

Record Note of the Meeting of the National Commission for Minorities held on 13th February, 2019

A meeting of the National Commission for Minorities was held at 11:30 A.M. on 13th February, 2019 in the Conference Room.

The following were present:

| | | |
|-------|--------------------------------|---------------|
| (i) | Shri Syed Ghayorul Hasan Rizvi | Chairman |
| (ii) | Shri George Kurian | Vice Chairman |
| (iii) | Shri Sunil Singhi | Member |
| (iv) | Ms. Sulekha Kumbhare | Member |
| (v) | Shri Khurshed K. Dastoor | Member |
| (vi) | Shri Manjit Singh Rai | Member |
| (vii) | Shri Atif Rasheed | Member |

2. Shri J. Ramakrishna Rao, Secretary assisted the Commission.

3. In Attendance: Shri P.N. Sukul, OSD and Shri A. Sengupta, Under Secretary.

4. Secretary welcomed the new Member Shri Atif Rasheed to the Commission and also introduced OSD, Shri P.N. Sukul to the Commission.

Agenda Item No. 1: Confirmation of the record notes of the Meeting of the Commission held on 09.01.2019.

5. Confirmed.

Agenda Item No. 2: Follow up Action on the decisions taken in the Meeting of the Commission held on 12.12.2018.

6. Noted.

Agenda Item No. 3: Tour Report of Shri Manjit Singh Rai, Member to District Amritsar, Punjab on 1st January, 2019.

7. Noted. The tour report was approved by the Commission and it was decided to send the recommendations to all concerned.

Agenda Item No.4: Tour Report of Shri Manjit Singh Rai, Member to District Tarn-Taran, Punjab on 1st January, 2019.

8. Noted. The tour report was approved by the Commission and it was decided to send the recommendations to all concerned.

Agenda Item No.5: Tour Report of Shri Manjit Singh Rai, Member to District Mewat (Nuh), Haryana on 4th January, 2019.

9. Noted. The tour report was approved by the Commission and it was decided to send the recommendations to all concerned.

Agenda Item No.6: Tour Report of Shri Manjit Singh Rai, Member to District Yamunanagar, Haryana on 7th January, 2019.

10. Noted. The tour report was approved by the Commission and it was decided to send the recommendations to all concerned.

Agenda Item No.7: Tour Report of Shri Manjit Singh Rai, Member to District Rohtak, Haryana on 17th January, 2019.

11. Noted. The tour report was approved by the Commission and it was decided to send the recommendations to all concerned.

Agenda Item No.8: Tour Report of Shri Khurshed K. Dastoor, Member to Mumbai-Palghar (Maharashtra) from 20th January, 2019 to 28th January, 2019.

12. Noted. The tour report was approved by the Commission and it was decided to send the recommendations to all concerned. It was further decided that a team consisting of Shri Dastoor, Shri Singhi and Secretary visit the site as soon as polling in the General Elections 2019 is concluded in the area.

Agenda Item No.9: A note from Ms Sulekha Kumbhare, Member regarding recommendations related to minorities.

13 (a) It was apprised by Member (SK) that Shri Rajkumar Badole, Hon'ble Minister for Social Welfare and Special Assistance, State of Maharashtra had informed her that there is a huge demand from the Buddhist people visiting Mahabodhi Temple in Bodhgaya for providing facility of accommodation and Convention Centre. Ms. Sulekha Kumbhara, Hon'ble Member, further apprised before the NCM that an International Buddhist Peace Conference was held on 28 April, 2018, on the eve of Buddha Purnima, it was noticed that neither any accommodation was provided by

Similarly, Kushinagar Bhikkhu Sangh, Uttar Pradesh issue is also very important where it seems a 40 acre of land have been taken away by the authorities and it is necessary to hold a meeting/hearing with District Magistrate and Superintendent of Police, Kushinagar, Uttar Pradesh, in this regards on the same date.

National Commission for Minorities resolved to hold a hearing with District Collector, Members of Bodhgaya Temple Management Committee (BTMC) and the concerned authorities and District Magistrate and Superintendent of Police, Kushinagar, Uttar Pradesh, on the above said issues

- (c) For providing land for graveyards, it was decided to write a letter to all States for incorporation of graveyard land in DP Plan.
- (d) For the issue of Minority Certificate to Buddhists, it was decided to write to all District Collectors for holding awareness camps at district level.
- (e) For appointment of Member in State Minorities Commissions, it was decided to write to Chief Minister of States having State Minorities Commissions to fill up the post of vacant Members in the Commission.

Agenda Item No.10: Tour Report of Ms Sulekha Kumbhare, Member to Vidarbha Region (Maharashtra) from 11th January, 2019 to 29th January, 2019.

14. Noted. The tour report was approved by the Commission and it was decided to send the recommendations to all concerned.

Agenda Item No.11: Report of Shri George Kurian, Vice Chairman on meeting of "Knanaya Christians" in Delhi on 20th January, 2019.

15. Noted. The tour report was approved by the Commission and it was decided to send the recommendations to all concerned.

Agenda Item No. 12: Report of Shri George Kurian, Vice Chairman on meeting of "National Independent Bishops Council (NIBC) – YMCA, Parliament Street, New Delhi on 31st January, 2019.

16. Noted. The tour report was approved by the Commission and it was decided to send the recommendations to all concerned.

Agenda Item No. 13: Revised Estimate (RE)-2018-19 and Budget Estimate (BE) 2019-20.

17. It was noted by the Commission that budget for domestic TA has not been increased in BE 2019-20 inspite of the recommendations of the Commission. Commission was informed that a proposal for study on Bhoti language is still pending at MoMA for financial concurrence. It was decided that the budget may be utilised in advertisements or other publications instead of surrendering funds, if the concurrence is not received on time.

Agenda Item No. 14: Follow-up actions of Tour Reports

18. Noted. The Commission expressed their displeasure that States are not responding to the letters of the Commission. Shri P.N. Sukul, OSD suggested that Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Members and Senior Officers can visit the States concerned and meet the Chief Secretary and other officials from where a significant number of responses is awaited. Most of the pendency can be resolved then and there. The Commission appreciated the suggestion.

Agenda Item No. 15: Report of the Sub-Committee formed to enquire about MoMA's letter on work allocation to Secretary, NCM.

19. Noted.

Agenda Item No. 16: Tour Report of Shri Sunil Singhi, Member to District Chhotaudepur (Gujarat) on 22nd January, 2019.

20. Noted. The tour report was approved by the Commission and it was decided to send the recommendations to all concerned.

Agenda Item No. 17: Tour Report of Shri Sunil Singhi, Member to Jodhpur, Rajasthan from 24th January, 2019 to 26th January, 2019.

21. Noted. The tour report was approved by the Commission.

Agenda Item No. 18: Receipt and Disposal Report of G&R Section from 07.01.2019 to 08.02.2019.

22. Noted.

23. **Supplementary Agenda No. I**

(i) **Representation received from Prof Dr Balchandra N. Khandekar regarding inclusion of "Pali" language as optional subject in UPSC (Main) Examination for 2019-2020.** - M(SK) submitted that Pali language has a rich tradition in Indian social and religious history. The preachings of Lord Budha which are thousands of years old are in Pali language. The originality of Budha's teachings in Pali language has been translated in many Buddhist countries in the English language but unfortunately the Pali language which is a sacred traditional Buddhist language had not been given its due importance in India. Member, further submitted that Pali language was included as optional subject in the UPSC(Main) Examination in the year 1981 and after 32 years, in the year 2013 it was deleted along with foreign languages such as German, Russia, Arabic, French, Chinese. She further recommended that it has a tremendous standing demand of millions of Buddhist people and Buddhist Associations, Organizations and Institutions who are connected with preachings and teachings of Lord Buddha that it should be included in the 8th schedule of the Indian Constitution.

She also recommended that the language adopted by the UPSC for conduct of its examinations should be based on their growth in the higher educational system and the inclusion of a language in the eighth schedule should not be the only basis for its adoption by the UPSC in its All India and Higher Central Services Examination. Considering the dynamics of growth of languages in the higher education system, UPSC may review the above policy after a gap of three years.

It was decided to conduct a hearing by calling Secretary, UPSC and/or DOPT.

24. **Supplementary Agenda No. II**

(i) **Tour Report of Shri Sunil Singhi, Member to District Morbi, Gujarat on 4th February, 2019** - Noted. The tour report was approved by the Commission and it was decided to send the recommendations to all concerned.

(ii) **Request for appointment in the National Commission for Minorities (NCM) to a suitable post** - It was decided to explore the option of appointing Shri Nitin Kumar to handle the Facebook and Twitter account of the Commission.

Member (AR) suggested that a full-fledged person may be appointed for this purpose. Commission decided to explore this option also after the elections.

25. Any Other Item with the permission of Chairman

- (i) Supreme Court order dated 11.02.2019 on Writ Petition (Civil) No. 94/2019 between Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay and Union of India was discussed in the meeting. The Legal Consultant apprised the Commission about the order of Supreme Court. After detailed deliberation, it was decided to reconstitute the Sub-Committee already formed in the Commission. The Committee will be headed by Vice Chairman, NCM and Members ShriManjit Singh Rai and ShriAtifRasheed will be the Members of the Committee. The Sub-Committee will submit the report to the Commission keeping in mind the time frame given by the Hon'ble Court for submission of the opinion of the Commission, as per the direction of the Court.
- (ii) Tour Report of Member (MSR) to Aligarh – Member (MSR) visited the property Waqf No. 10, Ex-II, Wazir Manzil, Marris Road, Distt. Aligarh, UP on the complaint of Dr. Noorin A.A. Khan. The report was submitted to the Commission. Commission approved the recommendations and decided to take action accordingly. Member (MSR) also made certain other recommendations with respect to Waqf properties which were also approved by the Commission.
- (iii) Member (AR) on behalf of the Commission thanked outgoing Secretary ShriJ.R.K.Rao for his outstanding service and assistance to the Commission during his tenure. The new SecretaryShri P.N. Sukul was also welcomed by the Commission.
- (iv) Following suggestionwas made by M(AR) :-

Direction Boards of NCM should be placed in front of Gate Nos. 1 and 2 of CGO Complex which will be helpful for the visitors to locate the office.

This was approved by the Commission.
