CHAPTER 4

RELIGIOUS PATRONAGE BY THE SONS AND SUCCESSORS OF RANJIT SINGH

High velocity of tension, bloodshed and strife followed the death of Ranjit Singh but despite of that, general functions of the government continued. State Patronage being a part of the same was, undoubtedly, provided by the successors of Ranjit Singh who followed his example. This chapter deals with the grants given by the rulers, princes, sons and grandsons of Ranjit Singh till the annexation of Punjab in 1849. The grants by new Maharajas as princes during the reign of Maharaja Ranjit Singh have also been included.

I

As has already been mentioned, the Sikh institutions and individuals enjoyed the maximum patronage of Ranjit Singh. This trend continued under his successors. The most famous of his prodigy, Kharak Singh, Sher Singh and Dalip Singh are known to be the benefactors of the premier institution of the Sikhs. The history of the Golden Temple during the reign of the successor of Maharaja Ranjit Singh relates to the completion of the building complex and its beautification. Under the supervision of Maharaja Kharak Singh and Prince Nau Nihal Singh the work of inlaying the Harmandir Sāhib with marble and covering it with a gold-leaf was carried on. Even Sher Singh had taken keen interest in the affairs of Golden Temple and the individuals attached to it were rewarded for their meritorious services. Bhai Gurmukh Singh was given the task of continuing the construction

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work of the Temple.  He granted revenue-free land grants and cash allowances for its construction work. 

Even the individuals attached to the Golden Temple were given grants by the successors of Ranjit Singh. Bhāi Jassa Singh Granthī and Bhag Singh, a pujari of the Golden Temple, received grants worth seventy rupees in pargana Taran Taran and 300 rupees in Wadni, respectively, from Kharak Singh when he was still a prince. Similarly, Prince Sher Singh also gave grants worth 470 rupees in Amritsar to an ardāsia and a granthī attached to the institution, in 1823 and 1838, respectively. Kunwar Nau Nihal Singh, when administrator of Peshawar, also imitated his father, Kharak Singh, and gave a village worth 1,100 rupees in Peshawar to Jassa Singh Granthī in 1835. It must be mentioned here that the prince was not the only donor of the said grant as the grant was given co-jointly with his grandfather, Ranjit Singh.

Grants were given by the successors for the maintenance and repair of the Golden Temple. Dalip Singh, for example, assigned a grant of 4,000 rupees in Dinanagar and Amritsar in 1846 to Bhāi Parduman Singh, the superintendent of the repairs of the holy place. Akal Bunga, the most important bunga in Amritsar, was endowed by Prince Sher Singh who assigned grant worth 300 rupees in Batala, to Bhag Singh of the said bunga in 1828. Prince Kharak Singh endowed Bunga Nakaian and Bunga Sarkarwala with grants worth 400 rupees and a hundred rupees in 1809 and 1816, respectively.

The Gurdwārās related to the first, fifth, sixth, ninth and tenth Gurus of the Sikhs received grants from the successors of Ranjit Singh. 

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2 Shiwani Rana, *The Harmandir (Golden Temple) as a Sacred Space in Historical Perspective (C. 1570 to C. 1900)*, M. Phil. Dissertation, Panjab University, Chandigarh, 2001, p. 41.
3 Kharak Singh was the prince regent of Wadni. *Foreign/Political Proceedings*, 31 December 1847, No. 1851; 8 August 1856, No. 218.
4 *Foreign/Political Proceedings*, 10 June 1853, No. 218.
5 *Foreign/Political Proceedings*, 10 June 1853, No. 218.
6 *Foreign/Political Proceedings*, 10 June 1853, No. 218.
7 Ibid., 10 June 1853, No. 219.
Singh. The Gurdwārās related to life of Guru Nanak Dev, especially Nankana Sahib at Shaikhupura, received grants from Kharak Singh and Dalip Singh worth one hundred and sixty-two rupees and twenty-one rupees, respectively. Kharak Singh gave a piece of land of five ghumaons worth twelve rupees in pargana Shakargarh for langar. Darbār Sahib Mahisthan at Shaikhupura was another institution related to Guru Nanak Dev to be patronized by the successors. Prince Kharak Singh granted a village worth fifty rupees in Shaikhupura to Ram Das of the institution in 1828. Another grantor to the set of establishments related to Guru Nanak Dev was Kunwar Kashmira Singh. Daya Ram of Darbār Baoli Sahib of Guru Nanak at Sialkot was assigned land worth eighty rupees in Sialkot in 1843 by Kashmira Singh as who held in Sialkot in jāgīr under Ranjit Singh. Granthī Ram Singh of Darbār Sahib at Dera Baba Nanak received a piece of land worth one hundred rupees in Sialkot from Dalip Singh in 1844. It was not a grant for this institution but was a personal grant as the granthī had presented some rice as a charm to Dalip Singh when the latter was down with small pox.

Gurdwārā Dukh Niwaran at Taran Taran, related to life of Guru Arjan Dev, in Amritsar received cash grant of 500 rupees from Kunwar Nau Nihal Singh. Maharaja Kharak Singh was also a donor to the same. It received grant worth 1,500 rupees from Dalip Singh in 1849 for sadābārt. The individuals attached to the Gurdwārā of Hargobind at Amritsar found its patron in Kharak Singh and Dalip Singh. Bhāī Shaman, a rabābī attached to the gurdwārā, received grants worth sixty rupees and ten ghumaons, respectively, from them. The Gurdwārā of Guru Gobind Singh at Abchal Nagar in Deccan was the only Gurdwārā of the said Guru to be patronized by the successors of

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8 Ibid., 14 January 1853, No. 241.
9 Ibid., 14 January 1853, No. 241.
10 Foreign/Political Proceedings, 14 January 1853, No. 241.
12 Ibid., 14 January 1853, No. 229.
13 Foreign/Political Proceedings, 10 June 1853, No. 219.
Ranjit Singh. The grantor was Kharak Singh who assigned a grant of 3,500 rupees in Wadni to Tara Singh and Karam Singh, the pujaṅs of the Gurdwārā, in 1840. Gurdwārā Shahidganjwala at Lahore was patronized by Dalip Singh who granted two villages worth 1,100 rupees to Jiwan Singh for sadābart of the Gurdwārā.

The institutions and individuals related to udāsi sect received generous endowments to the tune of 9,780 rupees from at least six grantors from the lineage of Ranjit Singh and these were Kharak Singh, Sher Singh, Dalip Singh, Kashmira Singh, Peshora Singh and Kunwar Nao Nihal Singh. Santokh Das, Bhāī Pyara, Mast Ram, Harī Har and Surat Ram were some udāsi individuals to receive grants from the said grantors. These grants were given in Shahpur, Gogera, Jalandhar and Rawalpindi. To elaborate, a charitable grant was given by Maharaja Sher Singh, in 1841 to Kanwar, an udāsi sādh, in the village of Dasupur in Tanda worth. Kunwar Peshora Singh and Kunwar Kashmira Singh are known to have given a combined grant of ration worth 36 rupees from Sialkot to Gulab Singh Udāsī.

The udāsi akhāras found their patron in Prince Kharak Singh who is known to have alienated two grants worth 130 rupees and 260 rupees in favour of Akhāra of Gangaram Kashiwala in Amritsar and an Udāsi Akhāra in Gujrat, respectively. Prince Sher Singh granted share of a village worth 350 rupees in Dinanagar to Udāsī Akhāra of Baba Sant Das of Batala. Out of all the udāsi institutions the udāsi deras received maximum endowments from the successors of Ranjit Singh, in all they received 6,899 rupees but the major portion of 6,844 rupees was donated by Kharak Singh. Udāsī Dera of Bhāī Sucheta

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15 Ibid., 31 December 1847, Nos. 1849 &1851.
16 Ibid., 14 November 1851, Nos. 48-50.
17 Foreign/Political Consultation, 18 March 1853, No.155; 19 May 1854, Nos.180-83; Foreign/Political Proceedings, 31 December 1847, No. 2192; 7 January 1853, No. 241.
19 Foreign/Political Consultation, 8 April 1853, No.165.
20 Foreign/Political Consultation, 16 April 1852, Nos. 48-51; Foreign/Political Proceedings, 14 January 1853, No. 219.
21 Foreign/Political Proceedings, 7 January 1853, No. 219.
and Dera Khurd of Bhāī Pheru, both at Qasur and Udāsī Dera at Dera Baba Nanak at Batala received grants from Kharak Singh. Dera Khurd of Bhāī Pirīthī also found its patron in Sher Singh who gave a cash assignment worth one hundred rupees in Shaikhupura to Bhāī Ram Dial in 1842.  

The udāsī samādhs of Baba Mahan Sahib at Wazirabad received grant of wells and land worth sixty rupees form Kharak Singh. Another udāsī samādh to be patronized by successors was that of Sahib Anup Singh at Dinanagar. It received grants worth fifteen rupees and eight rupees from Kharak Singh and Kunwar Nau Nihal Singh in 1833 and 1838, respectively. The udāsī dharmsālas received grants worth 1,105 rupees from Kharak Singh, Sher Singh and Dalip Singh, too Kharak Singh seems to have contributed a large portion worth 800 rupees to the dharmsālas. Out of this amount 700 rupees were alienated for the support of three udāsī dharmsālas at Sahiwal in 1809, 1819 and 1828. grant worth one hundred rupees in Shaikhupura was alienated for the support of the udāsī dharmsāla constructed on the orders of his mother, Rani Nakain. Sher Singh gave a village worth 250 rupees in Wadni to an udāsī sādh, Magni Ram, for building a dharmsāla in 1837.

The Bedis, received maximum endowments from the successors of Ranjit Singh who imitated the latter in doing so while continuing the trend started by the early Sikh rulers of the late eighteenth century. Around 46,555 rupees were alienated by Kharak Singh, Sher Singh, Kashmira Singh, Peshora Singh and Dalip Singh. The grants were given first in their capacity as Prince and then as rulers, this was true especially in the case of Kharak Singh and Sher Singh. Rest of the sons gave grants only as princes with the exception of Dalip

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22 Ibid., 7 January 1853, No. 219; 14 January 1853, Nos. 229 & 241.
23 Foreign/Political Proceedings, 14 January 1853, No. 229.
25 Ibid., 7 January 1853, No. 219.
27 Ibid., 7 January 1853, No. 219.
28 In violation of the agreement, the grantee did not fulfill the condition even by 1847: Foreign/Political Proceedings, 31 December 1847, No. 1851.
Singh. Ranjit Singh’s grandsons, Partab Singh, son of Sher Singh, and Fateh Singh, son of Kashmira Singh, were also donors to the said class. References of grants given to Bedis by all the sons and grandsons of Ranjit Singh are available with exception of Kunwar Nau Nihal Singh. The maximum grants were given by Sher Singh worth 8,490 rupees. He was followed by Kharak Singh (8,049 rupees), Dalip Singh (1,250 rupees) and Fateh Singh (900 rupees). The minimum amount was assigned by Partab Singh of twenty-five rupees only. The maximum amount granted to a Bedi in a single instance was by Prince Kharak Singh who granted a village worth 500 rupees in pargana Shakargarh to Bhup Chand. 29 As princes, Kharak Singh and Sher Singh were known to have been more generous to the Bedis and endowed them with 6,516 rupees and 6,190 rupees, respectively.30 A combined grant by an uncle and nephew among the successors of Ranjit Singh to the Bedis is also available. Prince Peshora and Prince Fateh Singh, brother and son of Kashmira Singh, respectively, are known to have given handsome grant of a village worth 900 rupees in Sialkot to Atar Singh in 1845. 31

At times, the Bedis asked the rulers to give them grants. Sant Singh Bedi, for instance, asked Prince Kharak Singh to grant him two villages in pargana Shaikhupura. The prince complied with the grant as the land requested for was lying waste and would have improved the state of the land if given in grant.32 Though grants were generally given to a single person of the Bedi family but there is a reference where the grant was assigned to more than one Bedi family. For instance, Baba Ruldu Chand, Rang Shah and Badri Nath, the Bedis of three separate families of Batala were given a village in Dinanagar by Prince Kharak Singh in 1813.33 The successors of Ranjit Singh gave grants to Bedis for non-religious reasons too. For instance, grant of

29 Foreign/Political Proceedings, 14 January 1853, No. 223.
30 Ibid., 13 August 1852, No.49; 27 August 1852, No.102; 14 January 1853, Nos.
213-23.
31 Ibid., 13 August 1852, No.49.
32 Ibid., 14 January 1853, No. 220.
33 Foreign/Political Proceedings, 14 January 1853, No. 216.
land along with well worth fifty rupees in Amritsar, near Ram Bagh, was given by Prince Kharak Singh for erection of samādh of a Bedi named Milap Chand, who was slain by one of his ancestors in June 1831. Similarly Bedi Gurdat of Dera Baba Nanak was assigned a village worth 1,000 rupees by Dalip Singh in Batala as his father, Rattan Singh was killed along with Jawahar Singh, the wazīr and brother of Rani Jindan. The dharmarth grant was given to make provision for the victim’s infant and wife.

Bedi Bikrama Singh enjoyed vast jagīrs under Sher Singh, and his predecessors. He was the third son of Bedi Sahib Singh of Una on whose death in 1834 he succeeded to the family property in the Jalandhar Doab. It was he who anointed Sher Singh as the Maharaja and Partab Singh as heir apparent after the death of Kharak Singh despite opposition of Rani Chand Kaur, wife of Kharak Singh and her supporters Sandhanwalias. Hence, he and his attendants were assigned a whole ta’lluqa in Hoshiarpur worth 25,000 rupees. Bedi Bikram Singh was also instrumental in bringing reconciliation between Sher Singh and the Sandhanwalias in November 1842. To reward his efforts, he was assigned land worth 5,000 rupees in Jaswan by Maharaja Sher Singh in bhēt ārdās in 1842.

Hence, the Bedis enjoyed munificent grants from Sher Singh which initially amounted to 8,490 rupees but later increased to more than four times. Bedi Bikram Singh, thus, became the most powerful dharmarth grantee in the Jalandhar Doab holding lands worth over two lakhs of rupees comprising more than a dozen villages granted to him by Maharaja Sher Singh and Maharaja Dalip Singh which

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34 Ibid., 14 January 1853, No. 223.
35 Ibid., 14 January 1853, No. 216. Rattan Singh was a celebrated horseman attached to the Royal Stables and received one rupee a day. He was taken into favour by Sardar Jawahar Singh and was appointed Groom of the Chamber Estate, 4,400 rupees being conferred on him in service in 1844. Jawahar Singh was killed at Mian Mir by the turbulent soldiery for killing Prince Peshora Singh, Rattan Singh shared the same fate.
36 Gupta, Eve of First War, p. 62.
37 Foreign/Political Consultation, 31 December 1847, Nos. 2213-15.
39 Foreign/Political Consultation, 31 December 1847, Nos. 2213-15.
included the forts of Nurpur, Gunachaur and Dakkhni Sarai. It is important to mention here that the grants to the Bedis were not essentially given for religious reasons but since were the descendants of Guru Nanak and were revered as such, the grants given to them have been included here.

The number of grants, received by the Sodhis was much less than the Bedis. They received the grants worth 16,315 rupees only. Kharak Singh, Sher Singh, Dalip Singh and Kunwar Nau Nihal Singh were the patrons to the Sodhis. Two third share of the above mentioned amount was contributed by Kharak Singh. One of it consisting of a well was given to Sodhi Harnam Singh in village Sekhwan of ta'alluqa Fateghar Khanna. Kesra Singh, Nihal Singh, Nanak Bakhsh, Mehr Singh, Harnam Singh and Anup Singh were some of the Sodhis to receive grants from them. Maharaja Sher Singh gave half share of two villages to Sodhi Jawahar Singh, a man of note and a descendant of Mehraban, the grandson of the fourth Guru Ram Das. Khara Singh granted village Malowti in Garshanker worth 1,000 rupees in Hoshiarpur in 1839 to Sodhis Ram Singh and Ranjit Singh of Anandpur.

The Bhallas, hardly could find patrons among the successors of Ranjit Singh. Only a single reference of grant to a Bhalla is available. Maharaja Sher Singh granted a portion of a village in pargana Taran Taran to Baba Hari Singh in 1843. It must also be mentioned here that it was not directly a fresh grant but was

The bhais received grants worth 3,470 rupees from four successors of Ranjit Singh. Besides the three rulers Kharak Singh, Sher Singh and Dalip Singh, Prince Partab Singh was the fourth

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42 *Foreign/Political Proceedings*, 31 December 1847, Nos.1847, 1851 & 2204; 16 April 1852, Nos.48-51; 27 May 1853, No.196; *Foreign/secret Consultations*, 29 December 1849, No.1128.
43 Griffin & Massy, *Chiefs and Families of Note*, Vol. I, p. 241. Mehrban was the son of Prithi Chand who had founded Mina Sect after the rejection of his claim for Guru gaddi by Guru Ram Das who choose his younger son Arjun as the successor-Guru.
44 *Foreign/Political Proceedings*, 31 December 1847, No. 2204.
grantor giving 632 rupees, 556 rupees, 2,125 rupees and 148 rupees, respectively. Various bhais to receive grants were Anup Singh, Ganda Singh, Gurdial Singh, Gulab Singh, Gurdat Singh, Abnasha Singh, Chet Singh and Nidhan Singh. The bhais got grants in form of revenue-free land at places like Jalandhar, Hoshiarpur, Jhang, Wadni, Hazara and Shahpur. One of them, Bhaï Chet Singh, was a spiritual perceptor of Dalip Singh, hence he was assigned a village worth 1,000 rupees in pargana Mukerian in Hoshiarpur in 1843. Daily payments were made to bhais in a few cases. Bhaï Miha Singh used to get eight annas per day from Dalip Singh during the regency of Lal Singh. They received the largest grant, he was endowed with a village named Mullanpur in pargana Rahon in Jalandhar worth 1,100 rupees in 1845 by Dalip Singh as bhet. The minimum amount given in any single instance was seven rupees and eight annas that was given by Kunwar Partab Singh to Bhaï Gurdial in 1841 in Hazara.

The readers of the Granth Sâhib, the holy scripture of the Sikhs, also received grants from the successors of Ranjit Singh. A minimum of eleven grants worth 1,972 rupees to granthis have come to light. They were endowed by Kharak Singh, Sher Singh and Dalip Singh. A major share of the value came from Kharak Singh who contributed at least 1,251 rupees to them. Jamiat Singh, Ram Singh, Mehr Singh, Bhagwan Singh, Kharak Singh, Mian Singh, Maha Singh, Jawahar Singh, Sajan Singh, Jodh Singh and Mehtab Singh were some of the granthis who were given grants. They were endowed with revenue-free land in Qasur, Pakpattn, Taran Taran, Saurian, Gujrat

45 The Khalsa Darbar Records, Bundle No.- C.3, Vol. I, Part I, p. 111; Foreign/Political Consultation, 31 December 1847, Nos. 1844; 3 April 1850, No.228; Foreign/Political Proceedings, 31 December 1847, Nos. 2187 & 2207; 21 February 1851, No.218A; 14 November 1851, Nos. 44-47.
46 Foreign/Political Proceedings, 31 December 1847, No. 2207.
48 Foreign/Political Proceedings, 31 December 1847, No. 2187.
49 Ibid., 14 November 1851, Nos. 44-47.
and Shaikhupura. One of the above-mentioned granthī Jamiat Singh was given a village worth 300 rupees in Qasur in 1816 for reciting the holy scripture at the vestibule of Kharak Singh’s place by the prince.

Grants for Granth Sāhib are also available. Almost 1,304 rupees were alienated by Dalip Singh in favour of the holy book in 1844. Some money was set aside for sarghi (meal taken before dawn) of Guru Granth Sāhib. Kunwar Kashmira Singh is known to have granted ration and cash worth forty-two rupees to Bhāi Kaha in 1834 for the Holy Book of the Sikhs.

The akālis found their patron in Dalip Singh and Nau Nihal Singh. Former assigned grants to the value of 3,100 rupees to akālis and their establishments. Amolak Singh, an akālī, received a village worth 500 rupees from Dalip Singh for a dharmsāla in 1846. Nau Nihal Singh gave a grant of one hundred rupees to Akālī Khoda Singh. The nirmalas like akālis also received grants from Dalip Singh. Swarup Das and Thakur Singh, the nirmała sādhs, received grants worth fifty rupees and 240 rupees, respectively, in Lahore from Dalip Singh.

The ganjbakhshia sādhs, though not patronized by Ranjit Singh himself, were patronized by Kharak Singh and Sher Singh as princes. For instance, Vadbhag Singh was granted two wells in pargana Shakargarh worth one hundred rupees by Kharak Singh in 1812. Similarly, Rattan Nath received thirty ghumāons of land worth thirty rupees from Sher Singh in 1827.

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50 Foreign/Political Consultation, 23 August 1850, Nos. 35 A-35 C; Foreign/Political Proceedings, 21 February 1851, No.218-A; 14 November 1851, Nos. 51-57; 7 January 1853, No. 222; 14 January 1853, No. 235; 27 May 1853, No. 199.
51 Foreign/Political Proceedings, 27 May 1853, No. 199.
53 Foreign/Political Consultation, 8 April 1853, No.165.
54 Foreign/Political Consultation, 23 August 1850, No.35 C; 30 August 1850, No.5 A; Foreign/Political Proceedings, 14 January 1853, No. 219.
55 Foreign/Political Consultation, 30 August 1850, No. 5 A.
56 Ibid., 24 November 1854, Nos. 187-90.
57 Ibid., 3 April 1850, No. 228.
Hence, among the Sikhs, all the major sects and classes are known to have received grants (worth 97,294 rupees) from the various successors of Ranjit Singh. Undoubtedly, the Bedis enjoyed the maximum chunk of the grants which amounted to 76,555 rupees from Sher Singh, Kharak Singh and Dalip Singh, who granted 40,025 rupees, 32,149 rupees and 21,952 rupees, respectively, in fact the maximum grants in terms of value.

II

The brahmans were the only class to have managed to garner the attention of all the successors of Ranjit Singh. The list of grantors also includes the names of Partab Singh, Peshora Singh and Tara Singh, besides the more prominent ones like Kharak Singh, Sher Singh, Dalip Singh and Nau Nihal Singh. A total of 26,166 rupees, though much less than the Bedis, were given to brahmans. The purohits who were attached to the royal family as family purohits enjoyed munificent grants from the successors of Ranjit Singh as well. Grants worth 5,683 rupees were given to them. Sukha Nand and his sons, Kanhiya Lal and Devi Ditta, received grants worth 2,885 rupees in parganas Batala, Dinanagar and Shaikhupura. The Head Pandits at Court, Madhusudan and his son Radhakishen who were already enjoying grants under Ranjit Singh received additional grants worth 2,600 rupees from the successors of Ranjit Singh. It is interesting to note here that the purohits of relatives’ family were also given grants by the successors of Ranjit Singh. Prince Kharak Singh is known to have endowed Dharm Chand, the purohit of his father-in-law Jaimal Singh Kanhiya, in 1823 with a well worth 50 rupees in Amritsar. Kunwar Nau Nihal Singh, son of Kharak Singh, also endowed grants worth 875 rupees to the same purohit. Grant given by Tara Singh,

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59 Foreign/Political Proceedings, 7 January 1853, No. 225.
60 Ibid., 21 February 1851, No. 142 A.
61 Foreign/Political Proceedings, 7 January 1853, No. 225.
62 Ibid., 7 January 1853, No. 225.
brother of Sher Singh, to Lal Chand, *purohit* of the above-mentioned family is also available. 63 Sher Singh gave grants to the *purohits* of his maternal Kanhiya family. Villages worth 575 rupees in Amritsar and Dinanagar were assigned to Hukma Singh, the *purohit* of Kanhiya family. 64 In similar fashion, grant of Dalip Singh worth 300 rupees to Mulchand, the *purohit* of his maternal uncle, Jawahar Singh, in 1844 is also available.65 Dalip Singh is also known to have given grants of a village worth 300 rupees in Hoshiarpur to a priest of Musammat Birmi, wife of Jawahar Singh, in *dharmarth*. 66

The *brahmans* of Amritsar, Lahore, Batala, Jhelum, Sialkot, Jhang, Hoshiarpur, Pehowa and Kaleshwar were given grants of land and cash by the successor of Ranjit Singh.67 Dalip Singh is known to have endowed *brahmans* with cash grant of 112 rupees and twelve *annas*.68 Kashmiri *brahmans* like Kashi Ram, Ishwar Das and Parkash Das were given cash grants in Lahore by Kharak Singh, Sher Singh and Dalip Singh.69 Grants to *brahman* widows and women are also available. Kunwar Partab Singh assigned grant in kind worth seven rupees to each *brahman* widow, Lachmi, Hakimi, Purlu, Jhandu and Musammat Devi in 1841.70 Similarly, Kharak Singh assigned a cash grant of twelve rupees and eight *annas* in Shaikhupura to Musammat Dharnu in 1839.71 The *brahman* brothers together could also be patronized through a single grant. Datt Ram and Dharam Chand were assigned a cash grant worth thirty rupees in Shaikhpura by Sher Singh in 1840. 72 Grants to the relatives of *brahmans* were also given. For instance, Dalip Singh gave a village worth 1,000 rupees in Amritsar to Devki Nandan and relatives of one deceased *brahman*,

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63 *Foreign/Political Proceedings*, 7 January 1853, No. 225.
64 *Foreign/Political Proceedings*, 27 May 1853, Nos. 204-06.
65 Ibid., 7 January 1853, No. 225.
66 Ibid., 31 December 1847, No. 2211.
67 *Foreign/Political Proceedings*, 31 December 1847, Nos. 1855, 2206; 14 November 1851, Nos. 48-50, 15 October 1852, No.117; 7 January 1853, No. 225; 27 May 1853, No. 205 & 211.
69 *Foreign/Political Consultation*, 3 April 1850, No.228.
70 Loc.cit.
71 *Foreign/Political Proceedings*, 14 November 1851, Nos. 51-57.
72 Loc.cit.
Birbhan.73 The brahmans of two different families were also given grants by the successors of Ranjit Singh. For instance, Hukam Singh and Devi Datta were granted a piece of land worth 140 rupees in Dinanagar by Sher Singh in 1841.74 The maximum alienation in a single grant was given by Sher Singh who assigned village Surajpur worth 1,389 rupees in Nurpur in Kangra to brahman Shib Ram in 1842.75 Grants were given by the successors to brahmans to provide them with livelihood so that they could learn śāstrās, the religious books of Hindus. Prince Kharak Singh granted cash grants upto 123 rupees in Shaikhupura to Jai Dial, Kashiram, Hardial and Jawahar for the said purpose.76 Interestingly, in one instance cash grant of twenty rupees in Shaikhupura to Sundar Das and Sobha Ram was given in 1829 for tobacco. 77

The occasions for making grants to brahmans were many. Pilgrimage to a holy place by the grantor was an appropriate reason for the same. Prince Kharak Singh granted a well worth one hundred rupees to Kanhiya Lal in pargana Batala in 1826 on occasion of his visit to Kurukshetra. 78 A cash grant was alienated for a brahman in 1841 when Sher Singh came for a holy bath at Sri Kaleshwar.79 Lunar eclipse was another occasion for grant to brahmans. Sher Singh gave a grant worth 225 rupees in Gurdaspur to Choha, a brahman, on occasion of lunar eclipse in 1821.80 Grants were also given on Sankrant. Dalip Singh is known to have given a cash grant of one hundred rupees, per month, to Har Bhagwan and Dharm Chand in 1843 on Sankrant.81 Prince Partab Singh was performing his devotions and distributing alms to brahmans, for it was the first day

73 Ibid., 27 May 1853, No. 211.
74 Ibid., 7 January 1853, No. 225.
75 Ibid., 31 December 1847, No. 2189.
76 Ibid., 14 November 1851, Nos. 51-57.
77 Loc. cit.
78 Ibid., 7 January 1853, No. 225.
79 Ibid., 31 December 1847, No. 2206.
80 Ibid., 28 November 1856, No.110.
81 Foreign/Political Consultation, 3 April 1850, No. 228.
of Asauj, and the monthly festival of Sankrant when he was murdered after his father, Sher Singh’s, assassination.  

The thākurdwarās and Vaishnava bairāgis were quite popular with Kharak Singh, Sher Singh, Dalip Singh and Nau Nihal Singh who gave them enjoyed grants worth 4,299 rupees. Individual bairāgis like Charan Das, Purushottam Das, Shivram, Devi Das, Jwalagir, Abnashi Das, Ugar Das and Ganga Ram received grants in Sialkot, Amritsar, Hoshiarpur, Wazirabad, Dera Ismail Khan and Wadni. Sher Singh is known to have given land grants worth 1,219 rupees in wazīrī Parol and Bangahal to Lachmangir and Bahadurgir, bairāgis of Kulu, in 1843. Ramanandi bairāgis too received alienations from the successors of Ranjit Singh. Dalip Singh for instance, granted shares of village worth 130 rupees in Wazirabad to Jawahar Das, a Ramanandi bairāgi. Hari Narain, Jagan Nath and Raja Ram, the descendants of Baba Ramthamman, a famous bairāgi, were given grants worth 950 rupees by Kharak Singh.

At least seven references of grants to thākurdwarās by the successors of Ranjit Singh are available. The celebrated Vaishnava shrine at Pindori received grants from Sher Singh, as prince and as ruler, worth 190 rupees in Dinanagar. Village Keso Kalal was offered in bhet to Mahant Narotam Das by Maharaja Sher Singh in 1842. Prince Tara Singh also had great respect and regard for the Mahant of Pindori, he endowed Mahant Narotam Das with a well and a Persian wheel in 1823. In fact, the donor unleashed a curse of becoming a

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83 Foreign/Political Consultation, 31 December 1847, Nos. 1844; 3 April 1850, No.228; 23 August 1850, Nos. 38A-38C; 16 April 1852, Nos. 98-101; Foreign/Political Proceedings, 31 December 1847 Nos. 2211; 27 May 1853, No.193.
84 Foreign/Political Proceedings, 31 December 1847, No. 2511.
85 Ibid., 27 May 1853, No. 193.
86 Foreign/Political Proceedings, 27 May 1853, No.193.
87 Foreign/Political Consultation, 23 August 1850, No. 35 B; 11 February 1853, Nos.53-56; Foreign/Political Proceedings, 27 May 1853, No. 208.
88 Foreign/Political Proceedings, 21 February 1851, No.218 A.
89 Goswamy and Grewal, Vaishnavas of Pindori, Document No. XLVI, p. 320.
leper on the one who ever tries to confiscate it. Minimum amount given to any Vaishnava individual or establishment was two rupees that was assigned by Sher Singh to Ugar Das.

Unlike the late eighteenth century rulers and Ranjit Singh, the successors of Ranjit Singh were more generous to the Shaivas than the Vaishnavas. Nearly 5,129 rupees were assigned by them to Shaiva jogīs and shivdwāras. Besides the three rulers, grants of Princes Nau Nihal Singh and Pertab Singh to jogīs are also available. Out of all, the maximum was provided by Kharak Singh who gave grants worth 2,366 rupees to Shaiva. Dalpat Gir, Pitamber Bharti and Baba Muthia jogīs were given small pieces of land by Prince Partab Singh, in 1841.

The Jogīs of Tilla Gorakh Nath at Jhelum were given two grants worth 750 rupees by Kharak Singh in 1814 and 1830. It might be of interest to note that the grant was not only given for the maintenance of the shīvīla but also for feeding the cows. Kharak Singh granted cash worth 118 rupees in Dinanagar to Kahn Chand in 1834 out of which fourteen rupees were to be spent on the fodder for cows.

The devidwāras were given grants worth 1,915 rupees by the successors of Ranjit Singh. The temples dedicated to Goddess in her various forms, Sitla Mata, Kalkaji and Bhadrakali were primarily endowed by the grantors. Few of these grants were given for temples constructed by private individuals or officials. For instance, Temple of Bhadrakali in environs of Lahore, built by one Kanhiya Lal, a sahukār of Lahore, received a generous grant of a village worth 720 rupees in Shaikhupura from Dalip Singh in 1845. Diwan Bhawani Das built a Devi temple at Dinanagar which was given a grant of twenty-five rupees for performance of religious services at the temple by Dalip Singh. Two grants worth 660 rupees were given to temple of Kalkaji.

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91 Goswamy and Grewal, Vaishnavas of Pindori, Document No.XLIV, p. 312.
92 Foreign/Political Consultation, 23 August 1850, No. 35 B.
93 Foreign/Political Proceedings, 14 November 1851, Nos. 44-47.
94 Ibid., 27 May 1853, Nos. 223-224.
95 Foreign/Political Consultation, 16 April 1852, Nos. 52-58.
96 Foreign/Political Consultation, 16 April 1852, Nos. 48-51.
97 Foreign/Political Proceedings, 21 February 1851, No. 87 A.
at Batala by Sher Singh in the years 1840 and 1842.\textsuperscript{98} he also gave grants at Dinanagar was for oil required for burning of lamp in the Devi Temple. \textsuperscript{99}

There are two references of grants given to brahmchāri and Khatris. A brahmchāri named Nand Gopal was given a cash grant of 180 rupees in Dera Ismail Khan by Dalip Singh in 1847.\textsuperscript{100} The Khatri Hindus like Saudagar Mal, Kaniya Mal, Harjas Rai and Bhim Sen were also endowed by the successors. \textsuperscript{101}

Surprisingly, a grant for sun worship was also given by the successors of Ranjit Singh though no evidence to the same has been found during the late eighteenth century and early nineteenth century. Dalip Singh, for Sun worship, out of this amount, fifteen rupees and six annas were to be spent on making gold image of Sun God.\textsuperscript{102} The practice of tuladān was also performed by the successors of Ranjit Singh. In fact, Prince Partab Singh was being weighed in a garden against grain and silver to be given away in charity when he was murdered by Lehna Singh Sandhanwalia.\textsuperscript{103} Thus, we can see that a total of 41,254 rupees were endowed in favour of Hindu establishments and individuals with the maximum amount coming from Dalip Singh who gave grants worth 15,282 rupees, followed by Kharak Singh giving 12,418 rupees and Sher Singh 9152 rupees.

### III

Islamic institutions and personages were endowed by the successors of Ranjit Singh. Kharak Singh is known to have patronized mosques in Kalanaur and Shaikhupura.\textsuperscript{104} The latter mosque was built by a slave girl of Rani Nakain, mother of Kharak Singh. Kharak Singh endowed it with monthly cash grant of one rupee and twelve annas in

\begin{itemize}
\item \textsuperscript{98} Ibid., 21 February 1851, Nos. 87 A & B.
\item \textsuperscript{99} Ibid., 21 February 1851, No.87 B.
\item \textsuperscript{100} Foreign/Political Consultation, 16 April 1852, Nos. 98-101.
\item \textsuperscript{101} Foreign/Political Proceedings, 23 August 1850, Nos. 35 B & 35 C.
\item \textsuperscript{103} Harbans Singh, Encyclopaedia, Vol. III, p. 307.
\item \textsuperscript{104} Foreign/Political Consultation, 16 April 1852, Nos. 52-58 ; Foreign/Political Proceedings, 14 November 1851, Nos. 51-57.
\end{itemize}
He also made a cash offering of 101 rupees at the mosque of Ali Jos in 1812. Another son to give grant to a mosque was Prince Peshora Singh who gave a piece of land worth two rupees and three annas to Muhammad Bakhsh Qureshi for a mosque. The sayyads of Khānqāh of Sayyad Muhammad Fazil Khan at Batala was patronized twice by Prince Sher Singh, in 1830 and 1839, with grants worth eighty rupees in Batala. Similarly, sayyads of Khānqāh Badr-i-diuân in Batala were also endowed. In comparison to mosques and khānqāhs, there is only one reference of grant to a dargāh, it was given by Prince Kharak Singh. A grant of land worth ninety rupees was alienated by him for the mazar of Shaikh Chuhar Bandagi in Wazirabad in 1824. There is no evidence of grant to takiya by any of the successors of Ranjit Singh.

The Muslim individuals were also given grants by the successors of Ranjit Singh. The sayyads found their patron in Sher Singh and Dalip Singh. Grants worth 120 rupees are known to be made to Bahadur Ali Shah and Kamruddin. Dalip Singh granted twelve and a half bighas of land to Amir Bakhsh, a sayyad. Prince Nau Nihal Singh gave a cash grant of 60 rupees to Hussain Shah, a sayyad. Grants to Qureshis were given by Sher Singh only. Qureshi Umar Bakhsh was given cash worth 300 rupees in Lahore for his subsistence. The shaikhs found their patron in Sher Singh and

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105 Ibid., 14 November 1851, Nos. 51-57.
107 Foreign/Political Proceedings, 31 December 1858, No.1104; Meera Nagpal, State Patronage by the Rulers of the Punjab to the Muslims’, p. 616.
108 Foreign/Political Proceedings, 14 January 1853, No. 229.
109 Foreign/Political Consultation, 17 March 1854, Nos.195-97; Foreign/Political Proceedings, 7 January 1853, No. 231.
110 Foreign/Political Proceedings, 7 January 1853, No. 234.
111 Foreign/Political Consultation, 23 August 1850, No.35 C; Foreign/Political Proceedings, 14 November 1851, Nos. 51-57.
112 The Khalsa Darbär Records, Bundle No. 5, Vol. XI, Part I, p. 37
113 Foreign/Political Consultation, 16 April 1852, Nos. 98-101.
114 Ibid., 3 April 1850, No. 228.
Dalip Singh. Latter gave grant to Muhammad Hussain, a shaikh, of cash and grain worth eighteen rupees and ten annas in Sialkot in 1846. Interestingly, along with it even five seers of wheat were daily given for the feed of the pigeons.

Muslim darveshes and faqirs were also given grants by Kharak Singh and Dalip Singh. Dogar faqirs received the maximum amount of grants. Kharak Singh gave seven grants worth 917 rupees to dogar faqirs Imam Shah and Lal Shah in Gujranwala between the years 1808 and 1829. Like the dogar faqirs, even the Gujjar Muslims were given grants by Ranjit Singh’s successors. Dalip Singh gave a cash grant worth 25 rupees in Gujranwala to Rode Khan, a Gujjar, in charity. As grantor, the most generous to the Muslim grantees and establishment was Kharak Singh.

The purpose for giving dharmarth grants could be several. Sher Singh gave a grant of one rupee per day to a brahman of Kaleshwar in 1841 so that he prays to God and seek blessings for the ruler. The grantees were expected to pray not only for the donor but for the State. Dalip Singh gave two wells worth 200 rupees in Wazirabad to Diwan Singh in 1845 and asked him to pray for the welfare of the State. Grants were given not only for the subsistence of the holy men but also for providing fodder to the animals. During Dalip Singh reign, cash grant of forty-one rupees, eleven annas and nine paise were alienated for providing fodder for two hundred cows.

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115 Ibid., 3 April 1850, No. 228; 11 February 1853, Nos. 53-56.
116 Ibid., 11 February 1853, Nos.53-56; 23 August 1850, Nos. 59-61; 16 April 1852, No. 54.
117 Foreign/Political Consultation, 11 February 1853, Nos. 53-56; 24 November 1854, Nos.187-190 ;Foreign/Political Proceedings, 21 February 1851, No.87 B.
118 Foreign/Political Consultation, 11 February 1853, No.59.
119 Foreign/Political Consultation, 11 February 1853, No.59.
120 Foreign/Political Proceedings, 31 December 1847, No. 2206.
121 Foreign/Political Consultation, 11 June 1852, Nos.135-37.
The occasions like marriage and death were also marked by giving grants. Kharak Singh gave a well worth sixty rupees in Taran Taran to Purushottam Das on account of marriage of Kunwar Nau Nihal Singh.\textsuperscript{123} Death was an important occasion for making grants. Grant of a village worth 250 rupees in Sanehwal in Ludhiana to Moti Ram Purohit, a \textit{brahman} of Pehowa, was made in 1839 on the occasion of funeral obsequies being performed immediately after the death of Ranjit Singh.\textsuperscript{124} Grants were also given on the thirteenth day of his death, thousands of rupees were lavished on the \textit{brahmans} and fakirs.\textsuperscript{125} Dalip Singh is also said to have given a well worth one hundred rupees in Amritsar to Bhagwan Das in 1845 on the thirteenth day after the demise of his maternal uncle, Jawahar Singh.\textsuperscript{126} Sati performed by a \textit{sardar}'s wives was also an occasion for the grant. Dalip Singh gave village Muttewal worth 300 rupees in Hoshiarpur to Mutsaddi Ram on account of two wives of Sardar Jawahar Singh performing Sati on his death.\textsuperscript{127} He not only gave fresh grant but also confirmed the one given by the widows of Jawahar Singh to Mul Chand of a village worth 1,000 rupees in \textit{pargana} Talwandi at the time of committing the ritual.\textsuperscript{128} Grants could be made on the solicitation of a close one. Dalip Singh gave a village worth 300 rupees in Wazirabad to Sukh Dial, a \textit{brahman} of Gujranwala, in 1846, on the solicitation of Mai Dya Kaur, the mother of Princes Peshora Singh and Kashmira Singh.\textsuperscript{129}

There are references to combined grants given by successors of Ranjit Singh. Ranjit Singh and Kharak Singh granted a village worth

\textsuperscript{123} \textit{Foreign/Political Consultation}, 23 August 1850, No. 35 B.
\textsuperscript{124} \textit{Foreign/Political Proceedings}, 31 December 1847, No. 1855.
\textsuperscript{125} \textit{Latif, History of the Panjab}, p. 380.
\textsuperscript{126} \textit{Foreign/Political Consultation}, 23 August 1850, No. 35-A.
\textsuperscript{127} \textit{Foreign/Political Proceedings}, 15 October 1852, No. 117.
\textsuperscript{128} \textit{Ibid.,} 7 January 1853, No. 225.
\textsuperscript{129} \textit{Ibid.,} 15 October 1852, No.117.
400 rupees in *pargana* Eminabad to Bedi Jiwan Singh in 1822.130 Brothers among successors are also known have alienated revenue-free land in favour of religious grantees. Princes Peshora Singh’s grant of ration worth thirty-six rupees in Sialkot to Gulab Singh, an *udāsī sādh*, was confirmed by his brother Kashmira Singh.131 Ranjit Singh along with his grandson, Prince Nau Nihal Singh, granted a village worth 1,100 rupees in Peshawar to Jassa Singh, the head *granthī* of Golden Temple, in 1835.132 Prince Peshora Singh and his nephew Fateh Singh, son of Prince Kashmira Singh, granted a village worth 900 rupees in Sialkot to Atar Singh Bedi in 1845. 133

Grants given by successors of Ranjit Singh were confirmed by the succeeding Maharajas. For instance, a grant by Prince Kharak Singh in 1813 to a *brahman* named Ghasi Ram of a piece of land worth 200 rupees in *pargana* Talwandi was confirmed not only by Kharak Singh himself in 1839 when he became a Maharaja but also, by Sher Singh and Dalip Singh, in the years 1842 and 1845, respectively.134 Dalip Singh is known to have confirmed a grant of Kharak Singh, given as a prince, to Sodhi Harnam Singh.135 A number of grants of early Sikh rulers were confirmed not only by Ranjit Singh but even by Dalip Singh. For instance, a grant of Mai Sada Kaur given to a *brahman*, Devi Datta, in 1803 was confirmed by Dalip Singh.136 Confirmation by Dalip Singh to grant of Jaimal Singh Kanhiya is also available. He confirmed the grant to sons of *bhāī*, the original grantee, given in 1809 by the said ruler.137 Confirmation to

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130 *Foreign/Political Proceedings*, 14 January 1853, No. 223.
131 *Foreign/Political Consultation*, 8 April 1853, No. 165.
132 *Foreign/Political Proceedings*, 10 June 1853, No. 218.
133 Ibid., 13 August 1852, No. 49.
134 Ibid., 15 October 1852, No. 117.
imperial grants was also given by Dalip Singh.\textsuperscript{138} The latter also confirmed a grant given by Ranjit Singh of a well to two \textit{brahman} brothers, Kahn Chand and Gurmukh Das, in 1847.\textsuperscript{139}

Some of the confirmation \textit{parwanas} of Dalip Singh contain the signatures of Rani Jindan who acted as regent on behalf of her minor son. These grants were given in 1846 when she held the position.\textsuperscript{140} After her renouncing the position of regent and surrendering her power in favour of council of ministers set up by British Resident after the first Anglo-Sikh War, some of the confirmatory \textit{parwanas} of Dalip Singh, interestingly, contain the signature of Raja Tej Singh. For instance, confirmatory grant of Dalip Singh dated 1847 of a grant made by Sham Singh Atariwala to Pandit Devi Sahai in 1838 also bears the signature of Tej Singh.\textsuperscript{141}

Addition to a former grant was also made by the successors. In a very interesting case, Mai Sada Kaur divided a village in Dinanagar to eleven \textit{brahmans} in 1813. The twelfth share of the village was held by a \textit{ghurchara} named Sobha Singh in whose possession it remained till his death. Sher Singh, the maternal grand son of the original grantor, gave the last share on the official's demise to \textit{brahman} named Jiwan in 1826.\textsuperscript{142} A score of references of confirmations by Maharaja Dalip Singh are available. Unlike Ranjit Singh his confirmation

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\textsuperscript{139} The \textit{Khalsa Darbar Records}, Bundle No. 5, Vol. VII, Part I, p. 93, A number of references to such confirmations by Dalip Singh are available. \textit{Khalsa Darbar Record}, Bundle No. 5, Vol. XI, pp. 35, 39 & 421.
\textsuperscript{140} Foreign/Political Consultation, 11 June 1852, Nos. 135-37.
\textsuperscript{141} Tej Singh was nominated the president of the council of Regency in December 1846, and was allowed to continue as commander-in-chief of the Sikh army. He was created Raja of Sialkot in August 1847. Probably it is in this capacity that he acted as regent on behalf of the minor Maharaja Dalip Singh: Harbans Singh, \textit{Encyclopaedia}, Vol. IV, pp. 343-44. \textit{Foreign/Political Consultation}, 11 June 1852, Nos. 135-37.
\textsuperscript{142} Foreign/Political Proceedings, 27 May 1853, No. 205.
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extended to grants given by other successors too like Sher Singh, Peshora Singh and Kashmira Singh, besides Kharak Singh.143

The following table reveals the amount in rupees of grants given by successors of Ranjit Singh.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of son or grandson</th>
<th>Sikh institutions and individuals</th>
<th>Hindu institutions and individuals</th>
<th>Islam institutions and individuals</th>
<th>Total in rupees</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kharak Singh</td>
<td>32,149</td>
<td>12,418</td>
<td>1,495</td>
<td>46,062</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kunwar Nau Singh Nihal Singh</td>
<td>2,005</td>
<td>3,578</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>5,643</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dalip Singh</td>
<td>21,952</td>
<td>15,282</td>
<td>1,280</td>
<td>38,514</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peshora Singh</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>2 rupees and 3 annas</td>
<td>118</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kashmira Singh</td>
<td>263</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>263</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tara Singh</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sher Singh</td>
<td>40,025</td>
<td>10,371</td>
<td>801</td>
<td>51,197</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pertab Singh</td>
<td>172</td>
<td>236</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>408</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fateh Singh</td>
<td>900</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total amount in rupees</td>
<td>97,502</td>
<td>42,025</td>
<td>3,638</td>
<td>1,43,165</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

143Foreign/Political Consultation, 8 April 1853, No.165; Foreign/Political Proceedings, 14 January 1853, NoS. 219, 220 & 229; 3 June 1853, No. 119; 10 June 1853, No.129; 27 May 1853, Nos. 202, 208 & 211; 3 June 1853, No.119.
Kharak Singh, Sher Singh, Dalip Singh, Peshora Singh and Nau Nihal Singh are seems to have adopted a secular outlook as the evidence indicates. They gave grants to all the three religious systems in Punjab. Kashmira Singh and Fateh Singh, however, gave grants to their co-religionists only.

The table very clearly depicts that a total of 1,43,165 rupees were given in fresh grants to various religious sections. The Sikh institutions and individuals received the major chunk of religious grants amounting to 97,502 rupees. Among all the successors, the maximum amount of grant were given by Sher Singh, followed by Kharak Singh and Dalip Singh.

CONCLUSION

Kharak Singh, Sher Singh and Dalip Singh are known to be the benefactors of the Golden Temple. Three bungās in Amritsar endowed by successors of Ranjit Singh were Akal Bunga, Bunga Nakaian and Bunga Sarkarwala. The Gurdwārās related to the first, fifth, sixth, ninth and tenth Guru of the Sikhs received grants from the successors of Ranjit Singh. The institutions and individuals related to udāsī sect received generous endowments to the tune of 9,780 rupees from successors. Out of all the udāsī institutions the udāsī dera received maximum endowments from the successors of Ranjit Singh, in all they received 6,899 rupees but the major portion of rupees 6,844 was donated by Kharak Singh.

The Bedis, received maximum endowments out of all the Sikh institutions and individuals from the successors of Ranjit Singh to the tune of 46,555 rupees. References to grants given to Bedis by all the sons and grandsons of Ranjit Singh are available with exception of Kunwar Nau Nihal Singh. The maximum grants were given by Sher Singh worth 8,490 rupees. He was followed by Kharak Singh (8,049

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rupees) and Dalip Singh (1,250 rupees). The minimum amount was assigned by Partab Singh of twenty-five rupees only. The maximum amount granted to a Bedi in a single instance was 500 rupees given by Prince Kharak Singh. As princes, Kharak Singh and Sher Singh were known to have been more generous to the Bedis and endowed them with 6,516 rupees and 6,190 rupees respectively. A combined grant by an uncle and nephew among the successors of Ranjit Singh to the Bedis is available. Prince Peshora and Prince Fateh Singh, brother and son of Kashmira Singh, respectively, are known to have assigned a grant co-jointly. The successors of Ranjit Singh gave grants to Bedis for non-religious reasons too, like erection of samādh of a Bedi or for diplomatic reasons.

The number of grants, received by the Sodhis was much less than the Bedis, they got grants worth 16,315 rupees only. Two third share of this amount was contributed by Kharak Singh. The Bhallas, hardly could find a patron among the successors of Ranjit Singh. Only a single reference of grant to a Bhalla is available that too a confirmation of a grant of Ranjit Singh by Maharaja Sher Singh. Hence, among the Sikhs, all the major sects and classes are known to have received grants worth 97,294 rupees from various successors of Ranjit Singh. Undoubtedly, the Bedis enjoyed the maximum chunk of the grants which amounted to 76,555 rupees from Sher Singh, Kharak Singh and Dalip Singh, who granted 40,025 rupees, 32,149 rupees and 21,952 rupees, respectively, in fact the maximum grants in terms of value also.

As expected the brahmans were the only class to have received maximum grants from the seven sons and grandsons of Ranjit Singh among. A total of 26,166 rupees, though much less than the Bedis, were spent on brahmans. Grants to brahman widows are also available. The maximum alienation in a single grant to a brahman was
given by Sher Singh. The purohits who were attached to the royal family as family purohits enjoyed munificent grants from the successors of Ranjit Singh. The purohits of relatives' family were also given grants by them. The occasions for making grants to brahmans were going on pilgrimage, lunar eclipse and Sankrant.

Unlike the late eighteenth century rulers and Ranjit Singh, the successors of Ranjit Singh were more generous to the Shaivas than the Vaishnavas. Out of all, the maximum amount was provided by Kharak Singh who gave grants worth 2,366 rupees to Shaivas. The temples dedicated to Goddess in her various forms like Sitla Mata, Kalkaji and Bhadrakali were primarily endowed by the grantors. A total of 41,254 rupees were endowed in favour of Hindu establishments and individuals with the maximum amount coming from Dalip Singh who gave grants worth 15,282 rupees, followed by Kharak Singh giving 12,418 rupees and Sher Singh 9,152 rupees. Surprisingly, the grants for sun worship were also given by the successors of Ranjit Singh. They even followed the practice of tuladān. Among the Muslims institutions: mosques and khānqāhs were endowed by the successors. There is only one reference of grant to a dargāh by Prince Kharak Singh.

The purpose for giving dharmarth grants was expecting the grantee to pray for the welfare of grantor and the state. Grants were given not only for the subsistence of the holy men but also for providing fodder to the animals. The occasions like marriage and death were also marked by giving grants. Sati performed by a sardār’s wives was also an occasion of grant. Grants could be made on the solicitation of a close one. The grants given by the princes were confirmed by Ranjit Singh. Similarly, grants given by successors of Ranjit Singh were confirmed by the next succeeding Maharajas.