

**THE PUNJAB APPROPRIATION
(NO. 2) BILL, 1991 —CONTD.**

***SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN**
(Nominated): Madam Deputy Chairman, I rise to oppose this Bill. I oppose this Bill because the government is the custodian of public money....
(Interruptions)...

SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA (Bihar):
You are a nominee of the President and there is President's rule in Punjab. But still you are opposing it. It is very strange. You should feel a bit ashamed of yourself.

SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN:
Those people should be ashamed of themselves who are ruling the country. I am a nominee of the President and I earnestly say that they should feel ashamed of themselves.
.... (Interruptions)....

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You please continue to speak. You are a Member and it is your right to speak. I do not know how to speak in Punjabi.

श्री भूपेन्द्र सिंह मान : इसलिए तो, मैडम, मैंने कहा था कि यह मुश्किल आएगी, लेकिन यह मुश्किल बढ़ाई करनी पड़ेगी और इसलिए मैं पंजाबी में बोल रहा हूँ ।

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN:....
P u n j a b i.... I don't know Punjabi. If you speak more in Punjabi, I might learn also.

SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN:
Madam, I would like to submit that the Government is the custodian of public money. But there is rampant corruption in the use of funds which we have to sanction to the government. There is so much corruption in each and every department there

***English Translation of the original speech in Punjabi.**

that it is not possible for me to enumerate all of them. It is prevalent everywhere. If I look towards the roads, I find that nothing is being done in accordance with the specifications. The roads are in a bad shape and the material for their repairs is not being provided. Public money is being looted, wasted and misappropriated.

Similarly, if we take irrigation into account and look at the canals, we find that money is being misappropriated in the name of cleaning them. But there is nobody to monitor these funds and to put them to proper use. In the name of checking floods, crores of rupees are being siphoned off and there is nobody to take care of that money. That is why I say that we should not allocate Budget funds to a government which cannot take care of public money.

If we talk of power supply, there is corruption in the supply of power to farmers at flat rates. The amount attributable to power theft is added to it and through cooked up figures it projected as if the Punjab State Electricity Board is functioning more efficiently than that of any other State while the facts are otherwise.

If we look at the Hospitals, neither medicines are available there nor are the patients receiving proper treatment. Medicines are being purchased at higher prices for them and there is misappropriation even in the case of medicines.

If I look at Farm Subsidy, which is the most respectable institution in Punjab, Pesticides are provided to people at very high rates and not at the subsidised rates. The subsidy meant for the people does not percolate to them. Pesticides are purchased at higher prices and sold to the people at higher rates. Thus, public money is being wasted there. There is corruption even in this field.

[Shri Bhupinder Singh Mann]

There is corruption in the cooperatives. People have lost faith in the cooperatives. Public money is being collected in the name of cooperatives. But the sugar mills and other institutions are running at a loss. How far can I enumerate, Madam.

Bribes have become the order of the day. Even while match-making, these people are not satisfied with the groom being in government service but they want to know how much the groom can earn through bribes. Bribery has reached such a pass there.

So far as education is concerned, it is at a standstill in the Villages. Those children who hunt for jobs, have to pay bribes ranging between 10,000 and 30,000 rupees and even then only the highest bidder gets it. You can very well imagine the fates of a child who has acquired academic degrees through hard labour but has to pay bribes for getting a job.

Finally, I would like to inform you that if the Police force learns to conduct itself in a lawful manner, the entire problem of Punjab can be solved. Even in a proven case of Village Kotla Ajner near Khanna wherein it has been proved that it was not an encounter but a murder by the police, no action has been taken. Similarly, recently, in Sarwali Village, two farmers were returning to their Village after selling their paddy. They were shot dead on their way back by policemen. One of them died on the spot while the other succumbed to his injuries in the Hospital after a few days. But the police, instead of taking the right view, claimed that they had been killed in a cross-fire as if they were militants facing the police. The entire false structure needs to be changed there. Out of the funds that we are going to sanction today, 50,000 rupees each were given to the families of the deceased which was their law-

ful due and 70,000 rupees are to be paid to the child who died in the CMC Hospital. Thus, the funds which we sanction are being wasted there.

These days a new practice of sending anonymous letters has started there. If someone wants another person to be tortured by the police, he sends an anonymous letter to the police that the person in question is in league with so and so. Then bribes are extracted from people in this manner. Thus, instead of suppressing and oppressing the people of Punjab by deploying army and consequently wasting public money, I would like to quote from a poem by professor Mohan Singh. He had said:—

If you treat the Punjabis with affection, they will become your slaves; But they will never succumb to a high-brow attitude.

उपसम्प्रापति : आप इसका जरा हिन्दी में ट्रांसलेशन कर बीजिए ।

श्री भूपेन्द्र सिंह मान : मैडम, प्रोफेसर मोहन सिंह वहां के कवि हैं, उन्होंने कहा है, यह बहुत देर पहले की बात है । उन्होंने कहा है कि—“ये पंजाबी लोग प्यार से तो गुलामी करेंगे लेकिन अगर दबा के रखोगे तो ये किसी की नहीं मानेंगे” ।

That is why I say, Madam, that it is in the air that Psychological Booth Capturing has been going on there for long at every place. Political parties have been resorting to Psychological Booth Capturing by raising one slogan or the other. We must keep a Vigil over the recent tendency of spreading Venom for capturing the Psychology of the people. A few days back, a mention was made in the House about some detestable remarks made against the Sikhs by Bal Thackeray. Such utterances will add insult to injury instead of restoring peace there. Such utterances should not be ignored. But I think no action has so far been taken in this regard.

We have not forgotten the massacre of 1984. We had been prevented from attending the Asiad here. Instead of knowing the facts proper utilisation of the allocated funds, curbing of bribery, we are moving in the opposite direction. I would like to request through you that all these malpractices must be checked. If a single penny is misused out of the allocated funds, the Government should realise that they are the custodian of public money and they have failed to preserve that money. I find that bribery and corruption is so widespread there that money is not being saved at all. That is why I totally oppose the sanction of these funds to a Government whose machinery is thoroughly corrupt. I request you that these funds should not be allocated to the Government.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Minister.

SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY (Assam): Madam, you have not called my name, but you have called...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I called your name. You were not there. There were only nine minutes left for the other groups and I allowed him. There should be some procedure I cannot allow many people. So, please never in future give your name.

SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: I will take only one minute, Madam.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You have already taken one minute.

SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: Let me speak for only one minute.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: All right.

SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: Members from both the

sides are critical of the policy the Government adopted on Punjab. It has been seen that a sort of colonial tendency had developed in the mind of the Central Government. Whenever anybody raised his hand, the Government wanted to now it down. What I want is that the Government should try to identify with the people. The psyche of the Punjabi people has been hurt most. Election is good. Constitution is simply a piece of paper if it is not honoured. For ten times consecutively you discussed Punjab in the House either in the form of Appropriation Bill on Punjab or for extension of President's rule in Punjab. Now the Government has taken a decision to hold elections in Punjab. Without bringing about a congenial atmosphere in Punjab and with the deployment of the BSF, military and para-military forces the Government is holding elections there I wonder what will the Government do in the post-election period? Therefore, I urge the Government through you to hold elections in a congenial atmosphere to give the Punjabi people their democratic rights. The elections should be held in a proper, peaceful and normal atmosphere.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Minister. Will you take about ten minutes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE): Yes, I am thankful to the hon. Members, who have taken part in the debate.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The voting will be after ten minutes.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY (Pondicherry): Madam, you are controlling not only the Members and Ministers, but time also.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It is my job.

SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE: You are quite aware that Punjab is under President's rule since 11th May,

[Shri Shantaram Potdukhe]

1987. The Members who have participated in this debate have expressed their concern regarding the political situation in Punjab. They want that political process should start in Punjab. Elections have to be held as early as possible and a popular Government installed there as early as possible.

The history of Punjab reminds us that it faced all the challenges in the past. Both history and tradition have shown that Punjab has risen to occasion in the past. All the Sikh Gurus have shown the path of supreme sacrifice and great concern for humanity. Guru Nanak Dev gave the message of love, unity, devotion and universal brotherhood through his sacred hymns and songs sung in divine ecstasy. Even in the most turbulent times in India, Guru Nanak offered peace and solace to the suffering humanity and he raised his voice against the religious bigotry, communal frenzy and exploitation of the poor and downtrodden. The sacred Guru Granth Sahib contains the teachings of Saint Namdeva from Maharashtra.

I remind the hon. Members that hon. Prime Minister has time and again said that this Government is committed to start political process and hold elections in Punjab. The hon. Home Minister has already mentioned in this hon. House and outside that the elections in Punjab shall be held by the 15th February, 1992 or even earlier. A concerted effort is being made by the State Government to tackle unemployment especially among the educated youth. The youth from border areas are being given vocational training in a variety of trades backed by the credit assistance from financial institutions. The hon. Home Minister has already gone on record to say that he is not averse to talk to the militants if they want to have discussions with him. He is visiting Punjab soon to see the things for himself and shall hold discussions

with all sections of people and assure the people of Punjab that there shall be proper atmosphere for holding peaceful elections. People's right to elect their representatives cannot be allowed to be held to ransom by anybody in this country.

The Government is firmly committed to deal with terrorism and secessionism. I share the concern of the Members that the militants and secessionists should not be allowed to misuse the elections for their ends. There cannot be any compromise on the basic issues to abide by the Constitution of India and the unity and integrity of our beloved country.

The completion of elections and installation of popular Government shall provide a proper forum to discuss Punjab issues, like Punjab Accord, sharing of river waters and transfer of territory, etc. Honourable Home Minister has already assured that all possible steps to ensure better conditions for free and fair elections shall be taken by the Government.

I agree with the hon. Members of this House, Shri S. S. Ahluwalia and Shri H. S. Hanspal that the Sikhs in Punjab desire to have religious, ethnic, cultural and linguistic identity. I also agree with them that there is no concept of separate theocratic State in Sikhism as Sikh brothers are spread not only all over India but in the various parts of the world. In spite of this volatile situation there were no communal riots in Punjab. I also share the views of Hanspalji, that Akali Dal should take part in the forthcoming elections since the democratic process in this country must go on. In this respect I may be allowed to quote the words of Mahatma Gandhi. He said and I quote "There are moments in your life when you must act even though you cannot carry your best friends with you. The 'still small voice' within you must be the final arbiter when there is a conflict of duty." Unquote I expect the people of Pun-

jab shall rise to their sense of duty. Punjab had been a model State in this country in all aspects and shall continue to be the model State through its agricultural and industrial development in future through a democratic process. Common people in Punjab want to live with grace in a peaceful atmosphere.

The hon. Members have raised certain points regarding the Budget allocation of Punjab. I inform this hon. House that there is a definite growth in the economy of Punjab. In the Budget of Punjab, Plan outlay is of Rs. 1010 crores. The Central assistance is Rs. 660 crores. Moratorium from interest and loans is Rs. 190 crores. Despite the volatile situation in Punjab, the approved Plan outlay for 1990-91 was Rs. 905 crores, but the achievement was Rs. 945 crores. Thus, there is an increase of Rs. 40 crores in achievements. In the Sixth Five-Year Plan, the G.D.P. of Punjab State had been 5.08 per cent. In the Seventh Plan, the G.D.P. is expected to be 6.40 per cent.

Some hon. Members have expressed concern about the manufacturing sector and industries in Punjab. The growth of the manufacturing sector in Punjab is 6.45 per cent in the Sixth Plan estimate. It is estimated to be 10 per cent in the Seventh Plan.

But as far as agriculture in Punjab State is concerned, this is in keeping with the tradition. As the hon. Member Mr. S. S. Ahluwalia has stated, though Punjab is having 2.5 per cent of India's population and 1.54 per cent of India's gross area, its production of wheat is 23 per cent, cotton 24 per cent and rice nine per cent of the total production in the country. Last year, wheat production was 121 lakh tonnes and paddy production was 65 lakh tonnes. So far as procurement of foodgrains is concerned 49 per cent of rice is procured from Punjab and wheat procurement had been 60 per cent. This year Punjab expects to

produce 116.5 lakh tonnes of wheat and 63 lakh tonnes of paddy.

As far as industries are concerned, the number of small-scale units in Punjab is 1.60 lakh and they are giving employment to 6.68 lakh persons. Medium and large-scale units in Punjab are 372 and they are giving employment to 1.74 lakh people. The number of letters of intent and registration of industries in 1987-88 is 85 and during 1989-90, it is 229. There is no flight of capital or flight of industries from Punjab though the situation is volatile.

Though there is increasing demand for power in the entire country, in Punjab, there is good availability of power and there is no labour unrest which has contributed to growth in the manufacturing and industrial sector in the State. There is heavy demand for power in agriculture sector and industrial sector. The power position is remarkably good. Thermal power stations are functioning creditably. Agriculture consumes around 46 per cent of power. With the plant load factor in power stations being overall satisfactory, the power position in the State is satisfactory. Power stations are functioning satisfactorily. Ropar Power Station shall start functioning in the year 1992-93 having a power production capacity of 420 MW. Thein Ranjit Sagar Dam has been provided Rs. 170 crores in the current year. Power being a basic industry, the Government shall give it due consideration.

There is decentralised planning in Punjab and this is a major innovation introduced last year. There is decentralised planning at the district level. The Government wants that people should be involved at the district level planning process under the chairmanship of the District Collector. The Development amount is spent by Boards according to felt needs and local priorities. Rs. 284 crores have

[Shri Shantaram Potdukhe]

been provided by the State Government for these District Planning Boards. Representatives of major political parties and four Sarpanches from each block work on this Board.

Much has been said about employment. Concerted efforts are being made by the State Government to tackle the problem of employment, especially for the educated youth. Youths from the border areas form a special target group with vocational training in a variety of trades backed by credit assistance from the financial institutions. Some Members have shown their concern about the unemployed educated youth. In 1990-91, employment opportunities have been provided to them with subsidies in dairy projects, poultry, piggy, fisheries etc. 15 per cent subsidy has been given to them. Further, youth from the border areas are being given special attention. Loans up to Rs. One lakh with 15 per cent subsidy are being given to them. There is a Centre for Training and Assistance which is a registered society. This is known as the Centre for Training and Employment in various skills and it is directed towards social integration. 4304 young men have been trained out of which 2330 have been selected in the Army, Para-military forces and the rest have gone in some corporations and public sector units. Through these programmes, the State expects to create employment opportunities to 36,500 persons. Concern has been shown by some Members about relief, resettlement and rehabilitation of those who have been killed in riots and terrorist activities during the 1984 disturbances and during the internal disturbances. Benefits are provided to their dependants and migrants to encourage them to return to their homes. The Government is making every effort to reduce the trauma of families who have suffered due to terrorist violence. Ex-gratia grant for families of those killed by terrorists

was increased from Rs. 20,000 to Rs. 50,000. An amount of Rs. 1,500 per family is also given to cover travel expenses to go back to Punjab. A sum of Rs. 500 is given as transport grant and a sum of Rs. 300 is given to cover hiring charges in the case of hiring private houses. The volatile situation in Punjab has resulted in the displacement of many families through terrorist actions. Other families have suffered through the killings of their breadwinners. The rehabilitation of such families is a major priority area for affirmative action as identified by the State Government. These actions include the grant of a monthly subsistence allowance of Rs. 1,000 to widows. Marriage grant for unmarried daughters and sisters of those killed is Rs. 10,000. An ex-gratia grant of Rs. 50,000 is also given over and above the monthly pension of Rs. 1,000 to families of victims of terrorist violence. An amount of Rs. 38.26 crores has been given under this category to 7809 families up to October, 1991. Rs. 8.44 crores have been given to 15477 internal migrants.

Madam, some Members have raised certain issues. Shri Hanspal has raised the issue of power projects in Punjab. For the year 1991-92, outlay for the power sector is Rs. 350 crores out of total Plan provision of Rs. 1010 crores which comes to 34.65 per cent. In 1990-91 the allocation was Rs. 380.76 crores out of a total provision of Rs. 905 crores which comes to about 42 per cent. For Thein Dam Hydel Project, a provision of Rs. 170 crores has been made for 1991-92 and this project will be completed in time. At present, power situation in Punjab is satisfactory and the Government will take care of the requirement of power for Punjab.

Shri Hanspal also raised the question of the release of Government of India's share in IRDP and TRYSEM to Punjab. The Government of India's share of IRDP and TRYSEM expenditure is a commitment and I am sure that it will be honoured. There is

some possibility of administrative delay in releasing the funds but this will be looked into. He also raised the question of maintenance of canal for irrigation in Punjab and the requirement of funds. It was stated by Shri Hanspal that Rs. 42 crores is required for maintenance of canals whereas only Rs. 32 crores have been provided in the Budget. I would like to say that the State Government is making sufficient provision for maintenance of all capital assets including canals.

Shri Hanspal and Shri S. S. Ahluwalia raised the issue of Governor's meeting with the Finance Minister (and credit and deposit ratio in nationalised banks. It is true that Punjab is passing through difficult times. Despite this, thanks to grit and determination of Punjab entrepreneurs, specially in the small scale sector investment, production and employment generation have not slackened. The Government would certainly look into the points raised by the hon. Governor in the meeting with the hon. Finance Minister.

It is true that the credit-deposit ratio of banks in India is 58.4 per cent. In Punjab it is 46.8 per cent. The Reserve Bank of India has already directed the commercial banks in Punjab State for reduction in margin money from 25 per cent to 15 per cent; enhancement of working capital by 50 per cent to the existing limits, reschedulement of term loan instalments and relaxation in service charges by 50 per cent. With normalcy being restored in Punjab after elections the credit-deposit ratio shall be increased to the ideal level very soon. Punjab people are highly industrious and enterprising and they would make Punjab an ideal, industrially-developed State in India. With this I request the House to return the Bill.

श्री सुरेन्द्रजीत सिंह अहलुवालिया : महोदया, मैं आपके माध्यम से मंत्री महोदय से

जानना चाहता हूँ कि करीब आठ हजार पंजाबी माइग्रेट दिल्ली में आकर बसे हुए हैं। इनमें से 2500 लोग यहाँ बोटक्लब में रह रहे हैं। उनको दिल्ली पुलिस ने बाहर फेंक दिया है। उनको रोहेबिलिटेट करने के लिए आप क्या उपाय कर रहे हैं? मंत्री महोदय या तो उनकी सुरक्षा की व्यवस्था करें। वे जिस भी गांव से आये हों या जिस भी शहर से आये हों, सरकार उनको बसाये। उनको एक हजार रुपया देने की बात थी। क्योंकि उनकी रोजमर्रा की कमाई कुछ भी नहीं है और उनका कोई धंधा नहीं है। इसलिए उनको लोन दिया जाये। और वे हिन्दुस्तान में कहीं भी जाकर बस सकें इसकी आप क्या व्यवस्था कर रहे हैं?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Man-triji, do you nave anything to say?

श्री शंताराम पोटबुखे : जैसा कि मैंने कहा उनको पंजाब जाने के लिए सब सुविधा की गई है और सरकार इस पर ध्यान दे रही है।

श्री हरवे द्रांसह हंसपाल : (पंजाब) : महोदया,

उपसभापति : आपको उन्होंने जवाब दे दिया है, कल पढ़ लीजिएगा।

Now the question is:

That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of the State of Punjab for the services of the financial year 1991-92, as passed by Lok Sabha be taken into consideration.

The motion was adopted.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We shall now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

Clauses 2 and 3 and the Schedule were added to the Bill

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE:
Madam, I move:

"That the Bill be returned."

The question was proposed.

श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय (उत्तर प्रदेश) : उपसभापति महोदया, सरकार की ओर से यह घोषणा की गयी है कि 15 फरवरी के अंदर वहाँ पर चुनाव करा दिये जायेंगे और हमें पूरी आशा है कि इस वक्त तक चुनाव हो जायेंगे। सरकार की ओर से इस बात का प्रयास किया गया था और घोषणा की गई थी कि जितने उम्मीदवार खड़े होते हैं सबको सुरक्षा दी जायेगी। लेकिन पंजाब में हर उम्मीदवार को सुरक्षा दिया जाना बहुत मुश्किल है। कभी एक उम्मीदवार, स्वतंत्र उम्मीदवार जो है उसकी मृत्यु पर भी चुनाव स्थगित हो जाते हैं। जैसे कि दिल्ली में हुआ। सरकार की ओर से घोषणा भी हुई थी कि गवर्नमेंट इज कौन टु अमेंड दिस लेजिस्लेशन। तो मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूँ कि जो रिप्रेजेंटेशन आफ पीपुल ऐक्ट है उसमें किसी स्वतंत्र उम्मीदवार की मृत्यु के पश्चात् जो चुनाव रद्द हो जाता है तो क्या इसमें संशोधन करने के लिये, आर० पी० ऐक्ट में संशोधन करने का सरकार का कोई इरादा है या नहीं है ?

श्री शांता राम पोटदुखे : मैडम, यह मसला जो है यह होम मिनिस्ट्री से संबंधित है।

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY
(Uttar Pradesh): Law Ministry. It concerns the Law Ministry.

उपसभापति : ला मिनिस्ट्री से।

It concerns the Law Ministry.

श्री शांताराय पटवर्धे : ला मिनिस्ट्री से संबंधित है।

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY:
I have opposed it last year but the Congress now opposes it.

SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALA-VIYA: I discussed it before the Election Commission, it was discussed before the Election Commission.

SHRI VISHVJIT P. SINGH
(Maharashtra): Madam let it be recorded that an hon. nominated Member from Punjab has opposed the allocation of any funds to Punjab. Let it be recorded.

SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN:
It should be recorded. I stand by it.

SHRI VISHVJIT P. SINGH: I want you to stand by it... (Interruptions)...

श्री सुप्रेम सिंह मान : मैं चाहता हूँ कि यह भी रिकार्ड में आ जाये कि पैसा उनके हाथ में दिया जाये जो सरकार के पैसों का ठीक से इस्तेमाल करें। जो लोग इन पैसों का मिसयूज करते हैं, जो मशीनरी मिसयूज करती है उसके हाथों में यह नहीं दिया जाना चाहिये। जो मशीनरी इस वक्त है वह फंड का मिसयूज कर रही है
(व्यवधान) राष्ट्रपति जी ने मुझे इसलिए नामिनेट किया है ताकि मैं उनका हित में बात करूँ।
(व्यवधान)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill be returned."

The motion was adopted.

SARDAR JAGJIT SINGH AURORA
(Punjab): Why should a nominated Member oppose it?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now we take up Special Mentions. Shri Murlidhar Chandrakant Bhandare. Before I call upon Mr. Bhandare, I would like to refer to the significance of the 10th December, Human Rights Day, which is his birthday and I wish him a happy birthday. It is a birthday gift to him.

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY:
Younger and wiser.

(Interruptions)

SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE (Maharashtra): I think I look younger and wiser.

SPECIAL MENTIONS

Observance of human Rights Day

SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE (MAHARASHTRA): Madam, I thank you and the Members of this august House for your kind good wishes and I particularly thank you for the birthday gift of permitting me to make this Special Mention on Human Rights.

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY (Uttar Pradesh): What is the gift?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Human Rights.

SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Forty-three years ago on 10th December, 1948, the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Since then every year this day is being observed as Human Rights Day. The Universal Declaration lays down a common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations for protection and promotion of the basic human rights and fundamental freedoms.

For forty years the world was split into two camps. However, the cold war is now over; the spring time of human rights promises to bloom in the near future. The world is passing through a period of momentous changes. These changes have far-reaching implications to the Nation States, international organisations and mankind in general. The assertion of democratic rights of the people in State after state has been one of the most impor-

tant changes that are taking place. The fading of the cold war is another, which has transformed the structure of international relations beyond recognition. These developments mark a crucial turning point in human history and portend a promising future in the field of human rights.

What is to be remembered is that these changes have come from within the hearts of the people themselves and could not be imposed from outside. Human rights can be realised in the true sense only in an environment of social justice and equality of opportunity. It calls for participation of people in the process of development and decision-making at all levels. It requires getting back the cultural moorings, deriving sustenance from them and supplying creative potential to the individuals, societies and States. Human rights ensure a life with dignity in a clear, safe and healthy environment. There can be no freedom unless human beings are released from the bondage of wants.

In today's global situation protectionism is rising; the debt burden is increasing; the terms of trade for primary producers are continuing to deteriorate and several resource flows from the poorer to the richer areas are taking place. This imbalance has to be removed.

Peace, independence, security, disarmament and development are the **PANCHASHEEL** on which the protection and enjoyment of human rights must rest. The whole of the mankind stands for a drastic reduction in the global military expenditures, for the elimination of weapons of mass destruction particularly nuclear weapons and for free and unfettered exercise of human rights.

The world is one and peace and human rights are indivisible. East and West, North and South regardless of their differing perceptions,