

GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH

No.CC/Collr/Spl/2003.

Dated. 18.03.2003.

From:

To:

Sri G.Asok Kumar,I.A.S.,  
Collector & Dist.Magistrate,  
NIZAMABAD.

The Addl.Secretary to Government,  
Social Welfare (POA) Department,  
Andhra Pradesh,  
H Y D E R A B A D.

Sir,

Sub:- SWD – Sri Ravindra Dwivedi, National President, Akhil Bhartiya Bhrastachar Nirmulan Samithi, Hyderabad – Regarding custom of making jogini in Andhra Pradesh – Report submitted – Reg.

Ref:- 1. From Sri Ravindra Dwivedi, National President, Akhil Bhartiya Bhrastachar Nirmulan Samithi, Hyd. (AP) through Rohit Khera, Officer on Spl.Duty PM's office, New Delhi Lr.No. 06/03/2003-PMP-3/1650421,dt.6.02.2003 addressed to CS to Govt.of A.P.  
2.Addl.Secretary to Govt., Social Welfare (POA) Dept., A.P.,Hyd.Memo.No. 2824/POA.2/2002-2, dt.05.03.2003.

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It is submitted that as per the enquiry there is no village by name Rajjaiya Gaon in Nizamabad district. Hence no action can be taken on the petition.

However it is informed that district administration has taken lot of efforts with the assistance of AP Schedule Caste Development Corporation and some NGOs like Samskar Plan International, Sanga Vikas etc to put an end to the obnoxious system of jogins and rehabilitate them. Many Jogins were identified and assistance in the form of IAY houses, Fixed Deposits of Rs 10000, land purchase and other economic support schemes were taken up for their rehabilitation.

In the last two years special drives were organized by the district administration to rehabilitate jogins and cut the roots of the system itself. Mass marriages were organized for resettling jogins. Potharajus are the set of people who are believed to have "the divine powers" to convert young girls to jogins. The administration had identified that to prevent further conversion of young girls to jogins, the system of pothurajus have to be done away with. In very daring moves, hailed as social revolution by the press,

three major programs were organized by the district administration to bring all potharajus in the district to the main stream. It can now be said that the potharaju system has been eliminated from district. Many rehabilitation programs have been taken up for the potharajus. With the Pothuraju system cleared there cannot be any new cases of jogins in the district.

As a part of the resettlement program for jogins, the administration has sanctioned IAY houses and arranged marriages for jogins. In the mass marriage function of 28<sup>TH</sup> October 2001, His Excellency Dr.Rangarajan, Hon'ble Governor of Andhra Pradesh and his wife were the Chief Guests. Another mass marriage of jogins was organized on 24<sup>th</sup> December, 2002 in the presence of Sri Nara Chandrababu Naidu, Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh. With the tremendous awareness campaigns taken up by the administrations, villagers are themselves preventing occurrences of any rituals to convert girls to jogins.

Out of the identified 2129 Jogins, with a total amount of Rs 395.6 lakhs 877 were given FDRs for Rs 10000, 400 were given Rs 10000 as FDRs and given assistance under other Economic support schemes, 189 were given FDR for Rs 10000 and assisted under Land purchase scheme and another 663 assisted with Land purchase scheme. APSCD Corporation had purchased lands from Nizam Sugar Factory and distributed to jogins.

Justice Dr. Ramaswamy, member of NRHC had visited Nizamabad in November 2001 and in his letter to the Chairman, NHRC appreciated the steps taken by the administration for rehabilitation of Jogins.

A detailed write-up on the efforts taken by district administration for the settlement of Jogins and the assistance given is enclosed herewith.

Yours faithfully,

COLLECTOR: NIZAMABAD.