

TOUR REPORT

In order to commence my official tour to the State of Andhra Pradesh, I went to Hyderabad on 29th October, 2010 by air. On the same day, I started to Guntur from Hyderabad by rail.

I had a meeting with local tribals including tribal leaders from the Guntur District to discuss the problems of Scheduled Tribes in the respective parts of the state. All of the leaders put forward their demand for effective implementation of the developmental schemes run by the State as well as Central Government for the welfare of S.T.s. especially in the rural part of the state in case of Education, Health etc. There was unanimous demand for starting Ashram Schools in the rural part of the district and up-gradation of the facilities in the presently Ashram Schools run by State Govt. and N.G.O. construction separate well equipped hostels for S.T. Boys and Girls at District and Taluk place was also demanded. In the interior part of the rural district where Schedule Tribes population is dominant, new Primary Health Centre (PHC) with modern medical facilities were also demanded by the local tribal leaders. It was mentioned by the tribals that timely distribution of food-grains through Public Distribution System (PDS) is not in place which creates many more serious problems for the S.T.s

On 30th October, 2010, I held a meeting with tribals in presence of the various district level officers of different departments to solve the problems being faced by the S.T.s. I passed on necessary instruction to the Departmental Heads to look into the matters seriously to sort it out in a time-bound manner.

On 31st October, 2010 I had meeting with local tribals who were representing various problems being faced by them. The S.T.s complained about the non-issuance of BPL Cards by the local administration, delay in sanctioning the houses under Indira Awas Yojana. Irregular food-grains distribution through the Public Distribution System (PDS) was another most serious complaint which was strongly vouched by all the S.T.s. Some of the S.T. s were complaining about the non-distribution of Land Pattas to them under the Central Govt. Schemes. Other issues which were represented were related to supply of drinking water facility, road connectivity, irregular payment under MNREGA (*Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act*) schemes etc.

On 1st November, 2010, I visited Hostels and Residential Schools run by State Govt. for Scheduled Tribes in Bapatla, District Guntur. The student complained about the non-conducive educational atmosphere in the Hostels because of the proper basic facilities. Quality of the food is to be improved which is given to the S.T. students in Hostels as well as Residential Schools. There should be a regular health check up for all the students in order to prevent the spreading of serious diseases. I had a meeting with the school teachers and in-charge of the Hostels. I

instructed them to report all these problems to the higher authorities immediately so as to sort it out on priority. It was noticed that timely distribution of study materials and text books and uniform to the S.T. students was not taken place. This creates serious hurdles to pursue the education smoothly for the S.T. students which hampers adversely the academic progress.

On 2nd November, 2010, I held a meeting with S.T. Employees working with various Govt. Departments at Guntur and adjoining areas. The S.T.s who are working with Government Departments have problems regarding discrimination by the higher authorities, harassment, and deprivation from the developmental opportunities etc. I assured them that the Commission will take up these issues with the respective authorities in near future.

On 3rd and 4th November, 2010, I visited S.T. Habitations. Here S.T.s were in demand of basic infrastructural facilities like road connectivity, drinking water, health center and community hall etc. I passed on necessary instructions to the local officials who were accompanying me during this visit to look into the demands made by S.T.s immediately.

On 5th November, 2010, I again visited Hostels and Residential Schools run by State Govt. for Scheduled Tribes. Here also it was noticed by me that there was a considerable scope for an improvement in the prevailing conditions like quality of food, availability of clean drinking water facility, wash rooms and other educational facilities like computers with internet facility. Necessary instructions were passed on to the concerned authorities by me to take immediate steps in this regard. This matter needs to be taken up even at the State Level Review meeting with the Govt. of Andhra Pradesh.

On completion of this official tour I came back to Delhi by air on 6th November, 2010.

This report is hereby submitted for your kind perusal and necessary action.

K. Kamaladevi

(K. KAMALA KUMARI)
MEMBER