

# LEGISLATURE PROCEEDINGS

## Patnitop, Peer Kho-Bahu Fort 'Gandolas' being completed in 2018

\*BJP MLC asks MoS to expose name of contractor

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 12: Minister of State (MoS) for Tourism, Culture and School Education Priya Sethi today claimed that Sangote-Patnitop Cable Car Project is being completed by December this year while Peer Kho-Bahu Fort Ropeway Project will be completed by June this year.

While replying to the question of BJP Member Ashok Khajuria in the Upper House today, the Minister said that construction of Ist stage of the project from Sangote to Patnitop is under execution. He said the agency was finalized after floating of tenders published in both National and State level newspapers. Only one company participated in the tender for the project on Built Own Operate and Transfer (BOOT) basis. As the response was poor, the date for tender was also extended but again only one company participated. This project was got approved by the State Cabinet being single tender.

Minister to name the middleman and the contractor or agency whom the tender was provided. He said which is that 'BOOT company' or the people behind and the contractor who was offered this contract. The people who committed fraud and caused loss to the Government exchequer what action was taken against them?

Sethi, however, avoided the full reply and maintained that the work was allotted to M/s Emyrean Skyview Projects (P) Ltd on BOOT basis and the work was under execution at Patnitop. It will be constructed with the cost of Rs 1.20 crore. Khajuria surprisingly, did not press much for the reply to the minister.

Referring to another question she disclosed that Mantalai-Sudhmahadev and Patnitop are being developed as independent tourist destinations in Jammu region at cost of Rs 97.82 crore under the "Integrated Development of Tourist Facilities at Mantalai-Sudhmahadev-Patnitop Circuit."

An International Yoga Centre,

Heliport with security fencing, wellness spa with Ayurveda complex, traditional India spa, Jogging track, eco-log huts, with Eco Park and herb garden etc will be developed there at Mantalai.

Responding to question on Jammu Ropeway Project, the Minister said that this project is being developed in two phases. Phase Ist is from Peer Kho (near Mubarak Mandi) to Mahamaya Park (length 1137 mts) and Phase II from Mahamaya Park to Shahbad near Bagh-e-Bahu, (length 453 mts) has been taken up in hand at the cost of Rs 60 crore. The work on this project is on progress and will be completed by June 2018.

Sethi claimed that during this year the BJP-PDP Coalition Govt will provide gifts of two Cable Car Projects to the people of Jammu region.

She said in addition to above, an amount of Rs 26 crore annually under Capex Budget is being provided for promotion of tourism related activities in Jammu region.

## Manhas, Dr Shehnaz, Khajuria get best legislator award

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 12: Chairman, J&K Legislative Council Haji Anayat Ali today announced the name of six members of Legislative Council selected to be conferred with best legislator award on the recommendations of Award Committee.

The three members namely Zaffar Iqbal Manhas, Dr Shehnaz Ganai and Ashok Khajuria have been selected for the best legislator award for the year 2016, while as Sajjad Ahmad Kichloo, Surinder Kumar Choudhary and Naresh Kumar Gupta for the year 2017.

Zaffar Iqbal Manhas has been selected for having experience in legislation. Dr. Shehnaz Ganai has been selected for eloquent speech and highlighting the issues in better way, while as Ashok Khajuria has been selected for raising the issues of public importance of his area.

## NHIDCL soft-paddling on preparation of DPR for alternate NH to Doda: MLA

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 12: BJP MLA from Doda Shakti Raj Parihar today expressed concern over dilly-dallying approach of the National Highway Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL) in preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) for alternate National Highway to Doda district.

"It is a matter of concern that DPR for the vital National Highway---Marmat-Sudhmahadev has not been prepared despite lapse of two years", Parihar said after going through the reply furnished by the Minister for Roads and Buildings to his question in the Legislative Assembly.

"If such is the casual approach towards the basic step, when the tenders will be floated for execution of the project remains a million dollar question", the MLA said and asked the R&B Minister to take up the issue with the NHIDCL for early preparation of DPR.

Earlier, in the written reply, the Minister informed the House that work for preparation of DPR for

Similarly, Sajjad Ahmad Kichloo has been selected for raising the issues of his area and advocating for their redressal. Surinder Kumar Choudhary for raising the issues vociferously, while as Naresh Gupta has been selected for preparing meaningful matter in chronological order for legislation.

The Chairman complemented the legislators for their achievement. He hoped that they would continue to enlighten the House with their rich experience and highlight the issues of public importance in better way in future also.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister, Mehbooba Mufti today congratulated the members of Legislative Council who were chosen as best legislators for 2016 and 2017 by the respective committee.

The Chief Minister made these remarks during the reply of discussion on Motion of Thanks on the Governor Address.

## NHIDCL soft-paddling on preparation of DPR for alternate NH to Doda: MLA

Sudhmahadev-Goha tunnel will be awarded shortly by the NHIDCL as the financial bids have been opened.

About the work for upgradation of two lane status with paved shoulders of Chenani-Kishtwar-Sinthanpass-Khanabal road, the Minister said, "NHIDCL is preparing DPR of this project also".

The Minister informed the House that 154 road projects involving a cost of Rs 620.19 crore taken up under CRF and PMGSY schemes are at different stages of completion in Doda constituency.

Replying to the supplementary questions by Raja Manzoor, G M Saroori, Neelam Langeh, Mubarak Gul, A R Rather and Daleep Parihar, the Minister said, "Government is paying focused attention to upgrade the road infrastructure in every nook and corner of the State and efforts have been stepped up for expeditious completion of all on-going projects".

He assured the Members to address their concerns with regard to the speedy execution of various schemes underway in their constituencies.

## GST to contribute 63 pc of tax revenue Power, Education, Health, RDD get major allocations for next FY

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 12: The Housing and Rural Development Department have seen massive increase in the budgetary allocations of various Departments, released by the Finance Department today even as the Power Development Department remained at top of the budgetary allocations as it would be spending

Rs 3121 crores have been allocated to Rural Development Department for 2018-19 as against Rs 2714 crore of 2017-18 and Rs 331 crore of 2016-17, an increase of 15 per cent. Of this, the Rural Development Department will spend Rs 499 crore on MGNREGA. Rs 779 crore of Finance Commission Grants have been allocated towards capital outlay under Panchayati Raj.

been allocated Rs 2411 crores under Sarv Shiksha Abhiyan, which is 11 per cent higher than the revised estimates for the scheme for 2017-18.

The Home Department will get Rs 5954 crore during 2018-19 as against Rs 5634 crore for 2017-18 and Rs 4299 crore for 2016-17, an increase of 5.7 per cent for next year over current financial year.

The Home Department has been allocated Rs 100 crore for capital spending under Modernization of Police Forces.

"The Goods and Services Tax (GST) is the largest component (63 per cent) of the tax revenue of the State. It is being levied on the sale of goods and services and includes tax collection in the State and transfers from Integrated GST," sources said, They added that the Integrated GST is levied on inter-State sale of Goods and Services. The State is expected to generate Rs 7061 crores in 2018-19 under GST.

Further, the Government is expected to generate Rs 1415 crores through Sales Tax and Rs 1000 crores through Goods and Passenger Tax. In addition, revenue will be generated through the levy of duty on electricity, State Excise Duties, Stamp Duties on Real Estate transactions, taxes on vehicles etc.

The Education Department has been allocated Rs 7735 crores for upcoming financial year of 2018-19 as against Rs 7488 crore of current fiscal and Rs 4097 crore of 2016-17. The allocations have seen an increase of 3.3 per cent.

The Education Department has

## Over 720 detained under PSA in last 2 years

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 12: Nearly 726 people were detained under Public Safety Act (PSA) in Jammu and Kashmir in the last two years, the Government said today.

In a written reply to a question in the State Assembly, Chief

Minister Mehbooba Mufti said that 525 people were detained under PSA during the year 2016 and all of them were released.

In 2017, 201 people were detained under PSA, out of which 124 people were released and 77 were under preventive detention, Mufti said.

## Utilization of CDF for upgradation of BPL families' houses NC MLA protests non-implementation of Planning Deptt order, seeks action

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 12: National Conference MLA today lodged strong protest over non-implementation of the Planning, Development and Monitoring Department order on utilization of

on IAY pattern during the current financial year, the National Conference MLA from Kangan, Mian Altaf Ahmed said, "this order is not being implemented in Ganderbal district and the identified beneficiaries are running from pillar to post".

Legislators are free to channelize funds out of CDF from the financial year 2017-18 with maximum ceiling of Rs 20 lakh subject to the latest rules and laid down guidelines of the scheme.

Mian Altaf was supported by another National Conference MLA-Mubarak Gul, who too sought justice with the Ganderbal district. Congress MLA from Inderwal Gulam Mohammad Saroori also joined the issue and said, "if the MLA is expressing concern the Minister should take it seriously and pass necessary directions to the concerned authorities".

However, the Minister for Rural Development Abdul Haq Khan repeatedly insisted that order was being implemented in letter and spirit in all the districts of the State. Entering into verbal spat with the Minister, the Mian Altaf Ahmed said, "either I have failed to project my concern or you are not ready to understand", adding "I am saying with authority that the order of the Planning and Development Department is not being implemented in Ganderbal".

Later, Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Abdul Rehman Veeri intervened and said, "the Government will take the necessary steps within next two-three days". Following this, the protest from the NC MLAs came to an end.

Though some MLAs from the Opposition wanted to raise supplementary questions yet they were not allowed by the Speaker Kavinder Gupta leading to some noisy scenes in the House.



NC MLA Mian Altaf Ahmed and Rural Development Minister Haq Khan arguing in Legislative Assembly on Friday.

Constituency Development Fund (CDF) for up-gradation of BPL families' houses and entered into verbal spat with the Minister for Rural Development.

Referring to the Government Order No.204-PD of 2017 dated May 16, 2017 issued by the Planning, Development and Monitoring Department and amended vide Government Order No.231-PD of 2017 dated June 21, 2017 whereby Legislators have been authorized to utilize an amount of Rs 20 lakh out of the CDF for clearance of past liability

"The Minister has wrongly stated in the written reply that this order is being implemented in Ganderbal district also", he further

\* Watch video on [www.excelsiornews.com](http://www.excelsiornews.com) said, adding "the Minister can conduct the inquiry and if I am proved wrong I will tender apology in the House but if it is established that action should be taken against the erring officers".

As per the Planning Department order, where no liabilities on account of IAY exists, the

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