

PUNJAB VIDHAN SABHA
BULLETIN No. 8

Thursday, the 30th June, 2022
(Morning Sitting)
(From 10.00 A.M to 02.33 P.M.)

1. Questions

(a) Starred Questions:

Total no. of questions on the order paper	Answered	Not put	Postponed	Answered under Rule 38	No. of Supplementaries
20	18	-	2	-	27

(b) Unstarred Questions: 8

2. Ruling by the Hon'ble Speaker

During the Question Hour, Sardar Gurpreet Singh Banawali, M.L.A. while making supplementary on the problem of filthy water of Ghaggar river in Sardulgarh related to his Starred Question No. 16, a request was made to constitute a committee of the Vidhan Sabha so as to present its report that from where the chemical water is being drained into the Ghaggar river, on which the ruling was given by the Hon'ble Speaker that the work of said committee would also be entrusted to the committee which has been constituted for Buddha Nullah, Ludhiana.

3. Official Resolution

i. Sardar Gurmeet Singh Meet Haher, Education Minister moved the following Resolution which was put to the vote of the House and carried:-

"This House is concerned about the attempt being made by some vested interests to push the matter for change of status of Panjab University into a Central University on one pretext or the other.

The House acknowledges and recognizes that the Panjab University was re-commenced with an Act of the Punjab State namely the Panjab University Act 1947 after independence and subsequently with the reorganization of the State of Punjab in 1966, it was declared as an Inter-State Body Corporate under section 72 (1) of the Punjab Reorganization Act, 1966 enacted by the Parliament. Since its inception, the Panjab University has been continuously and uninterruptedly functioning in the State of Punjab. It was shifted from Lahore, the then capital of Punjab, to Hoshiarpur and then to Chandigarh, the capital of Punjab. More than 175 colleges of Punjab, which are situated in the districts of Fazilka, Ferozpur, Hoshiarpur, Ludhiana, Moga, Sri Muktsar Sahib and S.B.S. Nagar are affiliated with the Panjab University at present. The entire territorial jurisdiction and the populace, which the Panjab University is catering to falls majorly in the State of

Punjab, in addition to the area under Union Territory of Chandigarh, which despite many resolutions of this august house has not been restored as the capital of Punjab State only and continues to be a Union Territory.

Historically, the people of Punjab have been very intimately associated and have identified themselves with this University right from its inception. The Panjab University occupies an emotional place in the minds of Punjabis on account of historical, regional and cultural reasons. The University has emerged as an educational and cultural symbol of Punjab's legacy and inheritance to the extent that it has almost become synonymous with the State of Punjab.

Despite the fact that the States of Haryana and Himachal stopped contributing their share of the maintenance deficit grants to the University, the State of Punjab has increased its share from 20 percent to 40 percent and has continuously been paying it since 1976. The Government of Haryana unilaterally withdrew the affiliation of its colleges from the University and transferred the same to the other Universities within Haryana State, which has reduced the revenue of the University. The Government of India vide its notification dated 27-10-1997 ceased representation of Haryana in various governing bodies of the University.

This House has observed that the University has been managing and conducting its financial affairs unilaterally. The State of Punjab has however increased the Grant-in-Aid from Rs. 20 crores to Rs. 45.30 crores during the financial year 2020-21, which amounts to an increase of more than 75%. Besides, nearly Rs. 100 crore is collected annually by the University from the affiliated Colleges located in Punjab. This substantial increase may not be commensurate with the needs of Panjab University, but this is due to the reason that there is no bilateral consultative process in place.

This House strongly and unanimously feels that any decision to change the character of Panjab University would not be acceptable to the people of Punjab. Therefore, no change in the nature and character of this University should be considered by the Government of India. Any proposal in case it is being considered should be dropped with immediate effect.

Therefore, this House strongly recommends to the State Government to take up the matter with the Central Government so as not to alter the nature and character of the Panjab University in any way keeping in view the sentiments of the people of Punjab."

While moving the resolution, Education Minister spoke for 9 minutes.

The following Members took part in the discussion on the Resolution and spoke for the time as mentioned against their names:-

1. Shri Budh Ram, Aam Aadmi Party	07 minutes
2. Shri Jangi Lal Mahajan, Bhartiya Janata Party	05 minutes
3. Sardar Pargat Singh Powar, Indian National Congress	05 minutes
4. Sardar Sukhpal Singh Khaira, Indian National Congress	11 minutes
5. Shri Ashwani Kumar Sharma, Bhartiya Janata Party	02 minutes
6. Sardar Manpreet Singh Ayali, Shiromani Akali Dal	04 minutes
7. Shri Dinesh Kumar Chadha, Aam Aadmi Party	03 minutes
8. Sardar Amritpal Singh Sukhanand, Aam Aadmi Party	02 minutes
9. Doctor Nachhatar Pal, Bahujan Samaj Party	02 minutes

ii. Shri Bhagwant Mann, Chief Minister moved the following Resolution in the House which was put to the vote of the House and carried:-

"The unilateral announcement of the Agnipath Scheme by the Government of India has witnessed widespread reactions in all States including Punjab.

The Punjab Vidhan Sabha strongly feels that the scheme where youth will be employed only for a period of four years and only up to 25% will be retained, in the best interests neither of national security nor of the youth of this country. This policy is likely to create dissatisfaction among the youth who wish to serve the armed forces of the nation for a life time.

It must be highlighted that more than one lakh soldiers from Punjab serve in the Armed Forces of the nation and many of them give the supreme sacrifice of their life on the borders of the Country every year. The youth of Punjab consider serving in the Indian Armed Forces as a matter of pride and honour and renowned for their valor and courage. This scheme has crushed the dreams of many youths of Punjab who have been aspiring to join the Armed Forces as regular soldiers.

The scheme also has the propensity to weaken the long standing esprit de corps of the Armed Forces.

This House recommends to the State Government to take up the matter with the Union Government in order to roll back the Agnipath Scheme immediately."

The following Members took part in the discussion on the Resolution and spoke for the time as mentioned against their names:-

1. Sardar Harjot Singh Bains, Law and Legislative Affairs Minister 10 minutes
2. Shri Ashwani Kumar Sharma, Bhartiya Janata Party 07 minutes
3. Sardar Rupinder Singh, Aam Aadmi Party 05 minutes
4. Sardar Manpreet Singh Ayali, Shiromani Akali Dal 05 minutes
5. Doctor Nachhatar Pal, Bahujan Samaj Party 01 minute
6. Sardar Partap Singh Bajwa, Leader of Opposition 11 minutes
7. Sardar Harpal Singh Cheema, Finance Minister 02 minutes

The Chief Minister by way of reply to the discussion spoke for 07 minutes.

4. Motion for nomination of two members for the Senate of the Panjab University

The following Motion moved by Shri Gurmeet Singh Meet Haheer, Education Minister was carried unanimously:-

"Inasmuch as two Members of the Senate of the Panjab University, Chandigarh are to be elected from amongst the Members of Vidhan Sabha (Legislative Assembly), and;

Inasmuch as the time left at the disposal of the House is extremely short and it is not possible to adhere to the entire process of election in the normal course;

Now, therefore, this House authorizes the Speaker, Punjab Vidhan Sabha to nominate two Members of the Punjab Vidhan Sabha for the senate of Panjab University, Chandigarh keeping in view the proportionate strength of various parties in the House."

5. Election of Deputy Speaker

Professor Baljinder Kaur, M.L.A. moved that Sardar Jai Krishan Singh, M.L.A., who is the member of the Punjab Vidhan Sabha and is present in the House, be elected as Deputy Speaker of the Vidhan Sabha.

Sardar Harpal Singh Cheema, Finance Minister seconded the motion.

As the name of no other Member was proposed for the office of the Deputy Speaker, Sardar Jai Krishan Singh, was elected as the Deputy Speaker unanimously.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri Bhagwant Mann, Sardar Harpal Singh Cheema, Finance Minister, Shri Gurmeet Singh Meet Haher, Education Minister, Sardar Harjot Singh Bains, Law and Legislative Affairs Minister, Sardar Kuldeep Singh Dhaliwal, Rural Development and Panchayats Minister, Shri Lal Chand, Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Minister, Shri Bram Shankar (Jimpa), Revenue, Rehabilitation and Disaster Management Minister, Sardar Harbhajan Singh E.T.O., Public Works (B&R) Minister, Sardar Laljit Singh Bhullar, Transport Minister, Dr. Baljit Kaur, Social Justice, Empowerment and Minorities Minister, Professor Baljinder Kaur, M.L.A., and Sardar Manpreet Singh Ayali, M.L.A. escorted Sardar Jai Krishan Singh to the chair of the Deputy Speaker and formally made him be seated on the Chair.

6. Congratulatory Speeches

First of all, the Hon'ble Chief Minister felicitated Sardar Jai Krishan Singh on his being elected as the Deputy Speaker unanimously and spoke for 03 minutes. Thereafter, the following Hon'ble Members made Congratulatory Speeches:-

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| 1. Doctor Raj Kumar, Indian National Congress | 02 minutes |
| 2. Doctor Sukhwinder Kumar Sukhi, Shiromani Akali Dal | 02 minutes |
| 3. Shri Ashwani Kumar Sharma, Bhartiya Janata Party | 02 minutes |
| 4. Doctor Nachhatar Pal, Bahujan Samaj Party | 01 minute |
| 5. Shri Budh Ram, Aam Aadmi Party | 02 minutes |
| 6. Sardar Kulwant Singh Pandori, Aam Aadmi Party | 01 minute |
| 7. Sardar Pargat Singh Powar, Indian National Congress | 02 minutes |
| 8. Sardar Sukhwinder Singh Kotli, Indian National Congress | 02 minutes |

The Hon'ble Speaker also felicitated Sardar Jai Krishan Singh on his being elected as the Deputy Speaker unanimously.

Thereafter, the Hon'ble Deputy Speaker thanked the Leader of the House Shri Bhagwant Mann and all the other Hon'ble Members for electing him as the Deputy Speaker.

7. Extension of time of the House

With the consent of the House, the Hon'ble Speaker extended the time of the House till the completion of speech of the Hon'ble Deputy Speaker.

The House, then adjourned till 03.30 P.M. on Thursday, the 30th June, 2022.