

49. Sub: T.T.D. - Construction of Temple at  
Pittsburg, U. S. A. - Donation - Reg.

10

.....

The Government of Andhra Pradesh, in its Memo No.1298/Endt.III/74-1 dt.6-7-1974 while forwarding the copy of the representation letter dt.2-7-1974 of Sri Rajagopal, Secretary, the Hindu Temple Society of North America (Pittsburgh) which was addressed to Sri J. Vengal Rao, Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh instructed the Commissioner, Endowments Department, Hyderabad, for onward transmission of the same to the Board of Trustees, T.T.D. for taking immediate action. In the representation, Sri Rajagopal, Secretary of the Hindu Temple Society of North America stated that they have proposed to construct Sri Venkateswaraswamy Temple at Pittsburgh, U.S.A. for which 7 acres of land has been acquired by them already in a beautiful hilly area which remarkably resembles Tirumala Hills. The Commissioner, Endowments and Sri Ganapathy Sthapathy during their visit to America have inspected the site and have approved it as an ideal site for Sri Venkateswara Swami Temple. The Endowments Department of Andhra Pradesh have given plans and estimates for the construction of the Temple. Though the construction is to be done at Pittsburgh certain items such as idols, doors etc., have to be prepared in India and transported to Pittsburgh. Even for the construction of the Temple skilled labour have to be deputed from India. For this purpose the expenditure to be deputed from India. For this purpose the expenditure to be incurred in India has been estimated at Rs.8 lakhs by the Endowments Department since the first phase of the construction does not include the Rajagopuram. Atleast Rs. 4 lakhs of expenditure will have to be met for the first phase. The Secretary of the said Society requested the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh to extend help to make available Rs.4 lakhs to the Commissioner, Endowments Department from T.T.D. so that the Commissioner, Endowments may take necessary action for the preparation of idols etc. He also stated that they will return this money in the form of medical and scientific equipment to Andhra Pradesh when the Temple in ee America flourishes. They are hoping to start the base construction this year i.e., 1974 and do the superstructure and instalation of idols next year. They wanted to do prathista at the same time as New York Temple in September 1975.

Contd...

Estimated Expenditure at India  
towards the Temple at Pittsburgh

11

	Rs.
1. Providing Moola Vighrams Doors, Frames, etc.	89,500-00
2. Dwajasthambam and Balipeetam	15,000-00
3. Importation of skilled labour from Madras to Hyderabad.	3,400-00
4. Transportation from Madras to Pittsburgh	25,000-00
5. Transportation and packing upto Madras.	1,000-00
6. Handling charges at Madras Port	500-00
7. Transportation of 50 Nos. of Silpies from India to Pittsburgh	4,00,000-00
8. Labour Charges of Silpies to be paid in India 50 Nos. at Rs.20/- per head per day for 6 months.	1,80,000-00
9. Centages charges and other contingencies at 3%	85,600-00
	- - - - -
	8,00,000-00
	= = = = =

In the Informal meeting held on 3-7-74 at Hyderabad for discussing the matters relating to the construction of the temple at New York and Pittsburgh in U. S. A. the Chairman of the T.T.D. Trust Board agreed to donate the required idols freely and as far as the donations is concerned for the construction of the temple the Chairman, TTD Trust Board said that it will be decided after the TTD Trust Board receives a letter from the Society. Accordingly a letter dt. 24.7.74 from Sri Rajagopal, Secretary of the Hindu Temple Society North America (Pittsburgh) was received in which he has requested the following:-

1. Idols of Sri Venkateswaraswamy, Thayar Andal and Garuda with best workmanship. Chakras for these idols preferred from Sankaracharya. They need to be shipped around April 1975.
2. Door Frames and Carved wooden doors (Well seasoned wood).
3. An Engineer to observe Foundation work and to learn about construction practices and material availability herein October 1974 for 3-4 weeks.

4. Twelve twenty silpis and support people (exact number) to be determined by the Engineer after his trip here) for 4 to 6 months from mid April 1975 for building superstructure to be completed by Sept '75.

He wanted a letter from the TTD Trust Board regarding these commitments from TTD, confirming donation of idols and sending of silpis as volunteers. Indian Expresses to be met by TTD and all U. S. expenses including support of the engineering and silpis to be met by them during the project duration. He also wanted the TTD Trust Board to fix up an auspicious date for laying foundation in October. He also wanted to know the address of a project Engineer, if any one appointed for the purpose so that he can correspond directly with him with regard to donation of Rs.4 lakhs another letter dt.25.9.74 is received from Sri C.V.Narasimhan of the Hindu Temple Society of North America as desired by the Chairman T.T.D.Trust Board wherein Sri C.V.Narasimhan requested to Board of Trustees of TTD for a grant of a minimum of Rs.4 lakhs to the Pittsburgh Lord Venkateswaraswami Temple. This sum would be spent under the supervision of the T.T.D. to provide the needed inputs from India for the Pittsburgh temple both in terms of materials and services of artisans including cost of their to and fro travel. All local expenditure they will be met by the Society. The Government is also reminding on this donation of Rs.4 lakhs frequently, as the Secretary of the Hindu Temple Society of North America has addressed a letter dt.2-7-74 directly to Sri J. Vengal Rao Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, on which the Government is reminding.

In this connection it is also submitted that the specified Authority of the TTD Board in its Res.No.1008 dt. 12.2.73 resolved to sanction an amount of Rs.7 lakhs and recommended to set apart an amount of Rs.3 lakhs for 1973-74 and Rs.4/- lakhs for the subsequent year 74-75 towards donation to Hindu Temple Society, North America, U.S.A. for the establishment of the Temple at New York and other allied buildings.

Hence decision may be taken whether to donate Rs.4 lakhs to the Temple Society of North America for the construction of Venkateswaraswamy Temple at Pittsburgh, USA if so whether to donate it in kind. Ratification may also be given on the donation of the required idols to be donated free of cost as agreed to by our Chairman. Decision may also be taken on the other points as stated above.