

H.H. RAJA SIR ANAND CHAND

KCIE, MP, MLA (1913-1983)

RAJA ANAND CHAND was born on 26th January, 1913. He studied at Mayo College, Ajmer by standing first in the Post Diploma Examination. He then went to Delhi and engaged in Civil and Judicial training in the Gurgaon District before he was invested with full ruling powers on the 9th January, 1933. The Raja abolished Begar (heavy Labour) in 1936 and in 1942 he passed legislation abolishing child marriage. Raja introduced the Bilaspur Prohibition Act. New roads linking Suket and Mandi were built and schools, health centres, a ladies club and cinema halls all flourished during his reign. Raja also built the Shri Gopalji Temple and the Palace which were later submerged in the Bhakara Reservoir along with the historic old Bilaspur Town and a New Town was built upslope of the Old.

During Raja's reign from 1939-1945 there was the Second World War in which his State played its full part and won many Awards including Victoria Cross and the George Cross. Raja received the KCIE, Knight Commander of the Indian Empire in 1945.

Raja also served as a Member of the Constituent Assembly (1947-1948). On 12th October, 1948, Bilaspur was constituted as a Centrally Administered Area, and the Raja was appointed Chief Commissioner with a Deputy Mr. Srichand Chabbra (Padmashri) appointed by the Government of India. On the 26th January, 1950 Bilaspur became a separate state of India under a Chief Commissioner. On the 1st July, 1954 it was merged into Himachal Pradesh and Bilaspur continues as a District of the State of Himachal Pradesh.

Raja Anand Chand served in the First Lok Sabha (1952-1957) representing Bilaspur. Later he served in the Rajya Sabha (1958-1964) from Himachal Pradesh and from (1965-1970) from Bihar. Raja was also elected from Bilaspur as a member of the Himachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly (1977-1982).

Raja also was a member of the Chamber of Princes and wrote 'Bilaspur past, Present & Future' and also 'Bilaspur 'A People Betrayed'.

In 1776, Raja decided to bring his family to London as Privy Purse was abolished. Children were admitted in London Schools, Rani started working in the High Commission of India, London and Raja spent his time in writing books and letters. During Assembly Session, they all visited Shimla and Bilaspur. In 1982 Raja had a stroke. With the dedication of the doctors, nurses and family, but Raja died on 12th October, 1983. Rani Lady Sudarshana Chand, Tika Gopal Chand and Rajkumari Sunanda Chand and Raja's personal English nurse Margaret accompanied Raja's body to Bilaspur. H.H.Raja Sir Anand Chand was cremated at the River banks of Sutlej amongst the people of Bilaspur whom he loved dearly and the whole of Bilaspur paid their loving tributes to their Raja.

Raja Anand Chand firstly married **Rani Umawati**, daughter of the Raja Rana of Jubbal. She was born in 1916. Rani Umawati died of a heart attack in March, 1961 in Dr. Sen's Nursing home in Delhi. They had two sons and two daughters.

- **Yuvraj Rajendra Chand** (1935-1971). Studied from Bombay but became ill in 1955 and in 1957 he was admitted in Chrycton Royal Hospital, Dumfries. He died on 28th August, 1971 in Scotland.
- **Rajkumari Ambika Devi** (1933-1981), born on 31st July, 1933 and died on 29 August, 1981 from Cancer in Bilaspur. She bequeathed her residence (Uma Pragati Niketen) in Bilaspur to a Trust in order to operate it as a school for the disadvantaged. It is in Kanwar Kirti Chand and Kanwarani's possession.
- **Rajkumari Rajeshwari Devi** (1937-2004) Rajkumari Rajeshwari was born on 8th November, 1937 and died on 12th November, 2004 in Sunder Nagar Hospital from Heart Failure. She bequeathed her Residence in Bilaspur to the Govt. of Himachal Pradesh to run as an Old Age Home, a Home for the blind and an orphanage. Kn. Kirti Chand and Kanwarani have taken all the possessions and turned Rajkumari's residence into a Marriage Palace.

- **Kanwar Kirti Chand** (1941-2013) Kanwar Kirti Chand was born on 23rd July, 1941 and died on 7th October, 2013 at his residence House No: 1003A, Sector No. 4, Panchkula, Chandigarh. He was ill for sometime. He studied in Chandigarh and Canada but could not finish his studies due to disability. He married Kanwarani Karuna Devi, Daughter of Hamender Singh (Mohal), in July, 1979. They have two children.
 - Kn. Shubhendra Chand born October, 1987
 - Kumari Rajya Lakshmi born February, 1980

Raja Anand Chand married a second time **Rani Sudarshana Chand** daughter of Mehar Chand of Bhojpur, Sunder Nagar. She was born on October, 1941. She received her early education in Sunder Nagar, Finishing School from St. Godrics College, Hampstead, London and BA (Hons.) Eng. From Miranda House, Delhi University, Delhi. She worked in the Indian High Commission London. They have one son and a daughter.

- **H.H. Raja Dr. Gopal Chand of Bilaspur**, MA (Cantab), PhD (Cantab). He succeeded as the Raja of Bilaspur.
- **Rajkumari Dr. Sunanda Chand** MBBS, MRCP was born on January, 1973 in Delhi. She received her education from City of London School for Girls, London and received many prizes, awards and distinctions. She did MBBS and MRCP from Imperial College London. She is GP. Rajkumari married Dr. Jay Singh Chauhan and has one daughter.
 - Baby Priya Chand born on February, 2008.