

Tour Report of Leh from 05/06/2008 to 08/06/2008

The undersigned was on official tour to Leh, Ladakh from 05.06.2008 to 08.06.2008 along with Hon'ble Chairperson, Vice-chairman, Member and Joint Secretary of the Commission. The day wise activities, discussion points and observations are as under :

1. On 05.06.2008, took rest for acclimatization as per instructions.
2. On 06.06.2008, there was a meeting with the official of LAHDC in the council secretariat. Following were present from LAHDC side
 - i) Sh. Chering Dorjey, Hon'ble Chief Executive Councillor / Chairman, LAHDC, Leh.
 - ii) Sh. Tsering Norbu Lampa, Hon'ble Executive Councillor, Agriculture, LAHDC, Leh.
 - iii) Sh. Dorjey Motup, Hon'ble Executive Councillor, Health, LAHDC, Leh.
 - iv) Sh. Mohd Khan, Hon'ble Executive Councillor, Forest, LAHDC, Leh.
 - v) Sh. Stanzin Delek, Hon'ble Executive Councillor, CA&PDS, LAHDC, Leh.
 - vi) Dr. M. K. Bhandari, Deputy Commissioner / CEO, LAHDC Leh.
 - vii) Sh. Sh. Rinchen Tundup, Chief Planning Officer, Leh.

After the meeting with LAHDC visited Imamia School, Chuchot. They have built a hostel building with mud concrete technology, which absorbs heat during day time and releases during night, so that children can stay comfortably without heating system throughout the year.

A visit to Mahabodhi Internation Meditation Centre was arranged, a welfare organization, working for the welfare of children (specially girls), Old aged people, blind children and mental upliftment of the poor tribal people in the remote Ladakh villages. Then Commission members went for a visit to Shanti Stupa, a monument for symbol of peace.

3. On 07.06.2008, Commission visited Karu and chimrey village, which are tribal villages and are having typical Ladakh problems. Further on the way, Commission also visited Pongong Lake of which approx. 25 % portion is in India and balance 75 % of the Lake is in the China.

In the evening Commission visited the Lamdon Social Welfare Society, Leh, which is mainly contributing in the area of education.

Following points were discussed in the meeting and observed during the visits :

1. Major problem in the area is that working time is only from May to September and for balance months of the year, it is a cold desert.
2. Even forests are not there and whatever greenery is there, is the result of plantation and needs irrigation.
3. District Hospital in Leh is well equipped and is having state of the art facilities, but the problem is non availability of Doctors. Council members suggested that the reservation quota of Leh candidates in Medical College in Srinagar may be increased (Doubled) for a period of 10 years, so that local doctors will be employed there.
4. Another way to solve the problem of non availability of doctors is that MTA / State Govt. should sponsor more candidates from Leh to Medical College, Srinagar.
5. A major problem in Leh is that funds for different schemes and heads are received late, somewhere in Feb. / March, which cannot be utilized, because at that time everything is snow covered. Council members suggested that funds should be transferred to their council fund, so that it can be utilized with the approval of council in the next financial year also, Like they are receiving funds for Border Area Development Programme (BADP).
6. Another problem which is typical to Leh is that under PMGSY scheme, villages with 500 population or more are connected by roads in tribal areas. Leh is spread out over 45000 sq. Km of land/hill area and the population of Leh is 1,17,000 approx. as per 2001 census. Some villages are spread over 100 of Kms but their population is merely 200-300. Because of the restrictions under PMGSY scheme, these villages can't be connected by roads. Therefore it was proposed by Council Members that this restriction may be waived for Leh, to have better connection and communication with thinly populated remote villages.
7. Funds are allocated to Leh as per the normal population standards, but because of the difficult terrain and thinly populated remote villages, minimum 50 % of additional funds are required to have the same facility.
8. It was recommended by the Council Members that for grants to NGO should be sanctioned with the recommendation of the Council and need not go to the State Govt., which takes a long time, leading to late release of funds or sometimes not released for want of formalities.