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TWO CENTRUIES OF URDU JOURNALISM

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The National Council for promotion of Urdu Language is celebrating the 200 years of Urdu Journalism – NCPUL has an elaborate programme in this respect. It is welcome. Many articles on various aspects of Urdu Journalism must be read during the course of the celebration. Books are also likely to be published.

At this point I want to draw the attention of the Council to an important matter, that is, to compile an exhaustive book on the history of Urdu Journalism spread all over the country for almost two centuries. This is such a huge work that only the Council can take up and do with the help and cooperation of state Urdu academies and other related organizations, such as, Urdu departments in universities. There is no dirth of renowned Urdu Journalists and writers who will certainly come forward to cooperate with the Council in this great cause.

In fact NCPUL had such a scheme some years ago. A committee and subcommittees were formed to carry out the plan but nothing was done beyond that. Perhaps when the Council calculated the cost of the project it concluded that it was beyond its financial capacity, so the plan was set

to rest. Perhaps now the Council is in a better position to manage resources for the big project.

Presuming that NCPUL will, sooner rather than later, take up this project. I would suggest that as a first step it should get *Maulana Imdad Sabri's Urdu Sahafat Ki Tarikh* properly edited to make it some sort of an example for further work in that direction. The book too has many gaps to be filled in by putting in more available information about the papers and individuals covered in the book. Maulana had to face great difficulties in doing his work as it was an individual effort. The Council will have many helpful things; first of all, state Urdu academies are there to cooperate, they could be helpful in managing finance for the part of the job done by them. Then many books on various aspects of journalism have already been published. Such books have come from various parts of the country, showing regional aspects. Moreover, there are departments of Urdu Journalism and mass media in various universities, they must be a great source of strength in this formidable work. Above all, there is the Urdu media.

These are mere points the Council will have wider and more elaborate ideas when it comes up to consider the project and proceed on.