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## SEHJDHARIS' VOTING RIGHT TO STAY

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**L**alit Mohan of the Tribune, Chandigarh (June 17, 2001) reported as follows:

The SGPC has dropped the idea of curtailing the voting rights of the Sehjdharis in the forthcoming SGPC elections. Earlier, at a meeting of the SGPC Executive held in Anandpur Sahib on March 22, it was decided that the Sehjdharis who had the voting right according to the SGPC Act, 1925, would not be allowed to vote, after an amendment to Sections 10, 10 (A) and 11 of the Act.

It was also decided that only those Sehjdharis who are eligible to vote under the DSGMC Act 1971, would be allowed to vote in the SGPC elections. The voting rights of even these Sehjdharis was subject to the condition that they do not take any narcotic or drug.

However, it seems that after weighing the electoral prospects in the forthcoming elections, the SGPC and the SAD have decided against curtailing the voting rights of the Sehjdharis.

An indication to this effect was given by the SGPC President, Mr Jagdev Singh Talwandi, while talking to

newsmen at Chamkaur Sahib today. When confronted on the issue, Mr Talwandi said that now there was no proposal to amend the SGPC Act, 1925, and there was no move to curtail the voting rights of the Sehjdharis in the forthcoming SGPC elections.

### **Editorial Note:**

Dr Bhai Harbans Lal and the Institute for Understanding Sikhism fought for the right of voting by the Sehjdhari Sikhs and for the all those Sikhs who believe and follow the Nanakian Philosophy incorporated in the AGGS. The SGPC did not pay any heed then. *We wonder what makes the SGPC to change their stand not to curtail the voting rights of the Sehjdhari?*

Now there is another question.

*What about the voting rights of those persons who declare themselves as SIKHS because they follow the Nanakian Philosophy incorporated in the AGGS and do not follow any other religion.*