once for all. I was also told that it was highly necessary that I should decide without further loss of time as to what course I should adopt to enable them to know where they stood. On return from Baradari, S. Kalwant Singh, the Superintendent of Jails told me that I had two alternatives for my release to choose. Either I should give evidence in favour of the Maharaja who would release me after the expiry of the enquiry, or I should leave the State for which facilities would be given to me. I enquired from the Superintendent what he meant by my leaving the State, and what I would gain if I left the State. I was told that, if I went away, the State would announce me as an absconder, and thus eliminate my evidence, and the Maharaja would then be quite safe. Within 6 months of my going away from the State I would be declared pardoned, and all the promises made to me would be implemented. I promised a reply after duly thinking the matter over. As I did not want to give an occasion to Master Tara Singh and other friends to complain afterwards that I had betrayed them, I, therefore, sent my younger brother Bakhshi Bhagat Singh to see Master Tarasingh at Lyallpur where he was standing his trial to ascertain from him, if the enquiry had actually been boycotted by them, suggesting that, in that case, it would make little

difference, if I stayed in the State or left it, as they did not want my statement to be recorded and that in the circumstances, if I left the State I would not be displeasing them in any way. Master Tarasingh sent me words that it was immaterial to them whether I stayed in the State or left it, and that the main consideration with me in deciding this matter should be the future welfare of my life. On receipt of this reply from Masterji, I made up my mind to leave the State. On 29th May, 1930 at about 9 p.m. I was sent for by the Nawab Sahib in the Old Club House. There he told me that a statement was being prepared for me, which would be sent to me in a day or two. But I protested, saying how they knew that I would participate in the enquiry proceedings. The Nawab told me in reply that they did not believe me to be so foolish as to go against the interest of His Highness under the changed circumstances. I was coming back to the Hospital, when the Superintendent of Jail enquired about my real intention. I replied that, if I could be assured that no harm would be done to me afterwards, I was prepared to leave the State, and further I asked him to give me a written order that I was released from the jail, which I would return to him on the proclamation of my pardon, and which they promised within 6 months of my departure. I further told him that I would only make use of that order if the State deceived me. The Superintendent of Jails refused to do so, and I too remained adamant. On 30th May, 1930, the Superintendent again paid me a visit in the hospital, but I made the same reply as was given on the previous day. After considerable discussion, he said that if some other way out of the difficulty was suggested, he would be prepared to consider that. I then told the Superintendent that I had to settle up accounts with my uncle S. Jai Singh to whom I wanted to send my younger brother Bakshi Bhagat Singh with a letter hinting therein that the State authority wanted me to leave the State, and that he should attest it. At first he hesitated to accept it, but ultimately he agreed to it on the condition that the latter should not fall into the hands of some enemy of of the State and would not be made use of against the Maharaja, and that within 6 months of the incident the latter would be returned on the announcement of my pardon being made. The draft letter was prepared by me and handed over to the Supt., He told me that he would let me know of his decision after consulting His Highness and S. Amrik Singh. On the morning of the 1st June, 1930, the Superintendent came to me and said that although the letter in question could ruin His Highness, still as I could not be satisfied with anything less than that, His Highness had said that he had full confidence in my sincerity, that inspite of his maltreatment with me I had never deceived him, and he hoped that the draft letter should be attested. Accordingly

I wrote the letter, which I now produce. This is the very letter that was written by me at that time and which was duly attested and stamped with the jail stamp by the Superintendent, Jail, and handed over to me. I made over this very letter to my brother Bakshi Bhagat Singh to keep it in safe custody at Gujar Khan. The same day, an interview was arranged with His Highness. The Maharaja assured me that, although I was leaving the State for sometime, he would always remember my services to him and after announcing my release would soon implement all the promises made to me, but urged me to see that the latter in question did not fall into undesirable hands. The Maharaja told me that he would keep this matter secret even from his counsels, and would keep them under the impression that I had escaped from Jail. The Maharaja ordered S. Amrik Singh and S. Kalwant Singh superintendent of the jail to complete all arrangements for my departure from Patiala and send me out on the 6th June, 1930 when the Home Minister would be away from Patiala. On 5th June, 1930 I sent my wife, mother and servant in the company of my younger brother to Gujar Khan, and having no confidence in the State authority I asked my brother to wire to the effect that he would be coming back with the papers in a day or two, and that I would conclude from the message that my relatives had arrived safely at home with the attested letter. On 6th June, 1930 at 7 p. m. S. Gurbax Singh Jailor, and S. Kalwant Singh the superintendent jail came to me and handed over to me a telegram containing the message referred to above received from Gujar Khan. As the superintendent did not want to take even the jailor into his confidence in this matter, he took him away from my room and they left for their homes. At 9 p.m. the superintendent of the jail and S. Amrik Singh both came to me, and took me to the big tank in front of the baradari, where a motor car was waiting for me. I got into the car which took me to the Motibagh. The Maharaja was standing on the platform. Once again he repeated old assurances and urged me to impress upon my relatives the necessity of keeping that stamped and attested letter in safe custody, and not to let it fall into the hands of any other person and that he would be ever grateful for my services. As my relatives were also ignorant of my intention to leave Patiala State in that fashion, I did not see the necessity of writing about this fact to them. At about 9-30 p. m. car No. 207 of Patiala State took me along with S. Amrik Singh and Kalwant Singh to Ambala Cantonment. As arranged, my man was waiting there for me with my luggage. We boarded the Mail Train at about 11 p. m. and Sardar Kalwant Singh and S. Amrik Singh after handing over to me the sum of Rs. 21,000/- for my expenses, returned to Patiala. I reached Delhi and hired a car, and from there I went to Agra and took the Grand Trunk Express for Madras. On the 11th June, 1930 I took a boat to Singapore, but as the climate of

that place did not suit me, I came back to India on the advice of doctors. I reached Nander on 5th July 1930, in the Hyderabad State and after waiting for 6 months for the pardon, addressed several letters to S. Amrik Singh, but received no reply. I sent my brother Bakshi Bhagat Singh to see S. Amrit Singh at Ambala. On meeting my brother, S. Amrik Singh complained that as my relatives had handed over the letter attested by the superintendent of Patiala Jail, to Mr. Amrat Lal Seth, the Maharaja was very angry, and that in the circumstances there was no possibility of any announcement being made. On receiving this news, I was very much upset, and came back home in the month of March, 1931. On the 10th April, 1931 I reached Amritsar and saw Master Tara Singh who told me that the Nawab had met him some where near his house at Amritsar, and wanted an application from me praying for mercy, on the plea that as the State had declared me as an absconder it would not be possible for them to announce pardon without any application. The Master asserted that there was no doubt about the fact that the State authorities themselves had sent me out. The master, however, could not agree to the Nawab's proposal of putting in an application for mercy. At last the Nawab made a proposal to Master Tara Singh to the effect that if he would hand over to the masterji the order of my pardon, whether masterji would be able to persuade me to write a few words in the way of an application of mercy. The masterji replied that he could not do anything without first consulting me. As I had no objection to this proposal I wrote an application on the 11th or 12th April, 1931 for mercy, and handed it over to Masterji. On the 12th April, I went back to Gujar Khan and as instructed by Master Tara Singh sent my uncle Ch: Jai Singh Kholi to Amritsar so that he might take the order of my pardon from Masterji. On 13th April 1931 my uncle along with my younger brother left Gujar Khan and reached Amritsar on the 14th. From Amritsar my brother informed me by Wire that they were accompanying Masterji to Ludhiana the same day. On the 15th April I received a wire from my brother from the Ludhiana Station saying that the order of my pardon and the application for clemency had been duly exchanged. The order was with the masterji as the Home Minister Patiala was still to approve of the application for mercy. On the 15th April, my uncle Jai Singh and brother came back to Gujar Khan in the evening and told me that S. Raghbir Singh who was then the I. G. P. of Patiala had come to Ludhiana along with S. Sewa Singh Thikriwala in a car. Masterji in return for the order of my pardon gave my application for mercy to S. Raghbir Singh. As S. Raghbir Singh found with the draft application it was settled that it might be shown to the Nawab in the form it was written, and if it was approved of by the Nawab, the masterji would hand over the order of pardon to me, otherwise the Nawab would return

my application of pardon to masterji and get back the order for pardon from him. Masterji had gone out of the Punjab with the order of my pardon, and getting no news about it I sent my brother Bakshi Bhagat Singh to Thikriwala to see Sardar Sewa Singh and find out about the decision of the Home Minister, as I had been told that S. Sewa Singh had accompanied S. Raghbir Singh to Patiala on the night of the 14th, and would be in a position to enlighten me on the point. On the 19th April, my brother returned from Thikriwala with S. Sewa Singh's message that the Home Minister had approved of the draft application so on the 20th April, 1931, I made it public that pardon had been granted to me by the Patiala Durbar. On the 25th April, Masterji handed the order of pardon over to me.

Amritsar, 16-3-35.

Sewa Singh.

Ex. 13 (a).

Lahore, 11-4-31.

True Copy.

The Maharaja Adhiraj of Patiala,

Through:—

Nawab K. B. Liaquat Hyat Khan Bahadur,
C.I.E., O.B.E.,
Prime Minister, PATIALA.

May it please Your Highness,

The undersigned Nanak Singh Later Superintendent of Police, Patiala begs to place before your Highness for your Highness's gracious consideration this humble memorial:—

1. The circumstances and details of the offence for which undersigned has been sentenced to rigorous imprisonment for a term of 26 years are within the knowledge of Your Highness and require no repetition here for the purpose of this memorial.

2. The undersigned has served a term of about 13 years imprisonment in state jail of Patiala and for about 7 years during his period he underwent solitary confinement.

3. Consequently on the suffering he has undergone his body and mind have been terribly impaired.

4. The undersigned's family, who depend upon him entirely, have been in addition to the mental anguish and sorrow caused by the undersigned's incarceration, financially ruined and reduced to undescrible misery and poverty.

5. Shattered in health and almost completely unhinged in mind, the undersigned, while he was being detained in the general hospital Patiala, went out on the night of 6th June 1930, as the circumstances permitted it.

6. Since then the undersigned has been aimlessly wandering, not knowing where to rest and feed next day, in utter mental anguish and despair, while his already shattered health has been steadily declining.

7. Under the circumstances, in consideration of the long term of imprisonment the undersigned has already undergone, of his pitiful state of health, and of the utter ruin starting him and his family in the face the undersigned most humbly prays that your Highness may be graciously pleased to extend your Highness's mercy and grant him an unqualified pardon.

For this act of grace and kindness the undersigned will ever pray for your Highness's long life and prosperity.

I beg to remain,
Your Highness's most obedient servant,
Sd|- Nanak Singh,
Former Superintendent of Police, PATIALA.

Ex. 13 (b).

Stamp of Prime Minister,
Patiala State.

Your Highness,

In submitting herewith a petition for mercy from Nanak Singh, an escaped convict from the Cental Jail, Patiala, I respectfully beg to recommend that in view of the fact that Nanak Singh has already undergone a long period of imprisonment and is now suffering from failing health, Your Highness may be graciously pleased to reprieve him in exercise of Your Highness's prerogative of mercy.

Your Highness's most obedient servant,
Sd|- Liaqat Hyat Khan,
Prime Minister.

Patiala, April 14, 1931.

Sanctioned.
Sd|- Maharaja Adhiraj,
14-4-1931.

True Copy,

Sd|- Liaqat Hyat Khan,
Prime Minister,
14-4-1931.

Ex. 13 (c).

STATEMENT OF NANAK SINGH s/o BAKSHI MATAB SINGH
EX-SUPERINTENDENT POLICE, PATIALA.

In the year 1982 Bikrmi while I was serving my sentence in Patiala Jail three Akali Prisoners, S. Bhagwan Singh Longowalia, S. Shashmir Singh Nagri, and Dr. Gurmukh Singh were in the solitary confinement ward along with me. Dr. Gurmukh Singh was locked up next to myself. One day when our food was brought, a piece of cigarette was found in the Dal. The Akalies refused to take the food. At that time Gurjan Singh the head warder Jail came there to inspect the cell bare. When he came to know to this he remarked that it was trifling matter, and that whenever they search the kitchen the convicts who worked there sometimes concealed their tobacco pouches in the kneaded flour. On hearing this the Akali prisoners went on hunger-strike. For five or six days no Jail officer paid any head to them. After a week S. Arjan Singh, Superintendent of Jail and S. Gurbakash Jailer came to us. When they were passing in by myself in front of which S. Bhagwan Singh and S. Shamshir Singh were sitting, S. Arjan Singh told the Jailer that I was solitary confinement for the last two years and I should therefore be removed therefrom. Saying this they went to solitary confinement Barack No. 2. On their return they inquired of the Akali prisoners the reason of their going on hunger-strike. They mentioned to him the incident of the piece of cigarette being found in the Dal and the conversation of S. Gurjer Singh, and submitted that unless they were convinced that effective measures will be taken to prevent the contamination of their food by tobacco they would not take their food. S. Arjan Singh replied that it was quite wrong to say that a piece of cigarette was found in the Dal or that Gurjer Singh the head warder, ever indulged in the talk attributed to him, and inquired if any other prisoner were also present there. As I was just in front of Arjan Singh he inquired of me about the matter I narrated the whole story to him which enraged him. Addressing the Jailer he said that unless I was given flogging I would not refrain from mischief. I replied that I had been subjected to all sorts of Zoolam except flogging, and that they were free to have recoured it as well if they liked. After ordering that S. Bhagwan Singh and Shamsher Singh should be shut up in segraité cells in the 2nd Barrack he went away. The same night Dr. Gurmukh Singh who was in the cell adjoining to mine began to cry out very loudly uttering that he was in great agony. After 2 or 3 hours a compounder came there and the crying ceased after he had gone away. In the morning when the headwarder came to unlock the ward, he called out the Doctor but on receiving no reply he inlocked this cell and that the Doctor

was lying dead. Afterwards it came to know that when the relatives of the Doctor came to know of his death in the morning they asked for the dead body but the jail authorities refused to hand it over to them, and cremated it in the jail ground. The jail remained closed till 10 p.m. that day.

* * * * *

EX. 14.

STATEMENT OF SARDARNI BHAGWAN KAUR WIDOW OF
SARDAR SEWA SINGH THIKRIWALA.

I make this statement on oath, and shall speak the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth.

My late husband Sardar Sewa Singh often expressed his views to me in his talks, and would say that it was his wish and endeavour that by the grace of God, such reforms may take place in Patiala as would save this Sikh State of Patiala from evil reputation and maladministration and enable the subjects of Patiala State to lead a life of peace and prosperity. He did not like that any estrangement and ill-feeling to take place in the people and the Government of Patiala.

I swear that in all his life, my late husband never expressed any desire, or made any demand to the Maharaja of Patiala or his Government for his personal gain, or interests, nor did any dispute or litigation arise in any such matter.

I state on oath that, whenever my diseased husband, Sardar Sewa Singh, heard from any victim the tale of his woes, or persecutions, or became aware of any insult offered to any Gurdwara or a Sikh, he would be moved to tears, and often remained restless for days on this account. But he would take his meals saying that these things happened as the Almighty wished it.

I state on oath that when the said Sardar Sahib felt care-worn on such occasions, he would say: "Behold the misfortune of the people and the Crown of Patiala. On several occasions, when I had the privilege of talking with the Maharaja of Patiala, I, with the best of intentions, brought it to the notice of the Maharaja that his subjects are disheartened and tyrannised, and it causes loss of appreciating his advice as useful and well-intentioned, the Maharaja said in a fit of excitement that he would be worthy of the name Bhupindra Singh, when he would bring torture and humiliation to my husband. Under the circumstances, it was futile to make any appeal to the Maharaja, and any attempt, to ameliorate the condition of the people and State of Patiala, would be inviting disaster to one's life. It was considered expedient to bring the

grievances to the notice of the British Government and persuade the Sikh community to do likewise.

I swear that, never in my life, did I hear or see my husband to create disaffection, or disorder, or mutiny against the person of the Maharaja of Patiala, or his State, or any of his officials, nor did he instigate any other person to do so, nor did he ever harbour any such intention or desire. But it was certainly the desire, the intention and aim of my deceased husband to use all legitimate and lawful means to remove the grievances of the subjects of Patiala State and the evil reputation of its administration, and for this he thought that representations should be made to the British Government. I swear that, although attempts were made on account of the wrath of the Maharaja of Patiala against him, to put an end to my husband's life by starting some intrigue against him, by the grace of God, the Maharaja did not succeed, because my husband's good intentions and character had so won over the affections of the people that nobody dared join any such intrigue against him. In the end, the Maharaja had the following scheme with a view to confine my husband to jail.

(a) My husband was arrested in State territory, and was confined in the Lahore Fort with other members of the first Shiromani Gurdwara Parbhandak Committee. This is the only instance of a State subject handed over to the British authorities for any offence of this kind. The object was to bring my husband in the bad books of the British Government and to give the Maharaja a free hand in feeding fat on his grudge against my husband.

(b) The British Government, after sometime, released members of the aforesaid committee, but due to the enmity which the Maharaja had against my husband, he was not released, but was taken from Lahore to Patiala by the State Police.

(c) In Patiala a case of theft was started against my husband on the allegations that a "Gaivi" worth about -|8|- was recovered from him on the search of his house, but the case fell through, as the complainant resiled from his previous statement. My husband was then confined in lawful custody without any charge for a long time. He was tortured and was not released for six years. He was ill-treated and dishonoured so that he may resort to hunger-strike, and thus end his life, but the agitation on the part of the Sikh community frustrated the attempt, and he was released in August 1929.

(d) Attempts were made in the State territory to bring some conspiracy against my husband, but to no purpose. In the month of September or October of 1930 the Sardar Saheb read his presidential address of

the Reception Committee of the States' People's Conference held at Ludhiana. Although the conference was held in British territory where the address was read, my husband was arrested one night at his village Thikriwala about 20 days after the said conference, and was sentenced to six years with a fine of Rs. 1000|- on the false charge of distributing the copies of the address in person on the evidence of State officials.

Due to the starting of an early agitation and the difficulty in bringing about the death of my husband, he was released on March 1931 only a few months after his arrest. The Maharaja could not hit upon a scheme which would cost my husband his life, because some difficulty or chance always intervened whenever any such attempt was made on his life, and also because my husband never did anything in Patiala territory, which could give an excuse to gratify his vengeance. The Maharaja of Patiala, on the one hand, intrigued to start an agitation in the states of Jind and Malerkotla, and, on the other, used his endeavours and influence to get an Ordinance issued in all the three Phulkian States of Nabha, Jind and Patiala. The idea was to place the responsibility for the issue of such an ordinance on the Jind State and himself to use the powers conferred by this ordinance to gratify his vengeance against my husband and others. During the last two years the Maharaja made attempts on the life of my husband in such a way that no agitation could be started against him, and no redress may be had in the British courts. My husband was arrested in his village Thikriwala in August 1933 on the charge of his holding conference against the State, in Delhi and other places and sending Jathas to the States. He was produced before Magistrate S. Pritam Singh Sidhu, who was conferred special powers, and who sentenced my husband in January 1934 to six years' imprisonment and a fine of Rs. 1,500|-. This Magistrate was purposely transferred to Barnala so that he may carry out the wishes of the Maharaja.

I state on oath that after the incarceration of my husband, I tried my best to get information about the condition of my husband. I made petition for this purpose, but no lawful means availed to give me any information about his condition, but I was always informed that the Maharaja wills it so, and nothing could avail against the mighty will of the Maharaja.

I swear that I failed to obtain any information about my husband's health from the State authorities, officials and the subjects; nor was there any certainty about his being alive or dead. When in June 1934, there was a rumour of my husband's martyrdom, I laid my grievances before the British authorities. Copies of the telegrams and other communications are attached herewith. I swear that, when after my repre-

sentations on 4th January 1935 I was granted an interview, accompanied by Kaka Jasmer Singh, brother of my son-in-law. My husband, who was very weak, and could hardly move, in broken words and by means of signs, gave the following account of his condition: "I am on hunger-strike being compelled to resort to it by the ill-treatment and disrespectful behaviour of Jail Officials and whenever I make any inquiry, I am referred to the aforesaid orders. But for this, I would not have restored to hunger-strike."

During this interview, I learnt that he was on hunger-strike for two months, and one day when he lost consciousness, rumour spread in the jail that he had expired. The room, in which he was confined, was such that a person staying there in solitary confinement would fall ill in a few days. Since he entered the jail, he never saw any human face but the two warders. Of course, the jailor and the doctor used to visit them.

In that cell he was provided with a charpai, a tub of water and a wooden stool. There was no eatable to be found in that cell. From his condition and movements, it was evident that his end was not far. He asked us to bid farewell on his behalf to the residents of Thikriwala, the Sikh community and Sardar Harchand Singh, and prayed for their forgiveness for any mistake over committed by him. He was convinced that the Maharaja was bent upon putting an end to his life. I swear that hereafterwards inspite of entreaties and petitions I was not given an opportunity to see my husband and become aware of his condition. I swear that some persons came to see me at Thikriwala on these occasions, who persuaded me to put my thumb impression on a blank paper, but I refused to do so. I cannot say what plan was, since my telegrams and communications remained unanswered, but some persons went to Thikriwala to get my thumb impression aforesaid.

I swear that the State authorities neither informed me when his end drew near, nor was his body handed over to me. I sent a petition through Ram Singh, the servant of my son-in-law, praying that the remains of my husband's body be handed over to me for the performance of necessary rites, but the request was turned down.

Sd|- (In Punjabi) Sardarni Bhagwan Kaur.

**STATEMENT OF SARDARNI KARTAR KAUR, SENIOR WIFE OF
SARDAR SEWA SINGH THIKRIWALA.**

My statement is the same as of Sardarni Bhagwan Kaur with the exception of the interview with Sardar Sahib.

Sd|- (In Punjabi) Sardarni Kartar Kaur.

On enquiry our statement is as follows:—

It was fully known to the officials of Patiala State that the family members of Sardar Sahib Thikriwala were present at Thikriwala in their own residential house, and village Thikriwala is situated in Patiala at a distance of three miles from Barnala railway station, which a man can reach in three hours from Patiala by train. If the authorities would have liked, they could have easily informed us about the serious condition of Sardar Sahib within three hours and within half an hour by telephone or telegraphically, as Barnala is a district. There is a police station and tehsil. The telephone is also there, which is connected with Patiala. If the authorities had liked to hand over the dead body of Sardar Sahib, they could have informed us easily, and handed over the dead body. On the other hand they could have easily handed the relics as they had already received my letter through Ram Singh, which Ram Singh had handed over to the authorities concerned through Sohan Singh.

Sd/- Sardarni Kartar Kaur.
Sardarni Bhagwan Kaur.

* * * *

Ex. (15.)

I AM THE WIFE OF SARDAR HARCHAND SINGHJI JAIJEE, ZAMINDAR OF CHORAL KALAN, PATIALA STATE.

I have already given my statement before the Commission appointed by the States' People Enquiry Committee relating therein the tale of my woe and suffering and the inhuman and brutal treatment meted out to my husband, my children and my own self by His Highness the Maharaja of Patiala. I do not propose to repeat all that sordid history in the statement as my statement was published in the famous publication known as the Indictment of Patiala. The publication of the said book led the Government of India to appoint another Commission to scrutinize the charges laid against the Maharaja of Patiala in the above said book. This latter enquiry was presided over by Sir James Fitzpatrick the then Agent to the Governor General Punjab States and was known by the name of Dalhousie Enquiry Committee.

During the hearing of the above said enquiry, the statement of my husband was recorded by the Presiding Officer of that Commission and as the result of that statement the Government of Patiala Administration released my husband from their unlawful custody and further promised to return all the property, cash, ornaments and garden which had been confiscated and taken possession of by the state at the time of the arrest of my husband. Although I was also summoned to appear as a witness

before Sir James Fitzpatrick, the matter got settled up before the stage of my statement.

After the release of my husband, we viz. my husband and myself made a number of petitions and memorials both to the Patiala Government and the Government of India for rendition of accounts for the income and profits of the property during the period of confiscation and for the return of all the property, cash and Jewellery, but inspite of the lapse of about five years now, there has been a remarkable silence on the part of the Patiala authorities to fulfil their solemn and sacred obligations.

Beyond bare promises on the part of the Prime-Minister, Patiala State, and other officials that they would soon look into our affairs, nothing has so far been done. Our request not confined to making petitions and memorials in writing but my husband from time to time went and personally requested the Prime Minister at Patiala and Delhi in the company of his lawyer and very humbly solicited the favour of settling up the matter, but on each occasion the Prime Minister excused himself by saying that he was busy with either the Round Table affairs or some other important things and that he would soon direct his attention to the settlement of our matters. Whenever we approached the Government of India through its Political Officers, we were directed to lay our claims before the State Officials and thus all this long period of five years we were driven from pillar to post, while the Government of Patiala had been quietly enjoying the profits and advantages of a major portion of our property still in its hands. The Government of India, although it was a party to the ratification and attestation of the deed of compromise, as the whole thing settled, signed and certified as correct before Sir James Fitzpatrick on the 26th June 1930 never cared to see that the terms of that compromise were fulfilled in toto by the parties concerned. I also laid my personal claims for compensation for all the humiliation, disgrace and suffering that was meted out to me and I was made to suffer but not a reply was even vouchsafed to me.

Now instead of meeting over demands and requests in a reasonable, humane and sympathetic manner, things began to appear getting hot for us within the boundaries of the state and acting on the principle "Once bitten twice shy" we thought it prudent to depart by and bag and baggage from the state, with the result that for about two years the whole family is passing its days in banishment. The sledge hammer of royal wrath was powerful enough to drive us away from our health and home.

It is needless to point out here that the education of my children got a very rude shock when my husband was want only arrested by Patiala and my children and myself turned out of our house in a cold winter

evening with not a penny in our pocket and I had to travel a distance of several miles all in dark to reach the nearest Railway Station with no shoes on my feet and no covering on my back. The long period of stupendous humiliation, shame and disgrace was patiently borne by me and in the meantime my eldest son S. Wazir Singh practically finished his college career at the Khalsa College, Amritsar. We proposed to send him out to England for higher and professional studies, but misfortune still dogged us in the culmination of our desires. A passport was necessary for the purpose and it could only be granted on the recommendation of Patiala Government. In spite of our prayers and requests, the Patiala Government did not like to make a departure from its petty-minded policy and out of sheer spite and malice, the recommendation was withheld with the result that the youngman is passing his days in India without being afforded an opportunity of making out a career for himself. The only fault that was found against him was that he had by this time married the daughter of S. Sewa Singh Thikriwala. It appears that this alliance of our family with that of S. Sewa Singh had worked as a red rag to the bull and had added further fuel to the fire of the royal wrath against both the families. My family had come out of Patiala, so the hand of the Maharaja could not touch us. S. Sewa Singh unfortunately remained in Patiala to face the music. He was arrested on a charge of sedition and awarded a long term of imprisonment. My husband my son and his wife made several efforts to be allowed an opportunity to go and meet S. Sewa Singh in jail as alarming reports about his health were constantly pouring in since the time of his incarceration. All such entreaties fell on deaf ears and in spite of the fact that my son made an offer to bear all the expenses of daily information about the health condition of the Sardar Sahib, no such arrangement was made. On the other hand information was made current to the outside world that the Sardar Sahib was gaining in health and weight. All of a sudden the shocking news of the sudden death of the Sardar Sahib was flashed about although no information was ever given about the serious condition or the admission of the Sardar Sahib in Hospital.

The young daughter of the Sardar Sahib viz. the wife of S. Wazir Singh, my son, feels absolutely upset and constantly cries for justice.

Sd/- Rajinder Kaur.

* * * * *

Ex. 16 (a)

STATEMENT OF S. JASMER SINGH S/O S. HARCHAND SINGH
SINGH JAIJEE OF PATIALA STATE.

I state on oath that on 18th June, 1934 I along with Mrs. Sewa Singh went to Patiala to see S. Sewa Singh. I submitted an applica-

ion for our interview. Daroga Jail desired me to see S. Arjan Singh not like to see his wife because there is no arrangement of Purdah. I Superintendent, Jail had told him that he did not like to see his wife because there is no arrangement of Purdah. I asked him that I alone may be permitted to see the Sardar Sahib in that case. On this the Superintendent told me that he had not the authority to allow me to interview Sardar Sahib, and that interviews could only be allowed by permission of the Minister-in-Charge of Jails. Accordingly I went to L. Narayan Pershad, the Minister in Charge, Jails, and submitted an application for an interview. He told me that he too could not grant permission to see Sardar Sahib, and that my application would be forwarded to the Chief Minister at Chail Hills. In short Mrs. Sewa Singh and I had to return home disappointed which we did after submitting an application to enter our protest. I further state on oath that I had tried to argue with the Superintendent of Jail that if Mrs. Sewa Singh's interview could not be arranged for want of Purdah arrangements he would at least permit me to interview S. Sewa Singh as in my case no purdah was needed, but he turned down this request as well. Upon this I requested the Superintendent to at least show S. Sewa Singh to me, if an interview could not be granted, but the Superintendent did not allow to me to have even a Darshan saying that he could do nothing without permission of the higher authorities. Subsequently on the 4th of July, 1934, I again went to Patiala accompanied by Mrs. Sewa Singh. After waiting for some time Mrs. Sewa Singh and I were taken by the Superintendent to the cell where S. Sewa Singh was lying on a "charpai." The jailer and two warders were standing outside the cell. The cell was accordingly one and no one had an access to it. The walls were very high which blocked the free passage of the air. Sardar Sahib was lying in a precarious condition, he could hardly move or speak. His throat did not work properly, and after great and prolonged effort whenever he tried to speak his tongue faltered. His eyesight had also grown very weak. The furniture of the cell consisted of one "charpai," one tub for water and one "peehra" (small cot) besides the bedding of a convict warder. Sardar Sahib made signs and spoke with great difficulty. We learnt from him that the jail officers at the instance of higher authorities had maltreated and subjected him to humiliation to such an extent that he was forced as a protest to resort to partial hunger strike by taking only one meal a day in order to draw the attention of the jail officials. But when he found that instead of any consideration being paid to him he was illtreated he was obliged to refuse to take food altogether. At this he was forcibly fed with milk.

The hunger strike of Sardar Sahib was lightly taken by the jail officers as well as higher authorities and they expressed little regret or surprise at it. They saw in his hunger strike the fulfilment of their evil designs. They rather seemed to enjoy the hunger strike of Sardar Sahib and referred to it in ridiculous and slighting terms. S. Sewa Singh too fully realised what they were aiming at. Sardar Sahib told us that he had been on hunger strike for the last two months, and that he was given a "charpai" on the 13th of June, that his weight at the time of his admittance into the jail was 145 lbs. while on the day when he fainted it had been reduced to 88 lbs. Sardar Sahib was fully convinced of the fact that they had decided to do him to death. He therefore, asked us to request the Panth and people of Thikriwala to forgive him for his shortcomings and to bid his last Fateh to them. On my return to Amritsar I narrated the whole story to the reporters who came to me for information. After two or three days when I read my statement in one or two papers, I found it to be very brief and much distorted. We were fully convinced at the time of the interview with Sardar Sahib that he would not be allowed to go out of the jail alive. I had told my brother Wazir Singh that he should do all in his power to save Sardar Sahib's life, otherwise his end was imminent.

Sd/- Jasmer Singh.

* * * * *

Ex. (16) B.

(REPORT OF THE INTERVIEW WITH S. SEWA SINGHJI).
SARDAR SEWA SINGHJI ON HUNGER-STRIKE.
FORCIBLE FEEDING.

I, Jasmer Singh son of Sardar Harchand Singh Sahib Jaijee of Patiala, produce herewith a summary of my statement regarding the interview with Late Sardar Sewa Singhji of Thikriwala as appeared in the Tribune of Lahore.

Lahore, Dated, 11-7-34.

Jasmer Singh Jaijee.

To allay anxiety about the health of Sardar Sewa Singh Thikriwala, who is serving out a sentence of 5 years' imprisonment in Patiala Jail for alleged sub-versive activities against the State, telegrams were sent by Mrs. Sewa Singh seeking an interview with her husband, to the Minister of Jails, Patiala, the A. G. G. Punjab States, and the Political Secretary, Government of India. After waiting for some time a telegram was received on the 2nd July from the Superintendent, Patiala Jail, by Mrs. Sewa Singh permitting the interview. Accordingly Mrs. Sewa Singh and Sardar Jasmer Singh reached Patiala on the morning of the 4th July and held

an interview at 7-30 P. M. in the prisoner's *solitary cell* which is, it is said, *only 12 by 20 feet* in area with a small open space of the same size in front and with walls 20 feet high all round. Sardar Sewa Singh Thikriwala was lying on a Charpoy, and was a *wreck of his former self being reduced to a skeleton and with difficulty could recognise his wife and Sardar Jasmer Singh.*

The following transpired in the course of the interview:—

Q:—Are you ill ?

A:—No. I am not ill, but I am on hunger-strike.

Q:—How long have you been on hunger-strike ?

A:—I actually reduced my food from the day I was lodged in this jail, *but I am on complete hunger-strike for the last two months.*

Q:—What are your grievances, which compelled you to resort to such an extreme course ?

A:—It is all due to the treatment of the jail authorities towards me.

Q:—Will you let us know the cause that was responsible for the report about your death some time ago?

A:—I do not know the exact reason for it, because I have never met anybody from outside in this jail and I am kept segregated. But this much I can say, *that on June 2nd I fainted and remained in that condition for 3 hours. Doctors were called in and they injected into me some medicine. On the 3rd. June I again fainted for about 2 hours and the same method of treatment was adopted again. During this period some body might have spread the rumour that I was dead.*

It was further gathered that now a cot has been supplied to the prisoner and he is being forcibly fed.

The weight of the prisoner, it is stated, has been reduced from about 145 lbs. to about 90 lbs.

It is further reported that the treatment of the jail authorities towards the interviewers was different on both the occasions. In the morning they were rude and in the evening they were exceptionally polite.

Tribune, Dated, 11-7-34.

(UNITED PRESS.)

* * * * *

EX. 17.

STATEMENT OF MASTER TARA SINGH.

I came to know S. Sewa Singh in the year 1922 when S. Sewa Singh was elected member of the Executive Committee of the Shiromani Gurud-

wara Purbandhak Committee, but we came in close touch when we were both arrested in 1923 and remained in jail together for about 3 years till 1926. As S. Sewa Singh, myself and other Akali leaders remained in the same barrack for about 3 years, we came to know each other intimately. S. Sewa Singh rose in estimation of his associates enormously. He was a very quiet, gentle and obliging man. His manners were very sweet. He was religious minded and he never gave offence to anybody.

In the beginning of the year 1926, some of us gave undertaking and were released. S. Sewa Singh gave no undertaking and he remained in jail. In September 1926, case against S. Sewa Singh and his companions was withdrawn and others were released, but S. Sewa Singh was sent to Patiala from where warrant of his arrest was issued against him for some months. S. Mangal Singh and myself went to Patiala to see His Highness to request him to release S. Sewa Singh. We saw the Maharaja and requested him to release S. Sewa Singh. He replied that he could not release him as he had been impertinent to him (the Maharaja.)

I questioned astonishingly "What was the matter?" He replied: "I ordered Sewa Singh to beg forgiveness from me and he refused to do so." I said "Forgiveness for what offence?" He got heated and replied: "When I order, it should be obeyed. When I say he should beg forgiveness, he should do so immediately without inquiring into the nature of offence." I do not remember the exact words but this was the gist of the talk. I said: "It is very strange that a man is ordered to beg pardon without giving him any inkling into his offence." The Maharaja got nettled and said: "I should not release Sewa Singh and shall finish him in jail." At that time, S. Mangal Singh and myself did not take the threat seriously. As we were about to depart, S. Mangal Singh suggested that a joint statement be issued with regard to the interviews. The Maharaja Sahib said that it was better that nothing should go to the press. We agreed.

I may say also that when we were in jail from 1923 to 1926, S. Sewa Singh and Captain Ramsingh were the only persons who had nothing to say in favour of the Maharaja. We were about 40 and as we all lived in the same barrack, Patiala was usually discussed. All were against Maharaja Patiala, but the above named two gentlemen always defended hm on the ground that he was misled by his Ministers, otherwise he had good points in him also.

2. I went to jail in 1930 in connection with the civil disobedience movement. When I was in jail at Lyallpur as an undertrial prisoner, S. Nanak Singh's brother, S. Bhagat Singh, saw me and told me that S.

Nanak Singh was taken from Patiala jail to Ragindra Hospital where he was living with his family. Nanak Singh did not know what to do as the States' People's Conference had boycotted the Fitz-Patrick Inquiry, and so S. Nanak Singh asked my permission to go out of the custody of Patiala, as we had boycotted the inquiry. I replied: "As we States' People's Conference had boycotted the inquiry it is immaterial to me if S. Nanak Singh stays in jail or not. He should not be influenced by Patiala money to betray us and make a false statement, but if he goes away from jail I do not mind. He may look to his own interests in the matter. I take no responsibility." I came out of jail in 1931 and S. Nanak Singh saw me. He told me the story of his so-called escape from jail. I had kept the letter signed by the Superintendent, Jail, which was given to S. Nanak Singh as a guarantee that he would be released. I told S. Nanak Singh not to return the letter to Patiala and that he would be released without returning the letter. Nawab Liaquat Hayat came to see me at Amritsar and we had a talk about S. Nanak Singh.

He asked me to get an application from S. Nanak Singh and that I might hand over the application to him, in exchange of the order of the release of S. Nanak Singh. I talked to S. Nanak Singh and he agreed to give a non-committal application of the nature of the one submitted to this committee by S. Nanak Singh. I made arrangements for the exchange of the application and the order of release of S. Nanak Singh through S. Ragbirsingh, I.G.P., of Patiala. I informed S. Nanak Singh. According to the arrangements made, S. Ragbirsingh accompanied by S. Sewa Singh came to Ludhiana where I was to meet them. S. Nanak Singh's uncle S. Jai Singh also came there to receive the order of release of S. Nanak Singh, as I was to proceed towards Delhi. S. Raghbir Singh gave me the order of release and I gave him the application. S. Raghbir Singh objected to the wording of the application. So we agreed that the order of release should not be handed over to S. Nanak Singh for 3 days and it should remain with me. S. Raghbir Singh was to show the application to the Prime Minister and if he accepted it, I was to hand over the order of release to S. Nanak Singh, otherwise I was to return the order of release and S. Raghbir Singh was to return the application. "If I heard nothing from S. Raghbir Singh for 3 days, I should consider the contract to be completed." I heard nothing from S. Raghbir Singh and I handed over the order of release to S. Nanak Singh which is now submitted to this committee by S. Nanak Singh.

Sd|- Tara Singh.

16-3-1935.

Ex. 18.

STATEMENT OF SHRIMATI DHARAM KAUR W/O S. BHAGWAN
SINGH LONGOWALLIA.

My husband S. Bhagwan Singh Longowallia is a prisoner in the Patiala Central Jail. He was forcibly carried from British territory and entrapped. My husband is quite innocent and has committed no offence. His only fault was that he was moving the Indian Government to save the subjects of Patiala State from the tyrannies of the Maharaja. During the last 7 or 8 years my husband had by submitting hundreds of petitions and telegrams brought it to the notice of the British Government that the Maharaja was planning to take his life and property, and that he had been conspiring somehow or other to ruin him. My husband raised his voice against it both from the press and platform. My husband used to tell me that besides other schemes designed to ruin him the Maharaja had hatched a wonderful conspiracy to bring about his ruin from which he had a providential escape. The details of the above conspiracy is however in the possession of my husband. At last the Maharaja was succeeded in putting my husband in Jail. Though my husband has now been in jail for 1½ years, I was able to have my first interview with him only two weeks ago. Before this I had sent my brother to see him but no interview was allowed. Both my husband and I were surprised at what we learnt from each other in the interview. That is, outside the jail the newspapers were full of news to the effect that my husband was on hunger-strike for the last four months and that he was in a critical state of health, while as a matter of fact my husband had never gone on hunger-strike. The following conversation took place between my husband and myself during the above interview:—

1:—"How long have you been on hunger strike and why?" *S. Bhagwan Singh.*

He:—"I have never been on hunger-strike."

1:—"There is a persistent rumour outside that you are on a hunger strike."

He:—"Yes. The jailor by showing me several times newspapers containing news of my hunger-strike had remarked. "See how false you people are. As they are raising a false noise about your hunger-strike, so you must be the cause in regard to the alleged hunger-strike of S. Sewa Singh."

1:—"S. Sewa Singh breathed his last."

He:—"S. Sewa Singh dead? You say he has died?"

1:—"It is a month and a half since he died."

He:—"It is a lie. If he had died, we, who are in the Jail, must have known it. His cell is not distant from mine." At this the jailor interrupted saying that we should not indulge in such talk and our conversation should be confined strictly to family affairs."

He:—"Jailor, why do you hold out these threats? What is the real thing?"

On this the jailor told my husband that it was a fact that S. Sewa Singh had died but that talk like that could not be allowed in the jail. This made my husband weep bitterly. Controlling himself with great difficulty he said "I will keep fast for 4 days as a mark of sorrow for S. Sewa Singh."

I:—"Why do you look so much pulled down?"

He:—"It is all due to the treatment meted out to me in the jail, and not to hunger-strike or illness. The hunger-strike and death of S. Sewa Singh have been strictly kept secret while rumours about my hunger-strike have been set afloat. Now I understand the game. They want to create an atmosphere of mistrust and under its cover to put an end to my life. God's will will be done."

At this time the jailor again interrupted and used harsh words towards my husband and my companion S. Prem Singh and dismissed us. Our interview was thus abruptly brought to an end and I could not make inquiries regarding the ill-treatment and other matters. My husband has been awarded 44 years and he is now in Patiala Jail. All our property including houses has been confiscated by the Maharaja.

Sd|- Dharam Kaur.

Translated from Urdu by me.

Sd|- Thakar Singh.

CROSS EXAMINATION.

Q. Did you ever apply for an interview before this?

A. My brother had gone for an interview but it was not granted. I did not apply for an interview.

Q. Had you any other interview?

A. None.

Q. Did you write a letter to your husband?

A. No.

Q. Why not?

A. I am not educated. I wrote no letter. Because my brother was abused; he was not allowed an interview and for this reason I did not write to him.

Q. Did your husband say anything about the jail treatment?

A. Yes, he told me that he was confined in the wards known as Kumahar Khana and that he was given ordinary convict diet. Once he became ill but the jail Doctor refused to give any medicine. He was laid up for 4 days. He is shut up in a cell and is not allowed to go out and to have a walk.

On the question of Mr. Mehta witness stated that S. Bhagwan Singh had twice been to jail.

(Sd.) Dharam Kaur.

I corroborate the statement of Shrimati Dharam Kaur as I was with her during the interview and the whole conversation took place in my presence.

(Sd.) Prem Singh.

* * * * *

Ex. 19.

STATEMENT OF S. JOGINDRA SINGH S/O S. SAGNA SINGH,
RESIDENT OF VILLAGE HARCHANDPUR, THANA
DHURI, PATIALA STATE.

I state on oath that I was arrested and beaten by the Patiala Police in the month of Har, 1988, while I was attending the religious Dewan at Dhuri. I was accused of offering resistance to the police. I was sentenced to 4 years imprisonment and a fine of Rs. 200]- to recover which my cattle were attached and auctioned in spite of the fact that my father, the real owner, was alive. I served all my sentence in the Patiala Jail. When I learnt that S. Sewa Singh Thikriwala was confined in a solitary cell on the 19th of Jeth, 1991, it was rumoured in the jail that S. Sewa Singh had been done to death. All the prisoners in the jail political as well as others went on hunger-strike saying that they could not tolerate the tyranny meted out to S. Sewa Singh. All the prisoners refused to have drink or food unless they were shown the Sardar alive. Warders and constables began to use physical force. This terrified the non-political prisoners. This trouble began at 8 a.m. and the prisoners were seriously injured. In the meanwhile at about 10 a.m. the police and the army including cavalry armed with rifles came into the jail. Hot water was thrown upon the prisoners from water engines which forced them out of the barracks into the jail compound. The police with the help of the army and the cavalry began to make a lathi charge which resulted in serious injuries to several prisoners. The prisoners were afterwards shut up in the cells. I was one of them. - I too received injuries and my nose began to bleed. The same day about 30 prisoners.

who were supposed to be responsible for the hunger-strike, were transferred to Nanau Jail. The other prisoners gave up hunger-strike out of fear. I was also kept in solitary confinement for full 4 years. S. Sewa Singh was never shown to any prisoner though we requested the jail officials to allow us to have his Darshan for a number of times. I was instead severely belaboured for making this request. In spite of the precautions taken by the authorities, the prisoners generally knew that S. Sewa Singh was ill-treated.

(Sd.) Jogindra Singh.

* * * * *

Ex. 20

STATEMENT OF S. BHAGAT SINGH.

I make oath and state that I was for the first time sentenced to 10 years rigorous imprisonment and a fine of Rs. 500|- or in default to undergo imprisonment for a further period of one year in the month of Chet, 1978, for wearing Kirpan, and black turban by order of the Maharaja while I was a Naik in Regiment No. 1 Patiala State. But I was released along with other Akalies in the month of Chet 1982. Again in Phagan, 1983, I was arrested for running a free kitchen in Gurdwara Dhuri. I was sentenced to one year's imprisonment and a fine of Rs. 100|- under section 448, I.P.C. and was ordered to be bound over for one year in the sum of Rs. 1,000|- under section 107 on the expiry of my sentence. The fine was recovered by attaching my property. I came out of jail in Phagan 1985, after serving my full sentence. Again in the month of Posh, 1987, the Patiala Government had me arrested in Mukatsar, District Ferozepur but I was released after 1½ months for want of proof.

In the month of Asarh, 1988, I was arrested at Dhuri in connection with the holding of a religious Dewan there and was sentenced to 4½ years rigorous imprisonment and a fine of Rs. 300|- or a further imprisonment of 1½ years in default of payment. I was kept in Patiala Jail for a week after which I was transferred to Fort Jail Mahinder Garh in the District of Narnaul. I had to resort to hunger-strike on account of maltreatment and bad food which lasted for thirteen months. During this period I had to do without clothes. A few days before my release which took place in the month of Katak 1990, I was taken to Patiala Jail, where I was taken by S. Arjan Singh, Superintendent Jail and S. Gurbux Singh, Jailor, to the Kothi of L. Pindi Das, the Judicial Secretary. I was then in a very weak and critical state of health. He asked me why I had gone on hunger-strike and on my narrating all the events leading to it he began to threaten me saying "Do you want to overcome us by your

threats of death. Remember if 20 dogs like you die every day His Highness won't care a button for it. What are you? You will find how your leaders like Sewa Singh are dealt with. Men like you would be put to miserable death and our Maharaja won't care a bit for it."

My statement about the above incident has already appeared in the newspapers, vide "Desh Dardi" dated 9th July 1934.

(Sd.) S. Bhagat Singh.

ORAL EXAMINATION OF S. BHAGAT SINGH.

We were in Mahindra Garh Jail. Jathedar Harnam Singh and three more Akalies were also there. We were treated very badly. Interviews and letters were all forbidden. Food supplied to us was insufficient in quantity and rotten in quality. With an intention to wound our feelings the same was mixed with pieces of leather, tobacco, etc. We requested the jailor to remove our grievances but were refused all redress. All the five of us therefore went on hunger-strike. We refused food, water and clothes. For five days at a stretch we continued this strike. We lost our senses and were in a very bad condition. We were then taken in a lorry to Narnaul Thana. All of us were then separated. I was forcibly fed. I was then taken to a small cell in Narnaul fort and was forcibly fed. Our compounder of the Narnaul dispensary used to come twice a day for this forcible feeding. Milk and water were thus put in my body. After 20 days I was taken very ill. So I was taken to hospital. Here or anywhere Doctor had never examined me. For some time I was kept in hospital and then removed to the fort, and again when I was very bad they used to take me to the hospital. In the hospital they never gave me any treatment. They possibly gave me some medicine together with my food. No jail or medical authorities ever asked me about my grievances or attempted to get me abandon my fast. No higher official ever visited me. On the expiry of my sentence I was put in the Gurdwara at Patiala. I was in a very dangerous condition of health but slowly recovered.

(Sd.) Bhagat Singh.

* * * * *

Ex. 21 A.

STATEMENT OF BHAI HARNAM SINGH S/O. PRATAP SINGH, RESIDENT OF VILLAGE, DHARM GARH, TEHSIL SAMAN, PATIALA STATE.

I was five times arrested and convicted in connection with five religious Dewans held at Benehra Gurdwara Sahib, Dharm Garh, Saman. After

my convictions in the above cases I was tortured Patiala and Barnala Jails. When I was arrested for the first time I was taken to Police Station Shari. Here my Kachhara was forcibly removed. I was addressed in the foulest language naming my mother, sister and daughter. They dragged me catching hold of my hair, beat me with a shoe on the head, spat into my mouth, poured kukka water into my mouth and thrust hair and shoes into my mouth. When they got tired of beating me I became senseless. Sometimes they began to tread over me, at other times they poured earth and water over my wounds and gave me beating. When I wanted to report these cruelties to the mal officer of Sanam, he refused to listen to me. This very Mal Officer had convicted me in this case. All the time that I was a prisoner I was kept in the Jails of Barnala, Narnaul and Patiala. In Patiala and Barnala Jails I was most brutally beaten was hung from a tree by fastening my hari to it, while in this posture my legs were pulled from below, and I was asked to tender an apology and to promise not to do anything against the state in future under promise of release. In Patiala Jail bread containing gravel and vegetables containing leaves and grass were given for eating. Grass and pieces of wood were found in the Dal and vegetables. It was very difficult to eat that kind of food. I refused to eat that food, therefore I was asked to lie down on the ground. When I wanted to know my fault five men felled me on the ground and my legs were tied with thick ropes. This in spite of the fact that I was already in fetters. The ropes with which my legs were tied were made of grass. My legs were tied lengthwise to the legs of a charpai. A rope was tied to my handcuffs and my arms were pulled over head and was given shoe beating while in this condition. When I became senseless I was let off. Again I was treaded upon. After an hour my legs were tied to the legs of the Charpai breadth wise and was made to stand in this position along with the Charpai, then two ropes were tied to my fetters and hand-cuffs and by strining them over the shorter sides of the Charpai in opposite directions the ends of the ropes were tied together and twisted so much so that the short arm of the Charpai was tightly pressed against the breast causing almost suffocation. Shoe beating was also given. The jail warders who mere engaged in beating me with shoes began to pull my hair. When I was imprisoned a second time, I was subjected to similar torture. I was on hunger-strike when I was given beating. During my second imprisonment when this beating was given; Sardar Harchand Singh Jaljee was also there. I was beaten in the presence of S. Gurdial Singh Dhilon, Superintendent C. I. D. Branch, L Aminchand, Inspector C. I. D., S. Bharpur Singh Kotwal. S. Bishan Singh, Sub-Inspector, was also present who said that I could be beaten to death and that he would see that no harm was done to any body. S. Gurdial Singh Dhilon remark-

ed that they were to carry out the orders and were determined to curb the spirit of Sikhism, that many rats like me are killed daily no body outside the jail will get wind of my death. When I was rendered senseless as the result of beating S. Gurdial Singh Dhilon thought that I was dead. He suggested to the Doctor that if I was actual by dead dozen warders should be ordered to pull down the roof of a mud house and it should be given out that my death had been caused by the falling of the roof. For nine days together I was beaten in this manner. Due to this beating I lost my morale.

When I was arrested last time from Dhuri Dewan I was sentenced to 2 years imprisonment. I was kept in Patiala Jail. I was again beaten in the same savage manner as was done previously. S. Wazir Singh Secretary Akali Jatha Patiala, S. Bhagat Singh Treasurer Akali Jatna, S. Hazura Singh, Jathedar Bhawani Singh, and Atma Singh Bangia, Jathedar Akali Dhuri Tehsil were also with me in the jail. We had all been convicted together. Almost all of us were beaten in the above manner. Three were kept in Barrack No. 16 and afterwards transferred to fort jail at Narnaul. There too we were beaten and given unwholesome food which we could not eat, therefore, we gave up taking that food for sometime. The Superintendent ordered our clothes to be taken away and when we refused to do so they were torn from our bodies by the jail warders leaving only Kacharas on our bodies. Thus we had to do without clothes for one year long. We used however to take a little food at times. When we were subjected to continued violence all five of us had to resort to hunger-strike from the 1st of Assuj. This hunger strike lasted for full eleven months and we were refused permission even for bathing and washing our hair. Our combs were also snatched from us. We were forcibly fed with a small quantity of milk. After the administration of milk, two warders were detailed to press a blanket tightly against our mouths so that we might not vomit the milk. On the expiry of the sentences we were brought to Patiala in a lorry from Narnaul. We were thrown outside the Patiala Jail on the 7th of Sawan 1990., where we remained lying for a day. We were unable to speak. The Patiala authorities then took us to Gurdwara Dukhnawaran in a lorry and left us there. The above is a brief account of my sufferings. I have submitted a large number of memorials under registered covers to H. E. the Viceroy, the Political Secretary and the A. G. G. as regards S. Bhagwan Singh Longowalia, S. Sewa Singh Thikriwala and the jail atrocities copies whereof I produce herewith.

In his Oral Examination the witness said as unders—

I was in Mohinder Garh jail with Bhagat Singh and other Akalis. We

all went on hunger strike thirst and clothes strike for the reason stated by S. Bhagat Singh in his statement.

I also was given forcible feeding. Sometimes the doctor and some times Compounder used to come for this purpose. Jail authorities were not only callous but were vindictive. They used to say that S. Sewa Singh and the whole of your lot will die in jail. Maharaja cared a fig for you all. They said they had special orders to pay us right. On my release I was taken to D. B. Pindi Das who told me that the whole of our lot with Sardar Sewa Singh will die like dogs, and would not be able to harm a hair of the Maharaja. On my release I had reported all these things to Master Tara Singh at Amritsar.

* * * * *

Fx. 21 B (1).

Ambala City,
21st June, 1934.

To,

His Excellency the Viceroy of India,

SIMLA.

Your Royal Excellency,

I, on behalf of the Akali Jatha Patiala beg to submit the following petition for your kind perusal and favourable consideration.

A good many memorials and representations have been made to your Exalted Excellency by the Ryasti Praja Mandal Patiala. I, as a peaceful and law abiding person, think it my duty to inform your noble Excellency that an immediate redress of their grievances is the only remedy for all this unrest.

S. Sewa Singh Thikriwala, President, Ryasti Parja Mandal and S. Bhagwan Singh Longowalia Secretary and 35 others have been arrested and convicted for nine years and life sentence respectively simply for approaching your benign Excellency for the redress of their grievances.

S. Sewa Singh Thikriwala is on hunger-strike for the last three months. He is lying in a precarious condition. His life is a public trust and as such has caused a great anxiety and unrest among the people.

They have been subjected to such hardships simply for approaching your Royal Excellency for justice. If your benign Excellency delayed the justice sought—for any longer, I fear the same fate may be waiting for me.

So it is submitted most submissively that all their grievances may

please be redressed at an early date. I shall feel highly obliged to your
 distinguished Excellency for this noble intercession of yours.

I have the honour to be,

(Copy to Political Agent)

My Lord,

Your Excellency's most obedient servant,

Sd/- Harnam Singh,

President Akali Jatha, Patiala.

* * * * *

EX. 21 B (2).

Viceregal Lodge, Simla.

D. O. No. 7004 G. F.

26th June 1934.

Mr. Harnam Singh,

C O The Gurdwara,
 Near Labhu-ka-Talab,
 Ambala City.

Dear Sir,

I am desired to acknowledge the receipt of your memorial to His Excellency the Viceroy dated the 21st June 1934, which has been forwarded to the Political Department of the Government of India.

I am to ask you kindly to address any future communications on the subject to the Secretary of that Department.

Yours faithfully,

Sd/- Illegible,

Assistant Private Secretary to the Viceroy.

* * * * *

EX. 21 B (3).

Ambala City,

26th June, 1934.

To,

His Excellency the Governor-General and Viceroy of India.

SIMLA.

May it please your Excellency—

I, the undersigned, the President of Akali Jatha of Patiala State most respectfully and humbly beg Your Excellency to intervene in the following urgent matters and afford protection.

1. Owing to the ill-treatment by the Jail authorities S. Sewa Singh Thikriwala, President of "Punjab Rayasati Praja Mandal" now confined

In Patiala Jail is on hunger-strike since one month and three weeks and this has reduced him to a critical condition. The said Sardar is one of the most widely known and respected Sikh leaders and any danger to his life is likely to create a serious situation throughout the country. An enquiry may be made through some impartial agency into the circumstances that have led to his hunger-strike and steps may be taken to ensure the safety of his life.

2. About 200 men belonging to Patiala State who had gone to Delhi and Lahore to Your Excellency and the Political Agent, Phulkian States, respectively for justice and have been released after having undergone various terms of imprisonment in connection with several protests made against the oppression and misrule of Patiala State, are now living at Ambala, Ludhiana, Ferozepur and Badliada District Hissar and Khadail Karnal District. They are afraid of returning to their homes, as they are bound to be arrested and thrown into jail again. While living in the said places in British territory they fear being falsely prosecuted or otherwise troubled by the Patiala State authorities. It is respectfully prayed that the District Magistrates and Superintendents of Police of the said Districts may be instructed to see that the above mentioned men living under the British protection may not be arrested or otherwise harassed without due enquiry.

Your Excellency may be graciously pleased to see that the above mentioned exiles may be restored to their homes and hearths without any further risk to their life or property.

I beg to remain,

Your Excellency's Humble Memorialist,

Sd/- Harnam Singh,

* * * * *

EX. 21 B (4).

Ambala City,
8th August, 1934.

To,

His Excellency The Governor-General Viceroy of India,
DELHI.

May it please Your Excellency,

I, Harnam Singh, President Akali Jatha Patiala State, most humbly and respectfully beg Your Excellency's kind favour of most graciously in-

tervening in the grave matter that is perturbing the thoughts of thousands of Akalis in the Patiala State and in the Government territory.

1. Sardar Sewa Singh, Vice-president Shiromani Akali Dal and president of the Punjab Rayasti Praja Mandal and respected and influential leader of Sikhs was sentenced to 9 years imprisonment and a fine of Rs. 1,500. The treatment accorded to him in the Jail forced him to go on hunger-strike for the last six months and his condition has become very serious which causes grave anxiety to Sikhs all over the land. But so far no attempt has been made by the State Government to look into his condition. We pray to Your Excellency to interfere in this inhuman and unjust treatment accorded to a leader of Sardar Sewa Singh's standing and oblige the whole of the Sikh community.

2. Sardar Bhagwan Singh Longowalia, Secretary, Punjab Rayasti Praja Mandal who approached Your Excellency after having failed to get any hearing from the State government, for the redress of the grievances of the subjects, was sentenced to 32 years rigorous imprisonment.. About 35 of his supporters, in fact anybody who dared to raise his voice, have been sentenced to very long terms.

3. Atrocities of the State government are becoming unbearable and if no action is taken the affairs may take a very serious turn. The misfortunes of the Akalis in the State territory are bound to elicit sympathy from the Akalis in the British territory.

4. Hundreds of others have been rendered homeless and are miserable wanderers in British territory, where these poor men do not get a meal or place to sleep.

5. A number of memorials have already been sent to Your Excellency and His Honour the Political Agent about the demands of the Rayasti Praja Mandal and sufferings of the people. But we have received no answer to those memorials.

6. On my behalf, personally I already sent three representations in connection with the suffering of the victims of the wrath of the State government. I sent brief representation yesterday also.

7. Having failed to get any redress from the State we have approached the Paramount Power and we hope that Your Excellency will be pleased to interfere and help the subjects of the State as you have always helped the subjects of the British Empire. Along with our brethern, the people of the British territory, we are the loyal subjects of His most August Majesty the King Emperor of India and therefore have implicit faith in

Your Excellency, that we the Subjects of State will not be refused the British Justice by His Majesty's representative in India.

For this gracious interference and the redress of grievances the whole of Sikh community generally and the Akalis specially will be highly obliged to Your Excellency.

I have the honour to be
Sir,
Your Excellency's
Most obedient and humble subject.

* * * * *

Ex. 22.

STATEMENT OF MIT SINGH S/o HARNAM SINGH.

I was imprisoned in Patiala Jail for 7 years in connection with a dacoity case in Sambat 1981. About 15 days after my conviction I was sent to Ferozepore in connection with another case. After about 15 months I was sent back to Patiala jail to serve my sentence.

The treatment meted out to prisoners in the Patiala jail was not good. We all demanded that we should be given the same facilities as are enjoyed by the prisoners in British jails. The authorities tried to put us off. Thereupon we went on hunger strike. Upon this the ring leaders were given beating and as a show of justice we were got examined by the jail doctor. Afterward Puran Singh Khokhar (under sentence of 20 years), Lal Singh of Barmalipore, Tehsil Pail and Amar Singh resident of Quilla Batuho from among the ring leaders were done to death after having been beaten by prisoners, favourites of the jail authorities, and no notice was taken of it. None of the culprits was prosecuted. One prisoner undergoing the sentence of 20 years imprisonment who had killed Lal Singh of Barmalipore was released after about 3 years. During my imprisonment S. Sewa Singh Thkriwala was thrice brought to jail as a prisoner. Every time the treatment meted out to him by the jail officials was not good. During his first conviction Sardar Sahib remained on hunger strike for 3 months and was at last released while he was still hunger striking. The third time that S. Sewa Singh was imprisoned, the treatment meted out to him by the jail authorities was very bad. He was confined in a separate cell (Kumar Hata). The female ward is also in this portion of the jail. Therefore, no male could go there nor there is any passage. The door of this ward remained locked all the time. A few days after Sardar Sahib arrived in jail we came to know that he began taking only one meal daily on the ground that he was neither allowed to have an interview nor to

correspond with his relatives and that he was kept in a solitary cell day and night. After a few days he gave up food altogether.

In the month of Jeth 1991 B. it was rumoured that S. Sewa Singh was done to death. Thereupon all the prisoners demanded of the supdt. and the jailor that Sardar Sahib should be shown to them because they had learnt about his death. These officers began to use violence against the prisoners. I was one of them. As a protest against this violence and out of sympathy with Sardar Sahib all the prisoners went on hunger strike and demanded that unless they were allowed Darshan of Sardar Sahib they would not take food. We continued our hunger-strike on the next day also. At about 10 or 11 a.m. armed Police, and Cavalry came into the jail. The police together with the Infantry and the Cavalry began to the violence against the prisoners. The prisoners took shelter in the cells out of fear. Dewan Pindi Das judicial Minister and other officials were also present in the jail at that time. When they failed to outs the prisoners from the cells hot water was thrown from the motor engine on them. The prisoners were afterwards locked in cells and the ring leaders were taken away to Kar Khasand, beaten and their sentences were also enhanced. I was one of the prisoners whose sentences were enhanced. All the ring leaders except myself were transferred to Narnaul. Four months have passed since my release. It is learnt that the prisoners sent to Narnaul jail are still being subjected to harsh treatment. During my presence in the jail, S. Bhagwan Singh Logowalia was also confined in a separate cell in Kumar hata. He too is being given bad treatment and is always kept in cell.

17-3-35.

Thumb impression of Mit Singh

Translated from Urdu by me.

(Sd/- Thakar Singh.)

WHEN EXAMINED ORALLY HE SAID :—

To my knowledge three persons have served as mates over S. Sewa Singh's cell namely, Chand, Doli and Ram Singh. Ram Singh is now free.

Ram Singh told me the details of the treatment given to S. Sewa Singh. The details were that the interviews and letters were refused to S. Sahib, and food supplied was rotten and contained leather pieces etc.

In the beginning when we went on hunger-strike for mal-treatment in jail, ring leaders were brutally punished and the Jail authorities allowed the following three of them to be done to death.

1. LAL SINGH; he was done to death by Khushia of Rampur Kutani who was for 20 years by strangling. Jail authorities came to know this and

they made a case that Lal Singh killed himself having lost his balance of mind.

2. PURAN SINGH: of village Khokhar who was for 20 years was done to death by Doli, who is either released or about to be released, by means of iron Kundi. Doctor opined that he died of certain wounds. Jail authorities made up a case that the deceased fainted and fell on an iron club and died.

3. AMAR SINGH: of Killa Vatuha who was for 20 years was done to death by mate Sarbans Singh of the village Chima alongwith some others, by beating him and by inserting a rod in his rectum. Amar Singh died in hospital. Jail authorities declared that he died of fever.

EX. 23

* * * * *

STATEMENT OF S. ANOKH SINGH S/O S. SADA SINGH.

I state on oath that in the month of Shadon, 1982 I went to interview Dr. Gurmukh Singh in the Patiala Jail. I was accompanied by Mrs. Gurmukh Singh and her younger son named Amar Singh. We reached the jail at 9 A.M. and verbally requested the jail authorities to allow us to interview the Doctor. The Jailor asked us to make a formal application for the purpose. Accordingly we put in the application. After reading the application the jailor asked us to wait for a while. We continued waiting for nearly two hours outside the jail gate. The jail authorities then informed us that interview could not be granted. I, therefore, went to the Superintendent of jail and enquired of him why we were not allowed to interview the Doctor. He told us that the interview would be allowed after a week and not then. We then asked how and why we were asked to submit an application when it was not going to be acceded to and why we were thus kept in suspense for so much time. The Superintendent told us not to mind it as we would not have to make a fresh application after a week, so we came back to our village. Next day we heard that Dr. Gurmukh Singh was martyred in Patiala Jail.

* * * * *

EX. 24.

STATEMENT OF BHAI BAGGA SINGH S/O BHAI HADIT SINGH.

I make oath and state that Ram Singh is my real brother. He is now a prisoner in Patiala Central Jail. He was arrested simply for sympathising with the Akalies. He was arrested on 8th Magh 1985 B, and sentenced to one year rigorous imprisonment and a fine of Rs. 300/-. He was released on 10th Bhadon, 1986, along with other political prisoners.

After his release he never took part in any religious or political movement. He was arrested simply on the report of the Lambardari that he was helping the Akalis for which he was sentenced to 4 years' rigorous imprisonment and a fine of Rs. 100|-. I had one interview with him. At the time of the interview he was dangerously weak. On my inquiring after same he told me that it was due to hard Jail life, that he was kept in a separate cell and subjected to many hardships. This interview took place in February, 1935. Since then I have received no letter from him.

Thumb mark of Bagga Singh.
Sd|- Thakar Singh.

STATEMENT OF BHAJ SHER SINGH S|O S. JIWA SINGH .

I stated on oath that my father Jiwa Singh is undergoing an year's imprisonment in Patiala Central Jail, he was also fined Rs. 400|-. My father is an Akali. He was arrested because he was suspected of helping the people who were carrying on agitation against the Maharaja of Patiala. I had an interview with him on the 7th of March 1935. His health has deteriorated, his eyesight has also become extremely weak, and he could not recognise me.

Thumb mark of Sher Singh.

* * * * *

EX. 25

STATEMENT OF BHAJ GAJJAN SINGH S|O BHAJ BISHEN SINGH

I was imprisoned in Patiala Jail in 1973 B. in a murder case and was released in Bhadon 1986 before the expiry of my sentence.

During my imprisonment I was kept in ward No. 2 for many years. The treatment meted out to the prisoners during this period was not good. The kitchen arrangements were extremely bad. After many years I was confined in cell No. 14, Dr. Gurmukh Singh, S. Bhagwan Singh Longowalia, S. Shamsher Singh Nagri and S. Nanak Singh late superintendent, C.I.D., Patiala, were also locked in Kothi No. 14. In my presence Dr. Gurmukh Singh, S. Bhagwansingh Longowalia and S. Shamsher Singh Nagri had a quarrel with S. Gujjar Singh Head Warder, because they had complained about a piece of cigarette being found in Dal. Gujjar Singh told them that that was a very ordinary thing. The prisoners were in the habit of putting cigarettes in flour. There upon all the three prisoners went on hunger-strike upon which they were separately confined. After a week S. Arjan Singh the jail superintendent came there in the evening and Dr. Gurmukh Singh made a complaint to him, but he made a reply in

insulting language and ordered the doctor to be locked in a separate cell. At about 11 P.M. I heard the creaking of the opening of the cell door. It was the same cell where Doctor was confined. A little time after the opening of the door we heard a noise that resembled the noise produced at the time of suffering between two men. After that the Doctor's voice was heard as if he was in a state of agony. The sound resembled the voice of one who was being strangled or put to some other similar torture. In the morning it was learnt that the Doctor had died. This we learnt from the mates as we were kept confined in cells. The whole jail was kept closed for two or three hours longer than usual. In case of natural death of convicts the jail is not kept closed in this manner. We tried to smuggle out this news. On Jain officials suspecting me I was subjected to torture. Doctor's death took place in the month of Bhadon 1926 B. In 1926 when S. Sewa Singh Thikriwala was imprisoned the prisoners had gone on hunger-strike as a protest against the mal-treatment and mismanagement of the jail. S. Sewa Singh of Thikriwala was made responsible for it and that he had brought this all about through me. As a matter of fact S. Sahib had no hand in it at all and he himself had not gone on hunger strike. I was subjected to serve torture in this connection and I was asked to make a statement against S. Sewa Singh to the effect that he (S. Sewa Singh) had brought about the hunger-strike through instigating me, but I refused to make any such statement. This torture had been meted out to me in the Kotwali. S. Heera Singh Baihi had also been brought to Kotwali along with me in this connection. After the torture we were taken back to jail.

Examinations

After my release I came to know that warrants had been issued against me because the Patiala Darbar suspected me of associating with the Akalis. On learning this I left the state and since then I have been residing in British territory.

Sd/- Gajjan Singh.

* * * * *

EX. 26

STATEMENT OF BAKHTAWAR SINGH S/O GURDIT SINGH

I State on oath that I was prisoner in Patiala Jail serving my sentence of 20 years imprisonment in a murder case. Akali prisoners were brought to the jail when I was there. I was in the cell adjacent to that of Dr. Gurmukh Singh. One night at about 11 or 12 o'clock the sound of the opening of the door of his cell was heard, after that his moving was heard.

In the morning I learnt that the Doctor had died during the night. The previous day the Doctor was quite well, he had no doubt a quarrel with S. Gujjar Singh the Head Warder over a piece of cigarette that was found in the Dal and on account of which the Akali prisoners had gone on hunger strike. After nearly a week they were forcibly fed with milk. For one week nothing was done to feed them. When the Doctor died it was the month of Bhadon in the era 1982 B.

Sd|- Bakhtawar Singh.

* * * * *

Ex. 27.

STATEMENT OF GANDA SINGH S/O KUR SINGH.

I state on the oath that I was imprisoned in Patiala Jail in a murder case in 1973 B. When I was there Akali prisoners named Dr. Gurmukh Singh, S. Bhagwan Singh Longowalia and S. Shamsher Singh Nagri were brought there. One day cigarette piece was found in their food. They reported it to the Head Warder who paid little heed to it saying that convicts were in the habit of concealing their tobacco touches into the unceaded flour at the time of search. On this the three Akali prisoners went on hunger-strike and demanded that they should be given food as required by their religion, but the jail authorities paid no heed to it. After six or seven days they began to be forcibly fed with milk. One night at about 11 O'clock the sound of the opening of Dr. Gurmukh Singh's cell was heard and after that Doctor Gurmukh Singh's distressed voice was heard. In the morning I learnt that the Doctor had died. The prison was kept closed for an unusually long time. It is not so when a prisoner dies his natural death. I was released before the expiry of my sentence.

Sd|- Ganda Singh.

Translated from Urdu by me.

Sd|- Thakar Singh.

Cross Examination.

The Jail Superintendent S. Arjan Singh had asked me to make a statement to the effect that S. Nanak Singh had induced them to escape from the prison and murder Sir Daya Kishan Kaul. I made a statement as asked by the superintendent. Thereupon S. Nanak Singh was shut up in a cell and all concessions were withdrawn and was given the labour of rope twisting.

Sd|- Ganda Singh.

EX. 29.

STATEMENT OF RANI NIHAL KAUR.

In oral examination Rani Nihal Kaur stated as under:—

I produce herewith a photo copy of the affidavit in Urdu that I made before the Magistrate on 10-12-34.

My marriage with the Maharaja took place about 11 years back. The marriage took place in the Palace. No one else but the Maharaja was present. No ceremonies took place. He said that we are now married.

I also produce our two applications to the D.C. Amritsar.

I also produce an application to the A.G.G. Punjab States and to the Political Secretary to Government of India.

* * * * *

EX. 29 (B).

AFFIDAVIT OF NIHAL KAUR.

My name is Nihal Kaur daughter of S. Suhel Singh, Landlord of Har-daspur, Patiala State. Age 28 years. I state on oath believing in the omnipresence of Vahegum, that before I attained majority, Maharaja Bhupendra Singh of Patiala wanted to take me into his harem with an evil intention. I was only 14 or 15 years then. I and my guardian did not agree to carry out the evil intentions of the Maharaja, and in order to save ourselves from his wrath, left in panic the Patiala territory for the Nabha State.

I state on oath that in Sawan 1980 the Maharaja arranged for the return of our family from Nabha to Patiala, and in our few day's stay at Patiala he forced us to abide by his wishes and then sent us back to Nabha. The Maharaja of Patiala bore all our expenses there. About a year after, we were sent for to Patiala for the second time, and the whole family was kept in Patiala city. Shortly after I and my sister Kirpal Kaur entered the Royal palace. I was a major then, and my sister was only fourteen.

I swear that, against my wishes, Maharaja Bhupendra Singh committed rape on me, and when I cried and expressed my anguish, I was told that I should not grieve and that I would be declared a duly wedded Maharani.

I swear that afterwards Maharaja Bhupendra Singh lived with me and treated me as his wife, and continued to assure me that he would

duly declare me as his wedded Maharani. Once he even swore that he regarded me as his Maharani.

I state on oath that Maharaja Bhupendra Singh, in my presence, raped for the first time my real sister Kirpal Kaur against her will. At that time my sister was only fourteen and a minor. After that Maharaja Bhupendra Singh, under promise of declaring her as a Maharani, lived with my sister and treated her as his wife, just as he had done in my case. At last my sister bore the Maharaja a child who was named by the Maharaja, as Kanwar Harendra Singh. The boy is now four years old and lives with us.

I swear that on account of the deep affection which the Maharaja showed us (myself and my sister) Mst. Dalip Kaur (now known as a Maharani of Patiala) daughter of S. Jagat Singh Subadar of Ubhewal, grew jealous of us and bore us enmity, and in the end made up her mind to get us murdered.

I swear that Maharaja Bhupendra Singh feels constrained to carry out every wish—just or unjust—of Mst. Dalip Kaur. Accordingly, in obedience to her wishes, the Maharaja began to make an attempt on our lives, and eventually a conspiracy was made to hand over both of us to some prisoners serving their sentence in the Patiala jail for some heinous offence.

I swear that in the winter of 1986, in tenor for my life finding an opportunity one night I left the Leela Palace in Patiala and entrained to Lahore where I saw Raja Sir Daya Kishan Kaul formerly Prime-Minister, Patiala who advised me to go to the Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee, Amritsar. After consulting the said Committee, I reached the office of the State People's Mandal at Lahore where I made an affidavit before a Magistrate.

I state on oath that in Besakh 1987, the Maharaja of Patiala tricked my father and brother into getting me back to Patiala and kept me confined in Mubarak Fort in Patiala. Several times pressure was brought upon me by the Maharaja to marry one of his officials such as Sardar Raghbir Singh Chamberlain, but I refused saying that we would not permit ourselves to be thus disgraced in view of the fact that under promise of awarding the rights and privileges of a Maharani he had sexual intercourse with us.

I swear that during this time I was persuaded by Mst. Dalip Kaur to bring false charges against some members of the Royal family and their relatives in the presence of the Maharaja, and Maharani Dalip Kaur

would use her influence with the Maharaja for the grant to me of pardon and the rights of a Maharani.

I swear that during this time, the Maharaja himself and S. Raghbir Singh, Inspector-General and Fazal Karim, Superintendent C.I.D. on his behalf, brought pressure on me to contradict my previous statements made before a Magistrate at Lahore through the State Peoples' Mandal, and to bring same false charges against some office-bearers and workers of the Rayasti Praja Mandal. But I never agreed to bring any such false charge as desired by Maharani Dalip Kaur and the Maharaja.

I swear that since I escaped from my sister at Leela Bhawan, I never met her, till at last in Jeth 1981 my sister Kirpal Kaur came in a state car to me at my place of confinement under police guard, when we related to each other what had happened to us during the last four and a half years.

I swear that my sister Kirpal Kaur told me on behalf of the Maharaja that if I repudiated my previous affidavit, we could get our rights of a Maharani duly declared. She visited me for two days. At last we took counsel with each other and made up our mind that by giving an assurance of making the required statement, we should try to reach Simla.

I swear that on the 1st Har 1991 S. Raghbir Singh the Chamberlain and Fazal Karim Superintendent, C.I.D. took us—the sisters, Kanwar Harindra Singh and our father in State cars to Kanda Ghat. On 2nd Har at Kanda Ghat Maharaja Bhupendra Singh pressed us to make the required statement repudiating the previous affidavit. On the 3rd Har 1991, the two officers aforesaid escorted us to Patiala House in Simla. From 3rd to the 25th of Har we were persuaded to repudiate my previous statement in the presence of the Political Agent, but I continued to refuse. In the end the said officers stated that they have made some other arrangements, and that we should return to Patiala, but we threatened to create a row and thus obtained our liberty.

I state on oath that I and my sister, Kanwar Harindra Singh, my father and brother left Simla for Ambala Cantt., where we found some servants of Patiala Maharaja making some intrigues. Now we live in Amritsar and intend to bring to the notice of the British Government our grievances and get redress for the loss of our reputation and infringement of our rights.

Mst. Nihal Kaur,
 Daughter of S. Suhel Singh,
 Landlord of Hardaspur, Patiala State
 Now at Amritsar

Ex. 29 (C).

To,

SIMLA, Dated 15th July, 1934.

E.A.R. Eaustace Esq., I.C.S.,
Deputy Commissioner,
SIMLA.

Sir,

We most respectfully be to bring to your kind notice the undermentioned facts and request that an immediate enquiry and action be taken into the matter so that we may be relieved from the pitiable plight in which we have been thrown at present.

1. That we are two sisters and belong to a respectable family of Sardars in Patiala State. Our village is Hardaspura in Patiala State territory. Our names are Kirpal Kaur and Nihal Kaur and we are the Ranis of the Maharaja Sahib of Patiala.

2. That nearly a month ago we were brought from Patiala to Kandaghat by the officers of the State in a closed car and then after keeping us for two days there we were brought along with our father to Simla and kept in the Maharaja Sahib's kothi for about three weeks.

3. That there both of us were threatened with death and put under other fears in order to extort out a statement that the son of Kirpal Kaur who is with us at present is not from the blood of Maharaja Sahib of Patiala. That the officers of the State who brought us wanted this statement to be in writing and also wanted that we should write that he is not entitled as of right to become Kanwar, and that the statements given by Nihal Kaur are no true. And they also forced to suppress certain other facts and give other statement to clear off all the oppression and zulum done on the family of our relations and on us two sisters and on our father.

4. We beg to submit that we did not agree to give any such statements and then for three days we were not given any food. Then Sardar Raghbir Singh Sardar Sahib of Deorhi Moalla and Mian Fazal Karim, Senior Superintendent C.I.D., Patiala State who accompanied us from Patiala and were with us at Kandaghat and then came to Simla and put us to torture here told us that we will be taken back to Kandaghat where Maharaja Sahib has sent for us. That accordingly they brought us from Patiala House to the motor garages cart road Simla, in Rickshaws and left us there without our belongings and took our father we do not know to what place. That there were left some C.I.D. men of Patiala police at

that place with us and we were not allowed to go anywhere, and ever since that day we are here in Simla helpless, without anything and without any man at a place where we have never been before.

5. That a great injustice has been done to us. That since we were left at the motor shed we came to Sarai and since then we have been putting up there. One thing more, Rani Kirpal Kaur's son who is about four years old and who is the blood of the Maharaja of Patiala and to deny him the rights of a prince all these things are being done with us, he is tried to be taken away from us. Three times different men have come to take the child away from us and once actually a man took away and we raised a hue and cry and then he had to leave him there at the spot. That several times even in the Mahallat acts were committed to end his life but by help of God the child escaped.

6. That we are woe-stricken miserable women who have been left helpless at a place where they have never been before. That if immediate help is not given to us, then there is every likelihood that the child will be snatched away from us and it is not known to what other difficulties we may be put.

7. That our brother Kehar Singh who came to know that his sisters have been brought to Kandaghat and then to Simla came there and we have come to know that he has submitted a memorial to the A.G.G. Punjab States and also to His Excellency the Viceroy requesting that an open enquiry be made into the case and that if any statements are taken or extorted from his sisters, they may be considered as of no value.

8. That we are quite helpless here and at Patiala we were in Jails, we are now left at a place where we do not know anybody. We do not know what tyranny is being done in our family in Patiala and on our father and do not know at which place and under what condition he is. His age at present is about sixty-five years.

9. That we do not know what oppression has been done on our family relations and what has been done with our property. We approach you to redress the wrong which has been done with us. This wrongful confinement and oppression was done with us at Simla where we are left in such a miserable condition and that if this act has been done by the officials of the Maharaja then they be criminally tried here in a British court as they could do whatever torture they wished under the directions of the Maharaja on us and the baby at Patiala but not in British territory.

10. We most respectfully submit that child Harendar Singh who is about four years of age be protected from the hired persons of Patiala

State ruler who, there is every likelihood that if help is not given to us, will take away the child and do not know what they will do with him or how they will dispose him off. And also we request that an open enquiry be made into the matter. We fully believe in British Raj and we poor miserable women hope that justice will be done to our case and we will be saved from the beggarly conditions in which we have been put by the Maharaja or his officials under his instructions.

We as in duty bound shall ever pray.

Copies sent to:—

1. H. H. Maharaja Patiala.
2. A.G.G. Punjab States.
3. Pol. Secy. to the Viceroy.

We are,

Most helpless women,

1. Signed Kirpal Kaur.
 2. „ Nihal Kaur.
- C/o. Shri Guru Singh Sabha,
Cart Road, Simla.

* * * * *

EX. 29 (D).

To,

The Deputy Commissioner,

AMRITSAR.

Amritsar.

Dated 2nd November, 1934.

Sir,

We the undersigned beg to enclose herewith a copy of a petition dated the 15th July last addressed to the Deputy Commissioner Simla. From it would be clear our past history and present distress.

Since the above petition was submitted we left Simla on account of Patiala paid agents harassing us and took up residence in Ambala Cantt. Patiala hounds got our scent in Ambala which drove us to this place.

Staying here we are praying to the Government of India for a redress of our wrongs. Since some days ago Patiala agents seem to have discovered us as they are seen hovering round our place of residence.

We respectfully pray for your protection during our residence in your jurisdiction.

We beg to remain,

Your Obedient Servants,

1. (Maharani Kirpal Kaur of Patiala.)
2. (Maharani Nihal Kaur of Patiala)

Ex. 29 (E).

MEMORIAL OF RANI NIHAL KAUR, WIFE OF HIS HIGHNESS MAHARAJA BHUPENDRA SINGH OF PATIALA AND DAUGHTER OF SARDAR SUHEL SINGH BISWEDAR OF VILLAGE HARDASPUR. AGED 28 YEARS.

To

Hon'ble Lt.-Col. Wilberforce-Bell, C.I.E.,

Agent to: The Governor-General, Punjab States Agency.

LAHORE.

Your memorialist states as follows:—

1. When your memorialist was about 15 years of age she was brought to the Palace of His Highness the Maharaja of Patiala. In the month of Bisakh Sambat 1986 the marriage of your memorialist was performed with the Maharaja of Patiala. Ever since your memorialist has been discharging the duties of a wife and the Maharaja of Patiala treated her with great affection and consideration.
2. Rani Dalip Kaur widow of Late Lal Singh and daughter of Sardar Jagat Singh of Ubhewal, could not bear the increased attachment between Maharaja Bhupendra Singh and your memorialist, and owing to extreme jealousy she tried many times to poison the mind of the Maharaja of Patiala against your memorialist.
3. As a result of Rani Dalip Kaur's enmity with your memorialist she (your memorialist) was made to undergo great hardships and ever since then your memorialist has lived in great distress and in mortal fear of Rani Dalip Kaur's determination to disgrace and ruin your memorialist by all possible means.
4. Your memorialist does not consider it proper to enroach on your Honour's valuable time by narrating the story of her long and terrible sufferings. If necessary she will acquaint your Honour of her troubles and tribulations when she has the opportunity of interviewing your Honour.
5. Being terror-stricken and in mortal fear of her life and honour at the hands of Rani Dalip Kaur and her agents your memorialist at a great peril effected her escape. At the command of His Highness your memorialist was once more taken to Patiala, but as the wrath of Rani Dalip Kaur had not abated the treatment meted out to your memorialist became much worse than before.

6. Your memorialist was taken on 3rd, Har, Sambat 1991 to Simia and when once she found herself under the British Flag, she decided not to return to Patiala till her grievances had been redressed.
7. Your memorialist, who once enjoyed all the power and privilege of a Royal Consort is now living in extreme penury and dire want. She is virtually starving and has to depend for her existence on the charity of Gurdwaras and sometimes of relatives. Being the lawful wife of Maharaja Bhupendra Singh, she is entitled both in Law and morals to adequate maintenance. Unfortunately she cannot claim any relief to which she is obviously entitled in any court of law. Her repeated petitions and prayers to her husband have always fallen on deaf ears; and for so long as His Highness continues to be under the influence of Rani Dalip Kaur there is no hope whatever from that quarter either. If it is at all possible for your memorialist to get any succour it is by knocking at your Honour's door. Your memorialist being a defenceless woman and against whom all other avenues are shut can only appeal to your Honour's sense of chivalry and love of Justice to secure for her peace, honour and sustenance. As a friendless and resourceless woman your memorialist has no other protector except your Honour. Your memorialist feels confident that the arms of the Paramount Power, whom your Honour represents, are long enough and strong enough to protect the weak and the needy.

Ever praying for your long life, prosperity and happiness.

Your memorialist.

* * * * *

EX. 29 (F).

From:

Tek Chand Esq., M.A., B.C.L., (Oxford)
Barrister-at-Law,
7, Begum Road.
LAHORE.

To

The Hon'ble Lt.-Col. H. Wilberforce-Bell, C.I.E.,
Agent to: The Governor-General, Punjab States Agency,
LAHORE.

Sir,

I beg to enclose two memorials from Rani Nihal Kaur and Rani Kirpal Kaur respectively for submission to your Honour. Under written

instructions from these two ladies I have been asked to send their representation to you for your Honour's kind and thoughtful consideration.

They have also asked me to request your Honour to give them some time when they may see your Honour personally and place other necessary facts before your Honour. As the two ladies are deficient in education, it is their keen desire that I may be allowed to accompany them at the interview in order that I may be able to assist them and also be of service to your Honour.

I shall deem it a personal favour if your Honour is so kind as to grant their and my request. I shall be obliged to your Honour for a line in reply informing me of the time which will suit your Honour to grant this request.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,

* * * * *

EX. 29 (G).

No. 148-R|P.-4|28.

From:

L.C.L. Griffin Esq., I.C.S.,
Secretary to the Hon'ble Agent to the
Governor-General, Punjab States.

To

Tek Chand Esquire, M.A., B.C.L.,
Bar-at-Law, Advocate, High Court
7, Begum Road, Lahore.

Dated Lahore, the 1st. February, 1933.

Dear Sir,

With reference to your letter dated the 22nd January, 1935, I am desired to inform you that the Hon'ble The Agent to the Governor-General regrets that he is unable to grant an interview to Musts. Nihal Kaur and Kirpal Kaur whose memorials you have forwarded with your letter under reference, nor, after considering their memorials, is he prepared to take any action on them.

Yours faithfully,
Sd|- Griffin,
Secretary.

EX. 29 (H)

To

The Political Secretary,
The Government of India,
NEW DELHI.

Sir,

We beg to invite your kind attention to the two memorials that we submitted to the Agent to Governor-General for favour of his intervention on our behalf. We further requested him to grant us an interview and permit Mr. Tek Chand, M.A.B.L., (Oxford) Barrister-at-Law of Lahore to place our case before him as we are not versed in English language.

A perusal of the memorials, copies of which are attached, will show the extent of our suffering and the justice of our prayer. Had we been the wives of an ordinary man and not of a Maharaja a court of law would have entertained our prayer and granted to us and to the boy maintenance. But to our misfortune the status of our husband dis-entitles us from securing relief from the ordinary courts. The only recourse left open to us was to implore for the intervention of the Paramount Power to exercise its influence with our husband the Maharaja of Patiala.

The Political Agent in his reply to Mr. Tek Chand, M.A., B.L., (Oxon) Barrister-at-Law (copy attached) has not only summarily declined to entertain our prayer, but has even refused to grant us an interview. He has treated us not only with indifference, but even with contempt, for before our names he has used the words Musommats instead of Ranies.

We beg of you to give us an opportunity to place our case before you in person or through Mr. Tek Chand and to convince you of the truth and of our bonafides. We are anxiously awaiting your reply which may be sent to Mr. Tek Chand, M.A.,B.L., Barrister-at-Law, 7, Begum Road, Lahore.

We beg to remain,

Sir,

Your most obedient servants,

* * * * *

EX. 30.

STATEMENT OF RANI KIRPAL KAUR.

In oral examination Rani Kirpal Kaur stated as under:—

1. I produce herewith a photo copy of my affidavit before a Magistrate,

2. I also produce a copy of the memorial to the A.G.G. Punjab.
3. 1986 Bikrami 4th Bashakh was the date when His Highness married me at Mohendra Kothi. Amrik Singh, Harbans Singh, Rai Bahadur Butiram were present. There were some Pahari girls also. The marriage ceremonies took place in the presence of these all. Granth Sahib was present. I have a son by His Highness. He is aged about 5 years. I do not get maintenance either for me nor for my boy. I left the palace in Har of the year, that is, about 8 or 9 months ago.

AMRITSAR, 17-3-35.

* * * * *

EX. 30 (B).

STATEMENT ON OATH OF MST. KIRPAL KAUR.

I Kirpal Kaur daughter of S. Suhel Singh Landlord of Hardaspur in Patiala aged 24 years do swear by Vaheguru my God that I shall speak the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth.

The Maharaja Bhupendra Singh of Patiala took me into his harem when I was a minor—about 13 years of age—and was unable to look after my interests, my personal safety and modesty. I swear that when I was only about 14 years old, Maharaja Bhupendra Singh of Patiala committed rape on me, inspite of my protestations.

I state on oath, that after having been raped while a minor, when I attained majority and began to distinguish between right and wrong, I expressed my deepfelt resentment and grief for the aforesaid treatment, to the Maharaja who said *"What has been done cannot be undone. Do not spoil my reputation as well as yours. Keep quiet and you will get the same rights and respect of a Maharani as the other Maharanis have."*

I state on oath that thereafter the Maharaja lived with me as his wife on the above understanding, till at last in Asuj 1986 the Maharaja impregnated me at Chail. In Har 1987 a child was born to me of the Maharaja in the State Palace Leela Bhawan at Patiala. The Maharaja named him Kanwar Harmdar Singh who is now aged four and a half and lives with me.

I swear that the Maharaja loved me with deep affection which became an eyesore to Mst. Dalip Kaur, daughter of S. Jagat Singh Subedar resident of Ubheywal—who is now known as Maharani Patiala.

I swear that Maharaja Bhupendra Singh carries out all the wishes—just or unjust—of Mst. Dalip Kaur aforesaid, and although he showed

me deep affection, he began to intrigue against my life and that of my sister as desired by Mst. Dalip Kaur. It was conspired that we the sisters should be handed over to two prisoners who would be let off from the Patiala jail where they served their sentence for some heinous offence.

I state on oath that I threatened to commit suicide if I was handed over to the aforesaid prisoners. For four years my life was a chapter of missing on account of indescribable hardships that I was made to bear.

I swear that Mst. Dalip Kaur and at her instigation the Maharaja did their best to bring about my abortion, but as I had been previously warned, they could not succeed.

I state on oath that an attempt was made to dupe me into marrying some one of the officials like S. Davinder Singh S/o. Raja Gurdit Singh of Ret Garh, but here too they met with no success.

I swear that Mst. Dalip Kaur many times brought pressure upon me to incite the Maharaja against Siri Hazur Tikka Saheb and his mother the Patrani Sahiba by bringing false charges against them, and thereby win the favours of Mist Dalip Kaur, but I did not agree to bring such false Charges.

I swear that the Maharani often brought pressure on me to give an undertaking to persuade my sister Nihal Kaur for making a statement contradicting her previous statement made before a Magistrate and attested by him, and for these services a hope was held out to me that I would be granted the rights and privileges of a Maharani as I had been formerly promised. At last in Jeth 1991 I was sent to my sister where she was confined and thus I got an opportunity to meet my sister after four years and a half.

I state on oath that we the sisters agreed on mutual consultation to reach Simla somehow, and accordingly an assurance was given that a statement would be made contradicting the previous statement.

I swear that on 1st of Har, 1991, S. Raghbir Singh Sardar Sahib of Deohri, Fazal Karim Superintendent C.I.D., escorted me, my snster and Kanwar Harindar Singh to Kandaghat in state-cars. The next day Mahara-ja Bhupendra Singh instructed as at Kanda Ghat, regarding the statement to be made to contradict the previous statement, and the next day the aforesaid officers took us to Patiala House in Simla. Till 25th Har pressure was brought to bear upon us to appear and make the state-ment before the Political Agent, but we gave a flat refusal. In the end the two officers named above said that they had made some other ar-rangement, and that we should return to Patiala. But we refused to go

back to Patiala and threatened to create a row, and thus they were forced to release us. We reached the Gurdwara and then left for Ambala Cantt. but there too we became aware of conspiracy by the persons in pay of Patiala State. Now we reside in Amritsar, and intend to move the British Government to get us our rights and redress our wrongs of loss of chastity and reputation.

Mst. Kirpal Kaur, Daughter of
S, Suhel Singh, Landlord of Hardaspur,
Patiala State.

* * * * *

EX. 30 (C).

MEMORIAL OF RANI KIRPAL KAUR WIFE OF HIS HIGHNESS MAHARAJA BHUPENDRA SINGH OF PATIALA AND DAUGHTER OF SARDAR SUHEL SINGH BISWEDAR OF VILLAGE HARDASPUR IN PATIALA STATE, AGED 25 YEARS.
SUBMITTED.

To

Hon'ble. Lt.-Col. H. Wilberforce-Bell, C.I.E.,

Agent to:

The Governor-General, Punjab States Agency.
LAHORE.

Your memorialist states as follows:—

1. When your memorialist was about 14 years of age she was brought to the palace of His Highness the Maharaja of Patiala. In the month of Asauj Sambat 1986 the marriage of your memorialist was performed with Maharaja Bhupendra Singh of Patiala. Ever since then your memorialist has been discharging the duties of a wife and the Maharaja of Patiala has been treating her with great affection and consideration. In the month of Asauj Sambat 1986 she conceived from her husband, the Maharaja of Patiala and in the month of Har Sambat 1987 she gave birth to a son in Lila Bhawan Palace at Patiala. The Maharaja named his son Harinder Singh, who is now 5 years of age and is living with his mother, your memorialist.
2. As the Maharaja of Patiala has transferred his affections to your memorialist she became an eyesore to Rani Dalip Kaur widow of Late Lal Singh and daughter of Sardar Jagat Singh Subedar of Ubhewal.

3. When Rani Dalip Kaur became aware of the pregnancy of your memorialist and ever since the birth of her son Harindar Singh her enmity and hatred for your memorialist increased manifold. Your memorialist has suffered many hardships and deprivations at the hands of Rani Dalip Kaur and her agents.
4. Your memorialist does not consider it proper to encroach on your Honour's valuable time by narrating the story of her long and terrible sufferings. If necessary she will acquaint your Honour of all her sufferings when she has the opportunity of interviewing your Honour.
5. Ever since the birth of a son to your memorialist the boy and your memorialist have been living in great danger to life and honour.
6. Your memorialist was taken on 3rd, Har Sambat 1991 to Simla and when once she found herself under the British Flag she decided not to return to Patiala till her grievances had been redressed.
7. On behalf of her minor son she beseeches the Paramount Power through your Honour to intervene and secure for her and her son adequate maintenance to which they are both legally and morally entitled. It is an irony of fate that there is no law court competent to hear and adjudicate upon her claim. Her prayers to her husband have fallen on deaf ears. Your memorialist and her son are living in extreme want and distress and in order to make their both ends meet they are depending in these days on the charity of Gurdwaras and relatives. If the Paramount Power does nothing for them they do not feel that they can fight against hunger and starvation for long. Situated as they are there is no other course left to them except to knock at your Honour's door and to request you to extend to them the protection of the Paramount Power.

Ever praying for your long life and happiness.

Your memorialist,

EX. 31.

S. Jahangir Singh son of S. Kartar Singh—in his oral examination before the committee said as under:—

I produce herewith a copy of the affidavit that I have made before a Magistrate.

I also produce the photo copies of the extracts of revenue reports supplied to me by the State Patwari of my village, which show that properties have been registered in my name.

I also produce a copy of the application that I submitted to A.G.G. No reply has been vouch safed to me.

17th March, 1915.

EX. 31 (a).

STATEMENT OF S. JAHANGIR SINGH.

I, Jahangir Singh son of S. Kartar Singh state on oath that I am related to the ruling families of Nabha and Patiala. My father's aunt known as the Rani of Karamgarh was the wife of Maharaja Hira Singh of Nabha and my own aunt is the Maharani of Kanwar Ranbir Singh of Patiala.

My property is in Karamgarh, Kishengarh Phorbahi, Chatas Sekhwan, Moonik and Patti Sekhwan in Patiala State. My brother and myself were brought up in Nabha and educated there and I was promoted to the rank of A.D.C. My pay as a relative is still paid from the State. I have been put to great trouble and tyranny on account of the following reasons:—

1. When the Maharaja of Patiala and Nabha turned hostile to each other I was putting up in Nabha State, and my property was lying in the above mentioned villages.

2. During the course of quarrel between the two states the Maharaja of Patiala issued a proclamation that any person, whose property was in Patiala should return to the Patiala State. And those who did not comply with it, their property would be confiscated. So fearing a confiscation I left the Nabha State and came to Patiala in Chet Sammat 1979.

3. When I reached Patiala, Maharaja Bhupendra Singh of Patiala summoned me and ordered me to go to Nabha to bring my mother and sister to Patiala because they are required to give some statements. If I brought them I would be amply rewarded otherwise no good treatment will be meted out to me

4. As a large part of my property was in Patiala State and fearing its confiscation I tried to bring my mother and sister to Patiala. But my mother said that since I was inexperienced I did not understand anything and the honour of no family was safe in Patiala and hence my mother refused entirely to come herself or to send my sister to Patiala.

5. I then returned to Patiala. After this, I was several times summoned by the Maharaja of Patiala in the Ijlaskhas and threatened. Maharaja said to me that I should send my wife to Qilla Mubari as the wives of all officials, landlords and relatives of a household come there.

6. I always told the Maharaja that my wife was a simple villager and had not the etiquette to behave in the Royal Qilla. After asking me several times to do so, I was finally told that if I did not send my wife it would be understood that I kept my mother and sister outside the State and I was ordered to comply with this order within a week under a threat of extreme displeasure.

7. During this time my brother, Balwant Singh was taken as A.D.C. to the Maharaja and I think that was to my brother to make some statement against the Maharaja of Nabha as formerly my mother and sister were sought to give statements against the Maharaja of Nabha.

8. On 9th 1981, my property—land and houses and other moveables including Rs. 7,600/- and ornaments worth Rs. 15,000/-, situated at Karamgarh, Kishengarh Pherbahi, Chatha Sekhwan Moonik and Patti Sekhwan was confiscated by the Maharaja of Patiala and handed over to my elder brother, Balwant Singh.

9. Now I, the son of a Rais am entirely propertyless lead a life of beggars.

My property was at least of the value of three lacs of rupees and in addition to this seventy-five thousands rupees were deposited in the court of wards and in the Bank of Patiala, which was due to me.

I say no oath that I have committed no crime to have deserved this confiscation. The only thing that has brought this Royal wrath over me is my refusal to sell the honour of my family and my brother, Balwant Singh has no legal right over my property. It is quite possible he may have gratified the immoral wishes of the Maharaja of Patiala and thus won his favour.

After the confiscation of my property I kept quiet and knowing the Maharaja Patiala to be my ruler I constantly appealed to him very respectfully as a subject for the restoration of my property. I was always told that my property would be restored to me and this was only to keep me out of the Dalhousie enquiry. But after the Dalhousie enquiry I was not given my property rather now I have come to know that my life is in the danger and I give my statement to the Political Agent to the Government of India for the safety of my life and the restoration of my property.

My property was confiscated while I was quite innocent and now I am fearing more trouble from the Patiala Government and from this day if I come to harm from that side the British Government will be responsible

* * * * *

EX. 31 (b).

A GIST OF THE ORDER PASSED BY HIS HIGHNESS MAHARAJA OF PATIALA REGARDING "S. JAHANGIR SINGH."

3rd Kartik, 1981.

We are acquainted with all the facts of the case and have investigated it personally. We upheld the petition of Captain Balwant Singh and we think that all that property which Jahangir Singh has been enjoying illegal and against justice uptil now and should be given to Captain Balwant Singh that would be just and proper. So we order that the part of the property in question and which till now was in Jahangir Singh's possession and the relatives' allowance should all be given to Captain Balwant Singh.

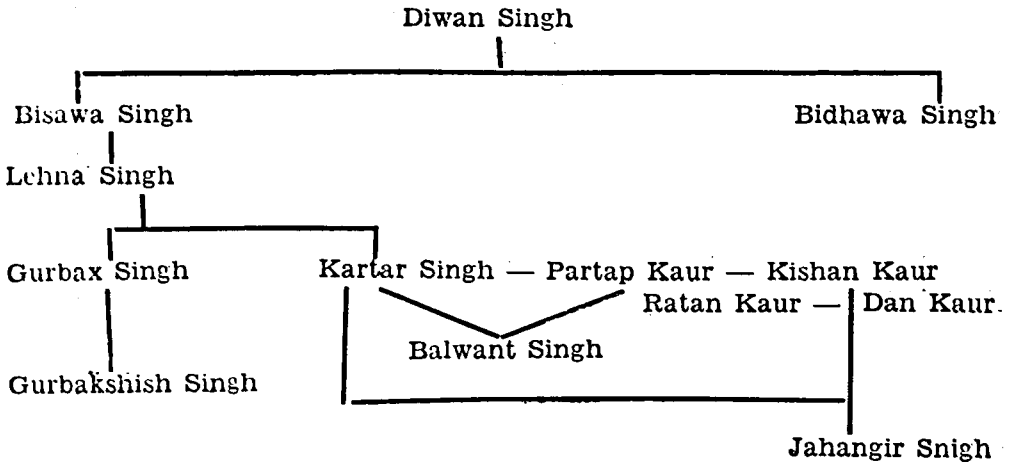
* * * * *

EX. 31 (h).

Pediagri Table

'BANDO BAST' 1959-60.

Village Kishangarh, Ferbahi Tehsil, Mansa, Patiala State.



Total Area 13646 Bighas 2 Biswas.
 Revenue Rs. 2763.

NOTE :—According to order of Ijlaskhas Dated 14th October, 1924. Name of Jahangir Singh dismissed.

List of Numbers of the Land in Village Kishangarh alias Ferbahi Tehsil Mansa, Dist. Barnala, Patiala State. On request of S. Jahangir Singh S/o S. Kartar Singh is being given :—

Year.	No. 'Khata'	Name of Owner.	Name of the person who is tilling the land.	No. 'Khasara'	Area of Land & quality.
1	2	3	4	5	6
Jama Bandi. 1979-1980. Bikrami.	$\frac{1}{1}$	Gurbakshish Singh S/o. Gurbax Singh. Captain Balwant Singh and Jahangir Singh equal shares. One fourth Musamat (Some Kaur illegible) and Dan Kaur Widows of Kartar Singh equal shares one fourth. Jat—Shekho— Resident of Karamgarh Tahsil Barnala.	In possession of Gurbak- shish Singh One Half. Captain Balwant Singh and Jahangir Singh in possession One Half.	Part 32	660 Bighas and 10 Biswas which can Tillaged 627 Bighas and 1 Biswas which cannot Tillaged. 33 Bighas 9 Biswas.
	$\frac{1}{12}$ 39	... ..	Gurbakshish Singh	Part 135	1060 Bighas.
	$\frac{1}{740}$ 57	... ..	Captain Balwant Singh	Part 66	521 Bighas 9 Biswas.
	$\frac{1}{758}$ 89	... ..	Jahangir Singh	Part 74	531 Bighas 10 Biswas.

(Sd). IMAM-ud-DIN PATWARI,
Circle (illegible), Tehsil Mansa, 21, Chail, 1989.

Village Patti Sekhwan, Tehsil and District Barnala, Patiala State.
On request of Jahangir Singh Owner.

1	2	3	4	5	6
Jama Bandi 1973-1974.	$\frac{1}{1}$	Balwant Singh and Jahangir Singh Son of Kartar Singh Pat—Sebhon Residents of Karamgarh equal partners.	In the possession of the Owners.	Part 230 & 244 Part 395	8 Bighas, 19 Biswas. 18 Bighas, 1 Biswas. 7 Bighas, 3 Biswas.
	2	Do.	Sunder Singh and many others.		91 Bighas, 3 Biswas.
	3	Do.	Zimidars.	Part 249	29 Bighas. 12 Biswas.
Total ..				Part 11	154 Bighas, 18 Biswas.

(Sd). RAMKISHAN SINGH (Patwari) Circle, (Illegible),
7 Beshakh, 1990.

Village Moonik, Tehsil Sunam, District Karamgarh.
On request of Jahangir Singh is being given:

1	2	3	4	5	6
Jama Bandi 1980-1981.	$\frac{348}{749}$	S. Gurbakshish Singh S/o S. Gurbax Singh One Half. S. Balwant Singh and S. Jahangir Singh S/o. S. Kartar Singh equal shares. One Half. Jat Sebhon, Resident of Karamgarh Dist. Barnal.	Themselves.	Three pieces	89 Bighas, 2 Biswas.
Total ..				49	373 Bighas 10 Biswas.

(Sd). ABDULLA (Patwari) Moonik,
27 Chait, 1989.

NOTE:—Other Villages list could not be procured.

Ex. 31 (i).

From

S. Jahangir Singh Zamindar of Karamgarh of Patiala State
C/o Gurdwara Dehra Sahib,
Near Fort, Lahore.

To

The Hon'ble the Agent to the Governor-General
Punjab States, Lahore.

Sir,

I beg to request the favour of your kind consideration of the following lines:—

Not long ago I was the owner of property worth lacs of rupees and had the honour of being a well to do relation of His Late Highness Maharaja Hira Singh of Nabha and Late Kanwar Raja Sir Ranbir Singh of Patiala. The cause of my present poverty and helplessness is the refusal of my family to cater to the lust and licentiousness of the Maharaja of Patiala. My sister Bibi Parkash Kaur and my wife Sardarni Shamsheer Kaur were required to attend the notorious night orgies of the Patiala Court. My family consisting of the old nobility of Patiala and Nabha could not degrade its status and morality by joining the ranks of immoral and upstart present day relations, Jagirdars and Officials of Patiala, the only criterion of whose worth is their willingness to offer their women and their ability of women to delect the Maharaja.

During the last Patiala—Nabha controversy the Patiala Durbar issued an order that all its subjects residing in neighbouring States but owning property in Patiala must return and take up residence there, to avoid forfeiture of their property. On this I moved to Patiala and took up my residences there. This was not enough and I was ordered first through S. Hazoor Singh, the then Superintendent of Police and later by the Maharaja himself to bring my woman folk to Patiala as well. I plainly refused to do so, but my step brother Sardar Balwant Singh excused himself by saying that my mother and sister being his step mother and step sister being not amicable to his entitles. He further proved his willingness by sending his own wife to the palace. Patiala history repeated itself and Maharaja with his proverbial generosity elevated Sardar Balwant Singh to the rank of Captain and his personal A.D.C. My step brother in his new role, with the help of his wife, who fortunately for him and unfortunately for me happened to entice the Maharaja to such an extent, got our joint property consisting of in the village of Karamgarh, Kishangarh

Pherwahi, Patti Sekhwan, Chatha Sekhwan and Moonik in Patiala State, and relationship allowances transferred to himself.

This act of high handedness was perpetrated merely on an application from my step brother, which the Maharaja forced him to give and considered it in a bit of passion and love towards my sister-in-law (Mrs. Balwant Singh) and gratitude towards my step brother. The order depriving me of my ancestral property stated that it was the result of His Highness's personal investigation into the case arising out of the said application, the old settlement records in my favour notwithstanding.

The copy of this order is refused to me presumably because the action has been taken and a decision given without the usual formality of law by which it was essential that my step brother should have brought a case against me in a court of law.

I request and prey your goodself as representing the Viceroy and through him His Majesty the King Emperor may procure justice for me at the hands of my powerful, resourceful oppressor the Maharaja of Patiala whom I have given no real and honest cause for offence.

Lahore.

Dated 22nd Dec. 1934.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

(Sd|-) Jahangir Singh.

* * * * *

EX. 32

STATEMENT OF BHAI SHAMSHER SINGH S/O S. GOKAL SINGH,
SIKH RESIDENT GOVINDPURA JIND STATE.

I make oath and state that about the month of Chet 1980 I was sentenced to five years rigorous imprisonment and fine of Rs. 500/- for taking part in the Akali movement. I was kept in Bathinder Sub-Jail where beside myself there were some 27 Akali prisoners. Dr. Gurmukh Singh of Ghangkasan, Tehsil Pail and S. Bhagwan Singh Longowalia were convicted in the same case with me. For about one year we remained in the Bathinder Sub-Jail, after which Dr. Gurmukh Singh and S. Bhagwan Singh and I were removed to Central Jail Patiala. There we three kept in separate cells in the ward known as "Thata Chouda Kothian" (14 cells ward). One day when the convict cooks brought our food at 4 p.m. a piece of cigarette was found in the Dal. S. Bhagwan Singh and I refused to take our food. The Havildar warder who was accompanying the cooks remarked, "Bhai Sahib how could you expect us here to have regard for your religious susceptibilities? Here sometimes when the kitchen is

searched the convict cooks conceal their tobacco pouches and cigarette cases in the unneeded flour." On hearing these remarks of the Havildar Warder we were convinced that the kitchen arrangement of the jail was quite against religious sentiments. As a protest we told them that either we would have food cooked with our own hands or go without it altogether; we also added that if Amrit-Dhari Sikhs would be employed to prepare our food we would take it. But our protest failed to produce any effect on the jail officials. For one week we were altogether ignored, after which the Superintendent accompanied by the jailor came to us and inquired why we had gone on hunger-strike. We repeated what we had said before. The same night S. Bhagwan Singh and I were transferred to the other Ward, and that very night Dr. Gurmukh Singh died. The following night S. Bhagwan Singh and I were carried by prisoners outside the jail by order of the Jail authorities, thence we were brought to the Railway Station in a Tonga and were taken to Bathinder Jail.

Sd/- Shamsheer Singh.

* * * * *

EX. 33 (a).

STATEMENT OF, RAM SINGH DHARUWALIA.

I state on oath that I was connected with the Maharaja of Patiala as a journalist and his propagandist. In the month of November 1921 the Maharaja told me that he contemplated a pilgrimage to Shri Fateh Garh Sahib at the time of Shahidi Mela and that I should see to it that no Sikh uttered anything against him there, I succeeded in inducing Teja Singh Bhuchar to help me in this work, and requested Bhai Kishan Singh Gargaj Chakrawarti, Bhai Karam Singh of Daulatpur, Bhai Gurcharn Singh of Kishanpura etc. also to help me in this matter because these gentlemen were the leaders of extremist Sikhs at that time. All of them reached Fateh Garh Sahib with their Jathas at the time of His Highness the Maharaja of Patiala's pilgrimage and thence they proceeded to Patiala at the request of His Highness. A big Diwan was held at Patiala and a grand procession was taken out through the streets of Patiala. Bhai Kishan Singh Gargaj who was then a declared absconder in connection with murder and conspiracy cases made speeches in the streets of Patiala. The Maharaja expressed his desire to see Bhai Kishan Singh Gargaj and Bhai Gurcharn Singh and asked me to bring them to Moti Garden. As arranged in accordance with the instructions of the Maharaja of Patiala, Kishan Singh Gargaj, Bhai Gurcharn Singh, Bhai Bijla Singh etc. took part in the interview. In the course of his conversation the Maharaja

said "it is essential that your statement and political connection with me be maintained. I am ready to help you in every way, and I want you to try to enhance my power and influence in the Sikh panth because the Country is specially undergoing political changes, it is probable that I may be able to establish my hegemony in the Punjab. Whenever you stand in need of help you may tell Bhai Ram Singh, who enjoys my full confidence, and you can see me whenever you like." Bhai Kishan Singh Gargaj said that he had been convinced that he would help the Maharaja in future. He asked His Highness to help them in return saying, that in that state of absconding, he stood in much need of pecuniary help, and that if the Maharaja could afford that help they could accomplish much. He further said that they were prepared to make all sorts of sacrifices so that a Sikh Raj may be established in the Punjab through the exertions of His Highness. The Maharaja assured them of pecuniary help in future and paid them the sum of Rs. 500|- through me. The Jathadars then took leave of the Maharaja and were taken back to their destination in State cars.

The Maharaja paid through me Rs. 1,000|- from his privy purse, to Bhai Kishan Singh Gargaj Chakarwanti and Baba Santa Singh from time to time. Similarly Rs. 2,000|- were paid from time to time to Bhai Karam Singh of Daulatpur and Udhe Singh of Dhamian, twice or thrice I took the money to them myself. Twice Bhai Jaimal Singh was sent to pay the money twice or thrice Babas Santa Singh and Karam Singh of Daulatpur personally called to receive the money.

In the first week of January 1922 the Maharaja of Patiala expressed his desire to me that he wanted to see Bhai Kishan Singh Gargaj and that I should bring him down to Patiala. A state car was placed at my disposal for the purpose. I traced Kishan Singh Gargaj with the help of Baba Santa Singh and took him with me from Khajurla Distt: Jullundhur and brought him to Patiala. He was lodged in the "Desi Mehman Khan" (in a guest house for India). He was interviewed at night by S. Tara Chand the secretary who gave him His Highness' message to the effect that a paper should be started for propaganda work, and that all the expenses incurred thereby would be paid by the State. Bhai Kishan Singh saw that the paper would be brought out without loss of time. He was then taken back to Jullundhur in a State car.

On the arrest of Bhai Kishan Singh Gargaj I interviewed him in Jullundhur Jail under the instruction of the Maharaja of Patiala and impressed upon him that no mention should be made of the financial aid from Patiala.

When Babu Santa Singh was arrested, he made a statement wherein he disclosed every thing in connection with the aid from Patiala. Therefore the Punjab C.I.D. ordered my arrest, my house situated in "Chhauni" "Nihangan" Amritsar was searched and Banut Jaimal Singh, the Manager of the Ajit Press was arrested. I was the proprietor of Ajit Press. In Patiala the Maharaja gave me full assurance that the Punjab C.I.D. could not touch me, and that I could remain in Fort Bahadur Garh without any fear, enjoining that I should not go to British territory and that in the State territory no body could point to me. Accordingly I kept my residence in Kothi Bahadur Garh. In the beginning of 1924, the Maharaja saw Sir Edward MacLagan, the then Governor of the Punjab, and got my case settled and Nawab Liyaqat Hyat Khan the Home Minister of Patiala was deputed to Lahore to carry the decision into effect. On his return from Lahore he ordered Pandit Jivan Lall, his personal assistant to give me a letter from Mr. Cox, the D.I.G. Accordingly the Pandit gave me a letter and I took it to Mr. Cox at Lahore. The latter told me that he had issued necessary instructions with regard to me, and that I could move freely and that nobody would touch me in the Punjab.

When Baba Jaimal Singh was released from the custody of C.I.D., the Maharaja sent me with a word to bring him to Patiala, I brought him to Patiala. The Maharaja expressed his approval of the behaviour of Jaimal Singh is not disclosing any thing relating to Patiala to Punjab C.I.D., and gave him Rs. 500/- as a reward, and sometime afterwards a permanent allowance of Rs. 50/- per mensem, which he continued to draw through me till he was arrested in 1927 by "Kar khas" Patiala.

Dated 18th March, 1935.
Translated from Urdu by me.

Sd/- Ram Singh Dharowalia,

Sd/- Thakar Singh.

Oral Examination of Bhai Ram Singh Dharuwalia.

I am residing at Amritsar. I am editing a weekly newspaper.

I have come into contact with His Highness the Maharaja of Patiala in the year 1921.

I have seen a statement published on page 86 of the "Patiala Indictment" said to have been received from me through one Sardul Singh B.Sc. I do not know this Sardul Singh, I never gave a statement to him.

The fact of the matter is that one Sardar Teja Singh came to me with a message from Master Tara Singh. Master Tara Singhji wanted that I should give a statement for publication in his paper, "Akali". I was not prepared to make a statement in my name. So we came to an under-

standing that a statement should be prepared by me but the same should not bear my name. It should be published anonymously. In no case my name in that connection should be published. If ever an occasion arose that it became inevitable that my name should be published, then, the matter should be referred to me for my consent before taking any such steps. On this distinct understanding I dictated the statement. At the time when the statement was given by me Patiala Inquiry Committee was not even formed, so there was no question of my giving the statement to the Committee.

Of course the whole statement was prepared by me, the whole of it is correct.

I produce herewith a pukka register of expenses incurred by the State through me in the Bahadur Garh Fort for the year 1882. Ex. 33 (a).

I also produce a kucha register of expenses incurred by the State through me in the year 1883. Ex. 33 (e, f & g).

I also produce two original provision chits books Ex. 33, (F. G.)

Both the above registers were with me when we were put under arrest and sent to the Fort of Sanor in Patiala State. The registers were signed on the first and the last pages, by the officer who conducted the search.

Then came the Patiala Enquiry. I produce herewith an affidavit that I made in connection with my share in the said inquiry business. Ex. 33, B (1)

In the above affidavit I have referred to my application to A. G. G. I produce a copy of the same. Ex. 33, (1)

There is one discrepancy in the detail between the statement in the affidavit, and that in the application to A. G. G. In the application I have stated that during 14 months of our detention we were not produced before a Magistrate. In the affidavit I state that we were produced twice before the Magistrate. Application to the A.G.G. was made just after coming out from the Patiala Jail. The affidavit was made only regarding my connections with the Bahadurgarh Fort, conspiracy. The discrepancy is due to a lapse of memory. The statement in the application to A.G.G. is correct. I have given details of my Dalhousie statement in the affidavit.

A statement was prepared for me to be made to the inquiry officer. I was asked to commit the said statement to memory; that I did. Then I made a statement to that effect. Once during my statement before the

A. G. G. when I was rambling a bit, the Home Member looked so fixed by at me, that the A.G.G. rose and went away and the Home Minister took me to task.

I was paid Rs. 20,000/- about a week after I made my statement, that is, some time between 18th and 20th June. The money was paid to me in Currency notes of Rs. 100/- each. It was at about 9.30 a.m. in Bakrota house at Dalhousie. Sardar Amrik Singh and Nawab Liyaqat Hyat Khan were there. Ajmer Singh had brought the money. I and Sardar Partap Singh both were paid at the same time.

What I have stated in the statement published in the "Indictment" is true; what I have stated in the Dalhousie inquiry before Mr. Fitz Patrick is untrue—I had to do so in the circumstances mentioned in the affidavit.

Sardar Kishan Singh whom I have made a reference was a Babar Akali leader. He was hiding in British India but was honoured by the Patiala State and once he went to the length of making a speech in Patiala. That was when Maharaja returned from the Fateh Garh Pilgrimage. Sardar Kishan Singh was ultimately hanged under a sentence from a British India Court.

* * * * *

EX. 33 B (1).

Affidavit of Bhai Ram Singh S/o. Santa Singh Sikh, Resident of Dharwal, at present residing at Amritsar, Journalist by profession, aged 45 years.

I swear by Akalpurkh (God Almighty) that the following statement is true and correct:—

I came into contact with the Maharaja of Patiala in 1922. The same year I went to Patiala and put up in Bahadur Garh Fort in Patiala State along with Bijla Singh's party and remained there for 2 years as instructed and ordered by the Maharaja of Patiala. Thence under instruction of Maharaja of Patiala, I left for Sanaur Fort, and there in the month of March 1927 I was arrested along with the following persons:—

1. Bhai Jaimal Singh of village Chakdana Dist: Jullundhur.
2. Bhai Partap Singh of Gulwatti, Nabha State.
3. Bhai Mehar Singh of Salana Nabha State.
4. Bhai Harban Singh of Khatre Dist: Ludhiana.
5. Bhai Harnam Singh of Khatre Dist: Ludhiana.
6. Bhai Jagat Singh of Kklianiana Dist: Hoshiarpur.
7. Bhai Kishan Singh of Hiron, Patiala State.

Kishan Singh was bailed out. Our arrests were effected to screen the crimes of the Maharaja of Patiala, in connection with Bahadur Garh Fort. We were locked up in "Kharkhas" in Patiala under the Patiala C.I.D. After full 14 months I was released in the month of May 1928 along with my companions. The reason being that the crimes committed by the Maharaja of Patiala, could not be attributed to and proved against the arrest persons and nothing could be successfully done to exonerate the Maharaja of Patiala. During our detention we were not produced before any court neither were we Challenged under any offence, nor taken before a Magistrate for a remand. Our arrests were registered under Section 409 and Section 91 Arms Act. At the time of release S Hazura Singh Dhillon the Officer-in-Charge told me that the Maharaja had granted me 400 Bighas of land and 125 Bighas to each of my companions. The object was that we should not divulge the crime connected with Bahadur Garh Fort and by taking our residence in Patiala State we might remain under the influence of His Highness the Maharaja of Patiala. But on account of our detention for 14 months under C.I.D. custody without reason and inspite of our innocence, we did not think it proper to settle in Patiala in future owing to our acquaintance with the conspiring nature of His Highness, and came in British territory as we were British subjects. With a view to protect myself against any conspiracy that might be connected by Patiala against me, even in British territory, I submitted a petition under registered cover to the A.G.G. Punjab States for my protection. I state on oath that in the month of January and February 1930 Maharaja of Patiala's messengers visited me twice with the messages that I was wanted by the Maharaja of Patiala and that I should go to Patiala to see him. I refused to go. About the end of February 1930 Nawab Liaquat Hyat Khan sent for me at the Kothi of Khawja Ghulam Sadiq Sahib, a relation of his. When I went there Nawab Sahib told me that an enquiry was going to be instituted in connection with Patiala and that my safety lay in giving a statement as they desired and that if I uttered a single truth it would go against me, because they had bribed and won over the Enquiry Officer and that he had given a promise that whatsoever would bring any serious allegation against Patiala, would be prosecuted for the allegation, that if I or any of my companions disclosed anything in connection with Bahadurgarh Affairs, prosecution would be instituted on that account, and that the punishment would be transportation for life. He further said that the Enquiry Officer would not touch the Maharaja of Patiala because he had made a solemn promise by accepting money. Therefore, if we did not act upon their advice we would be completely ruined. He said these words addressing all of us that is Bhai Partap Singh, Bhai Jaimal Singh, Bhai Jagat Singh, Bhai Harbans Singh and

Bhai Harnam Singh as all of them were there with me. After a few days I was again summoned to Lahore. All of these men had also been sent for. The Maharaja himself met us in Patiala House near the Government House. He said, addressing all of us. "If you want to save your skins, you must do what my Home Minister told you to do at Amritsar. If you act upon our advice you will save yourselves, will gain something. Besides the Enquiry Officer is under our thumb having been bribed. No sooner you utter a truth than you will be arrested and prosecuted. He would allow no harm to be done to me, but you will be imprisoned for life. If to wish to avoid life imprisonment and get some gain, act in accordance with our desire, and follow the way pointed out by my Home Minister". We went to a separate place and held a consultation. Jagat Singh, Jaimal Singh, Harbans Singh and Harnam Singh did not agree to the proposal. On learning this the Maharaja addressed them all again in hot and mild words but they stuck to their decision. After a little thinking His Highness said to them. "Well, do not make a statement either in favour or against us. We will direct the Enquiring Officer and he will dispense with your evidence and give his decision. I will be pleased if you do this and you will be paid at your home all the allowances which are due so far. All the four agreed to this and went to their homes. After the conclusion of the Dalhousie Enquiry these men were paid as promised at Amritsar through me and at my house, as under:—

1. Bhai Jaimal Singh Rs. 2,000|-. .
2. Bhai Harbans Singh Rs. 2,000|-. .
3. Bhai Harnam Singh Rs. 2,000|-. .
4. Bhai Jagat Singh Rs. 2,500|-. .

When Maharaja had told these four men that they should make a statement neither against nor in favour of the State, Partap Singh and I told the Maharaja that we also wanted to adopt the same attitude, and that we may also be kindly permitted to do so. After some thinking the Maharaja replied "If you do not go to make a statement every thing will go against you and you will be held responsible for all acts of commission and omission in connection with Bahadur Garh affairs, because your names have specially been mentioned in this connection, and if Partap Singh does not make a statement, he will be held responsible for the Kalaud case. Therefore you are not going there to make a statement would result in much trouble and harm to you." We consulted and enquired of him as to what they wanted us to say. His Highness told us that his Home Minister would see to it. Accordingly Nawab Liaquat Hyat Khan and S. Raghbir Singh I.G.P. came to Amritsar after three or four

days and the Nawab entrusted the task of tutoring us to S. Raghbir Singh. S. Raghbir Singh rented a house in the name of Partap Singh in Gawalmandi, Lahore for this purpose, the rent being Rs. 24/- a month. From that house we were sometimes taken to S. Raghbir Singh's house and sometimes to the Kothi of Diwan Pindi Das and the statements were shown and taught to us.

I state on oath that on the 25th of May 1930 the Maharaja sent Dr. Bakhshish Singh's son to my house at Amritsar as it was necessary that two men from British territory should see the boy and boy should see them, so that, they may be able to identify each other when produced before the Political Agent. S. Amrik Singh the "Deorhi Officer" under instructions from His Highness brought the boy in a car to my house at night and I kept Bhai Partap Singh, Bhai Jaimal Singh and Bhai Harbans Singh with me at my house to look after the boy. On the 16th of June 1930 two motor cars came to my house at Amritsar to take us to Dalhousie. These cars were brought at by an officer of Patiala State. Dr. Bakshish Singh's son and I seated ourselves in one motor car, while the Patiala Officers and Bhai Partap Singh took their seats in the other. Both these motors reached Dalhousie the same day, and in the evening we were lodged in a room of Bakrota House along with the boy and a strong guard of Patiala POLICE was posted round the house so that no one may have excess to the room and the secret of the boy being brought under the supervision of the Maharaja Sahib to Dalhousie and the fact of his being kept in Bakrota House may not leak out. This watch continued until the boy was handed over to Dr. Bakhshish Singh by the A.G.G.

I state on oath that I was produced before Mr. Fitz-Patrick, Agent to the Governor-General, Punjab States, at Jandri Ghat Dalhousie to make my statement. In the room Nawab Liaqat Hyat Khan was sitting in the chair next to the A.G.G. to his right. He had the eyes fixed on the witnesses face and made signs to the witness. He made signs with his eyes to me three or four times. He accompanied the Agent whenever he went out or came in and took his lunch with him. This all convinced me that whatever the Maharaja Sahib and the Nawab had told me regarding the bribing and winning over of the agent was correct, and that if I did not act according to their instructions I will be in trouble. The agent did not promise me protection at the time of my giving the statement. Had the agent promised protection I was quite prepared to make a true statement. Such was the condition of Partapsingh as well, but on being produced before the agent the latter did not utter a word of assurance of protection which would have satisfied us. We had therefore no alternative but to make a statement as tutored by Patiala officials which was abso-

lutely false. Bhai Partap Singh had made his statement before I did. Having made his statement he directly came to me and told me that I.G.P. Patiala had directed him to come to me without losing time and acquaint me with the important points of evidence because I was the next witness. I told him to leave me lost some men of the Political Agent should see him. He told me that he had instructions to come to me and tell me all the important points. Similarly when I had finished my statement I was asked by the I.G.P. Patiala to convey the important points to the next witness. There was no restriction for me to sit aside and no restraint was imposed, when I was produced before the Dalhousie Enquiry Committee. At the termination of my statement I kept standing hoping that my statement should be read over to me and got signed by me but on seeing me waiting, the agent told me to go out. The next day I was summoned to Patiala Camp. Here a lawyer and a Police officer asked me to sign my statement. They had typewriter papers in their hands. I smiled and remarked that my statement was taken two miles from this place and that I was being asked to sign it the following day in Patiala Camp. They said that such was the arrangement. My request they refused to read that statement to me. I made three statements before the Agent and signed them the following day in Patiala Camp. As my signature were obtained the following day, so was done in the case of Partap Singh and the same procedure was repeated in the case of all other witnesses. When my statement was being recorded by the Agent, in reply to a question regarding Bahadur Garh Fort affairs I happened to make a rather inconvenient reply. The Agent left for his lunch and the Nawab summoned me to a separate room and I admonished me for saying things more than I had been told to say, adding that the Agent was very angry with me and that he might perhaps order arrests. I was terrified and submitted that it was never my intention to say anything against Patiala and that I had added a few sentences simply as explanation. The Nawab said he would have it set right by the Agent but I should be careful in future. He further instructed me that I should always look at the counsel and answer the questions in yes or no accordingly because in serious and important cases lengthy statements weaken the case. The Superintendent of Patiala Police always kept sitting at the door of the room where statements were being recorded and was attentively listening to what was going on inside. Two inspectors of Patiala Police always kept standing by him. The Superintendent conveyed all the important points regarding the statement of the witnesses to one of the inspectors Same to other witnesses. In my case the Patiala Police inspector acquainted me with what the Superintendent had told him. This game continued throughout the inquiry. When the Dalhousie inquiry came to

an end we (Partap Singh and myself) were sent for by Nawab Liaquat Hyat Khan who told me that he was very much pleased with me and enjoined upon me not to disclose anything to anybody concerning the Maharaja and him nor anything in connection with the inquiry. He paid me there and then Rs. 20,000|- and Rs. 5,000|- to Bhai Partap Singh and offered to grant twice as much land as we had been promised previously. At first we fell inclined to accept the promise but afterwards fearing lest some new conspiracy be hatched to entangle us we were not prepared to accept the land. I make the above statement in accordance with a view to state the truth without being induced by anybody.

Dated 23rd Feb. 1932.

Sd/- Ram Singh Dharuwalia.
s/o. Santa Singh.

Translated by me from Urdu.

Attested. 2/3.32.

(Signature)

Seal of Court.

* * * *

EX. 33 (I).

To

The Hon'ble The A.G.G., Punjab States.

Sir,

I beg to state that I am a resident of Gurdaspur District. I have worked in the 'Khalsa' (Urdu), the 'Panch' (Punjabi), and 'The Ajit' (Urdu) from 1916 to 1922. Afterwards as I had to help H.H. the Maharaja of Patiala in connection with the Nabha-Patiala case and the Akali movement, these papers had to be closed in the Punjab. The important part played by me in connection with the apprehension of Bijala Singh and other absconders in the Punjab conspiracy case and the way in which I served the Government of India and the Patiala State at that time will be borne out by the Government records, I received an allowance in addition to all other expenses from the Patiala Government till March 1927, and the 15 Akalis who were under me were also paid allowances. In March 1927 I was of a sudden arrested along with 7 other Akalis, and I do not know upto this time the nature of the offence. During the investigation the police officers compelled me to make a false and baseless statement against Raja Sir Daya Kishan Kaul. They further wanted a writing from me that would clear the position of H. H. the Maharaja of Patiala, with respect to the secrets of H.H. I was in possession of. Despite severe violence practised upon me and the risk of ruin to my family I did not show

willingness to tell a lie, nor was I prepared to make a false statement in my handwriting, whereupon the police themselves prepared a statement of the contents of which I had no knowledge and forcibly took my signature to it. Afterwards at the time of H. H.'s departure to Europe I was released along with 6 Akalis, and an undertaking was taken from us to be of good character and to remain loyal to H.H. in future. During my detention I always requested the authorities to challan me in a judicial court in order to enable me to prove my innocence before the public and H.H. but the police kept me in C.I.D. custody for 14 months. During this period of 14 months my companions and I were only taken twice before a Magistrate for a remand, although the remand was renewed every 14 days. Now I am at my home in Dt. Gurdaspur for the last 5 months and am busy in my domestic affairs and thinking of marrying my daughters. Before my arrest the orders for the grant of land to me and my companions as a reward for the services rendered in connection with the Nabha Patiala case had been issued. Accordingly my companions had obtained land in Chak Banoor and Bijala Singh is still in possession of it. The other Akalis have left the place as they did not like to put up with him because he is a habitual thief and dacoit. Even now the Deputy Commissioner of the Ambala Dt. is making complaints against him, as chak Banoor is adjacent to Ambala Dt. where he is in the habit of committing crimes. There was a proposal of the land being granted to us, but the Maharaja wanted us to render him one or two more services so heinous and horrible in nature that we declined to do it. The result was that instead of being granted lands we were placed under arrest. Now again we have received written orders from Patiala through the police to go there and take possession of the lands as was done previously. We have also been receiving our allowances since our release. Being a British subject I do not want to go to Patiala and become a State subject by accepting land, because in such cases the Government of Patiala forces one to give in writing an acknowledgement of becoming Patiala subject. I do not want that under the present circumstances when in reward for my service such maltreatment had been meted out to me, I may again go to Patiala and obtain land which can be confiscated in a second at the sweet will of the Maharaja and harm done to me. I now want to pass the remaining part of my life in the British territory and am taking your valuable time by approaching you with this request, as I want to acquaint you fully with the above incidents. I am afraid that my refusal to go to Patiala might create a suspicion in the mind of the Maharaja that I want to divulge his secrets, though I have no such intention, but it is just possible that he might still adopt some unfair course.

I therefore deem it my privilege to place these facts before your honour and expect protection at your hands. I am ever ready to present myself before your honour when required to do so.

Sd/- Ram Singh Akali,
Dharuwalia.

* * * * *

Ex. 34.

ORAL EXAMINATION OF BHAI PARTAP SINGH.

I gave evidence before the Patiala Enquiry Committee in Lahore in the year 1929. That was and is true in all respects.

Fitz-Patric Enquiry took place afterwards. I am producing an affidavit—— that I made before a magistrate in connection with my share in the said Fitz-Patric Enquiry. I was paid Rs. 5000/- (five thousand) in rupees one hundred currency notes at Bakrota House in Dalhousie at about 9-30 A. M. on about 28th of June, 1930 in the presence of Nawab Liaqat Hyat Khan, S. Amrik Singh, Bhai Ram Singh Dharuwalia was also paid at the same time.

18-3-1935.

Sd/- Partap Singh.

* * * * *

EX. 34 (B).

STATEMENT OF BHAI PARTAP SINGH S/O ISHARSINGH RESIDENT
OF GOLOTI NABHA STATE.

1. I state on oath that I came in contact with the Maharaja of Patiala since 1924. My statement made before the Enquiry Commission of States People Conference consisting of Seth Amritlal, Babu Amritlal Thakkar, and Mr. Abhyankar in connection with the conspiracy of Kalaur concocted by me at the instance of Maharaja Patiala who incurred all the expenses to get Dr. Bakhsis Singh arrested is correct. Though the said statement of mine is brief and is not detailed, yet the substance of that statement is correct and true.

2. I state on oath that the story of the Kalaur Conspiracy is briefly as follows:—

Dr. Bakhsis Singh was an absconder from Patiala. His Highness wanted to get him arrested from the foreign territory in order to bring him under his control. In the Patiala State there was no case of such a nature against Dr. Bakhsis Singh that he could be extradited from Bri-

tish territory. So Maharaja Sahib Patiala himself tried and succeeded in winning me over to his side and the following conspiracy was hatched through me. I got illicit arms placed in the house of Santa Singh of Kalaur Thana Basi Patiala State by fraud and trick. Accordingly the Patiala police found out the illicit arms from the house of Santa Singh as previously planned and I along with Santa Singh and Harbhan Singh of Kalaur was arrested. Through this false conspiracy the above three named Dr. Bakhshis Singh and a companion of Dr. Bakhshi Singh were made accused.

In the absence of Dr. Bakhshi Singh the case was decided. I was made approver and was let off. Santa Singh and Harban Singh were each sentenced to 7 years imprisonment and a fine of Rs. 200, but they were released after two and half years. So a case was made out for the arrest Dr. Bakhshi Singh.

3. I state on oath that in the above case the following false story concocted that the above named accused at the instance of Maharaja of Nabha were planning to finish the following gentlemen Col. Minchin A.G.G., S. Sunder Singh Majithia, Dayakishan Kaul, and S. Gurdayal Singh of Nabha.

4. I state on oath that Maharaja Sahib of Patiala in order to conceal his horrible crimes arrested me in March 1927. The following persons were also arrested to conceal the terrible happenings of Qila Bahadur Ghar and Kalaur case etc:—

(1) Bhai Ram Singh Dhoruwalia and (2) Bhai Jaimal Singh of Choth Danaj (3) Bhai Jagat Singh of Akalina in Hoshiarpore Dt. (4) Bhai Harban Singh of Khotse in Ludhiana Dt. (5) Bhai Harman Singh of Khotre in Ludhiana Dt. (6) Bhai Mahar Singh of Salawa in Nabha State, and (7) Bhai Kishan Singh of Heron in Nabha State. Bhai Kishan Singh was let off on bail, and all the rest were shut up in 'Kar Khas' under C. I. D. At last when they failed to bring any specific charge against any particular person from amongst us and Maharaja found it was useless to escape from the entanglement by bringing cases against us, we were released after 14 months, in May 1928. All other persons except myself came away from Patiala, and I stayed there. During our detention we were taken before no magistrate, no case was started against us, no remand was taken.

I state on oath that I was posted on C.I.D. duty in May 1928, Maharaja Sahib sent me to Amritsar in this connection in 1929. I was directed to send reports about the movement of Sardar Kharak Singh. S. Sardul

Singh Caveeshar and Master Tara Singh, and if possible to steal some papers of theirs. With regard to Bhagwan Singh Longowalia I was specially directed to bring him in State territory and get him arrested. But my residence at Amritsar brought change in my nature. I repented of my past doings. At the same time I was always under fear of the false conspiracy of Maharaja Patiala. I remembered the incidence of Kalaur case and hardship of 14 months detention in 'Kar Khas'. So I gave up the idea of returning to Patiala and took up my residence at Amritsar in British territory.

7. I state on oath that I received a few messages to return to Patiala but I did not do so. Then S. Hazura Singh Dhillon made a plan to kidnap me from Lahore. I have already given my correct and true statement in this connection to Indian States' People's Conference. In that statement I also mention the applications sent by me to the Governor-General, to A.G.G. and the Governor, Punjab.

8. I state on oath that a short while prior to Dalhousie Enquiry in month of February 1930, the Maharaja sent a message to call me to Patiala. But I refused to go to Patiala. At last Nawab Liaqat Hyat Khan, Home Minister, Patiala called me to the Kothi of his relative one Ghulam Sadik in Amritsar. Bhai Jagat Singh of Akilana, Bhai Harban Singh of Khotre, Bhai Harman Singh of Khotre, Bhai Ram Singh of Dhauruwala and Bhai Jaimal Singh of Choth were present there. We were all made to believe in every way by Nawab Liaqat Hyat Khan that an enquiry is shortly to be held in the case of Maharaja Patiala and our statements will be taken. He added that we should beware lest we should go to jail for the rest of our lives or spend the lives in Hall on account of our own folly. He said "If you disclose the true facts about yourself, Maharaja of Patiala will not suffer in any way. Maharaja Sahib and ourselves have made complete and satisfactory arrangement with the Enquiry Officer by giving him money. The whole proceedings will be conducted according to the desire of Maharaja Sahib of Patiala. But the Enquiry Officer has a mind that any body who will dare to give a statement to prove the guilt of Maharaja Patiala shall himself be imprisoned on the ground of his statement. This has been settled definitely. Don't say then that you were not aware. We will not be responsible for you. You are to give your statements according to our direction and the desire of Enquiry Officer. You will be saved in this way and on our behalf i.e. on behalf of Maharaja Patiala you will get some benefit also. Otherwise by telling the truth you will be ruined. After a very long talk we said to Nawab Sahib that it would be seen. We shall give reply after consideration. In short nothing definite in the form of no or yes was said.

9. I state on oath that in the month of March 1930, Maharaja Patiala sent for me in Patiala House in Lahore. Bhai Jaimal Singh, Bhai Jagat Singh, Bhai Harman Singh, Bhai Harban Singh, Bhai Ram Singh mentioned before were also present there. The Maharaja himself gave instructions to all of us. He sometime flattered and sometime threatened us, and he said to me specially "If you disclose the true fact about Kalaur case you will be sent to Hall". He said to others "If you will give true stories of Qila Bahadurgarh and Kalaur case etc., then you will be ruined. Nobody can do any harm to us. We have been entangled in hundreds of complications. You know everything. Nobody has been able to do the least harm to us. Now also we have been able to win over the Enquiry Officer by money. He will carry on proceedings according to our desire. We wish to save you also with us. After all you are our own. If you will go against us and give out the true facts we will entangle you instead of saving you. You will be then held responsible for all these crimes. And if you go according to our desire as our Home Minister made you understand at Amritsar we will be pleased with you and will please you". In short both fear and temptation were given. After a long talk Bhai Jaimal Singh, Bhai Jagat Singh, Bhai Harban Singh and Bhai Harman Singh refused flatly, saying that they were not prepared to speak lies and were prepared for the consequences. But myself and Bhai Ram Singh kept silent for some time and then asked permission to be alone and consult together. Accordingly we all consulted together in privacy for some time and came back to Maharaja Sahib. The above mentioned four gentlemen stuck to their decision and said to Maharaja Sahib that it was difficult for them to speak lie. for whatever they had done was done according to the orders of the Maharaja and they were not to blame in any way. In inspite of that if they were to be ruined, God's will might prevail.

Upon this the Maharaja was dejected and in anger and he kept thinking for sometime. But after a short while he said 'Well if you four are not prepared to make statements against us, we shall be pleased with you for this even and shall give you your remaining allowance upto date. I wish to say upon oath that you will receive your remaining allowance and we shall not let you be called forcibly. Your statements will not be required for the decision.'" All the four accepted this proposal of Maharaja Sahib.

Upon this Bhai Ram Singh also expressed desire to do the same, but Maharaja Sahib replied after thinking "You will have to be present. If you are not present, the responsibility of the happenings in the Bahadurgarh Fort will be thrown upon Bhai Ram Singh for after all Bhai Ram Singh was at the bottom of all these happenings. Partapsingh will be

half responsible for Kalaur case. So you should be present in any case. You can be saved only in that way. If you don't go, and it appears that the truth is leaking out, we shall throw the responsibility on you instead of saving you. We shall do this to save ourselves. So we should combine and you should follow the advice of our Home Minister and our Lawyers. In this way net can be broken. The Enquiry Officer will simply fulfil the formalities. But if you wish to entangle yourself, you will be responsible. Enquiry Officer will forcibly call you. If you also refuse to go there, we wish to say clearly that we shall throw the whole burden upon you and clear ourselves. If you follow the other course, you will save yourself and derive benefit also'. In short I and Bhai Ram Singh were pressed on all sides to agree to Maharaja's proposal.

10. I state on oath that after this according to the orders of Maharaja and through Nawab Liaqat Hyat Khan Home Minister and S. Raghbir Singh, I.G.P., a house was hired in my name, where arrangements were made for the witnesses to be tutored by the Patiala Police Officials.

11. In the last week of the month of May 1930, Dr. Bakhshi Singh's son was sent by Maharaja Patiala through S. Amrik Singh to the house of Bhai Ram Singh in Amritsar. The boy was kept secretly at the house of Bhai Ram Singh. Bhai Harban Singh, Bhai Jaimal Singh and myself were posted to guard the boy and we carefully kept watch. Santa Singh and Dalip Singh, residents of British territory, were called at the house of Bhai Ram Singh, where they saw the boy and prepared themselves for recognising him so that they may not make any mistake before agent when making their false statements.

12. I state on oath that on 6th June 1930 2 motor cars of Maharaja Patiala arrived at the house of Bhai Ram Singh. In one of which was Dr. Bakhshi Singh's son and Bhai Ram Singh and in the other myself and a servant of Patiala. We thus reached Dalhousie. After reaching there we were made to enter a room of Bakrota house and the Patiala police guard was posted there so that the son of Dr. Bakhshi Singh may remain safe and secret and nobody may get any clue. Dr Bakshi Singh son was kept inside for a sufficient long time till he was made over to Dr. Bakhshis Singh through A.G.G.

13. I state on oath that I was taken to the A.G.G. at Dalhousie. I stated same things with regard to Kalaur case as were told to me and repeated to me by the Patiala police officer many times by the order of Maharaja of Patiala. I and Bhai Ram Singh held consultations a few times before making our statements to the effect that if the Agent would

give us assurance and promise of our protection we should not polute our conscience and would state the whole truth about us known to us. But at the Enquiry the condition was this. Nawab Layakat Hayat Khan kept sitting on the chair to the right of the Agent throughout. When the Agent went out, the Nawab also went out and both always came in together and sat together. At the door of the Court the Superintendent and two inspectors of Patiala police were always present. The Supdt. used to send messages through the inspectors to the coming witnesses as statements proceeded on. All round, the Patiala officials were managing and controlling. Inside the court also Nawab Layakat Hayat Khan used to make signals to the witnesses. As soon as I finished my statement the I.G.P. of Patiala directed me to go to Bhai Ram Singh and informed him of the essential portions of my statement. I did as directed. Seeing all this state of affairs we thought at the time that what Nawab Sahib and Maharaja Sahib told us was correct and true. We feared lest we be entangled. So we had to give a wrong and false statement, against our conscience and we kept back all those happenings which could rightly prove the guilt of Maharaja Patiala.

14. I state on oath that the Agent gave me no oath while giving my statement and my statement was not read out to me when finished. My signatures were taken upon all the three statements the next day about three miles away from the Court room, in the Patiala Camp, through officers and lawyers of Patiala without reading out the statements to me. The statemetns were typed and I do not know what was written in them.

15. I state on oath that at Dalhousie after the enquiry was over Nawab Layakat Hayat Khan Home Minister Patiala showed his kindness and pleasure to Bhai Ram Singh and myself. He gave Rs. 20000|- to Bhai Ram Singh and Rs. 5000|- to me and said that Maharaja Sahib has ordered to give you double of land promised in Patiala State. We accepted the money. But after thinking over we thought it inadvisable to accept land and take up residence in Patiala lest Maharaja might concoct a false conspiracy against us and shut us up in jail. We should be then the losers in bargain. It was better to remain safe from the Maharaja's conspiracies, for on previous occasions also the Maharaja had shut us up in *Kar Khas* without any trial and without any fault simply to conceal his own crimes and deeds, and when he had found no way to free himself from his crimes through us, he was obliged to offer us land to keep us under his thumb after our freedom from *Kar Khas*. Even now the Maharaja would always be in fear of our exposing the true facts. So we should not run the risk of our lives. In short we came to Amritsar direct from Dalhousie.

16. I state on oath that my mind is always dejected since the days I spoke lie at Dalhousie and concealed the truth. I often suffer from terrible dreams and my mind is restless. So my mind has forced me to make this statement to fulfil my human duty. This statement is true and correct and there is no falsehood. I have heard the statement word by word and have understood it. I am signing it without the persuasion of anybody and in my full senses I admit it to be correct:—

(Sd.) Partap Singh,
S/o. Ishar Singh.

* * * * *

EX. 34 (C).

The Agent to the Governor-General of India,
(For Punjab States)
Lahore.

Sir,

Your humble petitioner is Partap Singh S/o S. Ishar Singh originally resident of Goloti in Nabha State, now residing at Amritsar. He most humbly begs to state:—

1. Your humble petitioner was asked by the Maharaja Sahib of Patiala to form a conspiracy in which to involve Doctor Bakhshis Singh of Amballa Dist., who was preaching against His Highness and disclosing certain secrets of His Highness. Your petitioner did form a conspiracy at Kalaur (in Patiala State) for which bombs and cartridges were supplied by the Maharaja Sahib. Your petitioner was able to persuade some Akalis of Kalaur to join him in the campaign of murder which your petitioner alleged. He was going to undertake, but your petitioner did not even see Dr. Bakhshis Singh in those days.

As was arranged with officials of Patiala, the Patiala Police reached Kalaur on an appointed day and hour, and received the Bombs and cartridges from the houses of the Akalis. Your petitioner was made approver in the case, and as he was directed by the Maharaja Sahib and his officials. He falsely deposed against Dr. Bakhshis Singh, also some false witness were procured and Dr. Bakhshis Singh warrants were issued. The object of all this conspiracy was to secure extradition of Dr. Bakhshis Singh from the British Government. But Dr. Bakhshis Singh could not be arrested.

2. After this your petitioner was arrested under many false charges and he was asked to state that Sir Dayal Kishan Kad was responsible for forming the bogus conspiracy of Kalaur. Your petitioner did make a

false statement before the Patiala Police as desired by them. Your petitioner was then released after signing a paper which he was told was an agreement to the effect that he could be arrested again under the same accusations if he disclosed the secrets of the State.

After being released, your petitioner was always in dread of arrest if he disclosed the secrets of Patiala State. He was given Rs. 30/- p. m. and he stayed at Patiala about a month and a half. I was sent by Sardar Hazura Singh Dhillon and S. Gurdial Singh Supdt.-C.I.D. to Amritsar to persuade Bhagwan Singh Longowalia to the Patiala State.

3. Your petitioner seized this golden opportunity, came to Amritsar and left the service of Patiala few days ago. He now most humbly approaches you to save him from the Patiala State. He fears that some false case will be started against him at Patiala, and the British Government will be approached for his extradition. Your petitioner is quite prepared to stand this trial in the British territory, if the Patiala ever dares to start a case against him but if your petitioner is made over to the Patiala State he will never come out of Patiala Jail alive. For the evident reason their the Maharaja wishes to silence him for ever.

Your petitioner will ever pray for your long life for this act of kindness to arrest unfortunate, and helpless man like him.

Sd/- Partap Singh.

* * * * *

EX. 35.

STATEMENT OF DR. BAKHSHIS SINGH S/O S. SAHIB SINGH VILLAGE
SHAHZADPORE.

I state on oath that I am a Sikh resident of village Shahzadpore and nowadays I reside at Ajabpore in the Dist. of Dehra Dun and I make this statement in connection with the Dalhousie Inquiry. I was informed by the Riasti Parja Mandal that as the Dalhousie Committee had been boycotted and there being no hope of justice it was not proper to make any statement before it. I had also learned that for the expenses of the Dalhousie Inquiry the Patiala State had granted a large amount of money. I myself, therefore, was not also prepared independently to make any statement before it. I had submitted an application to the A.G.G., Punjab States, who had been appointed to conduct the inquiry in accordance with the desiring of the Maharaja at Simla for this purpose. After a few days I received a wire from the A.G.G. that he had taken my son from the Patiala State, that I should proceed to Dalhousie to take him. I scented some foul play at the hands of Maharaja of Patiala as I was an absconder from Patiala for the past 9 years, and I was afraid lest it should be a

conspiracy to entrap me. I was further afraid that if I fell into the hands of the Maharaja I would be murdered. In reply I enquired of the Political Agent if the telegram was really sent by him or in reality it was a trick of the Maharaja. The Agent wired back saying that he himself had sent the telegram in question. That I should go and fetch my son. I replied saying that if he could guarantee my security I was prepared to go, because I was very much afraid of the Maharaja of Patiala. The Agent replied that he was answerable for my life in every way and that I could go there without any fear. After getting satisfied in every way I reached Dalhousie accompanied by Bhai Pirtam Singh Ramgarhia who was doing some business at Dehra Dun. On reaching there I learnt that the Enquiry Committee was being held at Jhanda Ghat Kothi in Chamba State. Again I apprehended danger lest the Chamba authorities might arrest me at the instance of Patiala State. The ground for this apprehension was that some Patiala officials were putting up at the guest house of Chamba State. At Dalhousie I took Dr. Nand Singh with me and from the bungalow of the Dalhousie Deputy Commissioner. I phoned to the Enquiry Committee saying that I had reached there in response to their telegrams to take over my son, and praying that I be given only my son through the D.C. and further if they wanted me personally to attend, they could send for me under guard so that they could guarantee my safe return to the British territory. They sent a police constable who took me to the office of the Enquiry Committee. At the advice of the D.C. Dr. Nand Singh took down the Police Constable's name and number. Other people from the Gurdwara had also accompanied me. Thus I produced myself before the Agent who enquired of me if I wanted to make any statement. I replied in the negative saying that I had gone there simply to fetch my son. They sent for my son and by making him stand before me asked me if I recognised him to be my son. I expressed my inability to do so, as the child was only 3 years old when he was separated from me. The Agent told me that if I could recognise my son I could take him away, otherwise leave him there. I replied inquiring if his honour had established the identity of my son before sending three telegraphic messages to me. If he was handing over my son to me there was no question of my recognising the child and if taking somebody else's son as my own he was handing him over to me in that case I could not recognise him. He asked me as to how I could recognise my son. I suggested that the mother of the child should be sent for so that she could recognise the child and the child its mother. Besides this I would recognise her and she would recognise me. The A.G.G. replied that he had no knowledge about the child's mother and the child was my own son and that I could take him away. Thereupon I took over the child. Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru asked me to write a

Ex. 35 (B)



Dr. Baxis Singh with his longlost son. The son was delivered to him at Dalhousie.

Ex. 35 (C).



Dr. Baxis Singh, his wife and their infant daughter. The Doctor could not recover the last two who died in Patiala.

receipt for the child but I answered that I was taking the child from the Political Agent and that he should take the receipt from him. The Agent remarked that when he was not prepared to make any statement nothing could be taken down by the Committee. After that I took my son and came away. The photo which I produce herewith was taken at that time when my son was given to me. On taking my leave of the Political Agent, I thanked him gratefully adding that I hoped to get back my wife and daughter as well through his kind efforts as had been done in the case of my son.

Sd/- Bakhshis Singh.

EX. 36.

STATEMENT OF BHAI UJAGAR SINGH S/o BHAI SUNDER SINGH
RESIDENT OF THIKRIWALA.

I state on oath that on the 13th of Feb. 1934 the Patiala Police under instructions from the Maharaja of Patiala with the help of one Jang Singh a notorious murderer of *V. Naine Wal*, police station Bhadaur Patiala State, raided Gurdwara Bhatna Dt. Ludhiana to arrest and forcibly carry me away. The police were armed with rifles and had two camels with them. I raised a hue and cry and the villagers gathered there, on account of which they could not succeed in carrying me away. On the morning of the 14th the Sub-Inspector of Police of Shahana police station happened to come there in connection with the investigation of another case. I accompanied with S. Lahora Singh and Sant Nadhan Singh made a report of the above incident to the Sub-Inspector. On the 15th of Feb. 1934 I sent a detailed telegram to H.E. the Viceroy relating to this matter and sent copies thereof under registered cover to the Superintendent Punjab C.I.D. Branch Lahore and the Superintendent of Police Ludhiana. On the 21st of Feb. 1934 I sent a telegram to the Deputy Commissioner of Ludhiana which was as follow :

"The Sub-Inspector of Police Station Bhaduar of the Patiala police who attacked me on the 13th of Feb. 1934 at Bhatna Dt. Ludhiana be immediately arrested and the matter investigated because my life is in great danger."

Afterwards on the 11th of March 1934 I accompanied by S. Ishwar Singh, Deputy Sarpanch, S. Bishan Singh, member of the Panchayat at Bhatna, S. Lohara Singh, and S. Waryan Singh made the following report in the Sahana Police Station Dt. Ludhiana:—

"The Maharaja of Patiala has engaged one Jang Singh of V. Nainewal to take my life. Jang Singh was given pardon and made approver in a murder of one Jagroop. He has also a licence for keeping a rifle. He had raided the Gurdwara of Bhatna on the 13th of Feb. to carry me away. Unless he is arrested, my life is in danger." He may be arrested and my life and property protected."

On the 17th of March I again sent a telegram to the Deputy Commissioner of Ludhiana by way of reminder praying that my life may be protected and the culprits arrested".

I am a voluntary exile from Patiala for the last 7 years and my property has been confiscated by the State Government under Cr. P.C. and frantic efforts are being made to carry me away from the British territory. My life is in great danger and the Maharaja of Patiala is bent upon taking my life by hook or crook.

Sd/- Ujagar Singh Bhama.

* * * * *

EX. 37.

STATEMENT OF BHAI HARI SINGH MARGIND S/O BHAI DAULAT SINGH

I state on oath, I was arrested in 1923 in connection with Kalaur Bomb case at my village where I was kept for 2 days for preliminary investigation. I was then taken to Patiala *Kar-i-khas*. But as the place was already occupied I was taken to the Kothi of Pandit Jivanlal, the then Supdt. of C.I.D. which was unoccupied, being under repairs. There Mr. Shihchand D.S.P., C.I.D., and Sub-Inspector Asa Singh C.I.D. asked me to make false statement in the above case. On my refusal I was hung from a ladder with my head downward. On my becoming senseless I was taken down. This process was repeated twice or thrice a day and this continued for 8 days. In addition to this, my clothes were taken off and shoe-beating was given on my buttocks and hukah water was poured in my mouth. Ultimately a case was brought against me for possessing 2 kirpans and was sentenced to a fine of Rs. ten.

Three years ago I was again arrested and taken to the Patiala Central Jail. The investigation was still proceeding. I was taken out of jail and taken to my village where shoe-beating was again given on my bare buttocks. My aunt was also sent for. I was denuded of my clothes and was made to stand naked before her. My aunt and I were afterwards taken into a room where my aunt was also deprived of her clothes and thrown upon the ground and I was forcibly thrown upon her, both of us being

nakéd. On my protest I was so severely beaten that I became senseless. I was then taken to the Rajpura police station. Mr. Fazal Kareem, Supdt. C.I.D., is chiefly responsible for this horrible torture, humiliation and disgrace, for he had told the police when I was produced before him that my Sikhism should be purged through the rectum. In Rajpura police station no better treatment was accorded to me I was rather subjected to more severe torturing. One day the Sub-Inspector felled me down, put his foot on my neck and catching hold of the knot of my hair-cut it off with a knife. When the case was brought before the Deputy Nazim I made allegations against the police regarding the above torture and treatment. He refused to listen to me. The Court sentenced me to 2¼ years' rigorous imprisonment and I was taken to the Patiala Jail. I was given food containing bits of shoe leather and tobacco which I declined to take. Then I was beaten with shoes on my head. My clothes were taken off and shoe-beating was given on my buttocks and soles. I was put in a solitary cell, my interviews were disallowed and correspondence stopped. Nobody was allowed to speak to me. When I made a complaint to the Supdt. and the Jailor they had me beaten with shoes upon my face and my mouth was spat upon.

On the day when S. Sewa Singh was brought to the Central Jail Patiala from Barnala, the jail was kept closed until 9 instead of 6 the usual time. S. Sewa Singh was kept in Kumarihata which is situated in one corner of the jail adjoining to which is the female ward and no one was allowed to go there. It is a very small ward and surrounded by high walls. It is termed Ghair Ilaga. None was allowed to see him. The food provided for S. Sewa Singh was very bad and full of grit and gravel. The vegetables were also badly cooked. When once S. Sewa Singh complained of it to the Supdt. of jail he said *"You oppose the Maharaja and still expect better food from us? . . . Eat what is given. It is jail, not your house. This very food will be given to you, eat or go without it."* S. Sewa Singh was neither allowed interview nor correspondence. The bad food told adversely on his health and he fell ill. He sent word to the doctor through the man who brought his food but he was not given any medicine at all. One day he fell very ill, even then he was given no medicine. After being tired of this treatment Sardar Sahib refused to take food. When this was brought to the notice of the jailor and the Supdt. the latter said, *"Let tne Sala (brother-in-law) die, so much the better for us. We will get rid of the devil. Don't let him have any food now."* After this S. Sewa Singh went on hunger-strike. One day when he fainted due to extreme weakness, rumour got afloat in jail that he had died. Upon this all the prisoners went on hunger-strike and refused to take food unless S. Sewa

Singh was shown to them. The jail authorities did not make any redress of our complaint but on the contrary sent for the police and army who made a lathi charge on us. The prisoners took shelter in the cells. L. Pindi Das, Minister-in-Charge, jails, and S. Arjan Singh ordered them to oust us from the cells. But the prisoners would not come out of the cells out of fear. At last hot water was thrown over us from a motor engine as a result of which the prisoners came out of the cells and were locked in separate cells.

When the jail officers enquired of me whether I too was on hunger-strike I told them that I was already on hunger-strike owing to bad food indifferent health and maltreatment. Thereupon Mr. Fazal Kareem Supdt. C.I.D. and Diwan Pindi Das said "*Let people like him die. We don't mind his hunger-strike or death.*" The ring-leaders were taken to *Kar-i-khas*. Their sentences were enhanced and were transferred to Narnaul jail. On the expiry of sentence I was released, I made a statement regarding S. Sewa Singh which was published in the newspapers.

Sd/- S. Hari Singh.

* * * * *

EX. 38.

STATEMENT OF BABU JAIMAL SINGH OF CHAK DONA,
JULLUNDHUR DISTRICT.

I have full knowledge of the activities of both parties of Bijla Singh and Kishen Singh Gargaj. I know all about the following incidents:—

1. Bomb-making in Bahadur Garh Fort.
 2. The burial of the Bombs in Nabha State Territory.
 3. Absconding of Dr. Bakhshis Singh from Patiala.
 4. Tortures of Bachittar Kaur.
 5. Hatching of Kalaur Conspiracy in order to arrest Dr. Bakhshis Singh
- and 6. Help of Babar Akalis by the Maharaja Patiala.

A man of Patiala State came to me in my village in 1930. He said that I was called by Nawab Liaqat Hayat Khan at Amritsar. The Nawab wished to see me and my companions. I came to Amritsar and met my companions there. We all went and saw Nawab Liaqat Hayat Khan in a Lungalow near 'Thandi Khuhi'. The Nawab said, "*You had given statements against Maharaja Sahib of Patiala to the All-India States People's Conference.*" He said "*Such statements can do no harm to Patiala; Mr.*

Fitz-Patrick, Agent to the Governor-General has been appointed by the Government to inquire into these allegations. The Agent is our own man. He will not go against us. If you people will not make statements favourable to us you will be put to trouble. If you will give statements according to our directions the Maharaja Sahib will please you... Now it is for you to choose which course to follow. The Maharaja Sahib will see you at Lahore at Patiala house after 2 or 3 days. Make up your mind and come there." We all went to Lahore at the appointed time. The Maharaja Sahib repeated what the Nawab Sahib had said. We said that we should state the truth. Upon this the Nawab Sahib began to explain to us the advantages of making statements according to the direction of Patiala. At last the Maharaja said "*If you do not agree to make statements according to our desire you should at least agree to absent yourselves from the Dalhousie Inquiry. No one will call you and you should not go there without being called. For this, I shall give you Rs. 2,000 just now. After the inquiry I shall give you your land and arears of your salaries*". We agreed. We took money, gave assurance to the Maharaja and went home. The Maharaja had also said "*For B. Ram Singh and Partap Singh these conditions will not hold good. They shall have to give evidence. If they do not give evidence cases will be started against them.*"

Sd/- Jaimal Singh.

• • * * †

EX. 38 (A).

To,

The Hon'ble the Agent to the Governor-General,
Punjab States, Lahore.

Sir,

I beg to state that I, named Jaimal Singh, am a resident of Chakdana Police Station Rahon Dt. Jullundhar. I enlisted myself in regiment No. 169 the Punjabees during the great war and served the Government as regimental clerk from 1914 to 1921, and have seen active service in the battle-field of France, Egypt, Aden and N.W.F.P. I was discharged in 1921 owing to demobilisation.

After a year I came to Amritsar and was employed in the office of the 'Ajit' newspaper as manager. The proprietor of this paper was one Bhai Ram Singh Sharowalia who was connected with the Patiala State in connection with Nabha-Patiala case and Akali and Babar Akali movements. At the end of Nabha-Patiala case this paper also closed publica-

tion. The Ajit Press together with its staff and the record of Ithas Committee was taken to Patiala in this connection.

The press was not worked in Patiala. As there was no work for me, I asked permission a number of times to leave Patiala, but I was never given a definite reply. However I continued to draw Rs. 50/- per mensem by way of my salary along with the staff. It was not required of me to be always present in Patiala. For a larger portion of my time I used to remain in my village, but nobody ever objected to it. Once when I had come to my village, I received a telegram from Patiala. Simultaneously, there came a man who told me that I was summoned to Patiala to receive a grant of land. I accompanied the messenger gladly. Similarly all workers from Nabha and the British territory connected with Bhai Ram Singh had been summoned. The following day the Inspector-General of police summoned all of us to Kotwali for the grant of land. The interview ended by placing us under arrest and locking us up in the custody of C. I. D. After my arrest the Patiala Police searched my house in Dt. Jullundhar during my absence, but could find nothing except my private letter. Very bad treatment was meted out to us while we were in the custody of C.I.D. I was subjected to much torture and was pressed to make a false statement against Sir Daya Kishan Kaul, the ex-Prime-Minister; but as I refused to do so, I was kept in the custody of the C. I. D. for 14 months. During this period I was only twice taken to the Court for remand. I was not told why I had been arrested, although I repeatedly requested them to challan me in a judicial court, so that I may prove my innocence, but my request was not acceded. At the time of the Maharaja's departure for Europe the police released me after taking from me an undertaking of loyalty to the state and good conduct. At the time of my release I was told that H.H. has sanctioned a grant of 100 Bighas of land and the payment of my salary for the period of detention to me, and that the written order of H.H. in this connection had been issued, but as departmental procedure would take some time I would get an allowance from the C.I.D. till then. After my release I remained in Patiala for about 2 or 3 months and was the recipient of allowance from the C.I.D. I am now in my village for the last 5 months, and on account of the remuneration received formerly in the form of maltreatment for past services, I do not desire either to go to Patiala or to become the subject thereof by accepting land. A few days ago I received a letter from the Patiala Police that I should at once proceed to Patiala to take possession of the land, copy whereof I enclose herewith. On account of my refusal to go to Patiala it is just possible that efforts might be made to carry me from the British territory by fair or foul means as I am in possession of some secrets of

the Maharaja of Patiala. Therefore, I most humbly and respectfully submit that, as I apprehend danger in going to Patiala I being a British subject, protection may be afforded to me for which act of kindness shall ever remain grateful to the British Government. May the star of the Government be always in the ascendance.

Sd/- Jaimal Singh.

* * * * *

EX. 39.

STATEMENT OF BHAI JAGAT SINGH, AUKLIANA (Hoshiarpore Dist.)

From the very beginning, I was connected with the parties of both Kishan Singh Garga] Chakrawarti and Bijla Singh. I have full knowledge of both these parties. My wife Saran Kaur also was connected with these parties. She also fully knows the doings of these parties. When Maharaja Patiala conspired with Bijla Singh in the beginning, I had a hand in it. I used to work as message-bearer between Maharaja Sahib and Bijla Singh. Occasionally Babu Jaimal Singh also worked as a message-bearer between Maharaja Patiala and Bijla Singh. Bijla Singh's party used to live in Bhalwan village in Nabha State. My wife Saran Kaur also lived there. I took message of Maharaja of Patiala to Karam Singh Babar Akali of Daulatpur several times. My wife Saran Kaur and myself have full knowledge of the conspiracies which were hatched in Bahadur Garh Fort.

1. Bomb making in Bahadur Garh Fort;
2. The burying of these bombs in the Nabha State;
3. Absconding of Dr. Bakhshis Singh from Patiala;
4. Torture and murder of Bachitar Kaur.
5. Hatching of Kalaur conspiracy in order to arrest Dr. Bakhshis Singh and
6. Sending help to Babar Akali leaders by the Maharaja.

I have been connected in the above mentioned happenings in some way or other. All these happenings were witnessed by my wife Saran Kaur also. In order to connect all these conspiracies the Maharaja of Patiala got myself and my six companions (who were resident of British territory) arrested and shut us up in *Kar-khas*. In *Kar-khas*, we were forced to make such statements as threw the responsibility of these conspiracies upon Sir Daya Kishan Kaul, the late Prime-Minister, myself, Bhai Ram Singh Dharuwalla, Haiban Singh, Harnam Singh, Mehar

Singh, Partap Singh and Babu Jaimal Singh. We were kept shut up in *Kar-khas* for about 14 months. We were not produced for remand before any Magistrate during this time. After 14 months myself and my companions were released after assuring us of our safety. We were assured that we should continue to get our salaries and rations as before. We were also promised that we should get possession of lands etc. as soon as possible, (we used to get Rs. 50|- per month each for our expenses. The Maharaja Sahib has passed orders to give each of us 120 bighas of land. The object was that we should permanently stay in Patiala State, so that the Maharaja might get out of the danger of the above-mentioned conspiracies. The land was given to us in 1923 and the promised money also began to be paid to us from 1923.) We were directed to behave as before and feel ourselves quite safe. We were told that the Maharaja had not arrested us to imprison us. We promised that we should all take up residence in Patiala State as before and would remain loyal to the Maharaja. After securing release, I and my companions took up residence in British territory within a few months of our release. When the State Officials came to know of our leaving the State territory, they wrote letters to us asking us to return and take possession of lands. But I and my companions had no faith in Maharaja's good intentions, so we made up our minds never to return to Patiala State.

In 1930 messengers from Patiala came to me in my village. They told me that Nawab Liyakat Hayat Khan, Minister of Patiala had called me to Amritsar to see him. The Nawab liked to have talk with me and my companions. I told the messenger that I would come. I came to Amritsar after 2 or 3 days. B. Ram Singh, B. Jaimal Singh, Harban Singh, Mehar Singh, Partap Singh and Harnam Singh met me at Amritsar. We all met Nawab Liyakat Hayat Khan together in a bungalow near "Thundi Khuhi." The Nawab in a threatening tone said to us that we had given statements before Congress leaders, but such statements could do not harm to Patiala, for the Govt., had appointed Mr. Fitz-Patrick, the Agent, as the inquiry officer. He further said that the Agent was Patiala's own man and if we did not give statements as directed by the Nawab, cases against us would be started. He, then, said "Now you should think over which path you will follow. "If you will act according to the desires of the Maharaja, you will be satisfied also. Come to Lahore on the 3rd. The Maharaja Sahib will see you there in Patiala House." We all met Maharaja Sahib in Patiala House and the Maharaja said the same things as were said by the Nawab. At last we all said that we should state the truth. They began to dissuade us from this, but when we did not yield, the Maharaja said that we should agree to one thing, that we should go to our village

and nobody would call us. He said "You should not go to give statements upon your own initiative. If you will do this I will give you Rs. 2,000|- each." We agreed to this proposal. But the Maharaja said to B. Ram Singh and Partap Singh, this is not the condition for you. You will have to give Statements accordig to our directions. If you will not agree, you will be dealt with in other ways." Upon this threat, they yielded. We all got Rs. 2,000|- each and went to our villages. We all gave separate receipts for the money we received. I and Saran Kaur received Rs. 2,800|- for which I gave receipt. Saran Kaur was not present there. Her money was given to me. The Maharaja promised that he would give us arrears of Salaries, houses and lands after the Dalhousie Inquiry.

I make this true statement upon my own free will.

Sd|- Jagat Singh.

* * * * *

EX. 40.

Sardar Mangal Singh was examined regarding his interview with Maharaja of Patiala.

In 1927 I had an interview with the Maharaja of Patiala along with Master Tara Singh. It was a long interview. We saw him in connection with the incarceration of Sardar Sewa Singh in Patiala Jail. The Maharaja in the course of his talk told us that as the attitude of Sardar Sewa Singh was not that of a loyal subject and was deficient, I will make him straight so long as he does not mend his way, Maharaja made a grievance of Sardar Sewa Singh's putting on a black turban. He further said that unless he mended his ways he was not to be allowed to go and live out of the jail.

I do not remember the exact words, but I have given the substance of the long talk.

23-3-1935.

Sd|- Sardar Mangal Singh.

* * * * *

EX. 41.

STATEMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE OF 'THE AKALI PATRIKA'.

1. I was incharge of the editorial work of '*The Akali Patrika*', now daily newspaper published from Lahore.

2. I remember to have received a letter from Sardar Jasmer Singh Jaijee giving a complete story of his interview with late Sardar Sewa

Singhji. S. Wazir Singh Jaijee came to my office in Lahore and handed to me this letter signed by Sardar Jasmir Singh.

3. The leading article dated 9th July 1934 contain extracts from the above letter. They are taken from the same letter of Sardar Jasmir Singh.

4. I am sorry the original letter cannot be now traced, otherwise I was willing to produce the same before the Committee.

5. I could not come before the Committee at Amritsar, I am sending this statement of mine by post.

Ravel Singh,
Ex-Editor,

11-4-35.

"The Akali Patrika", Lahore.

* * * * *

EX. 41 (A).

EXTRACTS FROM 'THE AKALI PATRIKA'.

'The Akali Patrika', Lahore, Sunday Edition. 25th Har. 3rd July, 1934.

Sardar Sewa Singh's delicate condition.

He is on hunger-strike for the last two months and has become quite weak.

His weight has come down from 145 lbs. to 90 lbs. and he is unable to raise from his bed without aid.

Lahore, 6th July.

Getting permission telegraphically from the Superintendent Jail, Mrs. Sewa Singh and Sardar Jasmir Singh interviewed Sardar Sewa Singh on the 4th July. Interview took place at 7-30 a.m. and they (Sardar Jasmir Singh and Mrs. Sewa Singh) remained with the Sardar Sahib for one hour. Sardar Sewa Singh is kept in a small cell, which is surrounded by high walls. The cell is such where no fresh air can pass.

The interview was held in the verandah and Sardar Sewa Singh was lying on a cot. At the time of the interview the Superintendent Jail and the Daroga Jail were present. Neither Sardar Sewa Singh could rise from bed without aid nor he could talk with facility. His weight has come down from 145 lbs. to 90 lbs. It was gathered from Sardar Sewa Singh that he was on hunger-strike for the last two months. He at first as a protest against the maltreatment and his detention in a small and segregated

cell, reduced his diet and then finally resorted to hunger-strike. He became unconscious on June 2nd for 3 hours; and on June 3rd for three hours. To give him a bath two prisoners place him in a tub. Forced feeding started from June 13th and they administer by means of a tube 6 oz. of milk in the morning and $\frac{1}{4}$ seer in the evening. Water is also given to him at midday by means of a tube. In spite of being so weak he said that he is determined to continue his hunger-strike up to the time he is not treated decently.

THE AKALI PATRIKA LAHORE.

9th July, 1934.

The Leading Article.

Sardar Sewa Singh's delicate condition.

After a constant pouring in from 8th June to 1st of July, of telegrams from responsible societies, Panthic Jathas and relations the permission for an interview with S. Sewa Singh was at last obtained.

Sardar Jasmir Singh Jaijee and Sardarni Sahiba (Mrs. Sewa Singhji) interviewed S. Sewa Singhji on the 4th July. The interview is as follows:-

The cell in the Verandah of which Sardar Sahib lay, will be about 12 ft. long and 10 ft. by width and the courtyard was also of nearly the same dimensions. The walls of this courtyard will be nearly 20 ft. high where in this bad season the approach of fresh air is difficult. Sardar Sahib was so weak that on being called and after he had opened his eyes he could recognise S. Jasmir Singh after three or four minutes; when he tried to speak he stammered and could speak no more. After five minutes he spoke slowly; on trying to sit and speak he staggered again and sweat poured from the whole of his face. Being weak again, after about 10 minutes he very slowly began to speak and took breath after every word.

When asked the reason of so much weakness he said that it was two months hunger-strike due to the bad treatment of Patiala Jail Officials who he thought did not do so of their own accord.

When asked if he had been put in the "A" class he said that he was being treated like robbers and that he is not treated even as he was on previous occasions. He said, "I have now been particularly maltreated; on the 2nd and 3rd of June I fainted which might have given rise to the rumour of my death. My hunger-strike has been totally neglected, my clothes and bed are that of ordinary prisoners and a cot has been given only since the 3rd inst; since the day I entered the jail I have been kept

locked in a cell and at first I was getting water for bath once a day. Owing to my confinement in a segregated cell and indigestion I myself reduced my food and since two months I have altogether left it in the morning. 6 oz. of milk in the morning and $\frac{1}{4}$ seer in the evening is forcibly given with a tube. Since the 3rd of June a tub of water is kept beside me and whenever I wish, two men lift me and lay me in it. I cannot sit in it myself; my weight has been reduced from 145 lbs. to 90 lbs.

Until I am properly treated and relieved of my tortures I will keep on hunger-strike and this now I mean to keep till my last moments. I have not been asked to-day to interview any of my relatives and since I have entered the prison gates I have seen none saving my fellow prison-mates. Though after my fainting one day the Jail warder asked me that if I wished this condition of mine could be shown to my family. I took it as taunt and said that I did not wish it." In the end he desired to wish Sat Seri Akali to whole of the family and friends and tell them not to be anxious and hear everything as His will, to pray and not to lose "heart".

The above are the words which S. Sewa Singh Thikriwala said lying weak in his bed. Those do not require much criticism; readers can guess for themselves about the treatment that is being inflicted on that saintly personality.

A political leader is always put into jail in order to put an end to his political activities. If it is not the spirit of revenge, it cannot be understood what tortures compel Sardar Sewa Singh to hunger-strike. In reality S. Sewa Singh is on his death-bed and if this condition continues, who can say that he will not leave this world.

He has been kept in an open place in this jail once and has been kindly treated. What could the danger be if this treatment be meted out to him this time also. This is what cannot be understood. His imprisonment, if lengthy, in this condition continues and if anything ill-omened happens, all its responsibility will be on Maharaja Patiala's head and his martyrdom will cost him too much. It is hoped that the state tyrants will take note and thus will avoid dangerous consequences.

* * * * *

EX. 42.

S. Harchand Singh Jaijee in conformity with the Sapru-Fitz-Patrick.

1. I produce a copy of the statement that I made before Mr. Fitzpatrick (Now Sir James Fitz-Patrick) as also a copy of what is known as Fitz-Patrick—Sapru compromise of the affair. (A&B).

2. I was promised at the time that all my property, cash jewellery etc, will be returned to me. In fact that was the corner-stone of the Fitzpatrick-Sapru compromise.

3. I produce the copy of the petition that I presented to the Prime-Minister, Patiala requesting him to carry out the Fitzpatrick-Sapru compromise. (c)

4. I produce the copy of my petition to the A.G.G. showing how the state has gone back on its words in not carrying out Fitzpatrick-Sapru compromise. (d)

5. The following is all that I have received back from the State from my property wrongly taken possession of by the State.

- (1) All land (about 7,000 Bighas of land);
- (2) Houses at chural;
- (3) Haveli in Patiala city;
- (4) Rs. thirty-one thousand, being the balance of the produce for the year February 1929 to June 1930;
- (5) Jewellery worth about Rs. 600/-, including that removed from the person of my wife and daughter.

6. I may also state that the Nazim who took possession of our property and who was ordered to return our property in a proper way and who did not carry out the orders of the R. M. in connection with the rendition of accounts, has been dismissed from the state service for suspected dishonesty. A copy of the Patiala Gazette containing his dismissal order is attached herewith:—

Sd/- Harchand Singh Jaijee.

* * * * *

EX. 42 (A).

STATEMENT OF S. HARCHAND SINGH JAIJI OF RIASAT PATIALA,

Dated 26-6-30 before the Hon'ble the A.G.G. Punjab States at Patiala.

Before I enter into the facts of my case I have to make a mention of the old and the happy relations subsisting between the Patiala Durbar and my family starting from the time of Shree 108 Maharaja Dhiraj Mohindra Bahadur Baba Ala Singhji the founder of the State, to the present day running into a period of more than 200 years. Those relations have been very happy and cordial indeed. The famous and well-known ancestor of my house Bakhshi Bir Singhji Jaiji was the Bakhshi and

highest Civil Adalat Judge in the days of Shree Maharaja Karam Singh and Shree Maharaja Narindar Singhji of happy memories. It is not necessary to recapitulate the circumstances of the highest regard and estimation in which the above said gentleman was held by the said Maharajas; suffice it to say that they used to address him with the fond name of 'Bhai' (Brother). My grand-father had the privilege of working as a Judge and my father was the Excise Commissioner in the State.

I also hold the proud record of serving the present Ruler of the State for a period of 8 years. It is now the will of God that I, an old and loyal servant of the State, am subjected to all the indignities and inequities.

The misfortunes I had to face in my life are mostly due to the mechanistic and tactics of my cousin (Tao's son) S. Ghamdoor Singh who is also alleged to be the murderer of S. Lall Singh. He was subsequently expelled from the State and his property was confiscated. Some time after this he was allowed to come back and his property returned to him. He was permitted to come to Patiala about a month before the murder of S. Lall Singh. He was arrested one and a half year after the murder and awarded 20 years, but was released and pardoned after he had undergone a term of three and a half only. After regaining his freedom he took illegal possession of my houses in the joint village properties, and was actually after my life.

About Maghar 1985 three months before my arrest I was called by my mother-in-law to Sangrur and when I was returning back from there I happened to sit in a second class compartment which had in it Baba Kharak Singh also coming from some other station beyond Sangrur and going to Chhajli. There was one other gentleman also there. The train had only one second class compartment and it was a sheer chance that I had to sit in there. From Sunam the Tehsildar of Sunam came in and he with Baba Kharak Singh got down at Chhajli. The whole journey with Baba Kharak Singh would have hardly taken more than a quarter of an hour all told and I could have no chance of having any talk with Baba Sahib, yet the enemies had a chance of making false reports against me on this score and it was given out that I had purposely gone to meet Baba Kharak Singh. On hearing these news I tried to explain the thing personally to the big officials of the State to clear my position and in this connection saw the Inspector-General of Police and others and on their suggestion I sent my explanation in writing to the Nazim Sahib Sunam per registered post. This has further been explained in my petition for mercy sent to His Highness on the 7th Jeth 1986. (Kindly send for the above documents and peruse the same).

To return back to the story of Ghamdoor Singh I have further to add that his attacks on me have been a continuous series of losses to me both in person and property. At the time of partition, costly property in district of Hissar was taken by him with the nominal value of Rs. 30,000|- which a year after was sold away for Rs. 80,000|-. (This can be proved from documents). If the houses belonging to me in Patiala now after partition and those belonging to S. Ghamdoor Singh are seen, it would be apparent that their values differ enormously, inspite of the fact that I have spent money in addition and alterations of my share after the partition. The feelings of jealousy and enmity went to such a high pitch that he would not be coming to my house on occasions of marriage of deaths.

When the present Maharaja had his first marriage the wife of Ghamdoor Singh was appointed one of the Musahibs. On the Maharaja becoming independent Ghamdoor Singh was appointed as an A.D.C. and Sardar Deorhi.

On the occasion of the second marriage of His Highness the name of my wife was put in the list of Musahibs without my request or any information to me. As there were many wild reports in these days concerning the sexual failings of the Maharaja, whether false or true, I do not know, I was however jealous of my own honour and good name and so refused to send my wife to the Palace. Just at the very time one Gopal Singh who used to live in the house of S. Sewa Singh opposite to my house gave me a letter adding that it was meant for the wife of Ghamdoor Singh and asked me to deliver the same to my sister-in-law i.e. wife of Ghamdoor Singh. I felt very degraded that a lady of my family be receiving letters from outsiders. I read that letter and was horrified to know that the letter was in Gurmukhi character from His Highness himself and contained an invitation to her arrange for the sending of my wife to the Palace. Invitations then were sent from time to time for my wife, but on one pretext or another the conveyances were sent back.

After Ghamdoor Singh was turned out from the State I was called to work on the staff without any request on my part and I considered it as a piece of good luck to myself. About a year after this I happened to fall sick and the Maharaja went all the way from Patiala to Chuhral to know about my health. Just after getting down from the car he asked about my wife. She had gone to Nankana Sahib and when I told His Highness so, he went upstairs and after enjoying his dinner he asked me if I could make arrangements for some further entertainments of His Highness. I expressed my inability to do so as every lady in my Zamindari was like a mother or sister to me. His Highness got annoyed and at dead of night returned back to Patiala.

Once again when I asked for the return of a plot of land that had been confiscated by State in Tobba S. Gajjan Singh, a part of my property by partition the Maharaja told me point blank that if I were to comply with his desire of not returning the carriages empty when they were sent to fetch my wife he i.e. the Maharaja would gift away a whole village to me, what to say a small plot of land.

This was practically the first time that a direct mention of the desire of His Highness was made known to me. I felt greatly perplexed and the Maharaja Sahib and his party got exceedingly annoyed with me. Just about this time my wife died. Although I remained on the staff for two years more I did not marry again. I was set aside from the staff and then I arranged for my second marriage. Shortly after my second marriage. Shortly after my second marriage Ghamdoor Singh was arrested. I occasionally went to meet him at *Kar-i-Khas* in spite of the fact that he never kept good relations with me. I used to find him living very happy and it was then that I made a mention of this fact to my wife and showed her for the first time the letter of His Highness which was in my possession and which was given to me by Gopal Singh some time previously to be delivered to Ghamdoor Singh's wife. I then took a solemn promise from my wife that she would always be careful to save her honour and chastity as I felt very suspicious seeing an under trial prisoner on the charge of murder being provided with all sorts of comforts and facilities.

Things went on for some time and I always refused to send my wife to the Palace when I was one day called to the Baradari Palace and was told by the Maharaja that he had received many reports against me, and was finally ordered not to leave the city for a period of three months. After the expiry of this time, His Highness was one evening driving in his car when he saw me on the road and stopped the car and addressed me "*are you still obdurate or willing to accept my proposal,*" I replied in negative and His Highness replied "All right, I would get you served in the same way as Lal Singh has been by Ghamdoor Singh (Ghamdoor Singh had by now been released). This gave me a great mental shock and aroused feeling of great dread in my mind. I went home, related the whole story to my wife and to purohit of the family, and on account of grief we could not take our food that day. Realising this state of affairs I got myself confined in my house for a period of two years and more and sent many letters per registered post to His Highness to be forgiven and finally on the intervention of Sardar Bahadur Mehtab Singh, all restrictions were removed from me and I was allowed to go out of Patiala. His Highness met me again and used threatening language to me saying "*I would make you drink Haqqey Ka Pani and drive out all your Sikhi.*" I reported this to

Sardar Bahadur Mehtab Singh. I could very well gather from our circumstances also that the Maharaja had not thrown out the rancour of his mind as he would not address me in his own letters with the appellation of "Sardar" inspite of my being a free man, although, while there were restrictions on me, I was always addressed and written with Sardar preceding my name.

My house situated on Mall road was then demanded by the Maharaja to be required to be used as a Kennel and the price offered was 7000|- which was quite ridiculous as the out-houses alone had cost more than Rs. 10,000|- apart from the Land, garden and other buildings which may altogether be worth about Rs. 70,000|-. Yet the house was acquired and no compensation whatsoever paid to me. Practically the same day when the dispute about the house arose, the prize distribution of the Agricultural exhibition took place. I was awarded a medal for the best wheat. His Highness was distributing prizes and when my name was called, His Highness flew in a temper with the result that the clerks and other persons round about him got so upset that they handed a wrong medal to His Highness. This wrong medal instead of being handed to me was flung over from a distance and I was openly disgraced.

On the day of Basant Panchmi some days before my arrest the State car was again sent for my wife and had to go back empty. A few days after, while I was at my village Kothi in Chural, a posse of Patiala Constables fully armed accompanied with Jamil Hussain Nazim and other Thanedars and Tehsildars reached my place. It was midday of 12th Phagan 1985.

The house was surrounded and I was brought from the fields under hand-cuffs. I was brought before the Nazim and on my enquiry into the causes of my arrest I was told that they were known to His Highness alone. I asked permission to say my prayers and to see my Mukhtar in order to leave instructions, it was all refused. The Police and the officers entered my Zenana and I was made to sit in the row of servants. Some time after that my wife and children were all turned out of the house in a state of great distress, without sufficient clothes. My wife was not allowed even to put on her slippers. And I was the sorry sight-seer of all this inequity. Four of my servants were also arrested and in the evening I was brought to Sunam Police station. My house was ransacked under the name of search by the above said officers and it is reported to me that only a sum of -|10|- has been shown as recovered in cash from the house. Since then I am in the lock-up and all my property confiscated. My family and children are all starving and they are in great need and distress.

The charges on which I have been arrested and my confiscated are never told to me upto this date. The property that has been confiscated is valued at least at Rs. 20 Lacs and more and the annual income is Rs. 40,000|- to 50,000|- . There was lot of jewellery and cash and other materials in my house which have all been taken possession of by the State.

After my arrest I was not given any furniture, not even a bed, and had to sleep on the ground. For six days my hand-cuffs tied to the cot of a constable and I was made to lie down on the ground. I am in the habit of using Kruschen Salt and I asked to be supplied with a phial of the same. In reply I was taken on foot with hand-cuffs through the bazar all the way to the hospital a distance of about 2½ miles from the Kotwali with the additional disgrace of making an exhibition of my discomfiture and humility by taking through one set of Bazars and returning back through the others. I was given -4|- a day for all my requirements, food etc. After two months, on the recommendation of the doctor I was provided with a Charpoy. No paper or writing material, book or pamphlet is allowed to me nor am I allowed to write letters. The doctor would not come to me for months and months. The room in which I am confined has a door on one side only and is a kitchen room with a Kacha floor; the only luxury allowed to me is an earthen pitcher.

On 30th Chet 1936 I was presented before His Highness in Moti Bagh. I was taken there in hand-cuffs. Captain Sardar B. Janmejay Singh, Hony. Magistrate and Rais of Thethar Lahore and Captain Autar Singh Rais Thethar were also present there. The Maharaja in the presence of both these gentlemen expressed his great regret for all the trouble I had undergone, and added that he would be pleased to release me and my property and compensate me for my losses provided I agreed to contradict the statements of my wife and my son given before the States Peoples Conference. The Maharaja Sahib said that my release would be announced in the coming Durbar if I agreed to accept his proposal. I said I would think over the situation.

* * * * *

EX. 42 (B).

SAPRU-FITZ PATRICK COMPROMISE.

To

Sri 108 Sri Hazoor Maharaja Adhiraj Mahendra Bahadur,
Ruler of Patiala State,

P A T I A L A .

Although I do not admit that I have committed any wrong I still consider His Highness Maharaja Adhiraj of Patiala as my Malik and there-

fore ask his forgiveness. I beg to assure His Highness that *I have always been his true well-wisher* and intend to remain so in the future. I will not do anything which is not in conformity with my attitude of loyalty towards His Highness. I hope that all the doubts against me will be dispelled. I also assure His Highness that I would not take any part in any Political Movement of the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee against His Highness or His Government except that which is purely religious. I therefore hope that His Highness would accept this apology and would be pleased to release me and all my *confiscated property* inclusive of all the attached *jewellery, cash and other property as well as all the income of the property in deposit that may be due on taking accounts.*

With respects,
Well wisher and loyal to the Durbar
(Sd|-) Sardar Harchand Singh Jaijee.

Ratified and signed in my presence by Sardar Harchand Singh after consulting his wife and son and on the advice of his legal adviser Mr. Tawakley.

Sd|- J. A. O. Fitzpatrick,
A.G.G. Punjab States.

Patiala, 26-6-1930.

* * * * *

Ex. 42 (C).

To

21st July, 1930.

The Hon'ble Home Minister,
Patiala Government.

Sir,

With due respects I beg to state as follows:—

That on the 23rd Feb. 1929, Nazim Jamil Hussain and Sardar Asa Singh Tehsildar accompanied by some police officers arrested me in my own village. I was hand-cuffed and taken out of my house. The Nazim and Tehsildar both entered into the house and went on going through the house for nearly seven hours. They were all alone into the house, no other person was there, as long as they were into the house. Nearly after seven hours they came out of the house and took me to Sunam. I do not know when my house was searched and when the property list were prepared, at least this much I know that they did not prepare the property list in my presence or in the presence of my son or any other relation. At

the time, when I was arrested I left Rs. 15,000|- cash in my iron safe and Rs. 38,000|- hard cash and 1,000|- gold mohars nearly Rs. 35,000|- worth jewellery belonging to my wife were in another safe. As to my and my family's dresses and garments, you can judge yourself of what sort these shall be, when it is quite clear to you that mine is one of the oldest family in the State and all my ancestors were first grade Ahalkars. I do not want to go into details about other goods and furniture I left in the house when I was arrested.

Now, after my release, as His Highness has ordered the restoration of all my property I approached the Nazim of Sunam and requested him to give me a copy of list of the property that was taken into possession by them at the time of my arrest. They refused to supply me with the copy. My son, Kaka Wazir Singh then applied to you about this fact and you ordered the Nazim for supplying me with the copy of the list. I again applied to the Nazim for the list. But I was told that the copy of the original was not with them. The Nazim, then, ordered to Tehsildar Sardar Asa Singh to hand over the articles to me, that were taken into possession by them at the time of the arrest. The Tehsildar showed me the list of those articles at the time of giving over the charge of articles to me and to my great surprise I found that out of Rs. 53,000|- hard cash and 1,000 gold mohars nearly Rs. 32|- were entered in the list and he made over to me this sum and out of Rs. 35,000|- worth jewellery few ornaments have been made over to me that have been entered in the list I got from the Tehsildar at the time when I got possession of these ornaments and other articles. These ornaments are hardly worth Rs. 500|- and I have already shown these to you. You can judge yourself whether these can be used by any respectable lady.

From the above facts, it is clear that I have got back Rs. 600|- worth jewellery and cash out of more than one lac worth jewellery and cash. I have got back few simple dresses and garments out of so many costly garments of silks, kamkhabs, I have not mentioned in this application other missing articles which would be brought to your notice in detail afterwards.

In the end I make a humble request to do justice to me by restoring to me all the jewellery and the cash worth more than one lac which I left in the house when I was arrested.

I beg to remain,
 Sir,
 Your most obedient servant.
 Sd|- Harchand Singh Jaljee.

EX. 42 (D).

Choral. 23rd November, 1932.

From

Sardar Harchand Singh
 Zamindar Choral Kalan, Patiala State,
 Choral Kalan Via Jakhal Mandi.

To

The Agent Governor General,
 Punjab States,
 Lahore.

Sir,

After the lapse of a complete period of 30 months I feel myself quite pressed to approach you once more with my tale of misery which I hereby do with great respect and all apologies. I am positively alive of the facts that I should not approach you direct but the following circumstances will be found to justify my action in sending this petition direct to you.

It was on the 20th March 1930 that my son S. Wazir Singh Jaijee submitted his petition to the Political Secretary, Government of India, explaining therein all the circumstances which had led to my unjust and illegal arrest and detention in prison by the Patiala Durbar. I do not want to recapitulate in these lines how I was taken through the main bazars of Patiala in chains, how I was kept tied down to a charpoy in jail and how the honour and izzat of my woman-folk was mixed into dust at the cruel hands of a Muslim Nazim of the State, and how for two months and more I was made to sleep on bare floor and a cot was provided for me only when the jail doctor made a recommendation for the same, when he found that my health was gradually giving way owing to the various inflections on me. As the result of that confinement my health is completely ruined and though I am still dragging on I am a miserable specimen of human health as would be apparent from various medical certificates in my possession. My children were also under restraint for about a week and their education and studies had all to be suspended during the period of my confinement in jail. The motive for all this action on the part of the Patiala Durbar had already been explained in the petition above mentioned as well as in the statements made by my wife before the Parja Mandal and my own statement before you on the 26th June 1930. The Patiala Durbar on the other hand maintained that my incarceration was due to my alleged participation in the Akali movement though on one occasion the Maharaja Sahib of Patiala himself denied this fact in the

most clear terms in the presence of Sir Jogendra Singh, Raja Sir Daljeet Singh and S. Sir Sunder Singh Majithia. However, the cries of my son and my own as embodied in the said petition fell on good and responsive ears and the result was that on the 26th June 1930 I was released with a promise and undertaking on the Part of the Patiala Government that all my property would be released, my cash and jewellery would be given back to me and all the profits and income of my property pertaining to the period of my confinement would be handed over to me after a rendition of accounts.

I was released all right but so far as the other promises are concerned, they are still in the way of fulfillment in spite of the lapse of so many months.

After my release I was advised to lay my claims before the Patiala authorities and request them to settle them up. I did so by making a number of applications, also all to no purpose. My counsel and myself went personally to the Chief Minister, Nawab Liaqat Hayat Khan at Simla, Patiala and Delhi and on each occasion the Minister made promises that my matters will get a speedy disposal but things to this day are where they were on the 26th June 1930. The irony of fate is that the Patiala Government does not give me a definite reply one way or the other and wishes to leave the matter in suspense. Out of a large amount of cash taken possession of on the day of my arrest, the Patiala Government has made a return of Rs. 29|- odd in charge and Mansuri Paises of the value of Rs. 1|8|-. Similarly out of a long list of jewellery worth several thousands of rupees a few wretched and broken trinkets worth about two to three hundred rupees are given back to me as all the jewellery recovered from my house. The ridiculous part of the whole show is that the pieces returned to me are those generally worn by the rustic and peasant class women of the State. My Patiala Kothi and garden is still in the possession of the State lying absolutely uncared for and getting to racks and ruin. The costly construction of my Kothi is crumbling down to pieces and I cannot touch it or get it repaired. Similarly the garden with costly and rare fruit trees is getting on to a veritable jungle. The question of encroachment by my confirmed enemy and cousin Sardar Ghamdoor Singh on Shamlat lands in the Choral village has been agitated by me several times and on two occasions the Revenue Minister made enquiries once at the spot and again in Patiala, but the matter is still hanging fire and nothing has been decided, which means a constant trouble and worry to me.

In this state of disappointing suspense and being knocked from pillar to post in trying to get justice at the hands of Patiala authorities I can

see no other way of getting a redress of my wrongs but to approach you once more. You, Sir, have once proved to be my Seviour in the past and I have every hope that you would be pleased to come to my rescue once again. I am again a father of several children and I have to educate them, bring them up and marry them as well according to the standard of life expected from man of my status and position and unless I am made to win all the resources that are my own it is very difficult for me to maintain my position. The fact is that with the major portion of my property in the hands of the State I find myself quite a cripple and do not know what to do and which way to look.

I therefore pray you to kindly do something for me.

With my profound respects.

Sd/- Harchand Singh Jaijee.

* * * * *

EX. 43.

STATEMENT OF S. BHAGWAN SINGH S/O. ROOR SINGH OF VILLAGE LONGOWAL, DISTRICT SUNAM, PATIALA STATE, AGE ABOUT 45 YRS.

I was released from Patiala Jail on 1st January 1936. I have mentioned the details of the circumstances under which I was kidnapped from Br. In. and imprisoned in Patiala, in my memorial to the A. G. G., Punjab, a copy of which I submit herewith. I confirm the same. (Representation marked A.)

I was first tried for assaulting the police; that case was before the Magistrate of Bhatinda. I was sentenced to three years imprisonment and Rs. 150 fine. In this case I and S. Raghubir Singh of the Delhi Bar were co-accused and yet we were not kept together. We used to meet in the court. S. Raghubir Singh was represented by a lawyer. I was undefended. S. Raghubir Singh was acquitted and I was sentenced.

The second case against me was for offences alleged to have been committed by me in my speech at our Delhi Conference. Late Sardar Sewa Singhji was also charged with the same offence. But our cases were taken up separately by the same Magistrate, at Barnala. I was not allowed to visit Sardar Sewa Singh or to talk over about the case or employment of a Vakil for us.

They had about 16 to 17 cases against me, all for different speeches at different places and conferences in British India. I was convicted in all cases. My total sum of sentences in all cases put together and to be undergone separately was 44 years. In all served about 30 or 33 months.

During the time when the cases were going on I was kept at Barnala Lock Up. I was removed to Patiala Jail. There I was confined in a separate cell. There were very strict orders about me that even the jail warders were not allowed to approach me. Only the convict warders in special favour with the jailor were allowed to come to me to give me food etc. I was supposed to be in the Hospital so that I was not given any work and I was supplied food from the hospital which was hopelessly bad.

My cell was situated in a line of about 5 cells. I was on one side of the corner. Sardar Sewa Singh was on the other side of the corner. Between us there were other cells and high walls divided our cells. I used to hear the hummings of the voice of S. Sewa Singhji, and that was all.

More than a month and few days after the death of S. Sewa Singh my wife came to visit me. She informed me of the death of S. Sewa Singh Till then I had no information. So strict was the discipline against me.

All correspondence was refused to me. All papers were refused to me. Only Numberdar convict warder had communication with me who used to be absolutely mum with me.

* * * * *

EX. 43 (A).

To

The Hon'ble the Agent to the
Governor-General, Punjab States.

The petition of Sardar Bhagwan Singh Longowalia son of late Sardar Roor Singh of village Longowalia in the Patiala State. The petitioner respectfully submits as follows:—

1. That the petitioner is a subject of the Patiala State.
2. That in 1921 he was convicted to a term of 8 years imprisonment of false charges, was then released in 1923 on the occasion of 'Kar-Sarowar' at Amritsar.
3. That he since then being afraid of his arrest again, therefore began to live in British territory.
4. That in the year 1933 he was residing in Ludhiana City when in the month of August that year one Bachan Singh and Swarup Singh with two others came to see him and told him that there were many young graduates of Patiala State who were out of employment. The Maharaja of Patiala was giving services to outsiders and did not care for the youngmen of his own State. So they wanted to form an organisation and re-

quested him to attend the meeting for the purpose at village Rori district Hissar. The aforesaid persons laid their plans so cleverly and unsuspectingly that he fell into the trap and promised to attend the meeting.

5. That in September 1933 the same Swarup Singh accompanied by one Gurbachan Singh approached the petitioner in village Dodra District Hissar, where he had gone on some private work and asked him to accompany them to Rori to attend the meeting.

6. That the petitioner reposing confidence in them, accompanied them with a view to help them in achieving their object.

7. That the petitioner entrained from Badlada and met one S. Raghbir Singh Advocate of Delhi on the Railway Station of Bhatinda, who told the petitioner that he was also going to attend the same meeting because some legal assistance was required of him.

8. That the whole party got down at Kalianwali from where Rori is at the distance of 8 or 9 miles.

9. That the meals for the whole party were already ready at the house of a Zamindar at the village Kalianwali. The food of the petitioner was drugged. After taking the food, the petitioner got upon a camel's back along with Bachan Singh behind him.

10. That on the way near village Pakka Shahidan while the petitioner was still in British territory about 150 Patiala Policemen dressed in white clothes fell upon him when he was in intoxicating condition and forcibly took him to the adjacent Patiala territory and then arrested him on absolutely false charge under section 332|225 I.P.C. In the case against the petitioner and S. Raghbir Singh Advocate both Swarup Singh and Gurbachan Singh appeared as prosecution witnesses who are now employed in the Patiala Police. During the trial the treatment meted out to the petitioner was most inhuman and brutal.

11. That the petitioner has been General Secretary or important office-bearer of the Punjab Riyasti Parja Mandal ever since its formation upto now, and has led the whole agitation of the State subjects against H.H. Maharaja of Patiala. He led and gathered evidence before the All India States People Conference Enquiry Committee in 1930 against His Highness which resulted in the publication of 'the Indictment of Patiala'. Therefore H.H. was always anxious to decoy me since long. An attempt was made to do so, the account of which was published in different newspapers of this Province but the attempt was frustrated. This time the Patiala authorities succeeded in decoying the petitioner,

12. That the petitioner after being taken into custody by the Patiala authorities was sentenced by various courts after prolonged trial, on false accusations and concocted evidence to a total of 44 years rigorous imprisonment.

13. That the above facts which the petitioner is prepared to substantiate by ample evidence conclusively prove that there was a deep-laid conspiracy against the petitioner, with the full knowledge and assent of the higher authorities of the Patiala Darbar and in pursuance of that conspiracy the State authorities used violence on the petitioner while he was in the British territory and therefore under the protection of the British Indian Laws.

14. That during the trial of the case against him at Bhatinda the petitioner was taken to Patiala by the State Police where he was kept confined in *Karkhas* for a long time and subjected to all sorts of torturous treatment and later on produced before the Yuvraj who threatened the petitioner with death if he did not make the statement which Amirchand Inspector of Patiala Police wanted him to make.

15. That the petitioner has been made to suffer grievously in body and in mind because of the treatment given to him and the privations he was made to undergo while in jail in the Patiala State.

16. That the petitioner was reduced to mere skeleton and a physical wreck and released from Patiala Jail and to give an idea of what he looked his photograph is enclosed which was taken just after his release from the State Jail.

The humble petitioner therefore prays that your honour may be pleased to take steps to order enquiry into the brutal and inhuman treatment meted out to him after having been decoyed from British India in violation of the British Indian Laws thereby enhancing the wrongs done to the humble petitioner. The court files of the cases of the petitioner may also be sent for from the different State courts.

EX. 44 (A).

Confidential

D.O.

To,

The Superintendent,
Reception
Patiala.

Patiala, 17-8-23.

1st Bhadan 1980.

Dear Sir,

Regarding supply of rations etc., to the guests at Bahadargarh. I am directed by the Prime Minister to ask you to please arrange the supply.

according to the requisitions sent by their principal man. Generally Bhai Ram Singh will send the requisitions but when the requisition is signed by some other guest it should be got verified later by Bhai Ram Singh. They can change the scale according to their actual need. This would be more economical than supplying them at the Indian guest Department scale per head.

If at any time special diet articles are required for Sikh persons the same should also be supplied on receiving a requisition. The Tehyildar of the Indian Guest Departmental may kindly be instructed to comply immediately.

Yours sincerely,

Sd/- Ruplal Razadan, P. A.

* * * * *

EX. 44 (B).

No. 368

From,

Rai Sahib Buta Ram, M.R.A.S.,
The Controller of Palaces,
Patiala.

To,

The Prime Minister,
Patiala.

Dated 23-4-25. 11th Besakh 1982.

Sir,

Two confidential guests with 4 servants are still being entertained at the Indian Guest House. I have therefore the honour to request you to please let me know if this is to be continued.

I have etc.,

Sd/- Buta Ram,
Controller of Palaces.

Ex. 44 (C).

No. 602

From,

Raja Sir Daya Kishen Kaul, K.B.E., C.I.E., D.B.
Prime Minister Patiala Government.

To,

The Controller of Palaces,

Patiala Dated 12-5-25.
Patiala. 30th Besakh 1932.

Subject :—Entertainment of special guests and their servants.

Sir,

With reference to your letter No. 368 dated 23-4-1925 on the above subject I have the honour to say that the entertainment of these guests may hereafter be met from propaganda and secret funds and not charged to guest Department. The Senior Supdt. of Police C.I.D. and Sardar Sahi Deorbi Mualla have been asked to arrange accordingly.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

Sd/- D. C. Sabni,

for Prime Minister, Patiala Government.

* * * *

EX. 44 (D).

From,

Major Sardar Kishen Singh,
Sardar Sahib Deorhi Mualla,
Patiala.

To,

The Superintendent,
Reception Department,
Patiala.

Patiala, Dated the 3-10-80|16-1-24.

Re:—Furniture given in Bahadurgarh Fort.

Sir,

Under orders of the Prime Minister dated 13-1-24 I have the honour to request that you will kindly order Mir Moratib Ali, Tehvildar, Indian

Guest House to arrange for obtaining receipt of person, details of which, I have verbally told him for all the articles which were sent to Bahadar-garh Fort. These will of course be receive back.

I have etc.

R 6603|17-1-24.

Sd|- Kishen Singh, Major,
Sardar Sahib Deorhi Mualla Patiala.

* * * *

EX. 44 (E).

Correspondence regarding the settlement on land of Bhai Ram Singh's Party where in the Maharaja sanctions monietory and other help.

The Akalis imported by Sir Dya Kishan Kaul during Nabha Case were finally given land according to the annexed schedule (with a little additional proposals) to which their leader Bhai Ram Singh has given his full consent, but later on they refused to take possession on the plea of its quality and being far away from their original homes etc. I have gone through the case very carefully as commanded and have come to the conclusion that the final settlement arrived at by the Ex-Prime Minister must be enforced specially in view of the fact that these men have not forced kept good behaviour, according to the understanding on which they had surrendered themselves to the state.

Bhai Ram Singh was not allotted any landed property at the time as his case was left for the consideration of His Highness, and now it is recommended that he may also be awarded four hundred Bighas of Nazul land in the State on the clear understanding that he will be responsible for the future good conduct of all these Akalis and it will be considered the *final chance of their reformation.*

The proprietorship of the land given will be for their life time only without the title for sale or mortgage.

May it please your Highness.

The above proposal is humbly submitted for Royal approval and sanction. If approved, the possession of land can be given to the Akalis on Nirmala Akadeshi (30-6-28 | 18 2|85) of this year when all expenses in connection with these men will cease. Some monetary help from the State for their settling down if given to each of them will make them very grateful. Your Highness Home minister agrees fully with my view in this case.

11-5-28.

I beg to remain,

Sir,

Your Highness humble & loyal servant,

(Sd.) Hazoora Singh Dhillon,

Officer in Special duty, Foreign Minister Patiala.

Margin,

500|- cash to build house. Sixteen persons including Prem Kaur. Initial J. S. Hazoora Singh and Mr. R. R. Dass.

18-5-28.

Sanctioned Sd|- Maharaj Adhiraj.

Copy forwarded to I. G. P. S. P. C. I. D. for favour of information and compliance R. R. Dass has been asked to indent for Rs. 8,000|- as noted on the margin.

(Sd.) Hazoora Singh Dhillon,
President Special Committee, His Highness Government
Patiala Camp Solon.

20-5-30.

Sd|- Jiwanlal.

* * * * *

EX. 45 (F).

PAY LIST OF AKALIS OF BHAI RAM SINGH.

Beginning from chet 1983 (38 months)

Name.	Due.	Received.	Balance.	Rate.
1. Bhai Ram Singh	7600	4000	3600	200 P.M.
2. Pratap Singh	5000	2100	2900	
3. Maher Singh	1900	1000	900	50 P.M.
4. Jagat Singh	1900	1000	900	-do-
5. Mrs. Sarankani				
w/o. Jagat Singh	760	200	560	20 P.M.
6. Harban Singh	1900	1100	800	50 P.M.
7. Jamal Singh	1900	1000	900	-do-
8. Harman Singh	1900	1000	900	-do-
	<u>22860</u>	<u>11400</u>	<u>Rs. 11460</u>	

Besides vide the Akalis account attached herewith they claim another three months pay, which according to them was stopped three months prior to their arrest in chet 1983. For this D.M. has already been asked to verify it from Patiala. If this comes out to be true then the following accounts shall have to be paid to the following:—

1. Bhai Ram Singh	@ 200 P.M.	600|-
2. Jagat Singh	@ 50 P.M.	150|-
3. Sarankani	@ 20 P.M.	60|-
4. Harban Singh	@ 50 P.M.	150|-
5. Mehar Singh	@ 50 P.M.	150|-
6. Jamal Singh	@ 50 P.M.	150|-

Total 1260|-

Ex. 44 F. (1).

L.H.F.

Routine Notes

Pay list of Akalis of
Bahadur Garh Fort

Army for Oct 1923 (30th month)

Name	Due	Amount	Balance	Rate
1. [Name]	7600	4000	3600	200/-
2. [Name]	5000	2100	2900	150/-
3. [Name]	1700	1000	700	Rs 10/-
4. [Name]	1700	1000	700	Do
5. [Name]	760	200	560	Rs 10/-
6. [Name]	1700	1000	700	Rs 10/-
7. [Name]	1700	1000	700	Do
8. [Name]	1000	1000	0	Do
22,800		11,400		Rs 11,400/-

For the sake of Akalis account note
attached herewith they should receive
the pay which according to their
order is due to them for the month
of Oct 1923. The sum Rs. 11,400 has been
sent to the bank for the following amount
has to be paid as follows:-

1. [Name]	200/-
2. [Name]	150/-
3. [Name]	60
4. [Name]	60

Pay-list of Akalis at Bahadur Garh Fort bearing the signature of Daya-Kishan Kaul and the initials of L.H (Liakat Hayat.)

5. 1848
 6. 1848
 7. 1848
 8. 1848
 9. 1848
 10. 1848
 11. 1848
 12. 1848
 13. 1848
 14. 1848
 15. 1848
 16. 1848
 17. 1848
 18. 1848
 19. 1848
 20. 1848
 21. 1848
 22. 1848
 23. 1848
 24. 1848
 25. 1848
 26. 1848
 27. 1848
 28. 1848
 29. 1848
 30. 1848
 31. 1848
 32. 1848
 33. 1848
 34. 1848
 35. 1848
 36. 1848
 37. 1848
 38. 1848
 39. 1848
 40. 1848
 41. 1848
 42. 1848
 43. 1848
 44. 1848
 45. 1848
 46. 1848
 47. 1848
 48. 1848
 49. 1848
 50. 1848
 51. 1848
 52. 1848
 53. 1848
 54. 1848
 55. 1848
 56. 1848
 57. 1848
 58. 1848
 59. 1848
 60. 1848
 61. 1848
 62. 1848
 63. 1848
 64. 1848
 65. 1848
 66. 1848
 67. 1848
 68. 1848
 69. 1848
 70. 1848
 71. 1848
 72. 1848
 73. 1848
 74. 1848
 75. 1848
 76. 1848
 77. 1848
 78. 1848
 79. 1848
 80. 1848
 81. 1848
 82. 1848
 83. 1848
 84. 1848
 85. 1848
 86. 1848
 87. 1848
 88. 1848
 89. 1848
 90. 1848
 91. 1848
 92. 1848
 93. 1848
 94. 1848
 95. 1848
 96. 1848
 97. 1848
 98. 1848
 99. 1848
 100. 1848

Pay list of the Akalis (Continued).

XLIV G
13.6.35

My dear President,

Thanks for your
note. I have consulted the
Council. Only B. Ram Singh &
Pitab Singh will be required. The
others may be sent away.

Wishing to be excused for the
delay.

Yours truly
Hajoor Singh Whittow

Document showing how defence arrangements were made for the Dalhousie Committee by the Patiala Officers. Important witnesses are made to go away under instructions of Important Patiala Officials.

DEV 426

Sardar Sant Singh of
Pargodha has arrived.
He is very busy with his
land work just now
& wants to go back as
early as possible.

Could Sir Tej
produce his tomorrow,
after opening speech of
Camp I is finished?
This Sardar Sant Singh
could go back tomorrow
afternoon.

Nawab
Dahur

Jiwanlal
15/4/20

Document showing how Dalhousie Enquiry was managed by the officials of the Patiala Durbar. The above note is written by Pandit Jiwanlal, in charge of the Defence arrangements, and the marginal reply bears the signature of L. H. (Nawab Liakat Hayat, the Prime-Minister of Patiala.)

This sum may be dismissed at Lahore after D.M. has varified that the Akalis pay was stopped three months prior to their arrest.

13-6-30.

Sd|- Jiwanlal.

For favour of sanctioning payment of Rs. 11,460|- for the present. Rs. 11,400|- already been paid as per details on the reverse.

Sd|- Dayakishan Kaul.

REWARDS :

Bhai Ram Singh's reward :—

The lowest figure recommended	12,000|-
to in December 1925.	500|-
Maher Singh	12,500|-
	11,460|-
Total to pay as per statement attached—	
	Total .. Rs. 23,960|-

13-6-30.

Sd|- Jivanlal.

For favour of sanctioning payment my detailed note is an unpay account attached herewith.

Sanctioned L. H.—15-6-30.

Sd|- Dayakishan Kaul.

* * * *

EX. 44 (G).

Swing Side—13-6-30.

My dear Punditji,

Thanks for your note. I have consulted the lawyer. Only B. Ram Singh and Partap Singh will be required. The others may be sent away.

Hoping to be excused for the delay,

Yours Sincerely,

Sd|- Hazirra Singh Whillow.

* * * *

EX. 44 (H).

15-6-30.

Sardar Sant Singh of Pargodha has arrived. He is very busy with his land work just now and wants to go back, as early as possible.

Could Sir Tej produce him to-morrow, after opening speech of Cant I is pushed ?

Thus Sardar Sant Singh could go back to-morrow after-noon.

Nawab Sahib.

Sd|- Jiwanlal.

TABULAR STATEMENT ABOUT THE GRIEVANCES, DEMANDS,
BEEN SUBMITTED BY THE

Serial No. (1)	Name (2)	Present address and residence (3)	1. Present occupation. 2. Any other special sources of income. (4)	Grievances. (5)
1.	Bhai Ram Singh.	Office of the "Gair Kashtkar" weekly, Near Jallianwalla Bagh, Amritsar.	1. Editing the "Gair Kashtkar." 2. Nil.	1. Non fulfilment of promises of cash reward and land for past services. 2. Unlawful detention of 14 months in C.I.D. lock-up, in a case, in which no judicial enquiry was held. 3. Police atrocities in the course of investigation, in which continuous threats were offered to get false statements signed by him. 4. Maltreatment offered to his relatives who off and on had to come from long distances to enquire about his health & case. 5. Loss of health on account of police torture. 6. Heavy monetary losses suffered during the detention period while his wife and children were left without protection and resources— had to borrow money from door to door for travelling & food expenses. 7. Confiscation of private furniture by the police. 8. Forcible removal of private furniture by Bijla Singh Akali and his wife Prem Kaur.

(I).

ETC., OF THE BAHADURGARH AKALIS ALLEGED TO HAVE
PATIALA C.I.D. TO THE MAHARAJA.

Demands. (6)	Statements & complaints made so far against Patiala. (7)	Remarks. (8)
<p>1. Fulfilment of promises of each reward and land</p> <p>2. Pay for the period beginning from the time of arrest up to date.</p> <p>3. Payment of Rs. 500/- for repair of houses in land which was sanctioned after Raja Sahib left the State.</p> <p>4. Compensation of monetary losses suffered during the period of detention in C.I.D. Lock-up.</p> <p>5. Restoration of private furniture confiscated by the police and forcibly removed by Bhai Bijla Singh and Prem Kaur.</p> <p>6. Adequate punishment in the interest of justice to the following officers and others responsible for his sufferings and giving bad name to His Highness:—</p> <p>6|1. Hazura Singh Dhillon.</p> <p>6|2. S. Gurdial Singh Dhillon.</p> <p>6|3. S. Bharpur Singh S. Police.</p> <p>6|4. Abdul Aziz Dy. S. Police.</p> <p>6|5. Abdul Latif S. Inspector.</p>	<p>1. A written report sent to the A.G.G. Punjab States after release from Patiala, asking for safety and protection in the British Territory. This contains no complaint or attack H. H's. Govt., about any particular fact. No secret is divulged in the report.</p> <p>2. No other statement made before the Enquiry Committee or Akalis.</p> <p>3. His statement included in the Enquiry Committee report, as produced by "Kavishar" is neither signed or written by him.</p>	<p>Is very much trusted by Master Tara Singh and other Akalis and commands great influence among them.</p>

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
2.	Harnam Singh	Village Khatra Distt. Ludhiana.	<p>1. Zimindari.</p> <p>2. Once received Rs. 200/- from the Maharaja of Nabha through Master Tara Singh.</p> <p>3. Received a monthly stipend of Rs. 50/- for four months from the Maharaja of Nabha.</p>	<p>1. Non-fulfilment of land grant promised for past services:</p> <p>2.) Just as described</p> <p>3.) in Bhai Ram</p> <p>4.) Singh case.</p> <p>5.)</p> <p>6.)</p> <p>7. Payment of Rs. 100/- of his pay for two months to Bijla Singh by the Deohri Dept: which Bijla Singh has not given to him and is still due.</p>
3.	Harbans Singh.	-Do-	-Do-	<p>1. The land allotted to him is Barani & yields very little income.</p> <p>2.)</p> <p>3.) Just as described</p> <p>4.) in Bhai Ram</p> <p>5.) Singh's case.</p> <p>7. Police officers and S. Hazura Singh Dhillon influenced the High Court Patiala to decide a Civil Case against his relations (Case Bir Singh of Mausarpur Bakhshish Singh & Maghar Singh.</p>

(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
<p>Grant of land (115 Bi-ghas)</p> <p>2.)</p> <p>3.)</p> <p>4.) as above.</p> <p>5.)</p> <p>6.)</p> <p>7.)</p> <p>8. Recovery of Rs. 100 from Bijla Singh referred to in No. 7 of Col:</p>	<p>1. A statement written by Sham Singh Akali clerk of Praja Mandal offices, Lodge Road, Lahore an old protefy of H. H. Nabha at the instance of Master Tara Singh. The statt: was written in Gurmukhi and signed by him.</p> <p>2. A signed report drafted in English by Master Tara Singh containing allagations as in the above Statt: but not so detailed sent to the A. G. G.</p>	<p>An English translation of his statt: will be found at page 22 of the Appendix G. of the Indictment report.</p>	
<p>1. Change of present land he has taken possession of already.</p> <p>2.)</p> <p>3.)</p> <p>4.) as above.</p> <p>5.)</p> <p>6.)</p> <p>7.)</p> <p>8. Justice may be done in case referred to in 7 of Col: 5. The case is now pending with H. H. His relatives Ver Bakhshish Singh and Maghar Singh (early decision solicited).</p>	<p>-Do-</p>	<p>His statement is not traceable in Appendix G.</p>	

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
4.	Mehar Singh of Sailana (Nabha).	Khanna.	(as per No. 2.)	Nos. 1 to 6 as described in the case of Harbans Singh. 7. Bijla Singh forcibly removed Rs. 250/- from his room in Patiala and did not return the money because of Patiala police help.
5.	Partap Singh.	Amritsar.	1. Nil. 2. Receives Rs. 60/- per month from H.H. N. through Master Tara Singh.	Nos. 1 to 5 as described above in the case of Mehar Singh and Harbans Singh. 6. Grave injustice done to him by S. Sukhdev Singh Naib Nazir in a criminal case Partap Singh Ver Jaimal Bharai at the instigation of Hazura Singh Dhillon.
6.	B. Jaimal Singh.	Chak Dana Distt: Jullundur (Nawashehr Tehsil).	1. School Master in Chak Dana is going to resign from this work.	1 to 6 as above in the case of Bhai Ram Singh. 7. House searched by Patiala police in Chak Dana, his home, locks of houses broken. Most likely and false accertions laid against him before the village to injure his reputation. (Bishen Singh S. I. organised this raid. Also Abdul Latif S.I. was with him.
7.	Bhai Jaga Singh.	Village Akalyana Tehsil Garhshankar, Dist. Hoshiarpur.	1. Owns a lorry and drives it as taxi.	1 to 6 as above in this case. 7. Bijla Singh owes Rs. 80/- to him. 8. His buffaloes worth Rs. 150/- was forcibly taken away by Bijla Singh, also his clothes etc., 9. His son Shingara Singh was betrothen in

(6)	(7)	(8)
1.) 2.) 3.) 4.) as above 5.) 6.) 7.) 8. Recovery of Rs. 250| from Bijla Singh.	As per No. 2 (Harnam Singh's state- ment. -do-	An English translation of his statement will be found at page 16 of appandix G. of the In- dictment report.
1.) 2.) 3.) —100 bighas 4.) as above 5.) 6.) 7.) 8. Justice in criminal case mentioned in No. 6 of col: 5.	1. Made a statement be- fore Master Tara Singh at Amritsar. 2. Sent a similar state- ment in the form of re- port to A. G. G.	Works as a paid agent for H; H. N. through Master Tara Singh and is also associated with various anti- Patiala workers.
1 to 4 as above) Bha) Ram also 6 as above) Singh	3. Made a statement in oral examination before the Peoples state Enquiry Committee (page 81 of Appendix D. of the In- dictment report). 1. Made a statement be- fore Master Tara Singh at Amritsar. 2. Also sent a statt: in the form of a report to A.G.G.	
6|6. Bishen Singh S. Inspector.	Nil.	Nil.
6|7. Jafar Ali. S. Inspector.		
6|8. Bulaki Ram Head constable.		
6|9. Mohd Hussain Head constable.		
6|10 Bijla Singh Akali 6|11. Prem Kaur. 6|12. Kartar Singh Akali (H. C. Nasir Hussain).		

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
				<p>Patiala State— grand daughter of Basant Singh of Rasulpur, Tehsil Sirhind. Jewellery & cash worth about Rs. 2000|- was also given to Basant Singh on account of his arrest the other party refused to marry their daughter with his son & did not return the jewellery & cash.</p> <p>10. Military pension stopped on account of detention in Patiala C. I. D. lock-up Rs. 96|- (per year).</p> <p>11. While he was unlawfully detained in the C.I. D. lock up at Patiala, his wife Saran Kaur was falsely implicated in a criminal case in British territory and there was no one to help him and look after the case. She was convicted to 1 year rigorous imprisonment. He on release from Patiala got her acquitted by filing an appeal Rs.1300|- were spent on the case, which S. Gurdial Singh Dhillon through S. I. Bishen Singh had promised to pay but no payment was made.</p> <p>12. One square of land was granted to him for military services which he left for the sake of Patiala, on hope being given that land equal value will be given in Patiala State. But this promise was not fulfilled.</p>

(6)	(7)	(8)
7. A Palta gravting Chahi or Nehri land with Biswedari rights.		

EX. 44 (J).

I beg to submit herewith as desired the attached statement showing the proposals made for granting privileges to Bijla Singh and Prem Kaur, the grants actually made and their grievances together with redress applied for, for favour of your perusal.

Raja Sahib.
20-5-1930.

Sd/- Raghbir Singh,
I. G. Police.

EX. 44 (K).

Raghbir Singh's Note about Bijla Singh.

Statement showing grants and privileges proposed for, made and given to, together with the grievances and their redress on behalf of Bijla Singh and his wife Prem Kaur.

No.	Name.	Grants proposed in the first instance.	Grants made and grievances.	Redress as to what is wanted.
1.	Bijla Singh.	1. Grant of 500 bighas of land with full hereditary rights of ownership. 2. Rights of partnership in the joint common land of the village & thoroughfares. 3. A residential house. 4. Monthly pay of Rs. 115|-.	1. Only 300 bighas of land with rights of ownership during only his life-time, have been granted; 200 more bighas and full rights have not been granted. 2. This right is not granted. 3. No house has so far been given. 4. Pay for a year before the possession of the land was made over, not given.	1. Grant of 200 more bighas of land with rights of hereditary ownership. 2. Grant of rights of partnership in the joint common land and thoroughfares of the village solicited. 3. Grant of money for a residential house (Rs. 500|-). 4. Payment of one year's pay @ Rs. 115|- p.m. amounting to Rs. 1380|- requested.
2	Prem Kaur.	1. A residential house at Patiala. 2. Monthly pay Rs. 50|- for whole life.	1. No house has been given. 2. No pay has been granted for the last 2 years.	1. Grant of cash for a house at Gharuan. 2. Arrears of pay for 2 years may be paid.

Ex. 44. (J).

I beg to submit herewith as desired
the attached statement showing the proposals
made for granting privileges to Bijla Singh
and Prem Kaur, the grants actually made and
their greivances together with redresses
applied for, for favour of your perusal.

Raja Sahib

Raghu Singh
Dm. T. S. Akali

20-5-1930.

Document showing the dealings of the Patiala Officials with the Party of Bijla Singh, the Babbar Akali leader. The Services of the Party were requisitioned for the purpose of the Bahadur garh Bomb Factory.

PART II

There has been a persistent demand for a cheap edition of the Patiala report. The report is a big affair and inspite of a demand for the same financial considerations prevented us from issuing a second edition. Then came the occasion for the second Patiala report. For the correct understanding of this second report, some extracts from the first report were inevitable.

We are therefore adding herein, by way of a separate part, some important portions of the first Patiala report. To make it complete we have inserted everything that is published about the Fitz-Patric inquiry on the "Patiala Indictment."

This should also serve as a cheap edition of the "Patiala Indictment".

Publishers.

CONTENTS.

SECTION I.

THE REPORT.

SECTION II.

THE MEMORIAL TO THE

SECTION III.

IMPORTANT STATEMENTS.

1. Statement of .. S. Nanak Singh
2. „ Dr. Baxis Singh
3. „ S. Suhavar Singh
4. „ Shree Rajendra Kaur
5. „ S. Vazir Singh
6. „ S. Ridha Singh

SECTION IV.

FITZ-PATRIC INQUIRY.

1. The Government Communique.
2. The resolution of the Conference.
3. Mr. Amritlal Sheth on the Fitz-Patric Inquiry.
4. Patiala's reply to Mr. Amritlal Sheth.
5. Findings of the Fitz-Patric inquiry.

SECTION I: REPORT

—:0:—

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 Sardul Singh Cavisher Esqr.
4. Prof. G. R. Abhyanker.
5. Amritlal D. Sheth Esqr.

Sardar 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 Bombay in the month of May in 1929 under the

presidentship 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 discussion 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 gadi." 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.

Obstacles on the Way.

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.

Counts of Indictment.

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 following 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 confiscations 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.

Committee's Labours

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 Lu-

dhiana, many of whom took part in the general discussion with the Committee about the state of administration in Patiala and gave great help for enabling the Committee to understand 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 Riyasti 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 relevant extracts-and not full statements-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.

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 the 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 was then murdered by Gamdur Singh and others, (9) that Gamdur Singh did this for selfish ends.

Undisputed Facts

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 today 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 Pa-

tiala. 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.

What a Diary Reveals

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 statement 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 consequences of their stating the truth, all the other actors of the drama can be easily traced and the hidden hand behind this heinous 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 services 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 a 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 Sardar 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 the fort 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.

The Hamlet of the Drama

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 occurrences 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' People's Conference during the last week of December 1929.

Facts Revealed in Dr. Baxis Singh's Statement

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 Government of the Punjab to surrender him to Patiala, the Government of the Punjab have refused to surrender him. This goes to prove that the Government have some faith in the statements of Dr. Baxis 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.

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 him his wife, daughter and son. All of them have disappeared today. 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 the father to trace him have gone in vain.

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 and 36 A.
3. Bhai Ramsingh'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) Ramsingh. (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 left 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 away from Patiala, he says he entrusted his wife and children to British C.I.D. Whether this is a fact, can only be testified by the C.I.D. Officer concerned, namely Rai Saheb Bhagwandas. Naturally we could not have his evidence. But when we are believing all the other portions of Dr. Baxis Singh's statement, 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 disappeared when they were in the jurisdiction of Patiala.

36. Then about their fate. So far as the son of the doctor 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 body 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 Baxis Singh narrates another story. His authority for this is Meher Singh. According to Baxis Singh Meher Singh was directly concerned in the murder. This Me-

her Singh has given his statement to the Punjab Riyasati Mandal. But he has not appeared before this Committee. Baxis 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 Baxis Singh says that Meher Singh would not confess this murder before any one, because that would make him liable for murder. Baxis 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. Baxis 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 allegation

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 today 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 him 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, and 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 Government 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. It 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 RS. 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 Rs.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 written order of any kind has been passed by the State.

Evidence in support of the allegation

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

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

(2) Evidence of Sardar Vajir Singh, Ex. 30 and Ex. 30 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 and 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. The Patiala Police concoct 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, weapons, etc.
2. The case concocted by the Patiala Police against Baxis Singh for keeping bomb materials, weapons, etc.
3. The case concocted by the Patiala Police against Sardar Diwan 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 Baxis Singh, Ex. 36.
- (3) Evidence of Suhawa 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 the 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., in the house of Santa Singh. 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 Committee 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. Baxis 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 today 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 CONFISCATIONS OF PROPERTY.

Substance of the allegations

60. The Maharaja of Patiala arrested one Sardar Seva Singh Thikriwala, 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 confiscation 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 make 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 mile 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, superfluous 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 compelled 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 near by 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 this count:

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 surrounding 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 risks 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:

- (1) 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 made to 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 manoeuvres.
- (3) During the visits of Revenue and Police officials, including even the smallest of them like Patwaris.

Begar of Men

77. Begar can be classified as under:

- (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.

Exactions of provisions without paying 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 near by and we were informed that for four days all milk and butter of the whole village were 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 Committee 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 theatre. 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. This movement of the Army at the time of the tour of Sardar Kharag Singh, as also the annual manoeuvres 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 which 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 householder 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 causes great hardship to the people.

COUNT TEN; NON-RETURN OF THE WAR LOAN

Substance of the allegation

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 this 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 made 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 for 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 whether the money is lying somewhere in the transit in other departments of the State. All this confusion is due to one defect, namely 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, although recovered by the State from the British Government, is not refunded to the people and if this is proved, 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 GRIEVANCES.

Substance of the allegation

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 constructed 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 innumerable hardships to the ryots. Agriculturists of some villages are treated as possessing no proprietary 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 in support of this count:

Exs. 21, 25, 26, 48, 50, 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 witness that the Tehsildar went to their village and declared an increment of 33 p.c. 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 the 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 for extorting more money from the ryots of these villages
- (4) That non-recognition of proprietary 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 necessary 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 the people's 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 addnig 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 gentlemen 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 the existence of 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 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 public funds and does not render any account of them for

the purposes they were meant for. This is a sheer breach of faith.

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 conscious 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.

Character of the Enquiry

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" ground 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 on the 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. Abhyakar
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'être' 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 question 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 the 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.

Laxmidas Rowjee Tairsee.

[The Patiala Enquiry 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.]

SECTION II: MEMORIAL TO THE VICEROY

—:0:—

MEMORIAL TO THE VICEROY BY TEN CITIZENS OF THE PATIALA STATE

Exhibit 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 Frederick Lindley Wood,
Baron Irwin of Kirbey-under-Dale, G.M.S.I., G.M.I.E.,
Governor-General and 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 the 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.

Lord Reading's Letter recalled.

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 ulti-

mate 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 ultimate admitted responsibility for preventing oppression and mal-administration in Indian States.

"A Terrible Tale of Woe"

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 the 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 wo-

men, 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.

- (k) Soon after S. Lal Singh, the younger brother of his Highness's father-in-law, S. Gurnam Singh, had refused 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 aforesaid 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 Bakshish 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.

Two A. D. C.'s Murdered.

- (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 order of the Maharaja without any trial, because he had failed to supply the 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 widow 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

Indecent Overtures.

- (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 Maharaja. On the intervention of the Political Agent, the Rani was permitted 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 unfortunate 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.

A Peasant's wife Abducted.

- (n) A deputation of some respectable Mussalmans waited on the Political 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. Zohara, 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.

Four Rajput Girls burnt.

- (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 occurrence. 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 abductor, that she was being harassed by the Maharaja's officials and that her life was in danger. Soon after this report the unfortunate woman died under suspicious circumstances.

In London.

- (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 some time 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.

A Reign of terror.

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.

Appointments made on favouritism.

5. That the Maharaja squanders away lacs 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.

The Sum total effect.

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 endowments 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 commemorate the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria of blessed me-

mory, 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.

Incidence of Taxation

- (d) The incidence of direct taxation per head is now almost ten times 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 swallow up lakhs of rupees every year.

Verge of Bankruptcy

- (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, have 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 his purchase and the setting up of an apparatus in his Palace for physical exercise.
- (h) The efficiency of the public services has immensely deteriorated and corruption is rampant in every department owing to the 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 portion 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.

No Representative Institutions

- (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 against the oppression of the Maharaja.

Liberty of Press and Platform.

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.

Promise of Reform Unfulfilled

9. That the Indian Government more than once contemplated taking action against the Maharaja, and in the times of Lord Minto's Viceroyalty 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 inequities he may perpetrate against his subjects.

11. That the petitioners place no credence whatsoever on the aforementioned boasts of the Maharaja; and firmly 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 independent 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 from 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 everlasting gratitude of 15 lakhs of human beings, who are suffering unmentionable wrongs and unmitigated oppression under the tyrannical and immoral 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, | ” ” |

	Ptiala State.	
3. Bhagwan Singh of Langowal,	”	”
4. Churh Singh of Tehsil Sarhand,	”	”
5. Sarwan Singh of Tehsil 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.	”	”

SECTION III: IMPORTANT STATEMENTS

1. 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 regarding 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 the 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 very intimate. On the death of the first wife of Sardar Lal Singh, he was married to Dalip Kaur, evidently through the effort 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 in 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 Mazaraya, but at this the Maharaja was greatly upset and became restless. H. H. 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.

Maharaja's Real object.

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 Ambala 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.

“Progress of the project”.

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, the 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 Daya Kishan 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. As on the previous occasions, I put off the matter saying of course that I would see to it.

Ghamdur Singh called back.

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 them 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 Singh. 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.

Conspiracy hatched.

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.

Talk of Divorce deed.

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 straightaway 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, H. H. took out all the wreaths 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.: "In the first place murder in itself is a heinous 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 wordly 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 would reach him in England, he would at once wire Sardar Gurnam Singh to proceed to France from Mesopotamia 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. Under a separate cover he also sent to me a letter asking me to get this draft signed by Lal Singh. Some days afterwards Ujjagar 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 up to H. H.'s return.

Meeting of Lal Singh with Gamdur Singh.

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 Mesopotamia 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.

An unsuccessful Attempt.

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 come 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.

How Lal Singh was Murdered.

On the 28th March Sam 1975, Dula Singh of Dadon reached Patiala and informed Ghamdur Singh that Harnam Singh with another companion would 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., 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, a contractor of Delhi was speaking, and that he had just come by the evening train and that he was leaving the same evening and Lal Singh should see him immediately at his residence at 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 was quite a secluded place where they could 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 there 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 pre-arranged 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 occurrence, Dewan Daya Kishan Kaul and Kishan Singh Laswala arrived at Patiala from Chail. Although I have no reasonable grounds, I doubted that Ghamdur Singh had kept the Dewan well-posted with 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 news, 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 inform 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 whenever I think of the murder of innocent Lal Singh, I shiver as if an electric spark passes through my body.

The Investigations.

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 knew 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 the occurrence 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, my conscience did not allow me to accept this offer and I quietly refused, saying that I 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 Mesopotamia, 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 Bombay 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 resignation then and there. As Sir Daya 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. allowed me only 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 misunderstanding between me and H.H., I did not mind it as I had the fullest confidence in the Maharaja. 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 of 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 Daya Kishan Kaul that H. H. wanted me there. On the next day I went to Chail.

Council in Session

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 Daya 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 Daya Kishan Kaul asked me to give him all those letters which he had written to me regarding the divorce affair, but I flatly refused to do so. Then I sent S. Mehtab Singh Sahni to Dewan Daya Kishan Kaul with a message that if no case was started against me I would be prepared to hand over these papers. Sir Daya Kishan Kaul assured S. Mehtab Singh that he was my brother and that he would help me to the best of his ability.

Interview with the Maharaja

Ujagar Singh wired me from Patiala that H. H. had gone to Dhaulpore and that Sir Daya 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 Bungalow 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 Daya 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 the Maharaja's mind had already been poisoned. H. H. said that it was not true that Lal Singh had been murdered, that Daya 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 by 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 guilty at all. The Maharaja and Dalip Kaul 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 ; 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 guilty. 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 guilty.

Money Returned

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 of Dhaulpore entered 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 would 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 desperate and 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 Daya 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 Daya 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 complicity in the crime and I therefore, am unable to say anything definitely. As Daya 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 innocent 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 innocent 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. The 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 repentant 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 people of Patiala, Sangrur, Rajumazara and Abbval will stand witness to it. The letter which I received from S. Gurnam Singh from Mesopotamia and letters of Dewan Daya 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, Maharaja and myself on the 16th Bisakh at 8 P. M. near the poor house. Tika Ran Singh of Shahabadpore, 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 Daya 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 to H.H. by me at Dhaulpore. In order to please S. Ghamdur Singh and to induce him to carry out His Highness' intention, after three months' stay he was by a special order permitted to reside in Patiala and the Maharaja issued 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 struck off from the list of female attendants where she was employed on Rs. 15/- per mensem. 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
Supt., Police, Patiala, I/c Special
Service, Patiala.

—:0:—

2. DR. BAKSHIS SINGH'S STATEMENT (Ex. 36.)

I, Sardar Bakshish Singh s/o Sahib Singh of Shahzadpur Tehsil Khurd, 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 had made some statements before Rai Saheb Bhagwan Das, the Superintendent of C.I.D., Government of India. They were all made at the instance of Maharaja Patiala and his 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 before Mr. K. F. 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 a 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.

The Rescue

9. I thought out a plan for 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 to my breast and started off. I showed myself to the Police and declared to them that I was rescuing the woman, and they might 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 near by and handed her safe to her husband.

Arrest and Attachment

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 the Maharaja of Patiala through one Ram Singh Dhariwalia. They told me that the

Maharaja and the Dewan 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 would be required to beg pardon and that my property would be restored. The Dewan 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 with what the Maharaja might say. So, when the Maharaja said to me that my services were required and I would get handsome recognition I concurred; but I had no idea there of what I had to do.

Bomb-Making

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 might be asked to do. Ram Singh was the man who first talked to me about the part I had to play and the Dewan 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 the Maharaja of Patiala, when the Prince was to travel in the Patiala State territory. I had to say that my instructions were anyhow to throw some bombs in Patiala State territory, if for nothing else for a mere purpose to defame Patiala, and I was asked to say that 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.

Offer of Reward

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 the 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 the 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, the 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 occasion:

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."

The Counter Plan

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 the Maharaja of Patiala and his Dewan 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 receiye confirmation.

- iii. That just in the beginning of the work I should warn the S. G. P. C. intimating to them that 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 the station. I also began to receive Rs. 250/- per mensem.

Letter to S. G. P. C.

19. I then sent one letter to S. G. P. 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 ex-

pert bombs were not necessary there. So Zinc bombs were asked to be made. These Bengalis made all the 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.

Indentification Notes.

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 Rasalpur, 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 zinc 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 happened 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.

Disposal of the bombs.

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. Meher 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.

Letter of pardon.

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, that is, Ruped, I had posted my diaries to the Viceroy and Col. Mincheon.

27. I came to Patiala with my wife. We were lodged in the State Guest House. Rai Saheb Bhagwan Das 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 the 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.

At the State Guest House.

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 verandah 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 verandah. 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 Bhagwan Dass 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 acquainted 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 doubted my latter statement. So I suggested and he accepted that a motor be immediately sent to Patiala to ascertain real facts from Sir Daya Kishan 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 passed by. I called and ascertained from 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. Naud 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 dethronement 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.

Protection from Punjab C. I. D.

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. Sub-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. Ice monger 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. Ice monger 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.

Fate of wife and children.

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 bedstead 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 Kishan 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 Maharaja then asked; "Where is your Panth now? Where is your Maharaja Nabha and where is your British 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. Meher Singh who was there, took his gun and shot her dead. My son was crying. He was then untied and taken away.

Meher Singh's Confession.

41. Meher 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 guilty 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.

—:0:—

3 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 Rs. 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 to-day 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 letters 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, Bisweddar,
of Roorkee, Patiala State.

[*The Punjab Government's letter, Ex. 39. B.*]

Office Memorandum: No. 21676 F.

To,

Bhai. Amar Singh,
Bisweddar 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 Bisweddar 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. 1st. 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.

—:0:—

4. 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 Ghamdur Singh, brother of my husband S/o S. Gian Singh has, on account of family jealousy, great enmity 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 magnificent Kothi, valued at two to two and a half lakhs of rupees has been confiscated and taken possession of by the State about 3 years back from now.

"State Zulam".

On the 23rd February 1929 we had to face very odd circumstances suddenly, and we were made victims of State zulam, an 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 Bakshish Singh Sub-Inspector of Police Station Dahra, 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 hand-cuffed to the Kothi. We were in the upper storey and listened to the S. Saheb requesting the Sub-Inspector to allow him to go to 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, and 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 husband 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 effected without the help of any woman, although one barber woman, Mussamat Bishni alias Shajno of Chanry village, who was sent for by the Nizam, was sitting outside and her services were easily available in the search. The Sub-Inspector, Constables and Tehsildars were all standing around the Nizam who was effecting the search. As soon as this was finished, the Nizam 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 Nizam 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 up to 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 expelled 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 School 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, Shamsheer 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 Chural 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 informed 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 Amritsar.

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 Singh 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 into the jail. The whole case is shrouded in mystery.

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 Abhyanker 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 Sangrur 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 Sangrur State also in the compartment from Sangrur; 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.

5. 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 the 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 months 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 Shamsheer Singh, and an Inspector of Police with about a dozen constables came into my house. Shamsheer 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, the 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, hand-cuffed 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.

A list of property of Sardar Harchand Singh, Ex. 30 A.

List of immovable 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 lakhs and a half, parks at Patiala and Chural and 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 belonging to 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	„	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 and horses numbering about 100, worth	Rs.	15,000/-

Tam Tam at Patiala worth	300/-
Yearly Income	50,000/-

Total ..	<u><u>Rs. 20,13,000/-</u></u>
----------	-------------------------------

WAZIR SINGH JAIJEE,

S/o

Sardar Harchand Singh Jaijee of Patiala.

—:0:—

6. STATEMENT OF RIDHA SINGH, EX. 6A.

Statement of S. Ridha Singh S/o S. Partap Singh Biswedhar, 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 Saheb) in reception of Bakhshish Singh Saheb at the Gurudwar Saheb 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 of the Patiala and Panth (Sikh Community). They hoped that this would be accomplished at the visit of Baba Kharak Singhji, the Jathedar of Sikh community. I reached Gurudwara Saheb 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 Saheb, I learned that one Akhand Path had been conducted and the second had been started. But Gurudwara Saheb 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 sergeant were present on the spot. I was then

taken to the Police Station Darha. The sergeant, 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 throughout 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, Superintendent of Police and a dozen 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, Superintendent of 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-that enough of it had been administered and all the persons had witnessed it. Then I was made to walk a few paces and when they found people assembled, the demonstrations were repeated with increased severity. When I tried to tie my waistcord 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 similarly those who do not obey. At this 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 had become wet on account of spitting. The constables complied. I was thrice treated similarly at short intervals.

When they entered the street to escort me back by the route I was taken out, Bharpur Singh Superintendent of Police met us

and enquired from the Sub-Inspectors if they had accomplished and brought me back to my senses. The Sub-Inspector replied "Enough 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 saying: "This person is a resident of Ghyga, and is by inheritance Bisweddar and Sardar. He was up till now respected in the Ilqa. People considered him a big aristocrat. He is not caring for H. H.'s order, 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 cupful of water was supplied by an old crippled man, an inhabitant of Darba. I continued uttering 'Wahi Guru' with my 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 turf 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 demonstrations 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 given one stroke of the shoe, saying that it was enough to give one stroke ceremoniously at the Gadi of Great Baba Ala Singh.

The sun set. The winter of 21st Maghar is well-known over the whole of India. There was so much cold on the one hand, and on the other hand my whole body was aching on account of two days' torture, what agonies I was passing through at the time, are 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 of 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 of 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 had a painful effect on the bruises, thus I could only lie on the 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 lock-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 pucca 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 for my 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 driven out of the house penniless.

At last Jasmal Susen 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 went 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.

SECTION IV

FITZ-PATRIC INQUIRY

(I)

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA COMMUNIQUE RE-PATIALA INDICTMENT.

The Government of India published the following communique.
The Communique runs thus:—

“The following letter from the Maharaja of Patiala dated 5th May, 1930, has been received by the Viceroy:—“Your Excellency is no doubt aware that for some time past a certain section of the press has carried on a persistent agitation against me, casting grave reflections on my character and honour as a ruler and a man.

“If I refrained from taking any action against such newspapers it was partly because I felt that the wild character of the accusations against me, couched as they always were in, not only intemperate, but vulgar language and inspired as they were by powerful and unscrupulous enemies, carried their own refutation in the eyes of all responsible persons. The position has, however, materially changed since the publication of a pamphlet called “An Indictment of Patiala” over the signature of certain gentlemen, who met at a Committee, under the auspices of the Indian States’ People’s Conference and conducted an inquiry at Lahore and elsewhere in British India, wholly ‘ex parte’ and practically endorsed comments that had already appeared against me in certain newspapers,

“My Government issued a communique in this connection, a copy of which I enclose herewith. I have reasons to believe that emboldened by my long suffering silence, they have widely circulated this pamphlet both in India and in England. I can, therefore, no longer ignore these accusations and I owe it to myself that I must voluntarily ask for a thorough, searching and independent inquiry, into the allegations against me, formulated in twelve counts contained in that pamphlet.

Vindication Of Honour.

“From the moment that this pamphlet was brought to my notice I have been most anxious to vindicate my honour and to take such steps as I may be advised to take for the refutation of those charges. I lost no time in ordering the collection of all documentary evidence and its being placed in the hands of my legal advisers. Examination however of voluminous documentary evidence placed before them has naturally taken some time. I am now in a position to

make a definite request to you, in writing, that you may be pleased to order an inquiry into the twelve counts contained in the pamphlet known as 'An Indictment of Patiala' and to call upon my traducers to establish the charges they have made against me and to give me an opportunity of meeting those charges.

"Speaking for myself and my Government, we shall be only too willing to give every possible assistance to the officer conducting the inquiry, to enable him to arrive at the truth of the matter. Should Your Excellency in view of all the circumstances of the case and the urgency of the matter decide to entrust the inquiry to the Hon. the Agent to the Governor-General, Punjab States, I shall agree to such a course, if I am allowed to be represented by counsel of my choice. I have no doubt that the other party will also be similarly allowed to be represented by counsel of their choice.

"Targets Of Attack".

"It is obvious that if a certain number of persons combine together to besmirch the reputation of a ruler of an Indian State in the hope that their action will always be followed by an inquiry, the position of Indian Rulers will become absolutely intolerable. As it is, Indian Princes have recently become the targets of attack in a certain section of the press in British India and their peculiar political and constitutional position places them at a disadvantage in coping with this evil. I am taking this step only because I feel that neither as the ruler of this State nor as an official representative of my order, can I afford any longer to sit silent against the campaign of calumny, which under powerful influence has been gathering in volume and virulence of late."

"His Excellency has accordingly entrusted the Hon. Mr. J. A. O. Fitzpatrick, Bar-at-Law, A. G. G. Punjab States, with the making of a full inquiry into all the charges contained in the recent publication "An Indictment of Patiala." He will conduct the inquiry 'in camera' at such place and time as may be appointed by him and will have full power to fix the times of hearing, to adjourn the hearing, to adjust and arrange methods of procedure, to settle the course which the inquiry shall take, to call for, to receive or reject evidence, documentary or other, to hear counsel and such persons on behalf of the parties as he may think fit and generally to guide the whole of the proceedings of the inquiry as from time to time shall appear to him proper for the purpose thereof. In accordance with this decision those concerned will be notified by the A. G. G. in Punjab States of the time and place of inquiry and should submit any representation direct to him."

(II)

WORKING COMMITTEE RESOLUTIONS.

The Working Committee of the Indian States' People's Conference, at its special meeting held in Bombay, on 18th May, under the presidentship of Mr. A. V. Thakkar, passed unanimously the following resolutions:

(I)

Fitzpatrick Patiala Inquiry Unacceptable.

The Working Committee of the Indian States' People's Conference has considered the 'communique' of the Government of India, dated Simla 9th May 1930, announcing the appointment of Mr. Fitzpatrick, A. G. G. the Punjab States, to hold an Inquiry 'in Camera' into the charges contained in the 'Indictment of Patiala' published by this Conference.

The Committee notes that the Maharaja has voluntarily asked for 'a thorough, searching and independent inquiry' into the allegations contained in the said publication and that the Government of India have at last agreed to an Inquiry. The Committee, however, for the under-mentioned grounds is of opinion that the Inquiry as announced is unsatisfactory, both in its personnel and form and is not calculated to create confidence therein.

(1) The Inquiry is not ordered in accordance with any provisions of Law.

(2) The officer appointed to conduct the Inquiry is a nominee of the Maharaja of Patiala.

(3) The said officer has been connected in discharge of his political duties with the Maharaja of Patiala and several matters which are the subject of the Inquiry must have come before him previously and, having formed his opinion about the same, is not likely to bring an impartial bearing of mind on the matters in question.

(4) The said officer is not an officer with any judicial training or experience and he is more likely to be swayed by political considerations than judicial.

(5) In some of the cases that are to be enquired into, the Political Department, of which Mr. Fitzpatrick is the head, is deeply concerned

and in deciding these cases Mr. Fitzpatrick will be required to sit in judgment on his own Department.

(6) In fact it will be necessary for the Committee to cite Mr. Fitzpatrick as a witness.

(7) An 'in Camera' Inquiry will not inspire the confidence necessary in cases like this, where grave allegations have been openly made against the Maharaja of Patiala, the Chancellor of the Chamber of Princes. The Inquiry to be 'thorough, searching and independent,' as demanded by the Maharaja himself, must be an open Inquiry.

(8) 'The power to adjust the times of hearing, to adjourn, adjust and arrange methods of procedure, to settle the course which the Enquiry shall take, to call for, to receive or to reject evidence documentary or other, and to hear counsel and such other person on behalf of the parties, should not have been left to the Inquiry Officer, but should have been left to be governed by the ordinary of the Law of the Land.

(9) The appointment of time and place should not have been left to the Inquiry Officer, but should have been fixed after consultation with the parties concerned. It may be stated here that from the notices issued to the members of the Patiala Inquiry Committee it is found that the Inquiry Officer is going to hold the inquiry, at Dalhousie, a place 75 miles from any railway station on 9th June 1930. It will thus be seen that the place selected for the inquiry is very inconvenient and it would be impossible to take witnesses there and that very little time is left to the Committee, to be ready for the Inquiry, considering that the Maharaja himself took such a long time before deciding to ask for an Inquiry. It is clear that the Inquiry as proposed will entail great trouble, expense and delay.

(10) The Communique omits any mention of several matters necessary to enable the Committee to lead its evidence, namely.

- (a) All prisoners in the Patiala Jails, whose evidence may be required during the Inquiry should be ordered to be removed to British Jails and an undertaking should be given that they shall not be sent back to the Patiala Jails.
- (b) All witnesses, appearing before the Inquiry Officer, should be granted complete immunity and protection against any action that may be taken against them, on account of or in consequence of the evidence given by them.
- (c) In cases of Enquiry against persons in power, relating to the grievances of their subjects and subordinates, it is usual, in order to ensure full and free evidence being tendered, that

sway of such persons should either be taken away or so curtailed that they may not be able to hamper or influence the Inquiry. Nothing of this kind is known to have been done in case of the Maharaja of Patiala.

The Committee desires to point out that the Montague—Chelmsford Report on the Indian Constitutional Reforms has considered the possibility of the Government of India having to enquire into cases of misconduct of Indian Princes and it is laid down in para 309 of the Report that when such a case arises, it should always be referred to a Commission, to be appointed by the Viceroy to advise him and it should consist of five members, including ordinarily a High Court Judge and two ruling Princes. The Committee fails to understand why this procedure has not been followed and is of opinion that only an Inquiry on the lines contemplated in the Montford Report should have been ordered and only such an Inquiry would carry confidence.

The Committee is of opinion, that for the above reasons no useful purpose would be served by participating in an Inquiry of the nature as ordered, unless the Government of India appoint a Commission to enquire into the allegations against the Maharaja of Patiala under para 309 of the Montford Report. The other alternative open to the Maharaja would be to prosecute the authors of the Patiala Inquiry Report according to ordinary Law of the Land, under the Princes' Protection Act or for Defamation under the Indian Penal Code, thus emulating the example of His Majesty King George V who is Paramount to the Maharaja of Patlia, who, setting aside all notions of false prestige and position, appeared before the ordinary court of Law, when he wanted to clear his character.

(III)

THE PATIALA ENQUIRY.

Mr. Amrit Lal Sheth's Statement

LAHORE, June 30.

Mr. Amrit Lal D. Sheth, the General Secretary of the Conference, and a member of the Patiala Inquiry Committee who was in Jail was served with a letter asking him to appear before Mr. Fitzpatrick. He was allowed facility to go out for the purpose. He published the following statement after his visit to the Inquiry Committee.

I was asked by my colleagues of Patiala Enquiry Committee to go to the Punjab to study the situation created by the appointment of Mr.

Fitzpatrick, A. G. G., Punjab States, to report on the Indictment of Patiala published by us. Accordingly I came over to the Punjab, met various workers who were helpful to us during our enquiry tour, as also a number of other persons who showed interest in this affair subsequently. I met members of the deputation that waited on the A. G. G. Punjab States and Deputy Political Secretary to the Government of India; I had also the occasion of attending the Patiala session of the Fitzpatrick Enquiry for a day as a visitor. I am thankful to Mr. Fitzpatrick for the courtesy shown by him to me both in giving permission to attend as a visitor as also in his treatment towards me during the course of the proceedings throughout. Thus having studied the whole situation I am now in a position to state what I think of this Fitzpatrick Enquiry. In this connection I will first state various facts that go to form my decision. They are as under:—

When I was to start from Bombay I was informed by the A. G. G. by his wire dated the 16th June 1930 that he had already disposed of counts No. 2, 3, and 5 and by the 26th of June they had closed recording of evidence in the Enquiry. This unusual hurry seems very strange.

The deputation that waited on the A. G. G. at Mashobra told me that during the conversation with A. G. G. they brought to his notice the fact that in his capacity as A. G. G. Punjab States he might have disposed of some matters about Patiala bearing on the present Enquiry. To this the A. G. G. replied that it was but natural that such things might have happened. He, however, explained that it was an ordinary course of his office business. This shows that he is sitting in judgment on several things about which he has already given his decision previously.

The deputationists further told Mr. Fitzpatrick that they had no objection to his appointment on any personal grounds. Their objection was that he was a nominee of Patiala. To this Mr. Patrick replied that it was certainly not right for the Patiala Maharaja to have given his name but it was all a concern of the Government of India and that he was there merely to carry out their orders. This incident show that Mr, Fitzpatrick feels the constitutional impropriety of his appointment.

The deputation requested the A. G. G. and the Political Department to transfer to the British Indian jails the witnesses now incarcerated in Patiala jails to get free evidence from them. The Government said that they cannot ask Patiala Maharaja to do this because he was a sovereign in his own territory. Firstly this argument was strange in the mouth of officers who themselves were conducting inquiry into the personal conduct and the State administration of the Maharaja in the heart

of his State i.e., in Patiala itself and in the very palace of the Maharaja. Secondly it was a cruel joke to the principles of justice and fairness to ask the prisoners to come to give free evidence about the party who was keeping them in imprisonment, who was producing them in this imprisoned condition before the Enquiry Officer and who has all autocratic powers to do whatever he wished with these prisoners after their evidence is recorded in enquiry. It is a mockery of the enquiry itself.

I found during the proceedings of the Enquiry session at Patiala that the Patiala side which was the only side represented before the Enquiry had got the privilege of cross-examining the witnesses by two counsels. Once by Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru and again by Sir C. P. Rama Swamy Iyer. This is a latitude not allowed to any party even though the case be conducted in the presence of all parties in any civil, criminal or political case. While here is an ex-parte case two best counsels of India were allowed to cross-examine un-protected and unrepresented witnesses.

Most part of the business of English translation from the vernacular evidence of the witnesses was done by Nawab Liyaqat Hayat Khan, the Home Member, Patiala State and Dewan Bahadur Pindi Dass, the Law member. No comment is needed to condemn such proceedings.

During the cross-examination conducted by Patiala counsels they went to the length of asking whether the witness was willing to enter into compromise with the Maharaja and enjoining the witness to answer yes or no.

Mr. Fitzpatrick inquired of witnesses what redress they wanted, and I was feeling all along during the proceedings that he was there not for inquiring into the grievances as for getting a redress for the grievances. As a matter of fact a lot of time of the Patiala Session was taken up in attempting to bring the Maharaja and the witnesses to terms.

As regards S. Harchand Singh Jaijee's case Mr. Fitzpatrick remarked that as the matter was compromised he will make only a brief note on that count in his report, meaning that he won't report on the correctness or otherwise of the allegations against the Maharaja. This is certainly surprising, because Mr. Fitzpatrick's duty is confined to inquiry into the substance of the allegations.

One Patiala prisoner witness, S. Nanak Singh, the ex-C. I. D. Chief of Patiala, who was an inevitable witness to throw much light on certain counts has been represented as having escaped from the Patiala Jail. It has been notified by the Patiala authorities that he has bolted, but

I am in possession of documentary evidence to prove that the facts are otherwise.

During the Patiala Session of the inquiry Mr. Fitzpatrick himself and all the Patiala counsels were putting up in Maharaja's palaces as his guests, the inquiry was being held in one of the palace rooms and all spaces around it were bustling with Maharaja's officers and men. Thus a nominee of the Maharaja presiding in the inquiry, his counsels being the masters of all they surveyed, Maharaja's own servants acting as translators, witnesses being prisoners of the Maharaja on one hand and undefended by counsels on the other, and all enjoying the hospitality of the Maharaja, it looked as if the whole was a Patiala show, if not a family affair of the Maharaja.

Considering all the above facts which came within my knowledge I have completely agreed to the view of the Indian States' People's Conference and the Punjab Riyasati Praja Mandal who have boycotted the enquiry. As a matter of fact when I was witnessing some of the incidents in the inquiry held at Patiala I was thanking our stars that we should have boycotted the enquiry.

(IV)

INQUIRY INTO CONDUCT OF PATIALA RULER.

Mr. A. Seth's Allegations Denied.

HOME MINISTER OF STATE ISSUES A STATEMENT

SIMLA, July 4.

Nawab Liaqat Hayat Khan, Home Minister, Patiala, has issued following statement to the Press:—

The attention of the Patiala Government has been drawn to a statement of Mr. Amrit Lal Sheth which has appeared in the press. The facts as set out in the statement, apart from the expressions of opinion, are so misleading and so far removed from truth, that the Patiala Government through their counsel at once drew the attention of the Hon. the A. G. G., who is conducting the inquiry. With his permission the following issued it to the Press:—

(1) It is not true that the Hon. the A. G. G. is "sitting in judgment on several things about which he has given his decision previously." The most serious allegations which formed the subject of counts No. 1, 2, 3 and 4 relate to matters that took place several years before the Hon. Mr.

Fitzpatrick the inquiring Officer took charge of his present office. The facts involved in count No: 5 did take place in 1929, but the Hon. Mr. Fitzpatrick was at no stage called upon to give a decision with reference to the action taken by the Patiala Government regarding the suppression of the revolutionary movement started in Patiala in 1920 or the consequent internment of S. Harchand Singh Jaijee, and the confiscation of his property. The Hon. Mr. Fitzpatrick in the ordinary course of his duties was informed by the Patiala Government about revolutionary movement which was presumably also known to the Punjab Government and the Government of India.

(2) The Patiala Government can hardly believe that as stated by Mr. Sheth, Mr. Fitzpatrick "told the deputationists that it was not right for the Patiala Maharaja to have given his name," or that he has at any time referred to the so-called "constitutional impropriety" of his appointment.

(3) As regards the transfer of prisoners now in the Patiala Jail to a jail in British India there are insuperable legal difficulties in regard to the transfer of prisoners from Patiala to British India. The only convict who was examined at Patiala before Mr. Fitzpatrick was Amar Singh who is undergoing a sentence of imprisonment for harbouring a well-known dacoit who carried on his operations in several British Districts. The said Amar Singh was arrested and prosecuted with the collaboration of the police of the Punjab Government. Before the commencement of the inquiry His Highness the Maharaja of Patiala gave his personal assurance to the Enquiring Officer that no victimisation or pressure would be brought to bear upon any prisoner in the Patiala Jail who came to give evidence and this assurance was repeated by the Hon. the A. G. G. to Amar Singh and S. Harchand Singh Jaijee when they appeared before him. Mr. Tawky himself conceded that he was given the full facilities to meet in private and consult his client, Sardar Harchand Singh Jaijee. While it is not open to Patiala Government to reveal the nature of the proceedings in camera, they feel it to be their duty to deny the reckless allegation that most of the prisoner witnesses have given evidence in favour of the Maharaja. The exact contrary is the truth.

"Internee's Evidence".

(1) The only other witness under detention who was examined at Patiala was S. Harchand Singh Jaijee who was a political internee. It must be mentioned that the aforesaid S. Harchand Singh Jaijee was represented before the Hon. A. G. G. by Mr. Tawky, an advocate of Delhi, who with the leave of the Hon. A. G. G. prepared a written statement for

S. Harchand Singh Jaijee on which the leading counsel for the Patiala Government cross-examined him. At the request of S. Harchand Singh Jaijee and in order to enable him to present his case adequately before the enquiring Officer through a counsel, a sum of Rs. 5,000 was sanctioned by the Patiala Government to him for his legal expenses. There was no question of Harchand Singh Jaijee being persuaded to agree to any compromise inasmuch as Harchand Singh Jaijee after full consultation with his Counsel and relations made up his mind to apologise unreservedly, and to present the apology to the Maharaja for such action as His Highness may choose to take. When Mr. Tawakly and Sardar Harchand Singh Jaijee retired from the room in which the inquiry was being conducted for the purpose of consultation. Mr. Amrit Lal Seth also accompanied them and he came back with them. Harchand Singh Jaijee himself in answer to a question put by Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru said that he would offer an apology to the Maharaja and give assurance for future good conduct to the Maharaja and his Government.

Before advising him to give this apology and the assurances, his counsel. Mr. Tawakly desired an opportunity for a private consultation with Harchand Singh's wife and son who were in a neighbouring house. This permission was granted. After nearly half an hour Sardar Harchand Singh Jaijee and Mr. Tawakly came back to the room and agreed to tender the apology and the assurances. The draft was then prepared by Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru at the instance of Mr. Tawakly, it was approved by Mr. Tawakly, again taken back to Sardar Harchand Singh Jaijee's wife and son for approval, and then it was presented by Mr. Tawakly before the Hon'ble the A. G. G. who verified it. Mr. Amrit Lal Seth was present when the draft was prepared and the draft after preparation was handed over to him for perusal. The next day, that is, on the 27th June, Sardar Harchand Singh Jaijee was taken to Kandaghat and presented by Nawab Liaqat Hayat Khan, the Home Minister, before His Highness in the presence of Counsel for the Maharaja of Patiala. Sardar Harchand Singh Jaijee read out his apology and also orally apologised to the Maharaja. Thereupon His Highness directed the Home Minister to read out the order setting him free and releasing his property. Accordingly he was forthwith released and his property ordered to be restored to him. There has been no desire on the part of any to slip over this count.

Statement not True.

(5) It is not true as stated in Mr. Amrit Lal Seth's statement that Mr. Fitzpatrick remarked, "that as the matter was compromised he could

make only a brief note on that account in his report! The count was left open until it was known whether the Maharaja was prepared to accept his apology and restore to him his freedom and property. It was not considered necessary by Sardar Harchand Singh Jaijee or his counsel to examine his wife and son in view of this apology.

(6) It is wrong to say that witness was cross-examined twice over by two leading Counsels of the Patiala Government. Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru was in charge of all the counts excepting Nos. 6, 7, 10. Amar Singh was cross-examined by Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru only with reference to count No. 4 and he was cross-examined by Sir C. P. Ramaswamy Iyer with reference to the facts relating to the alleged connection of false cases against Amarsingh which formed part of count No. 6. The cross-examination by the two counsels did not overlap in the slightest degree. The suggestion of Mr. Amrit Lal Seth with regard to two counsels cross-examining Amar Singh is thus deliberately misleading.

(7) During the cross-examination of Amar Singh who was speaking Punjabi whenever Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru was unable to follow any portion of his statement he referred to Nawab Liaquat Hayat Khan who is a Punjabi to translate that portion for him. During the cross-examination by Sir C. P. Ramaswami Iyer, who does not know Punjabi at all, his questions were translated by Dewan Bahadur Pindi Das, the Chief Justice of Patiala State. It may be noticed that the Hon. Mr. Fitzpatrick who is an old Officer of the Government and has served in the Punjab for many years, knows Punjabi well and does not need the services of an interpreter. It was only for the benefit of one counsel that occasionally Nawab Liaquat Hyat Khan was asked to translate difficult Punjabi phrases and for a similar reason Dewan Bahadur Pindi Das acted as an interpreter for the other counsel. In all such cases the Inquiry Officer could, and did, check the accuracy of the interpretation.

No desire to hush matters.

(8) It is wholly untrue and that the Counsel for Patiala Government ever asked Amar Singh whether he was willing to enter into a compromise with the Maharaja of Patiala. In fact it was an answer to a question by the Inquiring Officer as to what was the relief that he desired that Amar Singh said that he wanted justice. It is thus wholly inaccurate to say that Amar Singh could only get out of the compromise by his dogged persistence. It should be emphasized that in the case neither of Amar Singh nor of Sardar Harchand Singh Jaijee was the word compromise ever used. The Patiala Government had no desire to hush up matters

and they did not attempt to being about compromise. It is a perversion of truth to suggest that the inquiring Officer felt uncomfortable or wanted any case to be compromised. Indeed, the Patiala Government do not consider that there has been any compromise effected with Sardar Harchand Singh Jaijee. They regard what has happened as an act of forgiveness following on an apology.

(9) As regards Nanak Singh, the ex-C. I. D. Officer of Patiala, the facts relating to his escape from the hospital, just before the commencement of the inquiry, where he was being treated by the Civil Surgeon, have been deposed to at Dalhousie by the Home Minister of the Patiala Government before the inquiring officer and further steps regarding his apprehension or extradition are being taken. The assertion that Nanak Singh had been "made to go away" by the Patiala authorities is entirely baseless. The insinuation of Mr. Amrit Lal Seth that the facts relating to his escape are "otherwise" is strongly repudiated by the Patiala Government who challenge him to produce the documentary evidence which he states he possesses.

(10) It is admitted that the Patiala Counsels were staying in a palace of the Maharaja as his guests. It is not denied that the Hon. the A. G. G. stayed in a building in which he is always accommodated at Patiala. It may be mentioned here as a matter of fact that when Counsels retired for tea, Mr. Amrit Lal Seth and his companions were offered tea which they accepted.

(11) It is wrong to state that all the spaces around this building were filled with the Maharaja's men and officers. Excepting those officers who were immediately concerned with the inquiry, there were no other officers there.

(12) The Patiala Government repudiate the suggestion that the Counsels were masters of all they surveyed as being unfair to Counsels.

(13) It is necessary to state that Counsel for Patiala urged in the presence of Mr. Seth that under the terms of reference only the parties or their Counsel or witnesses could be present and they welcomed the presence of Mr. Amrit Lal Seth as a member of the Inquiry Committee, in which capacity he was entitled to be present; but if he did not come in that capacity but only as a visitor, then other eminent visitors having been refused that permission he could not merely as a visitor watch the proceedings. In spite of this protest the inquiry Officer as a matter of courtesy allowed Mr. Amrit Lal Seth to watch the proceedings without committing himself definitely as to his status.

Threat taken note of ..

(14) The Patiala Government regret that Mr. Amrit Lal Seth should have so abused this courtesy as to have published, however incorrectly, a portion of the proceedings which he watched and which he had been warned were *is camera*.

(15) The attention of Mr. Amrit Lal Seth was also drawn by the Counsels for the Patiala Government to some very serious allegations against the Patiala Inquiry Committee, of which he was a member, and the Punjab Riyasati Praja Mandal in respect of which evidence mostly of a documentary character has been laid before the Inquiry Officer. They did so in the hope that Mr. Amrit Lal Seth at one stage of the proceedings inquired about the dates on which arguments would be heard at Simla, but apparently he changed his mind and has not attended the sittings in Simla.

(16) The Patiala Government emphatically repel the insinuation that there was anything suspicious about the conduct of the proceedings. It may be remarked that the so-called inquiry, the results of which are embodied in the "Patiala Indictment" took much less time than the proceedings which are being commented on. The suggestion that the inquiry has been hurried is strongly repudiated. The sittings have been going on from day to day since the 9th of June and are coming to a close. During this period a very large number of witnesses, including those who offered their evidence against Patiala and who were directly summoned by the Hon. the A. G. G. have been examined at Dalhousie and a great mass of documentary evidence has been laid before the Inquiring Officer. The Patiala Government have noted the intention of Mr. Amrit Lal Seth to issue a supplementary volume to the Indictment. This threat the Patiala Government take note of and reserve to themselves the right to take such speedy and effective steps as they may be advised to adopt to counteract the virulent campaign which is being engineered by various persons behind the scenes and which is being carried on with little regard to decency and truth.

(17) Lastly, the Patiala Government regret that Mr. Amrit Lal Seth after his undertaking to Bombay Government should not have come before the Inquiring Officer until the 26th of June and after that issued a statement simply with a view to prejudice the inquiry and to justify the decision of the Committee to boycott the Inquiry.

GOVERNMENT COMMUNIQUE ON FITZ-PATRICK INQUIRY.

SIMLA, August 4.

A Foreign and Political Department 'communique' says:—

"His Excellency, the Governor-General issued a communique to the Press on the 9th of May 1930 to the effect that he had entrusted the Hon'ble Mr. J. A. O. Fitz Patrick, Bar-at-Law. Agent to the Governor-General in the Punjab States, with the making of a full enquiry into all the charges contained in the publication "Indictment of Patiala". Mr. Fitz Patrick, in conformity with the instructions issued to him, duly conducted an enquiry. Since the authors of the publication refused to appear before him with their witness, it was not possible to subject their statements to test or cross-examination, but in the course of the proceedings Mr. Fitz Patrick recorded statements of 145 witnesses and examined 430 documentary exhibits. He has now submitted his report to the Government of India and as the result the Government of India have satisfied themselves that the evidence fails to substantiate any of the charges made against His Highness the Maharaja in the publication, "Indictment of Patiala," which are shown to have been the outcome of a deliberate conspiracy between certain individuals and public bodies with the object of vilifying His Highness and disgracing him in the eyes of his subjects and of the Government of India.

Valuable Publications on the Problem of Indian States

		Price.
		Rs. a p.
1	Problems of Indian States (the late Prof. G. R. Abhyankar). ...	5 0 0
2	Memorandum of the Indian States, (with four supplements, correspondence with the Butler Committee and appendices. 1928)	2 0 0
3	The Problem of Indian States, By P. L. Chudgar ...	2 0 0
4	Mr. Bhulabhai Desai and the People of the States ...	
	(a) Advice to Princes, ...	
	(b) Congress position vis-a-vis The States' People, ...	
	(c) In the light of Public opinion ...	2 0 0
5	Problems of Indian States (The Hon. A. B. Latthe) ...	1 8 0
6	Indian States' Committee Report and Public Opinion Thereon	0 12 0
7	Important Utterances on Indian States' Problems ...	0 12 0
	Indian Princes as their People see them, ...	
8	Navanagar State, ... Each	0 8 0
9	Gondal State ...	2 0 0
10	Bikaner State, ...	2 0 0
11	Work in England of the Deputation of the Indian States' People's Conference 1929 ...	0 8 0
12	Jhabua under Council Administration, (A true picture) By Kanaiyalal Vaidya ...	0 4 0
13	Whither Jhabua? By Kanaiyalal Vaidya ...	0 4 0
14	Struggle of Jhabua Subjects By K. Vaidya ...	0 4 0
15	The White Sheep of Bikaner ...	0 4 0
16	Congress Policy Towards States ...	0 4 0
17	"Peep into Hyderabad" ...	0 8 0
18	Mysore: A Study By Dr. Pattabhi Sitaramyya and Balvantray Mehta 1938 ...	0 2 6
19	A Cry from Rutlam ...	0 2 0
20	Memorandum of the Indian States' People's Conference to the I. N. Congress ...	0 2 0

Write to:

The Manager,

THE "STATES' PEOPLE"

P. O. Box No. 62,

Fort, Bombay.

Issues of

LIFE & DEATH

“Issues of life and death importance await decision and demand of us a carefully planned and concerted action;” said the chancellor of the Princes’ Chamber addressing a meeting of Princes and Ministers recently at Bombay.

More than even the Princes, these issues involve the life liberty and happiness of 80 Millions of Indians.

For authentic accounts of what is happening in the States

READ


STATES PEOPLE

Published Monthly

Organ of the All India States’ People’s Conference.

Office :
138, Medows Street,
Bombay.

Subscriptions :
India Rs. 1-8 Per Year
Foreign Sh. 5 ” ”

Published by The General Secretaries THE ALL INDIA STATES’ PEOPLE’S CONFERENCE, 138, Medows Street, Fort, Bombay and Printed at the States’ People Press, Fort, Bombay.