

NCM Report on Aligarh Visit

News items appeared on 6.4.2006 in national dailies regarding Communal disturbances in Aligarh City. NCM deputed one of its Members Sh. Harcharan Singh Josh to visit Aligarh on 9-10.4.2006.

2. Incident:- On 5.4.2006 on the eve of 'Ashtami' (Ram Navmi) exchange of hot words took place between two communities in Dahiwali Gali. Some call it Ram Ji Ki Piao and some say Mian Ji Ki Piao but the matter subsided and situation remained normal till 11.00 O'clock, the next day. Markets were open and people, as usual, were busy in their routine work. Around 12.00 O'clock, an unruly mob led by some anti-social elements and others along with the Police / PAC advanced towards the Farsh locality and upper court area. The mob was shouting slogans against a particular community. This was objected to by some persons who had also assembled there by that time. Some exchange of hot words took place.

2.1 The local Muslim Community requested the Police not to allow this procession into their locality but the police paid no heed to it. The procession became violent at Choraha Abdul Karim and shops of Muslims were looted. Further, a Saifi Junior High School in Katra, Kanwari Ganj was also burnt by the mob while the police remained mere spectators.

2.2 After this, a crowd of Muslims gathered in the 'Farsh', locality against Police inaction. As tempers ran high, some altercations took place between the crowd and the Police at this place. The S.P immediately ordered firing without using tear gas / rubber bullets / lathicharge to disperse the mob. This resulted in the death of four innocent persons and injuries to many. The bullet injuries sustained by victims of firing were above waist level. Subsequently curfew was imposed. As a result of Police firing about 20-21 persons got bullet injuries of which 4 died, two on the spot and two in the Medical College Hospital on the same day necessitating the imposition of curfew initially in three Police Stations. In all 7 persons lost their lives and 19 were injured, all belonging to the Muslim community.

3. Discussions with local Community Leaders and District Authorities:-

The office bearers of local Teachers' Association stated before Sh. Harcharan Singh Josh, NCM Member that S.P. City had ordered firing despite the fact that a magistrate was already present there. They stated that the Police targeted the Muslim community only and that the injured persons got bullets only on the upper portion of their bodies. The District Administration had not taken any preventive measures in the Civil Line area. It was alleged that only Muslims were arrested. These complaints were found to be true when the NCM Member visited the patients at JN Medical College. The District Authorities apprised the Member of the situation in the City and hoped that they would be able to restore confidence amongst the minorities. He advised the District Administration that till such time the curfew is completely lifted, arrangements should be made for supply of essential commodities. The Member was assured of appropriate action in this regard.

4. Observations and Recommendations:-

- (i) There were administrative lapses on the part of the District Administration. Though Aligarh has been declared as a communally sensitive and riot prone district, the State Government has not posted any senior officers from the minority community in the District Administration.
- (ii) There are clear directions in the 15-Point Programme that prevention of communal tension is one of the primary duties of DM and SSP. Their performance in this regard should be an important factor in determining their promotion prospects. These directions are required to be strictly followed and severe action should be taken against all those who incited communal tension and took part in violence .
- (iii) Special Courts earmarked to try communal offences should be set up so that offenders are brought to book speedily.

- (iv) Victims of communal riots should be given immediate relief and provided prompt and adequate financial assistance for their rehabilitation.
- (v) When a battalion of RAF, was available in Aligarh, it is not clear what prevented the District administration from deploying them in sensitive pockets as a precautionary measure. Had the RAF been deployed before the events took such an ugly turn, death of innocent persons could have been avoided.
- (vi) The State Government may be advised to have a mixed and balanced police force so as to instill confidence in all communities.
- (vii) An inquiry by a Judge of the High Court will go a long way in restoring confidence of the minorities.

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Report of NCM visit to Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh

During the period from 25.1.2006 to 5.6.2006, the Commission received a large number of complaints from the Christian community in Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh that they were being subjected to repeated incidents of atrocities and public humiliation by some fundamentalists. The Commission decided to depute Ven. Lama Chosphel Zotpa and Sh. Harcharan Singh Josh, NCM Members to these two States to review the situation.

Madhya Pradesh:

NCM Members had several rounds of discussions with the officials of District Administration and Police of Bhopal, Khargone, Betul, Seoni, Dhar, Hoshangabad and Jabalpur districts during 14-16.6.2006. While Bhopal district was found to be trouble free, there were serious problems in other districts. The matters which came up during discussions were as under:-

- (i) Some of the District Magistrates/SSPs were not serious about the complaints made to them by the Christians with the result there was fear of persecution and terror among the Christian community.
- (ii) In all incidents, police were mere spectators and did nothing to protect the minority community. When the Commission asked the DMs and SSPs about the incidents, they gave no satisfactory reply. Some of the anti-social elements had gone to the Christian houses to intimidate them. In many cases, when the victims went to the police station to lodge complaint, FIRs were not allowed to be registered. It seemed that the aim of the culprits was to create systematic terror among the minorities on account of some allegations of conversion.
- (iii) At Nadia village of Khargone district, the police received a complaint that on 29.5.2006, Hindu tribals were being converted to Christianity. Though the Christians were subjected to public humiliation and there was a specific allegation of rape, the police made no arrests, despite the fact that some persons involved in the

rape were named in the complaint. Police action was confined to registration of FIR only.

- (iv) On 30.3.2005, there was fire at the gate of a Church at Kothibazar, Betul during the night. Though the fire was put out and the Church saved from damage, no person was arrested. FIR was registered and the police found that in the entire district of Betul, there was no case of conversion. On 30.1.2006, the Pentecostal Church of Betul district was set on fire. Subsequently, it was found that the residence of a Christian Priest of the Church was set on fire. A case was registered and investigation was going on.
- (v) The Collector and Addl. SP of Seoni district informed the Members that a complaint of conversion of Christian tribals at Rajgarh village to Hinduism was received. The FIR was lodged and 14 people were arrested. The next date of hearing in this case was 19.6.2006. Investigation was also incomplete in another case which was registered in Kuksi Police Station of Dhar district. Though the NCM Members were assured that the Kuksi report would be submitted to the Commission, no report was received.
- (vi) On 30-31.1.2006, some unidentified people broke the lock of a store room of Friends' Church at Itarsi (Hoshangabad district). It was found that the lower part of the gate of the Church was damaged as someone had thrown a burning tyre at the gate. Though FIR was lodged, no person was arrested. The allegation of conversion to Christianity was found to be baseless.

2. The NCM Members met a delegation of Christians on 16.6.2006 at Circuit House of Jabalpur city. The Christians were in tears and submitted before the Members that never in the history of this district, such persecution and tirade against the Christians was witnessed. As many as 13 cases of conversion were registered in the city of Jabalpur alone but only 5 cases were registered against the miscreants who attacked the Christians. One person, Yogesh Agarwal was named in all the 5 FIRs. The Distt. Magistrate and SSP of Jabalpur made a specific mention before the Members of the Commission that the allegation of allurement or coercion in conversion to Christianity was not established in a single case. Surprisingly, the Members of the Commission found that whenever somebody made a complaint against the miscreants attacking the Christians, a case of conversion to

Christianity was immediately registered against the complainant. The NCM Members found this as a planned move to terrorise the Christians and it was apparent that the Administration was playing into the hands of miscreants. The Christian delegation made a demand of inquiry by a Sitting Judge of the Supreme Court or the High Court or by CBI.

3. The NCM team called on Sh. Balram Jakhar, Governor of Madhya Pradesh. The Governor expressed his concern about the security of the Christians.

Chattisgarh: Demolition of boundary wall of St. Xavier's school at Pathalgaon, Distt. Jashpur.

Ms. Mabel Rebello, MP (Rajya Sabha) had complained to the Commission about the demolition of boundary wall and the monument of St. Francis Xavier at St. Xavier's school, Pathalgaon, District Jashpur, Chattisgarh on 2.2.2006. This demolition took place by the order of SDM, in connection with a land-revenue case, u/s 170-B of Chattisgarh Land Revenue Code. The representation indicated that a case under Section 170-B could only be initiated if provisions of Section 165 (6) of the Code are violated which prohibits transfer of land from a tribal to non-tribal. In this case, a tribal had sold the land to another tribal and therefore no violation of section 165(6) of the Code had taken place. The NCM Members were informed that the teachers and students of the school protested against the SDM's action and came out in a procession. The SDM arrested a priest and 11 teachers including 4 women. All the arrested persons were sent to jail but were bailed out the next day. The D.M and SSP of Jashpur were not able to explain to the NCM Members as to why the SDM, Pathalgaon acted in undue haste to take over the possession of the land from the Christian society.

2. Subsequently in this case, a hearing was held in the Commission on 22.8.2006 when the Home Secretary (Chattisgarh) and other officers of Chattisgarh Government had appeared. The SDM passed an order dated 31.1.2006 concluding that the 1968 sale was fraudulent because the disputed land was presently being used by the local Catholic Society.

3. The Commission noted with surprise that the present usage of land could be a ground for holding the sale of the land 37 years ago as fraudulent.

The State Govt. Officers could not provide any satisfactory answer as to why SDM acted in undue haste to implement his order dated 31.1.06 and resorted to demolition on 2.2.2006 i.e. within 36 hours. The NCM also concluded that the entire incident took place with the knowledge of the Collector, Jashpur. The Commission was also informed that an appeal against the demolition order of SDM was pending with the Collector. The NCM vide a letter dated 24.8.2006 made the following recommendations to the Chief Secretary, Chattisgarh:-

- (i) The SDM should immediately be transferred from his post and departmental enquiry should be completed as early as possible and in any case within the next six months.
- (ii) The Collector should be immediately transferred and strict disciplinary action should be taken against him. This too should be completed within six months. The appeal against the SDM's order must not be heard by the present Collector. The case should be heard by the successor of the present collector.

4. However, Ms. Mabel Rebello, M.P (Rajya Sabha) informed the Commission on 6.9.2006 that the Collector had heard the appeal and had rejected it. Since the recommendations of the Commission conveyed to the Chattisgarh Government vide letter dated 24.8.2006 were ignored and the Collector was allowed to hear the appeal and pass the order in defiance of the Commission's recommendations, the Chief Secretary and Addl. Chief Secretary (Home) of Chattisgarh Government were summoned to the Commission on 22.11.2006.

5. A hearing was held by NCM on in this case on 22.11.2006 with the Chief Secretary and other senior officers of Chattisgarh Government. During the hearing Vice Chairman, NCM enquired whether it was normal for the SDM to keep a bulldozer in his office. Since the bulldozer was kept ready before the order was passed on 31.1.2006, there is a reasonable ground to believe that the SDM had already decided to restore the possession of the land to the heirs of the original owner. Even before passing his orders on 31.1.2006, he kept the bulldozer ready in his office in order that he could demolish the boundary wall to implement his own order within 36 hours.

6. The SDM had passed the order on 31.1.2006 and implemented the same in the morning hours of 2.2.2006. It was found that Chief Minister, Chattisgarh had, on 13.3.2006 directed that disciplinary proceedings be

initiated against the SDM for working with undue haste. This decision of the Chief Minister has not been implemented even after 8 months i.e. till date of the hearing on 22.11.2006. Compared with the speed with which the SDM had acted, the delay of 8 months to implement the decision of the Chief Minister can hardly be justified. The Chief Secretary, Chattisgarh assured the Commission that a detailed report in this regard would be submitted to the Commission shortly.

Raipur:

The NCM team was informed by the Collector and SSP of Raipur that on 14.8.2005, when a Church was under construction at Jagannath Nagar, Raipur, a group of anti-social elements attacked the Church and demolished the boundary wall. The Christians present in the Church were manhandled. A few miscreants were arrested by the police and an FIR was lodged. The police deployment was later withdrawn and as a result there was further trouble. A Christian delegation submitted a Memorandum to the NCM Members highlighting the indifferent attitude of the police and District Administration. Instead of taking action against the miscreants, some Christian boys were arrested.

Observations and recommendations.

- (i) In most of the cases, the police remained as spectators and even FIRs were not registered. The demand of the Christian organization for an impartial enquiry by a Judge of the Supreme Court or High Court or CBI may be considered.
- (ii) Union Home Ministry may direct the State Governments to ensure that there is no persecution of any person on the basis of frivolous and baseless allegations.
- (iii) The allegations of conversions to Christianity should be properly enquired into. It should be kept in mind that without the performance of the solemn ritual of baptism, nobody can become a Christian.

- (iv) The fundamental right of professing practising and propagating one's religion should not be infringed upon. Stringent action against the perpetrators of unrest and disharmony should be taken.

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NCM Report on the Malegaon Blasts

Mohammad Hamid Ansari, Chairman and Sh. Michael P. Pinto, Vice Chairman, NCM visited Malegaon on 26.9.2006. The city had witnessed bomb blasts on 8.9.2006 as a result of which several Muslims had died.

2. The NCM team was met by a group led by the Congress MLA Sh. Sheikh Rashid, the Jamiat Ulema and the Ahle-Hadith group. These groups submitted to the NCM delegation the following:-

(i) Highest priority should be given to a thorough investigation to identify and punish the culprits. A cautionary warning about possible trouble at the time of Shab-e-Barat was given to senior police officials by the former MLA Shri Nehal Ahmad. Despite it, adequate precautions were not taken. No confidence is reposed in the Senior Superintendent of Police Shri Rajvardhan. The work of the ATS appears satisfactory. It would nevertheless be preferable to have an inquiry conducted by the CBI. Given the lack of any developmental activity in Malegaon and its impact on public perceptions, the need of the hour is to have a special development package from the Central Government. This could take the shape of fifty thousand dwelling units to be constructed for power-loom workers.

(ii) The administration failed to provide security on September 8 and is now tilting the investigation. The public has no trust in the SSP and wants a CBI inquiry. Facts about the police firing on September 8 are being concealed and twisted. The same holds for the investigation in the purchase of the two bicycles that were used in the bomb blasts. The sale register of the shop is in the possession of the police and on the basis of details obtained from it sketches of possible culprits were circulated. Muslims constitute 70-73 percent of Malegaon's population; because of it the city has been for decades neglected by the State Administration. The Patil Commission Report into the 2001 riots has not yet been made public and a similar fate awaits the inquiry into the September 8 incident unless the Central Government took greater interest in the matter and entrusts it to the CBI.

(iii) A conscious attempt is being made to malign the Malegaon Muslims (who played a prominent role in the Freedom Movement). There is criminal neglect in the investigation process; for this reason, it should be handed over to the CBI. The police firing on the afternoon of September 8 near Azad

Nagar Police Station was unwarranted since the preliminary steps of warning the public, and a lathi charge, had not been taken and no senior police officer was present at the scene. Although the Muslims were the victims of the bomb blast, the police inquiry is focused on them and over 4000 persons have been investigated. A local youngster, Irfan Ahmad Akeel Ahmad, was beaten and repeatedly interrogated by the police and offered Rupees 5 lakhs to disclose the names of persons involved. The compensation of Rupees one lakh offered to the families of the victims is inadequate and should be on the same level as that given to the victims of the Mumbai train blasts.

3. The Malegaon Peace Committee met the NCM delegation and mentioned that inter-community relations in the city have always been good and after the bomb blasts, many Hindus had donated blood for the victims. The two communities are interlinked in their commercial activities. The role of the police, and particularly of the S.S.P. was positive and praiseworthy. He should continue to investigate the incidents. The ulema in the city are indulging in political manoeuvring. Special attention does need to be paid to the city's requirements. It is surprising that at a time of stress, some people had found it fit to demonstrate and divert attention from more pressing tasks. Malegaon should be (a) made into a district to ensure posting of senior level officials (b) given a civil hospital (c) should have a development plan so that the educational requirements of the youth are catered for.

4. A lawyer's group also met the NCM team and stated that Muslims are discontented with the police and do not trust it. Investigation into the blasts of September 8 is slow and is being manipulated. Hence the need for a CBI inquiry. Media reporting from and on Malegaon shows a clear bias. One member of the group, a Notary Public, handed over photocopy of the affidavit sworn before him by Arfan Ahmad Akeel Ahmad stating that he was offered Rupees Five Lakhs 'to falsely disclose names of persons involved' in the blasts.

5. The District Administration submitted before the NCM team the following:-

(i) No trouble was anticipated during the Friday prayers and, after the strenuous policing arrangements for the Ganapati festival, the force was given some time off during the day on Friday September 8 so that it could be redeployed in the evening when Shab-e-Barat would get underway;

(ii) The junior police officials present at the Azad Nagar police station (housed in a dilapidated structure) may have panicked and fired 16 rounds when they saw an angry crowd collect in the vicinity; and

(iii) Diligent work on building community relations prevented a communal outburst after the incident.

6. It was evident to the NCM team that there is palpable anger amongst the Muslim residents of Malegaon over the following:

(a) The failure of the district administration to pay heed to the advice given by the former MLA of possible trouble on Shab-e-Barat;

(b) The hasty decision at Azad Nagar Police Station to fire 25 rounds at a crowd that was evidently distressed and emotional over what had happened;

(c) The 'one-sided' investigation process underway, the 'harassment' of Muslims who have been the victims of the bomb blasts, and the failure to come forth with satisfactory explanations about the alleged involvement of certain Hindu groups in recent incidents elsewhere in the State. As a result, their lack of confidence in the local police officials appears total; they are also sceptical over the possibility, on the basis of past experience, of the State Government redressing their grievances.

7. The Muslim groups who met the NCM team at Malegaon look to the Central Government for reassurance on three counts: (i) a fair and speedy inquiry, and identification of the culprits, (ii) a compensation package in line with that offered to the victims of similar incidents in the recent past, and

(iii) a meaningful gesture to the public aimed at reviving a dying city and giving it the assurance of equal treatment in developmental matters.

8. The Malegaon Peace Committee's suggestions about upgrading the administrative structure of the city are a reiteration of the recommendation of the Raghubar Dayal Enquiry Committee appointed by the Government of India after the Malegaon riots of August-October 1967. The allegations of neglect are thus not unfounded.

9. The unease in Malegaon, coming in the wake of the aggressive police investigations after the Mumbai train blasts, is being shared by a wide cross section of Muslims in different parts of the country.

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Report of the NCM visit to Gujarat, 13-17 October, 2006

On 29 August, 2006 the Managing Trustee, Centre for Social Justice and a social activist made a complaint to the Chairman, National Commission for Minorities on the plight of persons displaced as a result of the communal violence in 2002. They pointed out that more than 5000 Muslim families in Gujarat are staying in make shift colonies in four districts of Gujarat.

2. A NCM team comprising Sh. Michael P. Pinto, Vice Chairman, Prof. Zoya Hasan and Dr. Dileep Padgaonkar, Members and Sh. A. Banerji, Joint Secretary of the Commission was deputed to Gujarat to visit the relief camps. While Prof. Zoya Hasan, Member visited 5 relief camps of Dahod and Panchmahal districts on 13 and 14 October, 2006, the full team visited 12 camp sites of Ahmedabad and Sabarkantha districts on 15 and 16 October, 2006.

3. Observations, Complaints and Demands of the Residents of rehabilitation colonies.

The NCM team noted with concern that not a single colony was constructed by the State Government, nor was any land allotted by the State Government. All the colonies were built on land purchased at commercial rates primarily by a range of Muslim organizations and NGOs including Jamiat al Ulema-e-Hind, Islamic Relief Committee, Gujarat Sarvjanik etc. The residents were denied the most rudimentary civic amenities. They are deprived of potable water, sanitary facilities, street lights, schools and primary health care centres. The poor condition of the approach roads was repeatedly highlighted and the team heard reports of how in the absence of such roads, even adolescent boys drowned in the water that had collected near the village after the monsoon when the roads are submerged under several feet of water. The accumulated garbage, the slush and puddles of water are a source of debilitating diseases. None of the camps had any semblance of civic amenities. There was no school, no dispensary, no drinking water supply and no street lamps in the camps.

3.1 The residents were frustrated by their inability to earn their own livelihood and to support themselves in the manner to which they were

accustomed. Before the violence, many of these people were small self-employed traders, artisans or industrialists. The violence put an end to their means of livelihood since their old clients were unwilling to use their services

3.2 NCM members examined the homes in several rehabilitation colonies and found evidence of abject poverty. With some exceptions, the houses contained little except for bedding and kitchen utensils. Despite these signs of poverty, the NCM found that many residents did not have ration cards. Even when ration cards were issued most of the residents were given above the poverty line (APL) ration cards instead of below the poverty line (BPL) ration cards. This makes a big difference because BPL ration cardholders are entitled to get food grains, cereals, kerosene and other basic consumer items at subsidized rates. Indeed in several camps especially in rural areas, the women without exception had just one major demand: they wanted BPL ration cards to be issued to them.

3.3 Interaction with members of civil society, NGOs and those affected by the riots threw up several problems. Residents complained about the atmosphere of insecurity in which they had to live. The team received several complaints about the hostile attitude of the police towards the residents of these colonies or their representatives who have taken up their problems with relevant authorities. In addition to the palpable sense of insecurity in which most of the victims continue to live, there were several complaints that compensation given for the extensive loss suffered by riot victims was completely inadequate. The team was told that the State Government has restricted compensation in respect of damage to houses to a maximum of Rs. 10,000/-. Other complaints referred to the absence of suitable rehabilitation facilities since the State Government concentrated only on immediate relief.

3.4 The team noted with concern that the state was not in the forefront of the move to provide rehabilitation to those who could not return to their homes after the riots. As pointed out elsewhere, the State Government has not been involved in constructing houses for the violence affected, thus leaving the rehabilitation process to the private organizations. If these private organizations were NGOs whose brief was to serve the riot affected that would still be appropriate. But this is not so. Some of the organizations that are active in the field are not purely philanthropic or service oriented. This space that should have been occupied by the State is now being held by

bodies which have a definite agenda of their own. The implications that this has for the security and well being of civil society as a whole are extremely serious.

3.5 The NCM team received repeated demands by the victims as well as the NGOs for a policy package that would be applicable to all displaced persons. In our view the time has come to look at this question very seriously. Riots, disturbances or other calamities occur at regular intervals. If, as a result of such occurrences, people are displaced and are unable to return to their usual places of residence, some responsibility for their welfare must devolve on the State.

4. Recommendations

A. Basic Amenities and Livelihood in the Rehabilitation Colonies

A1. Basic amenities must be provided in the camps of displaced victims. These would cover provision of safe drinking water, streetlights, approach roads etc. This should be done by the State Government.

A2. Government of India should agree that for a period of five years or until they continue to live in the camps, whichever is earlier, all the inhabitants of such camps should be given BPL ration cards without going through the formalities laid down by the Government for the issue of such cards. Similarly, widows should be allowed to claim their pension even if they have not applied within two years or even if they have sons above the age of 18 years.

A3. The State Government should prepare a special economic package for those displaced by the violence with special focus on livelihood issues. For the self employed special efforts should be made to provide inputs like easy credit, raw material and marketing assistance. We strongly believe that this is a vital element in the rehabilitation scenario and that for it to be successfully implemented, NGOs should be involved in it.

A4. Wherever possible the State should take advantage of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme to cover able bodied people in these camps and give them employment.

A5. Government of India should return the amount of Rs. 19.10 crores given back by the Government of Gujarat. The State Government should be asked to cover more beneficiaries under the schemes in an attempt to utilize the entire sum.

A6. There should be a monitoring committee consisting of representatives of State Government and Civil Society, which will be charged with the responsibility of ensuring that the schemes described above are properly implemented.

B. A Special Economic Package for Rehabilitation of Internally Displaced Muslim Families in Gujarat

There is an urgent need for the Central government to design and implement an immediate special economic package for rehabilitation of internally displaced Muslim families in Gujarat. The package must include a set of inputs that would address the totality of livelihood concerns. In particular, attention must be paid to availability of credit, raw material and marketing support, where necessary, with the help of NGOs.

C. A National Policy on Internal Displacement Due to Violence

There is a need to design a national policy on internal displacement due to violence. Populations displaced due to sectarian, ethnic, or communal violence should not be left to suffer for years together due to the lack of a policy and the absence of a justiciable framework of entitlements. When displacement takes place under conditions of fear and under constant direct threat of violation of Article 21 of the Constitution, the trauma and conditions under which survivors face the future is considerably worsened. Further, when the threat of violence is perceived to be continuing the protection of people's constitutional rights can only be sought through a national policy which clearly lays out a non-negotiable framework of entitlements. Any national policy on internal displacement due to violence must be designed to include provisions for immediate compensation and rehabilitation. A national policy on internal displacement due to violence must further take into account the displaced population's aspirations of 'return to their home' and make provisions to facilitate the return, if it is

possible under conditions of safety and security, and to restore the displaced families to their original conditions of living. A national policy on internal displacement due to violence must also lay down specified time frames for implementation of a rehabilitation plan, as well as include an effective grievance redressal and monitoring mechanism.

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NCM report on Mangalore riots

Mangalore city and the adjoining areas were engulfed in communal disturbance during 4-7 October, 2006. Sh. Harcharan Singh Josh, Member, NCM was deputed to Mangalore on 17-18 October 2006 to assess the situation.

2. On 1.10.2006 at a place called Bajpai about 2 kilometers from Mangalore airport anti-social elements organized a procession for celebrating Dussehra festival. A huge tableau of a Muslim performing pooja to the idol was taken out in front of a mosque, where the Muslims were offering prayers. The processionists were shouting provocative slogans. This was objected to by the leaders of the local Muslim community. They objected to the tableau and there were hot exchanges between the Hindus and Muslims. Some miscreants started pelting stones on the mosque as well as on some shops belonging to Muslims. In the late evening some of the shops of the Muslims were attacked and looted. The police were seen as mere spectators during these incidents of violence. In the night of 4.10.2006, the shops of Muslims were again attacked and looted after a rumour was spread in the city that a truck was carrying cattle. On 5.10.2006, a bandh call was given. During the bandh, police imposed Section 144 Cr PC but on 6th & 7th October the shops of the Muslims were looted and burnt during the curfew hours.

3. Discussion with District Administration

The NCM Member had a meeting with the DM and SP of Mangalore. As a result of the meeting, the District Administration took a decision to make the payment of all medical bills of the persons admitted in hospitals. Two Muslims were killed at Mangalore. The State Government announced Rs.1 lakh relief to the families of riot victims and about Rs. 22 lakhs have been distributed by the Administration as compensation for the loss of property varying from Rs.3000/- to Rs. 25,000/- to each person.

4. Recommendations :-

(i) A judicial enquiry may be instituted by a judge of the High Court. The enquiry may be completed within one month.

(ii) Stringent action be taken against the police personnel found guilty of dereliction of duty.

(iii) Death compensation of Rs.5 lakh and injury compensation of Rs.1 lakh may be sanctioned in each case. Compensation may also be sanctioned for loss of properties.

(iv) The State Administration should adopt pre-emptive measures in order to forestall the recurrence of such incidents in the future and communal harmony meetings may be organized from time to time.

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