

- (iv) Some discretion may be given to the State Government to ask the Gram Panchayats to make necessary allocation for Social Forestry activity depending upon the local need and feasibility. Some discretion may also be allowed to make sector-wise allocation of funds to important programme by the State Government.
- (v) At present, the Village Panchayats are getting funds based on the population of each Village Panchayat having less than 1000 population to be taken as 1000. It is desirable to increase the Minimum population (of 1,000) to 2,000 for purposes of allocation of funds to Gram Panchayats, so that smaller Gram Panchayats get more funds.

[*Translation*]

#### **Implementation of Punjab Language in Punjab**

4614. S. ATINDER PAL SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Central Punjab Writers Sabha threatened to launch a State-wide agitation in Punjab for making Punjabi the State language in Punjab;
- (b) whether Punjabi has been given its due status and respect at administrative level in the State under the Official Language Act;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the steps proposed to be taken by Government to ensure use of Punjabi in all administrative work in Punjab?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMAD SAYEED): (a) No, Sir. The Kendri Punjabi Lekhak Sabha, Chandigarh threatened to launch a State-wide agitation in Punjab for making effective use of Punjabi language in Government offices in the State. The State Government have already declared Punjabi Language as the Official Language of the State under Punjabi Official Language Act, 1967.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The question does not arise.

(d) The following steps have been taken by the State Government to ensure the use of Punjabi Language in all administrative work in the State:—

- (1) Instructions have been issued from time to time for use of Punjabi Language as Official Language in the State.
- (2) Frequent checking of the Departments is being done by the State Language Department for this purpose.
- (3) English-Punjabi terminology/Punjabi self teaching book alongwith Punjabi Bodh and Prabodh have been published and distributed free of cost in offices of the State Government.
- (4) Punjabi Stenography/Punjabi type-writing training is being given to the employees as well as to unemployed persons free.
- (5) Knowledge of Punjabi upto Matric level or its equivalent has been declared to be an essential qualification for all recruitments to the State services.