

Annual Report on the work of the
Ali S. K. Memorial Society for the Children
for the year 1999-00

- 1. Introduction** The main object of the Ali S. K. Memorial Society for the Children (ASKMSC) is to provide food, shelter and education to orphaned, abandoned and other children in need. In order to achieve this goal it was decided to build a home for street children. After some land had been generously provided to the society steps were taken for planning and financing of that building. The construction of this home for street children is currently going on.
- 2. Activities:** In April 99 an agreement was signed with the landlord of the land provided to the society regarding the planned construction of the home for street children. In the same month contact with a German NGO was established which promised to finance the planned building.
The Licence Building Surveyor Mr. Moloy Sil of UJJAL CONSTRUCTION was appointed to start with the necessary business regarding planning and plan sanctioning.
In the following months major emphasis was put on applying for the required registration with the Central Government under the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 1976 for the acceptance of foreign contribution. The LBS Mr. Sil was asked to give a detailed estimate on the costs of the planned construction in written form. In August 99 the application was eventually sent to the Ministry of Home Affairs. Meanwhile the plan had been submitted to the CMC for sanctioning.
In the month of September a letter from the Ministry of Home Affairs informed the society that it could not be registered under the FCRA, but foreign contribution for the planned project could be received after getting prior permission of the Central Government under Section 6(1A) of the said Act.
In order not to depend entirely on the said permission local donations were increasingly sought for.
In the month of December the building plan was sanctioned by the CMC and in the following month construction started. The construction is currently going on and the ground floor is complete.
- 3. Finances:** The ASKMSC is still mainly dependent on the membership fees of its members and on regular contributions from its friends and well-wishers, but local donations are increasingly adding to this. A German NGO was approached for further financial support. This NGO has promised to sponsor the construction of the home for street children and running costs thereof and would also like to

provide individual sponsors for the children. The required registration with the Central Government under the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 1976 for the acceptance of foreign contribution was applied for. Unfortunately the Ministry of Home Affairs has found it not possible to register the society under Section 6(1) of the said Act. However the society was asked to obtain prior permission of the Central Government under Section 6 (1A) of the Act. Necessary papers have to be submitted with the Ministry of Home Affairs soon. Until prior permission is not granted some other ways of financing the project have to be explored.

4. Outlook:

It is expected that the current construction for the home for street children will be complete within the coming months depending on whether prior permission is granted and the required funds can flow. The society is therefore hoping to have the first home for street children fully functioning within the first half of this year giving shelter to about 20 children.

It is planned to increase contacts with other NGOs concerned with street children in the future to seek scope for possible co-operation in this field.

As soon as the first home for street children is fully running it is planned to explore possibilities for the construction of a second home.