



# Punjab

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## Address by Mr Mukul Joshi

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Friends, welcome to the session of the NRI celebrations.

The relationship of NRIs with their homeland is very clear, a very complex relationship spreading across property, emotions, relations, etc. Today, we would like to just concentrate on explaining to you and telling you what steps we are taking in Punjab to make Punjab an attractive investment destination for everybody, but more particularly for NRIs who have more than just a commercial stake or an economic stake in such matters, who have an emotional bond and to that extent we can leverage that and let you know of the kind of opportunities we have, the kind of steps we are taking so that in case you wish, you can make Punjab a destination for your investments.

I am glad Mr Dosanjh had raised these issues about the climate, about environment, about the rule of law, about the physical environment, about education. You see that our Government is taking a lot of initiatives in all these matters and as our presentation will unfold and I am sure during the course of this you will come across some surprising facts about Punjab, which everybody knows about. You have your own impressions about Punjab; you know about your village, you know about your family, you know about your district. The overall macro picture of Punjab is actually encouraging and attractive and this is something, which we expect to demonstrate to you in our presentation. So, with your permission, Sir, I will begin.

This is a brief map of Punjab. I think you are all familiar with it.

These are certain other facts about Punjab-population, location, etc.

These are the broad macro-economic parameters of Punjab - our population, geography, climate, etc.

These are the various things which make for a good mark, for a good attraction for investment potential. And, you will see in the course of our presentation, that Punjab virtually tops India in all these areas, in terms of marketing, in terms of infrastructure, human resources, agricultural, and industrial base. We will come to this one by one.

The question of political stability was raised and the question of the rule of law and corruption was raised by Mr Dosanjh. I think it is well known today that our Chief Minister's commitment towards eradication of corruption is well known throughout India, maybe in the rest of the world as well. And this is one of the key parameters, which is for attracting investment, for making your investment safe and this is one thing, which this Government absolutely assures.

As you will see, even today although Punjab is one of the most developed areas in the country, but its agricultural base is still very strong and relative to the rest of the country, the share of agriculture in the gross domestic product is still slightly higher. The point we wish to make is right at the bottom, i.e., the success that Punjab had in agriculture during the Green Revolution from 1966 onwards, we intend to replicate this now in industry. This is the goal of the Government to replicate that same outstanding success in industry.

These are some parameters. Punjab, from the point of view of per capita disposable income, ranks again the highest in the country. Maharashtra is now almost close, but Punjab has been and continues today as a result of which Punjab is the biggest market for all consumer goods in the country - white goods, consumer goods. This is a fact which is not so well known. But, in fact, all big companies have their biggest marketing outlets in Punjab.

Another relatively unknown fact is that Punjab has the least incidence of labour problems in the whole country. The number of mandays lost on account of labour, the amount of unionism is just missing. It is negligible compared to Maharashtra and West Bengal. It is way below the rest of the country.

Here is another thing, infrastructure. Now, this was the study carried out by the Centre for Monitoring of the Indian Economy. In respect of various parameters like roads, railways, educational institutions, quantum of investment in public services, Punjab ranks the highest in infrastructure development in the country and this is something evident. If you go today, I don't know whether you have recently been, the kind of things that are happening, the roads that are being widened, the optic fibre network that's coming in, it's all reflected in this.

Again, the highest consumption of electricity is in Punjab. We will come to availability also.

Regarding power availability, again you will see that per capita availability of power, from the point view of installed capacity, is again the highest in the country.

Power rates are perhaps the lowest because these are industry rates, these are our revised rates, which were recently revised, and they are still way below other industrialized states.

Similarly, availability of power: Today, if you want to start an industry in Punjab, we can assure you that without any delay at all whatever your power requirements will be met by the board without any delay at all.

Similarly, we have signed an MoU with the Gas Authority of India Ltd and by 2004 we expect a gas pipeline to come in. So a large number of energy-using industries can switch to gas and this gas is going to be imported from Oman and will come by pipeline.

Rail connection: Punjab again has the highest per capita density of rail tracks and also we have now direct connection to Kandla Port. It takes about 36 to 48 hours to reach Kandla from our four or five container freight stations where you have customs clearance within Punjab itself and your container will reach Kandla within 48 hours.

From the point of view of crime, law and order, again it is well known that Punjab is the most peaceful state. In fact, a very common thing lots of people find is that in The northern Indian States, particularly I don't want to criticize any other state, but in many industrial areas around Delhi there is a lot of what is called Mafia rule operating extortion. Many contracts are taken by the Mafia kind of organization. This is absolutely missing in Punjab. It is most peaceful, low-crime state in the country.

Literacy: Availability of technical professionals. We have all these institutions which have now 10,000 technically trained people. Technically trained manpower is available. We have various other institutions. If anybody wants any details, we can give that information. But these are all institutions and factors, which will assist in setting up an industry in Punjab.

This is the sort of summation of the various factors, which I have just spoken about.

These are certain other locational advantages. Now, the new GT Road, double road. From Delhi, it takes about 3½ hours to reach Chandigarh. There is a double electrified track for goods movement. We have container freight stations in five places now where the Customs clearance is done there. The Ranbaxy people came to us and they said from near Chandigarh, from Thapar, they sent the consignment of medicines, which on the fifth day was distributed in Florida. So, that kind of arrangement is possible today from Punjab itself.

These are various multinationals, which are already operating in Punjab either on their own or in joint venture or in technical agreements with Punjab industries.

This is the continuation of those. Now, these are the areas of investment, which we have identified as thrust areas where there exists a strong potential in Punjab. The main areas are agro and agro-based industries, the auto components, hosiery, textiles, information technology and particularly information technology-enabled services, backroom operations, etc. which are shifting over from the US and Europe to here, dairy, milk and meat processing and infrastructure. But we will speak to you in a little more detail on this.

Again, Punjab is well known for sports goods. Pharmaceuticals are coming up. Housing, real estate, environmental technologies, retailing and entertainment are the areas where strong potential now exists.

These are various agricultural production figures, which are the base of agro processing industries, which we would build on for agro processing.

These are the various agro value-added industries which have been identified. Here, I would like to inform our friends that we have taken a lot of initiatives from the agro industries cooperation side. We have appointed senior consultants from abroad and India. We have identified the areas where these can be produced, the quality of agricultural seeds and inputs and the processing industries. We are also in the process of identifying investors from abroad and in India who would come up with investments in these areas and there exists a tremendous potential. Our policy is also designed to encourage this. Should anybody be interested, we would be very, very happy to facilitate and help. These are the various things, which we are coming up with, and you will see a change within a year or two years' time.

The next area is IT and ITES. Now, it is well known that the ITES industry is around 6 billion dollars today in India and it is going to go up to 60 billion dollars by 2010. It is the boom industry of today like IT was five years or seven years ago. And here again, Mohali, Jalandhar and Patiala are going to be tremendous destinations for ITES and we expect that there will be a serious growth in this area. This is something, which our NRI brothers can definitely look towards investing in.

These are the various steps we are taking for facilitating the electronics and information technology and ITES industry. Taxes and other facilitations are indicated here.

This is the continuing list of incentives that we are providing for the IT industry. This is part of our industrial policy, which is going to be announced. But this is a sort of sampler of the kind of incentive and facilities which we are ready to provide, which the Government is going to provide.

This is the continuation of those.

This is Mohali, which is just next to Chandigarh and has actually come up as a very, very big IT and ITES destination. This lists out a lot of advantages of Mohali. Mohali also has

the advantage of being next to Chandigarh. So, people living in Mohali, apart from their own facilities, can also take advantage of the good living conditions of Chandigarh which most of you are familiar with.

These are various details of Mohali. The key thing in Mohali is that you have a Satellite Technology Park so that the communications for purposes of information technology, the communication facilities are there. There is a link-up throughout the world which is why a lot of IT and ITES companies are already located there.

This is the kind of technology park concept we are coming up with that we would have IT Technology Park, which would provide what is called in the jargon, plug and play services. If anybody wants to come in, he will have everything ready. Come up with your software development or your enabled services and start there. This is the kind of pattern that we are working on.

These are some of the big infotech people, who are already registered with the Satellite Technology Park in Mohali and are operating from Mohali.

The other area is auto component. Now, you will be surprised to know that there are units in Punjab which are actually supplying auto components to companies like General Motors, Toyota and top-class American and Japanese companies. And these components are manufactured in Punjab near Ludhiana, near Mohali.

The components are required by such companies, by multinationals and by such high quality companies and this is the big thrust area for us. There is a tremendous amount of potential in this area.

These are various statistics indicating how Punjab is an attractive destination for auto and auto components.

This is how the industry has grown. There is a very powerful metallurgy industry in Punjab. Although Punjab is far away from steel plants, but Gobindgad Mandi is one of the biggest steel processing towns in the country and you get all kinds of speciality steels available.

These are the various exports of auto parts. The auto industry has grown up to Rs. 200 crore. It is expected to grow to Rs. 600 crore within a few years' time.

These are the various companies that we are supplying to throughout the world. These are the products which, if anybody is technically interested, are being manufactured. These are the various companies which are already in business in Punjab. If anybody wants a tie-up with them, joint venture tie-up, etc, we can facilitate contact with them.

This is continuation of the list of companies which are manufacturing various items. These are all export quality items, which we are manufacturing. The other area, of course, is very well known. Punjab is known for milk production. It is the highest milk-producing state in the country after UP, but again we are now concentrating on processing and value addition. Punjab has already got a couple of plants. We have Nestle, and we have our cooperative. This is another area which we are working very hard on to bring high value addition processing of milk and milk products and there is a tremendous potential here.

Take meat, for example. Although there is highest availability of buffalos in Punjab and there is a tremendous demand of buffalo meat throughout the Middle East, Malaysia and this is a very, very big industry, which has tremendous potential.

These are the various value addition items that we are working on. The third area is, of

course, hosiery. Hosiery has come up in a very big way. Earlier, it was woollens. Now, it is knitted hosiery and again you will be surprised to know that international brands like Benetton and Mark & Spencers and Donna Caron are actually manufactured in Ludhiana. These are some statistics in respect of it.

These are some of the brands we are talking about. Pringle sweaters are made in Ludhiana. Similarly, Canterbury, Monte Carlo, Rage. These are all manufactured in Punjab and exported and sold as brand names in New York, London and Toronto.

These are the areas where there is a tremendous potential and this is where if anybody is interested we would very happily like to facilitate.

These are some of the infrastructure steps that have been taken. As you will see, a large number of roads have been overhauled, made double. Bridges are being made, railway over-bridges are being made. We have an international airport in Amritsar. There is a talk of having another international airport. NRIs had come some time ago and they had claimed 100 million dollars for this. Some American NRIs had come. We are working out with the Government of India. If they can locate another international airport, perhaps that would also help trade a lot. We have these Container Freight Stations which are working. So, export of products is not a problem. No longer you have to come to Delhi, or you have to go anywhere else. You get your customs clearance right in Punjab in five locations.

The fourth area, of course, is sports goods. Now, here again, today Jalandhar manufactures the highest quality sports goods in the world. And probably it has the monopoly on the top-end cricket bats, soccer balls, rackets and also these are exported throughout the world and these are sold as branded items abroad and these are all from Jalandhar.

This is another area where there is a lot of scope for development. There are a couple of very good units which have come up in and around Chandigarh. In fact, if you go to our pavilion, you will see one of them is making the Hepatitis B vaccine. It is being exported. Ranbaxy exports almost Rs.800 crore from Punjab, of which Rs. 400 crore is just from Dapped and these are all branded medicines which sell, not generic. They sell as brands in America. So, this is an area where again there is a tremendous amount of scope. There is tremendous scope for investment in hospitals, as has been identified by us.

Real estate is also going to get a big boost under the new industrial policy. We are encouraging joint ventures to come up with industrial parks and we are going to give a lot of special facilities to industrial parks for development even with 100-per cent foreign direct investment now allowed in real estate. Our urban development authority is also coming up with a lot of joint venture schemes. There is a tremendous amount of potential here as well.

These are also other areas where we are focussing in the manner of water harvesting, pollution control and sewage treatment. This is a big area because to give a proper physical environment particularly in cities there is a big programme for waste disposal, solid and non-solid waste disposal. And here again there are opportunities for joint ventures or private participation.

Punjab being a good consumer market, there is a very big scope for retail development and we are promoting multiplexes. We are giving certain special benefits. We would be doing Super Shopping Malls, Plazas and Amusement Parks. We are developing a policy once we get the technical standards correct. To our mind, this is another very good potential growth area.

This is the broad thrust of our industrial policy, which would be out in a week, or ten days of time. We will circulate it to all; it will be on the Internet as well. So, it can always

be picked up from there. We are going out of the business of directly subsidizing or directly giving financial assistance or giving across-the-board tax breaks. But we want to develop infrastructure. So, it makes it conducive for everybody to invest.

These are the various steps we are taking to reduce regulation and inspector raj. Many people feel that there are too many people interfering. So, we have taken certain steps, instead of having government inspectors or government certification, we are going to have Chartered Engineers who will certify various technical certifications which are required. So, you don't have to go to various departments. The licensed Engineer will come and do it like a Chartered Accountant does your accounts. This is now going to be implemented within next month onwards.

Again, these are several facilitating and enabling decisions which we are taking. If there is a big project you want to come up with, we have an empowered committee of the cabinet. We will sit across with you; you negotiate with us what you want. Whatever is possible, we will give it to you as a special dispensation, provided of, course, the size of the project is appropriate, above 25 crores of rupees.

Again, these are the various facilitations, exemptions from certain regulations, payment of fees, etc. for different types of industries. But, of course, anybody who is especially interested we will be able to personally explain and give the details.

These are other additional further aspects of our industrial policy which is coming out. Again, these are all facilitations to the film industry.

These are some special dispensations for agro industries which we are giving. We are exempting these from various fees, various market inputs, etc. This is an area which we are really keen to develop where there is a tremendous potential. We need to diversify within agriculture from wheat and rice. It is the very important objective of the Government. So, these are some special facilities which we are giving to agro industries.

These are some general measures towards the tax reform in our State. In India as a whole, a big tax reform is coming about by way of sales tax reform. We are switching to value-added tax from 1<sup>st</sup> April onwards throughout the country. So, this has been an impediment to many investors earlier because each state has a different tax regime and you keep getting double tax. You get tax here and tax there, say, local sales taxes. So, this is changing and Punjab is at the forefront and we expect to have value-added tax by 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2003, which will simplify a lot of procedures and reduce the element of local taxation.

These are all part of tax reforms, which we are undertaking, which are under way already at the moment. Our prime facilitator in Punjab is the Punjab State Industrial Development Corporation. So, we, apart from general facilitation, also offer that if somebody comes with a big project we will appoint one of our officers with the entrepreneur and he will do all your clearances; he will get everything done for you as if it is his job to do it. So, people have a feeling that if you come here, you have to run around a lot, go to various places. Our officer will do that for you, for larger projects.

Similarly, on the agro side or on the electronic side, we have two corporations, our Punjab Agro Industries Corporation and the Information Technology Corporation. We are ready to provide similar facilitation for large investors.

These are again the list of facilitations that we are ready to offer from the Punjab PSIDC. These are the authorities that you can contact and if anybody is interested there is a booklet which has been circulated to everybody. Details are given in that. We have some CDs of this presentation. So, you are welcome to take them from us. And in any

case our industrial policy will be out on the Internet at the Punjab Government site. So, it can be accessed from there. So, we hope that we are able to provide a climate for our NRI brothers should they wish to come and invest, to be able to invest safely and profitably. Thank you very much.

We will just distribute them to you. They are here; just collect them from here.

## **Keynote Address by Mr Avtar Henry, Industries Minister, Government of Punjab**

Dear NRIs, PIOs, Friends, Captains of Industries, Senior Government Officials, and Representatives of Media.

Ladies and gentlemen, it gives me pleasure to be with you this morning to join the interactive session with the NRIs for the development of industry in the state.

At the outset, I would like you to inform you that Captain Amarinder Singh, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Punjab, who has to personally interact with you could not be present here today due to some unavoidable preoccupation. We in the whole of Punjab admire your contribution to the industrial growth in the State of Punjab. Punjab today is at cross-roads. On the one hand, we are globally acknowledged as a highly productive and enterprising community. On the other hand, in spite of a Green Revolution, the economy of Punjab is in shambles due to the sheer mismanagement by the previous Government. You will agree that the process of liberalization which originated quite some time back in India was required to be followed with the state-level reform to bring efficiency and economic activities. However, we lost precious time in taking avoidable populist economic decisions. Our Government under the dynamic leadership of Capt Amarinder Singh, Chief Minister, Punjab has dedicated itself to bring in major financial administrative reforms. These reforms will ensure that a conducive environment is created by attracting new investment. We will ensure that existing industry remains on the development and growth.

We are committed to remove all bureaucratic hassles. Our new industrial policy, which is under finalization, focusses on bringing transparency and a government decision-making facilitating new investment. Under this policy, emphasis would be on providing congenial environment to entrepreneurs by eliminating inspector raj and streamlining the system and procedure. A system of self-certification or certification through authorized Chartered Engineers in respect of statutory inspection of Weights and Measures, boilers, environment clearance and electrical installation will be introduced. We are also introducing a scheme for self-certification under various labour laws.

Another area of concern is the growing sickness in industry due to liberalization and pressure of global competition. We have seen that the present system of State-level entitling the institutional committees to handle the sick units is not effective. The suggestion put up by Shri V K Divan, Chairman and Chief Executive of Building and Raw Material Company based in Bahrain has been taken into consideration and details of the sick units with machinery and assets are available for revival by the NRIs interested in these ventures.

With the globalization of the economy, industrial units have to face competition from their counterparts in the technologically advanced countries. Therefore, it has become imperative for the units to upgrade their technology. We plan to introduce schemes related to modernization and technology upgradation by the units to enhance their competitiveness. We are also committed to make our single-window system effective, responsive to ensure all clearances are given within 48 hours. During the last 55 years, Punjab has invested heavily in the creation of physical infrastructures by investing in irrigation, power and roads. In the global market economy, various models of attracting



private investment in these sectors are available. Our Government now has rightfully dedicated its resources for the development of social infrastructure – for example, education, sanitation, health, environment, taxation and labour reform.

I would like to inform you that the power position in Punjab is very comfortable and the State Electricity Board has also facilitated the cogeneration of power by bringing out a proactive policy. PSEB has also entered into an agreement with the Government of India for implementation of a power sector reform. The State Government has also accorded highest priority to infrastructural development.

For the first time in the history of the State, three new highways, high-level bridges on the rivers Sutlej and Beas had been taken up for construction simultaneously. These projects are at an advanced stage of implementation. Some of the segments have been completed. The State Government has given a fillip to improve the road infrastructure in the State. I may add to it that the State of Punjab has excellent industrial relations with almost negligible mandays lost due to strikes and lockouts.

Further, to match the technical manpower requirement with the needs of the industry, technical institutes in the State are being constantly upgraded. The Punjab Technical University has been set up at Jalandhar to bring all the engineering colleges and technical institutes of the State under one umbrella. Various technical courses are being run in these engineering colleges. Besides IT and IT-Enabled Services, biotechnology will be developed in a big way in the State. For this purpose, a separate policy is proposed through which the creation of high quality office space and infrastructure for such units will be facilitated. There is a tremendous potential in the State for agro-based industry. The Punjab State has made the country not only self-reliant in the production of food grains, but also made it an agriculture exporting country.

Punjab has excelled both in terms of production plans. Now, there is a great need to switch over to other crops like maize, cotton, groundnut, basmati rice, kharif, oil seed, pulse, winter maize and fodder crops from paddy, wheat-cropping system. For this purpose, the Punjab Government has prepared a five-year plan for a crop-tested domestication. Punjabis have a wealth of knowledge and expertise. We will provide an environment so that this wealth generates high value addition in our economic activities. We are confident that this approach will lead to next generation of economic revolution based on knowledge-driven enterprise. We humbly request you all to guide support and lead our industrial, commercial and services sectors.

In the end, I, on behalf of our Chief Minister, want to assure you all that we shall have interaction with you all to formulate a strategy for overall development of the Punjab State. I would like to say something in Punjabi also.

I am happy to repeat the point which the Hon'ble Minister has made that in Punjab integrity should be taken as a given fact. When you come you will get all the facilities in a manner in which you can get them in any western country. As the Hon'ble Minister has announced, he will appoint a nodal officer with you so that when you have to get your work done from any department you have no difficulty. I am also very happy to welcome the investment for a hospital at a cost of Rs. 4 crore.

Some time ago, we made a survey of the social investment which has been made by the Punjabis in the State, and I was happy to see that just in two districts Jalandhar and Kapurthala Rs. 39 crore has been invested by NRIs in what are called social projects. If the NRI came from any village he made sure that the school in his village, or the hospital, or the streets, lights, drains have been put into good shape. In one village in Hoshiarpur called Khadodi, they have invested almost Rs. 1 crore to make underground



pipeline, water treatment plant and it is functional. I went and had a look. People told me in the village the disease has fallen by 50 per cent because there are no flies and there are no mosquitoes. They also have solar lighting in that village and recreational parks.

So, wherever NRIs have had a very full and beautiful life, very productive life, they have not forgotten their village. They have not forgotten their roots and some very important investments have come. I think that what Minister Saheb has said about social projects is welcome, but we would like to see some industrial investments in the coming days. There is a convention on the 14<sup>th</sup>, which we are having in Jalandhar. So, hopefully we will be seeing many of you there. We will also be interacting with the Hon'ble Chief Minister Saheb and with other members of the cabinet and I hope that from this point of view it will be very productive.

I think now can I request you for joining us for tea. It is laid out outside and after that we have Mr Gulzar Cheema and an address also by our Minister Mr Kang. Also, we would like to get feedback and an interactive session, which we will have after tea.

## Mr L M Singhvi

Distinguished Minister for Industries, Mr Avtar Henry, Distinguished Minister for Animal Husbandry, Sardar JS Kang, our Dear and Distinguished Visitors from Canada Dr Cheema, (although surgeons are sometimes not called doctors, Mr Bains) and Friends,

There is a song, which I used to hear in 1950-52 in Britain and America, when I first went abroad and that was 52 years ago. And the song was a very beautiful song sung by the Irish people. The song was sung when the Irish eyes are smiling.

At this Pravasi Bharatiya Divas, I see Indian eyes smiling.

And the eyes smile when the heart smiles and the heart smiles when the mind dictates it to smile. We have to bring our hearts, our minds, and our souls together for the great agenda of the new century of the new millennium for India and the Indian diaspora. They travel together – India and the Indian diaspora belong to each other. And I think it is important to remember that in this very distinguished, hardworking Indian diaspora Punjab occupies the pride of place. Punjab is, in many ways, the heart and the hands of India. And I think I should tell you how it all began in my mind.

In 1953, I met a man who did not speak any Indian language. He spoke only English and Spanish. He told me that his great grandfather was a Sikh gentleman from Punjab. Where did I meet him? I met him in San Francisco. This was one of the earliest waves of migration to California where today the Peach King of North America lives in Canada and the United States. They have done extremely well. Not only in the Silicon Valley but in the farms and the orchards of those two countries. He told me that his great grandfather had come from India in the last year of the 19<sup>th</sup> century 1899. He had many difficulties. There were no Indian ladies with them at that time. The migration was a solitary affair and a very difficult part. He married, he lived with or married a Mexican lady and then his Mexican ancestry began. But he said I do not want to forget my Indian roots. So, I assembled a few friends from Punjab in California where I was teaching at that time and I assembled them for a dinner to tell them this story of a Pravasi Bharatiya who was very anxious about his roots.

But then there are other migrations where those roots have been very well preserved. Throughout the world today, there is Indian diaspora. Mr Cheema, from Canada to Fiji the sun never sets on the Indian diaspora. It did set on the British Empire.

But it is this Indian diaspora which has come through a number of hardships, and Punjabis can only be defined as one attribute human life, the attribute of resilience, the attribute of survival, the attribute of prospering in adversity. And I think it is those earlier generations and later the more recent post-Independence generations that have made us consistently proud by their hard work, by their family values, by their sense of India and by their sense of world citizenship.

It was India which gave to the world long time ago before anyone thought of world as one family, the mantra Vasudev Kutumbakam – the world is one family. It was India which gave to the world the concept of globalization, not merely as a global bazaar, not a global market only but as a global family. Those are civilizational values, which are instilled in us for centuries, but today the time has come for us to remember and cherish the past, to face the challenges of the present but also to address the issues of the future. The Indian diaspora will draw strength from India. India will draw strength from the Indian diaspora.

And this journey of ideas which began nearly 50 years ago in my life, the journey of idea that began with my approaching the first Prime Minister of India, Jawaharlal Nehru, soon after I was elected to the Lok Sabha that Pravasi Bharatiya, the people of Indian origin, must be united with a sense of solidarity and with a sense of our own obligations to them. He said it was not possible. It was impossible, but he had great affection for the people of Indian origin. But there was the problem of sovereignty, there is the problem of a concept, which was working at that time in a part of North America, not in your part, Mr Cheema, but in the other part in the United States, where they thought the melting pot should be there. You must forget your old identities and imbibe the ones and only monolithic identity of being an American, that is no longer so. I told Panditji that he did not realize that I know America a lot more than he did. And I told him, as a Member of Parliament, as a member of his Committee on Foreign Affairs in 1962, that this is an issue there are new dimensions, which are developing, and this breakthrough has come now. Thanks to the Prime Minister's positive interest, thanks to some astrological conjunctions perhaps that this is happening.

Mr Cheema, I want to welcome you not merely in your person, I want to salute you not only for your personal achievements but as the symbol of the Indian diaspora, as a representative of great distinction, as one who has made waves in his constituency and in his own province but also as one from whom we have many expectations.

Mr Cheema, I welcome you here while I salute the Chief Minister of Punjab and the two distinguished ministers and Mr Bains and others who have come here to make common cause.

But let me end with one word. That is to say when you welcome guests, when you give them a good time during their visit, when they depart, and today is the last day of the Pravasi Bharatiya Day, there is also the joy of their arrival, there is also a sadness in their departure. Depart they must but they must depart with the memories of India, with the fact that Mother India loves its children wherever they are. With the fact that the soil which claims them as its children is a soil to which they must relate. They have rights and obligations. Those rights and obligations make the web of life.

I see here before my eyes a friend and his story is a remarkable one. I would like to tell you in two sentences this story. He went as a very ordinary worker. Today, he is one of the leading figures in Midlands, and he is a leading figure in Midlands not merely because of his wealth but because of his family values. He has established his entire family there beautifully. I visited his home on many occasions, but this is one example where the heart of every Pravasi Bharatiya nurtures the image, the memory of India, the nostalgia. And I think that is something on which we must build.

The Pravasi Bharatiya Sammelan will do nothing more than to make a good beginning. It will do nothing more than to flag off the ship and that ship must travel around the world in its global journey and I am sure that Punjab will be at the steering wheel of this ship, because Punjab has much to contribute.

Mr Avtar Henry, I want you to take back this message to your Government. The governments do not do everything but they help things to happen. And that is where your responsibility and the responsibility of your Chief Minister lies. His father was a great friend of mine, we have worked together. His mother was with me in the Lok Sabha, long time ago and I want to tell you this that we must work beyond the parties, the parties are on ship. Let it be confined to our domestic walls, let there be no feeling that anything divides us. Let the diaspora help to unite us in a remarkable and miraculous manner that it can. Let them contribute to the transformation of India. Let them contribute to making India a superpower by 2020.

Thank you very much.

## Dr Gulzar Cheema

Thank you and good afternoon. This is truly an honour for me to be here representing my Premier and our Government of British Columbia. This truly has been a remarkable week and especially the last three days have been great for us as a family and my wife has been visiting with me. This is truly a homecoming and we have enjoyed our stay here. I see some of my friends from British Columbia, I think David Jaul is there, Gurinder Sodhi was there and I think Mr Dhir was there and probably they have left.

This is truly an important event as Dr Singhvi was telling us. This is the beginning and I hope that there is a follow-up after the great beginning. What happens is that when the great statements are made and great objectives are set and if there is no follow-up we lose track and that is not possible in our part of the world where we say things we do things and otherwise people lose a lot of credibility. So, I think this Government, the Government of India, has done a great job by recognizing the contributions of Indians from abroad and I am truly pleased to see that the people from Punjab, the true NRIs of this country, started their journey about 100 years ago. If you look at the history of Punjabis, we are a very unique race, a very important race. We have a strong cultural heritage, but we have a will to succeed and I think that is what has made the countries where we have gone we have done a great job but also we have done the great service to this nation and especially to Punjab.

I think the Punjab economy for the last 20 years has partially been driven by the NRIs and especially the Punjabis. I want to say thank-you to all of you. This is the success story. These stories are from Belga, this story is from Jalandhar, every part of Punjab. Now, every village has a story, every person in this hall has a great story and that is the story we need to sell as Punjabis of Indian origin and Punjabis of western origin we call as a very unique race all around, around the world. We go, we work hard, we respect the country where we are. I love my province. I am grateful for the opportunities we have been given in Canada, but we are very proud of our culture, very proud of our heritage. I think that is what we should never lose sight of and it is not about us I always say, it is about the country where we live.

I don't think personally if I was in this country I would have reached that status where I have reached in Canada. That is about Canada, that is British Columbia. That is what I think we need to tell the Indians here that we should be respectful of the whole world. I think the global village will be only good to us if when we go back we have the same kind of feeling and I think that is what needs to be done.



This is also an honour for me to bring a message from my Premier. His message was very clear that the people in our province are close to 400,000 British Columbians of Indian heritage, i.e., about 8 to 9 per cent of our boarding population. The Punjabis are the fourth-largest Punjabi-speaking language in British Columbia today. That is an achievement not only for us, but it is an achievement for British Columbia. I think it says again a lot about the country. I do want to say thank-you to Canada and British Columbia which have actually given us that kind of status. Punjabi is being taught in the schools, it is taught everywhere. You can opt for all those things. This is a great opportunity for us.

Let me just give you some background of my province. Our province is the most beautiful place in the whole world. You come to British Columbia. Within a range of ten miles, you can have snow, you can have mountains, you can have water skiing, you can do fishing, it is all over there. Please do come and visit us. That is the message from my Government, come and visit us. We also have four areas of collaboration. During my visit, I had the chance to meet the Chief Minister. I am not going to read my speech. So, I am just going to do from the heart. I had a good meeting with the Chief Minister of Punjab. I was truly impressed by his vision for Punjab and especially his way of thinking that Punjab has to move out of the one sector, the agriculture. They have to move outside the borders now and I think that is very important and he will be coming to British Columbia shortly and that will be very, very helpful for British Columbia and for Punjab.

I was very impressed with his vision about us as Punjabis who live in British Columbia and in Canada and in the rest of the world. This is, I am told, the first time we will have somebody, an office with proper interaction and I can see that if I come as a person from British Columbia I have my property in Gurdaspur and in Jalandhar. If I am going to waste my three months just following up who's who, then I am in big trouble. I will lose touch and my children definitely are not going to come here. So, I think this Government has done a tremendous job at least in laying the foundation and that will do a good job for us.

I was also impressed that they are going to set up a Provincial Court specially designed for us. I think it is so important that when we come here, we need to know where to go. I think that is very, very well done. I was also very impressed to see that this Government is respectful of our taxed dollars and they are setting up a good standard of accountability, and transparency is so important. I told the Chief Minister that if you want to come to our Province, which he is going to do, you come up with one or two good ideas. Don't come with twenty of them, they will never materialize.

Let us start with a small project and then we can follow up. Because that way we can build credibility and this Government will have a credibility. Ultimately, we must serve our constituency and my constituency is going to be only served if I come here and take something solid. If I come here and have parties and have all the bouquets they are not going to do a job for me, for my constituency and same is for them. And I think when I see Mr Henry, Mr Kang, I am also impressed. They are also caring, compassionate and they do understand the business opportunities.

Our Government is a business government. We think that the Government has no business in interfering in the business of the community. We should let the community work, we should create the opportunities for everyone to really progress and I think that is the message the Premier gave me here. I think that is very, very good. So, we hope to have more cooperation between Punjab and British Columbia and that will be very helpful. That will help us in our cultural ties. It is so important that you cannot imagine. When you go to British Columbia, if you go to Vancouver, you will think that (speaks in Punjabi). You go to Richmond, you will think (speaks in Punjabi). You go to Fraser Valley, you will see you are in a Dutch place so different and so positive and so

good. (speaks in Punjabi). It is tough time for them, but I think if you want to do the right thing, it is going to be tough. So, we have to be very supportive of them also in terms of their personal ideas. (speaks in Punjabi)

We have to be up there, we are not up there. Punjab has to do more and I think that needs to be done and I think that needs to be said because I can't be unrealistic and stand here and say something, which is not true. Go to any other emporium at this time they are all full. We need to have this hall full. I think that is really sad, but having said that I just want to end my remarks by saying thank-you to the Government of Punjab, Government of India, and especially to the CM and Mr Kang and Mr Henry who have been great to me. I have asked them to come and visit our Province and I am hoping that my Premier is going to come here also and I want them to come to Punjab, I want them to go to Rajasthan, to Andhra Pradesh, to Karnataka, to Kerala. I think we have to really work hard and we are also requesting you to come to British Columbia, invest money in there. We have a lot of opportunities. We have a great Government, we have a business environment, and we have a great economy.

Thank you for listening to me. Thanks.

## Mr Parvinder Singh Chandok

First of all, I would like to thank Captain Amarinder Singh Maharajji, Henry Saheb, Kang Saheb, Dr Cheema and your goodself for organizing this event and giving us the opportunity. I must mention to you a very important thing and I think it is very difficult to put one billion dollars in one minute.

I am Parvinder Singh Chandok from Iran. I was born in Iran. I would like to mention to you that we have a Punjabi community, a Sikh community in Iran and the Indians are known by the Punjabi and Sikh community in Iran and it is the only Islamic country where the Sikh Gurudwaras are existing today officially. So, my most important appeal to all of you is that President Sayyed Mohammed Khatmi of Iran is coming to India. He is a State guest on the 26<sup>th</sup> January and Iran is going to be the biggest trading partner for India and major ally for India and my interview has been published on *Rediff.com*.

We are expecting a credit line of 200 million dollars to go to Iran from India and I have implored upon the Punjab Government and Mr Bains, Mr Kang and Henry Saheb today that Punjab must share its role in welcoming the Islamic leader Sayyed Mohammed Khatmi of Iran, because he has love for the Sikhs, for the Punjabis and he knows the Indians by the Sikhs and the Punjabis. So, it is an appeal to the Punjab Government that they should not miss the boat and we are expecting a trade of 1 billion dollars with Iran and I think the Punjab Government has not taken any initiative so far. Probably, it was not known to them and all the trade and all the credit goes to the Punjabis and the Sikhs who are known as Indians in Iran, whereas nothing is coming from Punjab to Iran at the moment.

So, you please take up this issue very seriously and focus on the opportunities because it is an instant opportunity and he is a State guest on the 26<sup>th</sup> and I appeal to you to bring a high-level delegation of trade to Iran very soon and I have also requested Mr Kang and I will appeal to Henry Saheb also that we must not miss the boat and we could be the major source for investment in Punjab and then one of my very important suggestions to you is that we are looking forward to having India-Punjab Investment Park in Iran and also in Punjab.

So, if you could work on this idea and set up an action task force because I see we blame the past government or the future government. Let us not blame anyone, let us look for action. If we need an action from the Punjabis and Punjab to thrust upon the Iranian

relations and I just tell you that Punjab will be the leader if it marches towards Iran. So, please welcome President Khatmi of Iran and I think it will be a big credit to Punjab.

Thank you very much. All the best to you.

## Mr David Johal

(Speech in Punjabi)

I feel somewhat more comforted by this conference, the steps that are being taken. But if I can make a suggestion to our hon'ble Ministers here I would like to see whether they would consider, or you got Dr Cheema as well, that the two Governments get together and let us do student exchanges. Well, they are three weeks, two weeks, if both Governments officially sanction them. Let us show the students that there is a lot more that India and especially Punjab has to offer. That is my suggestion, start not just at the government level, let us start at the grassroots level. Marketing McDonald's, all these are the stories here. Who do they market to, they market to the children because when the children grow up they are going to teach their children. Let us get our children involved. Let us show them the good side of India, not just the gravy, not just the filmy songs.

The second request is from my business viewpoint. I am on the executive of the Indo-Canadian Business Association. I started this foundation in the Surrey Delta area where I live. There are about 80 companies that are members with us. It is nice to receive the ministers, the high delegations, but frankly we enjoy your company but we don't get too much out of it. If you do come with a delegation the suggestion I would make is bring with you the CEOs, bring with you the bankers, bring with you the accountants, bring with you the people that we want to get details with. So, we welcome you, but we ask you to broaden the horizon that you visit us well.

So, I hope to see student exchanges and make the delegation as large as you want. I have a big house, you are more than welcome.

## Ms Jagdi Sher Singh

(Speech in Punjabi)

## Mr Dayal Singh

Hon'ble Mr Avtar Henry, Hon'ble Mr Cheema, Hon'ble Mr Kang, Mr Bains and Mr Joshi, and Ladies and Gentlemen,

Sat Sri Akal to everybody first. I come from Fiji. Actually, you heard a lot about America, Canada. My name is Dayal Singh. There is a big Sikh community in Fiji. I run the biggest institution of schools in Fiji, called the Shri Gurunanak Khalsa Sikhdi School and Shri Gurunanak Khalsa Family School. We have got 3,000 students and it is not Punjabi students. We have only 2 per cent Punjabi students, but my father's vision was to educate every children in Fiji. I am going to ask a couple of things to the Government of Punjab later. Give me one minute.

I would also like to introduce myself. You have heard a lot about Fiji's problems; we have no problems in Fiji. These are political problems between the parties. So, we can't solve them; let them fight. Mr Chaudary says something, Mr Joshira says something,

so they are different parties. Nothing is happening in Fiji. We are safe and sound. I was born in Fiji, 55 is my age. My children were all born in Fiji. Now, we are settled in Australia because of education and everything is fine. That is the side I want to tell you.

Now to the Government of Punjab. Well, first I came to Punjab in 1969. I got married in 1969 in Hoshiarpur, Malpur. We bought a set of buildings in Banga, 44 shops at Banga and we had a problem at that time because the families want to take over your property here. When we left the country to go back to Fiji and came back after three months, our families took over the property. They started collecting the rents on our behalf. So, finally we donated half of the property to Mr Buddh Singh Hospital in Dehakala. So, all the rents go from and some of the that might be going to my father Gurbachan Singh, MBE. He also donated half of the property to the Buddh Singh Hospital. The half property is there and I have solely spoken to that effect. and why it's all of us. What's all available.

Like, you know, every year I go to China for trade exhibitions. We don't know whether there are exhibitions in Punjab at all. So, I will request the Hon'ble Minister, Sir, if you can arrange something like brochures and things to go to the diaspora who is here. We have been here for the last three to four days. We have been seeing pamphlets being distributed to NRIs from the banks.

We also want to know, we want to give, and we don't want money from Punjab. We want to give money to Punjab. So, we would like you to please put on record that something is coming to all the diaspora through the Punjab Government.

We are proud to be Punjabis and I wish everybody can say the same with me, my friend from my Iran. I am proud of you too, Sir, and I respect and I bow to you, Dr Cheema. Mr Dosanjh knows me very well and my sister Alit Kauri Singh in Vancouver. You might be knowing her, too.

Thank you.

## Mr Krishna Kapila

My name is Krishna Kapila. I am from Canada. I am a retired physics teacher. I am not going to talk about big investments, which you have heard so far. I am talking about different kinds of investments, education.

I am from Sanewal, Ludhiana district. I have seen small schools and I know what they need and we have so many NRIs who can help. Who can help because they come here for two months or three months, and during that period they can do something. And for the last three years, I have been trying to find a place where I can share my experiences.

India has exported spirituality, courage or some other thing, yoga. But here we can get a scientific thought from the West also. Why don't we try to make use of those experiences, which we the NRIs have.

Now, I find it very difficult to get to those people at the top. They always doubt me that I have got something personal to grind. My friends, I am a Punjabi, I want to work for Punjab, I want to give my time and I want to do it voluntarily. I am not looking for any money.

Thank you very much.

## Mr Raj Goel

Hon'ble Panellists and My Fellow Punjabis: I was born in Punjab. I am a Punjabi. I moved to the US 30 years ago and I am a Punjabi today and I will always be a Punjabi.

So, our heart is here. We want to see Punjab progress in every aspect. You have done a tremendous job agriculturally. We want to do the same thing industrially.

We are not looking for financial investment from your Government. We really want facilities or have you facilitate for us an easier way to come and open business. You have talked to give us many different promises. We do believe that your heart is in the right place. We hope that this message will only be carried not only at your level, but every level below you. Because you can't execute all things that need to be done to set up an industry. We always have to go to other levels as well and we want to make sure that happens.

I am very encouraged throughout the three days, and I am also very encouraged for your giving us a chance to say something. Because we did not get any chance to say any place else. So, I am very proud of Punjab again for one more time and If anything that you can do for us that I believe will be great.

The biggest difference between the Chinese and the Indians is that the Chinese have a tremendous amount of network, no matter where they live? The Jewish have the same thing. Punjabis do not have a network.

We need to create a network. One single Punjabi can come here and accomplish so much. But if all of us work together as Punjabis from all over the world, we can turn Punjab into a world power for supplying the products to the rest of the world. We can do that because our labour and infrastructure here is one of the strongest one. We want to be able to assist in that endeavour. We want to be a part of that endeavour and hope that you will actually create a network that we will carry from there. So, we can contact each other at all parts of the world.

Only the last item that I really get discouraged by, is the way my friend said that he had a property issue here. We leave our properties here. We have rented property and we can never recover, recapture it back. This is not good for Punjab because one of the reasons is that we don't then develop that property. We don't invest any more money into that property. We don't create the kind of things that we should be able to create. So, you need to take a very serious look at that law as to how we can recapture the property so that we can invest money in improving those properties. So, thank you very much. I do appreciate the chance to say something.

## Mr Krishan Khanna

Good morning, friends. I am an IIT engineer with 40 years' experience. I have two manufacturing companies listed on the Bombay Stock Exchange.

For the last 10 years, most of us have given up our work and we are looking on how to make India into a superpower. I have a publication here where we have spent a few crores of rupees and 10 years of our life. It is called *Wake Up India*. I will give it to whoever wants.

The question what I want to mention here is that most of us have travelled around the world. When I used to work in Germany many years ago, I thought that they were very good workers. But then when I went to Japan, I realized that they were doing a better job. Korea was a little better. The Chinese were really good. But when I go back to



Ludhiana and see my people working, I think they are the best.

Both my manufacturing companies control 90 per cent of the Indian market. We are very strong. We have 63 people in one company. We do about Rs.40 crore turnover. We work for 362 days a year. We only close the plant in India, I am talking about India. This is near Pune.

We have also made a manufacturing policy for India, which I am going to give to the senior dignitaries sitting on the dais. Because we personally feel that China, wherever they may be, we are not worried about China. We have to do what we have to do.

China's total production is about 650 billion dollars half their GDP. We are at about less than 100 billion dollars. That's not because the people of India can't do it. Because our governance has been bad, our administration has been bad. We have had to swim with our hands and feet tied, and that is what we request you, Sir. We are going to give you a document where policy needs changes.

We have to take a lot of bold decisions. I think you have been in the Government for 55 years. My father was in the Government. He retired as General Manager in the Northern Railway. So, I have seen Government from very close quarters. We have given you chance, Sir, for 55 years. Please now listen to the people of India. We will tell you how to run this country.

India is a democracy. It is of the people, for the people, and by the people. Unless all of us take charge of our country, let's not blame the Government anymore. Let's do something and put our hands with their hands and then we can work together. We all need to contribute. Now, we have some solutions, Sir, because one of my friends mentioned about education.

We have a solution. We can teach people to read and write Hindi in 40 hours. This is meant for people who are between 7 and 70 years of age. Why I am mentioning this? As per the government statistics, 40 per cent of India is illiterate. Nowhere can this country go, if 40 per cent is illiterate. If you take UNDP report, they say that probably 55-60 per cent of India is illiterate.

Now, no number of IITS and IIMs are going to make a change if the common man of India cannot read and write. There is no difference between him and a dog or a cat, if I may say so. So, we need to concentrate on primary education.

Secondly, Sir, with all humility, I would like to mention that our college system is absolutely useless. It needs to be scrapped because we are not teaching the youngsters how to prepare for life. Except in the field of information technology where there are a lot of training courses, which only covers 1.5 per cent of the Indian GDP, we do not have vocational training.

Now, we have tied up with the largest NGO in the world, City and Guilds in the UK. They are 124 years old. They have 1,200 courses. They train one million people for you. We, Sir, are ready to offer our services to the Government of Punjab for one rupee per year. We are ready to do it.

Why I am saying one rupee? Because we don't want to go there for juice. (Punjabi) So if you want us, we are there. So, we want to be recognized and we will be ready to work for you.

One last point, Sir. The Indian industry, we have what is known as small industries (SSIs). It has already destroyed the nation and it is going to destroy whatever little is left. All over the world, there is something known as SME (Small Medium Enterprise).

Enterprise means not only manufacturing, also trading, also services.

We have everything in our books. All the web sites of the world are there. You can go to them. If you don't believe us, you can check it out yourself, Sir. We need Punjab should take the lead to redefine their business policies and look at SMEs because SMEs control 80 per cent of the world GDP, whether it is America, whether it is Europe, whether it is Japan, also in India. But somehow we have not recognized them.

It is not the large enterprises that need help. It is the small and medium enterprises. Why, Sir? I will explain in one second. All businesses start with one person, a proprietor, everywhere in the world, one person. From proprietorship, it becomes a partnership, then it becomes small, then it becomes medium, all in the same capsule. That is how entrepreneurs are born.

Today, Sir, we are destroying entrepreneurship in India. We see to it that we kill the entrepreneur because we make him run around from one office to another. Finally, he gives up. He has got an idea. He has got a dream. He wants to do something. We have to help him, not to destroy him.

Thank you very much.

## Prof Bhagat Singh Taggad

Mr Moderator, I never thought that one minute in Punjab is actually nearly half an hour. You know when somebody is giving a lengthy speech he is denying an opportunity to other people to get their point of view. That was really for you, Sir, to manage this so that everybody has the opportunity to say something and not make lengthy speech and that was really frustrating.

Now, let me come back to my point. Now, I want to make a very short but a very sincere apology to Dr Cheema because he was my supporter in Canada when I was running as the Chair for National Horticulturist. So, Mr Cheema, sorry I didn't recognize you. So, my apologies. But we are a political party, as you know. Now, a few points I want to make.

Let me talk about some imperfections that we see in Punjab. I think some of them have already been talked about. The one nobody mentioned is the drug problem. When I was a young guy in Punjab and we were all six-foot tall nearly and we were quite healthy. Now, I go to Punjab and I see young people whose health is not there. Actually, they are just like a leaf. You got to tackle that problem because that is a very serious problem. Otherwise, your younger generation is really a very serious problem.

Our dilemma as people who are living overseas is this that our children who have grown there and educated in those countries, for them to take to come after us and to take care of our assets is a real problem. So, what we have to do? There is a concept. Actually, when Dr Singhvi was in Toronto, I was promoting this concept of trying to create some confluence. Some interface that the people from abroad can interface with people in India and India can take our expertise. Of course, we spent all our lives there. There is a lot of expertise among ourselves there. And I am asking your Punjab Government to try to think in those terms as well. This Pravasi Divas is, a step in the right direction. But you have got to go beyond that. You have got to create this influence where the people from abroad meet someone from your offices here and create a mechanism with a free flow of information, ideas prosper and that will bring prosperity to Punjab.

The dual citizenship which I was promoting to Dr Singhvi has two dimensions. Not only investment dimension, it has a political dimension as well. I am not going to talk at length on that one.

So, we do have the other problem. When we come to our villages, you want your electricity connection and all that. They ask for ration cards. Now, I wonder what the hell is that. You know why if somebody lived for 40 years outside, how the hell he is going to get the ration card from his village. Please take care of this one.

The international airport has been talked about for 20 years, do something. You know it's time that you stop talking. A lot of your politicians from here come to Canada, come to England and we take care of them. We really entertain them. They dine and wine, they are back. They make promises, you never hear anything from them. That sort of culture has to be changed.

Everybody knows about corruption. I am going to tell you one story that really got me going last time and it is worth hearing. So, I am not going to take too much of your time. I went to do a will. Because I have some property land, I took my numberdar. Now, they wanted to have a photograph. So, there was that Tehsildar, I said to him. He said Rs. 500 for somebody who is writing the will, Rs.500 for somebody who is entering and he is paid by the Government as well. There was the Tehsildar and somebody was telling the Gurudwara. So I said to this Tehsildar \_\_\_\_ (speaks in Punjabi)

That sort of thing really hurts us. It hurt me also. I still remember that. So, that culture has to change. So, I thank the people like Henry coming from abroad. Please do this one.

So, the other one you can think of Pravasi Divas for Punjabis. That is another idea. Actually, that Pravasi Divas should extend more than we are doing. You should arrange workshops where we can exchange ideas, where we can give you some ideas how to do things. And we can work together to make Punjab prosperous and I thank you very much for listening to me.

## Mr Harbans Singh Sarav

Ladies and Gentleman and Hon'ble Ministers: Thank you for this time, and I also appreciate the hospitality of the Punjab Government. I was invited as a consultant. I went to the heart of Punjab and found out a few problems which are very serious, and one should take note of that.

Every acre a farmer is growing wheat is losing Rs. 611. About paddy, he makes about Rs. 1,000. That is about 20 dollars a year income, and the real figures I consulted my workers on the farm, my own farm, and also the PAU.

Now, why the farmers are committing suicide. You know that, why? What is being done? So, I am going to the positive side. (speaks in Punjabi). Well, I have been out for 36 years. I have developed quite a few technologies.

You don't need electricity, you don't need conventional electricity. We can generate from solar radiation called photovoltaic. I have done it in the United States. I am a consultant to the US Department of Energy. We have about 500 units in Punjab right now. So, we can bypass all the power lines and all the plants and everything. It is functional. There is a question of economics, which we are working on. Once it becomes economic, every household will be self-sufficient.

Secondly, surplus grain can be converted into bio-petrol, ethanol. I came here 23 years ago. I gave the technology to the Central Government. They did not act until last week. They announced 5 percent ethanol addition. We had been doing it for 10 per cent for a long time in California and in the United States it has done on a large scale. Even Brazil is doing 20 per cent and they are going to 40 per cent.



Finally, the technology I am offering already. The officials of the State are here who have taken note of my technology, and they are going to do something about it. It is bio-diesel. We don't need diesels anymore. We can grow diesel in your own farms. Due to shortage of time, I can't go into detail, but the Chief Minister and his employees would know what I am talking about and you will be hearing about it. - (speaks in Punjabi)

## Mr Balbir Singh Sahani

The observation is from the point of view of Canada. We have had a record that the immigration to Canada from Punjab used to be 85 percent. It is now about 50 percent. The first parliamentarian in the US was a Punjabi. The parliamentarians today in Canada at every level, the Federal and Provincial are very shrewd. They are in every political party. That means, we have an ample leverage to introduce something, which is lasting.

I would suggest that we should consider an exchange programme for the students and scholars. I have been instrumental in joining an exchange programme for Canada and India, which has been in operation for 32 years. I think what we need to do is have a special education linkage between the Canadian institutions and Punjabi institutions. If there is anything I can do, please feel free to call. Thank you.

## Dr Madhu Khanna

I am Dr Madhu Khanna from the Indian Overseas Congress, UK.  
(Speech in Punjabi)

## Address by Mr D L Chadha

(Speech in Hindi)

## Mr Saurabh Garewal

I will take two minutes. First of all, Mr Bains and the Minister, this is easily the best seminar I have attended. Why? Because you gave the opportunity to us to speak our mind. I complained to Dr Singhvi because they didn't allow any question. Then, that was deliberate and I will take it up with them.

I live in San Francisco for the last 32 years. I think, I am so serious, I want to be on this side of the dais. By that I mean, I am joining the political process. I am willing to give up the US citizenship to contest the elections here. I want to become a Member of Parliament in India if I have my way. Then, I think, that's the only way to effect it. (Hindi) and the party that I identify is Congress. It is not that I like Congress, I like Congress because it is a secular party. Nothing to do with BJP or Akali Dal in the offence because I am a secular person. I will be attending the Lodi function in Chandigarh. I will fill out the form, but again a constructive suggestion. You, as a moderator please don't let people go on and on and on. Cut them out after five minutes. Thank you.

## Concluding address by Mr Kang

(Speech in Punjabi)

## Address by Mr Avtar Henry

Ladies and Gentlemen

(Punjabi) and mostly a friend of mine from Fiji. He said his great grandfathers and forefathers used to live in Banga and their property is there and somebody encroached on that. I assure you, your property will be vacated. You please contact Mr Bains, he is Commissioner, NRIs. And if you have any problem you can contact me or CM Punjab anytime. There won't be any problem. We assure you, we won't let anybody to do injustice, and we won't. Otherwise, no NRI will come to Punjab to invest in Punjab. And we assure you all Punjabis and Indians, please come to Punjab. Punjab has the best atmosphere in the whole country, no law and order problem, as you see in other states. I don't want to criticize other states also, but you have to pay goonda tax in some of the states. And the only state in the country is Punjab where law and order is no problem, no labour problem and you don't read in any newspaper in the country where they say Punjab has a labour problem.

Industries which want to invest money, don't want a labour problem. Regarding electricity and infrastructure, we have good roads. Unfortunately, a few years back, before 1992 we had a problem in Punjab, which you all know. We are grateful to God, we are grateful to the people of Punjab. Some forces tried to break us and they tried their level best. Sikhs and Hindus fought like this and we are lucky there were no riots in Punjab. Punjab has sacrificed nearly 46,000 lives, we suffered a lot. The Punjab's per capita income was among No.1 in the country and still we are leading, but we are bit backward now.

We want your help. Anyway, if you want to invest in agro industry, you want to invest in any industry, please come and see the environment has changed. Mr Joshi is here, Mr Kang is here, Mr Bains is here, Mr Khalsi is over there, Mr Ojila is there, senior officers are here, and honest officers. You won't find any trouble to meet them, anytime you want they will meet you.

And some of you have given us suggestions, you come over to England, you come to Canada. I was in England for some years and when I visit once a year or twice a year, Canada, America and some other countries. And the person said they do respect us. They have a very good hospitality. But I assure that your delegation came from Canada about a month back and we have given them all the facilities. We took them around. You come to Punjab.

We had a meeting a few days back. We are trying our level best to get Harminder Sahib on the world map. We are planning our best to declare Harminder Sahib the world heritage. The Punjab Government recommended the Government of India. The Government of India is going to recommend to NASCO to declare Harminder Sahib. In this country (Hindi) and where the heritage - (Hindi) Harminder Sahib is the fifth in the world. So, we have tourism, we have industry, (Punjabi) and we are all Punjabis here and we are proud you have done well, we are proud.

I went to Canada, I said such things rather we are proud. We have no words to say, you did so much for yourself, and you have done so much for your country. When there was terrorism here, you were always (Punjabi). Please come. We arrange for you Deluxe buses. (Punjabi). We will take you around Punjab. We will show you the Punjab, all the green fields there, you come to Punjab.

I went even to California. But you don't find like Punjab anywhere in the world, but Punjab got nothing, nowhere in the world you could have that heritage.



So, I am here on behalf of CM. He deputed me. He has a confidence in me. I am thankful to him and he is really thankful to you people. He has got a warm heart. You come anytime, you just ring me up, say, I am from Canada, I am from Brazil, he will give you time, he will have lunch with you, he will have dinner with you, he will have a toast with you. He is a very nice person. Please come, visit. Scenario has changed now. You come over and have a cup of tea with us. You got my card and you give me a ring anytime. If I am in Chandigarh, I am in Jalandhar, you come anytime. This is yours, Punjab is your home and we welcome you, you please come over and stay with us and share with us.