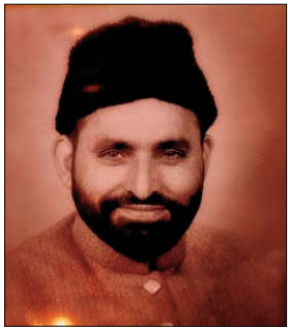


COVER STORY

sent to Lok Sabha, in the following words.

**Maulana Mohammad Saeed Masoodi**



Maulana Mohammad Saeed Masoodi represented Kashmir in the House of the people before also and we are well aware of the excellence and serenity with which he presented the Kashmir point of view in the Indian Parliament. Besides the achievements of Maulana Syeed are as clear as day-

light. From the political standpoint he has rendered valuable services to the country. The misfortune that befell his family during 1947 is a matter of common knowledge. There is none who does not know that he is living as a refugee. The whole of his household lies under enemy occupation. He endured many hardships and in spite of all these sufferings he is busy in the service of the country. He is conversant with all political ups and downs of our country. In my opinion there is no person more suitable to represent this State in the House of the people. It is in view of these considerations that I have proposed the name of Maulana Mohammad Syeed.

**Major Lachman Singh Charak**



The other name that I have proposed is that of Major Lachman Singh Charak. He is the worthy son of Chauderi Chattar Singh Charak. The status of his family as always been high in the State and even at present this family enjoys a very high position among the Rajput families. They have had very

close relations with the Royal family. In spite of this you will be surprised to know that his deceased father, who was a member of the late Praja Sabha, supported our party, the then Muslim Conference a party that fought the Government in the Assembly, when they had to oppose a bill that the Government tried to get passed in the Assembly. And he did so at a time when everybody shook with fear to utter even a word against the Government. Chattar Singh supported us unmindful of his close relations with the Royal family. He overlooked all these considerations. He found truth in our demands and extended its support.

The same blood is running through the veins of Major Lachman Singh Charak. I have always marked that he is a young man with a capacity to work. He followed his father in the Praja Sabha and the ability with which he discharged his duties there is known to us. Whenever any calamity befell our motherland he was always found ready to contribute his might to face the ordeal. I think young men with such a family history and a desire to serve their country should be encouraged to steer the ship of our motherland so that they lend us their support. It is therefore that I have proposed his name.

**Sufi Mohammad Akbar**

Third name is that of Sufi Mohammad Akbar. The House is familiar with this name. He is known throughout the length and breadth of the country. He stood always in the vanguard of the freedom movement and attained the highest position in our organization. Even at present he a member of the National Conference Working Committee and President of the National Conference Committee of the Northern Dis-

trict of Baramulla and Sopore. He is a popular figure of his District. During his absence from the District, everybody there feel like an orphan. He has carved out a place for himself in the hearts of the people by his sacrifices and services to the country. The presence of such people in the House as are conversant with all the circumstances and political changes and can put for the correctly the point of view of the Kashmiri people in the Indian Parliament and make it known to the world through it, is essential.



Lachman Singh Charak, from Birpur in present day Samba district, was elected member of the Praja Sabha in 1938. His father, Chowdhary Chhatter Singh Charak was a member of the first Praja Sabha in 1934. Lachman Singh, in early 1940s, worked as under secretary to the Prime Minister of Jammu and Kashmir.



**Pandit Shiv Narain Fotedar**



The fourth name is that of Pt. Shiv Narain Fotedar. I think he is too widely known to require any introduction. In 1931 when our freedom movement took shape, he played a prominent role in Kashmir Politics. He has had the proud privilege of leading a very big section of Kashmiri Hindus. He

worked to safeguard their interest. Then the conditions changed and the political situation took a new turn. In 1938 the National Conference was set up and

a conflict between nationalism and communalism ensured. The national movement gained strength day by day. Notwithstanding the fact that Pt. Shiv Narain Fotedar was leader of the communal organization. He made correct appraisal of the political situation. In 1947 he was put to the greatest test of his life. The Qabailis raided Kashmir and Muslim communalism conflagration caught Jammu in its flames. It seemed as if the whole of Kashmir would be consumed by it. But it must be admitted that the people of Kashmir put their trust in the National Conference and despite provocations they did not deflect from the right path. If they would get derailed, the situation would have been for from peaceful. Many people know that the then Government tried to get Rashtriya Sewak Sangh people to the cantonment and distribute rifles and ammunition among them. It was not their purpose to guard the people and establish peace but to create the same conditions in Kashmir as they had created in Jammu. To achieve this objective, they required the help of Pt. Shiv Narain Fotedar and so he was summoned. He was told to take as many rifles and much ammunition as he liked to safeguard his people. If Mr. Fotedar had adopted the same course as was followed by some people in Jammu at the time it would have proved disastrous not only for the minority community in Kashmir but for the majority community as well. The State of J&K would present a different picture than the one you witness today. But Mr. Fotedar acted wisely and his answer to them was "Gentlemen you are misleading the country. Kashmir is our motherland and we have to live here and even our children shall live here in the time to come. No benefit will accrue to the country from your wrong policies. I am not at all prepared for such a job. I do not want to persuade the young men of my country to treat this wrong path".

He thus flatly refused to do their bidding. And then he came to us and warned us of the dangers ahead. I think this is a great credit which goes to him. It was an occasion when the Government tried to provoke a leader of the minority community, but he maintained his mental balance. There were other occasions when communalist leaders, defeated and counted in India, chose Kashmir as a sphere of their activities. Several of them came to Kashmir and contacted Mr. Fotedar. But he minced no words and told them not to interfere in our internal affairs. He was in no case going to embrace communalism. Perhaps there are very few people who know that Mr. Fotedar played such a role in Kashmir Politics. But it is our duty to watch and study the activities of every friend and then make a proper and correct estimation of his personality. After a new era was ushered in for the State politics. India and Kashmir did not remain safe any more as breeding place for communalism.

Mr. Fotedar declared unequivocally that he agreed with the National Conference completely. He asked the communalists to give up interfering in the State politics once for all. There was no place for communalism in Kashmir, he affirmed. The politics of the National Conference were going ahead, Mr. Fotedar decided that all political matters should be in the hands of one party only, in whose ranks we could defend the honour and independence of our motherland and ensure a happy life for ourselves. With this purpose in mind, he dis-handled the Kashmiri Pandit Yuvak Sabha and declared that he had no connections whatsoever with any communal organization. Besides, he stated that communalism had no place not only in Kashmir but in the whole of India and that we should rally round a single banner. And then the people of this country he said, would be able to defend their motherland and overcome difficulties.

So far as the social position and the political activities of Mr. Shiv Narain Fotedar are concerned, they are