

Tour report of Shimla, Manali, Dharamshala (Himachal Pradesh)

From 30th to 7th July, 2008.

- 1. 1st July, 2008:** A meeting was arranged with the Secretary Social Welfare and other officials Govt. of Himachal Pradesh wherein issues regarding the various benefits for minority community from Ministry of Minority Affairs, Govt. of India in the State of Himachal Pradesh. The officials were told about the various schemes/initiatives by the Ministry of Minority Affairs, Govt. of India for the development and welfare of Minorities and that these schemes are not known by the people who can take benefit of them.
- 2. 2nd July, 2008:** A meeting was organized with various NGO's and Students from Himalyan region. In a meeting the NGO's came up with lack of information about the various developmental and welfare schemes undertaking by the Ministry of Minority Affairs, Govt. of India. A file containing the various schemes of Ministry of Minority Affairs was discussed wherein guidance was given to avail the benefits of said schemes. It was suggested that the State of Himachal Pradesh, Department of Social Welfare which is dealing with the Minorities should arrange programme to publicized the schemes so that maximum benefit can be taken of the initiatives of the the Government. The Himalayan Student Association brought out the problem faced by the students community belonging to Buddhist minority who are from poor family. It was stated that the Pre-Matric and Post-Matric scholarship schemes which is given by the Ministry of Minority Affairs is not reaching them. It was suggested that the matter should be taken up with department of Education and department of Social Welfare which is the nodal department to look into the issue and make provision to provide the scholarship benefit to Buddhist Minority Students of Himalayan Region.

- 3. The Members of the Khampa Welfare Organisation, Khampa Buddhist Gompa, Sarahan Rampur Bushahr, Distt. Shimla, Himachal Pradesh submitted a representation detailing the history and problems faced by them. Copy of the representation is enclosed. A number of representations were also received for appointment of Bhoti language teacher in Bhoti speaking areas school in State of Himachal Pradesh like Kinnaur, Lahaul- Spiti, etc.**

- 4. 3rd July, 2008: A one day conference on the celebration of 94th years of Shimla convention 1914, was attended. The one day conference was attended by large number of Historians, Scholars and Academecians who had assembled from all over the country. The programme was inaugurated by Hon'ble Chief Minister Prof. Dhumal Ji. The important points that came up in the conference for delebrations were:-**

 - a) Whether the Shimla agreement of 1914 is a valid International Instruments?**

 - b) The status of Tibet as an Independent and Sovereign country.**

 - c) The relation between Tibet and China since 1914 and before.**

 - d) The position of Chinese Govt. which did not sign the agreement.**

 - e) The conclusion drawn was that the Shimla Agreement signed on July 3rd, 1914 by Great Britain and Tibet a valid agreement and McMohan line which was drawn on a map attached to the Shimla convention which mark the boundry between Territory control by India (British India) and territory control by Tibet is the true boundry between India and China (Tibet).**

- 4. A large number of people from Twawng to Ladakh and other part of Himalayan region participated in the conference and deliberated on various issues. All the**

participants pledged that India is one country and the people of Himalayas will continue to safe guard the border of our country at the cost of their lives.

5. 4th July, 2008: A review meeting was held at Manali on the issue of construction of commorative hostel funded by Ministry of Culture for Himalayan Buddhist Cultural School, Manali and other NGO's and Panchayat Members.
6. 5th July, 2008: A meeting was held with representatives from various parts of Himalayan region who had assembled at Dharamshala to take part in the 73rd Birthday celebration of His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama. An audience was given with His Holiness Dalai lama for the people of Himalayan region.

RECOMMENDATION

- 1) NCM may write to State of Himachal Pradesh (Chief Secretary) to organize publicity camps for promoting the various developmental schemes for welfare of Minorities at Kaza, Spiti, Kinnaur, Manali, Jispa, Rekong Peo in collaboration with District Administration.
- 2) The issue of appointment of Bhoti language teacher in Buddhist Minority dominated areas like Kinnaur, Kaza, Jispa, Spiti is to be taken up with the State of Himachal Pradesh.

(Lama ChospheI Zotpa)

