

## **Tour Report**

### **Visit to Panipat, Haryana by Hon'ble Member Smt. Spalzes Angmo on 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2009**

I was invited by the District Grievance Cell of Panipat to be the Chief Guest at a function held in Panipat on 23<sup>rd</sup> July, 2009. I was given a warm welcome from the State officials comprising of the ADC, SDM and Tehsildar at the PWD Rest House. Later the DM, Mr. Vijay Singh Dahiya also joined and took part in the deliberations. The officials gave me a detailed briefing of the minority community residing the Panipat:-

- In Panipat there are approximate 1.75 lakh people belonging to the minority community out of which Muslims are 59000, Sikhs are 26000 and Christians are 1120, Buddhists are 600.
- Most of the people from the minority community are involved in labour activities.

Thereafter, I addressed a gathering of people belonging to the Buddhist, Muslims and Sikh community of Panipat, in the library of Dargah Kalendar Sahib, Qalandar Chawla. The Wakf Board President, Mr. Asif Ahmed was also present in the meeting.

1. The major problem facing the minority community in Panipat is that majority of their names are not included in the Below Poverty Line list, due to which they cannot avail of the advantage of the BPL ration cards by which they can acquire ration at subsidized rates. The ADC gave me full assurance that he would look into this, since this seem to be a common issue faced by most of the poor people. Ironically this should not have been a problem since being poor was the only factor of parameter for the issuance of the BPL card for the alleviation of poverty among the masses.

2. One of the major grievances of the Buddhist community was the allocation of 5 acre land located behind the Panipat rest house to build and set up a Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar Student Hostel, so that education and a living culture based on the principles of Gautama Buddha's Dharma, compassion and tolerance could be imparted to the youth. According to them people belonging to all religions had their places of own places for worship like Masjids, Gurudwara and Churches whereas the Buddhist do not have any place of worship like a Buddh Vihar.
3. The problems afflicting the Muslim community were manifold. Their major grievances were the repairs of the tombs of the Dargah Maqdam Shekh Jalaluddin Kabar, which if not done timely would cause harm and damage to life and neighbouring buildings in the crowded by lanes of the locality. Another part of concern was the dearth of mud in the graveyard located in the Ashok Vihar Colony. Lack of basic amenities like drinking water and electricity were also some of the complaints as made by them.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS:-**

1. Since most of people living in village Khotpura from the minority communities are poor and engaged in labour activities. Hence below poverty line ration card should be given to them so that they can avail of this scheme which is primarily meant to uplift the poorer and weaker section of the society. The process of issuing of such cards should be streamlined.
2. In the village of Khotpura which falls under the district of Panipat, the Muslim community living in the Muslim Basti are deprived of basic amenity of clean drinking water. Therefore hand pumps should be installed so that these people can avail the facility of clean drinking water and also pipe – lines should be laid in these areas so they can avail of tap water facility.

3. The 5 acre land located behind the Panipat rest house should be allotted to the Buddhist community so that they establish an Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Rao student hostel and also establish a Budh Vihar since the Buddhist Community unlike the others, do not possess any place of worship, where they can profess and practice their religion according to the Buddha Dharma, which is a basic fundamental right. In order to uphold the basic principles of equality and equal opportunity the Buddhist should be given their due rights.
  
4. One of the tombs of the Dargah Maqdam Shekh Jalaluddin Kabar, needs to be repaired at the earliest lest it causes damage to life and property of the neighbouring buildings in the vicinity. The graveyard situated behind the Beriwalli Masjid, Ashok Colony at Noorwala village needs to be filled with mud since the community is facing a lot of problems during the burials since there is a dearth of mud. Also it is recommended to erect a compound walling and a gate for security reasons.
  
5. Since Panipat is located on the national highway and is also close to the national capital of Delhi. It is highly recommended to set up a hostel cum vocational training institute for girls belonging to the minority community, so that they can be economically self reliant and independent and be assimilated in the mainstream in the near future.

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