

LEGISLATURE PROCEEDINGS

Missing of equipment from SSH**LC Chairman directs House Panel to conduct probe***Excelsior Correspondent*

JAMMU, Feb 12: Chairman Legislative Council, Haji Anayat Ali today directed an existing House Committee to investigate the matter pointed out by Legislator, Ramesh Arora with regard to missing of equipment worth crores from Super Speciality Hospital, Jammu.

The Chairman asked the House Panel constituted by him for looking into the functioning of the Government Medical College and Hospital Jammu including the procurement of equipment for Super Speciality Hospital Jammu to investigate the allegations raised by Arora.

The Legislator Ramesh Arora had expressed dissatisfaction over

the reply to his starred question No. 151 listed on January, 24, 2018 in Legislative Council.

Today again, a discussion was raised by the BJP Member, under Rule 51 (1) of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the State Legislative Council. He alleged that many equipments were missing, some were gathering dust for the last several years and were never put to use by the Hospital Administration for the reason best known to them.

The member pressed that he was not satisfied with the response of the Government and a House Committee be framed to investigate the matter. The Minister for Health and Medical Education, Bali Bhagat was reply-

ing. He said that already a Committee has been framed and how many more committees will be framed on Govt Medical College Hospital and SSH functioning.

The Chairman then directed the existing House Committee to investigate the matter pertaining to missing of Medical equipment worth crores from Super Speciality Hospital (SSH), Jammu.

It is worthwhile to mention here that Excelsior had exclusively reported this matter on the front page of the paper few days back, mentioning about the number of machines/ equipments missing from SSH, their value and the equipment lying unused in the stores of Super Speciality Hospital, Jammu.

Dialysis facility to be provided in all District Hospitals: Bali*Excelsior Correspondent*

JAMMU, Feb 12: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Bali Bhagat today informed the Legislative Assembly that every District Hospital in the State will be provided with dialysis facility within next two months.

Replying to a question by MLA Kupwara Advocate Bashir Ahmad Dar, the Minister said that one Dialysis Centre is being established in District Kupwara under Centrally Sponsored Scheme "National Dialysis Programme (NDP)" and for District Hospital Handwara, funds have been released under National Health Mission during the current fiscal, he added.

He said that the MoU submitted earlier to the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare for setting up a Tertiary Care Cancer Centre (TCCC) at Kupwara was not accepted. He said the Union Government has sought Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB)/Baba Atomic Research Centre (BARC) approved layout plan and approved letter. The

same has not been obtained from AERB/BARC and the approval letter along with revised MoU has been submitted to Union Government for approval and funding.

As soon as the formal sanction and grant-in-aid is received, necessary steps would be taken to establish TCCC at Kupwara, said the Minister.

Bali further informed that the efforts are being made to provide the facilities in terms of infrastructure, hospital machinery, equipment and manpower etc to the level of District Hospital in respect of Kupwara Hospital. He said that there is no medical staff member is working in other institutions outside the constituency. He said free medicines under Free Drug Policy are available in the health institutions of Kupwara constituency.

Nawang Rigzin Jora, G M Saroori and Altaf Ahmad Wani raised supplementary queries and called for further streamlining the healthcare facilities, especially the dialysis facilities in their constituencies.

362 posts of VLWs, 279 of Patwaris vacant**43335 kanal State land retrieved in Kashmir: Govt***Excelsior Correspondent*

JAMMU, Feb 12: Minister for Agriculture Production, Ghulam Nabi Lone today said that Government has retrieved 43335 kanals of State land from the illegal occupation of people in Kashmir, completed digitization of 164.61 lakh Revenue documents and 39920 Revenue maps while 362 posts of VLWs and 279 posts of Patwaris were lying vacant in Jammu region.

Replying to a question of Congress member Mohammad Muzaffar Parry in the Upper House today, Lone who was responding on behalf of Revenue Minister AR Veeri, said that Revenue Department has established 4,594 Ground Control Points (GCPs) for conducting survey/re-survey in the State. He said it is also conducting survey of 4,604 GCPs. He further said that 3990 Revenue maps were complete while 1,147 maps were under Digital India Land Record Modernization Programme.

Giving details, the Minister said 22 modern record rooms have been constructed at tehsil level and work on seven more

such rooms is going on. He said the computerization of five pilot villages including Kreeeri, Tress, Dhanmasta, Bijbehara and Dara Dullian was completed in July, 2016, while Govt has set March 2022 as the deadline for completing the process in the entire State.

Lone further informed that the Government has retrieved 43,335 kanal and 3.5 marla State land and 72,456 kanal and 15 marla Kahcharaie land from illegal occupation in Kashmir division. Legislator, Qaiser Jamsheed Lone raised supplementary question to the main question.

In response to another question of Sham Lal Bhagat, GN Lone said 362 posts of Village Level Workers (VLWs), 74 posts of MPWs and 31 posts of Junior Assistants are lying vacant in various CD Blocks in Jammu region and same are being referred to recruiting agencies.

Lone further disclosed that total 279 posts of Patwaris are also lying vacant in various district of Jammu region. Of the total, 60 posts are lying vacant in Kathua district, 52 in Jammu, 41 in Doda, 27 in Udhampur, 24 in Rajouri, 22 in Reasi, 18 in Ramban, 12 in Kishtwar while 8 in Samba district.

Bhagat and Sajjad Kichloo pointed out that one VLW is holding 3-4 additional charges while same is the position of BDOs of various blocks. They asked when the Govt is going to fill up these posts. The Minister claimed that Govt intends to fill up these posts shortly.

'Fraud worth crores in PHE Kashmir'**LC Chairman frames House Panel***Excelsior Correspondent*

JAMMU, Feb 12: The Chairman of the Upper House Haji Anayat Ali today announced House Committee to investigate alleged fraud/irregularities worth crores of rupees in the PHE Department Kashmir.

The Chairman took cognizance of the deferred question of National Conference MLC, Ali Mohammed Dar in the House when his question was taken up today again. The NC member contested that reply was just tip of an iceberg, scandal worth crores has been surfaced during past 2-3 years in PHE Kashmir division and Chairman must frame House Committee.

The Minister replied that he had no problem if the member is pressing that he had sufficient proofs and wants setting up of House Committee. The Chairman Haji Anayat Ali then announced House Committee to look into the scandal and misuse of public money.

51 Tehsildars posts referred to PSC: Govt*Excelsior Correspondent*

JAMMU, Feb 12: Minister for Agriculture, Ghulam Nabi Hanjura today informed the Upper House that 51 Tehsildars vacancies have been referred to J&K PSC for recruitment and subsequent filling up of vacant posts.

The Minister was replying to a Calling Attention Notice by Firdous Ahmad Tak in this regard.

Minister informed the House that the post of Sub Divisional Magistrate Marwah stands filled recently and the requisite powers under the J&K Grant of Permanent Resident Certificates (Procedure) Act 1963 are also

Pro-Pak slogans by Akbar Lone in Assembly**BJP MLCs protest, demand arrest of NC member; stage walk-out***Excelsior Correspondent*

JAMMU, Feb 12: Bhattiya Janata Party (BJP) Legislators today staged protest against the pro-Pakistan slogans raised by National Conference MLA from Kashmir, Mohd Akbar Lone in the State Assembly on Saturday, demanding his immediate arrest and staged walk-out from the Upper House.

As the State Legislative Council today commenced its normal business with the Question Hour, the BJP members including Vikram Randhawa, Ramesh Arora, Charanjeet Singh Khalsa, Surinder Mohan Amberdar, Pardeep Sharma, GL Raina, Ajatshatru Singh, Ashok Khajuria and Sofi Yusuf stood up and lodged their strong protest in the House on the issue of raising pro-Pakistan slogans by the former Speaker J&K Legislative Assembly and senior NC member, Mohd Akbar Lone in the Lower House.

Randhawa said how, an MLA who has taken oath of the Indian Constitution can resort to such anti-national act that too, inside the Assembly House. He demanded that Akbar Lone should tender apology in the House and also in the public. An FIR should be registered against him and he should

be arrested immediately.

Two members Surinder Mohan Amberdar and GL Raina were carrying banners demanding withdrawal of FIR against Army officer in Shopian firing case and also pressed for action against NC MLA. Amberdar said it is shameful, the way this MLA was responding to media after this incident.

The Chairman said since the issue pertains to the Lower House, therefore, the BJP members should not project it here in the Upper House. But the BJP member Ramesh Arora said that this House can bring privilege motion against NC MLA and the same can be referred to the Privilege Committee as well. It hardly matters that case pertains to Assembly. He pressed for taking cognizance of the matter and registration of an FIR against Akbar Lone.

The Chairman did not pay much attention towards the BJP protests and said that it was no issue for this House. Arora further said it is unfortunate that when Army camp was attacked by Pak trained terrorists at Sunjwan and the encounter was going on Saturday where several casualties took place, the NC Legislator was shockingly raising pro-Pakistan slogans in the

State Assembly. It is shameful on the part of NC MLA and amounts to treason. He has taken oath of constitution and he has violated it. This is criminal offence and he should be penalised under law of the land. Arora said that a direction should go from the 'Chair' of this House in this concern.

As the BJP members protesting moved towards the Well, some NC members including Qaiser Lone and Showkat Ganai passed some remarks in support of Akbar Lone. This led to a tiff between the members on both the sides for some time. Amidst noisy scenes nothing was clearly audible. Then raising slogans "Akbar Lone Ko Arrest Karo, ... Arrest Karo", the BJP members staged walk out from the Upper House at around 11.07 AM, thus disrupting proceedings in the House for about seven minutes.

Altaf, Beigh, Jasrotia nominated best legislators*Excelsior Correspondent*

JAMMU, Feb 12: Speaker Legislative Assembly, Kavinder Gupta today announced the names of best legislators for the year 2016-17.

Those nominated for the award include Mian Altaf Ahmed, Javed Hassan Beigh and Rajiv Jasrotia.

Govt to treat transgenders as BPL: Lone*Excelsior Correspondent*

JAMMU, Feb 12: Minister for Agriculture, Ghulam Nabi Hanjura today informed the Upper House that the Government is contemplating to treat every transgender as living under BPL.

The Minister was responding to a Calling Attention Notice by MLC Mohammad Khurshid Aalam in this regard.

"Government will provide all the basic amenities and cover them under the programs available for the BPL category like cheap food-grains, LPG, electricity connections, IAY scheme etc," he informed.

He also informed the House that the Government will also extend free life and medical insurance cover and a monthly sustenance pension on the pattern of old age pension scheme for all transgender people above the age of 60.

Similarly, in the cases where gender re-assignment surgeries can be undertaken, the entire cost of treatment would be borne by the State Government, he added.

Aalam pressed that transgenders be provided free education and Government jobs through reserved quota.

Govt to safeguard religious places in Kashmir: Lone*Excelsior Correspondent*

JAMMU, Feb 12: Minister for Agriculture, Ghulam Nabi Hanjura today assured the Upper House that the State Government is committed to safeguard and secure the shrines and temples in the state.

He said the directions have been passed to district and divisional administrations to ensure the safety of all religious places.

The Minister was responding to a calling attention notice by BJP member Girdari Lal Raina in this regard.

The Minister informed the House that majority of the Hindu Shrines and temples are being administered and managed by the Mahants, Pujaris and their successors.

The Minister also said that there is no official mechanism in place for protection, regulation, and management of the Hindu Shrines and temples in the Kashmir valley.

"However, a few are under

the administrative control of the Dharmarth Trust and Amarnath Shrine Board", he added.

He, however, informed that on the persistent demand of the Kashmiri migrant community, a Bill titled 'The Kashmir Hindu Shrines and Religious Places (Management and Regulation) Bill, 2009, LA Bill of 2009', was prepared and introduced in the Legislative Assembly on 09.03.2009.

In addition, the Minister said that after threadbare deliberations, the Bill was referred to the Select Committee and subsequently to a Joint Select Committee of the State Legislature which remained under consideration of the House. "Due to lack of consensus on various provisions of the bill, the same could not become legislation. Consequently, with the dissolution of the State Legislative Assembly, the said L.A. Bill No.11 of 2009 also got lapsed," he added.

Won't allow opening of more wine shops: MLA*Excelsior Correspondent*

JAMMU, Feb 12: Member of Legislative Assembly from Nowshera Ravinder Raina today made it clear to the Government that he would not allow opening of more wine shops in his constituency.

Contesting the reply to his main question given by Minister of State for Finance Ajay Nanda, BJP MLA from Nowshera said, "certain wine shops are operating without valid permission and No Objection Certificates from the concerned authorities".

"The Government has stated that four applicants have applied for grant of bar license in Nowshera and Sunderbani but I will not allow more wine shops

or bars to open in these two areas", the MLA made it clear.

While replying to the supplementaries of the MLA, MoS Finance admitted that M/s Priya Bar and Restaurant has been temporarily shifted and fresh NOCs have been demanded.

He was interrupted by the BJP MLA, who said, "this clearly indicates that you are allowing the bar to operate even without NOCs", adding "Government should ensure that illegally operating bar is closed immediately and no new license is granted for Nowshera and Sunderbani".

On this, the Minister said, "Government has yet not taken any decision on four applications for grant of bar license".

Steps initiated to establish Transport Yard-cum-Warehouse at Udhampur fail to yield results*Excelsior Correspondent*

JAMMU, Feb 12: Deputy Chief Minister, Dr Nirmal Singh today informed the Legislative Assembly that civic works and other infrastructure is being developed in the major towns under State Capex Budget's twin schemes of Integrated Development of Medium Towns (IDMT) in Urban Development Sector and Town Drainage Schemes in 'Drainage Sector'.

He said that annual ceiling in action plan and works programme under IDMT, for execution of different nature of works on year to year basis, is approved for each town and is determined on the basis of population and number of wards criteria. He said the works programme is finalized in consultation with the respective public representatives.

The DyCM was replying to a Calling Attention Notice of Legislator Pawan Kumar Gupta moved to call the attention of the Government towards the need to provide additional funds for the development of new wards in Udhampur town, to expedite the provision of Transport Nagar, Ware House and establishment of Solid Waste Management Plant in the town.

Absence of Ministers irks Dy Speaker*Excelsior Correspondent*

JAMMU, Feb 12: Deputy Speaker of Legislative Assembly Nazir Ahmed Gurezi today expressed serious concern over absence of the Ministers during the Calling Attention Notices moved by MLAs of different political parties.

"None of the concerned Minister is available in the House to answer the queries of the MLAs", he pointed out, adding "this indicates the Ministers are not serious about the business of the House".

He directed the Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Abdul Rehman Veeri to ensure presence of either Cabinet Minister or Minister of State of the concerned department in the House to answer the queries of the MLAs during Calling Attention Notice.

Rs 37.47 cr to be spent on upgradation of Udhampur-Ramnagar road: Naeem*Excelsior Correspondent*

JAMMU, Feb 12: Minister for Works (R&B), Naeem Akhtar today informed the Lower House that construction of 27 kms Udhampur-Ramnagar road has been taken for up-gradation at an estimated cost of Rs 37.47 crore.

Responding to a Calling Attention Notice by Ranbir Singh Pathania, the Minister said that the scope of the sub-project was to upgrade existing 3 mtrs wide carriage way to intermediate lane specification. He said contractor could complete only the road work while construction of 102 mtrs span bridge over River Tawi was left incomplete as the ADB Lone-1 (2151-IND) was financially closed.

He said the road was handed over to R&B Department on June 2015 and due to the non-performance of the contractor, the sub-project was terminated on December 2015 and the balance work of bridge over River Tawi was handed over to R&B Department in January 2016 for its completion.

The Minister further said that the improvement and up-gradation of the road was done within available ROW of the road as per stipulation of Contract Agreement and that the work has been executed by J&K ERA

under the twin schemes is provided for the entire township including the newly added wards. He said in the year 2015-16 around 21 works were executed and completed in Udhampur town under IDMT at an estimated cost of Rs. 48.25 lakh, while additional Rs 50 lakh were provided under the same scheme for execution and completion of seven works, which included 2 works in newly added 4 wards, at an estimated cost of Rs. 14.50 lakh.

The Minister further said that in the year 2016-17, over 16 works were executed and completed at an estimated cost of Rs. 48.25 lakh, of which two works at an estimated cost of Rs. 11.30 lakh were completed in newly added wards of the town.

He said during current financial year (2017-18), an allocation of Rs 36 lakh has been approved for the town under State Capex Budget IDMT scheme, for execution of 13 works, including one work in newly added ward at an estimated cost of Rs 4 lakh which has also been completed.

He said that in addition an amount of Rs 30 lakh has been released under the same scheme to meet the emergent Public Demands. "Around 11 works have been identified in consultation with the local MLA, of which three works have been executed and completed in the newly added wards of the Udhampur town" he added.

Responding to the issue of development of Transport Yard-cum-Warehouse, the DyCM said that in pursuance to a decision taken in DDB meeting, a concept report was prepared by the DDC Udhampur through RITES Consultancy in 2010, who suggested for establishment of the project in PPP mode.

He said that the concerned DDC submitted concept report to the PD&MD for further appropriate action and the later forwarded the report to the H&UD for further examination and seeking report and comments in the matter.

The Deputy Chief Minister said that it was felt necessary to obtain present status of the land which was shown feasible by the Consultants for development of Transport Yard cum Warehouse Udhampur on PPP mode as well as to ascertain source of funding, economical viability of the project.

under the supervision of Design and Supervision Consultants M/s Intercontinental Consultants and Technocrats Pvt Ltd as per ADB guidelines and MORT&H specifications certified by the Consultants.

The House was informed that the road is currently black topped with damaged surface in stretches. The Minister said a road stretch in kms 12th RD 0-400 falling in Mohra Kogha is a slide prone area having steep back uphill slopes with an average height of about 75 mtrs with disintegrated and fractured and over hanging rocks which often cause land slide during rainy season thus risking the lives of the people.

He said in order to avoid any eventuality, a detailed project report for the instant road is under formulation at a cost of Rs.4.77 crore to envisages road safety measures as a permanent solution by way of benching of back hill slopes and providing necessary protection wall as per site requirement.

He said the riding surface of the road is also being rectified by way of laying of premix carpet in the bad stretches in a phased manner and that 5.50 Kms road length has been macadamized during the current fiscal in damaged stretches under City and Town Programme.

Dr Singh said as per DDC's report the proposed 614 kanal and 16 marla land for establishment of Transport Nagar has been notified for establishment of a Housing Colony and its acquisition proceedings are underway and hearing of objections under Section 5&5 (A) of land Acquisition Act is going on.

He said the DDC Udhampur has also intimated that there is no big chunk of State / private land adjoining/adjacent to the National Highway Battalion Ballian road available for establishment of Transport Yard cum Warehouse.

The DyCM said in view of the present scenario, the DDC Udhampur has been advised to take further action, so that the firm proposal for development of Transport Yard cum Warehouse Udhampur on PPP mode is prepared.

With regard to Solid Waste Management Plant, he said that after launching of Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban) in the State, it has been suggested to develop SWMPs on cluster basis. He said that revenue papers for transfer of land measuring 98 kanal and 5 marlas for establishment of Solid Waste Management (SWM) Project at MC Udhampur stands submitted to the Divisional Commissioner, Jammu for its transfer.

He said that DPRs stand prepared and technical appraisal conducted by AILSG-Consultancy at a cost of Rs 36.82 crore, while Request for Proposal (REF) has been floated for inviting response from the potential bidders for construction of SWM projects at the identified sites.

The DyCM said that the Chief Executive Officer, Municipal Council, Udhampur has already been directed to stop dumping of waste in front of Water Lifting Plant near river Tawi and explore new site in consultation with the Deputy Commissioner.

Several measures taken for women empowerment: Sajad*Excelsior Correspondent*

JAMMU, Feb 12: Minister for Social Welfare, Sajad Gani Lone today informed the Lower House that the Government is conscious about the importance of women empowerment to bring about Gender Responsive Social Transformation in the Society. For this purpose, a State Mission Authority has been constituted for empowering women socially, economically and educationally under the chairmanship of Chief Minister.

Replying to a question by Mubarak Gul, the Minister said that the Mission envisages to bring all women centric programmes of different ministries and departments under one roof for convergence so as to strengthen and protect the interests of women folk in key areas like poverty alleviation, health, nutrition, gender rights, elimination of violence against women, including empowerment of vulnerable

Assembly observes 2-minute silence in memory of Sunjwan victims*Excelsior Correspondent*

JAMMU, Feb 12: Assembly today observed a two-minute silence in memory of five Army personnel and a civilian who were killed in a terror strike on the Sunjwan Army camp here.

A group of Jaish-e-Mohammad terrorists struck the residential quarter of the sprawling camp in the early hours on Saturday and killed five Army personnel and the father of one of the martyred jawans, besides injuring 10 others including six women and children.

Three JeM terrorists were gunned down.

National Conference MLA

Speaker announces displaying of portrait*Excelsior Correspondent*

JAMMU, Feb 12: Speaker Assembly, Kavinder Gupta today announced to display the portrait of late legislator, Sheikh Jabbar in the Assembly Lobby.

The late leader was killed by the militants in year 1990.

Several measures taken for women empowerment: Sajad*Excelsior Correspondent*

and marginalized groups and women in difficult circumstances. The Minister further said that the Union Government has approved establishment of Women Helpline to assist such women who are affected by violence in private and public places, within the family, community and at work places.

He said there are a number of schemes under implementation for empowerment of women in the State which include, State Marriage Assistance Scheme (SMAS), Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY), Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescent Girls (SABLA), Kishori Shakti Yojana (KSY), Beti Bachao- Beti Padhao (BBBP), Women Help Line, Integrated with One Stop Centre, Swadhar Greh Scheme, Bank Tie-up/Direct Financing Schemes through Women Development Corporation and SC/ST/BC Development Corporations.

Assembly observes 2-minute silence in memory of Sunjwan victims

Devender Singh Rana invited the attention of the Chair towards the terror attack and suggested for a two-minute silence to pay tributes to those killed.

Accepting the request of the member, Speaker Kavinder Gupta asked for observance of the two-minute silence.

Soon after the House assembled this morning, NC member Mian Altaf sought a detailed statement from the Government on the terror strike on the Army camp.

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Abdul Rehman Veeri said the operation at Sunjwan was in its final stage.