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नेहरू स्मारक संग्रहालय एवं पुस्तकालय
Nehru Memorial Museum & Library

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Smt. Usha Prasad
Assistant Research Officer

No.F.53-2071/06-OHD
July 17, 2006

Respected Shri Satyapalji,

Please refer to your letter dated 9 July 2006. Thanks.

I have been asked by Deputy Director Dr. N. Balakrishnan to get in touch with you and record your reminiscences for our Oral History Project for which you have very kindly agreed. In this connection we are arriving Amritsar on 24th July 2006. After reaching there we will contact you. Kindly send us your telephone number so that we can get in touch with you. You can also inform us on this number 011-23015191. I am also enclosing a questionnaire for the proposed interview. This will help us in keeping the interview in methodical order.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

Usha Prasad
(Usha Prasad)

Encl: as above

Shri Satyapal Dang
Ex-MLA-Pb
Ekta Bhawan
Chheharta
Amritsar - 143105

**Nehru Memorial Museum and Library
Teen Murti House, New Delhi-110011.**

**Questionnaire for the Oral History Interview with
Shri Satyapal Dang**

Part I

1. Could you please begin this interview by telling us, in brief, about your early life, family background, education and influences of books, events and personalities?

What was the status of the society in which you were brought up?

2. Could you please tell us atmosphere of Lahore particularly of your College? As you know Government College Lahore contributed substantially in building up national feelings and preparing students to participate in the anti-British struggle?

Could tell us about your teachers in the college who had influenced you?

3. What were your activities as a student?
4. When and why did you go to Bombay? What difference did you find in the political atmosphere of Bombay?
5. Could you please tell us your activities as General Secretary of All India Students' Federation and also as Vice-President of the World Federation of Democratic Youth?
6. What was the aim and character of the World Federation of Democratic Youth?

How was it linked with the local organization?

What relationship did it have during that time with the CPI and its leaders?

7. Being a member and an active worker of All India Students' Federation, which was the strongest organization during the

freedom struggle and even now, how do you feel now when you look back?

Do you think the problems of students today are very much different from what it was in those days? If so, are many of the problems still remained?

Do you think under global economy and powerful vested interest it is possible to solve the problems of the students? You have witnessed that how people who wielded political power stood in the way of basic social economic changes. So do you think the AISF would be able to solve the problems for which it stands?

8. When and how you came under the influence of the Communist Party of India?

Could you please also tell us what was the procedure and also how did you became its member?

9. When did you start working for the trade union movement?

10. How did you organize trade unions? How many trade unions were there and in which area were you active?

11. What was the structure of the Communist Party of India in your area before Independence and what changes did you find after Independence?

12. Punjab being an agricultural state how did the trade union movement started?

13. What sort of difficulties did you face in building up trade union movement in your area?

14. In which pocket was the Communist Party more active?

15. Were the Congress and the Congress Socialist Party also active in that area?

16. Where were you at the time of partition?

17. How was the atmosphere of Chheharta and nearby areas? Could you please also record for us economic condition particularly of Muslims and social relationship between Hindu and Muslim at that time? What was the level of political consciousness among Hindus and Muslims?
18. You have must seen the influence of the Muslim League was increasing. Was the trade unions also got effected?

Did any measures were taken to curb the influences of the Muslim League's propaganda?
19. How were the relationship of the CPI with the Congress Party and Congress Socialist Party?
20. Was Congress popular during that time among the masses?
21. What was the impact on the CPI of the partition of India? Do you think it could have been avoided?
22. What was the attitude of the CPI unit of your area and of masses towards demands for Pakistan? Do you think it could also have been avoided?
23. How did you react to 1942 movement? What was the nature of the movement in your area?
24. Did the Indian National Army attract the Youth of Punjab during that time? Was Subhas Chandra Bose popular among the Youth?
25. Between 1947 and 1950 the CPI considered the independence of India as shame and resolved to work for a socialist revolution. Could you recall the analysis behind this policy and your role in its pursuance?

Part II

26. What are your views on inner party democracy? Were the members allowed to air their views on theoretical and ideological matters?
27. How the internal policy of the Congress Govt. in the 1950 and early 1960s influenced the Punjab politics. As you know it was always attacked by the CPI. You were connected with grass root politics so could you please tell us what was the general attitude of the Govt. towards the demands and struggle of the people?
28. What was the impact of the split in the CPI in 1964 on the local units? How the rank and file reacted towards it?
29. Could you please share your views on the leadership of the working-class movement in India? As you know most of the important unions are headed either by English skilled workers indirectly connected with the Govt. or by humanitarian reformist without any conception of class struggle or by opportunist nationalist politicians.
30. Punjab crisis after independence has influenced the communism. What is the role of working class in solving this problem?

Could you please tell us in detail the factor contributed in the growth of terrorism?
31. How for re-organization of states on the basis of language responsible for the growth of terrorism?
32. Please also tell us role of factional politics at the state level and its link with the center?
33. What were the different ways and policies through which communalism and terrorism nurtured or encouraged after independence?
34. How did communal organizations strengthening political demands?

35. Do you think the policy adopted by the Central Government particularly after 1970s relatively inactive and irresponsible in dealing with communal problem?
36. Could you please share with us your experiences as MLA and later on as Minister?
37. Have you been able to transform the policies in to practice for which you have been struggling as a trade union leader? Did you face some problems also?