

From page 1

5 IPS, 9 KAS, 2 Accounts cadre officers being promoted

Similarly, Cabinet will give nod to the promotion of three IPS officers of 1999 batch to the Super Time Scale-I (DIG). These officers are Vijay Singh Sambyal, J. L. Sharma and Bashir Ahmad Itoo.

Sources said that Cabinet will also order promotion of A. M. M. Jehangir, Director Codes, Finance Department to the Super Time Scale of the J&K Accounts Service with effect from the date when he was assigned the charge of the post of Director General, Accounts and Treasuries. Similarly, Krishan Singh, Treasury Officer, Sadder, Treasury, Jammu is being promoted to the Special Scale of J&K Accounts Service with effect from July 25, 2013.

As already reported by EXCELSIOR, Cabinet will give nod to the promotion of nine Special Scale KAS officers to the Super Time Scale of the J&K Administrative Service prospectively. These officers are Manisha Devi Sharma, Salma Hamid, Mubarak Singh, Mushtaq Ahmad Mir, Farooq Ahmed Shah, Manzoor Ahmed

Lone, Showkat Ahmad Zargar, Tsering Muroop and Jaipal Singh.

Three Super Time Scale KAS officers working in the Civil Secretariat can be posted as Secretaries in the respective departments and as of now only one officer namely Dev Lata, Special Secretary in the Chief Minister's Secretariat, is holding the Super Time Scale of KAS. As such she will be designated as Secretary in the CM's Secretariat, sources said, adding from among the nine officers recommended by the Establishment-cum-Selection Committee for promotion to the Super Time Scale of KAS Tsering Muroop, Special Secretary, Ladakh Affairs Department, will be designated as Secretary in the Department.

Sources said that Cabinet will also accord approval to the appointment of three Functional Managers of Industries and Commerce Department to the Time Scale of J&K Administrative Services on notional and regular basis. These officers are Y.P. Suman, P.K. Koul and Anjana Tickoo.

Cabinet nod likely to new policy on riots, sectarian clashes victims

sources said.

Under the policy, the amount of relief to be granted for destruction/damage to the immovable property will be equal to 50% of the actual loss or up to Rs 5 lakh whichever is lesser. The assessment of destruction/damage will be made by the Tehsildar of the area to be further verified by the Assistant Commissioner, Revenue.

The relief will be sanctioned by the Deputy Commissioner of the concerned district on the recommendations of the district level Screening-cum-Coordination Committee comprising District Magistrate (Chairman), Superintendent of Police, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Assistant Commissioner and Tehsildar of the district other than the Tehsildar who has assessed the loss (Members), sources informed.

The extent of loss in such cases will be assessed by the concerned Tehsildar/Assistant Commissioner (Revenue) within a period of 15 days and these recommendations will be finalized by the District Level Screening Committee within further period of 15 days, sources said quoting the proposed policy, adding the list of the beneficiaries will be placed in the public domain/official website of the District Magistrate. In respect of loss/damage caused to the ships, relief will be sanctioned proportionately in favour of the tenant/landlord.

Disclosing that if approved the policy will have effect from April 1, 2013, sources said, "the cases arising out of sectarian clashes in district Budgam will also be covered within the ambit of proposed policy for payment of relief".

Raghavan meets Sharif's Advisor

between the Prime Ministers of the two countries.

There is a huge speculation here on a possible meeting between Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh and his Pakistani counterpart Nawaz Sharif.

Pakistan has publicly said that

Justice Magrey orders seizure of PS APD account

ther said.

High Court also issued notice to the respondents for filing response. Some of the respondents have already filed their objections and admitted the claim of the petitioners to the extent of according them benefit of Golden Handshake/Voluntary Retirement Scheme. They have also admitted that the benefits, which have accrued to the petitioners in terms of Golden Handshake/Voluntary Retirement Scheme, have not been released in their favour only on the ground of non availability of funds.

They once again submitted that the case for release of terminal benefits in favour of the petitioners has been taken up with the concerned authorities.

After hearing Senior Advocate VR Wazir with Advocate Abishek Wazir for the petitioners, Justice Magrey observed, "despite

opportunities, some respondents have failed to file reply, so much so, no body appears on their behalf. Respondents, who are at the helm of affairs are expected to ensure release of terminal benefits in favour of the petitioners as per their own policy governing the field".

"Admittedly, prima-facie respondents have failed to adhere to their own policy notified in terms of Government Order No. 218-F of 2007 dated 16.07.2007 based on Cabinet Decision No. 119/10 dated 11.06.2007. This Court shall have no option but to ensure payment of terminal benefits in favour of the petitioners in order to mitigate their miseries", Justice Magrey said.

High Court directed Registry to convey full text of the order to the respondent as also to the Chief Secretary for compliance.

Omar favours bringing political parties under RTI purview

looked a little strange that although it seeks transparency for everybody else but does not apply the same principle to themselves.

He said the same principle applies to other institutions and organisations which are availing Income Tax exemptions.

"Why should BCCI ask for the exemption from the Right to Information Act? By all means, take exemptions but then pay the Income Tax and make yourself at par with other organisations. You cannot have your own cake and eat it too," he said.

Omar said such organisations cannot say they would not pay Income Tax, take various concessions and at the same time would not open themselves to scrutiny.

The Chief Minister said the RTI Act has made him cautious regarding the use of state's assets.

"If you have certain amount of concern about how you are perceived, how you are seen, then yes the Right to Information will impact how you decide to function," he said.

Omar said he was far more casual about the use of state aircraft or helicopter till RTI application regarding the number of trips started coming to his office.

"Everytime I have to take a flight, I sit back and ask myself is there a commercial option I

can exercise before I exercise the option of state aircraft and this is purely the result of the RTI Act because I know that at some point of time somebody is going to ask my Chief Information Commissioner to get this information about how many flights I have taken...Why should I then not amend?" he said.

The two-day convention had three technical sessions on RTI and inclusive growth, RTI-an anti-corruption tool and Media and RTI which were addressed by a number of eminent personalities.

Speaking at the session on RTI-an anti-corruption tool, former Chief Election Commissioner J. M. Lyngdoh spoke about the need for electoral reforms and the role the RTI Act can play in that.

He said with the implementation of the Act the people have become empowered to see, check and inspect any information which does not come under the exemption list, as such, the Government and governance have come under the scrutiny of most important stakeholder—the public.

This, he said, is not the end of matter. "What is needed for the RTI Act to be more poignant and broad based is public awareness about the legislation. It will only be then the objectives to combat corruption and bring about trans-

parency and accountability in Government functioning can be achieved", he said.

Referring to the State Right to Information Act, the Chief Minister said that State Information Commission was fully functional by appointment of Chief Information Commissioner and the two Information Commissioners in 2011. He said adequate staff and logistic support has been provided to the Commission as per its requirements.

Omar said that provisions of Section 4 of RTI Act, considered to be the soul of the transparency law, are being followed and almost all Administrative Departments in the State in the Civil Secretariat have launched their websites for easy dissemination of the information pertaining to these departments.

He said that the response of the general public seeking information under the Act has been very encouraging which is reflected in the number of applications received under the Act. "The pace with which information has been made available to the information seekers is also a matter of satisfac-

tion for us. This can be judged by the fact that in my State 15,000 applications were received during the last year as compared to 741 in 2009-10".

Omar said that the implementation of RTI Act, reconstitution of Accountability Commission, constitution of Vigilance Commission and enactment of historic legislation of Public Services Guarantee Act in the State by his Government has given ample powers to the people to question the Government for all its actions and omissions.

He said "we have given legal authority to people to demand listed public services within the fixed time frame besides empowering them to make queries to the Government about its functioning, delivery of services, financial transactions and other aspects of governance". He said that under the RTI Act a common man is at par with a legislator to ask question to the Government and that too throughout the 365 days of the year.

The Chief Minister appreciated the functioning of State

Information Commission and said that the Commission has strengthened the implementation of the Act and has created good public awareness about the use of RTI Act provision to seek information from the Government Departments.

The Chief Minister added that the critical analysis of the applications reveal that people are by and large seeking information with respect to the employment related matters, promotions and seniority issues.

"Whereas, there is a need to bring transparency in the recruitments at every level, the information seekers should also focus on development activities, and issues of urgent public importance and interests. If it is done, I am sure real benefits of development will accrue to the common masses. There are hundreds of development schemes implemented by the Centre and State Governments in involving huge funds, the best way to ensure the benefits these schemes percolate to the grass root level and ensure transparency in spending, the RTI activists should work as Watch Dog", he elaborated.

Omar said that the desired results under any Act or law cannot be achieved unless common people or aware about the legislation. "I feel people even at the National level are not fully aware of the benefits and public interest provisions of various legislations. The people living in villages, remote areas and far-flung places need to be educated properly about the RTI", he added and underlined the need for imparting educate training to PIOs and First Appellate Authorities and others associated the implementation of the Act.

Omar emphasized on the role of Non-Governmental Organizations in implementing the provisions of Act and said that credible NGOs have a vital role in the implementation of the Act.

The Chief Minister said that annual conventions like the one arranged by Central Information Commission are big leap towards assessment of the success and failures under the Act. He said these conventions give an opportunity to share the view points and learn from the experiences of one another.

Govt threatens to terminate 262 doctors

are due for promotions and were deprived of the same till date will also get their right. Besides, making appointment of some doctors on contractual basis 400 nurses were already appointed to overcome the shortage of staff, he added.

Sources said that various departments of GMC are facing dearth of doctors, Assistant Professors, Associate Professors and Professors and the posts have not been filled for years together due to bureaucratic wrangles.

Sources said Gynaecology Department of GMC which earlier had three posts of Professors is functioning with lone post now after the retirement of Prof Anita Sharma in 2011 and promotion of Dr Shashi Gupta as Principal GMC early this year.

Out of five units of the Department two have been dissolved and only three are functioning putting an additional load on in-service doctors adding to their roster duties in emergency and OPD, sources added.

Sources said likewise in Physiology Department where

two posts of Professors were lying vacant one was promoted as Professor last year while another Associate Professor, who too has the required eligibility for the post of Professor was not considered and preference was given to a retired person thereby playing with the future of the doctor.

Sources said previously a precedence was made in GMC to fill up the posts of Associate Professors, Assistant Professors in various departments by downgrading the posts to adjust the blue eyed boys and some of them were later elevated to higher posts despite the fact that the PSC had not even confirmed their previous promotion which they got after down grading the posts. But those who had no approach in bureaucratic or political circles were not considered for the same forcing them to knock the doors of court for justice, sources added.

It may be recalled that the State High Court in its recent judgment in case of an Assistant Professor in Gynaecology has urged the authorities of Medical Education to grant promotion to

her to the post of Associate Professor on the basis of her eligibility. The Court also issued directives to the authorities that in case the post of Associate Professor was not available, the post of Professor be down graded as was done in other cases previously.

Sources said earlier up to 2004 the promotions were granted to the doctors on higher posts on the basis of seniority in GMCs, Jammu and Srinagar in their own pay and grade and much to the chagrin of the doctors this practice was stopped later in GMC Jammu while GMC Srinagar continued the process of filling up the vacant posts on the basis of stop gap arrangements as per seniority.

Prof Shashi Gupta Principal Medical College, Jammu said that the process of filling up of posts on contractual basis has started and interviews for 14 posts of contractual lecturers was held recently while for seven posts it will be held soon.

It may be recalled that State High Court in its judgment on August 26 had asked the

Government to fill up the vacant posts of 40 percent quota of faculty members lying vacant in the GMCs of Srinagar and Jammu.

The Court passed these directives after examining the affidavits submitted by the Commissioner Secretary to Health and Medical Education Department and Additional Secretary of the Same Department.

In the affidavit it has been mentioned that out 55 posts of Professors 43 are vacant, out of 63 posts of Associate Professors, 31 are vacant, 52 posts of Assistant Professors are vacant out of 103 posts and 45 posts of Lecturers are vacant out of 178 in Srinagar Medical College alone.

While in GMC Jammu out of 201 of such posts 61 are lying vacant.

Sources said that shortage of doctors in two GMCs has often led to doctors' attendants clash as the latter while accompanying the patients think that they are not being properly examined by the doctors who on account of heavy work load can't do justice to their job.

PM meets BJP leaders, bid to end Parl stand-off fails

Parliament and expressed dissatisfaction at the Prime Minister's statement on missing coal files saying their queries have not been answered and the steps taken by government to recover the missing files have not been listed.

BJP is furious that Meira Kumar did not allow Swaraj to speak. Even Advani, who raised his hand seeking permission to speak, was ignored by the Chair. "All norms were broken in the Lok Sabha. The Leader of the Opposition was insulted when she was not permitted to speak. Her mike was muted. Even Advani, who rarely raises his hand to speak, was not allowed. Have you heard of any Parliament in the world where Leader of Opposition is not allowed to speak?" BJP spokesperson Shah Nawaz Hussain said.

Earlier, breaking his silence over missing coal files, Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh today promised a thorough probe, including by CBI, if the required papers are not traced so that the guilty can be punished but the opposition was dissatisfied and stalled the proceedings.

Amidst attack from the Opposition, he insisted in Parliament that the Government is making all efforts to locate the untraced documents and its intent to facilitate a proper probe should not be questioned as it has "nothing to hide".

Contending that there should be no "hasty" conclusion that something is "fishy", he said a "vast majority" of papers sought by CBI have already been handed over and the Government will abide by the Supreme Court timeline for handing over of all the files.

"I would like to emphasise that the Government is making LAHDC Councilors oath on Sept 7

Hussain had issued the notification yesterday announcing formal election of the 26 Councilors.

"As per the laid down rules, the Ladakh Affairs Department now has to issue an order within 15 days (till September 17) calling on the political parties to prove their majority in the elected Council", sources asserted.

The LAHDC Kargil has strength of 30 and 26 of them are elected while the Government had the powers to nominate four members of dif-

ferent categories to the Council. However, the nominated members didn't have the voting right.

Sources said both NC and Congress would require support of the Independent candidates to secure simple majority of 14 members in the Council. While NC led alliance with 12 seats would require support of two neutral Independent candidates, Congress with 11 seats would need support of all three neutral Independents to take majority.

and the apex court is closely monitoring the CBI investigations.

"In such a situation, I urge the honourable members of this august body not to draw hasty conclusions and let the House continue with its normal business," Singh said.

The dissatisfaction among opposition benches over PM's statement led to repeated adjournments of both Houses, which were finally adjourned for the day at 3 pm.

Earlier in the Rajya Sabha, Leader of Opposition Arun Jaitley attacked the Government alleging "arbitrary allocations" and "act of nepotism, favoritism" in coal block allocations and said there is an attempt to destroy evidence so that there is no proof of crime.

"An attempt is being made to mislead the House that all files missing pertain to that prior to 2004," he said, alleging that "every conceivable element of bad governance is present there."

He also sought to know how many of the missing files pertained to the period between 2006 and 2009 when Prime Minister held the charge of the Coal Ministry and what steps the government was taking to recover the missing files.

Opposition members created uproar as they wanted to seek further clarifications from the PM who had left by then.

Deputy Chairman P.J. Kurien said he could not help the Prime Minister had left. Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs Rajeev Shukla said the Prime Minister had made a statement as wanted by the Opposition members. For any further clarifications, Shukla said, Coal Minister Sripakash Jaiswal was in the House to reply.

In the Lok Sabha, Leader of the Opposition Shushma Swaraj and BJP leader L. K. Advani wanted to speak after PM's statement at 2 pm, but Speaker Meira Kumar rejected the demand leading to uproar and the House was adjourned till 3 pm. When the House reassembled, similar scenes were witnessed forcing its adjournment for the day.

Jaitley earlier said the Coal Minister has given two separate statements in Rajya Sabha in which the number of files missing are different and remarked, "it is an example of how the arithmetic of this government

works". Attacking the Prime Minister for his remarks that he was not the custodian of files in the Coal Ministry, V Maitreyan (AIADMK) said, "As far as coal scam is concerned you and you alone are answerable to the country...Mystery of missing files in coal scam is getting murkier by day."

He said, "last week PM was unusually aggressive that he is not the custodian of files. He should say he is the custodian of files in PMO" and sought to know who was Joint Secretary of the PMO, who had gone to the CBI office and why he went there.

Sitaram Yechury (CPI-M) asked why no FIR was registered in regard to missing files and said, "We are not satisfied with answers by the Coal Minister...I had raised one point why no FIR was done, no case was lodged and no investigation is done...the fact that it is not done increases the bar of suspicion...Identify and punish the guilty."

He questioned why government did not request the CAG to furnish details of the missing files.

Derek O'Brien (Trinamool) questioned who was the custodian of missing files and when and where these files went missing.

Naresh Agarwal (SP) sought to know who was handling the coal portfolio during the period when files went missing and what were the observations given by the Public Accounts Committee on CAG report.

Mayawati (BSP) said the issue of missing files was a serious matter and questioned, "Why no FIR was lodged despite Supreme Court's intervention and why the government was delaying lodging the FIR against the guilty."

Amid cries of "shame-shame", Venkaiah Naidu (BJP) said the Prime Minister did not answer any of the questions raised by members. "Not even one question was answered," he said.

Ravi Shankar Prasad (BJP) remarked that the magnitude of the scam has agitated people of India and "we request PM to reply...Now we are being told that our concerns would be addressed by the Coal Minister" which is not acceptable.

Shukla retorted, "You are trying to take undue political advantage. BJP is disrespecting Parliament." (PTI)

Sub-Judge suspended

K Abrol is placed under suspension with immediate effect, in contemplation of an enquiry to be conducted against him in the matter", the order further

Dr Indu Khoda nominated as member AIIMS Patna

Dr Indu Khoda, wife of Chief Vigilance Commissioner, Kuldeep Khoda, is a reputed Gynaecologist. She is also president of Federation of Obstetrics & Gynaecological Society of India, Jammu and life member of Indian Medical Association, Association of Gynaecological Oncologists of India.

Dr Khoda is also associated as Counselor for Adolescent

said.

R. K. Abrol will remain attached with Registrar Judicial, High Court, Jammu Wing during his suspension period.

Dr Indu Khoda nominated as member AIIMS Patna

Dr Indu Khoda, wife of Chief Vigilance Commissioner, Kuldeep Khoda, is a reputed Gynaecologist. She is also president of Federation of Obstetrics & Gynaecological Society of India, Jammu and life member of Indian Medical Association, Association of Gynaecological Oncologists of India.

Dr Khoda is also associated as Counselor for Adolescent

Alert in IB after movement of 2 militants

The firing from Pakistan side continued till late this evening.

Yesterday, Pakistan Army had resorted to firing and shelling in Balakote sector and parts of Mendhar sector. Firing and shelling from Pakistan in violation of ceasefire agreement of India and Pakistan has been going on since intervening night of August 5 and 6 when five Indian Army personnel were killed in Sarla battalion area of Poonch.

Meanwhile, SSP Kathua Mohan Lal said a civilian Krishan Chand observed police that he had observed movement of two militants carrying 'pithoos' at forward village of Ratna Chak in Hiranagar sector at 5.30 am today. The civilian said the militants were heading towards Mathra Chak along Tarnah Nullah.

'Pak n-arms not safe'

'black budget,' the American daily said Pakistan appeared at the top of charts listing critical US intelligence gaps.

Fears about the security of Pakistan's nuclear programme are so pervasive that a budget section on containing the spread of illicit weapons divides the world into two categories: Pakistan and everybody else, the Post said.

The disclosures based on documents provided to The Washington Post by former intelligence whistle blower Edward Snowden expose broad new levels of US distrust in an already unsteady security partnership with Pakistan.

They also reveal a more expansive effort to gather intelligence on Pakistan than US officials have disclosed.

classified documents which pertain to the period 2010 to 2012 reveal that senior Pakistani military and intelligence leaders were 'orchestrating a wave of extrajudicial killings' of terrorism suspects and other militants. The American agencies were aware of these developments, the daily said.

The stark assessments of Pakistan contained in the budget files seem at odds with the signals that US officials have conveyed in public, The Post said.

The Director of National Intelligence James R. Clapper Jr, in an internal overview, had cautioned about most critical set of intelligence gaps that exist despite the creation of a 'Pakistan WMD Analysis Cell to track movements of nuclear materials'.

These blind spots were especially worrisome 'given the political instability, terrorist threat and expanding inventory [of nuclear

weapons] in that country.' According to The Washington Post, the US intelligence agencies are focused on two particularly worrisome scenarios.

One, the possibility that Pakistan's nuclear facilities might come under attack by Islamist militants, as its Army headquarters in Rawalpindi did in 2009.

Two, the possibility that Islamist militants might have penetrated the ranks of Pakistan's military or intelligence services, putting them in a position to launch an insider attack or smuggle out nuclear material.

Concerns persist that extremists could seize components of the stockpile or trigger a war with neighbouring India. The Daily said pointing out that Pakistan also has a track record of exporting nuclear technology to countries that are on Washington's blacklist.

US anxiety over Pakistan's nuclear programme appears to be driven more by uncertainty about how it is run than specific intelligence indicating that its systems are vulnerable, according to the budget documents.

US surveillance of Pakistan extends far beyond its nuclear programme. There are several references in the black budget to expanding US scrutiny of chemical and biological laboratories.

The country is not thought to be running a rogue chemical or biological weapons program, but US intelligence officials fear that Islamists could seize materials from Government-run laboratories, the American Daily said in its exclusive report. (UNI)