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Dr Alexander all praise for Sai Baba Seva Dham

By our staff reporter

Model projects like the Sai Baba Seva Dham providing vocational training to the physically handicapped, destitute and rural youths can only be raised through sheer dedication, conviction and genuine love for the cause, observed Governor Dr. P C Alexander.

Dr. Alexander was speaking after visiting the Seva Dham constructed by Radha Kaliandas Daryanani Charitable Trust at Kanhe phata on the Bombay-Pune road on Thursday. He described it as a model project for the State and the country.

Complimenting chief trustee Prem Daryanani, the governor remarked, "It is the manifestation of love and God's inspiration to persons like you. There is something more than money - love and compassion in you. No act is called an act of love in the eyes of God without motivation, compassion and genuine love".

He commended the efforts of the trusts in providing vocational training to destitutes and youth from villages to stand on their feet and live with self-respect.

The Governor remarked that he had never found the spirit of social service among people in other parts of the country as much as he had witnessed in the people of Maharashtra.

Earlier, sewing machines, were presented at the hands of Mrs. Ackama Alexander to 14 blind women from Maval taluka, who had undergone training at the Sai Baba Seva Dham Trust.

The machines were not given free and they will have to repay the price over a long period of time, interest free.

Mr. Pramod Navalkar, State Minister for Transport and Cultural Affairs, described his visit to the Seva Dham as "the pilgrimage to ten holy shrines".

"My ambition for the pilgrimage to holy shrines along with my wife starting from Tirupati, was accomplished today", he remarked.

He said the future of the younger generation was at stake and it could be salvaged through projects like the Seva Dham trusts where youth are not only imparted vocational training, but are taught to live with self-respect.

Mr. Navalkar announced that all the S.T. buses will henceforth stop in front of the Seva Dham, especially since the Governor had recommended so.

"Not only the buses, but I will also stop here whenever I pass by this road", he remarked.

Mr. Nana Chudasama, former Sheriff of Bombay, describing Mr. Prem Daryanani as a "miracle man" said that institutions like the Seva Dham are pride of

the nation, and the entire country needs this type of integrated rural development programme.

Mrs. Ushaben Mehta and Mr. Ismail Mohammad Kanga were the other speakers who lauded the efforts of the trust in providing training to the destitute, blind, handicapped and rural women in different vocations and preparing them to live a life of self-respect and dignity.

Mr. Prem Daryanani in his introductory speech said that children and women trained at 10 centres in different arts and skills under the same roof will not be given anything free when they return to their villages for self-employment.

"We do not want them to live with feeling that they are indebted to anyone or under any stigma that they were given something free".

The basic objective of the training at Seva Dham is to train the children, youth and women and have them return to their villages to earn a livelihood. They should not migrate to cities in search of jobs, he added.

He said the Indus Ind bank, Pune Branch, has offered loans to rural youth and women trained at the Seva Dham at an interest rate of 4 per cent.

The Union Finance Ministry in a rare gesture has also given total tax exemption for donations to the trust, he added.

He said irregular water supply is the only problem the trust is facing.

The Seva Dham trusts have ten different projects where training is imparted to destitute and physically handicapped children free of cost including lodging and boarding.

The Central Government is very soon expected to launch water conservation and watershed projects on a large scale, but does not have the trained manpower. The village youth will find job opportunities easily under this programme.