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INSTEAD OF BEING RULED LET US BE RULERS

Sahib Shri Kanshi Ram Tells Dalits



SPECIAL SPEECH DELIVERED BY Sahib KANSHI RAM Ji AT 1ST WORLD DALIT CONFERENCE IN MALAYSIA ON 10TH & 11TH OCTOBER, 1998

Dalits should become rulers instead of being ruled. We must not be always at the receiving end, instead become the givers, Dalit Leader Mr. Kanshi Ram told the world dalits. It's long we have been ruled. It is long we have been taking. Now it is time we change the destiny to rule and give, he said. Mr. Kanshi Ram who is the Founder President of Bahujan Samaj Party delivered a key-note address at the opening of the 1st World Dalit Convention 'A new vision towards a casteless society' at the Kuala Lumpur Mines Resort City.

The two day convention held on 10th and 11th October 1998 was well attended by more than 700 delegates throughout the world including famous politicians noted leaders from dalit movement, champions of down-trodden, social reformers, renowned economists, famous

educationists and great scholars.

The Malaysian Minister of Tourism, Arts and Culture Datuk Sabbaruddin Chik officially opened the conference which saw the opening very colourful with Malaysian cultural and traditional dances performed by Indians, Malays and Chinese. Mr. Kanshi Ram garlanded the Portrait of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar while Dalit Sena President Ram Vilas Paswan garlanded the portrait of the great Periar.

Mr. Kanshi Ram in his speech continued to trace the history of caste and Braminical social order. He asserted by virtue of his vast experience that elimination of caste was impossible at this stage. He also elaborated the very purpose of creating caste. In context of caste oppression and justice Mr. Kanshi Ram referred the role

of Dr. Ambedkar. He commended the merit of 'Communal Award' which he achieved after a long struggle.

Dr. Ambedkar could not sustain the going due to the constant pressure of the mighty upper caste Hindus, Mr. Kanshi Ram told the delegates who packed the hall. 'Babasaheb Ambedkar was able to get reservation for the oppressed in legislative houses, job opportunities in government departments and also places in higher educational institutions.

I wish to stress upon that reservation is not the solution to our problem. We must become rulers instead of being ruled, givers instead of being takers, Mr. Kanshi Ram told the crowd to a thunderous applause.

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National Seminar: Patterns of Dalit Social Mobility in Uttar Pradesh and Punjab Department of Political Science Panjab University Chandigarh

Chandigarh (Ambedkartimes Bureau):- The two-day UGC-ASHISS national seminar, "Patterns of Dalits Social Mobility in Uttar Pradesh and Punjab", being organised by the Department of Political Science, Panjab University was inaugurated by the Vice Chancellor R.C. Sobti today at the ICSSR complex. In his key note address, Prof P.S. Verma, laid out the historical backdrop to the contemporary dalit movement drawing examples from across the country. Dr Ronki Ram, Chairperson welcomed the delegates and introduced the theme. Dr. Ronki Ram highlighted the fact that despite the largest percentage of Scheduled Castes concentration in Punjab, they failed to capture the power in the state. However,

that does not mean that Dalits in Punjab have not acquired social mobility. The social mobility they have achieved in the state can not be explained through the traditional models of conversion to Buddhism and Sanskritisation. He talked about an alternative model of Dalit social mobility in Punjab having its roots in Ad Dharm and the philosophy of Guru Ravidass. Prof B. S. Brar, Hon'ble Director of the ICSSR also spoke on the occasion.

There were three sessions after the inaugural session. In the first session, chaired by Prof Harish K Puri, Dalit Rights advocate Chandra

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Dr. Ronki Ram

National Seminar: Patterns of Dalit Social Mobility in Uttar Pradesh and Punjab Department of Political Science Panjab University Chandigarh

Seminar on Patterns of Dalit Social Mobility in Uttar Pradesh and Punjab Concludes

Chandigarh (Ambedkartimes Bureau):- The national seminar on Dalit Social Mobility concluded with the screening of a documentary based on the field survey that the noted Dalit Rights advocate Chandra Bhan has done in two districts of Uttar Pradesh.

There were three sessions on the concluding day. It began with Prof Rawat's study of the Chamars of UP, which basically draws from his forthcoming book "A new history of untouchability". He noted the

social and cultural mobilisation of the Dalits in UP can be traced back to the early decades of the 20th century. Their main quest was to assert their cultural and social equality and not social mobility. Prof Satish Sharma, focussed on the problem of caste based inequalities in the context of Punjab with reference to the role played by the Arya Samaj. A paradoxical mobile immobile situation arises as a result where the ex-untouchables are brought back into the Hindu fold and yet not given their due as the activities

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