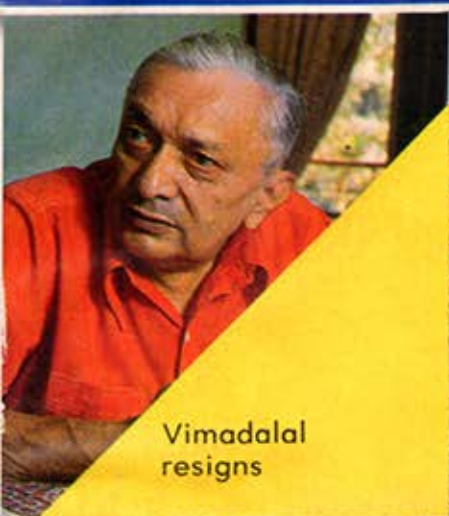
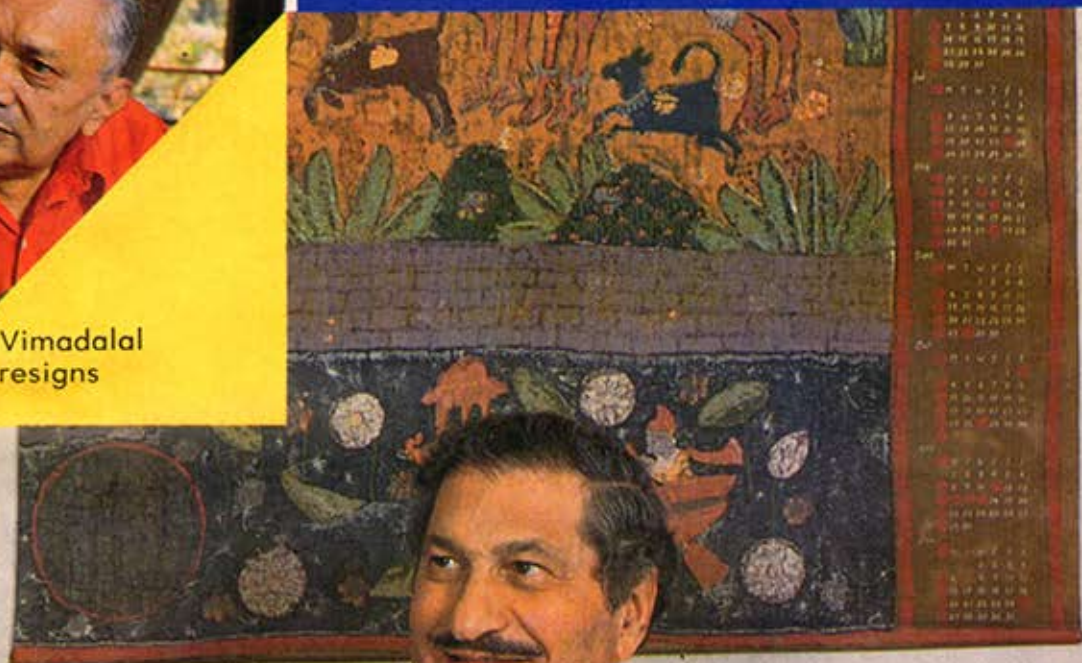


Parisiana

JANUARY 1986 PRICE Rs 6

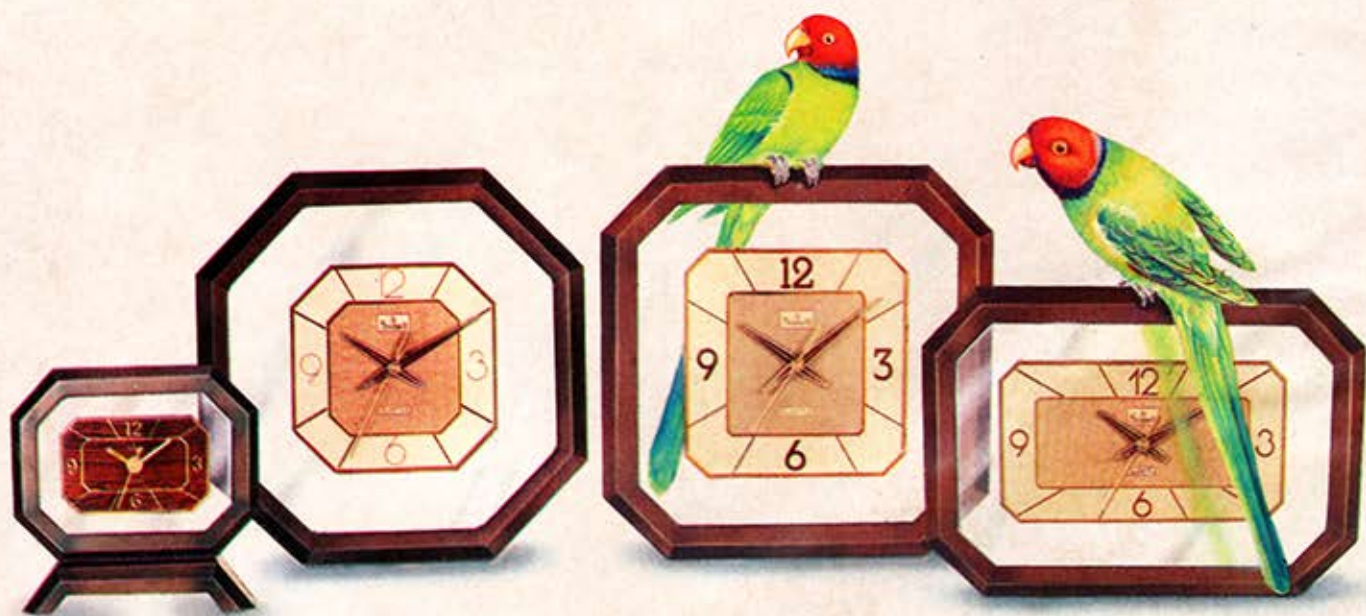


Vimadlal
resins



Front-runner
Jamshed N. Guzder

Our Clocks have inspired quite a few imitators



Sonell Quartz Clocks. Seasoned wood handcrafted into exquisite shapes in table and wall models. Backed by a precision movement made under license from Haller, W. Germany. Elegantly finished for that distinctive look.

However this look has impressed quite a few imitators besides the discerning buyers. But you will have no problem in distinguishing our clocks from the others. No one comes close.

Sonell Quartz Clocks
There's never been a better time

Marketed by: Sonell Marketing Co., 308, Narsi Natha Street, Bombay-400 009. Phones: 330758, 330767, 324130, 338464. Cable: 'Kingspice'. ● 7 Jangpura Lane, Bhogal, Jangpura New Delhi-110 014. Phone: 625769. ● 23, 2nd Main Road, Vyalikaval, Bangalore-560 003. Phone: 368982 Cable: 'Saidex'.

Parichay/SMC/148

Parsiana

January 1986
Volume 8 Number 7

EDITOR Jehangir Patel
MANAGING EDITOR Arnavaz Mama
EXECUTIVE EDITOR Parinaz Toddywalla
ASSOCIATE EDITOR Niloofer Madon
DESIGN CONSULTANT Mini Boatwala
DESIGN ASSISTANTS Kranti Shilotri,
Varghese Fernandez
MARKETING DIRECTOR Véra Patel
ADVERTISING MANAGER Zarin Billimoria
ADVERTISING EXECUTIVE
Cheryl D'Penha
CHIEF EXECUTIVE Rustom Thanavala
FINANCE B.L. Arora
CIRCULATION Behram Umrigar
MANAGEMENT Minoo Patel,
Jasmine Driver, Khurshid Daruwalla
DATA PROCESSING Rohinton Mistry
OFFICE Rajendra Nayak,
Madhuri Dabral

3 Readers' Forum

8 Events and Personalities

11 The shifting fires by Parinaz Toddywalla

16 Vimadlal resigns from Punchayet by Arnavaz Mama

21 The return of Guzder by Arnavaz Mama

25 The Athravan Educational Trust's Position Paper

29 Two high priests' rejoinder to the Position Paper

33 Business

35 "We should be the first..." by Parinaz Toddywalla

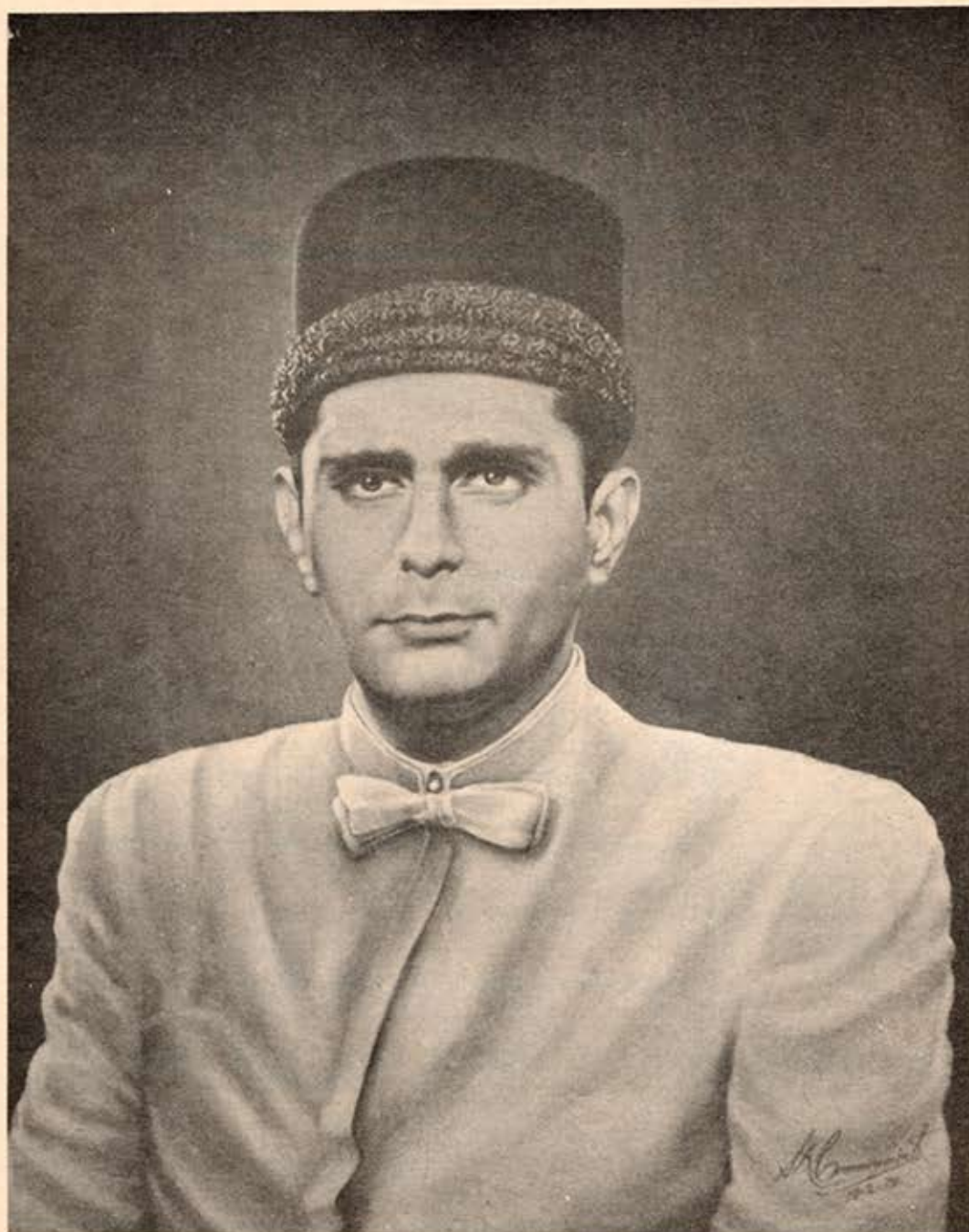
39 "Nuts" over acting by Niloofer Madon

Cover: Transparencies of Vimadlal and Guzder by Homiyar Mistry

Parsiana is published by Jehangir R. Patel for Parsiana Publications Pvt Ltd at C/o H.L. Rochat, Navsari Chambers, ground floor, 39 A.K. Nayak Marg, Fort, Bombay 400 001 and printed by him at Parsiana Publications, 300 Perin Nariman Street, Bombay 400 001, and phototypeset at TRIACE, Bombay 400 005. All rights reserved. Address all editorial and business correspondence to Parsiana, G.P.O. Box 892, Bombay 400 001. Phone: 2048730.

Annual inland subscription: Rs 40 for one year (12 issues); Rs 75 for two years (24 issues). Foreign subscription rates: Seamount Rs 80 for one year, Rs 150 for two years; Airmail Rs 160 for one year, Rs 290 for two years. For U.S. cheques add \$4 to cover bank charges.

For Indian upcountry cheques add Rs 3 for bank charges. Cheques and drafts are to be drawn in favor of Parsiana and posted to G.P.O. Box 892, Bombay 400 001 or C/o H.L. Rochat, Navsari Chambers, ground floor, 39 A.K. Nayak Marg, Fort, Bombay 400 001.



In Memoriam

Mr. Fali Meherji Variava,

Director

BLAZE ADVERTISING PVT. LTD.
AND ASSOCIATE COMPANIES.



Readers' views are welcome on any subject of interest to the community and should be sent to the Editor, Readers' Forum, Parsiana, G.P.O. Box 892, Bombay 400 001. Letters are subject to editing for reasons of space and clarity.

Anjuman and Association

There are a few inaccuracies in your reports on the activities of the Madras Parsi Zarthosti Anjuman and Madras Parsi Association (*Parsiana*, August and October '85) which I would like to bring to the notice of the readers. The set-up of the Parsi community in Madras is as follows:

- Madras Parsi Zarthosti Anjuman is the parent institution of which Mr M.K. Belgamvala is the president.
- Madras Parsi Association looks after the cultural side of which Mr A.F. Taraporewala was the president at the time of the functions (in July '85). Since then Mr N.F. Mogrelia has taken over.
- There is yet another body, Jal Phiroj Clubwala Dar-e-Meher (JPCD) Trust Board with 40 percent representation from the Clubwala family and 60 percent from the Madras Parsi Zarthosti Anjuman. The chairman of the Trust

Board is the president of the Madras Parsi Zarthosti Anjuman. The chairman and two trustees are periodically elected. The accounts and annual report of the JPCD are recorded in the minutes of the annual general meetings of the Madras Parsi Zarthosti Anjuman.

In "A gift turns platinum" (*Parsiana*, October '85) you have mentioned that Mr Jehangir Clubwala, the hereditary trustee of the Dar-e-Meher, is the backbone of the Madras Anjuman. I think a grave injustice has been committed by this remark. Mr Clubwala has never been involved with our Anjuman Committee. Even as a hereditary trustee of the JPCD, he has only in recent times taken interest in the Agiary activities.

Among old stalwarts, the real backbone of the Anjuman for over 50 years and an institution by himself (despite my numerous personal differences on account of the generation gap) is 84-year-old Mr Arjasp F. Taraporewala.

The other indomitable figure of the Madras Anjuman is the wife of Jehangir Clubwala, Mani J. Clubwala, whose contribution to the Association, Anjuman and behind the scenes, to the Agiary, has also been phenomenal.

Yet another untiring worker of the Anjuman and Association is Dr M.M. Cooper, present vice-president of the Anjuman and ex honorary secretary of the Anjuman and Association.

In your closing sentence you have stated that despite differences of opinion, the Madras Anjuman was successful in demonstrating its strength. I might respectfully point out that there has been no difference of opinion. There is, however, a generation gap.

We (a few persons of middle age) were able to bring about a change in the Anjuman in 1982, and in the Association (after the conclusion of the Federation meeting and Agiary celebrations in July '85). The new faces on the scene are Mr Nariman F. Mogrelia, Ms Zavera K. Shahuna, Mr Jamshed C. Patel and some others.

R.P. GINWALLA
Madras

Parinaz Toddywalla replies

When Jehangir Clubwala was referred to as the backbone of the Madras

Anjuman, the word Anjuman was used in the general context of the Parsi community settled in Madras and not as specifically applicable to the Madras situation where there is a clear distinction between the Anjuman and the Association.

Addressing the AET

We are disappointed with a biased and misleading article "Addressing the AET" (*Parsiana*, November '85). Whilst individuals may have their own prejudices in reporting, we are surprised that Ms Mama did not even bother to find out both sides of the story in the interests of fair, accurate journalism.

We would like to make the following points with regard to the Athravan Educational Trust/Zoroastrian Studies accommodation dilemma for the benefit of your readers.

No permission was sought by us from the K.R. Cama Oriental Institute (KRCOI) trustees because:

- Our legal counsel advised us that it was not necessary to do so as we were well within our legal rights as tenants to allow AET to use the office premises jointly with us.

- There is no question of ZS allowing AET to become subtenants or claiming any legal rights whatsoever, as no rent or compensation has been paid or will be paid by AET to ZS.

- Both AET and ZS are manned by personnel who are common to both organizations and therefore there is no question of AET usurping the said premises.

- The majority of the trustees of the KRCOI have been publicly inimical towards the very existence of AET, and therefore we realized the futility of taking "courtesy" permission from them.

It is indeed surprising to learn, years later, that "a leave and license agreement" is meant to exist between ZS and the KRCOI, when no such agreement or document has ever been drawn up in the first instance. In fact, the question of relinquishing tenancy rights, if any, does not exist as the KRCOI trustees do not accept ZS as tenants in the first place.

Additionally, Ms Mama has conveniently missed out a very important point in her article, namely clause six of our agreement with the KRCOI authorities where it is explicitly stated in

our letter dated February 29, 1980 that "we at Zoroastrian Studies will be allowed to operate our projects and fulfill our objectives with no interference in our work from the managing committee of the KRCOI."

We believe that the KRCOI trustees have broken their agreement with us, as the aims and objects of AET including its first project are common and central to the aims and objects of ZS. After all, the education of the Zoroastrian priesthood falls very much within the scope and ambit of ZS and has been a cause which ZS has worked for since its inception.

Is it ethically improper to give a sister organization office facilities where all the workers and some of the trustees are common to both ZS and AET, whose aims and objects also, are similar to those of ZS? We think not, and would like to ask why AET should not be allowed to operate from our premises when:

- The K.R. Cama Institute was founded with the main object of promoting and encouraging organizations involved in the field of "Oriental Studies."
- The trustees of the said Institute have let their premises to other commercial

and secular organizations. In fact, AET does not use any additional space in the KRCOI building where, we would like to add, vacant space is still available. It is worth noting that, in spite of verbal requests being made to the majority of the KRCOI trustees, AET has not been given any shelter or accommodation of its own. Had ZS not helped AET with office facilities, where was AET to operate from? Moreover, why indeed should AET not operate from the ZS office in the KRCOI building?

These are just some of the important points which Ms Mama has totally ignored. There are many other salient and important points which we cannot raise as the matter is now sub judice as legal proceedings have been initiated against ZS and AET by the KRCOI trustees. We are open to reason and negotiation but shall defend our rights when high-handedness and politicized pressure are brought upon us in order to seek our wrongful eviction. Clearly, our alleged offence is to have helped and promoted the educational and economic amelioration of the Zoroastrian priesthood!

We know that the fair-minded public

are behind us and recognize our integrity through our work and not by the inimical polemics played by vested groups, newspapers and biased reporters whose main aim seems to be to tarnish the credibility of ZS and AET.

AET may be a "matter of trust" or "beleaguered" in Ms Mama's opinion, but it is a reality to thousands who support the cause which her uncaring pen sadly ignores.

S. MUNSHI
Trustee, Zoroastrian Studies

Arnavaz Mama replies

The article was based on newspaper reports as explained in my reply to Khojeste Mistree's letter (*Parsiana*, December '85) and neither ZS nor the Cama Institute were approached.

Munshi has confused a news analysis entitled "AET: a matter of trust" (*Parsiana*, September '85) with my article "Addressing the AET." Incidentally, if the AET is not "beleaguered" (*Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary*: besieged, beset, harassed), why is she defending it?

Cama Institute's reply

We have been advised not to enter into

MATCH YOUR AMBITION TO A CAREER

To do so we offer you

- ★ Diploma Course in Business Management (Oral/Postal) IMC
- ★ Banking: C.A.I.I.B. Course (Postal)
- ★ Executive Secretarial Course ★ Private Secretarial Course
- ★ Steno Secretarial Course ★ Telephone Operating
- ★ Personal Assistants' Programme (working stenographers)
- ★ Telephone Operating-Cum-Receptionist Techniques
- ★ Shorthand & Typewriting ★ Punch Operating ★ Telex Operating
- ★ E.D.P. Concepts & Cobol Programming
- ★ Computer Exposure & Basic Programming

Enquire at



Sir J. J. College of Commerce
14, Nanabhoy Lane, Hutatma Chowk
Bombay 400 001. Tel: 251185

any controversy in the Press concerning the merits of the ejection suit that the trustees of the K.R. Cama Oriental Institute (KRCOI) have filed against Mr Khojeste Mistree and Ms Shernaz Panthaky of Zoroastrian Studies (ZS) and Athravan Educational Trust (AET). In due course of time the court will decide whether the above parties are entitled to continue to use the premises of the KRCOI. The "accommodation dilemma" referred to in the letter under comment is the creation of ZS and AET and it will be resolved by the court when it decides the KRCOI suit.

If both AET and ZS are "manned by personnel who are common to both the organizations," as alleged, then where is the need of having two organizations? If these two organizations are distinct and separate, then the fact of their being manned by personnel who are common to both the organizations is of no consequence.

It is false for ZS to allege that the majority of the trustees of the KRCOI have been publicly inimical towards the very existence of AET. If it were in fact so, the trustees of the KRCOI would not have acceded to the request by the trustees of AET to be allowed to meet the trustees of the KRCOI. It is on record that such a meeting did take place in the KRCOI building on September 5, 1985.

When reference is made to ethics and propriety by the trustees of ZS, we can do no better than request your readers to carefully read the letter of December 29, 1979 addressed by Mr Khojeste Mistree to the late Mr Adi Chinoy, the then president of the KRCOI, and ponder over the standard of ethics and propriety of the trustees of ZS in the light of what is stated in the said letter and particularly in the last two lines thereof which read, "Furthermore, we are prepared to legally relinquish our tenancy rights, if any, in case you wish to repossess the premises."

Even if the aims and objects of some institutions are similar to the aims and objects of the KRCOI, the said institution cannot impose itself on the KRCOI, just on the ground of similarity of aims and objects.

It is surprising that the trustees of ZS should write that the majority of the trustees of the KRCOI have been publicly inimical towards the very existence of the AET, and that, therefore, ZS realized the futility of taking even

courtesy permission from the trustees of the KRCOI; and in the same letter, the trustee of ZS should write that, in spite of verbal requests being made to a majority of the KRCOI trustees, the AET has not been given any shelter or accommodation of its own.

The trustee of ZS writes that the trustees of ZS are open to reason and negotiation. However, when they had the opportunity to be reasonable and to negotiate, they chose to adopt a defiant attitude, and compelled the KRCOI to go to court.

The 'integrity' and 'credibility' of the trustees of ZS and AET will be judged by the court at the proper time.

DASTUR N.D. MINOCHEHR-HOMJI
HOMAI N. MODI
CAPT H.J.M. DESAI
Joint Honorary Secretaries
K.R. Cama Oriental Institute

Were you a BPP scholar?

Your training abroad with the help of charity funds gave a fillip to your career and you are at present well settled in life by the grace of Ahura Mazda. The BPP trustees most sincerely wish that you may prosper still further in life and bring glory to the community.

You must be aware that at present the Parsi community is facing many acute problems, especially funds for housing projects. There are 3,000 applicants of different categories on our accommodation waiting list. BPP trustees have therefore decided to solve the housing problem on a priority basis.

A good number of engaged Parsi couples cannot marry for want of proper accommodation; many Parsi families have been rendered homeless and move from one sanatorium to another on account of their old dilapidated buildings having fallen down; many Parsi families live in inhabitable surroundings; in some cases, husbands and wives live apart for want of a common roof over their heads. All these mishaps and misfortunes have greatly affected the Parsi community in its growth and survival. It is difficult to project the fate of our community beyond the next decade or two.

In order to cope with all these handicaps, the BPP has decided to launch a project of building 1,000 flats of moderate size and cost within a span of five to seven years. The buildings will be constructed on vacant plots owned by the BPP.

We therefore appeal to you to kindly

contribute handsomely towards the speedy solution of the housing problem. You will appreciate that the BPP alone cannot shoulder this gigantic problem. The situation is a challenge to the community and all well-placed Parsis need to come forward to meet it.

As you may know, the BPP runs a number of other welfare institutions/activities in the interests of the community — Old People's Home, Golvad Homes for boys and girls, J.J. Commerce Institute, Godrej Press and Industrial Institute, vocational guidance bureau, health unit, matrimonial bureau, employment exchange, school counselling project, Doongerwadi, giving monetary help to the poor and needy, giving scholarships and loans to deserving students going abroad and in India, etc., — which need substantial funds.

Your contribution may kindly be sent to the Chairman, Board of Trustees, Parsi Punchayet Funds and Properties, 209 Dr Dadabhai Naoroji Road, Fort, Bombay 400 001. Cheques may be made payable to 'Parsi Punchayet, Bombay' (Cross-Order and Payee A/c only).

ASPI F. GOLWALLA
Chairman, Parsi Punchayet, Bombay

Free food service

As trustees of a government registered public charitable trust, our main aim is to remove poverty from our community. We feed the poor, blind, crippled and those who are in no condition to work and earn their daily bread. We also take the poor and needy on pilgrim-



Feeding poor Parsis

mage tours to Udwarda, Navsari and Surat.

On the occasion of the Parsi New Year we had distributed free tickets of the play, *Daddy Na Dabba Gool*, to about 200 poor Parsi and Irani Zoroastrian families. We also distributed free snacks and chocolates during the inter-

**We deliver
the tallest
orders
coolly...
calmly...
efficiently!**

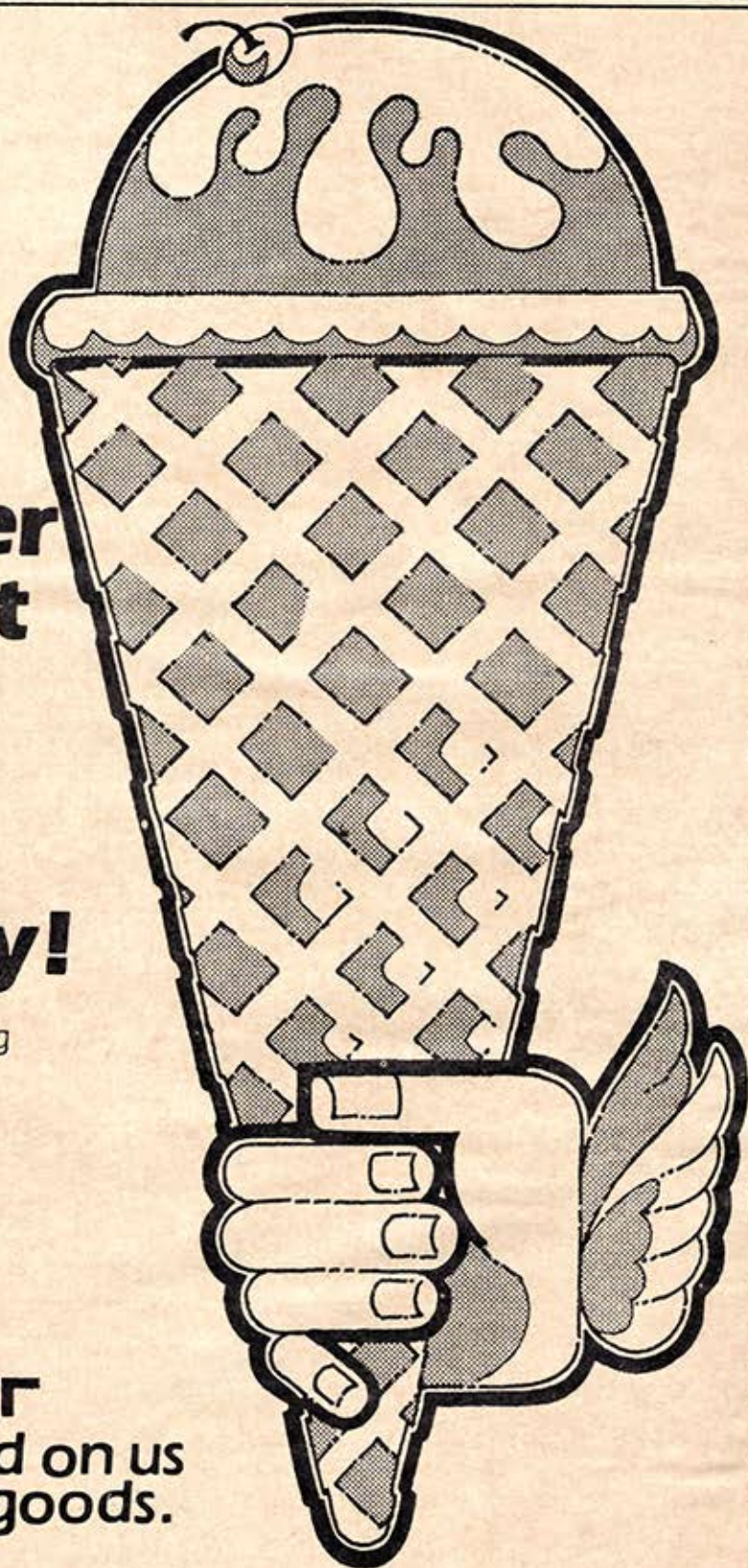
- International Cargo Booking
- Import Clearance
- Domestic Cargo Booking
- Break-Bulk Cell
- Cargo Handling
- Consolidation
- Consignee Sales Division
- Courier Services Division
(in association with DHL
International).

AIRFREIGHT

**You can depend on us
to deliver the goods.**

Airfreight Private Limited

Bombay • Ahmedabad • Bangalore • Bhadohi • Calcutta • Chandigarh • Cochin • Coimbatore
• Delhi • Hyderabad • Kanpur • Madras • Pune • Srinagar • Trivandrum



mission.

Well-wishers are requested to send their contributions to the trust office at Crown Building, Uranwalla Street, Grant Road, Bombay 400 007.

SAMY ENGINEER
Active Trustee, Free Food Service Charitable Trust

Upgrade mobed income

Is it surprising that the sons of devoted, faithful and dedicated mobeds should decline to follow in the footsteps of their fathers? Seeing the treatment meted out to their parents, they would not like to fall into the same trap and be given the boot at the time of retirement which might compel them to live at the mercy of charity funds or their own children who are better placed in life as they did not follow the priestly profession.

There will surely come a time when Bombay and its suburbs may not find priests to perform ceremonies at the fire-temples, just as at present no mobed is willing to serve in upcountry agiaries even on a salary of Rs 1,000 per month. Should we wait for such a contingency to arise and not take suitable steps beforehand?

It is about time that all mobeds should get together and form a union and demand regularization of pay scale, efficiency bar, maximum salary, casual and privilege leave, salary for unenjoyed leave, provident fund, gratuity etc. If the trustees do not listen to their demands within a reasonable time, then the mobeds could give notice and go on strike till their demands are discussed and settled.

It is quite possible that most of the trustees of fire-temples will not be in a position to meet even reasonable demands of mobeds from their trust funds. The only other alternative would be to amalgamate such agiaries, thereby reducing the number of agiaries functioning in and around Bombay. The lands and buildings of such agiaries, whose fires are shifted to other agiaries, could be sold and the sale proceeds brought to a common pool for a fund for the amelioration of Parsi priests, or the land could be utilized for constructing ownership flats.

I am further of the opinion that the lowest category of full-time working mobeds should be paid a starting salary of Rs 1,200 per month with an annual increment of Rs 25 until the mobed's salary reaches the figure of Rs 2,000 per month. On the said mobed's salary

reaching the figure of Rs 2,000 per month, there should be an efficiency bar and if the mobed's work is found satisfactory, his salary should be further increased at the rate of Rs 50 till it reaches the maximum figure of Rs 2,500 per month. Rules should be formed so that the mobed could enjoy casual leave, privilege leave and leave salary for privilege leave not sanctioned to him. Rules should also be framed for monthly deduction towards provident fund payable to him to which an equal amount should be added every month as contribution from the income of the fund of amelioration of Parsi priests. Similarly, provision must also be made from the said fund for payment of gratuity to a mobed on his retirement from service at the rate of half-month's salary for every completed year of service, the minimum number of years of service to entitle him to gratuity being five years.

JAMSHED R. MISTRY

Philanthropic package

Many of us do make donations and contributions to charities but mostly on an ad hoc or sporadic basis. I would like to compile an ideal Parsi philanthropic package with the following objectives in view:

- To encourage every Parsi to contribute to charities on a recurring and regular basis.
- To provide information on various charities which deserve attention.
- To provide a suggested model of the manner in which the total amount to be donated to charity could be distributed.

To formulate this package, I shall welcome suggestions as also the names, addresses and activities of institutions which deserve help.

KAIYOS MARFATIA

Priests unjustly vilified

Parsis believe and comment that practicing mobeds omit paragraphs from various prayers while performing ceremonies. This is a very serious accusation. There is no reason for the mobeds to omit prayers (*gapcha maro*).

Anybody who makes such a statement, does not deserve to hold public office in any community organization unless he can prove that this is the practice adopted by our community priests. It is precisely because such statements are made, that athornans

are unwilling to take up the profession of priesthood.

DARA P. ANTIA
Calcutta

Visions and dreams

A well-known educationist was greatly influenced by Christianity and one day decided to convert himself to Christianity. At night, a grand personality in the shape of a mobed appeared in his dream and told him to read the Old Testament of *The Bible* before he decided to convert himself to Christianity. Next day he got a copy of the Old Testament and went through it. He also studied the Zoroastrian religion. This changed the course of his career in that not only did he not become a Christian but he started Zoroastrian studies in Surat and played a leading role in bringing back many lost sheep into the Zoroastrian fold.

This therefore proves that God keeps track of His flock, saves them from ruin and wants His flock to follow the religion of their birth. Many truths have been shown by God in visions and dreams.

GOOL S. BHARUCHA
Coimbatore

CORRECTIONS

In the Zoroastrians Abroad column (*Parsiana*, December 1985, page 15) the headline "Medal for Khursigara" should read "Medal for Engineer." Engineer's mural, "Cultural Aspects of Pakistan," measures 16 by 12 feet (not inches).



Master-Moos



Antia

Captions of two photographs were inadvertently interchanged in the Events and Personalities column (*Parsiana*, December 1985, page 10). At left is Meher K. Master-Moos, doctorate degree holder for her study in alternative medicine, and at right is metallurgist Dara P. Antia, recipient of the Tata Medal.

The errors are regretted.

Events and Personalities

Changes at Allahabad

The Allahabad Anjuman elected a new president — Capt Homi Pirojsha Dandiwalla — on August 14, 1985. This was the first election for president in 16 years, during which time Dr Ratan Sagar had stood unopposed, notes a press release. Rustom Gandhi, continues as vice-president and Nariman Marshal as ordinary trustee.

Subsequently, in October '85, certain amendments were proposed to the trust deed of the Allahabad Parsi Zoroastrian Anjuman. The definition of "Parsi Zoroastrian" now includes children of mixed marriages — where either parent may be a Parsi — after the performance of a proper navjote ceremony. In the case of a child of a Parsi mother and a non-Parsi father, the written consent of both parents is required, states the release.

The Anjuman which was established in 1924, now has 44 members. Its assets include an aramgah where the prayer hall was repaired and white-washed. A dharamshala and the Bazam Hall, both Gandhi family property, according to Dandiwalla, are locked at the moment, he noted. The dharamshala can only be used if and when the Anjuman is able to engage the services of a mobed, who will look after the dharamshala and also the Dar-e-Meher which too is the private property of the Gandhis, says Dandiwalla.



Two awards for Shroff

The new president of Bombay's K.R. Cama Oriental Institute, Jehangir F. Shroff, was "the first Asian" to receive the Grand Master's Order of Service to Masonry (OSM) award from the Duke of Kent, the Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of England in London, on December 11, 1985, notes a press release. A freemason for 43



*Gobhai: freedom within a discipline
(Left): Disused horse hearse at Allahabad*

years, Shroff has been the District Grand Master of Bombay for over 10 years, adds the release.

Shroff was also awarded "The Silver Elephant — the highest award in scouting" by the President of India, Giani Zail Singh, at the Scouts and Guides Rally held in New Delhi on November 6, 1985, notes the write-up.

Having started as a cub in the year 1922 in the Parsee Scouting Society, Shroff, a retired state chief commissioner of the Maharashtra State Bharat Scouts and Guides, had earlier received the long term service award and medal of merit with bar in recognition of long and continuous meritorious services rendered to the scout movement, notes the release. Another cherished award that Shroff bagged some time ago was the President's Medal for meritorious services rendered to the Home Guards and the Civil Defence.

A textile technician for the past 55 years, Shroff is a director in two textile mills and is on the managing committee of the Zoroastrian Co-operative Credit Bank.

Shroff is trustee and vice-president of the Iran League, chief warden of the Greater Bombay area and advisor to the additional controller of civil defence, Greater Bombay Corps, and an active member of the Indian National Congress (I) from south Bombay, states the release.

Learning with computers

'Computers in education' was the theme of a full day seminar conducted at The Dadar Parsee Youths Assembly High School on October 15, 1985 by Maegabyte Consultancy Services, notes a press release issued by N.S. Wadia, principal of the school.

The aim of the seminar was to bring about an awareness of how students could use computers to learn any subject with the help of animated lessons, games, etc. Lessons in geography, grammar, arithmetic, computer programming, word processing etc were practically demonstrated, using computers, for the benefit of students and staff, adds the report.

The seminar was organized with the cooperation of Marzban J. Giara, director, Creative Communications Cen-

tre, who conducts computer classes for the students of the school, concludes the report.

Silver at the Regatta

At the third Asian Regatta held at Pusan, South Korea in September 1985, helmsman Jimmy A. Unwalla and his crewman, Vivian Almeida, won the silver medal in the enterprise class, missing the gold medal by just 0.07 seconds, notes a press release.

Moreover, Unwalla stood tenth out of 50 competitors at the Enterprise World Championships held at Hong Kong in November.

Twenty-nine-year-old Unwalla has participated in national and international yachting championships and won the gold medal at the National Enterprise Championships held in Bombay in 1984, states the write-up.

A bachelor of technology from the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay, Unwalla is currently serving in the furniture department of Godrej and Boyce, adds the release.

Parsi food festival

Delhi's first ever Parsi food festival was slated to be held at Ashok Hotel, New Delhi, from November 8 to 10, 1985, with "chefs, specially flown in from Bombay," notes *ITDC Khabar*, the newsletter of the Indian Tourism Development Corporation of October 30.

The Ashok's restaurant, Taverna Cyprus was expected to acquire a Parsi wedding atmosphere. Guests were encouraged to attend in Parsi attire, and there were prizes for the best dressed, adds the newsletter.

Black is beautiful

"What brought me back is what I had feared would inhibit me as a painter — the presence of a fantastic folk tradition. This you can't get from museums and collections. This is something I have missed all these years," notes painter Mehlii Gobhai in an interview with Kamala Kapoor, in *The Sunday Observer* of October 6, 1985. Gobhai who has recently returned to India after a 22-year stint in New York, held a one-man show of his paintings at Bombay's Gallery 7, from October 5 to 25. Planning to stay on in India for eight months in a year, part of which he will spend at Kangra, where he is building a house, Gobhai told Kapoor, "I am still afraid to give up New York

(Below) Vachha on Doordarshan

(Right) Unwalla just missed the gold

(Below right) Shroff receiving The Silver Elephant from Zail Singh.



completely."

Asked about the sale of his work, Gobhai stated, "I refuse to do the gallery rounds and the pursuing. You can call it a fragile ego... I have two dealers who deal privately with my work. They sell directly to architects, corporations, collectors and this makes a lot of sense. Then there are the regular collectors who buy from me."

The Bombay-bred Gobhai "took a major decision 12 years ago in giving up his job as art director of an advertising firm to opt full-time for painting," notes *The Sunday Observer*. "He learnt drawing with (Shiavax) Chavda in Bombay, did graphic design at the Royal College of Art in London and spent four years at the Art Students League in New York where he also studied anatomy from one of the last of the great anatomy teachers, Robert Beverly Hill, and did graphic arts at the Royal College of Art."

Gobhai, who believes that "freedom within a discipline is the most exciting thing," notes of his paintings which use the minimum of form, line and color: "I was very dissatisfied with splashing color, brush strokes and unbridled freedom. In fact, for a long time I worked mostly in black and white.

Black for me is the most beautiful color in the world."

Vachha performs

Television viewers all over India were regaled by a piano concert given by Michel Romy Vachha, professor at Rome's Conservatorio Di Musica Santa Cecilia, on October 25, 1985.

His recitals have been broadcast from time to time by the All-India Radio, Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta, Madras and Goa, notes a press release issued by his father, T.R. Vachha, a chartered engineer, living in Delhi. Furthermore he has played before large audiences in most of the principal cities of India, adds the release.

Thirty-year-old Vachha is the first pianist from India to successfully complete the post-graduate course at Santa Cecilia, Rome, after which he won an open scholarship in 1977 to study under "the celebrated concert-pianist," Marcella Crudeli, notes the write-up. He then attended masters classes at the University of Zurich under professor Juerg von Vintschger, states the release.

Vachha has given many concerts in Italy and was awarded a diploma and

continued on page 37



Introduces

KROHNE-MARSHALL PRIVATE LIMITED

In collaboration with
KROHNE-GERMANY
world leaders in flow, level & density

KROHNE MARSHALL offers the complete range of Krohne products, comprising of Flow switches ranging from 15 to 150 mm, as also a wide variety of Variable Area Flow Meters/Rotameters for very high pressure and nuclear applications.

Float type Level Indicators with a wide range of options as also displacement type Level Indicators and Servo motor type Level Monitoring

Systems with ultra high accuracy for tank form and custody transfers, Level Switches, Radiometric Density Transmitters for non contact type of accurate density measurement and control all form a part of the spectrum.

For practically all applications including the famous ceramic AID lined contact Flow meters, Magnetic Inductive Flow meters ranging from 2 to 3000 mm can be availed.

 You can measure our contribution
by your benefits.

P.B. No. 1, BOMBAY POONA ROAD, KASARWADI,
POONA 411 034 INDIA

The shifting fires

Parinaz Toddywalla

The Panchayet moves to reduce the number of agiaries and better utilize the community's scarce resources.



The first step towards reducing the large number of agiaries in Bombay and shifting the sacred fires from areas scarcely populated by Parsis to those where more Parsis reside, has been taken by the Bombay Parsi Panchayet (BPP) in collaboration with the trustees of the Langrana Agiary in the Fort area. Announcing the shift at a press conference on December 21, 1985 in the BPP trustees' board room, the trustees noted that the Langrana Agiary fire was to be shifted to the Godavara Agiary (the only agiary managed by the BPP, also located in the Fort area) until a new adaran is constructed at Godrej Baug in the Malabar Hill area. Subsequently the Godavara Agiary fire may also be housed in a separate room in the new adaran building at Godrej Baug.

"As per the present agreement, in a month or two the Langrana fire will be shifted to the Godavara Agiary and the building put on sale," said BPP chairman Dr Aspi Golwalla. Almost two-thirds of the sale proceeds would be utilized for the construction of the new adaran building at Godrej Baug and a fund to provide for the agiary's monthly upkeep. The remaining one-third will be kept by the trustees of the Langrana Agiary to maintain a widow's chawl, informed Golwalla.

While BPP trustee Naoroji Godrej detailed the location of the adaran building "on top of the hill," BPP trustee Eruch Desai emphasized, "Though the shift may not be palatable to a few residents in the locality, they have to see to the larger interest. There is need for the Press to build up a psychological interest. We have to move to the twenty-first century and thus be more practical."

PERFORMANCE PLUS



Uniform Purity

A leading Pharmaceuticals manufacturer.



We just can't do without Ahura quality. It is important to the character of our end products.

Products Manager of a popular National Brand.



We have diversified our product range inspite of which Ahura meets all our Process Chemicals specifications.

A Multi-National Chief



AHURA CHEMICAL PRODUCTS PRIVATE LIMITED

82, Mahakali Road, Andheri (East),
Bombay 400 093. Phones: 6328365/66/67
Gram: AHURACHEM Telex: 011-71117

To begin at the beginning, Ahura is 47 years young. All along a force to reckon with in the process chemicals field. With leading end products manufacturers patronising Ahura, the range of process chemicals have been so widened as to fit the specifications to the special character of the end product manufactured.

Ahura believes Performance is the only plus factor that can distinguish one process chemical manufacturer from another. Ahura believes it is just about the best in the field.

"There will be no amalgamation of fires," noted BPP trustee Homi Rani-na. "They will be housed in two separate rooms of the same building." Goll-walla mentioned that after hearing of the proposed transfer of fires, a trustee from one of the agiaries in Byculla was enquiring if a similar arrangement could be made for them.

Addressing the Press after a lapse of eight months as "there was nothing substantial to report," the trustees apprised the Press of the progress made on the various BPP projects. In an attempt to ensure that the elected voters and the donors have the same number of votes each at a trusteeship election, the BPP have proposed further amendments to the electoral reform scheme. According to the amendment, donors who register before the Anjuman Committee elections in 1988 will be allowed to vote at trusteeship elections after the 1988 Anjuman Committee elections. Those who donate money after November 1987 will only be entitled to vote after the next Anjuman Committee elections in 1995. It was also recommended that meetings of the Anjuman Committee (which comprises the elected members and donors who elect the trustees) should be convened annually.

Due to the low rents received from tenants in the BPP run colonies and buildings as well as the difficulty in evicting tenants who have violated the Rent Act, the BPP has made a representation to the Government of Maharashtra seeking exemption from the application of the Act.

Out of a total of 60 ownership flats for Parsis at Gibbs Road, 43 have been booked so far. The Gibbs Road project, aimed at well-to-do Parsis, is to

generate funds for lower income housing. There are plans to construct a building on the site of the old Fever Hospital building at Khareghat Colony along the lines of the Gibbs Road Scheme, but at a lower rate per square foot.

Appeals for donations have been made to those who have at some stage

**Those who donate
money after
November 1987 will
only be entitled to
vote after the next
Anjuman Committee
elections in 1995.**

availed of BPP financial assistance for higher training abroad and are subsequently well settled in life. Contributions received will be utilized for constructing houses for the community and for other welfare activities run by the BPP.

A contribution of one lakh rupees towards the purchase of land for the construction of a drug addict rehabilitation center planned by Seva Dhan, a voluntary organization founded by ex-addict Russell Pinto, is being considered by the BPP.

Pleased with the success of their school counselling project, the trustees decided to launch a family counselling project in January 1986 which will be managed by Prof Noshir Kaikobad, an ex-United Nations consultant on social welfare. The BPP has sanctioned dona-

tions to the tune of Rs 2,84,000 for their various projects (excluding housing): Rs 36,000 have been earmarked for the matrimonial bureau, Rs 63,000 for the trust advisory service project, Rs 48,000 for school counselling, Rs 62,000 for family counselling and Rs 75,000 for the mobed amelioration scheme.

On behalf of the Parsi community, a letter has been sent to Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi requesting him to suggest a convenient date when the community could felicitate him in Bombay.

There is no adequate response for the 96 ownership flats which the BPP is planning to construct at Sanjan, with the hope of attracting retired members of the community to settle in that Gujarat township.

Whether or not the opinions of other anjumans should be sought before the Government gives its consent to the much needed reforms in the archaic Parsi Marriage and Divorce Act was debated by the trustees. BPP trustee Jal Vimadlal noted that suggestions from various sources have been tabulated by former BPP secretary Gustad Antia while preparing the amendments. Vimadlal felt that calling forth fresh opinions would result in "re-opening a Pandora's box," while Desai said, "(This issue) has not come up before the board. We will have to examine this." The BPP could ascertain the opinions of other anjumans at the forthcoming executive council meeting of the Federation of Parsi Zoroastrian Anjumans of India in Poona on February 22 and 23, 1986.

Electoral reforms

In light of suggestions made by various parties, the trustees have proposed fur-

Trying to meet the demand for housing:(left) Godrej Baug, (right) Panthaki Baug (Photos:Homyar Mistry)



ther alterations to the BPP electoral reform scheme. These proposals have to be considered by the community before the next hearing scheduled on February 10, 1986, at the Bombay High Court of Ms Justice Sujata Manohar.

To ensure equal voting rights to the elected members of the E Register and the donor members of the F Register at the time of trusteeship elections, it has been suggested that the F Register be frozen in the period between elections to the E Register which are currently held every seven years. Thus no donor would be given voting rights from November 30 preceding the Anjuman Committee elections until November 30 preceding the next Anjuman Committee elections, seven years later. At the end of the period, the new donors would gain voting rights and the E Register would be expanded by a proportionate number.

It was also suggested that the Anjuman Committee should hold annual meetings. Another clause has been introduced to permit simplification of the various formalities involved at the time of change of trustees.

Other proposed amendments — reducing the tenure of office of trustees to seven years instead of the present 10; increasing the qualifying donation for enrolment on the Donors' F Register from Rs 5,000 to Rs 7,500 with the donor applying for registration within 180 days from the date of receipt of donation; combining A, C and D registers into a General Register and renaming the F Register as the Donors' Register; redefining graduate to mean any Parsi graduate of any recognized university in India or abroad — stand as previously agreed upon.

Only a marginal increase of Rs 2,500 was suggested for the qualifying donation which entitles an individual to be enrolled on the F Register. BPP chief executive Rustom Anklesaria revealed certain statistics to support the BPP decision: In 1982, there were 21 donors who had contributed between Rs 5,000 and Rs 7,500 and three between 7,500 and 10,000. In 1983, 54 donated between 5,000 and 7,500, one between 7,500 and 10,000 and two over 10,000. In 1984, 196 donated between 5,000 and 7,500, six between 7,500 and 10,000 and three over 10,000.

Enlisting donees' help

Special appeals for donations, signed by BPP chairman Golwalla, have been

made to those who had availed of BPP scholarships for higher training abroad and are now well settled in life. Golwalla was positive, "I am sure the response will be good." Contributions will be utilized for housing and other welfare institutions/activities managed by the BPP like the Old People's Home, Golwad Homes for boys and

"Though the shift of
agiary fires may not
be palatable to a few
residents in the
locality, they have to
see to the larger
interest."

girls, J.J. Commerce Institute, Godrej Press and Industrial Institute, vocational guidance bureau, health unit, matrimonial bureau, employment exchange, school counselling, Doongerwadi, giving monetary help to the poor and needy, and giving scholarships and loans to deserving students for further education abroad or in India. It will also help meet the administrative costs of Rs 12 lakhs borne by the BPP because of the new agreement signed with the trade union, informed Golwalla.

A break-up of scholarships given to Parsi students for college and engineering studies in India and for higher studies abroad for the academic year 1985-86 indicate that Rs 2,10,000 were given as gift and Rs 1,50,000 by way of loan to 41 students for post-graduate studies abroad. Rs 1,34,000 were given as gift to 361 students for various college courses in India; 91 students were given Rs 71,200 by way of gift for technical and engineering studies in India; and Rs 14,500 were given as gift for medical and paramedical studies in India.

Family counselling

Realizing that family disharmony has caused emotional upheavals for growing children, hampering their scholastic performance, the BPP has sanctioned a sum of Rs 62,400 per annum towards implementation of a family counselling project. Prof Noshir Kaikobad who was instrumental in setting up the school counselling service, has

proposed a scheme for family counselling which was to be launched in January 1986. The work will proceed under Kaikobad's instructions and be supervised by a Committee of Direction, chaired by Golwalla.

BPP trustee Jamsheed Kanga was concerned whether there was enough publicity to prompt people in distress to turn to family counsellors for assistance. Though Vimadala doubted whether people would be willing to invoke public support for family quarrels, Kanga thought that since it was a well-known mode of settlement in the west and since Parsis were known to be the pioneers, there was no reason why this project should not be successful.

School counselling

With the school counselling service extended by a period of one more year at a further cost of Rs 48,000 per year, parents will be encouraged to refer the behavioral and scholastic problems of their children to the counsellors working at Bai Avabai F. Petit Girls' High School, Byramji Jejeebhoy Parsi Charitable Institution and Cowasji Jehangir School, notes the press release.

One hundred and twenty-five children availed of intensive individual counselling services and 175 of group sessions at the three schools. As reported in the press release, special attention is given to the residential students of Petit School and a special aptitude test was administered under Dr Mehroo Bengalee to the Std X girls with representatives of different vocations invited to address the students. Parent educational sessions were also held.

Coaching classes in mathematics have been extended for another term of six months. Eight students from the Tata Institute of Social Sciences receive practical training in school counselling work at the three schools under the supervision of two honorary consultants. National Social Service volunteers of Lala Lajpatrai College also participated in the teaching work.

Coaching for administrative services

Specialized coaching at a cost of Rs 14,850 was given to seven Parsi youths for the all-India Civil Services preliminary examination. Though only two youths managed to clear the preliminary examination, after which they will need to pass the main examination and

continued on page 42

Remember your thirst love?

Remember how your heart sang?
How your joy took wing? Remember
your thirst Limca with her?
You can still taste that zingi lime'n'
lemoni flavqur each time you have
a Limca. The excitement is heady.
Just like the thirst time!



Limca. Each time is the thirst time!

is veri veri lime 'n' lemoni
SERVE CHILLED

Vimadlal resigns from Punchayet

Jal Vimadlal says modern fads and party alignments have bedevilled the working of the BPP's board of trustees.

Arnavaz S. Mama

A brightly clad, relaxed Jal Vimadlal and his sable colored dachshund Candy welcomed the *Parsiana* team into the study of his Churchgate residence next to the Cricket Club of India on January 11, 1986. The ex judge of the Bombay High Court, who had resigned from the BPP board of trustees nine days earlier, was initially hesitant to grant an interview and eventually acceded, he said, against the advice of his immediate family.

Vimadlal says he had been "thinking of resigning" since several months past, but Eruch Desai's trusteeship term was drawing to a close and Vimadlal deferred his resignation he claims, "because my resigning would have affected the election one way or the other." Certain unfinished tasks in which he had taken special interest, also made him hang on. There was the petition to amend the election scheme, the amendment of the Parsi Marriage and Divorce Act, the BPP's mobed amelioration scheme, etc. But when these matters dragged on, he resigned.

Vimadlal admitted his unhappiness at the "grouping amongst the trustees in deciding and voting on important matters according to party alignments." Vimadlal questions the Punchayet's priorities and has dissented from the majority on many important issues, including BPP membership of the Federation of Parsi Zoroastrian Anjumans of India and on electoral reforms.

Vimadlal has been a consistent critic of the Federation and was opposed to the BPP's reentry into the federal body. (In 1978 the BPP had left the Federation by a majority of 6:1 and rejoined it by a majority vote of 4:3 in 1983.) The defeat of Vimadlal's recent resolution for the BPP to withdraw from the Federation, was a major setback for him.

Questioned about the timing of the resolution that was put to vote on November 19, 1985, a scant four days

before the trusteeship election of November 23 (businessman Hector Mehta versus incumbent lawyer Eruch Desai), Vimadlal stated that he had conveyed in writing his "desire to move a resolution... on October 14... and actually moved the resolution at the next meeting of the trustees which was held on October 29... Naoroji Godrej asked for a postponement because he wanted to study the Federation constitution... and the discussion was continued by the trustees on November 19 when, again by the same slender majority, my resolution was unfortunately rejected."

Vimadlal's opposition to the Federation stems from his belief that the Federation "has not served any useful purpose whatsoever (because) it has neither the financial nor the legal capacity to do so. Even the *tamasha* of the two World Zoroastrian Congresses for which the Federation seeks to take credit, were staged entirely by the BPP. The only possible benefit that could have emerged was a permanent world body of Zoroastrians, but even that idea is still-born as far as the Parsis in India are concerned. In fact, there is little doubt that the World Zoroastrian Congresses have widened the chasm between the Zoroastrians of the west and the Zoroastrians of India..."

"The Federation has only been a 'talking-shop' with nothing effective ever coming out of it," says Vimadlal adding, "The only advantage is a periodic get-together of the representatives of anjumans from all parts of India. That however, is something the BPP itself can do. A resolution to insert such a clause in the proposed amendments to the electoral scheme

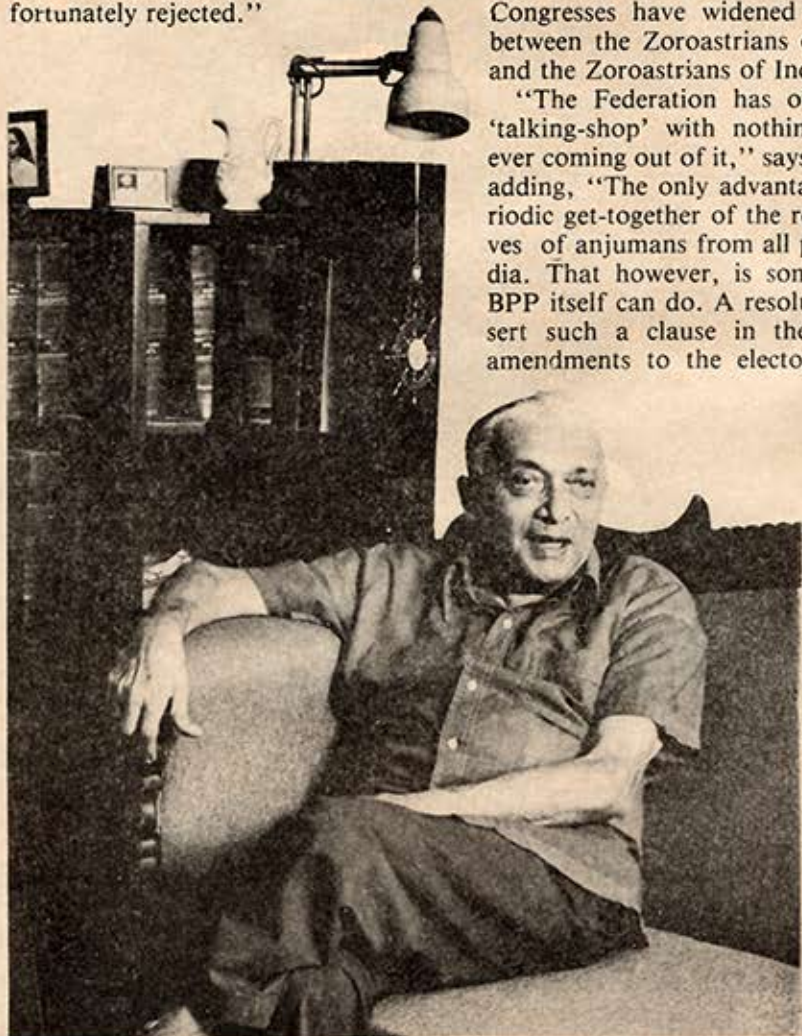


Photo: Homyar Mistry

was brought by me, but those trustees who were mightily scared that the passing of such a resolution would deprive the Federation of its only raison d'être, saw to it that my resolution was thrown out."

Even the Federation's major plank to salvage the property of defunct anjumans and use the proceeds for its own activities is questioned by Vimadlal who holds that "it cannot be done under the law." When the original objectives of a trust are no longer practical, possible or expedient, says Vimadlal, the court can be petitioned by pres. (That means the funds can be utilized for other objectives similar to the original. For example, gambhar funds could be used to feed the poor.) Thus the court would grant the use of defunct anjuman property to a neighboring anjuman rather than to a body sitting in Delhi, contends Vimadlal.

Recalling the days before the Federation was formed, Vimadlal said, "Whenever foreign Parsis wanted anything, they wrote to the BPP — and they still do."

"If there is any advantage to the community, I don't mind the Punchayet taking a secondary role — not otherwise... I'm supposed to be very conservative, but it is misunderstood, because I'm very practical. I don't like mere idealism. Even as regards the Federation, my approach is merely practical. What I say is 'Do something. Don't just pat each other's back.'"

Vimadlal faulted the replacement of the Delhi Anjuman by the Delhi Trust as member of the Federation due to general criticism regarding the Anjuman's non-Parsi membership (the Delhi Anjuman accepts non-Parsi spouses of Parsis as members, subject to certain limitations) and noted that Federation membership is reserved for the representative body of each Zoroastrian community which the Delhi Trust is not. For example, only the BPP can represent Bombay's Parsis, not the Athornan Mandal or any similar organization. Vimadlal reminisced how "Shiavax Nargolwala (president of the Delhi Anjuman and one of the architects of the Federation) and I were together in Elphinstone College" which Nargolwala attended in "a long Parsi *dagla* and *topi* — the suits and pipes came afterwards!"

The reform of the electoral scheme of 1910 has been another source of contention between Vimadlal and his

ex-colleagues: "I do not think any changes are necessary in the present scheme which has, on the whole, worked satisfactorily. We have not had any *mavalis* as trustees." However, Vimadlal suggests that whatever be the tenure which the court fixes for a trustee, "there should be an absolute bar against reelection for a second term." Vimadlal justifies his stand — which runs counter to the unlimited number

"Dissension (in the Punchayet) there is none; differences there are bound to be; but differences based on party alignments are an unhealthy trend."

of trusteeship terms which the BPP has officially proposed: "Ever since party alignments have come onto the election scene, I regret to state that as the end of the term draws near, the trustee intending to seek reelection loses his independence and aligns himself for support to a trustee belonging to one or the other party."

Constituency-wise voting, as proposed in the officially amended scheme, was also under fire: "We are too small a community for constituency-wise voting," says Vimadlal who fears that the measure may breed "fragmentation, parochialism and local *dadas*."

But it is the "idea of parity... pushed to the extreme" which rouses all of Vimadlal's ire. "The proponents of the theory of parity between elected and donor members of the Anjuman Committee seem to forget that a charitable trust like the BPP cannot survive without a steady flow of donations, particularly in view of the increasing demands on its resources... The wage bill has risen to about 3.5 lakhs of rupees. We may have to close down the Godrej Press. When we make a profit, they wipe it off by bonus, gratuity, etc. and when we make losses, we pay from the general funds. Heads I win, tails you lose. If donations dry up and liabilities increase, we'll face a very difficult situation. You cannot trifle with dona-

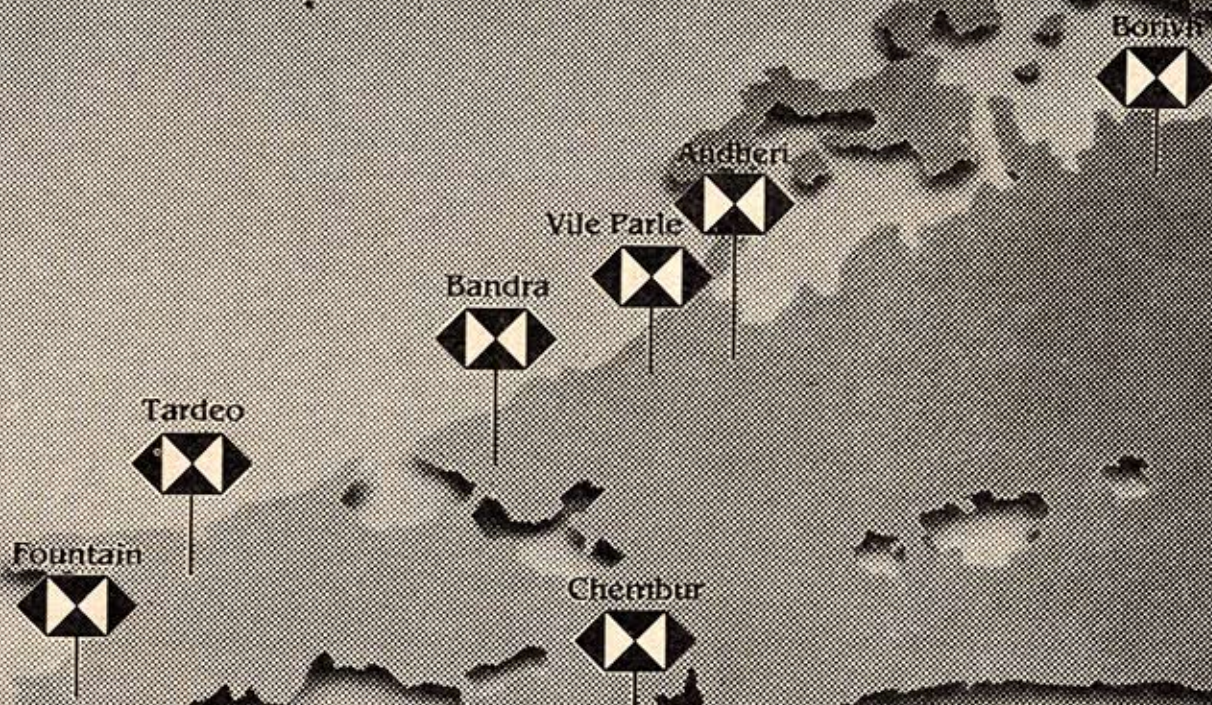
tions the way you want to... If you go beyond 10 thousand (as the minimum donation qualifying for membership of the F register — the amount currently is five thousand rupees) you'll be in difficulty. Today the community is not that affluent."

Vimadlal fears that a proposed clause in the amended scheme would deter donors from contributing money to the Punchayet: according to the amendment, only donors who register prior to the Anjuman Committee elections held once every seven years would be able to vote for trustees. Those who enrol after the Anjuman Committee election would only be eligible to vote after the next Committee elections are held. Thus, for example, a person who donated Rs 5,000 to the BPP today would only be entitled to vote after the Anjuman Committee elections in 1988. By this system the elected representatives (E register) and the donors (F register) would be equally represented at a trusteeship election.

Under the amended scheme, "the trustees are committed to the principle that they are accountable to the Anjuman Committee. I am strongly opposed to this principle which I consider to be humiliating... Some of the trustees have been unable to understand the basic difference" between the political idea of cabinet ministers being answerable to parliament, and a board of trustees, noted Vimadlal. A board of trustees, functions under the law of trusts which stipulates the duties and obligations of trustees. By law, trustees are not answerable to the appointing authority which may comprise individuals as in the case of the Surat Parsi Punchayet or an electoral body as in the case of the BPP. Trustees must carry out the intention of the settlor or founder of the trust and are only answerable to the charity commissioner and the court.

Vimadlal's choice of words demonstrated how strongly he felt on the subject: "There is no reason why any self-respecting person should become a trustee, or should remain a trustee of the Punchayet if he is required to put himself 'in the dock' before the Anjuman Committee periodically. Moreover, such meetings inevitably degenerate into the undignified spectacle of individual trustees blowing their own trumpet in public." Vimadlal's lips pursed slightly at the thought of such indignity.

Seven places where your money gets the respect it deserves.



At HongkongBank's seven branches spread across the city and suburbs, you can experience the pleasure of dealing with a bank that knows how to treat a customer. With a little respect. A little courtesy. And a little warmth. Drop in at your nearest branch and experience the pleasure of banking with us.



HongkongBank

The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation

Bombay Calcutta New Delhi
Madras Visakhapatnam
Merchant Banking Division Bombay
The British Bank of the Middle East Bombay

While the BPP has been doing "very useful work for the community," Vimadlal notes that "the weaker sections of the community rely too much on the Punchayet. Right from Sir Tehmulji's Lying-in Hospital to Doongerwadi, they expect the Punchayet to do everything for them. This is not a healthy trend," adds Vimadlal, his Roman profile bowed in thought.

On the other hand, a lot of people who occupy cheap accommodation, no longer need the benefits of charity. "People living in the baugs own Mercedes cars. They do not move out for a variety of reasons, the commonest excuse being that the flat has been lucky. But if you feel that way about it, why not give a donation at the end of each year? They should give unasked, just as the BPP donates to the J.J. Charities each year for the office space that the Punchayet occupies. When it pinches one's self, I'm afraid we don't come up to expectations."

Another source of disenchantment is that "the Punchayet has recently done nothing whatsoever for housing the poor. Rents of Rs 350 or Rs 450 per month, or ownership at even a concessional rate, are well beyond the reach of those who are really poor. In fixing rents of new buildings it is entirely wrong to add repair and maintenance charges as well as municipal and other outgoings. For that a separate fund must be created either by setting apart a certain portion of each donation made for housing, or some other economically viable scheme must be evolved with the assistance of experts, to create a general fund for that purpose for all buildings. My plea in that behalf has fallen on deaf ears and this is also a reason for the unhappiness which has led to my resignation."

"In spite of my repeated protests against diversification of activities, thousands of rupees are spent every year on modern fads like child counselling, marriage counselling, the Alpawalla Museum -which not more than five people visit per week -when the Punchayet has not enough money for its basic objectives like housing the poor, maintenance of old buildings that are in a sad state of disrepair, running the Golwad Rural Homes where there are 97 boys and girls even today, paying adequate salary to the staff or making provision for the escalating cost of labor."

"There is no reason why any self-respecting person should remain a trustee if he is required to put himself 'in the dock,' before the Anjuman Committee."

Asked to indicate areas of the BPP's functioning where changes might be appropriate, Vimadlal's first priority would be "absence of groupism amongst the trustees," and "no interference from outside bodies." He also suggested a "strict adherence to the agenda of the trustees' meetings...and not permitting every Tom, Dick and Harry to disturb the trustees...these interruptions unduly prolong the meetings and the disposal of matters on the agenda is

delayed."

Vimadlal has accepted BPP chairman Aspi Golwala's invitation to participate on the subcommittee of the BPP's mobed amelioration scheme. The invitation was extended in view of Vimadlal's "special contribution" to the scheme. Indeed, Vimadlal says, Golwala invited him to participate in the deliberations of the main committee also, but as the members of that committee are the representatives of the donor trusts, Vimadlal says he did not consider it proper for him to participate on it anymore.

Vimadlal looks askance at the functioning style of the controversial Atharvan Educational Trust (AET), recently founded by co-trustee Homi Ranina and others — particularly the fact that its cosmopolitan nature was not revealed when it sought funds for mobeds at the inaugural function.

Asked to comment on the level of dissension in the Punchayet, Vimadlal parried, "Dissension there is none; differences there are bound to be; but differences based on party alignments are *continued on page 23*

Mrs. Armaity R. Bamanbehram

The first Parsee outstanding lady

**Professional in
VIDEO SHOOTING**

with

Free Titling, Editing & Audio-dubbing. Superior clarity in Colour & Sound recording, with special effect, music of your choice.

A family memory to treasure



Transferring of Super-8 and 8mm movies to Video Tape also done.

Free Demonstration cassette to Judge our Professional work and Quality.

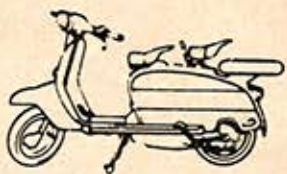
For Weddings, Navjotes, Parties and Functions

**Contact: Resi. Tel. No. 8226074
No. 6, Khareghat Colony, Hughes Road,
Bombay 400 007**

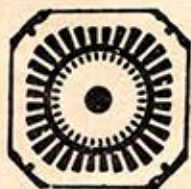
**Working to fulfil the demands of today.
Driving hard to meet the challenges of
tomorrow.**



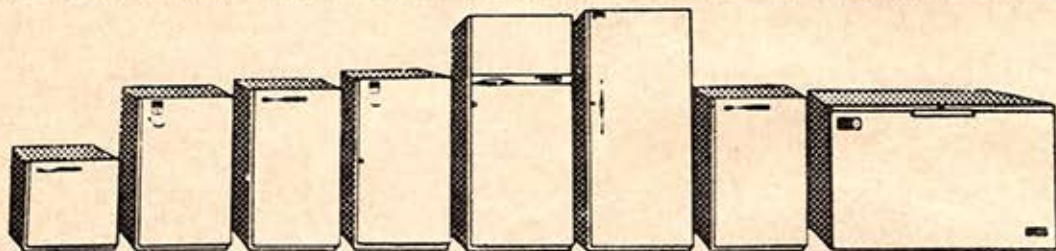
**CASH REGISTER
DIVISION**
(Electro-Mechanical &
Electronic)



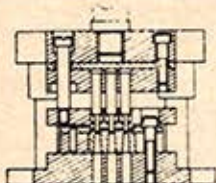
**AUTOMOTIVE
DIVISION**



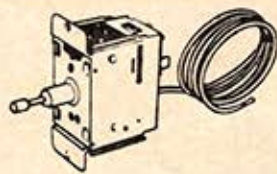
**LAMINATION
DIVISION**
(Electrical Motors &
Stampings)



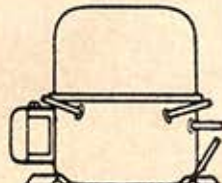
REFRIGERATION DIVISION
(Refrigerators & Deep Freezers)



**CENTRALISED
TOOL ROOM DIVISION**
(Sophisticated Tools,
Dies and Fixtures)



**CONTROLS
DIVISION**



**COMPRESSOR
DIVISION**

Kelvinator
of India Limited



The return of Guzder

Ex BPP trustee
Jamshed Guzder
is returned unopposed
to the Punchayet's
board of trustees.

Arnavaz S. Mama

The letter came as a surprise. Seven signatories, representing all shades of the community's political spectrum, came out in support of Jamshed Guzder's candidacy for the Bombay Parsi Punchayet trusteeship seat, vacated by Jal Vimadalal. Vimadalal had submitted his resignation from the board of trustees on January 2, 1986 as he found himself increasingly isolated.

Barely a year ago, the same signatories had shied from publicly supporting Guzder's reelection to the BPP against industrialist Naoroji Godrej. Godrej's candidature had been supported by BPP trustee Homi Ranina and other prominent individuals who wanted to keep Guzder out of the Punchayet for personal and business reasons.

"At a stage when it is imperative to avoid unseemly controversies in public and present a solid, united front, we feel that the community requires a respected and widely accepted non-controversial candidate, with a proven track record... We suggest that a person of Jamshed N. Guzder's caliber and standing would be ideal as trustee," stated Jamsetji Jeejeebhoy Bart., Dadi Engineer, president of the Committee for Economic Revival, Feroze Gheyara, Rusi Chowna, J.N. Marshall, Cowasjee Dinshaw, president of the erstwhile Committee of United Zoroastrians and Jal Vakeel of the Orthodox Graduates group.

The next day Guzder responded stat-

ing he "was quite touched by the sentiments expressed, and in response to their appeal and the numerous requests that I have received, I have decided to announce my candidature for the said election." If elected, he promised he would "not serve for more than a maximum of five to six years."

The Bombay Samachar also supported Guzder and repudiated the charge that a younger person was required as trustee. "An aspiring youth (must) possess the basic essential qualities." Editor Jehan Daruwalla noted that though Guzder was 70 he had the vitality of someone "at least 15 years younger."

As Guzder himself modestly stated, "I am in a position to serve the Parsi Punchayet efficiently, not because I am in any way better than any other candidate but because I am more conversant" with the Punchayet and its projects.

In an interview with *Parsiana* on January 10, 1986, Guzder registered his reaction to Vimadalal's resignation as "one of regret. Why should he have resigned? He'd done well; (he was) always helpful; his legal opinions were very sound. I can't say I was at all happy..." Guzder says Vimadalal was very frustrated (by the course of BPP affairs) and "found himself on many occasions the only dissenting vote... Overall he was quite disenchanted."

Regarding the amendments to the

BPP's electoral scheme, Guzder favors a shorter trusteeship term but no restriction on the number of terms. "At 55 or 60, a trustee would have gained the maximum experience. The safety for an undesirable person not repeating his term is that 20,000 people elect the Anjuman Committee and the Anjuman Committee would not elect a trustee who is not desirable."

As for the bugbear of the minimum donation to qualify for F register membership (which entitles donors to vote at trusteeship elections), Guzder has no reservation about raising the amount to Rs 25,000 (as against the current Rs 5,000 and proposed Rs 7,500), "because one should not donate just to get a reward. The donation should be with regard to the community."

Guzder is also in favor of enshrining the accountability principle into the legal scheme. "Once a year the trustees should appear before the Anjuman Committee and give an account of themselves and submit a statement of accounts for the previous year," he says, giving the analogy of the annual general meetings of public limited companies.

Outmaneuvered?

It had been generally believed that Guzder had been outmaneuvered by co-trustee Homi Ranina at the end of his first term of trusteeship and Naoro-

ji Godrej had replaced Guzder uncontested on the BPP board. But Guzder insists his relationship with Ranina is a cordial one, noting that Ranina and he serve together on the Petit trust. As for Godrej, "Naoroji and I are very very old friends. I'm perfectly sure I have his blessings and his support." Indeed, Guzder says he is "looking forward to working with him (Godrej)."

Questioned about the source of his dispute with the Wadias of Bombay Dyeing, Guzder said, it was "not a business dispute... not really a dispute at all. Even today, my relations with Neville Wadia are very cordial. Unfortunately, misunderstanding arose from the sale of Ness Baug land (the Jyoti Studio property affair) at a price which was not considered to be appropriate, and in the absence of Neville Wadia from India, I was one of the trustees who suggested that this deal should not go through. So it was cancelled. Fortunately, Neville subsequently was able to find a buyer at almost double the price, so it all happened for the best."

"Secondly, I had suggested that the allotment of flats (in the Wadia baugs) should also be on the same basis and on the same norms and standards as the system prevailing in the Panchayet. Subsequently, at a meeting of the full board of the Panchayet when Neville and Nusli were also present, Neville realized the benefit of a proper, rational, equitable system and agreed. Therefore, the assumption that there's unpleasantness between the Wadia family and myself is not correct, in the sense that I have considerable respect and affection for Neville with whom I've been associated in business for over 50 years."

Wilderness

Guzder says he was "never busier than in 1985," his wilderness year in terms of BPP trusteeship. Apart from business and professional affairs, where he is said to have taken strides, there were a "number of people who continued to come for help regarding Panchayet matters." Guzder says, he "intervened in many cases, for example housing, inquiries regarding scholarships, redressing things that happened in my regime but were not corrected. My requests to the BPP were always responded to cordially and sympathetically."

The first half of the year was spent in finalizing a report on the proceedings of the Fourth World Zoroastrian Con-

gress, in matters pertaining to the Federation and the World Zoroastrian Organization, says Guzder.

Speaking with the perspective of one viewing BPP affairs from the periphery, Guzder said that the reorganization of the accounts department which had been "set in motion three years ago (was) now bearing fruit." But, he

**"Trustees, who are
custodians of
community property
and protectors
of the interest
of community
members,
have to be
accountable
for what they do."**

noted, "the involvement of outsiders has petered out. For example, the sub-committee for the economic uplift of Parsi Zoroastrians (is almost dormant) but if I come back, I'll revive it."

First term

Guzder's first term had been heralded by a dogged fight with the Pundolites led by sitting trustee Dr Nelie Noble, whose candidate Jimmy Shroff lost to Guzder in 1975. Ironically, Guzder's first term as trustee filled the vacancy created by the resignation of noted lawyer Shiavax Vakil. The situation has repeated itself with the resignation of Vimadlal.

A genial individual, who says he "never believes in confrontation and animosity," Guzder says he "got along well with all trustees including Nelie Noble," adding, "I never fail in common courtesy."

Describing the atmosphere of the early seventies, Guzder recalled "there was no communication between trustees and the community, and nobody bothered about elections. The first stir came when I stood and Nelie Noble put up Jimmy Shroff and there was all this hullabaloo... Barring one or two important elections, nobody cared or bothered, especially from the F register. The Panchayet was a closed shop."

The holding of the Third World Zoroastrian Congress in 1978 "created the first stirrings among community members. That really awakened the community and out of that was born the movement of people getting together: Jamsheed Kanga, Dadi Engineer, Fali Poncha, Minoo Shroff—middle-aged men holding responsible positions but with no involvement in the Panchayet, who were not even voters, decided to make their presence felt."

During the second half of Guzder's first term the economic uplift committee was formed under Guzder's chairmanship with "outsiders, top men of different disciplines. The housing scheme was initiated and the idea of Godrej Baug was born."

Accountability

Guzder discussed the question of accountability of trustees — one of the policy differences that led to Vimadlal's resignation. "As far as the Panchayet is concerned, they've always maintained closed doors. The first three to four years as trustee, I went along; but after that I came out in the open and said trustees who are custodians of community property, protectors of the interest of members of the community, had to be accountable for what they did. Because I believe in the theory that if someone serves somebody, he must be accountable to the person he serves. It was not accepted by quite a few trustees... The Fourth World Zoroastrian Congress and the response to it, showed clearly that the public, by and large, have an overriding desire... to be associated with the affairs of the community and the Panchayet. If I'd done nothing but to arouse the interest of the community, I'd done a great deal."

One concrete result of this increased awareness of the people, is the current practice of the merit rating system for the allotment of flats, says Guzder, and traces the history of that momentous change: "Previously the allotment of flats was privy to a few trustees. I was involved in getting the full board's involvement. Today, before a flat is allotted, it is put up on the notice board for all to see so that nobody can accuse trustees of favoritism."

Priorities

Guzder's immediate priority is to accelerate the construction program of the

BPP's targetted 1,000 flats. "Construction on Gibbs Road is going on very fast but I'm not sure if the money is coming in fast enough. The secondary scheme of ownership flats at Bhaurucha and Panthaki Baugs has not got off the ground despite the plans being passed." Guzder was quick to reassure that the delay "was not out of default — I do not blame my ex co-trustees... but if I go back (on the BPP board) I'll be able to revive it very quickly."

Guzder's long-term priority concerns the growth of the community. He is optimistic that "There will be positive growth of Parsis (if we) encourage boys and girls to come together... encourage girls to find good partners." Guzder beamed with pleasure as he described how much the youngsters had enjoyed themselves at a picnic organized by the BPP's matrimonial bureau to his cottage on Marve beach.

A director of 18 companies, trustee of 11 public trusts including some non-communal trusts and office-bearer of Indian and foreign socio-economic organizations, Guzder is a busy man who says he "always finds the time" for community affairs.

continued from page 19
an unhealthy trend."

The Government of India may take up the amendment to the Parsi Marriage and Divorce Act shortly, says Vimadalal, adding that the BPP submitted its report for overhauling it in 1978, mainly to bring it in line with other marriage and divorce acts in the country. Essentially it means the incorporation of the provision for divorce by mutual consent, which is not provided for under the Act as it stands. Vimadalal says he has written to law minister Ashok Sen requesting that the government take up the amendment and the wheels are now moving.

Regarding further service to the community, Vimadalal says he would be willing to serve if required by any institution of his liking. One idea is to offer free legal advice to poor and lower middle class Parsis, if some organization is willing to take on the task of arranging it. The BPP passed a resolution on January 14, 1986 noting Vimadalal's "valuable services rendered to the board and through it to the Parsi community." As an individual, however, he has been free with his time and

expertise to anyone who wants to avail of them and noted that some Parsis whom he had never known before have been seeking his advice for years — even in their domestic problems.

A keen sportsman throughout his life — Vimadalal represented his college in cricket, tennis and badminton and was a western India badminton champion — he played tennis every morning until last year when an incipient heart problem compelled him to give it up. He still swims or walks daily, studies religion — a catalogue of 400 books on religion and literature attest to his devotion to the subjects — and has published four books. Vimadalal says he has no ear for music: "If you played the same tune twice, I wouldn't know it, though I'd enjoy it twice over."

Vimadalal, who was appointed as judge of the Bombay High Court in 1967, retired as judge of the Andhra Pradesh High Court in 1977. "I was one of the first victims of Indira Gandhi's (committed judiciary) policy. She didn't like my judgments." Merely to please others, has not been the cardinal motif of Vimadalal's career.

With the Compliments of

P.S. KUKA
Chairman

GOODWILL THEATRES PVT LTD

Owners

NOVELTY CINEMA (THEATRE MAGNIFICENT)

CINE PROPERTIES & FINANCE PVT LTD

Owners

DREAMLAND CINEMA

Rendezvous of the Elite



GRINDWELL NORTON LTD.

*Regd. Office: Army & Navy Building
Mahatma Gandhi Road
Bombay 400023*

*Phone: 244727 • Grams: GRINDWELL
Telex: 011-2840 GNO-IN*

"Clear necessity for a new project"

The Athravan Educational Trust's Position Paper
seeks to answer its critics
and reassure the community.

The Athravan Educational Trust (AET) has been in existence for eight months, and we the trustees, would like to thank the members of the public who have extended their wholehearted support to our first project. It is through this firm support that we have collected a sum of over Rs 10 lakhs and have been able to launch our scheme on time.

As it often happens, success does arouse envy and hostility. Our detractors have done their utmost to prevent the trust from fulfilling its objects and have cast aspersions which have not been substantiated to date. In spite of all this, we have ploughed ahead with our work, for conviction and truth have been our weapons. We have started the educational program with the first group of athravans and have launched a medicare scheme to assist the priests and their immediate family members. A socio-economic project for those in need has also been initiated through our offices.

We would like you to read our position paper and then form your own opinion. Judge for yourself as to whether our first project deserves your support. Unlike our critics, we have forged ahead and done concrete work in an area which has been crying for attention for many a decade.

DASTUR DR FIROZE M. KOTWAL
Chairman, Athravan Educational Trust
November 23, 1985

The Athravan Educational Trust (AET) has been in the news for the past five months during which period both the vernacular papers and an English community magazine have alleged and reported a number of inaccuracies about the formation and the proposed activities of AET. Our position paper is not to doubt their concern but to dispel important misgivings and inaccuracies which otherwise well-meaning people might continue to harbor as a result of this unfortunate controversy.

No response in the Press

Early on in the controversy, we realized that the two vernacular papers, for reasons best known to themselves, were not willing to print both sides of the story. This observation is based upon the fact that in spite of numerous letters written in our favor (copies of which have been sent to us) hardly any have been printed, whilst letters against us have been given excessive coverage. Clearly, the paper's policy has been to stifle the support and goodwill of well-meaning people towards AET. In view of the above, we the trustees realized that it was a futile exercise to convey our point of view, without it being totally misrepresented and distorted in the press and hence our enforced silence.

The AET by way of its *first project* has decided to launch a post-madrasa educational and socio-economic program for the Zoroastrian clergy. Whereas the two residential madressas have been training boys up to a navar/maratab level, they have not been able to impart the kind of broad based education envisaged by the trustees of AET. We believe that our education will eventually motivate the boys to remain in the priesthood which hitherto, with the existing facilities at the three madressas, has not been the case. In fact, during the last five years, at least 40 boys have passed out from the two residential madressas, but only seven boys have become full-time priests according to our sources (five from Andheri and only two from the Dadar madrasa). In the corresponding period, at least 50 elderly priests have retired or died.

The trustees of AET in this first project believe that they can stem this decline by giving a right and balanced education at post-madrasa level to its participants, as currently a comparable program does not exist. What is offered at the other institutes and at university level is a dry course in mainly lin-

guistics. This is not adequate for a modern day priest who must, if he is to fulfill his mission, be in resonance with the laity. In short, the AET program in no way conflicts with the objects or existence of any of three madressas or other teaching institutions and will in fact go a long way to complement them. The need of the hour is to give the right motivation to mobilize the boys to join the program and then sustain them in the priesthood. Had the right type of education and incentives existed for the priests, they would not have been in the poor state of knowledge and neglect that today we find the majority of them in.

Furthermore, it has been reliably communicated to us that both the madressas have no surplus funds at present for giving any additional meaningful education and/or financial incentives to the boys in order to encourage them to be full-time practising athravans.

Thus, there is a clear necessity for a new project like the one we have proposed. This, we believe will improve the education and economic conditions of the athravans, both qualitatively and quantitatively. It should also be noted that the *funds of one crore rupees to be collected for this specific task will be spent wholly and exclusively for this first project of revitalizing the clergy.*

The Educational Program

A team of specialists have proposed a broad based educational program under the overall chairmanship of Dastur Dr Firoze M. Kotwal. In recent years Dastur Kotwal has gained experience both in India and abroad, having taught at the Center for the Study of World Religions at Harvard University. He will be aided by a team of qualified specialists trained in the courses, which they shall teach. These courses have been designed to give a better perspective to the participants and will

be tailored to their personal needs. The combination of such courses has not been offered before at post-madrasa level, and so only time will judge the impact which this teaching program will eventually have.

We would welcome any reasoned guidance from members of the clergy and/or other scholars who through their knowledge and experience may be able to help us improve our proposed educational program.

Why such broad based education?

The role (of the priests) in society needs to be expanded in order that there may be more interaction between the priests and the laity. Given a basic grounding in a variety of religious as well as secular subjects, the chances are that (the priests) will be in a better position to discuss and understand matters appertaining to life, society and community affairs. This in no way shall hinder the performance of high rituals which we recognize to be crucial for the survival of the Zoroastrian faith. Furthermore, a highly educated laity, expects great intellectual clarity and commitment from its priesthood which the AET educational program, we think, will give them. This new education will help to

AET therefore cannot be accused of taking away significant BPP resources, as AET's financial wherewithal has been directed mainly towards members of the public; the public are at liberty to support either and/or both schemes, if they so choose. It is time that the financial resources of the community are strengthened by the living, rather than from charities endowed in the past.

Trustees of AET

The board of trustees consists of personalities drawn from different walks of life. At present, the board comprises 10 trustees with every likelihood of it being expanded in the immediate future. The trustees have come together as they share some important common goals and the implementation of the same. Any serious allegations or misgivings against any of the trustees is to be regretted, as such allegations stem totally from the realm of the unsubstantiated, rather than that of fact.

Some points of clarification

Ms. Huzan Kharas has been appointed as the managing trustee of the trust with the unanimous approval of Dastur Dr F.M. Kotwal, H.P. Ranina and

No untrammelled powers

Clause 12-A(1) (b) of the trust deed clearly states that the managing trustee can exercise her powers of removing a trustee only "...in consultation and agreement with the majority of the other trustees..." According to Clause 10 of the trust deed it is the trustees and not the managing trustee alone who can appoint an additional trustee/s. There is therefore no question of the managing trustee "hiring or firing" any other trustee at her sole discretion, as such decisions can only be arrived at through a majority vote.

Rotation of trustees

The trust deed has provided for the retirement of one third of the trustees every year by rotation. The vacancies so caused shall be filled in by the other trustees electing persons to such vacancies. There is no question of the managing trustee having the sole power to re-appoint the trustee after the expiry of a three-year term of office. The rotation provision has been introduced to prevent persons remaining trustees for life, as is the case in most other trusts.

We have not provided for a ceiling on the number of terms of re-election for any of the trustees in order to benefit from their skills and abilities. To expect them to vacate their trusteeship purely on the grounds of their having completed their tenure of office, is in our opinion, contradictory to the confidence reposed by our donors.

Investments and immovable properties

It is common for a trust deed to empower the trustees to invest in a full range of assets as permitted by law, whether it be securities or immovable properties. Therefore, the trust deed empowers the trustees to purchase land and/or construct or renovate buildings as one of the objects. It is conceivable that as the projects of the trust increase in the future, the trustees may deem it appropriate, subject to the availability of funds, to build flats for some of the needy athravans. In fact, such powers are standard clauses in most trust deeds and our critics have attempted to distort a perfectly valid and legal objective.

We would also like to state that no funds have been invested in or donated to the film project *On Wings Of Fire (Quest for Zarathushtra)*. This film has already been premiered in New York on October 2, 1985.



Kotwal

The rotation of trustees has been introduced to prevent persons remaining trustees for life, as is the case in most other trusts.

increase their respect within the community which we believe, in turn, will be more than willing to support them financially.

No conflict with the BPP scheme

The proposed Punchayet scheme is for the amelioration of the priesthood through mainly financial assistance which is to be given to some of the priests. The AET project is a socio-educational one which in no way conflicts or competes with the BPP scheme. Furthermore, the trustees of the BPP plan to derive their funds mainly from a number of well endowed trusts.

K.P. Mistree.

N.P. Godrej, who became a trustee on June 6, 1985 and who continues to be a trustee, has also endorsed her appointment. Kharas' background and training are ideal to meet the needs of this project as she has done an accredited Masters' research thesis at the University of Bombay. Her thesis was on the plight of the mobeds in Bombay and was done under the guidance of Dr (Ms) Veera Mehta, currently secretary general of the International Association of the Schools of Social Work, Vienna. The board of trustees has full faith in Kharas' abilities and integrity.

The Zoroastrian Studies connection

Over the years, Zoroastrian Studies (ZS) has gained experience in the field of socio-religious education within the community and at university level both here in India as well as abroad. Hence the ZS involvement. AET however does not intend to promote a monopoly of thought in any way whatsoever. Members of the AET are individuals who have their own freedom of thought and courage of conviction to express their views. If any other board of trustees comes from the same school or from any other known ideological affiliation, no eyebrows are raised as this is an accepted practise. Unfortunately, in the present case because they happen to come from ZS, some of our detractors see this affiliation in a negative light.

We would also like to state that no financial benefit has, or is to flow between AET and ZS as alleged by our critics. The members of ZS, who are also the trustees of AET do not have a voting majority on the current board of the trust. Dastur Kotwal holds the casting vote in his capacity as chairman.

Just workers

We believe that work with responsibility is the best catalyst to produce the leaders of tomorrow. Our team of mainly young trustees are committed to bring to fruition the aims and objects of the trust because of the mantle of responsibility placed upon them in the first instance.

The AET accommodation dilemma

Currently, the Athravan Educational Trust operates from the office premises of Zoroastrian Studies. The trustees of AET have never had any intentions of becoming sub-tenants or seeking to usurp the premises as alleged, nor in fact is it possible to do so. Some AET trustees who are also ZS workers have always been using the premises even prior to the formation of AET and therefore it is inconceivable that they would desire to usurp the said premises. No rent or any form of compensation has been paid to ZS by AET. According to the opinion of a senior counsel, ZS is within its rights to allow AET to use the said premises jointly with ZS and that the permission of the trustees of the K.R. Cama Oriental Institute is not necessary for such user. In spite of this declared position, the K.R. Cama Oriental Institute trustees,



Ramna

in whom has been vested the fulfilment of the objects of their trust, have deemed it fit to file notices of eviction against AET, as well as against ZS who have been the rightful occupants for many years. It is regrettable that although the K.R. Cama Oriental Institute was founded with the main objective of promoting oriental studies, the trustees of the said trust have deemed it fit to victimize two organizations involved in the very fields for which the K.R. Cama Oriental Institute trust was first created. In fact additional space is presently available in the Institute building which by way of goodwill and support could still be given to AET to promote its activities.

Can we abolish the panthaky system?

Several persons are of the view that if the panthaky system was to be abolished, then the financial status of the ordinary athravans would improve substantially. Whilst these persons are entitled to this point of view, it must be understood that neither the AET nor any other trust even like the BPP, has the authority to do away with the age old panthaky system. It has to be borne in mind that every fire-temple, has its own independent board of trustees. Therefore, if the panthaky system is to be abolished, it is for the trustees of each fire temple to decide and this does not fall within the purview of AET activities. The trustees of one fire-temple did abolish the panthaky system, but subsequently reverted to it.

No benefits to trustees

Under the trust deed approved by the Charity Commissioner on the 23rd of March, 1985, no benefit whatsoever can be derived by any present or future trustee/s. There is no question of any immovable property being used as the residence of any present or future trustee/s. Furthermore, no firm of auditors can be appointed if any of their partners is a trustee of AET. Messrs S.B. Billimoria and Co, one of the lar-

It is totally erroneous to contend that there are two trust deeds or that any illegality has occurred during the registration of the same.

gest firms of chartered accountants in India, have been appointed as the auditors.

No two trust deeds

There appears to be some misconceptions regarding the registered trust deed due to an unregistered copy of the same published in the Press. The correct position is that the trust deed dated February 21, 1985, was signed by all the then trustees. This deed with all the necessary changes which were voluntarily effected by the trustees, was lodged in the office of the Charity Commissioner. Thirty days later the trust deed was considered by the Charity Commissioner under Section 19 of the Bombay Public Trust Act and was thereafter approved and registered on March 23, 1985. In short, it is totally erroneous to contend that there are two trust deeds or that any illegality has occurred during the registration of the same.

Nothing hidden

It is neither practical nor customary for a trust deed to be read out, or distributed at an inaugural function. Furthermore, the registered trust deed number was printed in our inaugural brochure to inform members of the public about the legal existence of the trust.

Opinions of legal luminaries

In view of the controversy and confusion raised by individuals and the Press, we have sought written opinions from Messrs M. Hidayatullah and J.C. Shah both ex-Chief Justices of the Supreme Court of India.

Whether the appeal made in the brochure for donations is in any way contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of the trust deed and in particular Clauses 4 and/or 5 thereof.

Justice M. Hidayatullah (MH): The appeal made in the brochure for donations is not contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of the trust deed.

Indeed, as said already, it effectuates object 4(ii) (a) and 5(i) of the deed. There may be and will be many other appeals to effectuate the other objects of the trust. To take up one such object at a time is not to deny the existence of the other objects.

Justice J.C. Shah (JS): In the negative.

Therefore the trust deed is not at variance with the brochure.

Whether the Querist would be guilty of breach of trust or of the provisions of any law if a restricted class of persons (namely 15 new entrants into the Zoroastrian priesthood) is chosen for the first project of the Querist, particularly having regard to the direction in clause four that the benefits of the trust are to be extended without reference to caste or creed?

(MH) The answer is in the negative. It is obvious that non-Zoroastrians cannot enter Zoroastrian priesthood. The restriction is in the very nature of things. The project to have 15 new entrants is part of the educational program connected with the Avestan people of Indo-Iranian stock. This benefit cannot be shared by persons of other castes and creeds. But there will be advantages from the trust for others in which Parsis may not or will not enter.

(JS) In the negative.

Therefore the trustees are well within their rights to undertake a project on the Zoroastrian priesthood as the first project.

Whether, upon the basis that in its first project the Querist will benefit only Zoroastrian priests, it can be properly contended that the Querist has made any misrepresentation to the tax authorities in claiming exemption under Section 80G of the Income Tax Act or Section 5(1)(v) of the Gift Tax Act.

(MH) The answer is no. Ten percent of the donors are non-Zoroastrians. Many more will come forth as more and more projects get underway. All communities will be entitled to be beneficiaries but as stated above every one cannot share in everything absolutely alike. So long as the doors are open to all beneficiaries according to what they can and what they may not share on their own, there is no misrepresentation or breach of Section 80G of the Income Tax Act or Section 5(1)(v) of the Gift Tax Act.

(JS) The circumstance that the educational project may benefit Zoroastrian

priesthood cannot justify an inference that the trustees have made any misrepresentation to the authorities in asking for and obtaining exemption under Section 80G of the Income-tax Act and under Section 5(1) (v) of the Gift Tax Act.

Therefore there has been no misrepresentation whatsoever to the tax authorities.

Whether the appeal made in (BPP trustee Homi) Ranina's letter is in any way contrary to or inconsistent with either the brochure or the terms of the trust deed and in particular Clauses 4 and/or 5 thereof.

(MH) For the reasons given in answer to the query above, the answer is in the negative. An approach to a part of trust obligation does not make it contrary. There is nothing established here except that the pilot project does not comprehend the totality of the trust obligation which it need not. The other objects can be covered by other pro-



jects and drives for collection of funds.

(JS) The appeal made in the letter of Mr. Ranina is not contrary to the terms of the trust and objects mentioned in Clauses 4 and 5.

Therefore Mr. Ranina's appeal letter for donations is not in any way contrary to the terms of the trust deed or brochure.

Whether the trustees of the Querist have the power or authority to refund all donations so far received by them to the respective donors thereof.

(MH) The answer is in the negative.

(JS) In the negative.

As nothing irregular or improper has occurred, where is the question of returning any donation in the first place?

Generally?

(MH) Nothing more needs to be said.

(JS) I have nothing more to add.

Thus no misrepresentations or irregularities on any points of law have

been found in the AET trust deed by the two ex-chief justices of the Supreme Court of India.

As a secular trust the trustees will be able to fulfil the objectives of a diverse and broad based educational program even better. (The) monies collected for the first project will be used for the same as endorsed in the opinions of both the learned judges.

We appeal to fair-minded people to dispel their doubts and misgivings in view of what has been clearly stated by two of India's foremost legal minds. We hope that the public will now recognize the false and misguided propaganda as well as the many wild allegations which have been printed in the Press against AET, for the past five months.

AET activities

In spite of this bitter controversy perpetuated by our critics, the AET corpus now exceeds Rs 10 lakhs, clearly indicating the public confidence repos-

Funds of one crore rupees to be collected for this specific task will be spent wholly and exclusively for this first project of revitalizing the clergy.

ed in the present board of trustees, otherwise such an amount would not have been donated over such a short period of time.

Educational program

Our educational plan which is divided into two parts has been launched with the first batch of young athravans.

Part A will include (a) a proper study and training in the recitation of prayers and their meanings (b) the role and nature of Zoroastrian rituals (c) Zoroastrian theology and ethics (d) world religions (e) the philosophy of religious thought (f) Iranian and Parsi history.

Part B will include (a) communications with particular reference to conversational English and public speaking (b) psychology with a focus on the theory and practice of human development leading to an awareness within man (c) social work in relation to community and environmental issues (d) contemporary issues (e) modes and

methods of developing educational courses for adults and children.

Medicare scheme

This scheme, already begun, will help all the needy priests who wish to avail themselves of our health program. Prior to the emergence of this project, free medical care was available on an ad hoc and sporadic basis. This medicare scheme has been made possible because of the wonderful support and cooperation given to us by 128 doctors who are now on the AET panel which continues to expand. Launched on an area-wise basis, the priests will now be able to choose from a panel of doctors local to their area, without the fear of an impending payment or fee. Some doctors have even agreed to give free medicines to the athravans.

We are also aware that some doctors have always treated the athravans free, but now many more doctors, specializing in different fields, have committed themselves to make their services available to a greater number of priests and here lies another advantage. We believe that by organizing and implementing this scheme it has already benefitted a number of priests, who hitherto have not been able to avail themselves of free medical service. Recently an athra-van from our medicare scheme told our investigator that he did not have to pay Rs 700 in X-ray fees, which in the past, he had had to pay. We plan to have a regular follow-up in which the scheme will be reviewed and evaluated with the doctors and athravans. This facility has been extended to the athravans' dependent family members as well.

Your support

We appeal to the public to contribute generously. The AET target is to collect one crore rupees, so that a reasonable income will be generated for the successful implementation of our first project. It is easy to criticize and often destroy the vision and work of others, but it is much more difficult to build and create new institutions for a better tomorrow. Let us heal the wounds of bitter controversy and re-unite in purpose so that we may be able to continue our work with greater fortitude and courage. The trustees of AET are going to pave the way for a new generation of athravans. Help us to care for others with wisdom.

Edited text of AET position paper.

“The real cause of controversy”

Two high priests present a rejoinder to the AET's Position Paper.

Hormazdyar K. Mirza

Kaikhusrroo M. JamaspAsa

On behalf of the trustees of the Athra-van Educational Trust (AET), one of its trustees and the chairman, Dastur Dr Firoze M. Kotwal has issued a write-up labeled the Position Paper (PP), along with a covering letter dated November 23, 1985 signed by him; but the PP itself does not bear any signature. We specifically mention this because some months ago, one of the AET trustees, (Homi) Ranina, sent one of us a “final copy” of the (AET's)-trust deed, along with a covering letter dated July 23, 1985. The trust deed was a cyclostyled copy and unsigned, while the covering letter bore Ranina's signature. Now this unsigned “final copy” has been unceremoniously disowned as an “unregistered copy” (PP p. 6). Further, it is not known whether this PP is the same as the promised “White Paper.”

Concoctions and Contradictions

It appears that the trustees of the AET have to concoct stories to conceal and confuse the real points at issue, and the real cause of controversy and opposition. In his covering letter to the trust deed dated July 23, 1985 Ranina states:

“As I had mentioned to you, those who attacked us in the press are persons who would like to see the day when agiaries in Bombay close down. They have told me so personally as being the solution to the problem of diminishing number of priests. They believe that there are too many agiaries in Bombay and the land on which the agiaries stand at present should either be sold off or used for construction of houses.”

On October 26, 1985, the same trustee at a meeting said that: “The critics

fear that AET will get control over athravans, hence they oppose.”

Now, in the covering letter to the PP signed by Kotwal, “envy and hostility” have been cited as the reasons for opposition against the AET. Subsequently, in the PP (p. 1) itself, public criticism in the Press has been alluded to:

“Our Position Paper is not to doubt their concern but to dispel important misgivings and inaccuracies which otherwise well-meaning people might continue to harbor as a result of this unfortunate controversy.”

Where now are the stories of “closing down agiaries,” “fear of control over athravans” and “envy and hostility?” The trustees lose credibility on account of these contradictions.

AET's growing paranoia

After depleting all their possible excuses as to why their critics want to criticise them, the AET has now dismissed all opposition as “personal” envy and hostility. Let us point out that if there have been any personal remarks made at all in this fray, they have originated from the AET protagonists and not from us. In fact, while we bear no personal antagonism, totally unwarranted and malicious allegations have been directed against us by some of AET's trustees. Our criticisms were and are against the functioning of the AET.

Madressas and religious education

Regarding the “first project,” the PP (p. 1) states: “...the two residential madressas have been training boys up to a navar/maratab level...”

Ranina is a trustee at the Dadar

Athornan Boarding Madressa, and Kotwal was a student, teacher and principal at the M.F. Cama Athornan Institute, Andheri, and they at least should therefore be aware that besides navar/maratab training, other religious and secular subjects are also taught to the students, enabling them to appear for a regular SSC examination. Kotwal, in his capacity as principal at the Andheri Institute, himself prepared a course of studies which is presently being implemented there.

In the same matter, the PP (p. 1) further states: "What is offered at the other institutes and at university level is a dry course in mainly linguistics."

The vague and wrong use of the term "linguistics" is significant in this context for the languages and scriptural studies of Zoroastrianism. Kotwal was associated with the Andheri Institute for more than two decades; with the Sir J. J. Zartoshti Madressa as a student for a considerable number of years. He prosecuted the course of studies there, received the degrees of M.A., Ph.D., scholarships and prizes. He has published books and articles in India and abroad and as the PP (p. 2) states has also "taught at Harvard." Are these the results of a "dry course" which has enabled Dastur Dr Kotwal to accomplish all this? Does he have such scant respect for his alma maters which have enabled him to receive this wealth of knowledge?

Further, the PP (p. 1-2) states: "Had the right type of education and incentives existed for the priests, they would not have been in the poor state of knowledge and neglect that today we find the majority of them in."

As far as priestly education is concerned, Dastur Dr Kotwal himself was in charge of such education for a long time. Was he not imparting "the right type of education" during all these years? Or has wisdom dawned on him now on account of the AET?

Since his appearance in Parsi public life about eight years ago, Khojeste Mistree has tried to convey the impression that scholarship in India is almost non-existent and that the goddess of scholarship resides only in the universities of Europe and America. Since Mistree has never prosecuted these essential and difficult studies of ancient and middle Iranian languages in which the Zoroastrian scriptures are composed, in any meaningful depth, the original scriptures are a sealed

book to him, and he solely relies on the English translations made by European and American scholars. Naturally, he would find these present courses "dry."

The other trustees of the AET, not being conversant with the subject, are

AET is therefore a non-starter and a complete failure.

The PP (p. 8) further writes: "The AET corpus now exceeds Rs 10 lakhs..."

The trustees may well take pride in their ability to collect money but the



Mirza

The problems faced by the priests, according to the thesis, are those faced by all people living in Bombay.

incapable of independent opinion or judgement, and yet it appears that all the trustees unanimously denounce the difficult and essential studies of the Zoroastrian scriptures at university level.

First project

Suddenly, we are informed in the PP (pp. 1,2 passim) that the welfare and education of the athravans is merely the "first project" of the AET, and not their sole objective. What the other future projects are to be, is undecided; they may or may not be concerned with the athravans at all. The first step of this first project as envisaged by the AET (p. 1) is "to give the right motivation to mobilize the boys to join the program and then sustain them in the priesthood." The original "first project," as defined in the second question to the legal authorities (PP p. 6) reads: "...a restricted class of persons (namely 15 new entrants into the Zoroastrian priesthood) is chosen for the first project of the Querist..."

Evidently, the AET has failed to mobilize these "15 new entrants" and so have resorted to duping the community by substituting already trained and practicing "young athravans" (PP p. 8) for their educational program. We reiterate that the need of the hour is a few new entrants to the priesthood who could perform the higher liturgical ceremonies. At this stage the community does not need teachers and/or preachers spreading un-Zoroastrian notions — we need well-versed yozdathregars who can tend the sacred fires and thus keep alive the flame of Zoroastrianism. Kotwal, our colleague, is seized of this grave problem facing the community, yet it perplexes us as to why he has associated himself with this project. The "first project" of the

stark fact remains that they could not manage to get "15 new entrants" as blusteringly announced, or even one. Considering the unethical manner, misguiding propaganda and wide publicity on a commercial basis, the AET may amass vast fortunes but they could not get a single new entrant.

Nothing hidden?

The AET would have the public believe that all is above board and in the open regarding their affairs. While we understand that it is not customary for a trust deed to be read out at an inaugural function, when subsequent queries were levelled at the AET trust deed, why did the trustees maintain what they termed a "dignified/enforced silence?" As the Parsi Press has already pointed out, it would be willing to publish the AET view-point provided the clarification came from the office-bearers of the AET.

The PP (p. 6) states that there appears to be "misconception, serious allegations, misgivings" regarding the AET. To allay the misgivings and doubts which persist and will still persist, the AET is obliged to clarify publicly all important matters pertaining to the working of the Trust. In fact, all important matters have been hidden: the trust deed itself, the first project, implementation of the first project, names of the 15 new entrants and teachers, the place where the new entrants are trained, names of donors, Zoroastrians and non-Zoroastrians and amount donated, how the monies are to be spent — all these are either kept a closely guarded secret or explanations and clarifications are being given at get-togethers and tea parties.

Our initial silence with regard to the AET was due to lack of sufficient evidence as well as faith in the critical dis-



All important matters are either kept a closely guarded secret or explanations and clarifications are given at get-togethers and tea parties.

cernment of some of its more eminent members. It now appears that our faith as well as that of the community in general, judging by the spate of material being published in the newspapers, was misplaced. Men whom we considered to be of promise and capability seem to have been led astray themselves by fanciful schemes. There is a time and place for youth in the scheme of things, but this scheme is certainly not one of them. It is not even their youth that we object to; it is their basic lack of knowledge of the situation governing the lives and work of the mobeds, and the kind of training that should be imparted to them. Psychology, sociology, public speaking and the like are not going to provide us with yozdathregars who will tend our sacred fires.

"House upon the sand..."

Much has been made of the qualifications and abilities of the managing trustee, Ms Huzan Kharas. But what is questionable is the validity of her research thesis on the "plight" of the mobeds, on the results on which, as it is stated, rests the entire foundation of the AET. The so-called thesis may be described as an opinion poll based on the questionable information supplied by a few persons.

Having been in the profession all our lives, having been associated with our brethren all along, we can emphatically state that the results of the thesis are half-baked and lopsided. The researcher has no in-depth understanding and independent study of the life-style, the problems and requirements of the priesthood. The problems faced by the priests, according to the thesis, are those faced by not only the Parsi community but all people living in Bombay — housing, transport, sickness, poverty are not the special problems of the Zoroastrian priesthood.

Here again it is significant to note regarding the appointment of Kharas as the managing trustee that the other trustees have either not been consulted

or have not voiced their opinion. The PP (p. 3) notes:

"Ms Huzan Kharas has been appointed as the managing trustee of the trust with the unanimous approval of Dastur Dr F.M. Kotwal, H.P. Ranina and K.P. Mistree. N.P. Godrej, who became a trustee on June 6, 1985 and who continues to be a trustee, has also endorsed her appointment."

Evicting the AET

If the trustees of the K.R. Cama Oriental Institute have seen fit to file notices of eviction against AET as well as Zoroastrian Studies (ZS) who are currently occupying premises in the Institute, it has not been without valid cause and provocation. The correspondence between the Cama Oriental Institute, ZS and AET has already appeared in the Press and those who have read that will be able to judge for themselves who is being "victimized."

On October 26, 1985, Ranina, in the presence of Kharas and Erwad Dr R.P. Peer, made an announcement to the effect that the AET will soon leave the present premises in the K.R. Cama Oriental Institute building. But, in the PP (p. 5) on behalf of the other trustees of the AET, the chairman asserts:

"In fact additional space is presently available in the Institute building which, by way of goodwill and support could still be given to AET to promote its activities."

This is, to say the least, the height of impudence and insolence.

Legal opinions... conditional

On behalf of the trustees, six questions have been asked to two legal luminaries of India. The PP (pp. 6-8) has published these questions with the opinions, which are revealing. They are negative but conditional, and hence they require careful scrutiny. The PP does not state whether the questions and opinions are published verbatim but we presume they are only extracts.

The very first opinion shows that the appeal in the brochure "effectuates"

only certain clauses of the trust deed and not the whole trust deed. So far as the trust deed is concerned, the trust will have to make "other appeals to effectuate the other objects of the trust." Hence the conclusion is that the trust deed, considered as a whole, is at variance with the brochure, and the conclusion drawn by the trustees in the PP (p. 6) is tendentious and wrong.

Moreover, the legal opinions shockingly reveal for the first time that the education and welfare of the athravans is only the first project of the AET. "But there will be advantages from the trust for others in which Parsis may not or will not enter (PP p. 7)." This clearly indicates that according to the trust deed "all communities are entitled to be beneficiaries." So long as "doors are open to all," there is no breach of law; but if the doors are open only to Zoroastrians and not for others, then according to the trust deed it is a breach of law. Hence the negative opinion is conditional. If the trustees act only according to the brochure, it indeed is an act of breach of trust and breach of law.

Ethical and spiritual values?

At a meeting on November 26, 1985, in the presence and apparent approval of two of the AET trustees, a protagonist defined AET in the following words: "It is cheating but not illegal." If that is so, God save the Zoroastrian community.

Considering all that has been said, argued and written by the trustees and protagonists of AET, it is evident that the AET is a mundane cosmopolitan institution seeking to indulge in business, purchase and sale of property, films, dramas, radio and television; seeking to take undue advantage of circumstances and legal quibblings, throwing overboard all ethical and spiritual values!

Futile exercise

So far as the Zoroastrian community is concerned, the AET is an exercise in fooling; with the exposition at Dadar and now the Position Paper, it has become an exercise in double duping. The trust deed and the PP vividly illustrate all the traits of an astute lawyer and a keen businessman, but they show neither the honesty of a religious preacher nor the goodness of a religion, neither the virtue of a Zoroastrian nor the nobility of a human being.



For Pure Diamonds

K. WADIA

JEWELLERS

324, GRANT ROAD, BOMBAY 400 007. TELEPHONE: 371483
APPOINTED VALUERS BY THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

With the Best Compliments of

 INGERSOLL-RAND (INDIA) LIMITED

Manufacturers of

Air & Gas Compressors * Rock Drill Equipment

* Vacuum Pumps

Wind power pact

Thermax Pvt Ltd have signed an agreement with the Danish firm Danreg Vinokraft (commonly known as Bonus) for marketing and technical collaboration in setting up wind turbine stations for generating electricity from windmills, notes *The Economic Times* of October 17, 1985. The agreement was signed by Rohinton D. Aga, chairman and managing director of Thermax and Palle Norgaard, director of Bonus.

The collaboration was signed in view of Thermax's successful bid for a government tender for the supply of 30 wind turbines for a value of Rs 25 lakhs, "to be put up all over the country on an experimental" basis, notes *The Economic Times* report. "Thermax, which had been exploring possibilities of tapping wind energy... found that (the Danish firm) has a technology that is suitable to Indian conditions."

The manufacture of wind turbines is to be taken up by Thermax in a phased manner depending on government response and its popularity with the people. Wind turbines are specially useful in villages where a steady supply of power is needed for farms, factories and houses. It has a short gestation period of six to twelve months as compared to hydel or thermal power, besides being cost-effective.

"The government is therefore keen on encouraging manufacturers to come into the field of producing non-conventional energy to supplement every kilowatt of power needed by the country," adds the report.



From left: Poonawalla, Bagwadia and Commissariat

Wind energy potential in India has been found on the coastal regions of Gujarat, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu, states the report.

Marketing manager

Ms Lila F. Poonawalla, general manager, exports, Vulcan-Laval Ltd, has been given the additional responsibilities of general manager, marketing, notes a press release.

"Within three years of taking over (as export manager at Vulcan-Laval), exports increased from one million rupees to 300 million," notes the write-up, which adds that in recognition of career attainments, Poonawalla received the Institute of Marketing Management's golden trophy for the best woman executive for the year 1983 at the hands of President Giani Zail Singh. She has also been presented The Alankar Award instituted by the International Business Commentary for the year 1985, states the write-up.

The 40-year-old Bachelor of Engineering (mechanics) has acquired 17 years of experience in the organization, where she has served in various capacities prior to her present designation,

notes her bio-data.

Poonawalla has attended various training courses on management within India and also the Stanford Executive Program in California, USA, and lectures on international marketing at the Harvard Business Management Center, USA, adds the bio-data.

Du Pont's Bagwadia

Cyrus Bagwadia has been appointed general manager of Du Pont Far East Inc. India Branch — liaison office. This is the first time that an Indian has been appointed to take over Du Pont operations in India, notes *The Economic Times* of September 24, 1985.

Bagwadia joined Du Pont in 1983 as manager in charge of polymer products, for which he provided technical and market support to the distributors of the Company in India (Voltas Ltd, Indmag Pvt Ltd, and Union Commercial and Industrial Co Pvt Ltd) notes a press release.

A Bachelor of Science in chemistry and plastic technology, 38-year-old Bagwadia's previous experience includes a 15-year stint in Voltas Ltd, from where he retired as marketing manager, adds the press release.

The presiding secretary

The newly appointed president of the National Institute of Personal Secretaries (NIPS) is Ms Zarine Commissariat, executive secretary to the presi-

Russi Naoroji Engineer (left) managing director of Industrial Boilers and M.K. Sridhar, technical director of Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd, concluding a licence agreement for the manufacture of fluidised bed boilers, thereby becoming the first manufacturer in the country to work with BHEL in high-tech areas. Engineer was awarded the A.R. Bhat Entrepreneurship Award for outstanding performance in the engineering industry in 1984.



With Compliments of

JEENA & COMPANY

**IATA Approved
Air Cargo,
Clearing, Forwarding
& Warehousing Agents**

10, Veer Nariman Road,
Fort, Bombay 400 023.

Cable: "JUSTITIA"

Telex: 2313

Phone: 312032

BRANCHES:

E. Merc House,
19/B, Shakespeare Sarani,
Calcutta 700 071.
Phone: 444711

"Jeena House",
50, Hanuman Road,
Connaught Circus,
New Delhi 110 001.
Phone: 310821

Devtha Plaza,
C. 14, Residency Road,
Bangalore 560 025.
Phone: 26215

No. 26, 26, 24, 2nd floor,
Harbour Approach Road,
Vishakapatnam 530 001.
Phone: 65942

205, Gera Chambers,
Off Boat Club Road,
Pune 411 001.
Phone: 65942

No. 6, Jaffar Syrang Street,
Madras 600 001.
Phone: 26215

dent of Roussel Pharmaceuticals (India) Ltd, notes a press release.

Projecting the professional image of secretaries, NIPS organizes a meeting every month on a subject of interest to the members, who "are all top-flight secretaries," notes Commissariat, a graduate with diplomas in secretarial practice, advertising and public relations. In February 1986, NIPS is slated to organize a Secretary of the Year contest, notes the release.

Registered in 1970, with headquarters in Bombay, and chapters in Madras and Calcutta, NIPS is affiliated to the Association of Secretaries in Asia and to the Professional Secretaries International, USA, adds the write-up.

Open membership

The Zoroastrian Co-operative Credit Bank Ltd has, "amended the bye-laws to enable the Bank to throw open the membership (to non-Zoroastrians)... and expand its activities to meet the growing competition from other large urban co-operative Banks," noted the president of the Bank, Rustomji Gagrath, at the fifty-eighth annual general meeting of the Bank, held on October 18, 1985. Membership, restricted to Parsi Zoroastrians only, has prevented the Bank from expanding its business; as soon as the Registrar of Co-operative Societies approves the change, the Bank's activities will increase, necessitating additional employment of officers and clerks, said Gagrath.

In the meanwhile, the opening of the Bank's Gamadia Colony branch at Tardeo, Bombay, has been delayed because the Co-operative Bank Employees Union has filed an application, with the Labour Court at Bombay alleging that the Bank was making an illegal change, noted Gagrath, adding that the Bank will contest the case.

Administrative changes made by L.C. Mistry, now secretary and chief executive of the Zoroastrian Bank, have irked "old employees of the Bank (who have) moved the Union to take proceedings in the Labour Court." This has prevented the Bank from appointing additional officers and clerks, noted Gagrath.

Gagrath also discussed the introduction of the computerized accounting system, as advised by the Reserve Bank of India. Computerized processing of local and out-station cheques, is expected to aid the growing volume of business, he added.

BOYS' TOWN Public School Nasik 2

Recognised as a **Public School** by the Department of Education for Indian Merit Scholars. **Excellent Climate — All-round Education :**

All Academic Subjects—Technical Subjects: Workshop. Technology, Mechanical & Electrical Maintenance, Carpentry & Farming. Training in **Self-Government** through Elected Boys' Office bearers. **Games—Physical Training — Daily Assembly with Congregational Prayers —** Weekly intensive Zoroastrian — Geeta-Koran classes — **Excellent Modern Kitchen and Dining Room facilities — Airy Dormitories.** Moderate Fees. Freeships and Concessions to Deserving Students.

Apply to —

THE MANAGING TRUSTEE

**P. N. MEHTA EDUCATION
TRUST**

Cooks Building, 324 Dr. D. N. Road
Bombay 400 001.

"We should be the first..."

Jal Engineer recounts his pioneering efforts in the production of plastic molded luggage.

Parinaz Toddywalla

Photo: Homvar Mistry



"I knew bigger planes were being used. Increase in the capacity of planes meant there would be more frequent travelling and subsequently a greater demand for bags." Jal Sorabjee Engineer, pioneer of the molded luggage industry in India and presently chairman of Universal Luggage Manufacturing Company, spoke of his reasons for launching into this business.

Recovering from a bout of flu at his Napean Sea Road residence overlooking the huge expanse of sea on November 18, 1985, Engineer had been working on export plans: "Only yesterday I was working out the costs of a shipping container carrying our goods to the United States, Europe and Australia."

With a turnover of Rs 34 crores, a total work force of 2,600 and factories at Bombay, Satara, Paithan and Waluj, Engineer's Company is the number two luggage manufacturer in the country. "Last year we would have had an annual turnover of Rs 51 crores but because of a strike by the 1,100 workers in the Bombay factory and sympathetic strike in Satara, we lost production of Rs 17 crores. The strike has been going on for the last 13 months because of which we had to shift our office to Madras... Labor problem has today become one of the departments of industry — like accounts or sales."

The leader in the luggage manufacture industry is Blowplast (makers of the VIP range of travel requisites), which incidentally was also started by Engineer. "Blowplast was my proprietary company and blowing plastic is my invention in India. Hence the name Blowplast. I started the Company with

an investment of Rs 4,000: Rs 2,000 I had managed to save from my salary when I was serving; and Rs 2,000 was raised as loan from my family. I held 80 percent of the shares."

For the first three years they continued on hand machines designed by Engineer. In 1957, they were able to afford a second-hand automatic machine and later witnessed a fresh surge of expansion with each passing year.

"I am a practical engineer," announced Engineer, proud to be a self-made man whose working experience included an apprenticeship with Vauxhall Cars in the UK. In recognition of his consistent industrial progress, Engineer was among the first seven self-made industrialists to be awarded the Udyog Vibhushan, instituted in 1985 by the Institute of Trade and Industrial Development.

Continuing with his trail of thoughts on Blowplast with just a little bit of nostalgia, he continued, "I didn't sell Blowplast. When I was abroad for a few months, during my absence it was converted into a public limited company. As the board of directors could not manage, they decided to hand over the management to another party. As such I became a minority because I was a single person. Mr Dilip Piramal took over and I was forced to sell."

In 1975 under the banner of Universal Luggage, the Bombay-born, Karachi-educated Engineer started another luggage company. Presently the makers of Aristocrat, Oscar and Champion luggage, Engineer explained how each product served a different market. While Aristocrat is supposed to

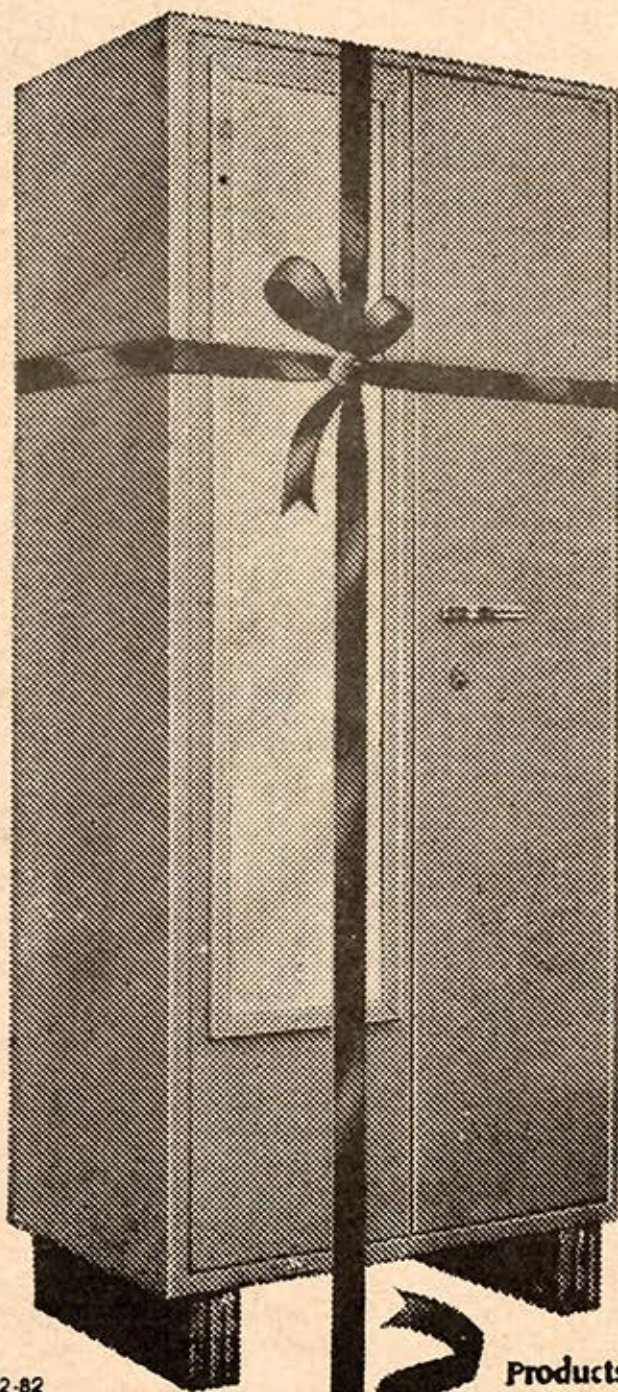
cater to the well-to-do class, Oscar is meant for the middle-class and Champion is for the financially weaker class.

Though undaunted by his present competitors, Blowplast and Safari, Engineer fears that by next May there will be in the market, products from the B.D. Group of Gujarat which has received collaboration from Samsonite, an American Tourist venture ("number two in the world"). This would mean a loss in their sales because "VI", Aristocrat and Safari together haven't put in as much capital as they have — Rs 20 crores — so sure they'll take over a larger share of the market. They are planning in advance... Even the person selected for sales, Harmeet Singh, is a very dynamic fellow... That's why I always believe we should be the first — manufacture something new and then face less competition."

Small scale entrepreneurs do have an opening in the luggage industry "if they manufacture small sized luggage, as these are the items which are in great demand," opined Engineer.

Upholding his decision of setting up factories in the villages, Engineer feels "If many industries would move there, especially when the business is a paying one, the poor in the villages could be well looked after." Referring to his factories at Satara, Paithan and Waluj which were established in the course of the last three-and-a-half years and employing over 1,500 villagers, Engineer explained, "In the remote areas there is absolutely nothing except us. We are the only ones to employ them." A familiar sight at these factories would be the unloading of truckloads

Godrej Storwel – the gift of a lifetime



The Godrej Storwel is the ideal gift for any occasion. A gift that will be appreciated for a lifetime. The most functional yet elegant steel cupboard, it offers distinct benefits like greater durability and more security as compared to conventional cupboards, steel or wood. And to add to its elegance it has a superior scratch resistant finish obtained by a painting process exclusive to Godrej.

Besides a full length 137 cm mirror of imported plate glass it has unpickable locks, coricealed hinges, a 3-way interlocking bolting device, and adjustable shelves. All this makes the Godrej Storwel a memorable and lasting gift.

Godrej®

ULKA-GS-2-82

Products of superior technology... lasting value.

of raw materials and simultaneous loading of the finished products which are taken to distant markets. The laborers, who initially face problems handling a hammer and screwdriver, are given six months of training which gives them confidence to literally hit the nail on the head. Though initially the labor comes cheap, once they are trained, they demand much higher pay.

Engineer's only regret is that there is no place for women in his industries, as the nature of work in a luggage manufacturing unit requires handling of heavy goods.

Though Engineer does not consider his presence at the factories to be indispensable, it is important for him to select his own board of directors amongst whom he can distribute the managerial responsibilities. Out of a total of 11 members on his board of directors, six, including himself, are Parsis. Kersi Marfatia is export director, Nozer Nowroji, marketing director, Minoo Abadan, finance director, and his son-in-law, Sarosh Bharucha and Nozer Irani looking after the business in Bombay. His son, Firoze was due to join as full-time director, beginning December 1985.

Engineer gave due credit to his creditors — Canara Bank and the State Industrial and Investment Corporation of Maharashtra (SICOM) for advancing the funds he needed to set up his factories in the underdeveloped areas: "Canara Bank gave me an overdraft of Rs 5,000; today they are earning five crore rupees," he said.

Pleased with the returns of his factories in the remoter areas, Engineer admitted, "I like to employ villagers." He was equally emphatic to add, "I try to employ Parsis. I would definitely give them preference but at the lower levels where do you find Parsis?"

The day-to-day affairs of the Company are supervised by the managing director, Retd Gen U.C. Chopra, who has a professional team to assist him, leaving Engineer free time to plan new designs. "Every day we think whether anything new can be introduced. The market is so big that till we reach our installed capacity, we'll not diversify. Later we will have to think of something else — in plastics.

"In the Indian environment, ups and downs are inevitable," cautioned Engineer. "Difficulty in business is always there but we have to face it and think of the problems in advance."

continued from page 9.

prize for excellent performance at Veletri. His recitals have also been broadcast on Italian radio and television.

A bachelor of arts in modern languages, Vachha is "the holder of the coveted performers' diploma, Licentiate of the Royal School of Music (LRSM), London. He also teaches piano as the principal subject, at the Institute, E. Mattei, in Rome, adds the write-up.

Even though he has a professorship with music institutes in Italy and



*Fatakia (far left):
"thrill of speaking"*

Rana: studying international relations

France, and gives private tuitions in both theory and practice, Vachha plans to visit Europe, USA and India on a concert tour this year, notes the press release.

Working in languages

"The people who come here don't speak a word of English and totally depend upon (interpreters) even to order lunch!" Translator-interpreter Ms Bakhtavar Fatakia was talking about the inflow of foreign technicians into the country due to increasing industrial collaborations. Fatakia, who, apart from English, speaks French, Italian, Spanish and German, says there is wide scope in the field for linguists capable of translations and interpretations.

"My assignments have included translation work at the installation of an aluminium foil plant, the commissioning of a mango-pulp concentration plant, interpretation for a well-known film director for the Film Festival of 1984, and for an Italian healer who wanted to visit the Sai Baba Ashram near Bangalore," notes Fatakia in a press release. "One meets a lot of interesting people, but it is not really a glamorous job, as some people seem to think," qualifies Fatakia. "At times, plants are set up in very distant places, away from the city. There are no good hotels, restaurants or decent toilets...

(Moreover) interpreting in factories can be tiring since one has to stand the whole day and (shout above) the terrific noise" all around.

Twenty-six-year-old Fatakia, who gets her assignments mainly through contacts, agencies, hotels and by word of mouth, needs a few days to prepare the subject, especially if it is for technical interpretation. She also receives a briefing from her employers. According to Fatakia, an interpreter at her level can earn anything between Rs150 to 400 per day while translators charge

Rs 20 to 30 per hundred words translated.

Fatakia spends a lot of time perfecting languages and notes that "though it certainly takes a lot of time and persistence and will to speak a language well... I really feel that all the hours of studying the conjugation of verbs and grammar and vocabulary pay off, when finally you experience the joy and thrill of speaking a language fluently."

Rana for Paris

Dr Aspy Phiroze Rana, professor and head of the department of political science, and dean, faculty of arts at the Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda was invited by the International Political Science Association to present a paper at the Association's XIII World Congress which was held in Paris between July 15 to 20, notes a press release.

Rana was also requested to participate in the University of Southampton's Ford Foundation Project on North-South Security Issues, and to visit the Centre for the Analysis of Conflict at the University of Kent in U.K., adds the release.

At present, Rana is director of the University Grants Commission Special Assistance Program in International Relations Studies.

Steamship agents — master stevedores
dubashes — lighterage contractors

Darabshaw B. Cursetjee's Sons (Bombay) Pvt. Ltd.

Darabshaw House, Ballard Road, Bombay - 400 038.

Grams: 'DEADWEIGHT' Telex: 5824 DBCB IN
Phone: 260021 (4 Lines) (Dock Office: 262230)

Also associates at

Calcutta, Vishakhapatnam, Kakinada, Mangalore,
Bhavnagar, Bedi-port, Navlakhi, Veral, Porbunder & Kandla.

Also sole Government Landing contractors at
Jamnagar, (Bedi) Bhavnagar.



The Old & the new

Many old landmarks in India draw appreciative remarks from visitors. Like the gracious Bombay Central Station; the Nasik Security Press; the stately old Reserve Bank building and many more — all built by Shapoorji Pallonji & Co. Pvt. Ltd., over the last 120 years.

Today, keeping pace with the times, Shapoorji Pallonji have changed the face of the sky-line with sky-scrappers like the new Taj Intercontinental and Oberoi Towers Hotels; the new Reserve Bank Building, Mafatlal Centre; the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research; the Homi Bhabha Auditorium and the massive Telco Complex at Pimpri, Pune.

**"Over 120 years of Experience
in Civil Projects & Construction."**



SHAPOORJI PALLONJI & CO. (PVT.) LTD.

Engineers & Construction Contractors

New India Centre, 17 Cooperage Road, Bombay-400 039 India.

Telex: 011-2124; Tel.: 2026614, 2020228, 2020762

"Nuts" over acting

Shernaz Patel talks of her recent taste of fame and her future plans.

Niloofer J. Madon

"It started as a fun thing to do, not something to work at or take seriously," remarked Shernaz Patel of her launch into acting. Clad in a red T-shirt over stone washed jeans, with her short hair tied back in a pony tail, Patel did not look anything near her 22 years, let alone the budding TV personality and film actress.

Currently acting in the popular TV serial *Khandaan* which deals with the business and personal intrigues of a successful business family and its competitors, Patel was selected to act opposite matinee idol Kumar Gaurav in a new tele-film titled *Janam*, the story of an illegitimate son who comes to terms with life. Patel plays the part of Kumar's girl friend.

She is also acting in *Nuts*, a play produced by her father, noted theater personality Burjor Patel, which has a lot of new faces in it, says Patel. The courtroom drama is being directed by Rahul D'Cunha and is about a prostitute who kills her customer and is later diagnosed a paranoid schizophrenic at the mental hospital she is admitted into.

Moreover the German director Wolfram Mehring ("I'm not sure of the spelling" says Patel) who conducted a workshop in May 1985, is coming back to do a play for the National Centre for the Performing Arts (NCPA) East-West Theatre Encounters, where actors from different countries and from all over India will participate. The play, *The exception and the rule*, will be enacted by Indians only — including Patel — and "will concentrate a lot on

body movement — that kind of thing," says Patel.

Patel's new found fame has made her theater oriented parents "very excited, very happy and proud — usual parent reaction" she adds with a smile. "They were more excited than even I was!" Patel's mother Ruby is a noted stage actress while her elder brother Marzban, who is 25, works with their parents and handles production, advertising and finance of the plays they undertake. Patel's younger sister Feroza, who is 18 and studying at St Xavier's College, helps her parents backstage.

Patel's ambition is to form a theater troupe. She cites the example of the Theatre Group which the Padamsees (Alyque and Pearl) launched when they were still in college, and notes, "They were so dedicated, constantly experimenting." Fired by the example of Ebrahim Alkazi, now director of the National School of Drama, who has produced the work of most of the major playwrights, Patel says, "that is what I'd like to do," and does not consider even three shows a play to be a waste ("I don't see the point in making it go on and on").

But Patel is aware of the limitations of the English theater in Bombay:

"First of all it should be a daily theater like in the Marathi theater, which is constantly travelling all over Maharashtra. In the English theater everyone is working and travel is problematic for them." And so "unless you develop an audience" it will be just where it is today. Also, "In plays there is no money, I cannot make a career out of it... Even if you get Rs 100 a show and do five shows a month, Rs 500 is not much."

Patel says there are ample theater houses in which to perform, but "maybe one or two (more) might help. As far as noncommercial theater goes, however, there is (a vacuum). The NCPA helps a lot, and there is Prithvi and Chabildas. (But) I feel there should be still more."

Patel started her acting career in school (Convent of Jesus and Mary, Fort) where she took part in many plays including *Proposal*, *Dumb Wife of Cusrow Baug* and *Anticlockwise*, all directed by Pearl Padamsee. Later, at the St Xavier's College, Patel acted in and directed a play called *Hitch-hiker* for an inter-collegiate competition which proved to be "an absolute disaster." She then went to the Palmyre High School, Pennsylvania, USA, on a Rotarian students exchange program,



Photo: Sherwin Crasto. Courtesy: The Afternoon Dispatch and Courier

"Everyone
is a potential winner.

Some people
are disguised
as losers.

Don't let
their appearances
fool you"

- Kenneth Blanchard
Spencer Johnson

THERMAX PRIVATE LIMITED, THERMAX HOUSE,
4 BOMBAY-PUNE ROAD, SHIVAJINAGAR, PUNE 411 005



where a play in which she took part made the local TV as part of a news-clip. Back in Bombay, Patel graduated in psychology, sociology and German, from Elphinstone College, at which time she acted in *It's Not Funny Janaab*, *Antigone* and *Diary of Anne Frank*. While acting in *Antigone*, she was offered a small role in actress Simi Garewal's TV serial, *It's a Woman's World*, in which she did a small skit on infidelity with film director Mahesh Bhatt. The director, impressed by her acting, offered her a role in his new tele-film *Janam*.

Patel obtained her role in *Khandaan*, through her friend Vivek Vaswani who also acts in the serial. Says Patel of her experience in TV, "When I first started off with *Khandaan*, it was very wierd. I still cannot get over it. You have to look at a spot or a shoulder when actually you are supposed to be looking at the person. You are supposed to look into the camera frame so that your face is seen by the TV audience." However, Patel is unhappy that despite great efforts at improving her Hindi diction, they chose to dub her voice. The voice in *Khandaan* is therefore not

hers but that of Rita Rani Kaur, and asks, "Why didn't they try me? It bothers me... Some scenes I felt should have been quite different. I felt there was a certain softness in the

Unless "you develop an audience," English theater will be just where it is today.

voice, needless at some points (though not always," she added.

"I won't say (my Hindi) is still good (enough), but compared to the first episode there is a drastic improvement. I'm getting capable of changing sentences and being grammatically correct!" says Patel.

Acting in *Janam* was easier for Patel, for as she says, "the scenes were mostly long shots, so that we could go through the whole scene without realising that the camera was there."

Asked to compare the three mediums in which she has acted, Patel

notes, "In a way, TV is better. (The audience) gets to see the person fully, with expression, as against the stage where (the finer elements) are sometimes lost."

Patel wants to go to England this year, "but it's not working out." Applications for the three-year acting course are not entertained unless accompanied by an audition, her air ticket for which would be an unnecessary expense, if she were not chosen. But Patel adds, "If someone can give me a 70 percent guarantee of scholarship, then I'll go." In the meanwhile, Patel is checking out whether a video tape of her acting will suffice for an audition.

Patel's future plans are somewhat confused and overlapping. "I ideally want to work with children. In Europe there is this new method (of teaching): Theater in education, which deals with all age-groups (up to) the teens, and which discovers their abilities through the theater. You can teach any subject through it... I want to get into TV serials in production; something to do with communications. I got a couple of offers but I don't know what I'm going to do finally..."

Conference, Wedding or Party — Leave it in West End's experienced hands.

Your Favourite!

'The Gourmet'

Restaurant/Coffee Shop offers

EXECUTIVE BUFFET LUNCH

- 16 delicious courses.
- From 12.30 p.m. to 3 p.m. every day.

Including Sundays.

Restaurant open from 8 a.m. to 11.30 p.m.



A NAVJOTE, A LAGAN, A SILVER OR GOLDEN WEDDING ANNIVERSARY, A FIRST-BIRTHDAY PARTY, OR ANY SUCH HIGHLIGHTS OF YOUR LIFE

Celebrate them at West End Hotel, in the beautiful setting of the Terrace Hall. Choose the day and leave all the other problems to us.

AT THE WEST END HOTEL

Hold a **RECEPTION**

in the stately splendour of our

Banquet Room OR

in the delightful setting of our newly renovated **Terrace Hall**

West End's Conference Plan

Rs. 65/-*

+ 15% Sales Tax per head

Inclusive of: Room Rent, Buffet Lunch, Morning and Evening Tea.

* Ask for special concession offer for larger conferences.



West End Hotel
45, New Marine Lines,
Bombay 400 020. Tel. 298121
Telex: 011 2892 BESTIN
Cable: BESTHOTEL
MSP: 5001WEH/1214/R9

continued from page 14

the interview/personality tests, Golwala noted, "We are prepared to spend any amount (on coaching) because we want more administrators."

Drugs

To counter the problem of drug addiction afflicting Parsi youth, the BPP is considering joining hands with Russell Pinto's Seva Dhan (an institution with established infrastructure to treat drug addicts). The cost of Pinto's new project, approximately six lakh rupees, is to be borne by Caritas India, an Indo-German funding agency, but they have requested the BPP to contribute one lakh rupees towards the capital cost of investment in land.

The BPP has requested principals of colleges in Bombay to include Parsi professors and/or students on their joint committees which will monitor anti-drug programs. Such committees, formed at the behest of the vice-chancellor of Bombay University, are expected to suggest and implement effective programs to solve the problem of drug addiction. So far five to six principals have affirmed the presence of Parsis on their joint committees.

Prof Khurshed Sheriar, vice-principal of Jai Hind College, has reportedly sent circular letters to his students' guardians with a view to increasing awareness of the problem of drug abuse. This prompted Kanga to comment on the increase of drug peddlars around the prestigious schools of Bombay and the launching of a government program to curb the activities of peddlars. Anklesaria stressed the need for preventive programs instead of curative ones.

Trust Advisory Service

The Trust Advisory Service project entrusted to the Zoroastrian Community Development Institute (ZCDI) will continue its activities for another year at a cost of Rs 63,000 per annum, notes the press release. The first *Quarterly Bulletin* of the ZCDI for the period ending September 30, 1985 contains useful information about some of the latest judgments in the field of taxation law pertaining to public trusts and on the investment opportunities available to different categories of trusts to ensure maximum returns.

The ZCDI are in the process of working on a booklet on the rights and duties of trustees of public trusts fall-

ing under the Bombay Public Trusts Act.

Housing

Finding themselves in a none too happy situation as landlords of old buildings charging low rentals and yet being unable to evict defaulting tenants, the BPP has made a representation to the

"All our 293 properties are well looked after. So far only the Kashinath Building in Fort has collapsed."

Government of Maharashtra seeking exemption from the application of the Rent Act and the Land Acquisition Bill (proposed to amend the Maharashtra Housing and Area Development Act by inserting a clause whereby a landlord would be forced to convert his building to a cooperative housing society on the willingness of tenants to pay, as lump sum, a specified multiple of their regular rents). Homi J.H. Taleyarkhan, presently member of the Minorities Commission has consented to take up the matter with the higher authorities regarding removal of hardships faced by the Trust.

The increasing maintenance costs may compel the trustees to increase the low rents charged to the old tenants of BPP properties. Golwala informed, "All our 293 properties are well looked after. So far only the Kashinath Building in Fort has collapsed." While some buildings are being repaired after obtaining a No Objection Certificate (NOC) from the Repairs Board, the response from some of the tenants is not quite satisfactory, thereby delaying the repair work. Vimadlal was explicit, "Admittedly all can't afford (to contribute towards repairs) but there are some who can and don't want to." Referring to his statistics, Anklesaria pointed out that from the Rs 26 lakhs expected as income by way of rent in 1986, Rs 24 lakhs will be spent on maintenance, assessment and Repairs Board cess. Though usually the BPP expends six to seven lakhs for repairs every year, recently "five lakhs were spent on the repairs of just one build-

ing (Kapadia Building at Parel)," informed Anklesaria.

Work on the construction of new buildings has been making slow but steady progress. Forty-three flats out of a total of 60 have been booked at the Khareghat Colony Development Scheme (Gibbs Road ownership flats) and Rs 52 lakhs collected so far; the BPP is anxiously awaiting buyers for the remaining flats. Construction work has reached the third floor level in the south wing of the building.

With the decision to demolish the old Fever Hospital building at Khareghat Colony, "the additional FSI of 14,000 square feet would provide an ideal site for an ownership building which could follow the policy of the Gibbs Road Scheme (where the surplus income generated would be utilized for residential constructions for the lower income categories)," informed Golwala.

After the occupation of 110 flats in buildings A, B, C and D in Godrej Baug, commencement certificates for eight new buildings (proposed 378 flats) have been received and the respective donors approached for giving their promised donations. In addition to the three buildings donated by Shapoorji Pallonji, Ms Variava and the Ranina family trust, two will be financed by the Godrej Foundation and three from the BPP funds.

Formalities for the proposed construction to house mobeds working at Doongerwadi are being looked into. Against an estimated cost of Rs 25 lakhs, a sum of Rs 1,51,981 has been collected as donations for the construction of 16 flats. At Contractor Baug, Mahim "one building might come up, depending on the cooperation of the present Parsi and non-Parsi tenants," explained Golwala. Then referring to the four flats kept reserved as transit camps in a building on plot F at Contractor Baug, Golwala revealed, "Providing transit accommodation is now posing serious problems. Normally transit accommodation is provided for four months with a maximum of six months. But one individual has refused to move out and seeing his example, three others have followed suit despite signing an agreement. We are wondering whether to build further transit camps." As Ranina noted, "Their demand for alternative accommodation amounts to blackmail," to which Desai added, "Our standards are coming

down and so also our morals."

This prompted Golwalla to read out a letter from a 79-year-old lady addressed to the Wadia Trust. A resident of Cusrow Baug since 1956, in 1959 she allowed a couple to stay with her, permitting them to use a room and a kitchen at a nominal fee of Rs 50 per month. In 1963, the couple was asked to pay Rs 100. The old lady complained of "mental agony" and of being assaulted on three occasions when she tried to oppose their high-handedness. "I have relatives as old as I and no one to turn to," she wrote. Ranina said, "You often hear grievances that the old are staying alone in large flats, but hearing (of such incidences) no one is willing to accommodate the young." Adi Marzban, Editor of *Jam-e-Jamshed*, pointed out, "You don't know the other side of the picture."

Work at Panthaki Baug (Andheri) for construction of 274 flats has not reached beyond the stage of constructing the compound wall because of proceedings against P.D. Jilla (who is claiming ownership rights at Panthaki Baug) whose motion of notice was re-

jected by the court and who has now been debarred by a court order from encroaching on the property, noted BPP assistant secretary Hormusji Kapadia. Ranina elaborated, "He has gone to the extent of saying that our property is his, and it may be auctioned by the income tax authorities to clear his arrears of tax." "Through a writ petition we have appealed for a stay of auction," mentioned Vimadlal. Anklesaria informed that Jilla has "even filed criminal proceedings against Kapadia."

At Bharucha Baug (Andheri) construction of four flats on Aimai Doctor Building is expected to be completed by May 1986. The Bombay Municipal Corporation approval has been obtained for the revised layout plans for 160 ownership flats and 16 rental flats.

Residential units at Sanjan

A BPP scheme for the construction of 96 ownership flats at Sanjan (at a distance of three hours drive from Bombay) hopes to induce retired members of the community to settle outside Bombay. The scheme is an attempt to alleviate "the burden of housing on

trusts and others who are trying so hard to meet the demand for accommodation in Greater Bombay," notes the press release.

"Though we had advertised first, there is no adequate response. I think people don't want to move out," lamented Golwalla. The flats have been designed in two sizes of 370 square feet and 500 square feet. "If at least 100 families come forward to join this scheme, the plans will be submitted to the appropriate authorities for sanction...comfortable small flats can be given on ownership basis from Rs 75,000 to Rs 1,00,000 approximately," notes the press release.

Kanga and Ranina felt that even the younger generation should grasp this opportunity since Vapi, which has one of the largest industrial complexes in Asia, is only 23 kms away from Sanjan, and English medium schools and colleges, cinema houses, etc., are easily accessible. While Ranina revealed that Mazda Leasing will be the first to start an industry at Sanjan, Kanga emphasized, "It may take time for the Bombay boys to adjust to going to other areas but once the problem of accom-

SERSON

Electrolytic Capacitors

For

All Electronic Applications

From

12 VDC To 350 VDC

Manufacturers:

Serson Industries Pvt. Ltd.

Pimpri P.F.P.O., Poona-18.

Cable : Etchfoil Poona-18. Phone : 82379

modation reaches an impossible stage, there will be no option..."

Mobed amelioration

To give a boost to the Mobed Amelioration Scheme, "the trustees have resolved to contribute Rs 75,000 every year for a period of three years. A matching contribution is expected from other cooperating trusts (M.F. Cama Athornan Institute, N.M. Wadia Charities, Iranian Zoroastrian Anjuman, Zoroastrian Association and C.M. Banaji Charity Trust)," notes the press release.

A sub-committee consisting of Eruch Desai, Jal Vimadlal, Dastur K.M. JamaspAsa, Farrokh Sidhwa, Zal Erane, mobed Rustom Panthaki, Ms Arnavaz Chubb and Peshotan Nargolwala as honorary secretary held its first meeting on December 23, 1985.

Initially 40 deserving mobeds will be helped. A sum of Rs 5,000 will be contributed towards a marriage in the family of a full-time practicing mobed, and Rs 2,000 towards the navjote expenses of a full-time practicing mobed's child.

Ervad R.R. Motafram's three volumes on *Elements and Salient Features of Zoroastrianism*, published by the BPP, recorded a further sale of 71 sets from April to November 1985. Altogether 500 sets of cassettes (two cassettes per set) of *Zoroastrian Daily Prayers* recited by Dr Peshotan Peer and recorded by Sarosh Bhabha were sold at a subsidized rate of Rs 55 per set. As the stock got exhausted, it was decided to get 100 more sets taped. Encouraged by the interest shown in religious literature, the trustees have commissioned for printing the translation and transliteration into English of the late Ervad Kavasji E. Kanga's *Khordeh*

Avesta ha-Maene.

Matrimonial bureau

Two get-togethers and a picnic organized by the matrimonial bureau have "stimulated a lot of interest, much more than across the table match-making," noted Anklesaria whilst referring to the BPP's sanction of Rs 36,000 a year towards the bureau's social activities. "Bringing people together is also an achievement," he added.

To date, 279 males and 221 females, a total of 500, of which 146 are non-residents of Bombay, have registered with the bureau. The 10 marriages arranged by the bureau so far, made Anklesaria comment, "Ten is not a big number in a year and a half. Parsis are found to be choosy and rightly so."

Anklesaria observed that in the case of marriages arranged by the bureau, the age range was from 24 to 50 years. Except in one case, both husband and wife were working. In the case of males, the income ranged from Rs. 1,400 to 4,000 per month and in the case of females from Rs 750 to 3,000.

In all cases accommodation was available which made Anklesaria point out, "The salient fact which emerges is that girls do want security of accommodation and we should reconsider whether our present policy of allotting 30 percent of flats to engaged couples could be further increased." But Vimadlal insisted, "the still more needy category is the roofless." Golwalla clarified, "There have been suggestions that if marriages are arranged by the BPP then we should give them priority for housing allotments. But we've stuck to our merit rating system."

Community data

Substantial data on the community,

in the computers at the International Institute of Population Sciences, was offered to experts interested in availing of the information. It was on the basis of this data that Dr Malini Karkal had worked on a study of Parsi demographic patterns. Printed copies of the report are now available at the BPP office.

Kanga enquired of the Press representatives if they could suggest any worthy cause to which the BPP may consider contributing. When a Press representative suggested that some part of the BPP's funds be utilized towards alleviating the unrecognized problem of the increasing strength of the aged population in the community, Golwalla referred to the beds available at the Parukh Dharamshalla at Hughes Road and the chronic ward (in a dis-repaired state) lying vacant at the Parsee General Hospital.

Ranina, who is also on the managing committee of the Parsee General Hospital, explained that overhauling the chronic ward would entail an expenditure of Rs 20 lakhs. Since the facilities at the Parukh Dharamshalla are available only to those who are in a reasonably active condition, Vimadlal enquired, "What happens to the bedridden?" It was Kanga who summed up, "Let's admit that the focus so far has been on the youth."

The Punchayet was represented at the press conference by trustees Golwalla, Desai, Vimadlal, Maneckji Hodiwalla, Ranina and Godrej, chief executive Anklesaria, joint secretary Ms Gool Tata and assistant secretary, Kapadia. The Press was represented by *The Bombay Samachar*, *Jam-e-Jamshed*, *Hamazor* (a World Zoroastrian Organization publication) and *Parsiana*.



**The Friendly Gift Shop for
handicrafts, festive gifts and
Zoroastrian artefacts**

Bombay Swadeshi Stores Ltd

Sir P.M. Road, Bombay 400 001

Tel: 253443 & 252730

Old Wrist Watches Wanted

Advertiser wishes to buy OLD wrist watches of Pre-1950 period of well-known makes such as Rolex, Patek-Philippe, Cartier etc. Please send detailed list with expected prices to The Advertiser, (OLD) C/o Parsiana, H.L. Rochat & Co., Navsari Chambers, 39 A.K. Nayak Marg, Fort, Bombay 400 001.

Add something special
to an ordinary day!



Tango

Making the most
of an orange



Naturally flavoured. Contains fruit-juice.

A **Duke's** product



Where trust is a tradition.



Tribhovandas Bhimji Zaveri

241-43, Zaveri Bazar, Bombay 400 002. Phones: 322266/325115.