



Ambedkar Times

Weekly

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Remembering Chhatrapati Shahuji Maharaj on 119th year of 50 % Reservation for the Dalits and Backward Classes

Prem K. Chumber

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Chhatrapati Shahu Ji Maharaj was one of the earliest pioneer-saviours of the Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes who, for the first time in the history of the country, implemented 50 percent of reservation for the Dalits and Backward Classes in government jobs and education institutions. He also facilitated the entry of the lower castes in the temples. He was of the firm view that a handful of the upper-castes of his state had monopolized all the offices of profit. All the shrines in the temples within his state, as elsewhere in rest of the country, were also monopolized by Brahmin priests. He saw to it that at least fifty percent of the shrines were to be looked after by the priests belonging to lower castes. He wanted that the lower castes should get best of the education, so that they could compete with their counterparts from the upper castes effectively. To make this a reality, he made the primary education compulsory for the lower castes in his Kingdom of the Kolhapur state.

The seminal contribution made by Chhatrapati Shahu Ji Maharaj was not limited to education and government jobs. He made concerted efforts to liberate the lower castes from the all pervasive hegemony of the Brahminical priestly class structures of socio-economic dominations by empowering them to stand on their own sources of livelihood so that they need not to depend on the evil and oppressive systems of Balutdari and Vatandari. He paved the way for the inclusion of reservation in the constitution of Independent India drafted under the Chairmanship of Babasaheb Dr. B.R. Ambedkar to whom Shahu Ji Maharaj encouraged and supported to come forward to cut the shackles of the centuries old slavery of the lower castes. "Desh Doaba" & "Ambedkar Times" weekly newspapers fondly remember and pay its deepest regards to Revered Chhatrapati Shahu Ji Maharaj on his great cause to the Dalits and Backward Classes.

If We Build It, Will They Come?

Over the years, the main concerns of my constituents have remained fairly consistent, occasionally with one receiving more attention than others. At the current forefront is the issue of homelessness. It seems nearly impossible to go anywhere in the County these days without encountering at least one homeless person or going past an encampment. That is not surprising given a 19 percent rise in Sacramento County's homeless population from 2017 to 2019. We don't even know what that number has grown to since 2019 as the 2021 Point in Time count was cancelled due to COVID-19. The concerns around these encampments are numerous and legitimate. The number one question my office gets is: "why aren't you doing anything about them?" The truth is we are doing what we can, working our way upstream against a powerful legal current, and I am happy to share more on the realities of Sacramento County's response to homelessness.

Many people who have reached out seeking to have a homeless camp moved are undoubtedly familiar with the decision out of the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals in *Martin v. Boise*. Put simply, that decision made it unlawful to punish people for the act of being homeless when they do not have access to shelter. Because of this, we are unable to cite for illegal camping on public property. The challenges of the *Boise* decision were compounded during most of the pandemic as the public health order further restricted when and how homeless camps could be moved, even if that meant an illegally parked RV on a public street.

This is frustrating, because to me it is evident that the best way to work to improve the homeless situation is to focus on drug treatment and mental health treatment. But legally, the only way we can get back to cleaning up homeless camps is to add more housing.

While the COVID-19 restrictions on moving homeless camps were lifted on June 15th with the other restrictions, I am pleased to say that some of the resulting solutions are in place.

The Board of Supervisors approved the creation of the Homeless Response Team (HRT) in 2020 to combat the spread of COVID-19 among the homeless population. The HRT was a collaborative effort of county departments, Sacramento City, and non-profit organizations to get the homeless access to shelter, sanitation materials, and COVID-19 preventative measures. Still, even with the HRT actively deployed and public health order restrictions lifted, we still have a homeless population that seems to be growing faster than ever before. And still, my office hears the concerns about homeless camps contributing to fires, public disturbances, and negative environmental impacts and what more can be done to restore our communities to safe and clean environments. While my priority, and I think what will have the most impact, is increasing access to mental health services and drug treatment, the most simple and legal solution still remains as an increase in shelters and housing.

Some have pointed to Los Angeles as a beacon

of hope as they have passed a new ordinance restricting where homeless people can and cannot camp overnight. When people ask how they can do it and Sacramento County cannot, there are many reasons why. 1.2 billion reasons, in fact.

LA voters approved a \$1.2 billion bond initiative to fund a massive homeless housing project that is large enough to enable the enforcement of anti-camping ordinances. That is something I do not think Sacramento County residents are ready to take on, but we can and are working to expand our shelter space. As part of this year's budget cycle, we approved \$5.9 million to fund a new homeless camp initiative (HCI). This initiative will fund two encampment sites serving 100 individuals each, three encampment teams to connect individuals with services, three scattered site shelters and increase nightly bed capacity by 15. Possibly most important, the initiative includes navigators to connect people with housing services and temporary financial assistance to get people into permanent housing.

Permanent housing is, of course, the ultimate goal but we cannot simply create permanent housing. Getting homeless individuals into shelters and camps where professionals can make contact and try to connect them with services is how the process of getting them into permanent housing begins.

The efforts of the HRT, the HCI, and the implementation of assisted outpatient treatments (aka Laura's Law), combined with the efforts of Sacramento City to expand shelters has us well on our way to making a noticeable impact on homelessness in Sacramento County. I anticipate that we will continue on this trend of expanding shelters and services and working with community organizations to make all types of housing more accessible to the point that we are no longer concerned about overnight camping.

Ultimately, this all depends on the willingness of the unhoused to come to the shelters and campsites being created and to accept whatever services they may be offered. And while I wish we could immediately address the underlying causes of homelessness directly, like mental illness and drug addiction, increasing the number of beds available is what is going to get us back sooner to cleaning up our neighborhoods.

Thank you for reading – and as always, if you want to contact me, call me at 916-874-5491, or e-mail me at SupervisorFrost@saccounty.net.

Sue Frost represents the 4th District, which includes all or part of the communities of Citrus Heights, Folsom, Orangevale, Antelope, Rio Linda, Elverta, Gold River, Rancho Murietta, North Highlands, Carmichael, Foothill Farms and Fair Oaks



Sue Frost

Sacramento County Supervisor



Dr. Paramjit S Takhar, MD

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Goodie Takhar, PhD

Brave Soldier Daler Singh became Honorary Captain

There are people who have such qualities that no obstacle can stop them from following their aim. One such determined person is Daler Singh Butter, who has rendered outstanding service to the military. It is not an easy task to protect the borders of a country and everyone is not capable of doing it, only a few like Dalersingh can get to perform such difficult task. He was born in Village Majhi (Sangrur), on 10 May 1970 to S.Sher Singh and his wife Smt. NIhaalkaur.

He completed his primary education upto Middle from Govt. Middle School Majhi and completed his matric from G.H.S. BaladKalan (Sangrur) in March 1989. A sense of patriotism led him to join the army. For this he went to B.R.O. Patiala. Here heafter passing all the tests, he was recruited on August 29, 1990 and completed his one year training at the Punjab Regiment Centre Ramgarh Ranchi. He was later posted to the 20 Punjab Regiment and joined the unit on 4 November 1991. At that time the unit was in Nagaland. The unit then moved to Pathankot and Sikkim. Daler Singh was married to BaljitKaur, daughter of S. KapurSinghofDandralaDhindsa on 22 Februray 1997. Their son Gurpinder Singh was born on 16 September 1998. In 2002, Daler Singh was posted to 53 R.R. which was situated in Sri Nagar. He went to '20 Punjab' for tak-

ing training for promotion to upper cadre. He passed the four month training and got promoted from the Nayak rank to Hawaldar Cadre in September 2003. In 2004 he was posted in the '20 Punjab' unit and this unit was posted to Gurez Sector (J.K) high altitude(snowfalling and militancy area) LOC in 2005. Here he per-

Lebanon in June 2013 with '26 Punjab' unit for this military mission. There he was awarded with 'The United Nations Peacekeeping Medal' by 'Secretary General of the United Nations'. After completing the task he came back to India on 16 December 2013. He was posted in '20 Punjab' unit and the

troop in this camp. It was a challenging time for the whole team and they had gone through great difficulties. He was honoured with a letter of appreciation by Brigadier Ashok Rana for his excellent work done in the Delhi camp.

S.Daler Singh got the rank of honorary Lieutenant for his service on 15 August 2020. After the service of 30 years and 2 days he got retired.

He was given the Honorary Captain rank on 26 January 2021 due to his best services. Reaching this point is not really within the reach of every soldier. This type of success comes to the determined people like Daler Singh. He has the full support of his wife Smt. BaljitKaur to reach at this point and it is an honour for her also. He is really brave / bold as his name 'Daler' suggests.

Honorary Captain

Daler Singh has two married sisters DaljitKaur and RaghvirKaur. His elder brother Gurmail Singh is farming in village Majhi. He is living a good life in (Bhakhra Enclave) Patiala along with his wife and father. He has friendly nature and he lives a disciplined life. His son Gurpinder Singh went to Canada for higher Studies on 17 April 2015 and is now living in Winnipeg. May god bless him with high spirits and more strength to serve the nation.



Honorary Captain Daler Singh



Daler Singh, his son Gurpinder Singh And wife Baljeet Kaur

formed his hard duty successfully. His unit came to Ferozpur in 2007. He was awarded with D.O. letter by J.O.C. 7 division for his hard work. After this he went to 5 N.C.C., B.N. in Patiala. He trained and motivated the children to join the Indian army. In August 2010 he was posted in '20 Punjab' unit and on 31 August 2010 his unit was posted to LOC Sundar Bani(J.K) Rajori area. He passed J.C.O. Cadre there and was selected for United Nation Mission. He went to

unit was came to Saba Sector. In 2016 he was posted to Leh(S.S.N) sector. This place is situated at the height of around nineteen thousand feet which is highest one. There he was awarded with 'General Officer Commanding Card' by Northern Command for his best duty. His unit came to Delhi on 26 July 2018. At the peak of the Covid-19 his commander detailed him to the Narela camp of Covid-19 on 26 March 2020. There were 6 doctors and 25 soldiers of his

"RSS staunch supporter of Reservation" - RSS Gen-Secy Hosabale NSCA applauds the statement in support of Reservation by RSS – Kainth

The contributions of SC community despite the inequality over the centuries something to be proud of – NSCA Chandigarh, August 14 :

Commenting on the remarks of RSS General Secretary Dattatreya Hosabale earlier this week regarding 'Reservation as a Historical necessity' and "RSS being a staunch supporter of the Resrevation policy", Paramjit Singh Kainth, President of the National Scheduled Castes Alliance today applauded the statement. Mr. Hosabale said, "Reservation is a tool for affirmative action and should continue as long as a particular section of society experiences "inequality". When there were anti-reservation protests in many campuses, we passed a resolution and organised a seminar in Patna in support of reservation". He was speaking at an event organ-

ised by the India Foundation for the launch of the book Makers Of Modern Dalit History.

Appreciating the sentiment, Mr. Kainth said, "The statement that was issued by one the top leaders of the RSS adds credibility to the notion that the Reservation policy is a tool for social justice and promoting equality and liberty for the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other marginalized groups in the Country. In these troubling times exacerbated by Covid, fueled by social boycotts against the SC's, we welcome this suggestion by the RSS."

He further added, "The reservation is undertaken to resolve the historic oppression, inequality, and discrimination suffered by the SC community and to give them a place on equal footing in the society. Article 15(4) and 16(4) of the Constitution – extends benefits of reservation to socially and educationally backward classes and anyone who disregards the idea of Reservation as a boon for the society, clearly does not agree with the conscience of the Constitution and has no passionate sentiment for uplift and prosperity of the underprivileged

in society."

The RSS Gen-Secy had also said, "Without proudly mentioning the contribution of the Dalit community, the political, social, and spiritual history of this country will be incomplete, dishonest and untrue. Dalit history and India's history are not two different things. If we study to read or write India's true history or we try to understand the history of India, India's political, economical, cultural history will not be complete without discussing our Dalit society contribution,". "The statement was met with appreciation by the whole cadre of the National Scheduled Castes Alliance as well as other organizations which work for the prosperity of the Scheduled Castes community. I would hope that this leads to a change in the perception of the general public about the Reservation policy and underscore its importance in knitting together a more harmonious society where everyone can live with dignity and pride. The contribution of SC community despite the inequality over the centuries is something to be proud of and our motivations are strongly towards building a better future for the society at large" Said Kainth.



Change of Name

I, Sarbjit Kaur w/o Jita Singh

Currently Resident of:

**4464 Destiny Dr,
Turlock, CA-95382, U.S.A.**

Now I have changed my name

From : **Sarbjit Kaur**

To : **Sarbjit Kaur Clair**

All concerned Kindly note it



Ishwar Das Pawar
District and Sessions Judge (Retd.)

My Struggle in Life

The Dawn of Awakening

Till about the mid twenties, there was no social and political awakening among the untouchables. People had been fed on the deceptive and demoralizing Brahmanical philosophy that the untouchables were born as such not by any coincidence but because of their accumulated bad deeds committed in their past lives.

As a consequence, they were disentitled to get education, to own and possess property, to take to professions and avocations of their own liking and choice, and to a place of equality, honor, and dignity in society. This was the divine dispensation. It was dinned into their ears day in and day out that this was not due either to their own fault in this life or to the fault of society that they were born in the lowest and wretched castes, and therefore, they were made to suffer untold hardships and punishments under the edict of the Almighty for their past sins. Out of sheer ignorance, these misguided and gullible people tacitly accepted the cursed fate foisted on them by the clever sort.

For their woeful sufferings, they would beat their foreheads in utter helplessness and say pathetically that it was due to their inevitable fate and destiny. It never occurred to them that they were being duped and cheated by the uppermost strata of society, who were interested in keeping them under their feet. They could not understand why others, who were leading most sinful lives before their very eyes, were all comforts of life both good and bad. The good deeds of the ignorant and unsophisticated people of this life were of no consequence for them in this life; they were being stored and preserved for consideration in the life to come. It was a very cunning ruse!

A very prominent feature of this false philosophy has been that it puts itself beyond human reasoning by creating a mystique around it. It rests on imaginary, obscure and fallacious arguments as to what happened in the past and what would happen in the future. Nobody knows anything either of the past or of the future, which are completely shrouded in mystery. It very cleverly avoids any direct and rational explanation of what is happening in the present before our very eyes. It also seeks support from the illogical proposition about the workings of the gods, the sun, the moon, the planets, and the stars, knowing well that they were inaccessible to the human beings; and therefore, nobody

could controvert such assertions and claims. When the American astronauts captained by Armstrong landed on the moon, the Brahmanical theologians were rudely shaken and frightened. They started saying that the astronauts had set their foot not on our (not the moon that was specifically created for Hindus) moon but on some other planet.

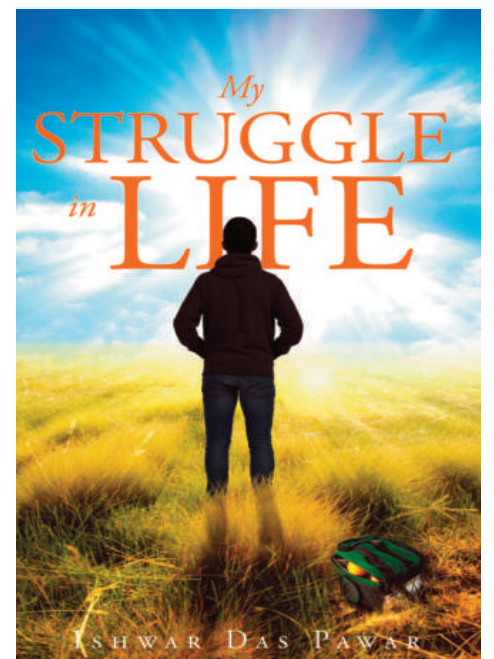
This historical adventure has exposed many Brahmanical myths, and who knows that similar exposure of myths about sun and other planets will also be made. Then these antisocial theologians will tremble in their shoes. All honor to science! There was none among the untouchables to raise the banner of revolt against this aggression, oppression, tyranny, deception, and exploitation of the poor and the ignorant committed behind the facade of religious philosophy. There, however, appeared on the scene an inspired soul in the person of Babu Mangu Ram of Muggowal, who came back from America after a decade's sojourn there. There he was a member of the Ghadar Party, formed by the Indians living there to supplement and complement the struggle for freedom launched by the nationalists here.

On reaching home Babu Mangu Ram founded an organization under the name Ad-Dharma Mandal. Soon a band of enthusiastic and devoted workers gathered around him. The message brought by Babu Mangu Ram was new and inspiring. It was aimed at awakening the untouchables. The message called upon them to know and realize themselves as they had forgotten their true selves due to the hostile influences in which they had been living for thousands of years. It caught the imagination and hearts of the oppressed and downtrodden people, and soon Babu Mangu Ram's name became a household word. He succeeded remarkably well in creating awareness and awakening among the people. His path was beset with difficulties, and he had to work against odds and trying circumstances. Financial difficulties apart, he and his coworkers were chased everywhere and hounded out of the bounds of towns and villages by the Hindus, and quite often, they had to hold their meetings and conferences in open fields. One such incident also took place at Una. A weekly Adi-Danka in Punjabi was also started to carry the message to every nook and corner of the province. This was the beginning of the struggle for getting back their human rights of which they had been deprived for centuries. Wherever Babu Mangu Ram went, people were eager to have a glimpse of their beloved leader and benefactor. He did the pio-

neering work to awaken the people. My own relations with him had been very close and cordial. From my college days, I had been attending meetings of the Ad-Dharma Mandal and also occasionally contributing small articles to the Adi-Danka.

Then there appeared on the social and political scene of the country a great and challenging force in the person of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar. He was an intellectual giant and a fiery crusader in the cause of the downtrodden untouchables who had been the victims of an unprecedented social injustice. His right moment came at the Round Table Conferences held in London. During the debates there regarding the future political setup of the country, he roared like an injured lion in espousing the cause of the oppressed and exploited people. In spite of combined opposition by all the others, he took a strong and uncompromising stand and stood like a rock against the storm raised against him. As a result of his untiring efforts, the British government recognized the untouchables as a separate political entity by giving them separate political rights. The ability and burning passion he exhibited in advocating the cause of the poor and neglected staggered everybody. Naturally, the untouchables saw in him a savior and a messiah. He became a living legend. A turning point, however, came when Gandhiji undertook a fast unto death against the award of the British government giving separate political representation to the untouchables. This was an attempt at saving the Hindus from disintegration. Dr. Ambedkar stoutly resisted the move, which he described as a blackmail. After long and protracted negotiations, and in view of the danger to the life of Gandhiji, he was persuaded to relent. The agreement between Hindu leaders and Dr. Ambedkar resulted in the Poona Pact, under which the untouchables got a bit more as their political share but lost their separate political entity. Under the British government's award, Punjab untouchables were totally ignored, but under the Poona Pact, eight seats were given to them in the provincial legislature.

A new era in the history of the untouchables had begun. All honor and credit to the champion of their cause, Dr. Ambedkar! He shall go down in history as the emancipator of the deprived and ignored section of the nation. After the Poona Pact, the first general elections to the provincial legislative assemblies were held in 1937. In our province, eight elected untouchable members took their seats in the assembly. This representation, inadequate though it was, was sym-



bolic of regeneration and emergence of the untouchable community in the political scene. Two of the eight MLAs, Bhagat Hans Raj, a law graduate, and Sardar Gopal Singh Khalsa, MA, who had been in America for about ten years and associated with the Ghadar Party, were appointed as private parliamentary secretary and additional private parliamentary secretary respectively. Sardar Khalsa was a seasoned politician, a good speaker, an absorbing conversationalist, and a fairly good writer. On his maiden speech in the assembly, he was congratulated by the premier, Sir Sikandar Hayat Khan.

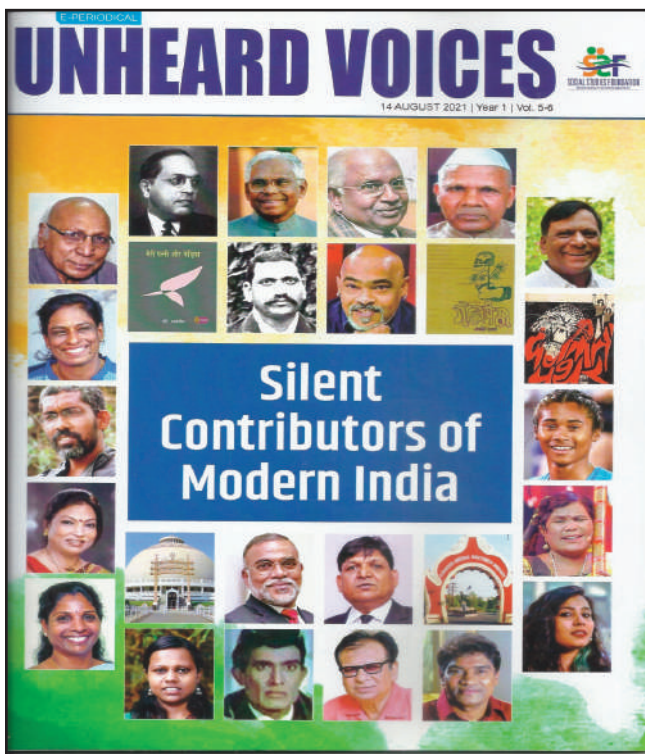
As a result of these political changes, the untouchables got some small and marginal benefits here and there. To all intents and purposes, the tenure of the first group of legislators was not marked by any eventful results though they had been making their presence felt and did a good deal of spade work.

This brings us to the next phase toward the close of the Khizar Hayat Khan Tiwana ministry. The Muslim League with its avowed object of attaining a separate, independent, and sovereign state of Pakistan was rapidly gaining ground. So much so that premier Khizar Hayat Khan was finding it very difficult to get a Muslim for appointment as a minister. Prompted and swayed by the swift and sweeping political realignments, almost all the Muslim politicians of note belonging to other parties, including the Indian National Congress, jumped into the bandwagon of the Muslim League. The Khizar ministry, however, trudged on, losing strength and image with the passing of every day.

Our people had been cherishing the dream that a person of our own would be included in the cabinet. And for the realization of that dream, they made all possible efforts but without success. The demand was evaded and put off on one pretext or the other. All that was done was that one MLA was made a parliamentary secretary. This caused disappointment and frustration. The Muslim Leaguers were watching the situation closely. They sensed the dissatisfaction

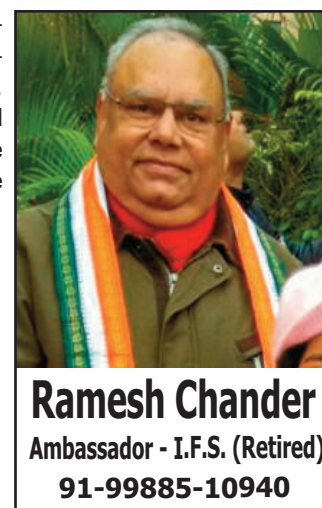
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Glimpses of my short trip to Pune



On the invitation of Social Studies Foundation (SSF) of Pune, I visited Pune from August 13-15. It was memorable visit about which I would make a detailed report in due course to share my impressions and reflections on my engagements in Pune, a historic city of the State of Maharashtra. Here I give some of the highlights for the benefit of the readers of the Ambedkar Times as one of the slots in my programme was the official release of the a special issue of the Unheard Voices a newly launched mouthpiece of the depressed and marginalized sections of the society.

India". It was formally released by a renowned researcher and historian Dr. Anil Baisane I presided over the function as the Chief Guest and spoke



on the theme "Role and Contribution of depressed

August 13 – Visit to Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Museum and Memorial hosted at esteemed Symbiosis Society. It is an important landmark on the map of City of Pune.

classes in the freedom struggle and nation building"

August 15 – Independence Day Celebrations at the esteemed temple of learning Gokhale Institute of Political Science an Economics. I garlanded the statue of Gopal Krishan Gokhale founder of the institute and hoisted the tri-colour at a brief but impressive ceremony.

August 14 – Release of the special issue of the Unheard Voices "Silent Contributors of Modern

HUMANITY AT ITS BEST

Tokyo 2020 Silver Medalist Maria Andrejczyk from Poland auctioned off her Silver Medal to help send an eight month boy to Stanford University for heart surgery. Zabka, a Polish Store Chain won the auction with a bid of \$12K and then returned the Medal to her.
Via SR Ladhar IAS (Rtd.)



My Struggle in Life

(Continue from page 3)
among our people and started making wooing gestures. As a result of some discussions between our men and the League leaders, the stage was set for negotiations. I was taken to Lahore by a couple of friends on the plea that some important matters were to be discussed and sorted out. We reached the residence of Babu Sukh Lal, who was deputy chairman of the Lahore Corporation. He was a man of mild and amiable nature, soft spoken, with a smiling face, and having fair understanding of our problems. Some noted persons including Chaudhri Sunder Singh (now an MP) and Swatam Das were already present there. From there we were taken to the palatial bungalow of the Nawab of Mamdot, where some prominent League leaders were present to receive us. Blooming with health, attired in spotless gaudy dresses, hair beautifully trimmed and groomed, wearing spacious shalwars (trousers) and white turbans wound round goldlaced kullas (hats or caps)

having flowerlike shamlas (crests) flowing skywards, they greeted us very warmly with loving hugs.
Soon the talks started. They explained their point of view and made specific offers in order to secure our cooperation in the formation of a Muslim League ministry replacing the Khizar ministry. There was not much talk from our side. The offers made by them were very tempting. They promised to give us much more than what we had ever thought of. These included the appointment of our men as ministers; substantial share in state services including some key posts; generous grants of squares of agricultural land; inclusion of the untouchables in the list of statutory agriculturists by amending the Punjab Alienation of Land Act with consequential benefits; the repeal of all the unjust, repugnant, and discriminatory laws including the notorious custom of begar (forced labor without any compensation); and all facilities and concessions in the sphere of

education.
Very attractive offers these were indeed. Who else could give us such gains and concessions? It seemed difficult to resist the temptation. Without making any commitment but with a promise to consider the matter with thoughtful care, we returned. Opinion amongst us was sharply divided. The matter was not that simple. It could have wide- and long-ranging ramifications and repercussions. It, therefore, needed not only intelligence and prudence but also wisdom. Should we ignore some of the fundamental principles and crucial stakes involved in the matter and that too for the sake of temporary and transitory gains? The offers were the price of our cooperation not only in the formation of league ministry but, more importantly, in the formation of Pakistan. That was the basic point: it raised a very serious question. The League and the National Congress represented diametrically opposed aims and objectives. The one represented

rank communalism while the other stood for nationalism. The interests of the country could not be bargained and sacrificed for a pittance. After all, our future was inseparably linked with the rest of India. We were not interested in the creation of Pakistan. If we opted for Pakistan, to think that we would be safe and comfortable there would be a grave mistake. Pakistan was going to be a theocratic state. Ultimately, what we would get would be an indelible stigma on the face of our community.
I myself unreservedly shared the view against accepting the offers. It was felt that it would be unwise to hold the possible gains and power in soiled hands. Acceptance of the offers would mean collaboration with the communal forces' disruption and disintegration of the country. Therefore, the consensus of opinion that finally emerged was to cast our lot with the rest of our people. So we decided not to accept the offers. All said and done, we took the right and wise decision.