

TOUR REPORT OF NASIK -- 28TH JUNE, 2008

DR. (MISS) M.D. BENGALEE

The first meeting with Parsis was arranged at the Parsi Zoroastrian Anjuman Hall, where some 30 resident Parsis of Deolali attended. I distributed the pamphlets regarding the P.M.'s 15 Point Programme and the Eleventh 5 year Development Plan empowering the Minorities. They were not aware of the facilities provided by the Central Government and have volunteered to prepare schemes for education and housing of the poor. Their only complaint was that they do not have any facility for higher professional courses and have to send their children to Mumbai or other parts of Maharashtra and face great hardships for the same.

Then, I moved to Circuit House, Nasik to meet all minorities gathered there. Nearly fifty members attended the same, with majority of Muslims and a few Parsis. All Govt. officers of the Education and Social Welfare Departments were in attendance. The State Minorities' Commission had visited them twice, but they had no knowledge of the Prime Minister's 15 Point Programme and the 11th 5 Year Development Plan for enrichment of Minorities.

As regards their complaints, they had prepared a composite letter with all their signatures to be forwarded to the Commission. I assured them of whatever help required, if genuine, will be looked into by the Commission. Then I discussed their problems with the Government officers for an hour and then closed the meeting at 2.30 p.m.

I returned to Mumbai the same evening.