

Tour Report

Visit to Jhinhana, Mujaffarnagar (U.P) by Hon'ble Member Smt. Spalzes Angmo on 1st September 2009

My tour to Jhinhana which is located in the District of Muzaffarnagar nagar in U.P, was made primarily on the basis of an invitation by the Sherawat Welfare Society to be the Chief Guest at a public function on the 1st of September 2009, which was attended by around 300-400 people from all communities. I was received by a team of officials comprising of the Tehsildar Mr. Suresh Sharma, the SDM Mr. Sant kumar and the Chief Security Officer, among others.

After the function, a meeting was held with members of the nagar palika (panchayat) representing the minority communities. The District minority officer Mr. Mohammad Chisti iftiyar, Mr. Sushil Ahmed, Predident minority, Mr. Suresh Sharma, tehsildar and officers of block and nagar panchayat were also present.

Muslims account for 65% of the population in Jhinhana and Muzaffarnagar has been identified as a minority concentrated districts.

The following issues were discussed during the meeting: -

1. Some of the schemes initiated by the State such as the Shaadi Anudan Yojna were not being implemented effectively. The HRD ministry reserves an amount of Rs. 23 lakh per annum for this scheme. Under this scheme various NGO's and welfare societies can arrange marriage ceremonies for poor, needy, young boys and girls from backward communities and castes. The scheme was started in the year 2007. In 2008-09 around 2000 applications were received out of which only 460 beneficiaries have availed of the scheme so far.

The reason given for this was that the scheme was carried out on first come first serve basis; which was not ample justification since the applicants should have been apprised of the terms and conditions of the scheme before they actually got married. Hence this scheme lacked proper co-ordination.

2. Among other schemes for the development of minorities was the Manayawar Kanshiram Rojgar Yojna, which is basically a state sponsored scheme for basic employment opportunities for the minorities.

The kanshiram Awas Yojna was another scheme by which people living below the poverty line were entitled to avail a one-room set. Though there was a lot of discrepancy in the issuance of the BPL card itself and hence a major flow, which needs to be removed.

3. Though there were around 25 Private schools established in Jhinhana, yet there was not a single school especially meant for girls students. Therefore setting up separate girls school was also one of the major demands. Further, another major concern was the need for setting up professional institutes in these areas so that there is access to higher education without having to migrate to cities.

4. Multi-Sectoral Development Plan: -

The Central Government has declared Muzaffarnagar as a minority concentrated district, since it has about 60-70% of Muslim population. Under this scheme plan proposed of Rs. 54 crore has been sent to the center for approval, out of which Rs. 22 crore was sanctioned in the month of March 2009. Again, a revised proposal of Rs. 35 crore under the multi-sectoral development plan has been sent for the consideration and approval of the Center.

The District Minority Officer apprised me the various initiatives taken under this (MsDP) scheme by which: -

- i. 1681 new hand pumps were to be installed for the purpose of drinking water.
- ii. 2400 houses were to be built under Indira Awas Yojna.
- iii. An I.T.I was to be established in the town of kairana.

Recommendations: -

1. In order to fulfill the basic spirit and essence of the Prime Minister's 15 Point Program for creating basic infrastructure and to improve the standard of living of the minorities, there is a strong need to launch an awareness program about the various developmental and livelihood schemes. Lack of awareness of the various developmental schemes seems to be a major problem. Therefore a need for dissemination of information on a wider scale, giving full details of the schemes, its benefits and its goal towards the upliftment of minorities.
2. Promotion of education especially among the women: -

In order that the minority community avail of educational facilities right from the primary to higher education level, professional colleges of medical and engineering need to be set-up. Polytechnic institutes with special reservations for women is recommended in such backward belts where there is special quota for women; since women constitute for 50% of the population. No society or nation could be called progressive if the women are not given basic

educational right and facilities. Vocational training programs which could generate self-employment among women is essential in order to make them

economically self-reliant. Hence the need for separate educational institutions for girls at all levels.

3. Socio-economic benefits under Multi-sectoral development plan: -

Development schemes such as envisaged by the center like the Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana (RSVY), Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF) should be streamlined and fully implemented at the grass-root level by the State Government so as to accrue its benefit to the minority population, in order to empower them socially and economically. The revised proposal of Rs 35 Crore under MsDP needs to be approved by the center.

4. In order to make the scheme of “Shaadi Anudan Yojna” more effective, Community marriage halls could be built after identifying appropriate land; this would enable and provide a life-term opportunity for the young generation and the weaker and socially backward minority communities to move into the next phase of life as married adults. Hence a life-time opportunity could be availed under proper implementation of this scheme.

(Spalzes Angmo)
Member
07.10.2009