

Visit of Hon'ble Chairperson of NCST on 20.04.2015 to Bharatiya Adim Jati Sevak Sangh, Thakkar Bapa Smarak Sadan, New Delhi.

On 20.04.2015, Dr. Rameshwar Oraon, Hon'ble Chairperson of National Commission for Scheduled Tribes visited Bharatiya Adim Jati Sevak Sangh (herein of file referred to as Sangh) Thakkar Bapa Smarak Sadan alongwith Director and Assistant Director of the Commission.

2. The Officers of Thakkar Bapa Smarak Sadan informed that Bharatiya Adim Jati Sevak Sangh is a National Level Voluntary Organization constituted on 24th October, 1948 on the initiative of Pujya Thakkar Bapa, well known dedicated social worker of the servants of India Society. Being close associate, Mahatma Gandhi inspired Pujya Thakkar Bapa to work for removal of deep rooted poverty of tribals while giving service to untouchables.

3. The first President of the Sangh was Dr. Rajendra Prasad, the first President of India, who continued as President from 1948 to 1962. The brief of other Presidents is as under:

- a) Shri U.N. Dhebar, former Chief Minister of Gujarat and President, All India Congress Committee & Chairman of Khadi and Village Industries Commission from 1962 to 1964.
- b) Shri Morarji Desai, former Prime Minister of India, from 1964 to 1986.
- c) Dr. (Mrs.) Phulrenu Guha, former Union State Minister for Social Welfare from 1986 to 1987.
- d) Shri J.H. Chinchalkar, from 1987 to 2000.
- e) After death on 30th January, 2000, Shri Banwari Lal Gauar reputed social and Khadi worker and Secretary Rajasthan Adim Jati Sevak Sangh, Jaipur is continuing as president of Sangh.

4. The aim and objectives of the Sangh interalia include to work for the communities primarily tribals and nomadic, semi-nomadic and Vimukta Jati communities of India and weaker sections of the society by promoting their social, cultural, educational and economic development and also to safeguard their Constitutional rights with a view to enable them to have their legitimate share in the National life of the country as equal citizens.

Rameshwar Oraon

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5. Bharatiya Adim Jati Sevak Sangh has its Centres at (1) Andhra Pradesh (2) Assam (3) Arunachal Pradesh (4) Jharkhand (5) Bihar (6) Chhattisgarh (7) Dadra & Nagar Haveli (8) Delhi (9) Gujarat (10) Haryana (11) Jammu & Kashmir (12) Kerala (13) Karnataka (14) Madhya Pradesh (15) Manipur (16) Maharashtra (17) Meghalaya (18) Nagaland (19) Orissa (20) Pondicherry (21) Rajasthan (22) Tripura (23) Tamil Nadu (24) Uttaranchal (25) Uttar Pradesh and (26) West Bengal.

6. Hon'ble Chairperson also visited the Tribal Museum. It was observed that comprehensive national level Museum exhibiting tribal artifacts, tribal culture and living is being maintained in Thakkar Bapa Smarak Sadan. It was informed that the Museum is regularly visited by the students, tourists, scholars and anthropologists from within and outside the country and Smarak has become popular point for visitors, scholars, media people and students.

7. The Sangh is maintaining a comprehensive library-cum-reading room in Thakkar Bapa Smarak Sadan. The library has more than 5000 rare books and journals on sociology, child psychology, reports and study monographs on tribal culture.

8. The Hon'ble Chairperson also visited the Destitute Children Home run by Sangh and observed advised the following:

(i) At present financial requirements and maintenance of the Destitute Home is being met from the social interest of letted portion of the Sadan building. Children of age group 3-10 years are accommodated in the Home and are imparted education through Schools located in the nearby vicinity. Bharatiya Adim Jati Sevak Sangh is facing financial constraints due to no receipt of grant-in-aid from Government of NCT of Delhi. Therefore infrastructure of the Home lacks basic facilities.

(ii) With the financial assistance service Ministry of Tribal Affairs Computer Training Centre was set up in the year 2008. Thus old computers software are available for impart training for ST students.

The Commission advised the Sangh to submit proposals to Ministry of Tribal Affairs for providing financial correspondence for procurement of computers being latest technology so that the students who are taking training have an updated knowledge/learning on computers.

(iii) Sangh was also advised to submit proposals to both Government of National Territory of Delhi for providing timely and sufficient grant for importing education, modernization of Home so as to have basic accommodation/facilities.

Sangh was advised to endorse copy of their proposals submitted to MTA and NCST, Government of Delhi so that Commission will pursue the same for early action to enable the Sangh to operate smoothly for the development of tribals.

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