

TOUR REPORT ON INDORE—MHOW
VIST OF DR.(MISS) M.D. BENGALEE

(16TH MARCH,, 2008

On the invitation of the Presidents of Parsi Zoroastrian Anjumans of Indore and Mhow. I combined the two visits on Sunday, 16th March, 2008.

I reached Indore at 8.30 a.m. in the morning, where I was received by representatives of Parsi Panchayat and Indore Minority Commission. They accompanied me to Mhow, which is 40 Kms. away.

At Mhow, the President of Mhow Zoroastrian Anjuman welcomed me and some 120 Parsis had gathered in the Hall adjacent to our Fire Temple. I addressed the gathering from 10.00 a.m. to 10.45 a.m. explaining the issues of Parsis taken up with the National Commission and also the P.M.'s 15 Point Programme, and 11th Plan Document of the Govt. of India. I distributed the Pamphlets containing the Parsi issues, 15 Point Programme, constitutional rights, functions of National Commission for Minorities and the 11th Plan Document for them to study and send projects, if they desire, for the benefits of the community. The discussion was then thrown open to the group when the President put up three proposals of repairing the 120 years old fire temple, the adjacent hall and the dokma property for the use of planting trees to secure wood for feeding the fire, daily for 24 hours. Then another senior citizen spoke of joint medical insurance scheme and the amount to be paid each year which could be forwarded to the Commission to secure loan as per the P.M's 15 Point Programme. A number of persons then spoke of their difficulties in maintaining their old homes and starting small scale industries for self employment. The discussions continued till 1.00 p.m. and I requested them to send all their requests in writing to the Commission for necessary action, which they agreed to do.

I left Mhow at 1.15 p.m., fully satisfied that I was the first member of the National Commission for Minorities who had visited them and they requested me to repeat my visit, if I came to Indore or even otherwise.

From Mhow, I returned by car to Indore Govt. Guest House and then went to the Indore Zoroastrian Anjuman by 4.00 p.m.

At Indore, the gathering was much too large, nearly 350 Parsis had gathered and greeted me individually, thanking me profusely, for there again no Parsi member of the National Commission for Minorities had visited them. The gathering was full of cheer and joy and made me feel very special.

To my surprise, the President of Parsi Zoroastrian Anjuman was Mr. Hirjee, who had been the Secretary of the National Commission for Minorities when Mr. Beg was the Chairman and was keen to know more about the facilities provided by the Govt. to the Minorities, as widely publicized.. I then distributed the pamphlets as mentioned above, for which they were very thankful. I spoke of the Prime-Minister's 15 Point Programme and the 11th Plan Document, stressing the need for Minorities to come forward and get more engaged in Govt. and Public Sector Employment, as was in the past. They seemed quite a prosperous lot aspiring for seats in the Parliament and their local bodies. They were all educated and well settled in their businesses.

They were keen on knowing more about Parsis' controversies and how they are being resolved. They only proposed two to three building projects and Govt. permission to plant Sandalwood trees, for they were facing difficulty of obtaining the same. They have promised to put their requests on paper in duplicate and forward the same to this Commission through me. I almost completed at 7.15 p.m. to catch my flight at 8.15 p.m. from Indore Air Port.
