
Council of the State. A resolution demanding the return of the abducted girl was passed and speeches condemning the govt.'s high-handedness were made. The attitude of the Government demanded collective action and, consequently, the All Kashmir Hindu Action Committee was constituted. After this assemblage dispersed, but while going out of the Shitalnath premises people were mercilessly lathi charged by the Police causing serious injuries to several people. The crowds were lathi charged at Habba Kadal which is half a mile below Shitalnath. A dozen persons were also arrested during the day. During the night following some members of the Action Committee, besides several other persons were arrested.

9th. August, 1967.

At the neglect of the Government for return of the abducted girl, tension, increased in the city. People wonder as to why such a small affair should have been complicated by the Government. Hindu Shopkeepers and business centres, including Sikhs, observed complete hartal on the day. Ruthless atrocities let loose on the minorities were condemned in a meeting held under the auspices of the All Hindu Action Committee at Shitalnath. Students also felt moved and their Federation in a meeting condemned the partisan attitude of the Govt. Other organisations likewise in Kashmir moved resolutions and expressed resentment.

10th. August, 1967.

The persons arrested during the previous three days were subjected to inhuman treatment in Jail where they were detained. The news of this inhuman treatment sent a wave of anger through the people already agitated and disappointed at the attitude of the Government. A meeting was held at Shitalnath on the day to express grief over the happenings. As is natural on such occasions the hardships and injustice meted out to the minority during two decades

since 1947 were discussed in the meeting. It was felt that the minority community had perhaps no place in its own homeland where the Government was openly hostile and worked only on communal considerations. The insecure conditions in which the minority community found itself were discussed by the speaker after speaker. Discrimination by the men at power against the members of the community in all walks of life was narrated with open grief.

It was felt and expressed that we had patiently suffered all this injustice and discriminatory acts only in the hope that accession of the State to the Indian Union was otherwise at stake. The indignities suffered by this small community with resultant economic distress were patiently undergone during the last two decades. It was felt that an inroad into the culture, the traditions, the religious practices and above all the honour of women folk was too high a price in the wake of the accession to the Indian Union. It placed too great a strain on our patriotism. The manner in which the seduction of this minor girl was handled by the Govt, provoked the common decision to launch satyagraha either to mend the matter or to end our humiliating conditions in this area. This became the main theme of the speeches made from this day onwards.

11th. August, 1967.

Atrocities of the Govt. coupled with its neglected attitude in restoring the abducted girl. compelled the agitated community to offer satyagraha by courting arrests in the batches of five persons, Accordingly the first batch of five volunteers arrive at the New Secretariat building, shouting slogans "Bharat Mata Ki Jai, Hindu Muslim Sikh Unity Zindabad." This batch of volunteers having been arrested and removed from the scene, the gathering dispersed. Some hirelings of the Govt. molested a young Hindu Girl near the Neelam Cinema, which is barely two furlongs away from the New Secretariat building The Hindus on the spot intervened and this unexpected resistance annoyed the hirelings. In no time a large gathering of the majority community started

pelting stones and beating the Hindus present on the spot. The wooden railings from the nearby premises were handy and were indiscriminately used on the people. To the amazement of every person the Kashmir Armed Police joined hands with the hooligans and ruthlessly beat up every individual who came in their way. As a result of this indiscriminate onslaught many persons were injured, including many teenagers. The news went round and there was instantaneous hartal of the Hindu shops throughout the City. Soon after a meeting was held at Shitalnath and the atrocities of the Police were condemned.

The State Assembly was in session and the opposition tried to raise a discussion on the law and order situation in the city. The Treasury Benches defeated the move with the collusion of the speaker who is a creature of the party in power.

12th. August 1967.

The second batch of Satyagrahis of five courted arrest on this day in front of the State Assembly, when the assembly was in session. The opposition on this day again raised the issue for a discussion but the ruling party, as usual, evaded it. Later a mammoth gathering appeared at Shitalnath and a meeting was held under the auspices of the Hindu Action Committee. News of the atrocities had by now travelled across to Jammu where also protest meetings and demonstrations were held.

13th. & 14th. August, 1967

By 13th August the Govt. attitude had stiffened and repressive measures were intensified. The arrested persons were ruthlessly tortured at the Police Stations and at the Jail. Outside on the roads indiscriminate lathi charges and tear gas charges on the demonstrators and satyagrahis shouting "Bharat Mata Ki Jai, Hindu Musjim Unity Zindabad" became common. On 13th the third

batch of Satayagrahis courted arrest at Habakadal & on 14th at Lalchowk, Amirakadal. On 13th the Kashmir Armed Police ran wild and injured a large number of men, women & children, who were refused admission in the State Hospital. Even the Hospital and the Red Cross ambulances were denied to them. On 14th the vindictive violence of the Police excited a section from the Police force to the extent that there was a mutual scuffle among the members of the Police themselves.

The tempo of arrests during nights also increased. The Police entered houses and took away people without any warrants. While making arrests, they did not refrain from using obscene language with respectable ladies. They went to the extent of unlawfully removing personal effects of the people, they came across in the homes they went in. Lathis were used by Kashmir Armed Police not on the lower portions of the bodies as should have been, but indiscriminately on the skulls and on the necks of the persons. Teargas Shells as well as short range shells were thrown neither into the air nor on the ground but directly on the bodies of the persons. They had evidently been given a free hand by the Government, or by the Office bearers of the Congress Organisation, who in fact superseded the effeminate Government for this period.

15th August, 1967-Independence Day gifts.

A further batch of five satayagrahis was to offer satayagraha at the Regal Chowk in front of the new extinct Regal Cinema house, gutted during Holy Relic excitement in Dec. 1963. Their arrest was purposely delayed obviously to create chaos on the sacred day of Independence. While the country was celebrating the Independence Day, the minorities in Kashmir were greeted with ruthless lathi charges, teargas shells and stone pelting. The vindictive violence of the Government through its police was not restricted only to lathi charges, but on this sacred day brutality of the Govt. through its hooligans went to the extent of throwing acid on women, girls and other peaceful demonstrators at the



A Further Scene of Police atrocities on August 15th.



Women Mourners



Brutally injured Teen—ager



A woman victim of Lathi Charge



Even Teen—agers were not spared

Regal Chowk under the very nose of the I.G.P.. The gas shells, that were used were of such type that are not meant for use on the civilian population, but for war purposes only. The lathi charges had become so indiscriminate that numerous persons including young boys, girls and ladies bled and fainted on the road sides. The persons who fled to the near by temple were persued by the police inside the temple premises and beaten there. The worst tragedy was that most of the injured were hurt on the head and neck and Kashmir police blocked all their escape routes, when tear gas shells were exploded very frequently in the midst of loyal peaceful Hindu gathering on the spot. Even the High Rank Police & C.I.D. officers were seen using lathis and shells quite indiscriminately. It was a horrible scene, which scared away even the visitors who used to haunt the site and one could not remove the victims easily to the Hospital and they had to lie there unattended till late hours. Though Govt. quarters were moved for help at the time, even the supply of any ambulance was denied and the State Red Cross branch nearby remained silent. The Satyagrahis were arrested late and with them even a teenaged girl was lifted on the spot.

On this day one of the victims of the lathi charge of 11th August, 1967, Shri Gopi Nath Handoo died. The news of his death created consternation all round. There was a large gathering at Shitalnath to express grief over the situation, which now culminated in deaths also.

The indiscriminate night arrests had by now increased and people were dragged, with or without reason, at the reports of mere third parties. Police had gone even to arrest persons who had long ago died. Such persons had been nominated from ration ticket registers at the ghats. Indian press which was silent upto this day had now felt moved to bring the events in Kashmir to the notice of the Public outside Kashmir.

16th to 22nd August, 1967.

Satyagraha developed momentum and batches of five satyagrahis continued to offer satyagraha in different sectors of the city on different dates.

On 16th they appeared at Badyar. on 17th at Lalchowk, on 18th at Harisingh High Street, on 19th on the Telephone Exchange Road, on 20th at Rainawari, on 21st at Karannagar and on 22nd at the Regal Cinema Chowk. They were arrested as soon as they appeared on the scene among huge gatherings of men, women, boys and girls, all shouting slogans "Bharat Mata Ki Jai", Hindu Muslim Unity Zindabad." For the first 24 hours after their arrest the satayagrahis were subjected to all kinds of inhuman treatment in Police Stations, till they were transferred to the Central Jail. In Central Jail on one of these days the Superintendent of Police let loose the criminals within the jail to belabour these arrested persons.

Protest meetings were a daily feature. Hartal also continued both within and outside the city. It was during this period again that the Chief Minister was apprised of the grave concern on what had been happening in the city and as to how the Satayagrahi arrested were maltreated and innocent boys, girls and women and others got subjected to the police excesses and were seriously injured. Lathi charges on the public and night arrests, without warrants, continued to remain daily features during these days. Protest meetings naturally also continued,

In this period excitement began to increase among Hindus and the urge for expressing resentment was aggravated by the provocative barbarous attitude of the police and the administration. The All Kashmir Hindu Action Committee resolved in a meeting held on 20th August, 1967 and made it known that thence onwards only the Action Committee would be the sole representative organisation empowered to negotiate with the Government and attend to other social, economic, religious and other affairs of the community.

During this period Shri Ragbir Shastri M.P., Prof. Shri Ram Singh, and Shri Tej Bhadur Kaul, Secretary Hindu Mahasabha, paid a visit to Srinagar and after an on the spot investigation found that the administration had in fact played into the hands of communal forces and aggravated the situation by

resorting to use of violence on a small minority, which was asking for nothing but the restoration of the minor girl to her widowed mother. They also addressed a meeting in Shitalnath in which they gave expression to their sympathy with the oppressed minority.

August 22, 1967 — turning point.

All the day Shri Balraj Madhok, President of All India Jan Sangh, had had certain meetings and discussions with the Chief Minister. He came to Shitalnath on this day to express his sympathy with the minority community in this hour of their trial. He addressed the gathering there, condemned the conversion and forcible marriage of the Hindu minor girl and the manner in which it was brought out by the abetment of the Police and Government Officers. Speakers denounced the partisan attitude of the Government and the atrocities perpetrated on this small minority.

Certain significant developments had taken place before Shri Balraj Madok spoke at Shitalnath. The leadership of the Congress rank and file, found themselves divided over the manner of handling the situation. An influential, though not numerically superior group which included top Ministers and some other Congress leaders, had constituted their own "Control Room" to deal sternly with the satayagraha which offered possibilities of winning over a section of the Muslim population. Their aim was clearly to create a new base for the Congress, as the Congress leadership in Kashmir is already finding it increasingly difficult to win more followers. Their bogus membership is already exposed.

To those in the administration and the party who favoured stern measures, Mr. Madhok's speech came in handy. Curiously enough what this group considered objectionable in Mr. Madhok's speech is as follows "culled from Govt. records" as per Hindustan Times of 18th September, 1967 ;

“**N**obody can separate Kashmir from India. Kashmir's accession to India, based on Maharaja Hari Singh's instrument, is final and irrevocable. If any section of the population harps on plebiscite or wants Kashmir to become a part of Pakistan, he had better leave the country.”

Before the diehards became active in the administration, Mr. Sadiq had described Mr. Madhok's attitude as constructive". The official spokesman denied that there had been any outside hand in the agitation.

Soon after, attitudes changed and the leadership deprived of what little mass base it had started seeing an invisible hand behind the happenings.

23rd & 24th. August, 1967.

Unfortunately, after 22nd something went wrong on the Govt. side. The retaliation against Hindus took the shape of open incitement to Muslim sentiment. A section of Muslims backed by the State Congress and by some Political Conference workers, was organised to counter our satayagraha. As if natural, the majorlty community was stirred to arrange hartal and express resentment in a violent attitude. Tension thus created increased as the day advanced. Henceforth the speeches made by the Chief Miniser and the Congress highups were provocative. Agents of the Govt. including some Ministers and congress highups were seen during the night of 23rd. distributing money to provoke a communal flareup. By the morning of 24th, when the suit filed by the abducted girl's mother was to come up for a hearing in the court of the Additional District Magistrate, the Muslim masses had been organised by paid agents to observe bandh. Thereafter they moved about in processions shouting anti-national and pro-pakistani slogans and hurling abuses on the Indian Union and the minority community in Kashmir. Effigies of Shri Balraj Madhok were shoe-beaten and burnt at many a place. Shops were stoned and in many cases the shop-

keepers escaped beating by immediately closing their shops or by bolting themselves inside the shops. The approaches to the premises of the Court of A.D.M. were surrounded by huge mobs. Their gathering was considered not a violation of the prohibitory order even though the entire traffic in this busiest part of the city was closed for the day. The police was even not to be seen anywhere on the road, though it was present in strength nearby within the court premises, but curiously enough remained silent spectator. Infact, the mobs felt encouraged to shout any slogan and hurl any abuse. The Kashmir Armed Police in plain clothes, a muslim members of the Youth Congress and Govt. Servants and Congress members freely mixed up in this job to compel the Court to abandon the case for the day. The public prosecutor had to put in an application for change of the venue of the Court, which the Court readily accepted. (Please see previous chapter in this connection also) Trucks of the Govt. Transport Department were seen carrying hooligans from Industrial Areas to Lal Chowk and Hari Singh High Street, who reinforced the already violent mobs. One of the truck was marked to have No. J & K 6914.

The 24th of August was otherwise also gloomy as by then data had been collected giving the upto date position of arrests, lathi-charges and gas shell victims etc. These figures upto the evening of 23rd August were:

i)	Satayagrahis arrested ending 23rd evening (in batches of 5 a day)	65
ii)	Others arrested.	187
iii)	Lathi charges by Police	28
iv)	Tear and other gas shells shot	above 70
v)	Short range shells shot.	3
vi)	Injuries caused by acid throwing.	5
vii)	Total No. of injured	Men. 690 Women 171 Children 162
viii)	Deaths	1

This gloomy day had as we understood later, many purposes to serve for the Govt. The suit against the abductor in the Court of A.D.M having been put off, the other was to influence the opinion of Shri L.P. Singh, Home

Secretary, Govt. of India, who had come for the on spot assessment of situation. The Action Committee during this period had insistently tried several times to meet Shri Singh, but all along the Action Committee was avoided on one pretext or the other. It may be observed that even on the last day of his stay in Srinagar, his P.A. categorically informed over the telephone that Mr. Singh had no time to meet the Action Committee deputation and the Action Committee's telegram for interview remained unresponded. With the above purposes a large number of members of the majority community was permitted by the Government Agency to gather at Habbakadal, a predominantly Hindu inhabited locality where the Satayagrahis batch for the day was scheduled to offer satayagraha for arrest. The D.I.G., State Home Secretary and the Deputy Commissioner of Srinagar though present on spot did not either consider the gathering of such a violent mob at this place, and in such explosive circumstances, as an offence against prohibitory orders, or were also helpless, under instructions from above, to disperse the mob. The Hindus on their side, to avoid any communal clash that would have in its turn given the handle into the hands of the Govt. to malign them, shifted the venue of Satayagraha to Kralkhud, which is another locality of Hindus above Habakadal. After the Satyagrahis had been arrested, the Hindus proceeded to Shitalnath to hold their protest meeting for the day. Meanwhile the hooligans who had gathered at Habakdal were increasing in numbers and later moved to such parts of the city where Hindus resided and pelted stones on Hindus and their houses. Even the Ganpatyar Temple was not spared. They shouted anti-national and provocative slogans. It was for the first time that slogans like "Abi Abi Khabar Ayi, Sadiq Hamara bhai" were heard.

These mobs, besides pelting stones at the houses of the Hindus and breaking windows and doors, abused and beat members of the minority community, who unfortunately came in their way. Ladies and girls were particularly insulted, molested and robbed. Be it said to their credit, that the S.P. accompanied the mob alongwith a large posse of the Kashmir Armed Police force. By the evening the meeting at Shitalnath was over and people dispersed to return to their homes, situation in the city was already tense and people were at various places abused and manhandled e.g. at Nawabazar, Khankah, Nawakadal, Nawpora, Munwarabad etc. At Nawpora a wholly muslim

area, one of the members of the community, Shri Hirday Nath Mattoo of Rainawari, an employee of the Office of the Accountant General, J & K, on his way home was mercilessly beaten by hooligans and later he fell into the hands of the Kashmir Armed Police and Govt. Paid agents who worsened his condition. Poor fellow fainted and was taken to Khanyar Police Station alongwith few others. There he regained consciousness and was subjected to vicious interrogation. At this time he was belaboured by the Station House Officer and all that he could do was to cry in the name of his mother for rescue. These cries were overheard by the other arrested persons who were in the other room and who in their turn were facing similar treatment. Ultimately, these other members were let off, but Shri Mattoo being in an extreme critical condition was removed to the Govt. Hospital where he finally succumbed to his injuries. Another scene enacted on this date should put any person to shame. In the evening a group of about 150 to 200 paid agents and hirelings, some of them naked and drunk, were escorted by the Kashmir Armed Police to a Hindu locality (Ganpatyar) where they paraded through the area. They broke into some houses, pelted stones molested girls and hurled unspeakable abuses on the people. Consternation reigned supreme at this hour. News of this hooliganism reached Shitalnath and a meeting of the members of the Action Committee was held at the hour. In this connection a delegation of injured young ladies and girls and another deputation appointed by the Action Committee later met the Governor of the State presented a Memorandum and apprised him of the unfortunate situation created by the Police and the Government.

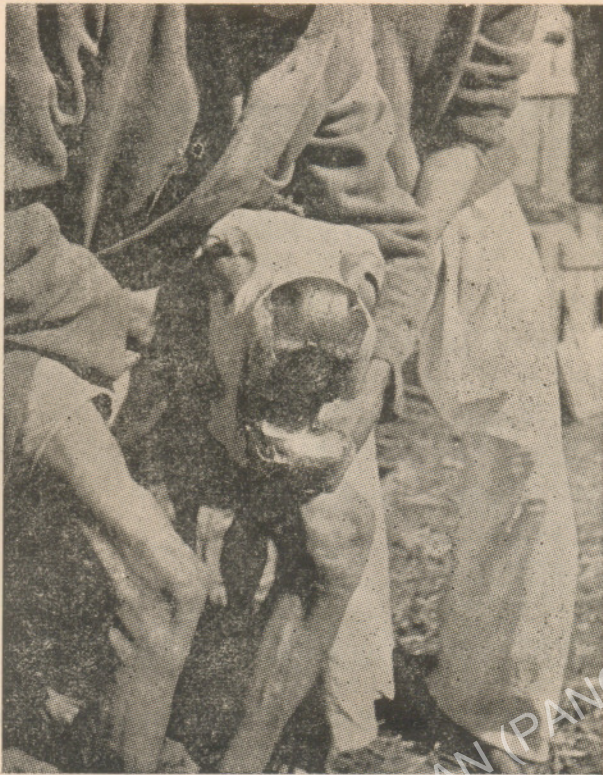
During this fortnight upto 24th, several Parliamentary delegation and individual members of various parties came to Srinagar. Deputations of the Action Committee met them and acquainted them of all anti-national and unconstitutional circumstances obtaining in Kashmir and the plight of the Minority community.

The Hindu Action Committee on its side found it very difficult to restrain young men and young women who had grown restive. A large number of letters and appeals from them were received offering to march in

a batch of 5000 strong to New Delhi to knock at the doors of the Parliament and other State Assemblies throughout India. Some offered themselves for self immolation, some suggested fast unto death at the residence of the Kashmir Chief Minister and the Prime Minister of India, and a 100 families prepared to quit Kashmir for good in the first instance. The Hindu Action Committee had to use all its tact to divert the attention of the young persons, who ultimately agreed only to start hunger strike in the premises of Shitalnath. Five Satayagrahis offered satayagraha on 24th of August.

25th. August, 1967.

Happenings on the 24th made the members of the minority community more disappointed and depressed. Indignation mounted early morning on 25th August, as the news of stone pelting, manhandling of the individuals, as well as molestation of women, beating of children, arrests without warrants during nights and sacrilege and burning of a temple near Varinagh spread like lightening. Memorable Friday of 25th August, was a day of desperate struggle of existence for Kashmiri Hindus. About fifty thousand collected at Shitalnath by 1 P.M. in spite of the fact that the area had been surrounded by the KAP blocking the main entrance to the area. The gathering was addressed by a number of speakers, who advised the people to remain non-violent and face hardships like men. At 3 P.M. as per programme and the usual practice of the past fortnight, five stayagrahis prepared to court arrest in peaceful manner. People followed them upto the point where the narrow lane from Shitalnath meets the street outside. The Kashmir Police barricaded the street on the East and the West, the North and the South holding the people at bay. Instead of arresting the non-violent Satyagrahis, the Armed Police without, any warning rained lathies and tear gas shells as well as pelted stones and bricks on the sandwiched people. It was also known that the Police had got a truck load of ballast material collected on the main road side with the connivance of the hooligans living at Bhagwanpora, a nearby locality. The unarmed crowds when attacked could turn neither left nor right, nor return to Shitalnath premises till the surge of people behind had subsided. They were caught in this trap, Merciless beating, stone pelting and bursting of tear gas shells on peoples



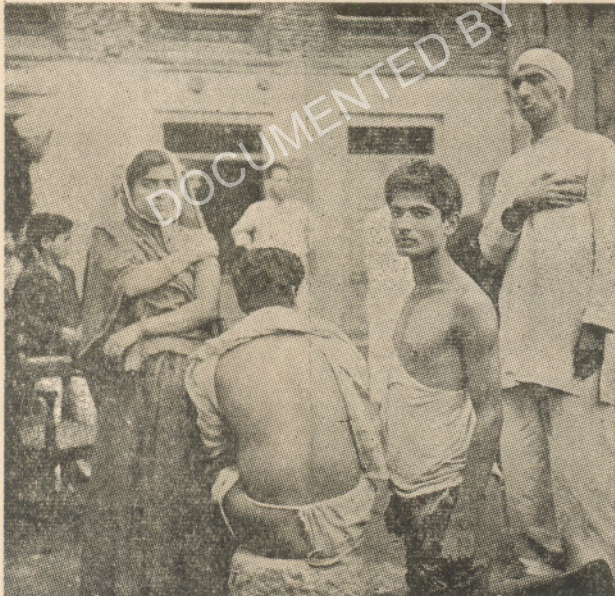
Tongue of a Cow cut
to provoke communal tension



Even old persons were not spared



Protest Meeting of Ladies at Shivala against
Police excesses of 27th August.



The victims of Hooliganism at Maisuma and Gaokadal
in Rattan Rani Hospital.

bodies even inside the Shitalnath Temple premises was a pathetic scene, reminiscent of JALLIANWALA BAGH. While the main road was barricaded by the police, a temporary route was improvised over the nallah to fetch stretchers from the Rattan Rani Hospital to carry the casualties for First Aid. By the evening, the Satyagrahis appeared at specified spot, on the road side and offered themselves for arrest. Hartal had been complete in Hindu localities in Srinagar and demonstration had also been held at Jammu, at Delhi and at Amritsar etc. Hindu Govt. Servants had not in general been able to move to their offices, especially in view of the fact that Hindu localities had become insecure. While police atrocities were at the pitch and unabated, it was felt that the Head of the State may again be approached with a written memorandum, but to our dismay the delegation found that the Governor had not considered it necessary to use his independent agency to assess the situation and had remained content with only the politicians' briefing.

26th. August, 1967.

The night between the 25th and the 26th was perhaps the darkest night of the period. Arrests of people during the night were extraordinarily indiscriminate, On the 26th lathicharges and pelting of stones by members of the Kashmir Police in plain clothes in Hindu localities and Ganpatyar were so harrassing that members of the minority community felt that the Govt. was out to exterminate them. Hooligans of the majority community had been inspired to molest whoever came in their way even if they were ladies. Stray assaults became so common that the Govt. at this stage felt it necessary to clamp curfew in the afternoon. The curfew in effect was a cobra clasp for the minority community, as only the Hindu areas of the city were subjected to curfew leaving other areas free. The members of the majority community had a free hand to harrass the members of the minority community. Naturally hartal was spontaneous and the people had also to remain away from their work.

A visit on this day to the Rattan Rani Hospital was so saddening. The wards, passages and the Varandahs in both the storeys and lawns were over

crowded with injured people-young and old, men and women, boys and girls. Tents had to be pitched to accommodate the injured. Head injuries were mostly common and there was a look of grief all round. Broken hands and broken legs among the injured patients were considered a lucky escape by the victims. Some were found with broken ribs.

In spite of the terrible curfew a batch of five Satyagrahis offered themselves for arrest on the day. Outside Kashmir, eleven volunteers blessed by the Jagat Guru Shankar Acharya began a token Dharna in front of the the Union Home Minister's residence.

27th. August, 1967

Curfew continued to be clamped partially in Srinagar city only in such areas which are mainly inhabited by Hindus. This was frightening as in curfew free areas members of the minority community were harrassed and the outskirts of the curfew bound areas were open to hooligans to give vent to their venom. To further aggravate this miserable plight, pro-Pakistani elements of the majority community, inspired by the high ups in the Government spread false rumours about looting of Muslim houses by Hindus and burning of mosques. The false rumours spread like wild fire and as a consequence miscreants redoubled their anti Hindu activities. The Hindu houses throughout the night were pelted with stones making life impossible. All the day the Police were absent or if present looked on indifferent. Security Police other than Kashmir Armed Police was not anywhere to be seen. More saddening was that the police seized the jeep in which food was carried for the patients etc. and arrested the persons who escorted it, though they had curfew passes. It was with great difficulty that the Jeep was released late in the day at the instance of the Home Secretary. Several utensils, thalis, digchas etc. were taken by Police which have not been returned so far, inspite of repeated requests. The result was that the injured had to go without the morning meals on that day in the Hospital.

By 27th August two victims of previous lathi-charges Shri Maharaj Krishen Razdan a teenaged student whose poor father was on duty at Canada, and

Shri Lassa Kaul Badam died, bringing the number of deaths to three till then. Govt. permission for taking out their funeral procession was obtained and a Police escort headed by the A. D. M., D. I. G. and the S.P. accompanied it. This mourning procession of men and women reciting "OM NAMA SHIVAI" was greeted at Karanagar chowk with stone pelting from different sides, in front from Shahidganj, and in the rear from Chota Bazar and from Batamaloo route. A contingent of the KAP and Home Guards in plain clothes not only abetted and encouraged them, but also actively participated in stone throwing. The Police men were heard shouting aloud to their co-religionist "Oh Musalmanoo why do you tarry, we are fighting infidels". By the time a part of 'Arthi' eventually reached the cremation ground, the city was seized with terror as flames rose sky high in Karannagar and at three spots where houses had been set on fire. Houses were broken into and looted. One person Shri P. N. Bhan was robbed and fatally wounded near the house of D. I. G. Police Kashmir, wherefrom he was removed to State Hospital, where he succumbed to his injuries later. Curfew was extended to the whole city and the Army was called in though late to assist the Police.

A batch of five satayagrahis had courted arrest earlier on this day also. By the evening of 26th August, 1967, casualties etc. were:-

1. Satayagrahis arrested ending 26th Aug. in batches of 5 per day.	80
2. Others arrested.	387
3. No. of lathi charges by police	35
4. Tear gas and other shells shot	115
5. Short range shells shot	3
6. Injuries caused by acid throwing.	5
7. Total no. of injuries upto 7 P.M. on 26.8.67	1117
a) men	292
b) Women	353
c) Children	3
8. Deaths	3

28th August, 1967-JANAM ASHTAMI

Curfew continued unabated and on this Sacred Birthday of Lord Krishna the Government did not feel moved to relax curfew for even an hour. Though on the 27th there was relaxation for two hours and on 29th there was relaxation likewise for two hours. As to why on this day of fast for the Hindus the Government did not relax the curfew is difficult to understand. Even in the war torn Vietnam, Lord Bhudha's Birthday and X-Mas days are declared days of ceasefire.

With curfew continuing in Hindu area, and predominantly Muslim area comparatively immune from it, the result was that members of the minority community were assaulted, abused and looted by the hooligans from the majority community with the connivance of the K.A.P.

A batch of five satyagrahis however courted arrest undaunted by curfew.

29th to 31st August

Curfew continued to be imposed and during relaxation period of two hours two batches of 5 satyagrahis courted arrest on the 29th. Kashmir Armed Police raided Hindu houses in the city, arrested innocent people without warrants, and even made good with whatever they could lay their hands on. Peaceful satyagraha continued on 30th and 31st and there were gatherings at Shitalnath during curfew breaks.

At this stage Shri I.K. Gujral, Union Minister paid a visit to Srinagar, but his assessment of the situation was largely confined to his talks with Ministers and the Government party and henchmen. He had of course gone round some parts of the City, but he was accompanied by Govt. Agents and Mr. Tariq. A deputation of Hindu Action Committee met him later and gave him a correct appraisal of the situation.
