

The Government of Punjab, vide notification No. 7/213/2013-3H4/611561/2, dated 16.10.2015, has set up a one-member Commission of Inquiry, headed by the undersigned to inquire into (i) the sacrilege of Shri Guru Granth Sahib in district Faridkot, (ii) the incident of firing that occurred at Kotkapura Chowk on 14.10.2015, and (iii) the incident of firing in village Behbal Kalan, Distt. Faridkot, which led to the death of two persons on 14.10.2015.

One Gora Singh was the Granthi of Gurudwara Burj Jawahar Singh Wala in 2015. He got an FIR No. 63, dated 02.06.2015, registered at Police Station, Bajakhana in District Faridkot. In the FIR, he stated that he along with his family was residing in the precincts of the Gurudwara. On 01.06.2015, at about 1.00 PM, he had gone to his village Thathi Bhai and returned from there at about 2:30/3:00 PM. On the same day, at about 4.00 PM, some children in order to learn path of Gurbani came to the Gurudwara. They then entered the Gurudwara to pay obeisance and informed that the Bir of Shri Guru Granth Sahib was missing. On receipt of this information from the children, he (Gora Singh) went inside the Gurudwara and found the Bir of Shri Guru Granth Sahib was missing from the Peerha Sahib. Information about this was given to the Management Committee of the Gurudwara and the Panchayat. Efforts were made to search for the missing Swaroop of Shri Guru Granth Sahib outside the Gurudwara in the village as well as in the Gair Mumkin Abadi, but the same could not be traced. The outer covering of the 'zild' of the stolen Swaroop of Shri Guru Granth Sahib was of 'suneel' of coca cola

colour. Respected persons of the vicinity and members of the Committee were asked to stay at the Gurudwara. On 02.06.2015, the complainant along with Gurjant Singh, a member of the Panchayat and Jasvir Singh, a member of the Committee, went to lodge report of the occurrence, but they came across a police party, headed by ASI Hari Kishan, near a bus stand in village Godara at about 2.30 PM. The complainant then reported the matter to the said ASI and on the basis of his statement the FIR aforementioned was registered at police station Bajakhana.

On 25.09.2015, at about 7.00 AM, complainant Ranjit Singh, resident of village Burj Jawahar Singh Wala, came to know about two posters having been pasted on the main gate of 'Dhoda Peer Smadh'. On receipt of this information, the complainant went to the spot where one Sikander, Subhedar Gurjant Singh and Sukhdev Singh were already present. The posters, which were written with a black marker, contained derogatory words against Shri Guru Granth Sahib. Also, there were abusive words against Sant Daduwal and Sant Dhadriya Wale. There was a reference of the incident of theft of Shri Guru Granth Sahib that took place on 01.06.2015, and a challenge was made to trace the same in village Bargari. In order lodge a report of this incident, complainant Ranjit Singh was on his way to police station Bajakhana, but at a distance of about one furlong from village Burj Jawahar Singh Wala, he met a police party, headed by SI Daljit Singh at about 9.15 AM on that day. On the basis of his statement FIR No. 117, dated 25.09.2015, was registered at Police Station Bajakhana.

On 12.10.2015, at about 4.00 AM, when Sh. Kulwinder Singh, Manager of Gurudwara Pathshahi Daswin in village Bargari, was present at his house, he was informed by Sh. Jagroop Singh, a Sewadar of the Gurudwara, that he (Sh. Jagroop Singh) had at about 2.30 AM noticed a vehicle emerging from the side of the village and proceeding towards the 'Dera' after taking a round of the Gurudwara. He tried to note the colour and the number of the vehicle with the help of a torch, but could not succeed in so doing. At about 3.00 AM on the same day, when the door of the Gurudwara was opened in order to operate an electric motor, some 'Angs' of Shri Guru Granth Sahib were found lying strewn in the street in front of the gate. Information about this incident was given to Sh. Budh Singh, Granthi of the Gurudwara. Sh. Jagroop Singh and Sh. Budh Singh collected the torn pages of Shri Guru Granth Sahib, and reverentially secured them in a Rumala, which was put on Manji Sahib in the Gurudwara. Complainant Kulwinder Singh reported the matter to the police and on the basis of his statement, FIR No. 128, dated 12.10.2015 was registered at Police Station Bajakhana. On coming to know of the recovery of the torn pages of Shri Guru Granth Sahib in village Bargari, various Sikh Jathabandis started visiting Gurudwara Pathshahi Daswin. The Deputy Commissioner, Faridkot, the Senior Superintendent of Police, Faridkot and other officials of the police department as some other Executive Officers also visited the Gurudwara. Members of the public present in the Gurudwara were protesting against the police failure to apprehend the culprits. The officers of civil administration as also the police officers tried to pacify the protestors by giving an assurance that the culprits would soon be tracked down, but despite this assurance, the

leaders of various Sikh organizations on the same day (12.10.2015) reverentially brought the torn 'Angs' of Shri Guru Granth Sahib to Kotkapura Chowk. Having placed the torn 'Angs' in a Palki (Palanquin), they started holding Dharna at the said Chowk. Certain Senior Officers of the civil administration and that of the police intervened and on their persuasion, the protestors called off their protestations.

But on account of the police having failed to nab the culprits, the protestors again on 13.10.2015 started holding Dharna at Kotkapura Chowk. They declared that their protest would now continue until arrest of the culprits. However, on the night intervening October 13 and 14, 2015, an understanding was reached between them and the senior officers of the police and that of the civil administration that they (protestors) would call off Dharna in case the police arrested them. Thereafter the police started taking the protestors into custody. But when the police was in the process of making arrests, a misunderstanding developed and some protestors, who were yet to be taken into custody, refused to court arrest, saying arrests so far made were not in accordance with law. At about 6-7.00 AM on 14.10.2015, there was a firing at Kotkapura Chowk. As to this incident, Sh. Gurdeep Singh, then Station House Officer of Police Station City Kotkapura, got an FIR No. 192 registered at the said Police Station on the same day. He alleged in the FIR that SSPs of Faridkot, Bathinda, Mansa, Sri Muktsar Sahib, Ferozepur and Fazilka, Deputy Commissioner, Faridkot, SDM, Kotkapura and many police officials were present at Kotkapura Chowk where a number of protestors armed with swords, spears and other weapons were holding sit-in protestation from 12.10.2015. They were protesting against the desecration of Shri Guru

Granth Sahib Ji as also against the police failure to apprehend the culprits. The officers aforementioned tried to persuade the protestors to call off Dharna, but they refused to oblige. Through a public address system, the protestors declared that their protestations would continue for an indefinite period of time. Sikh preachers namely Panthpreet Singh Khalsa, Bhai Amrik Singh Ajnala, Bhai Ranjit Singh Dhadriya Wale, Rajinder Singh Majhi, Sarabjit Singh Dhunda, Giani Kewal Singh, Satnam Singh Chandhar, Avtar Singh Sandhawala, Daler Singh Kheri, Bhai Inderjit Singh, Sukhjit Singh Khosa, Sukhwinder Singh Majukhera, Harjinder Singh Dhipali, Gursewak Singh Ramgarh Bhundar and Gurpreet Singh Dhadriya Wale made inflammatory speeches and kept on provoking the gathering. The protestors, who had brought brickbats, stones in tractor trolleys, were time and again asked by the officers of civil administration and that of the police to discontinue their Dharna, but they refused to do so. At about 6.00 AM, the said officers through a public address system warned the protestors against holding further Dharna and asked them to leave the Chowk within 15 minutes, else they would be taken into custody. Bhai Panthpreet Singh Khalsa and Amrik Singh Ajnala then made inflammatory speeches and asked the protestors to damage the government vehicles and inflict injuries on the police officials. Thereupon the protestors picked up stones and brickbats from the tractor trolley, which was parked on the road leading to Sri Muktsar Sahib, and started pelting them at the police, and thus caused injuries to police officials namely Bhalla Singh No. 158/FDR, HC Rachhpal Singh No. 13/310, HC Ram Lal No. 13/438, C Nirmal Rai 80/945, HC Sukhjinder Singh No. 504/FZR, ASI Angrej Singh No. 98/FDK, C Ashwani Kumar No. 80/909,

HC Lakhvir Singh No. 75/702 ARP/Jal, HC Surinder Kumar No. 584/FZK, HC Shavinderpal Singh 890/TT, HC Major Singh 698/FZR, C. Kulwinder Singh 13/211, PHG Wazir Chand, HC Vikas Sharma No. 75/151 PAP, HC Sukhdev Singh No. 27/429, ASI Ranjit Singh 27/126 PAP, C. Parveen Kumar No. 27/723, ASI Gurmail Singh No. 27/26 PAP and C. Avtar Singh No. 949/FDK. In order to control the situation, the police used water cannons, but the protestors set afire a Vajra (No. PB08-AF-0880) and damaged buses bearing registration Nos. PB-04L-9904, PB-04-L9706 and PB-04L-9614 belonging to PRTC. A water cannon vehicle (No. PB-08K-7440) was also set ablaze by them. The police then used tear gas shells and resorted to lathi-charge. In the meantime, the protestors thrashed HC Rashpal Singh No. 13/310 and snatched away his official SLR along with magazine. They then fired shots from the said SLR and some other weapons. As to this incident, FIR No. 192 was registered at Police Station, City Kotkapura on the basis of SHO Gurdeep Singh's statement.

Sh. Paramraj Singh Umranangal, Commissioner of Police, Ludhiana, who along with other senior police officers was present at Kotkapura Chowk on 14.10.2015, received information that police post Bargari had been attacked by the protestors. In order to control the situation, he directed Sh. Charanjit Singh Sharma, Senior Superintendent of Police, Moga, to proceed towards Bargari along with his gunmen and other police officials, who were deputed from district Ludhiana. As per the police version, Sh. Charanjit Singh Sharma along with his gunmen and other police officials proceeded towards Bargari. At about 9.45 AM on that day, when he reached near a link road leading to Behbal Kalan

village, he found a gathering of protestors holding Dharna on the GT Road. A little later an incident of firing occurred at the said point and regarding this, FIR No. 129 dated 14.10.2015 was registered at police station Bajakhana on the basis of the statement of Sh. Amarjit Singh, Station House Officer of the said police station. The said SHO alleged in the FIR that when he along with Inspector Jasbir Singh, Station House Officer, Police Station Jaito and his gunmen reached the Behbal Kalan link road point on the Bajakhana-Kotkapura Road under the supervision of Sh. Jagdish Bishnoi, PPS, Deputy Superintendent of Police (SD), Jaito, who was accompanied by his gunmen, he found about 500-600 protestors holding Dharna there. The protestors, according to SI Amarjit Singh, were armed with swords, sticks, spears, stones, brickbats and guns. They were requested to call off their protestation, but they became furious and started brandishing their weapons. They also picked up stones and brickbats and started raised inflammatory slogans. Sensing the gravity of the situation, the police started taking retreat. There was an announcement from Gurudwara, Behbal Kalan that all villagers should reach the spot. Thereupon about 200-250 protestors, who were armed with swords, lathis etc. arrived at the spot. In the meantime, Sh. Charanjit Singh Sharma, SSP, Moga along with his reader, Inspector Pardeep Singh, Sh. Bikramjit Singh, SP (D), Fazilka, SP Jalalabad, ADCP Ludhiana, DSP Sahnewal, Inspector Harpal Singh, Inspector Maninder Bedi, Inspector Vadhera, Inspector Dalbir Singh and other police officials reached the spot. They also requested the protestors to discontinue Dharna, but the latter started pelting brickbats at the police. The protestors with an intent to kill the police officials fired gunshots. In defence, the police also fired gunshots

into the air while taking retreat from the spot. But the protestors then encircled the police party, and started damaging a police bus and other vehicles. A little later, they set afire these vehicles after sprinkling oil thereon. Thereafter, they grabbed HC Surinder Singh No. 584/FZK and started thrashing him with sticks, brickbats etc. in order to kill him. The police in order to get him released from their clutches and in self defence, fired gunshots and succeeded in rescuing him with a great difficulty. Surinder Singh, according to complainant Amarjit Singh, had sustained grievous injuries.

In order to get the case related to the aforementioned FIR No. 128 dated 12.10.2015 investigated, the Director General of Police, Punjab, constituted a special investigation team (SIT) comprising Sh. Iqbalpreet Singh Sahota, IPS, Director Bureau of Investigation, Punjab as its chairperson and Sh. Amar Singh Chahal, DIG, Ferozepur Range and Sh. R.S. Khattria, IPS, DIG, Bathinda Range, as members. On 16.10.2015, the SIT, during investigation of the case related to desecration of Shri Guru Granth Sahib, came to know that Krishan Bhagwan Singh son of Mahinder Singh and Gurjeet Singh son of Sadhu Singh had died as a result of the police firing that took place in village Behbal Kalan on 14.10.2015. As to this incident, the SIT made a direction on the basis of which FIR No. 130, dated 21.10.2015, was registered at police station Bajakhana under Sections 302/307/34 IPC and Section 25/27/54/59 of the Arms Act.

Soon after the occurrence of the above incident, the State Government set up this Commission and got the aforementioned special

investigation team constituted. Besides, it got the CBI entrusted with the job of investigation of the cases related to desecration of the holy Granth, most revered Guru of Sikh Sangat and other devotees.

This Commission after assuming office notified the general public of the aforementioned subject matter of the inquiry by way of a notification published in various newspapers. Besides, by the notification such persons as were acquainted with, affected from or concerned with the facts related to the incidents aforementioned, were called upon to furnish to this Commission their statements in the form of an affidavit.

In order to collect information relevant to the subject matter of the inquiry, the Commission visited the spots of occurrence and various villages in district Faridkot thrice. A number of statements in the form of an affidavit were received. In the course of the inquiry, the Commission examined as many as 206 witnesses, including the ones, who had submitted their statements in the form of an affidavit.

By a letter No. 08 SPL/EC/2015, dated 27.11.2015, the Senior Superintendent of Police, Faridkot, was asked to furnish to the Commission the following information on or before 04.12.2015, positively:-

“i) FIR(s) registered at different Police Station(s) and DDR(s) drawn at Different Police Post(s) / Police Line(s) in relation to the abovementioned incidents in District Faridkot.

ii)

<i>Names, designations and belt nos. of the Police officials deputed to</i>	<i>Details of the arms and ammunition supplied to the said officials at</i>	<i>Details of the arms and ammunition (live and empty cartridges) reported/deposited</i>
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<i>maintain the Law and Order Situation.</i>	<i>the time of their departure from the Police Station(s), Police post(s) as also Police Line(s).</i>	<i>at the time of the said officials' arrival at the Police Station(s)/ Police post(s)/Police Line(s).</i>
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- iii) Details of the arms and ammunition supplied at the time of departure of the Police Officials concerned as also the details of arms and ammunition (live and empty cartridges) reported/deposited by them at the time of their arrival may be given separately, that is, Police Station(s) wise, Police Post(s) wise and Police Line(s) wise.*
- iv) Attested copies of the DDR(s) drawn at the time of departure of the abovementioned officials from Police Station(s)/ Police Post(s)/ Police Line(s), and attested copies of DDR(s) drawn in respect of the said officials at the time of their arrival at the Police Station(s)/ Police Post(s)/Police Line(s),*
- v) Attested copies of the post-mortem reports in respect of the deceased and Medico Legal Repots in respect of the injured, if any.*
- vi) Name(s) of the Doctor(s), who conducted autopsy in respect of the deceased and prepared Medico Legal Reports in respect of the injured, if any.*
- vii) Name(s) and other details of the Police officials of other Districts who were present at the spot at the time of the alleged incidents."*

Somewhat similar letters were sent to such other district police chiefs and Commandants of Battalions as had deputed police force in the turbulent district Faridkot.

But complete information sought for was not received either from the Senior Superintendent of Police, Faridkot or from the other police quarters.

FINDINGS

Incidents of sacrilege of Shri Guru Granth Sahib in District Faridkot

The sacrilegious incident that allegedly occurred first in point of time in District Faridkot is of theft of the 'Bir' of Shri Guru Granth Sahib from Gurudwara Singh Sabha Sahib in village Burj Jawahar Singh Wala on 01.06.2015. Sh. Gora Singh, who was the Granthi of the said Gurudwara, deposed as CW-21 that the 'Bir Sahib' of Shri Guru Granth Sahib was stolen from the Gurudwara during the period between 1.00 PM and 2.00 PM on 01.06.2015, and that the theft had taken place in his absence. This deposition of his finds assurance from the testimony of his wife Swaranjit Kaur (CW-53) and that of Sh. Ranjit Singh (CW-28), President of the Gurudwara. Statements of other witnesses namely Gurjant Singh (CW-24), Jagseer Singh (CW-26), both residents of village Burj Jawahar Singh Wala, also lend credence to the testimony of Gora Singh (CW-21). There being no reason to discredit his deposition, it stands established that the holy 'Bir' of Shri Guru Granth Sahib was stolen by some miscreants from Gurudwara Singh Sabha Sahib during the period; 1.00 PM to 2.00 PM on 01.06.2015. As to this incident, FIR No. 63 was registered at Police Station Bajakhana on 02.06.2015.

The second incident of desecration of the holy Granth took place in village Burj Jawahar Singh Wala on 25.09.2015. It is stated to be of pasting of sacrilegious posters on the main gate wall of 'Dhauda Peer Smadh'. Sh. Sikander Singh, resident of village Burj Jawahar Singh Wala, stated in his affidavit Ex. CW-25/A that on 25.09.2015 at about 6.50 AM when he was returning from the house of Gurjant Singh, he noticed some

handwritten posters pasted on the gate wall of 'Khan Dhoda Peer Smath'. The posters, according to him, contained objectionable comments against Shri Guru Granth Sahib and the Sikhs. His deposition finds corroboration from the recovered posters (Mark A and B) as also from the statements of Gurjant Singh (CW-24), Jagseer Singh (CW-26), Sukhdev Singh (CW-27) and Ranjit Singh (CW-28). Regarding the sacrilegious posters, FIR No. 117 was registered at Police Station Bajakhana on 25.09.2015.

The third incident of sacrilege of Shri Guru Granth Sahib occurred in Bargari village on the night intervening October 11 & 12, 2015. Sh. Jagroop Singh (CW-31), a Sewadar of Gurudwara Patshahi Daswin in the said village, in his affidavit Ex. CW-31/A claims to have noticed some torn pages of Shri Guru Granth Sahib having been thrown in the street outside the gate of the Gurudwara. On being informed of this, Sh. Budh Singh (CW-29), Granthi of the said Gurudwara, went to where lay strewn some torn pages of Shri Guru Granth Sahib, collected the 'Angs' (about 115) and secured them in a Rumala, which was then placed on Manji Sahib in the Gurudwara. Claiming to have been informed of the incident by Sh. Jagroop Singh (CW-31), Sh. Kulwinder Singh (CW-30), Manager of the Gurudwara, in his affidavit Ex. CW-30/A maintained that he thereupon went to the Gurudwara and found the recovered pages of Shri Guru Granth Sahib wrapped in a Rumala. He then immediately informed the police and on the basis of his statement FIR No. 128 dated 12.10.2015 was registered at police station, Bajakhana.

At the time the incidents of desecration of Shri Guru Granth Sahib took place in the abovementioned villages (Burj Jawahar Singh Wala and

Bargari), Sh. Charanjit Singh Sharma was the Senior Superintendent of Police, Faridkot. He in his statement made before this Commission as CW-23 maintained that 'Bir' of Shri Guru Granth Sahib was stolen from the Gurudwara in village Burj Jawahar Singh Wala on 01.06.2015. On coming to know of the theft, he went to the spot along with Sh. Jagdish Bishnoi, DSP, Jaito, Sh. Amarjit Singh, SHO, P.S. Bajakhana and Sh. Lakhvir Singh, Inspector of CIA Staff. After informing the DIG and IGP of the incident of theft of Shri Guru Granth Sahib, enquiries were made from the present Granthi as also from the former Granthi of the Gurudwara in village Burj Jawahar Singh Wala. A Special Investigation Team (SIT) comprising Sh. Amarjit Singh, SP (D), Ferozepur, Baljeet Singh, DSP Kotkapura, Gurjit Singh Romana, DSP Rampura Phool and Lakhvir Singh, Inspector CIA Staff, Bajakhana and Amar Singh Chahal, DIG, Ferozepur Range, was then constituted and several visits were made to the said village. Jathedar Amrik Singh Ajnala and Sant Daduwal were consulted and police force was summoned from various other districts. Claiming to have remained in village Burj Jawahar Singh Wala for about 20-25 days along with DSPs of Kotkapura and Jaito, Inspector CIA Staff, Bajakhana, SHO, Jaito and 200 other police officials, Sh. Charanjit Singh Sharma further stated that search of every house in the village was made 3-4 times, besides making search of a pond located on the backside of the Gurudwara. Granthis of Gurudwara in villages Burj Jawahar Singh Wala, Hari Ke, Bargari, Bandar, Malke, Sukhanand, Thahti Bhai and Sahoke were contacted and enquiries made from certain ladies employed in the Gurudwara precincts under Manrega Scheme. The ladies claimed to have noticed two Hindu persons, who had emerged on a motorcycle. The

Granthi of village Sahoke also told that the suspects seen in the Gurudwara of Sahoke village were of the same description as that of the two Hindu persons seen by the ladies. Sant Daduwal, according to Sh. Charanjit Singh Sharma, had his suspicion on a tailor master. Then sketches of the suspects were got prepared at the instance of Makhan Singh, a Granthi and one Gas Wala. Regarding the abovementioned incidents, consultations were made with SSP Moga and SSP Bathinda, and investigation of the case was conducted by Sh. Daljit Singh, DSP, Kotkapura and Sh. Sukhdev Singh, DSP, Jaito.

It is manifest from the deposition of Sh. Charanjit Singh Sharma, then SSP, Faridkot that a Special Investigation Team (SIT) comprising Sh. Amarjit Singh, SP (D), Ferozepur, Baljeet Singh, DSP Kotkapura, Gurjit Singh Romana, DSP, Rampura Phool and Lakhvir Singh, Inspector CIA Staff, Bajakhana, and that this team had conducted investigation of the cases relating to the incidents of desecration of Shri Guru Granth Sahib under his (Sh. Charanjit Singh Sharma) supervision.

Sh. Amarjit Singh, SP (D), Ferozepur, who was a member of the SIT furnished to this Commission his statement in the form of affidavit (Ex. CW-204/A), the relevant portion of which reads:-

“Para No. 2: That it is most respectfully submitted that neither the deponent has any personal knowledge, nor he is acquainted with the facts of the incident dated 14.10.2015 of District Faridkot as sought for in the above cited Letter. Infact, neither the deponent was present at the place of occurrence in District Faridkot on 14.10.2015, nor even he was deputed in any such duty at District

Faridkot on the said date. Thus, the deponent is not able to give any information about the said occurrence.”

Sh. Gurjit Singh Romana, DSP, Rampura Phool, another member of the SIT, also furnished to the Commission his affidavit (Ex. CW-154/A), the relevant portion of which is reproduced as under:-

“3. That incident of theft of Shri Guru Granth Sahib at village Buraj Jawahar Singh Wala occurred on 01.06.2015

4. The second incident of village Behbal Kalan of firing was happened on dated 14.10.2015

5. I was not posted in that area at the time of occurrence of both the incidents either at the time of theft of Shri Guru Granth Sahib on 01.06.2015 or firing at village Behbal Kalan, District Faridkot, dated 14.10.2015”

On being questioned by the Commission as to whether or not he had any information about the incident that occurred in village Bargari, District Faridkot, Sh. Romana (CW-154) replied in the negative. Another question put to him was: “whether you were a member of the SIT constituted to investigate the cases related to FIRs No. 63, 117 and 128 registered at Police Station Bajakhana regarding desecration of Shri Guru Granth Sahib”. By way of reply to this question, he, while admitting to be a member of the SIT, specifically deposed that no suspect was taken into custody in connection with the investigation of the cases relating to the said FIRs.

In his statement as CW-134, Sh. Baljeet Singh, DSP, Kotkapura, maintained that he was also a member of the SIT to investigate the case relating to FIR No. 63 registered at Police Station Bajakhana. According to him, he was not a member of the SIT to investigate the cases relating to FIRs No. 117 and 128 registered at the said Police Station. He further deposed that no one was taken into custody for interrogation in the case related to FIR No. 63. On being questioned specifically by the Commission whether or not Rajwinder Singh, Subedar Gurjant Singh, Hardev Singh, a Shopkeeper, Gora Singh Granthi and Ranjit Singh, a Tailor Master, were taken into custody for interrogation, Sh. Baljeet Singh (CW-134) replied that no one was taken into custody for interrogation. To another question, he replied that sketches of the suspects were got prepared by Sh. Amarjit Singh Kaler, then SHO, P.S. Bajakhana and Sh. Sukhdev Singh, then DSP, Jaito, at the instance of Makhan Singh, Granthi of Gurudwara in village Sahoke. However, Makhan Singh, while appearing as CW-67, denied having been consulted by the investigators when they allegedly got prepared sketches of the suspects.

Another member of the SIT, Sh. Lakhvir Singh, Inspector CIA Staff, Bajakhana, testified as CW-172 that all members of the SIT had visited the places of occurrence in villages Burj Jawahar Singh Wala and Bargari as also other villages about 20-25 times; that SSP, Faridkot was supervising the SIT and that no one was taken into custody for interrogation. According to Sh. Lakhvir Singh (CW-172), only enquiries were made from the Granthi of the Gurudwara, and that Sh. Amarjit Singh, SP, Ferozepur, DSP, Rampura Phool and DSP, Jaito were also present at the time. The Granthi, he further stated, was not interrogated

intensively, because President of the Gurudwara of village Burj Jawahar Singh Wala had requested the SIT not to make enquiries from the Granthi because he (Granthi) had undergone a surgical operation of his brain. Sh. Lakhvir Singh, however, admitted that to satisfy itself as to the President's claim, the SIT had not examined medical record, if any, pertaining to the Granthi's brain surgery. He also admitted in no ambiguous words that none of the eight persons suspected to be the culprits by different Sikh Organizations was interrogated. On being questioned whether sketches of the suspects were got prepared and published in newspapers, Inspector Lakhvir Singh maintained that sketches of the suspects were got prepared at the instance of the Granthi of Gurudwara Sahib situated in Sahoke village, but were not got published in any newspaper. As observed earlier, the Granthi of the said Gurudwara (Sh. Makhan Singh CW-67) denied having been consulted when sketches of the suspects were prepared by the investigator. It needs no emphasis that the exercise of preparation of sketches becomes absolutely pointless if they are not prepared in accordance with the version of the person(s) who had seen the culprit(s). More so, when the sketches are not published in any newspaper or shown to the public through visual media.

Sh. Sukhdev Singh, Deputy Superintendent of Police, Jaito, deposed as CW-56 that the Bir of Shri Guru Granth Sahib was stolen from the Gurudwara of village Burj Jawahar Singh Wala between 1.00 PM and 1.30 PM on 01.06.2015. The Granthi of the said Gurudwara, according to this witness resides in the precincts of the Gurudwara along with his wife and 2-3 children. Some material questions put to Sh. Sukhdev Singh (CW-56) and his answers thereto deserve to be reproduced, and the same are:-

“Q6. Could the thief, in your opinion, commit theft of Shri Guru Granth Sahib Ji from the said Gurudwara unless he was certain that neither the Granthi nor any member of his family or for that matter, nor the President or Members of the Gurudwara Prabadhak Committee would be around at the time of the theft?”

Ans. Decidedly not; the thief, in my opinion, must be having prior knowledge that neither the said Granthi nor any of his family members, nor the President or Members of the Gurudwara Prabadhak Committee would be present in the precincts of the Gurudwara at the time the theft was to be committed.

Q7. Whether as to the design of theft of Shri Guru Granth Sahib Ji, the finger of suspicion could be raised on Gora Singh, Granthi of the Gurudwara?

Ans. Yes sir, because he before leaving for villages Samalsar and Thathi Bhai prior to the occurrence of theft, had not informed anyone in the village nor had he deputed anyone to look after the Gurudwara Sahib in his absence on that day.

Q8. Whether the said Granthi and the President and other members of the Gurudwara Prabadhak Committee were associated in the investigation?

Ans. Yes; the said persons were joined in the investigation and enquiries were made from them, but they were not thoroughly interrogated.

Q9. Why were not the Granthi, his family members, the said President and members of the Gurudwara Prabadhak Committee thoroughly interrogated?

Ans. They were not interrogated because they were not named in the FIR.

Q10. Whether or not sketches of the suspects were got prepared?

Ans. Yes sir, sketches of the suspect were got prepared from an expert of Sri Amritsar Sahib.

Q11. Whether or not any suspect was taken into custody during investigation?

Ans. No sir; no one was taken into custody for interrogation.

Q12. Whether any Special Investigation Team was constituted to investigate the occurrence of theft and sacrilege of Shri Guru Granth Sahib Ji?

Ans. Yes; first in point of time, a Special Investigation Team of Sh. Balbir Singh, then Superintendent of Police, Head Quarters, Faridkot, myself, Inspector Lakhbir Singh of CIA Staff and Jasbir Singh, then SHO, P.S. Bajakhana was constituted. This team was headed by the said Superintendent of Police. Later another Special Investigation Team was constituted by the Inspector General of Police, Bathinda. Members of that team were Sh. Amarjit Singh, Superintendent of Police (Investigation), Ferozepur, Sh. Baljeet Singh, Dy.S.P., Sub Division Kotkapura, Sh. Gurjit Singh Romana, Deputy Superintendent of Police, Sub Division Rampura Phul, District Bathinda and Inspector Lakhvir Singh, then Incharge CIA Staff, Faridkot."

It is manifest from the answer of this witness (Dy.SP, Sukhdev Singh) to the above question No. 6 that the person(s), who stealthily took away the 'Bir' of Shri Guru Granth Sahib, must be having prior knowledge that neither the Granthi (Gora Singh) nor any of his family members, nor the President (Ranjit Singh) or Members of the Gurudwara Prabadhak Committee would be present in the precincts of the Gurudwara at the time the theft was to be committed. As to the design of the theft of Shri Guru Granth Sahib, the finger of suspicion, according to this witness, could be raised on Gora Singh, because he before leaving for villages Samalsar and Thathi Bhai prior to the occurrence of theft, had not

informed anyone in the village nor had he deputed anyone to look after the Gurudwara Sahib in his absence on that day. Decidedly thus, the persons, who among others were required to be thoroughly interrogated, were Sh. Gora Singh, Granthi of the Gurudwara, Sh. Ranjit Singh, President, and other members of the Gurudwara Prabhadaak Committee. Strangely enough, the reason for their non-interrogation is stated to be non-mention of their names in the FIR (vide, DSP, Sukhdev Singh's replied to the aforementioned question No. 9).

On being questioned; whether or not Rajwinder Singh, Gurjant Singh Subedar, Hardev Singh shopkeeper, Sukhdev Singh Jatana and Ranjit Singh Tailor Master were taken into custody for the purpose of interrogation, Inspector Lakhvir Singh (CW-172) replied in the negative. When asked whether Gora Singh, Granthi of Gurudwara Burj Jawahar Singh was taken into custody for interrogation, this witness replied that he was not taken into custody, but only enquiries were made from him. The reason why the Granthi was not thoroughly interrogated is to be found in the following deposition of Inspector Lakhvir Singh:-

“The reason for non-interrogation of Gora Singh was that Sh. Ranjit Singh, Pardhan of Gurudwara Burj Jawahar Singh Wala, had asked the investigators not to make further enquiries from him (Gora Singh) because he had undergone a surgical operation of his brain”.

On being asked whether the members of the SIT had satisfied themselves about the claim of Sh. Ranjit Singh by inspecting the medical records, if any, about the surgical operation undergone by Gora Singh, this

witness (CW-172) categorically maintained that no medical record was examined by the SIT.

Various Sikh organizations, who were protesting against the police inaction to track down the culprits, had their suspicion on six persons namely Rajwinder Singh, a clerk, Subedar Gurjant Singh, Hardev Singh, a shopkeeper, Gora Singh, a Granthi, Sukhdev Singh Jatana and Ranjeet Singh, a Tailor Master, but none of them was thoroughly interrogated, not to speak of any police endeavour to take them into custody for custodial interrogation. Not only that, two persons namely Rupinder Singh and Jaswinder Singh, who were taken into custody in connection with the cases related to the aforementioned FIRs No. 63, 117 and 128, were later got released by the police. There is no gainsaying the fact that the suspects have not been tracked down till date.

The above discussion leads the Commission to hold that the investigators did not properly investigate into the highly sensitive matter (desecration of Shri Guru Granth Sahib).

THE KOTKAPURA CHOWK EPISODE

The materials on record would reveal that anguished by the incidents of desecration of Shri Guru Granth Sahib and the police failure to trace the stolen Swaroop of the holy Granth and nab the culprits, a large Sikh Sangat led by certain religious preachers, including Bhai Panthpreet Singh Khalsa and Baba Ranjit Singh Dhadriya Wale, took out a protest march towards Kotkapura Town on 12.10.2015. Reverentially, they carried along the torn holy 'Angs' of Shri Guru Granth Sahib in a vehicle. On reaching the said town, they sat in Dharna at the main square of Kotkapura (popularly known as Battian Wala Chowk) and thus blocked the way leading to various Towns. In order to control the situation, heavy police force was deployed in the town. Many senior officers, including Sh. Paramraj Singh Umranangal, Commissioner of Police, Ludhiana, Sh. Amar Singh Chahal, Deputy Inspector General of Police, Ferozepur Range, Sh. Hardial Singh Mann, Superintendent of Police, Ferozepur, Sh. Charanjit Singh Sharma, Senior Superintendent of Police, Moga, Sh. Sukhminder Singh Mann, Senior Superintendent of Police, Faridkot and Sh. Malwinder Singh Jaggi, Deputy Commissioner, Faridkot, who were also present at Kotkapura Chowk, kept on persuading the protestors to call off their protest, but to no avail.

In their statements, Sh. Sukhminder Singh Mann (CW-131), Senior Superintendent of Police, Faridkot, Sh. Baljeet Singh Sidhu (CW-134), Deputy Superintendent of Police, Kotkapura, and Sh. Harjit Singh Sandhu (CW-183), Sub Divisional Magistrate, Kotkapura, maintained that Sh. Paramraj Singh Umranangal, Commissioner of Police, Ludhiana, was

leading/ commanding the entire police force deputed to maintain law and order at Kotkapura Chowk on 14.10.2015. Deposition of Sh. Umranangal (CW-124) and that of many other police officials would reveal that the protestors had become violent at about 6.00-6.30 AM on 14.10.2015, and that prior to that they were holding a peaceful Dharna and reciting Gurbani.

The sequence of events that led the peaceful protest to take a violent turn is narrated by Sh. Ranbir Singh Khattrra, DIG, Bathinda Range, in his affidavit (Ex. CW-150/A) thus:

“A large gathering of people armed with sticks, swords etc. was sitting at the Chowk. I along with Commissioner of Police, Ludhiana, Sh. Amar Singh Chahal, DIG, Ferozepur Range, Sh. Sukhwinder Singh Mann, SSP, Faridkot, and many other police officers as also officers of the civil administration including the District Magistrate and the SDM had been conversing with the protestors to find out solution to the impasse. At around 2.30 AM on 14.10.2015, Sant Ranjit Singh Dhadriya Wale, Giani Kewal Singh and other representatives of the Sant Samaj led by Bhai Panthpreet Singh agreed that on being told to have been arrested, anyone of them would court arrest peacefully. Thereafter, the police parties prepared lists and started taking the women protestors into custody and sent them to various police stations in vehicles provided by the civil administration.

At around 5.00 AM on 14.10.2015, some protestors informed Bhai Panthpreet Singh that arrests were not being made properly.....

At about 5.30/5.45 AM, Bhai Panthpreet Singh declared that they would not be courting further arrest, because arrests were not being made properly, and started reciting 'Path'. Thereafter, I along with the Commissioner of Police, Ludhiana, Sh. Amar Singh Chahal, DIG, Ferozepur Range, Sh. Sukhminder Singh Mann, SSP, Faridkot, and other officers of the police and that of the civil administration including Sh. Harjit Singh Sandhu, SDM, Kotkapura, requested Bhai Panthpreet Singh that he ought not to have prevented the process of arrests merely on account of the fault of a driver. Despite persuasions, it was declared from the gathering of the protestors that they would not budge an inch even if they were lathi-charged or fired at. Thereupon, just as the police parties started taking the protestors into custody, they attacked the police, brandishing swords, gandasas, spears etc. The police then used water cannons, but without effect. The police took retreat even as the protestors kept on pelting stones towards it. Having pulled out some police officials from the police post, the protestors belaboured them and set ablaze a water cannon vehicle (Vajra).....".

The materials on record would reveal that having arrested about 1000 protestors, the police made them board buses, which were driven away, purportedly towards various police stations. But at some distance, the protestors were made to alight from the buses. Head Constable Jang Singh in his statement as CW-186 maintained:

"The protestors became violent upon the police having failed to properly arrest some of them as per the understanding earlier reached between them and the police. The protestors were complaining that the arrests made by the police were not proper."

On being asked what was the reason for the protestors to have become violent, Sh. Harjit Singh Sandhu (CW-183), Sub Divisional

Magistrate, Kotkapura, who was present on the scene on 14.10.2015, replied that the reason was their complaint that they were not being arrested properly and in accordance with law.

To the Commission's same question, reply of HC Gurwinder Singh (CW-187) was:

“The reason for the protestors to become violent was that arrests being made by the police were not proper. Earlier, an understanding was reached between the protestors and the police that in case the protestors were properly arrested they would discontinue their Dharna, but the police had failed to honour the understanding”.

It is manifest from the materials on record that more than 40 police officials were injured, some of them grievously. About 7 protestors also received injuries. One of them, Ajit Singh (CW-87), was grievously injured. Claiming to have joined the protestors at Kotkapura Chowk to protest against the desecration of Shri Guru Granth Sahib, Ajit Singh (CW-87) deposed that one of the bullets fired by the police had hit him on the thighs, and that for the treatment of the injuries thus received, he was admitted to a hospital.

Some of the police officials examined by the Commission, however, denied knowledge of any of the protestors having received gunshot injuries. But their denial of knowledge does not inspire confidence in view of the deposition of Nirvair Singh (CW-192), Amandeep Singh (CW-193), Gurmeet Singh (CW-194) and Darshan Singh (CW-198), who are unanimous in stating that one of the protestors

had received firearm injuries. They, however, did not know the name of the injured.

That the injuries received by Ajit Singh (CW-87) on the thighs were inflicted by a gunshot, finds assurance from the testimony of Dr. Sameer Kapoor, a member of team of surgeons, that had performed surgery on Ajit Singh's injured thighs. The said doctor in his statement as CW-184 inter alia maintained:

“There were entry and exist wounds on the left thigh of Sh. Ajit Singh. In view of the entry and the exit wounds and the track thereof, I am of opinion that Sh. Ajit Singh had sustained a bullet injury on the left thigh. The bullet in my opinion was fired from a rifled weapon”.

But rifled weapons, the materials on record would reveal, were only with the police. In the FIR No. 192, dated 14.10.2015, registered at Police Station City Kotkapura, it is, however, inter alia alleged that the protestors had snatched away a self loading rifle (SLR) HC Rachhpal Singh (CW-16) was armed with and fired bullets therefrom. SI Gurdeep Singh (CW-185), Station House Officer of the said police station, who is the author of the FIR, reiterated this story in his statement as CW-185. He alleged that the protestors had fired six rounds from the SLR snatched away from HC Rachhpal Singh. But this story is nothing but a concoction. Concoction, because HC Rachhpal Singh in his statement as CW-16 maintained that before he left for Kotkapura Chowk, he was given 50 rounds of SLR, and that of these rounds, 10 were loaded in the magazine of the SLR and 40 kept in the porches of his waist belt. On being questioned by the

Commission as to whether any of the 50 rounds was fired at Kotkapura Chowk, he replied in the negative. He categorically deposed that all the rounds issued to him before he left for Kotkapura Chowk, were later deposited at the headquarters of 13th Battalion, PAP, Chandigarh.

Also, it is nowhere discernible from the deposition of Sh. Malwinder Singh Jaggi (CW-64), Deputy Commissioner, Faridkot, and that of the Senior Superintendent of Police, Faridkot Sh. Sukhminder Singh Mann (CW-131), Sh. Paramraj Singh Umranangal (CW-124), Commissioner of Police, Ludhiana, Sh. Baljeet Singh Sidhu (CW-134), Dy. SP, Kotkapura, Sh. Ranbir Singh Khattra (CW-150), DIG, Bathinda Range, Sh. Amar Singh Chahal (CW-174), DIG, Ferozepur Range, and Sh. Harjit Singh Sandhu (CW-183), SDM, Kotkapura, that the protestors had fired shots from the SLR allegedly snatched away from HC Rachhpal Singh. Testimony of many other witnesses including HC Tarsem Lal (CW-15), ASI Mohan Lal (CW-19), HC Sukhjinder Singh (CW-22), C. Lakhbir Singh (CW-32), C. Nirmal Rai (CW-33), ASI Major Singh (CW-34), ASI Ranjit Singh (CW-37), ASI Gurmail Singh (CW-38), Giani Kewal Singh (CW-148), Sukhjeet Singh Khose (CW-149), Bhai Ranjit Singh Dhadriya Wale (CW-181), Karam Singh (CW-196) and Resham Singh (CW-199) also attest to the factum of the protestors having not fired any shot from the SLR allegedly snatched away from the said Head Constable. Also, in the video clippings and the CDs received by the Commission, none of the protestors appears to be armed with a firearm.

There is rather ample material on record to show that it was in fact some of the police officials, who had fired gunshots, purportedly in self

defence. As to the location of firing by the police, there are, however, two sets of witnesses. While according to the witnesses namely Bhai Harjinder Singh (CW-176), Bhai Harjit Singh (CW-177), Bhai Gursewak Singh (CW-178), Amandeep Singh (CW-193), Gurmeet Singh (CW-194), Sher Bahadar Singh (CW-195), Chaman Lal (CW-197) and Darshan Singh (CW-198) firing had taken place at Kotkapura Chowk, the other set of witnesses namely Sh. Paramraj Singh Umranangal (CW-124), Inspector Pardeep Singh (CW-130), Sh. Sukhminder Singh Mann (CW-131), SI Gurdeep Singh (CW-185) and Nirvair Singh (CW-192) deposed that firing had taken place from police station City Kotkapura, though in self defence. Kotkapura Chowk, according to ASI Jagdish Singh (CW-188), is about 60-70 yards from police station City Kotkapura. But wherever be the location of the police firing (either Kotkapura Chowk or police station City Kotkapura), the fact remains that it was as a result of one of the gunshots fired by some police officials that hit one of the protestors, Ajit Singh (CW-87), on the left thigh, causing grievous injuries.

The picture, however, would have been more clear had the Commission been successful in laying hands on the CCTV footage of the Kotkapura episode. SI Gurdeep Singh in his statement as CW-185 maintained that the CCTV cameras installed at Kotkapura Chowk were not functional on October 13 & 14, 2015. The reason why the CCTV cameras were not functional on these days, according to SI Gurdeep Singh, was that a truck loaded with chaff had damaged the cameras. But this version of his cannot be taken without a pinch of salt, because Sh. Malwinder Singh Jaggi, Deputy Commissioner, Faridkot, in his statement as CW-64 maintained in no ambiguous words that the police had installed

CCTV cameras at Kotkapura Chowk on the evening of 13.10.2015, and that they all were functional. He further stated that as to the incident that occurred at the said Chowk, recording was made. To a question whether any recording of the speeches made by different leaders at Kotkapura Chowk on 14.10.2015 and the CCTV footage was with him, Sh. Malwinder Singh Jaggi replied that the CCTV footage and the sound recordings were not in his office but were with the police. He mentioned that a letter (No. COI/2015/71, dated 22.12.2015) was sent to the Deputy Commissioner, Faridkot requiring him to send the Commission the CCTV footage, if any, in respect of the Kotkapura episode, but he expressed his inability so to do, saying that as per the reply received from the Senior Superintendent of Police, Faridkot, the requisite CCTV footage was not available with him.

The video clippings and the CDs aforementioned as also the evidence of some of the material witnesses are demonstrative of the fact that upon the police attempt to arrest Bhai Panthpreet Singh, one of the agitators, the protestors went berserk. Brandishing swords, spears and lathis, the protestors inflicted injuries on more than 40 police officials and set ablaze a Vajra (water cannon vehicle) and some other vehicles. They dragged some of the police officials out of a police cabin at Kotkapura Chowk and belaboured them. It was perhaps in view of this situation that Sh. Harjit Singh Sandhu, SDM, Kotkapura, had to order fire. On being asked whether or not he had made orders directing the police to use water cannons and tear gas shells, to lathi-charge the protestors and open fire on 14.10.2015, the said SDM replied:

“Yes sir. I had made such orders on that day. I may submit that while passing such orders, the police was specifically told to fire bullets into the air so that no one was injured. Also, water cannons, tear gas shells and lathis were ordered to be used in such a way as did not cause grievous hurt to anybody. I will send a copy of the said orders to this office”.

As to the Kotkapura Chowk incident, FIR No. 192 is stated to have been registered at police station City Kotkapura on 14.10.2015. The occurrence of Ajit Singh having sustained injuries in police firing is a part of the chain of events as to which the said FIR was registered. The investigator(s), who are already investigating into the case relating to FIR No. 192, dated 14.10.2015, must also investigate into the occurrence of police firing as a result of which Ajit Singh sustained injuries.

Be it stated that the role of Bhai Panthpreet Singh Khalsa, a religious preacher, and that of Bhai Ranjit Singh Dhadriya Wale and other religious preachers, who were heading the gathering of protestors, was not appreciable. Had the said preachers exhorted the gathering to keep peace when the police was in the process of making preventive detentions, the situation could well have been prevented from taking a violent turn.

It also deserves mention that on being asked as to who was suspected to be at the base of the mischief of desecration of Shri Guru Granth Sahib, witnesses namely Sikandar Singh (CW-25), Jagsir Singh (CW-26), Sukhdev Singh (CW-27), Ranjit Singh (CW-28), Kulwinder Singh (CW-30) and Jagroop Singh (CW-31), replied that they didn't have their suspicion on any individual or any political party. According to

witnesses namely Satnam Singh Chandarh (CW-93), Harwinder Singh (CW-95) and Bhupesh Kataria (CW-10), the act of desecration of Shri Guru Granth Sahib was the handiwork of some anti-social elements. In his statement as CW-29, Budh Singh maintained that he had no suspicion on any political party or individual, but there was a general perception amongst the public that the incidents (desecration of Shri Guru Granth Sahib) took place at the instance of big people.

THE BEHBAL KALAN EPISODE

Be it stated at the outset that the record received from various police quarters in response to the queries made by the Commission is not indicative of any bullet/cartridge having been fired at the spot of occurrence (T-point, for short) in Behbal Kalan village. But veracity of the police record, to the extent the same relates to the live cartridges deposited by certain police officials after their return from the spot of occurrence, stands falsified by the testimony of Sh. Charanjit Singh Sharma (CW-23), then Senior Superintendent of Police, Moga, who according to the witnesses namely Sh. Prital Singh (CW-58), Sh. Harjinder Singh (CW-132), Sh. Jagdish Kumar Bishnoi (CW-133), C. Amritpal Singh (CW-140), C. Hapreet Singh (CW-141), Sh. Surinder Kumar (CW-157), Sh. Hardial Singh Mann (CW-158), Sh. Tejbir Singh (CW-164), Sh. Bhupinder Singh (CW-170), C. Sukhdeep Singh (CW-171), HC Bhola Singh (CW-173) and Sh. Maninder Bedi (CW-191), was leading the police force deputed from various Battalions and Districts to maintain law and order at the T-point in the said village on 14.10.2015.

Sh. Charanjit Singh Sharma's affidavit Ex. CW-23/A is demonstrative of the fact that some of the police officials had fired gunshots at the T-point on 14.10.2015. As many as 32 other witnesses namely Sh. Resham Singh (CW-6), Sh. Balbir Singh (CW-7), Sh. Ganga Singh (CW-42), Sh. Beant Singh (CW-44), Sh. Bikramjit Singh (CW-45), Sh. Angrez Singh (CW-47), Sh. Gurpreet Singh (CW-49), Sh. Surjit Singh (CW-50), Sh. Hakam Singh (CW-51), Sh. Gurpreet Singh (CW-57), Sh. Pritam Singh (CW-60), Sh. Gurcharan Singh (CW-74), Sh. Jagjit Singh

(CW-75), Sh. Iqbal Singh (CW-76), Sh. Gurmeet Singh (CW-77), Sh. Gurjeet Singh (CW-103), Sh. Gurdeep Singh (CW-104), Sh. Jagtar Singh (CW-106), Sh. Makhan Singh (CW-108), Sh. Kaur Singh (CW-109), Sh. Gurdit Singh (CW-110), Sh. Jaswant Singh (CW-111), Sh. Jarnail Singh (CW-113), Sh. Sohan Singh (CW-114), Sh. Butta Singh (CW-117), Sh. Mandeep Singh (CW-118), Sh. Baljinder Singh (CW-121), Sh. Sukhraj Singh (CW-122), Sh. Shamsher Singh (CW-126), Sh. Harjinder Singh (CW-132), Sh. Paramjit Singh (CW-163) and Bhupinder Singh (CW-170), who all were present at the spot of occurrence on 14.10.2015, are also unanimous in stating that the police had fired gunshots at the T-point at the material time.

One of the reports transmitted to the Commission by the Senior Superintendent of Police, Faridkot, is of the unit namely 6th IRB, Ladha Kothi, Sangrur. According to this report, 74 cartridges (i.e. 24 of 9 mm issued to ASI Paramjit Singh No. 6th IRB/140, 40 of 7.62 mm issued to Constable Bhola Singh No. 6th IRB/393 and 10 of 7.62 mm issued to Constable Jagjitpal No. 6th IRB/277, 'total 74') were burnt in a government bus No. PB-13F-5862 that was set ablaze by the protestors in Behbal Kalan village. But this report also stands falsified by the deposition of Constable Jagjitpal No. 6th IRB/277, who maintained as CW-202, that he was issued 50 cartridges of which 10 were loaded in the magazine of SLR and the remaining put in a bag, which was kept in the bus (PB-13F-5862), and that the bus was set afire only after his bag as also the bags of other police officials of 6th IRB, Ladha Kothi, Sangrur had been taken away by some of the protestors. SI Amarjit Singh (CW-151), then Station House Officer, Police Station Bajakhana, also belied

the story of the abovementioned 74 cartridges having been burnt in the bus, by stating that he was the author of the FIR No. 129 registered at police station Bajakhana, and that in the course of investigation, no article, not even any burnt cartridge/bullet, was found in the bus, vide recovery memo Ex. CW-151/E.

The reason why the story of loss of 74 cartridges in the bus set ablaze was invented, is beyond comprehension. The design was perhaps to camouflage the factum of police firing at the T-point in Behbal Kalan village.

It deserves mention that Inspector Pardeep Singh in his statement as CW-130 maintained that he was issued a 9mm pistol along with 30 cartridges, but did not carry the same when he reached the spot of occurrence in Behbal Kalan village. According to him, he had handed over his service revolver loaded with 12 cartridges to HC Harpreet Singh No. 175/Moga. The latter, however, belied claim in his statement as CW-165. Further Inspector Pardeep Singh's affidavit is also non-existent in his claim of having handed over his arm and ammunition to HC Harpreet Singh (CW-165).

Narrating the sequence of events, Sh. Charanjit Singh Sharma (CW-23) in his affidavit Ex. CW-23/A maintained that on being ordered by the Commissioner of Police, Ludhiana, he along with Sh. Paramjit Singh Pannu, ADCP, Ludhiana, Sh. Tejbir Singh, ACP, Sahnewal, Inspector Harpal Singh, Inspector Davinder Kumar, Inspector Maninder Bedi, Inspector Sandeep Vadera, ASI Surinder Kumar Chopra, Inspector Dalbir Singh, ASI Mahinderpal Singh, Incharge Tear Gas Shell, Ludhiana, QRT

Team, Ludhiana, ASI Bhupinder Singh and Inspector Pardeep Singh proceeded towards Bargari Police Post, which was stated to have been surrounded by some agitators. On way, they found that about 800-850 protestors were holding Dharna (sit-in protestation) on the main GT Road near Behbal Kalan village. The protestors, armed with '*lathis*', swords, spears, guns etc. were raising inflammatory slogans. Claiming to have persuaded the protestors to call off Dharna, Sh. Sharma further deposed that the gathering refused to budge an inch, and that the situation began taking a violent turn. The protestors then pelted brickbats and fired gunshots towards the police. Taking retreat, the police fired tear gas shells to disperse the violent gathering. But the protestors then set afire a police bus, a Balero and some other vehicles. Sh. Sharma further maintained that having encircled the police force from three sides, the protestors grabbed HC Surinder Kumar No. 584/FZK and inflicted grievous injuries on him. In order to deliver the said head constable from the protestors' clutches, some of the police officials fired gunshots. But in his statement made before the Commission, Sh. Charanjit Singh Sharma (CW-23), belied this version of his by stating that the police had fired gunshots in defence only, while running away from the spot of occurrence. But this version also is rendered doubtful by Sh. Sharma's gunmen; Constable Gurpreet Singh (CW-125) and Constable Shamsher Singh (CW-126), who both to a question posed by the Commission, denied that the police had fired gunshots while taking retreat or running away from the spot of occurrence in Behbal Kalan village.

Belying Sh. Charanjit Singh Sharma's another claim that the protestors were holding Dharna on the GT Road, Inspector Jasbir Singh

(CW-129), then Station House Officer, Police Station Jaito, testified that on 14.10.2015, at about 10 AM, a Moga police party headed by SSP, Charanjit Singh Sharma was present near the link road leading to Behbal Kalan village where the protestors were holding a peaceful Dharna. Witnesses namely Sh. Jagseer Singh (CW-39), Sh. Darshan Singh (CW-40), Sh. Beant Singh (CW-44), Sh. Angrez Singh (CW-47), Sh. Gurcharan Singh (CW-74), Sh. Jagjit Singh (CW-75), Sh. Iqbal Singh (CW-76), Sh. Gurdit Singh (CW-101), Sh. Jagtar Singh (CW-106) and Sh. Makhan Singh (CW-108) also stated in one voice that the protestors were holding Dharna on the link road leading to Behbal Kalan village.

Sh. Hakam Singh (CW-51), a resident of Behbal Kalan village, in his affidavit Ex. CW-51/A maintained that the police had lathi-charged the men and women, who were holding a sit-in Dharna and gave the ladies kick blows. Sh. Jassa Singh also deposed as CW-52 that a gunman of SHO, P.S. Bajakhana had kicked the ladies present at the spot.

According to Sh. Barma Singh (CW-99), Sh. Charanjit Singh Sharma, SSP, Moga, had commanded the protestors to leave and warned that else there would be firing. Sh. Gurdit Singh also testified as CW-101 that Sh. Sharma had ordered the protestors to leave within 1-2 minutes, else there would be firing. So, that was the way how the SSP and some of the police officials accompanying him had conducted themselves.

In view of the situation that prevailed at the T-point, SSP, Charanjit Singh Sharma and other Senior Police Officers present there ought to have first persuaded the agitators to call off Dharna. On failure of this move, they ought to have warned the protestors through a public address system,

which was already available on some of their vehicles. If the situation, however, so warranted, the other steps that could be taken were: (i) use of water cannons, (ii) firing of tear gas shells, (iii) mild lathi-charge, (iv) use of rubber bullets, and (v) firing into the air. But none of these steps, except the firing of tear gas shells, was taken and this fact is manifest from the deposition of Sh. Jagseer Singh (CW-39) and Sh. Hakam Singh (CW-51). But even the police claim as to the firing of tear gas shells is rendered doubtful by its own record, which is non-existent in the number of the tear gas shells that may have been used.

Sh. Bikramjit Singh, Superintendent of Police (Investigation), Bathinda, testified as CW-45, that rounds/bullets were fired by the police, but he cannot reveal the number thereof.

In his statement as CW-46, HC Surinder Kumar categorically maintained that the police had fired bullets/cartridges from different weapons, and that he could hear the sound of two gunshots having been fired.

ASI Paramjit Singh of 6th IRB, Ladha Kothi also maintained that the police had fired about 25 bullets/rounds at Behbal Kalan on 14.10.2015, and that he later came to know that two persons had died in the firing.

To a question; whether anyone died as a result of the police firing at Behbal Kalan village and whether anyone received injuries in that firing, Sh. Amarjit Singh (CW-151), then SHO, Police Station, Bajakhana, replied that two persons had died and two received injuries as a result of the police firing.

Sub Inspector Bhupinder Singh also deposed as CW-170 that there was a police firing at Behbal Kalan on 14.10.2015.

In his statement as CW-132, DSP, Harjinder Singh, maintained that firing, both from the side of the police and that of the agitators, had taken place at Behbal Kalan village on 14.10.2015.

The above-discussed police officials (SSP Charanjit Singh Sharma, DSP Harjinder Singh, SP Bikramjit Singh, HC Surinder Kumar and ASI Paramjit Singh) have thus on their own showing established it on record that some of the police officials had fired gunshots at the spot of occurrence in Behbal Kalan village at the material time. Evidence of the witnesses namely Sh. Resham Singh (CW-6), Sh. Balbir Singh (CW-7), Sh. Ganga Singh (CW-42), Sh. Beant Singh (CW-44), Sh. Bikramjit Singh (CW-45), Sh. Angrez Singh (CW-47), Sh. Gurpreet Singh (CW-49), Sh. Surjit Singh (CW-50), Sh. Hakam Singh (CW-51), Sh. Gurpreet Singh (CW-57), Sh. Pritam Singh (CW-60), Sh. Gurcharan Singh (CW-74), Sh. Jagjit Singh (CW-75), Sh. Iqbal Singh (CW-76), Sh. Gurmeet Singh (CW-77), Sh. Gurjeet Singh (CW-103), Sh. Gurdeep Singh (CW-104), Sh. Jagtar Singh (CW-106), Sh. Makhan Singh (CW-108), Sh. Kaur Singh (CW-109), Sh. Gurdit Singh (CW-110), Sh. Jaswant Singh (CW-111), Sh. Jarnail Singh (CW-113), Sh. Sohan Singh (CW-114), Sh. Butta Singh (CW-117), Sh. Mandeep Singh (CW-118), Sh. Baljinder Singh (CW-121), Sh. Sukhraj Singh (CW-122), Sh. Shamsher Singh (CW-126), Sh. Harjinder Singh (CW-132), Sh. Paramjit Singh (CW-163) and Bhupinder Singh (CW-170) also testifies to this fact.

There is ample material on record to show that Gurjeet Singh of village Srawan and Krishan Bhagwan Singh of village Behbal Khurd (Niami Wala), who were also present at the spot of occurrence, had received bullet injuries. Of them, while Gurjeet Singh succumbed to his injuries at the spot, Krishan Bhagwan Singh died on way to hospital.

Claiming to be a member of the board of doctors constituted to conduct an autopsy on the corpses of both the deceased, Dr. Rajiv Joshi (CW-20), Professor and Head of Department of Forensic Medicine & Toxicology, Guru Gobind Singh Medical College, Faridkot, after postmortem examination of deceased Krishan Bhagwan Singh's body, opined:-

“Cause of death in this case in our opinion was haemorrhagic shock due to haemo peritoneum caused by major vessels injury in the abdomen as a result of firearm injury, which is sufficient to cause death in the ordinary course of nature”.

On being asked to mention the kind of weapon used to inflict bullet injuries on deceased Krishan Bhagwan Singh, the Doctor opined:-

“In view of the description of the wound found on the dead body of Krishan Bhagwan Singh, the kind of weapon that in my opinion was used was a rifled weapon, which could be a self-loading rifle, stengun or AK-47 etc.”

The cause of death of Gurjeet Singh, according to Dr. Rajiv Joshi, was: *“cranio-cerebral damage due to firearm injury”.*

Claiming to have extracted a foreign body from the body of deceased Gurjeet Singh, Dr. Joshi maintained that the foreign body was packed in a container, which after being sealed was handed over to the police along with other belongings of the deceased. Postmortem reports (Ex. CW20/A & CW-20/C) and pictorial diagrams (Ex. CW-20/B & Ex. CW-20/D) in respect of both the deceased were prepared, according to the doctor.

When asked to opine about the kind of weapon used to inflict the fatal injuries on Gurjeet Singh, Dr. Rajiv Joshi testified:

“In view of the description of the wound observed on the dead body of Gurjeet Singh, a rifled weapon was used in my opinion. The rifled weapon could be a self-loading rifle, stengun or AK-47 etc.”

The foreign body extracted from deceased Gurjeet Singh's body by the aforementioned team of doctors was in fact a jacketed bullet, which in a sealed container was sent for analysis to the Forensic Science Laboratory, Punjab, SAS Nagar (Mohali). In the Laboratory, the jacketed bullet was marked CB/1.

The Forensic Science Laboratory's report in its material part reads:

“On the basis of careful scientific examination it has been concluded that calibre of one jacketed bullet marked CB/1 contained in parcel 'A' referred above is 7.62 mm.”

By an order (No. 1306/crime-E-3, dated 14.10.2015), the Director General of Police, Punjab constituted a special investigation team (SIT,

for short) to supervise the investigation of the case relating to FIR No. 128, dated 12.10.2015, registered at police station, Bajakhana. This FIR was chiefly regarding the crime of desecration of Shri Guru Granth Sahib committed within the jurisdiction of the said police station.

Upon it having been unearthed that two persons (Gurjeet Singh and Krishan Bhagwan Singh) had died in police firing, the SIT directed the Senior Superintendent of Police, Faridkot to register a case of murder under Sections 302/307/34 IPC and 25/27/54/59 of the Arms Act, and conduct thorough investigation to bring to the fore the true facts in order to bring the culprit(s) to book. It was in obedience to this direction that FIR No. 130 was registered at police station, Bajakhana under the aforementioned provisions on 21.10.2015.

By a letter No. COI/2016/349, dated 25.02.2016, certain queries were made to Sh. Iqbalpreet Singh Sahota, Director, Bureau of Investigation, Punjab, Chandigarh. Two of the queries were:

“(iii) whether it was found on investigation that there lay scattered some spent cartridges or bullets that had been fired at Kotkapura Chowk and at the spot of occurrence in village Behbal Kalan soon after the incidents of firing on 14.02.2015 ? If answer to this is in the affirmative, whether such cartridges or bullets were taken into possession by you or any other investigator, and sent for examination to a Ballistic Expert or some Laboratory ? If yes, a detailed information in respect of such cartridges/bullets be furnished to this Office along with a copy of Ballistic Expert’s report or that of the Laboratory, if any.

(iv) Whether any bullet was extracted from the body of deceased Gurjit Singh and/or deceased Krishan Bhagwan Singh? If answer to this is in the affirmative, whether such bullet(s) was/were taken into possession by you or any other Investigator, and sent for examination to a Ballistic Expert or any Laboratory. A detailed information as to such bullet(s) be furnished to this office alongwith a copy of Ballistic Expert's report or that of the Laboratory, if any.

In his reply received vide letter No. 1988/Crime/Inv-2, dated 24.05.2016, the said Director inter alia stated:

“According to the report of the FSL, Mohali (No. 499/2015/Ball/FSL/Exam, dated 16.02.2016) received, vide letter No. 1022/FSL/Punjab, dated 21.03.2016, the bullet (extracted from the dead body of deceased Gurjeet Singh) is of 7.62 bore. As per the report of the District Armor, Faridkot, this ammunition is used in LMG, SLR, ALR, Rifle bullet action 7.62 mm, AK47 (7.62 mm) etc.”

In the abovementioned letter received from Sh. Sahota, it is also stated that such type of weapons (25) were issued to 26 officials of the force deputed on the day of the occurrence, and that the said weapons have been taken into possession in order to identify the weapon from which the bullet in question was fired.

There is no gainsaying the fact that rifled weapons were only with the police, and not with any of the protestors. Deposition of SSP, Charanjit Singh Sharma (CW-23) would reveal that he was accompanied

by Inspector Pardeep Singh and five gunmen, who were armed with AK47 rifles.

It is manifest from the statement of Sh. Charanjit Singh Sharma (CW-23) and that of some other material witnesses that the protestors, on the other hand, were armed with only 12 bore guns. They, according to Sh. Sharma, were at a distance of about 300-400 feet when they had fired shots and no firearm injury was received by any of the police officials.

Sh. Angrez Singh (CW-47) in his affidavit Ex. CW-47/A stated that Gurjeet Singh and Krishan Bhagwan Singh had died as a result of the police firing, and that he himself, besides some others, received bullet injuries.

Sh. Beant Singh, another injured, also maintained as CW-44 that he had received two gunshot injuries, and that a bullet that got lodged in his body was extracted by Dr. Pawan Mehta of Action Balaji Hospital, Delhi. Besides him, Krishan Bhagwan Singh and Gurjeet Singh had also received gunshots injuries in the same incident of firing.

Lending assurance to Beant Singh's claim of having sustained gunshot injuries, Dr. Pawan Mehta inter alia maintained that he (Beant Singh) was admitted to the said hospital on 15.01.2016, for treatment of urethral injuries, which were found to have been caused by gunshots; that a surgical operation was conducted and urethroplasty done on 16.02.2016. Vide discharge summary Ex. CW-138/A. According to the doctor, about Rs. 1 Lakh was charged by the hospital from the injured. Dr. Mehta further testified that the possibility of injured Beant Singh having suffered

permanent erectile dysfunction could not be ruled out, and that for the treatment of such a dysfunction he may have to spend about Rs. 4 lakh.

In his statement as CW-41, Harjinder Singh maintained:

“Deceased Gurjeet Singh of village Sarawa and deceased Krishan Bhagwan Singh had received injuries as a result of police firing. Of these deceased, while Gurjeet Singh died at the spot, Krishan Bhagwan Singh died while being removed to hospital. One Angrej Singh of Behbal Kalan village as also myself had received gunshot injuries as a result of the police firing. I had received injuries on my left foot”.

Gurdit Singh (CW-101), Gurjt Singh (CW-103) and Gurcharan Singh (CW-74) also claim to have received gunshot injuries in police firing at Behbal Kalan village on 14.10.2015. Of them, Gurcharan Singh testified as CW-74 that two persons namely Gurjeet Singh and Krishan Bhagwan Singh died as a result of the police firing.

As already observed that on being asked; whether anyone died as a result of the police firing at Behbal Kalan village and whether anyone received injuries in the firing, SI Amarjit Singh, then SHO, P.S. Bajakhana, in his statement as CW-151 replied in the affirmative, adding that two persons had died and two received gunshot injuries.

Witnesses namely (CW-7), (CW-49), (CW-50), (CW-51), (CW-57), (CW-74), (CW-75), (CW-76), (CW-77), (CW-104), (CW-106), (CW-108), (CW-109), (CW-110), (CW-111), (CW-113), (CW-114), (CW-117), (CW-118) and (CW-161) are also unanimous in stating that two persons had died in the police firing in Behbal Kalan village on 14.10.2015.

There being no reason to discredit the above-discussed evidence, it stands established on record that as a result of the police firing two persons (Gurjeet Singh and Krishan Bhagwan Singh) died and Beant Singh, Angrez Singh, Harjinder Singh, Gurcharan Singh, Gurdit Singh and Gurjit Singh received injuries.

In view of the above conclusion, deposition of (CW-123), (CW-125), (CW-126), (CW-141) and (CW-147), and that of some other witnesses that no gunshot was fired by the police, is nothing but falsity.

Section 130 of the Code of Criminal Procedure inter alia provides that if any unlawful assembly cannot be otherwise dispersed and if it is necessary for the public security that it should be dispersed, the Executive Magistrate of the highest rank who is present may cause it to be dispersed by the armed forces. Sh. Narinder Singh, Sub Divisional Magistrate, Jaito, in his statement as CW-146 inter alia maintained:-

“....I had come to know about the firing at about 10.20/10.25AM on 14.10.2015 and I had heard the sound of 5-6 bullets having been fired. At that time I was present near a Sua (canal minor) and I had heard the sound of firing. The point where I was present near Canal Minor is about 100-200 metres from the spot of occurrence in Behbal Kalan village”.

The SDM's claim that he was present near a Sua (Canal Minor), about 100-200 meters from the spot of occurrence, is rendered doubtful by Inspector Jasbir Singh (CW-129), then SHO, Police Station, Jaito, who on

being questioned; whether Tehsildar, Naib Tehsildar or SDM Jaito are personally known to you and whether they were present near the Behbal Kalan Link Road or near the canal minor where he (this witness) was holding Nakabandi on 14.10.2015, replied that he knew them personally, and that they were not present anywhere near the spot of occurrence in village Behbal Kalan.

When asked; whether or not Duty Magistrate, SDM, Jaito, Tehsildar or Naib Tehsildar, Jaito were present near or at the spot of occurrence on that day, Sh. Jagdish Bishnoi, then DSP, Jaito, answered in the negative.

\ SI Amarjit Singh on being asked; whether or not the then Dy. SP, Jaito, SDM, Jaito, Tehsildar or Naib Teshildar, Jaito were present at the time of the incident of firing at Behbal Kalan village, replied that only Dy. SP Jaito was present at the time of firing in Behbal Kalan village, and that none of the other officers was present there.

Sh. Pritpal Singh (CW-58), then Naib Tehsildar, Jaito, in his affidavit Ex. CW-58/A also claimed to be present at the spot of occurrence in Behbal Kalan village at the material time. But this claim of his does not inspire confidence in view of the deposition of the above-discussed witnesses (CW-129, CW-151 and CW-133).

Now the question: whether or not the police firing was in self defence. Answer to this, is to be found in the negative in view of the evidence on record.

In the FIR No. 129, dated 14.10.2015, registered at Police Station Bajakhana, some police officials are stated to have fired gunshots in self

defence and in order to deliver HC Surinder Kumar from the clutches of the protestors. 3.The same is the plea of SSP, Charanjit Singh Sharma (CW-23).

Although some of the witnesses refuted the police claim that some protestors were armed with 12 bore guns, even if the allegation is assumed to be true, they (protestors) in view of the materials on record didn't appear to have posed such a threat as may have warranted firing by the police as a result of which two unarmed persons died and more than five injured, some grievously.

The other protestors also do not appear to have posed such an impending threat as could justify the police firing. More so, in view of the relative position of the police official(s), who fired gunshots, and the victims.

To certain questions posed by the Commission, Dr. Rajeev Joshi (CW-20) replied:

"In view of the location of the entry and exit wounds, or say, track of the wound, the assailant was at a higher level than that of the deceased Krishan Bhagwan Singh. It appears that the assailant was standing, while the said deceased was sitting at the time of the assault....."

In view of the pictorial diagram and the observation made in the postmortem report in respect of deceased Gurjeet Singh, he appeared to be sitting, while the assailant was standing. In order words, the level of the assailant was higher than that of the deceased....."

The description of the wound was indicative of a rifled weapon having been fired from a close contact. By the expression 'close contact', I mean that the distance between the assailant and the deceased at the material time was less than one yard."

In the circumstances where both the victims (Gurjeet Singh and Krishan Bhagwan Singh) were in sitting position, what impelled the police official(s) to fire at them, and that too, from a close contact, is beyond comprehension. More so, when the victims were defenseless and unarmed.

The upshot, therefore, is that the police firing as a result of which two persons (Gurjeet Singh and Krishan Bhagwan Singh) died and more than five injured, some grievously, was absolutely unwarranted.

The erring officials, who fired gunshots are, therefore, liable to be dealt with in accordance with law. But not only the said officials, but Sh. Charanjit Singh Sharma, then Senior Superintendent of Police, Moga, who was indubitably leading/commanding the entire police force at the spot of occurrence at the material time, also deserves to be dealt with in accordance with law.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The investigator of the cases related to the Behbal Kalan incident is recommended to identify the erring officials, who had caused bullet injuries to the abovementioned injured and the deceased, and submit against them a charge-sheet to a court of law within a period of six months from today. The Investigating Officer is recommended to investigate into the complicity of SSP, Charanjit Singh Sharma in perpetration of the crime and, if the evidence to be collected so warrants, include his name in the charge-sheet.

The Central Bureau of Investigation is stated to have been entrusted with the job of investigation of the cases related to the incidents of sacrilege of Shri Guru Granth Sahib. It is recommended that the said Agency completes its investigation with utmost expediency.

As already observed, Ajit Singh, son of Sh. Avtar Singh, resident of village Jhanna Gulab Singh Wala, Tehsil Tappa, District Barnala, received grievous bullet injuries on the right thigh as a result of the police firing at Kotkapura Chowk on 14.10.2015. He claims to have spent more than Rs. 5,50,000/- on his treatment, vide medical bills produced by him.

The investigators, as already observed, are investigating into the case related to FIR No. 192, dated 14.10.2015, registered at police station City Kotkapura. The occurrence of Ajit Singh's having sustained bullet injuries as a result of the police firing is a part of the same chain of events as partly find mention in the said FIR. The investigators of the case related to the abovementioned FIR, are, therefore, recommended to investigate into the occurrence of Ajit Singh having sustained injuries in the police firing, as well.

In view of the bullet injuries sustained by Ajit Singh and the expenses incurred by him on his treatment (more than Rs. 5,50,000/-), the State Government is recommended to pay him Rs. 10 Lakhs as compensation and give him suitable employment within a period of 6 months from today.

In view of the bullet injuries sustained by Beant Singh, son of Balkaran Singh, resident of village Behbal Khurd (Niami Wala), Tehsil Jaito, District Faridkot; the expenses incurred on his treatment so far (more than Rs. 1 Lakh) and the estimated amount of Rs. 4 Lakh to be spent on treatment of the erectile dysfunction he suffered due to the bullet injuries, the State Government is recommended to pay him Rs. 10 Lakh as compensation and give him suitable employment within a period of 6 months from today.

It is also recommended that the State Government pays Rs. 25 Lakhs to the next of kin of deceased Gurjeet Singh and gives regular employment to at least one member of his family within a period of 6 months from today.

It is further recommended that the State Government pays Rs. 25 Lakhs to the next of kin of deceased of Krishan Bhagwan Singh and gives regular employment to at least one member of his family within a period of 6 months from today.

The Commission further recommends the State Government to set up a Claims Tribunal for redressal of grievance of the persons whose motor vehicles/articles were burnt/damaged during the occurrence of Kotkapura and Behbal Kalan village incidents.