

**Tour Report of Sh. M. K. Khanna, Secretary, NCM on his visit to
Jaipur on 18-19 July, 2008**

During my visit to Jaipur on 18-19 July 2008 I took up the following:

1. Called on Chief Secretary and shared list of 16 cases pending inquiry and report from the State Government. (At flag 'A')
2. Attended meeting convened by Chairman, Rajasthan Minorities Commission in the State Secretariat Building, Jaipur.
3. Attended meeting of Rajasthan Foundation for Micro Credit chaired by Sh. N. S. Sisodia, former Secretary, Financial Services in Ministry of Finance in the Union Government.
4. Met Sh. M. L. Mehta, former Chief Secretary Rajasthan and discussed activities of Rajasthan Mission for Skill Development and employment generation.
5. Met Mrs. Alka Kala, Secretary, Social Welfare and Mrs. Rukmani Haldia, Principal Secretary, Environment, Govt. of Rajasthan.

Issues raised by the Chairman, Rajasthan State Minorities Commission

The Chairman first briefed me about the Rajasthan State Minorities Commission Act and indicated that the current Commission had been reconstituted in 2006. The major activities highlighted by the Chairman in his presentation included

- (1) discussion with Chief Minister to empower the State Minorities Commission;
- (2) held public hearing in 20 districts to expedite action on problems raised by the minorities. The format adopted in public hearing, was that in the forenoon, Jan Sunwai (public hearing) was held in the day and in the afternoon, it was followed by meeting with the district level officers to resolve outstanding issues.
- (3) Monitoring of implementation of 15 Point Minorities Welfare Programme of the Prime Minister was regularly done and overall share of minorities in the schemes of the Central and State Government monitored with relevant officials in the concerned department.
- (4) At the district level public meeting was held after the Jansunwai in which theme of communal harmony was held with participation of all communities.
- (5) Minorities Right Day was arranged on 18th December every year, in compliance of the UN Day celebrated all over world on 18th December. The emphasis was on rights and duties pertaining to the minorities and the general communities.

(6) The conference was arranged with 100 minority education institutions to give special emphasis on education for the minorities.

(7) The State Commission also took up with D.M. & S.P. in case there was some communal disturbance in any district. The teams of the Rajasthan State Minorities Commission also visited the troubled spots. For example such teams had visited Chittor, Bundi, Jaipur, Kota and Bhilwara in the recent past. These visits by the Commission help in expediting relief to the victims. It also helps in avoiding repetition of such communal events. Harmony building measures are also adopted under by the District Administration guidance of the State Commission.

(8) The Commission also monitored implementation of Government Schemes meant for the minorities. The information is collected from organizations implementing State and Central Schemes and published in Newsletters and Quarterly Journals for information of all.

(9) The Commission regularly takes up review of activities taken up by minority institutions like Madararasas, Wakf Boards, Haj Yatra.

(10) The Chairman and Members of the Rajasthan State Minorities Commission also briefed me about the following continuing issues:

Mismanagement of the Wakf Properties, the feeling was that if the State Wakf Boards manage these properties better it would help in preserving these assets and ensuring there are no encroachments. The rent earned from State Wakf Properties should be periodically enhanced as per the law and proceeds should be utilized for welfare of the concerned minorities.

11. The Rajasthan State Commission was also trying to monitor the activities of the Rajasthan Minorities Finance Corporation. Preliminary interaction with the beneficiary indicated the lending procedures could be simplified. The State Commission had not been able to generate funds from the National Minorities Finance Corporation, adequately. More systematic efforts were required in this regard. The State Department of Social Welfare which takes care of the RMFC and should also help in improving the performance of RMFC.

Some issues for attention of Government of India.

(1) Appointment of a Nodal Officer on the pattern of Madhya Pradesh for getting Minority Education Institutions registered. Action is to be taken by the State Government.

(2) Government of India has identified 90 districts which have more than 25% minority population. It is expected that about Rs. 50 Crore would be sanctioned for their development in the years to come. Rajasthan Government has requested that the following districts be included.

	Minority population	Socially backward	Economically backward
National Cut-off	25.0%	45.8%	41.7%
Jaisalmer	24.17%	33.5%	28.3%
Sriganganagar	27.13%	46.9%	44.0%

(3) There is a problem that custodian lands in Alwar and Bharatpur as Meo and Rai Sikh farmers are occupying this land but have no title, as a result they cannot seek loans from banks. The State Government has levied a cess of 25% for giving this land, farmers cultivating it are still *Gairkhatedar*. This is too much for them to pay. After 60 years of the original owners fleeing across the border. It is about the time the status of the farmers currently occupying this land is confirmed by giving them Khatedari Rights.

(4) Posts of language teachers are lying vacant for a long time they should be filled up by the State Government urgently.

(5) The rehabilitation of riot affected people should be made simpler and procedural complications should be rationalized by the Home Ministry and so that their rehabilitation is speedily done.

(6) For implementation of the new 15 Point Programme announced by the Prime Minister for welfare of minorities, a monitoring committee was set up under the Chairmanship of Chief Secretary. The committee was to meet once in every six months, but Chief Secretary has only chaired one meeting so far.

(7) A Model Act should be suggested to all the States by the Union Government so that there is some uniformity in the Constitution of the State Minorities Commission. The Uniform staffing pattern should also be provided. The State Commission should be empowered by additional power. For instance they should be empowered to inspect and seek information from other institutions working in the field. The Union Government should also give a maintenance grant to all the State Minorities Commission to encourage them to take up innovative activities for development of minorities.

Meeting of Rajasthan Foundation for Micro Credit

Meeting was chaired by Sh. N. S. Sisodia, Chairman, Rajasthan Foundation for Micro Credit and Members - Sh. M. L. Mehta, ex-Chief Secretary and currently the Chairman of the Rajasthan Mission on Livelihoods and Prof. Vyas, Director IDS, Jaipur. In the meeting discussed all the items on Agenda and made suggestions about the issues which require more emphasis by the Foundation to spread the Micro Credit Movement in Rajasthan. They have also tied up with some other agencies to take this movement forward through the SHG Movement.

Also had discussion with Sh. M. L. Mehta, Chairman of Rajasthan Mission for Livelihoods, Secretary, Social Welfare and Principal Secretary, Environment, Govt. of

Rajasthan. They are also involved with the activities of the State Minorities Commission and other related initiatives regarding minorities. The discussion ended on a positive note with a wish expressed to take the problems faced by the minorities in Rajasthan forward to a solution. Some information brochures passed on to me by the State Minorities Commission are placed below for ready reference.

I tried to get time to brief the Chief Minister, Rajasthan about activities of the NCM but she was away from headquarters and I was unable to brief the Chief Minister as is normal done.