

Azad Kashmir, is a small stretch of land with limited economic resources. Agriculture is limited, business is small, and the terrain is difficult for the people to utilize for economic development. Therefore, natural opportunities of generating a financial income for the Area needs to be explored and attempted. Besides Water Resources Management, Tourism is another venue which can greatly aid and help to uplift and revive the area and the lives of the people. Nevertheless, this sector is ignored and continues to suffer. Adding more oil to injury, Foreign Tourism is prohibited in Azad Jammu and Kashmir. As a Member of Legislative Assembly, deem it appropriate to reconsider the entry of Foreign Visitors and Tourist in Azad Jammu and Kashmir. Lots of beaurocratic hurdles and barriers are prevalent in the present Tourism Policy, which includes the required approval of the Ministry of Interior government of Pakistan. There are many lovely places which, if publicized and marketed in the best manner, can attract a lot of both national and international Tourism. Therefore, I float the notion for the permission of free international tourism to Azad Jammu and Kashmir without any unnecessary restriction or interference.

A few considerations in this regard, are:

- A. The Northern areas are as sensitive as Azad Jammu and Kashmir. If tourism exists there without any ban or restriction surely, there will not be any reason not permitting the same level of tourism in Azad Jammu and Kashmir.
- B. Lot of Kashmiries are living abroad, especially from the areas of Mirpur, Kotli and Poonch. They suffer a lot due to clearance issues, and so on. They can help a great deal in promoting the international tourism of Kashmir, if the present system of entry is revised and improved for foreign visitors and tourists.
- C. Places like Neelum, Rawalakot, Havali and Bagh, if developed into properly established tourism resorts, as well as being properly promoted and marketed with effective tourism support, can attract a lot of foreign tourism and generate an excellent boost to the revenue and economy of Azad Jammu and Kashmir.

D. The arrival and interaction of foreign tourists will also help to promote the current Kashmir issue further, amongst the international community, as physical interaction to such an issue has no other alternative.

E. I, being representative of the people, and a strong believer of Kashmir's accession with Pakistan, deem it appropriate to present this request of revision to this August House and to take the House in confidence, to discuss on this issue and advise as appropriate. I confidently assure you that this may appear a worthless notion in a draft form, but if implemented with success, it shall have far-reaching effects for the Kashmir issue and the economic revivment, promotion, development and growth of the area, and it will be surely a positive step for the people.

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