EXECUTIVE OFFICER
E.O. PESHI/TTD/TPT/2009

Sub: ***TTD – Executive Officer Peshi – Provision of overnight facilities of accommodation and food to the left over pilgrims in the compartments and queue complex – Regarding,***

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NOTE

There is heavy rush and day by day number of pilgrims visiting Tirumala is increasing and in spite of adopting Maha Laghu Darshan in place of Laghu Darshan, still we are finding it difficult to clear all the pilgrims on a single day. An analysis of statistics for the last year was done and out of 365 days 156 number of days pilgrims were left over in the compartments and they only were given darshan following day. The maximum pilgrims left over for darshan on a single day was approximately 20,000 with all the compartments utilized full and 5,000 or so pilgrims left over in the queue line.

It is the endeavor of the TTD to provide as far as possible quick darshan to the devotees who come to visit the Lord. But wherever we fail to arrange darshan on the same day, we can at least provide them necessary facilities for comfortable stay in the night and let them allow for darshan next day morning as per their priority in the compartment / queue line. Though compartments are comfortable for stay during day but they are not be right place for over night staying for pilgrims and next day morning the number of bathrooms available may not be adequate to services of pilgrims waiting in compartment for hours together. It is even more problematic on Friday as the Sarvadarshan let in time would be around 10.00 a.m. which means they will have to stay in the compartment quite a long time to have darshan.

Keeping this in view the Executive Officer had series of discussions with all the Head of Departments connected with Tirumala administration, employees union and also based on his own experience when he went for sarvadarshan through queue line and waiting in compartment explored for alternative methods for taking care of these left over pilgrims over night.

It is now proposed in the ATC car parking area near Vaikuntam Queue Complex, a Pilgrim Amenities Complex can be constructed with both dormitory type accommodation as well as big room accommodation to accommodate ten thousand persons with necessary provision of bath rooms and toilets. Cellar portion can still be used as parking. At about 8.00 p.m. on any day we will be able to know which compartments may not be able to complete their darshan on the same day. For them identity cards can be issued with serial number and compartment number where they were in and request them to go over to amenities complex which is connected to queue complex on foot. We can make necessary arrangements for food for the pilgrims at the amenities complex and they can stay for the night and attend to morning calls.

They can be allowed to join the queue next day morning for comfortable darshan. Such of those who still would like to stay in the compartment can be left to stay in the compartment itself. To that extent the pressure on compartment bath rooms would be eased. Hence for left over pilgrims on peak day of the order of 25,000 we may still be able to provide service to all of them. This particular amenities complex will not be given for ordinary stay to pilgrims on rush days, whenever we know there will be this type of accumulation in the compartment, usually as it happens on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays or any important festival occasions. On these days it is utilized only for pilgrims left over for darshan on that day and on other days when rush is less it is utilized for accommodating pilgrims as in the case of other pilgrim amenities complexes.

The Executive Officer has inspected the site along with officers, cost of providing accommodation for about ten thousand pilgrims is going to be Rs.60 crores.

The Board may accordingly approve the proposal for taking up construction of pilgrim amenities complex and the system of issue of identity slips to left over pilgrims for using pilgrim amenities complex.

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Res. No. 145 dated 28-7-2009

Since an extension Sudarshan facility can bring down the waiting time this issue can be examined once a view is taken on Sudarshan. The report may be brought to the Board as early as possible.

Sd/- Chairman,
TTD Board.