



Pavate Releases Book On Lahaul And Spiti

From Our Special Correspondent

CHANDIGARH, Sept. 15.—At a colourful function held at the Panchayat Bhavan here this evening, Dr. D. C. Pavate, Governor of Punjab, released "Himalayan Wonderland" a book written by his Secretary, Mr. Manohar Singh Gill.

The book vividly portrays the society and culture of Lahaul and Spiti, which the Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, who has written a foreword to the book, would be visiting towards the end of this month. She says in the foreword that the book awakened old memories of her crossing of the Rohtang Pass with her father many years ago, and adds that the author has captured the majestic beauty of the area.

Releasing the book Dr. Pavate said the book showed that "Mr. Gill has not become insipid by dealing with the files for a long time; he has interest in life and the spirit of adventure." He had succeeded in vividly depicting the enchanting scenes which made the readers fall in love with the mountains. He remarked that the reading habit which was on the decline with the growth of the cinema, should not end with the acquisition of a degree. In fact real education only began with the leaving of college and knowledge should grow with the passage of time. One should have the curiosity "to see and write."

Mr. Zail Singh, Chief Minister of Punjab, who presided over the function, said that Mr. Gill's memoirs of his travels in the valleys of Lahaul and Spiti had succeeded in making alive the timeless beauty of the Himalayas. He said that now "the arm-chair travellers" could "sense" the customs, manners and ways of life of the people in those far-away hills.

Dr. M. S. Randhawa, Vice-Chancellor of Punjab Agricultural University, regretted that the tradition of scholarship for which the Indian Civil Service was known, had dwindled because the administrators did not have enough leisure to observe

life and write about it. They were overworked in the Secretariat. Still, they must divide their time and refresh themselves by being curious about their own surroundings. He said that Mr. Gill's book was not merely a travelogue but also a study of the culture of hill people.

Mrs. Sharda Chawla, Managing Director of the Vikas Publishing House, Delhi, the publishers of the book, said she was proud to publish "Himalayan Wonderland."

The large gathering present on the occasion included Mr. Darbara Singh, Speaker of the Punjab Assembly; four Ministers, namely, Capt. Rattan Singh, Mr. Gian Chand Kharbanda, Mr. Santokh Singh Randhawa and Mr. Nasib Singh Gill; and the three Vice-Chancellors of the Guru Nanak, Punjab and Punjabi Universities.

Mr Manohar Singh Gill (Standing) presenting his book "Himalayan Wonderland" to Dr. D. C. Pavate, Punjab Governor, who released the book in Chandigarh on Friday.