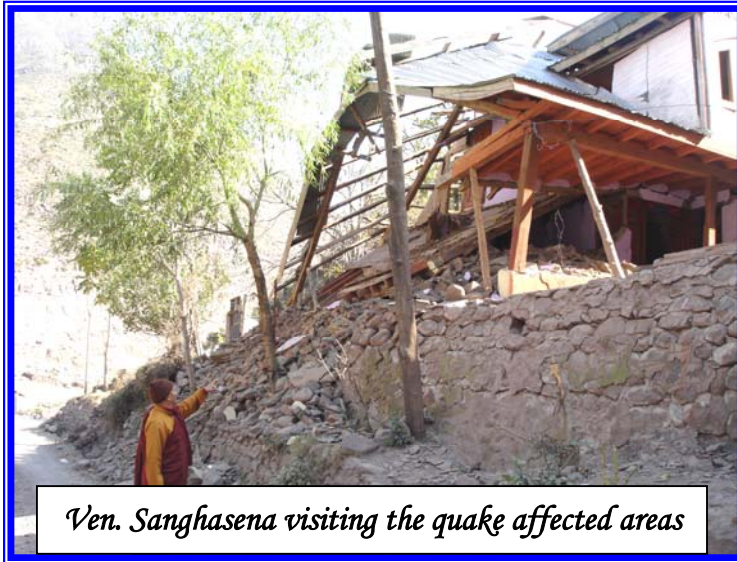


Report of the Earthquake Relief Work in Srinagar Under taken by MIMC, Devachan, Leh-Ladakh



Ven. Sanghasena visiting the quake affected areas

As a latent reaction to the recent earthquake devastation caused at the Indian side of Kashmir, a team of MIMC Relief Committee consisting of the Ven. Bhikkhu Sanghasena Mahahera President, Vice President and the Secretary, visited the spot where we met the Superintendent of police, the Deputy Superintendent of police and prominent people of the area and discussed thread and bear about the problems faced by the people. The team visited the most

affected villages viz Salamabad, Dachhis, Gultandaki, Urusa, Kamalkot, Basgram(A), Basgram(B) and Sukhdani.

There are colossal loss of lives and wealth in this region. The measure of tragedy is beyond our imagination. All the people that we met and discussed, have all lost their kith and kin, home and wealth and are living with a multitude of sufferings. Sufferings due to destruction and devastation fear due to impending severe winter, which has already set in. Initially we proposed to keep many options opened to provide help and assistance like construction of school, hostel, orphan school and dispensary. But due to the effect of initial shock, no taker of such welfare projects



Ven. Sanghasena is having a discussion with the Superintendent of Police and other village heads.

is seen. What they demand and desire for, is to have some measures for mere survival and sustenance during the coming long winter.

To remove and prevent their hunger, thirst and cold, we found that there were many NGOs at national and international level, who have provided lot of foodstuff, clothing, blankets and tents etc. but they are direly in need of a reasonably convenient



Quake affected people aathered near the relief camp

shelters. There are many villages/hamlets to cover but project of such a magnitude is not within our command. However we have proposed to adopt a village called Sukhadani, which is away from the road, is devoid of any outside help and assistance. The community will provide the land for construction of these huts. We proposed to construct about 42 huts to cover the entire family of this village. Subject to availability of the funding, the same facilities could be extended to some other neglected and remote quake effected areas too.

Later we discussed all the modalities of the project with many prominent, likeminded and positive thinkers of the area including technocrats, engineers and religious teachers.

The MIMC Relief Committee traveled the hardest trek of more than 700 kms from Leh to Srinagar to Uri, took one week of hectic schedule and very satisfying for the co-operation and co-ordination extended by the local government administration and the community members.

As a follow up action again Venerable Bhikkhu Sanghasena personally visited the effected area, Uri Sector in the month of February. He has inaugurated the completed huts in presence of the local residents. Construction of about 6-7 huts was completed in good shaped at that time. People are happy to met their demand and also pledged with certain more demand viz construction of the school building and toilets for the villagers.

The construction of the hut is made with the following specification

1. Preparation of foundation with cement concrete for fixing of wood
2. Outer wall is covered with CGI sheets
3. Inter wall with plywood
4. Diameter 20'.0x16'
5. One window and one door is affixed with
6. Roof is covered with iron sheet



Venerable Sanghasena with other MIMC members hearing the grievances of the people of quake affected



A newly built hut

Dr.S.T.Phuntsog, Vice President of MIMC visited the area in the month of May, with the Engineer concerned and two members of the committee. He found all the huts are duly completed. He collected the village representative and enquired from them regarding the outcome of the project.



Dr. Phuntsog and other MIMC members inspecting the progress of the work,

They are highly satisfied and expressed thanks to the funding agency and Venerable Bhikkhu Sanghasena, the President of Mahabodhi International Meditation Centre for giving them the timely aids. These feeling seem to have conveyed to the media and local administration. Dr. Phuntsog inspected the quality of hut one by one and all are quite satisfactory and the residents of the village also expressed happiness.

Simultaneously they demanded the construction of the village school which is in dilapidated condition and only two

rooms accommodation was available. The demand seems justified but due to inaccessible area, distance involved and lack of allotted fund could not meet their genuine demand.

One of their many disturbing findings is the low level of morale of women in this village due to sudden loss of their survival resources. Livestock has perished, land are disrupted by the severe impact of quake and considerable loss of lives. Many people are still reeling under the invisible, but palpable psychological stress. However gradually their coming back due to initial stock and survival instruct is slowly returning. Much more need to be done but due to our limitation in manpower and other unfavourable factors the MIMC is hesitant to promise for further assistance.



Interior of the hut

The MIMC is highly thankful to the all the philanthropic individuals and organizations like the Buddha Hauz, Kinder Des Himalaya, BLIA, Los Angeles, Susana Caravello of IALRW, Akiko Sekine, Japan, Ruth Kunz, Switzerland, Me Borghrt Tilman, Ortwin Nopper, Germany, Mahabodhi Buddhist, Germany, Ruth Khules, Switzerland, Stitching Karmath, Paula A Darroch, USA, Margot C Born, USA and Sandara H Welch, USA for their financial support to render the humanitarian service as a quick response. The financial expenditure involved in execution of the total project comes to **Rs. 16,25,000** which include the outside contribution and MIMC contribution.