

Subject: VILLAGE DIALOGUE

Village: MINAWAR Tehsil: GILGIT

Visit by: SSK & TH ... accompanied by TS and SG.

Visit No. FIRST Venue: House of Numberdar

Village participation: 34 villagers, including Numberdar Sahib and 2 local council members.

THE DATA

1. The People

- House holds 175 Population 1,500
- Sects (No. of families) Shia (55), Sunni (120)
- Non-farm occupations: 3-4% of households

2. The Land

- Developed area Undeveloped Area
- Average holding
- Land prices (Rs. per kanal)
 - Developed 16,000
 - Undeveloped 8,000
 - Land by KKH 16,000

3. Physical Infrastructure

- 1 Good link road 1 Govt. Primary school
- 1 Mosque for boys.

THE DIALOGUE

Introduction by TS. SSK: I am here today to explain the aims and objectives of AKRSP and to indicate how we can cooperate in our efforts to develop your village.

The AKRSP is a non-communal programme, established to help reduce poverty in the Northern Areas. I think it is better to explain our method of working at the very outset.

One thing we must understand clearly: we have not come here to listen to and accept your demands. Further, we will cooperate only on projects that increase incomes. These projects you will have to identify, keeping in mind that they should benefit as many people as possible, and can be implemented and managed by you with technical, financial and training assistance from us.

All villagers present agreed that lack of irrigation water was their biggest problem. They suggested a channel be dug to bring water from a spring 2-1/2 miles away.

OBSERVATIONS AND IMPRESSIONS

1. This was the first entirely non-Ismaili village we visited. The reception we got was heart-warming.
2. We had relied so far on Ismaili Institutions for organising the first meeting with villagers. That a successful first meeting took place in a non-Ismaili village augurs well for our hopes of organizing every village in Gilgit around productive activities.