

## **Tour Report**

### **Visit of Sankisa (Farrukabad) by Smt. Spalzes Angmo, Hon'ble Members on 4<sup>th</sup> October,2009.**

Sankisa is regarded as an ancient holy Buddhist pilgrim site. It is believed that Lord Gautam Buddha the founder of Buddhism descended from heaven after preaching his mother and thus the famous stupa signifies this descent.

Though, I was invited to attend the Buddha Mahotsav on occasion of Maha Parinirvana, unfortunately because of the heavy rains that poured that day, I got late for the programme, which ended early since it was held outside. Nevertheless, the SDM, DSP and other officers received me at Sankisa. There, I visited Monasteries and Buddha Viharas of Myanmar and Sri Lanka and interacted with the monks, who brought forth their problems and grievances. Thereafter, I visited the centuries old main stupa which is under dispute because a small Hindu structure has been built on the stupa. The ancient Buddhist Stupa is in dire need of repairs so that its former glory and significance could be restored. It is known fact that a stupa signifies a Buddhist monument and during the time when Buddhism declined in India, the state of affairs of Buddhist monuments and sites too declined, since there was no one to look after them. If the dispute end which I believe is pending in the court, Sankisa could be one of the major Buddhist pilgrim centre, attracting people throughout the world and therefore having a huge impact on the economy of the place. The grievances of the Buddhist community are:-

1. There seems to be lack of infrastructural development in terms of connectivity.
2. Acute shortage of power was affecting the lives of the people. There also seems to be a security threat for pilgrims while travelling. Gangs of robbers in groups of hundred romped the area; whose primary motive was looting.
3. Shortage of power supply

Thereafter, I proceeded to Farrukabad where I was lodged at the Guest House. In the evening around 6.00 p.m. I held a meeting with representatives of minority communities of Buddhist, Muslims and Christians. The Additional Commissioner, Executive Engineer (Power) and Tehsildar was among present.

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After a thorough discussion with the officials present, there was a strong feeling that the schemes under the Prime Minister's 15 Point Programme meant for the welfare of the minorities was not being implemented properly. There was a general lack of awareness among the people too, regarding these schemes.

Railway connectivity to Farrukabad was stressed so that the Zardozi trade could be promoted and restored to its former glory thereby opening a wide market for local Muslim traders.

Educational Institutions belonging to Buddhist, Muslims and Christians to be given encouragement and established to enable children belong to minority groups avail of education.

**Recommendations:-**

1. Restoration of the stupa in Sankisa to revive its former glory so as to attract Buddhist pilgrims from all over.
2. Infrastructure development in and around Sankisa – proper road connectivity is essential.
3. Security for pilgrims and travelers en-route since it is reported the gangs of robbers move about looting passengers.
4. A proper railway connectivity to Farrukabad so that the zardozi trade could be promoted and hence have positive an impact on the economy of the Muslim Minority.
5. Educational institutions of Buddhists, Muslims and Christians to be encouraged.
6. Proper implementation of Prime Minister's 15 Point Programme so that the basic aim of bringing the minorities into the mainstream may be realized and the country may achieve inclusive growth.

**(Spalzes Angmo)**  
**Member**  
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