

MORE LEGISLATURE NEWS

Make Board for Chandi Mata Machail pilgrimage: Naresh

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 12: The Congress Legislator from Baderwah, Naresh Gupta today projected strong demand to set up a Management Board on the pattern of Shri Mata Vaishnodaya Shrine Board for Chandi Mata Machail pilgrimage in remote Padder area of district Kishtwar.

Raising question in the Legislative Council today, the Congress member pointed out that nearly 6 lakh pilgrims visited Chandi Mata Machail during annual pilgrimage this year. He said there was strong need to set up Shrine Board for managing the affairs of the pilgrimage, make facilities for the yatris and ensure over all development of the area.

He said there are reports of mis-management every year whether it is helicopter service, water, accommodation, power, road or transport facilities. The constitution of Management Board was a popular demand of the people, he maintained.

While responding to the ques-

tion, Minister of State for Tourism, Priya Sethi said it is fact that there has been strong demand to constitute Board for Chandi Mata Dham at Machail-Padder (Gulabgarh) and in this regard a Private Member's Bill was also tabled in the Lower House by BJP MLA RS Pathania during 2016. The Tourism department examined the viability of the Board and found that Yatra is of just one month duration. No doubt yatra needs better management by providing infrastructure and other facilities to the pilgrims during yatra period, but it is also necessary to examine the viability as the expected revenue from the offerings should be able to provide, not only salaries to the employees, but also for development works aimed at facilities to the pilgrims. Moreover, all the stake holders are needed to be consulted before going for such a decision. She however, said that some facilities for tourists/pilgrims are being created at Gulabgarh- Padder with the cost of Rs 10 lakh this year.

2 PDP MLCs walk-out

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 12: Two PDP members Surinder Choudhary and Saifuddin Bhat today staged walk-out from the Legislative Council during Question Hour.

These agitated members tried to raise supplementary questions with regard to their respective areas on Tourism related activities, Minister of State for Tourism and Culture Priya Sethi was responding to the question of BJP Legislator Ashok Khajuria in the Upper House. Besides Khajuria, a few other members raised supplementaries and the Minister replied them one by one.

PDP legislators Surinder Choudhary and Saifuddin Bhat raised their hands several times to allow them to ask supplementary questions but the Chairman of the Legislative Council Haji Anayat Ali did not allow them on the plea that much time has already been consumed on this particular question of Khajuria.

Agitated over the response of the Chairman, they were engaged in the loud arguments with the Chairman and then they staged walk-out. They were, however, brought back to the House after some time with the intervention of a few members.

96 GDCs functional in State: Altaf

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 12: Minister for Education, Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari, today informed the House that 96 Government Degree Colleges (GDCs) are functioning in the State, out of which 69 colleges are functioning from their own campuses while as the construction work on 10 colleges has been completed during the current financial year.

Replying to a question of Congress legislator Ghulam Nabi Monga, the Minister informed that the construction work of 20 Degree Colleges is underway out of which four are targeted to be completed by the end of March, 2018. The State Government has recently approved the opening of 17 new Degree Colleges in the State, he added.

Replying to a supplementary question related to functioning of colleges from makeshift accommodations, the Minister said the creation of infrastructure takes place from time to time to provide quality education to the students.

He further informed that the Government has appointed 1,000 lecturers in the last one year and is going to fill additional vacancy of 1,000 lecturers in the coming year. He assured that from now onwards, the Government would start the academic curriculum in colleges only after their infrastruc-

ture is completed, he noted.

With regard to the construction of Degree College in Baramulla, the Minister said that the acquisition of land measuring 143 kanals and 14 marlas for the said college was issued in 1968. He further informed that because of issues related to compensation, the process has been delayed and said that the Higher Education Department is closely monitoring the case.

The Minister said that the Government would do justice to the land owners and construct the college on the same land, he added.

Replying to a supplementary question of legislator Sofi Yousuf related to the construction of Degree Colleges in Pahalgam, the Minister assured that the government would construct the college in Pahalgam soon.

Replying to a supplementary question raised by Legislator Khurshid Alam relating construction of Degree College in the vicinity of Gandhi Memorial College in Srinagar, the Minister said that the government is constructing the college to provide quality education to the students and informed that seven rooms of the college would be completed by the end of March, 2018 and new subjects would also be introduced, besides making it part of Cluster University's program.

Power scenario to improve from next year: Naeem

***NC member stages walk-out**

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 12: Minister for R&B, Naeem Akhtar today said that many reforms are underway to improve power structure in the State and the overall power supply scenario will improve from next year in the State.

While intervening during the reply to the Question of NC member Qaisar Jamsheed Lone in the Legislative Council today, Naeem Akhtar said it is fact that Kashmir valley is facing electricity problem. He said this problem is old every body knows. The previous Governments did whatever they could but still there is lot to do to improve the supply position. He said many projects have been taken in hands by involving a Central agency to improve power scenario.

In Kashmir and elsewhere and by next year, the power supply position will certainly improve. He admitted that there is power curtailment in metered and not metered areas and said that officers should adhere to the schedule announced for curtailment.

Earlier, responding to the reply of main question of Lone, Minister of State for Power, Asia Naqash said that a massive power infrastructure development programme has been launched in J&K under various centrally sponsored flagship schemes to meet the future load growth and to improve the electricity supply qualitatively and quantitatively.

She said that RAPDRP has been launched for renovation and up-gradation of sub-transmission and distribution network and adoption of IT applications for meter reading, billing and energy accounting, adding that Rs 151.59 crore and Rs 1665.27 crore have been sanctioned under Part-A and Part-B, respectively, for 30 identified towns of the State under the scheme.

The Minister further informed that under Prime Minister's Development Programme, new Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Plan 2015 has framed on the philosophy of 24x7 power for all by 2019 and ensure fiscal autonomy of Jammu and Kashmir. She informed that "Under PMRP-15/PMDD (Distribution) has approved project of Rs 2570.14 crore for strengthening distribution networks of J&K PDD". She informed that RECPDCL has been engaged for all rural areas of 21 districts and urban areas.

She further added that DPRs have been prepared under DDUGJY for 21 districts of the State and Union Government has approved Rs 616.59 crore for the purpose. She said that 102 un-electrified villages of the State would be covered under DDUGJY and RGGVY-II. A proposal of Rs 21.45 crore and Rs 20.91 crore stands submitted to augment critically overloaded Receiving Stations transformers 29 each in Kashmir and Jammu regions, respectively. An amount of Rs 101.28 crore has been sanctioned for Ramban, Kishtwar and Doda district under RGGVY-II.

Javed Ahmad Mirchail, Aga Syed Mahmood raised supplementary questions.

Agitated Qaiser Jamsheed Lone, who was not satisfied with the reply of the Minister, later staged walk out.

Zanskar students witness LC proceedings

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 12: A group of students from Zanskar today witnessed the proceedings of the Legislative Council.

The students hailing from far-off areas of the Kargil district have come here for first time to witness the business of the House.

Chairman, J&K, Legislative Council Haji Anayat Ali welcomed the students in the House. He hoped that students will learn many new things and know about how the issues of public importance are raised by the Legislators in the House and Government response to the same.

Dy Speaker for incentives to employees working in far-flung areas

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 12: Deputy Speaker Legislative Assembly, Nazir Ahmad Gurezi today asked the Government to keep the provision of incentives for those employees including Doctors working in far-flung areas like Gurez.

The instruction was given by the Deputy Speaker in response to the issue raised by MLA Jammu East Rajesh Gupta during the discussion on budget proposals.



DyCM Nirmal Singh launching Diya Gas operations at Jammu on Friday.

DyCM launches Diya Gas operations

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 12: Deputy Chief Minister Dr Nirmal Singh today launched Diya Gas Bottling Plant Ltd operations which will provide hassle free and timely LPG access to domestic and commercial users in the State.

Minister of State for Tourism and Education, Priya Sethi, MLC Charanjeet Singh Khalsa, CFO Diya Gas, JK Handa, CEO Diya Gas, Sandeep Sheron besides other dignitaries were also present on the occasion.

While speaking on the occasion, Deputy Chief Minister congratulated the entrepreneur for the venture and expressed hope that it will provide better services to the consumers in a hassle free manner.

Dr Singh said that it is the mission of Prime Minister that each and every household in the country has LPG connection and hassle free availability of cooking gas that would lead towards smoke free society, less pollution, convenience and healthy life.

He said that central and State Governments are working in tandem to ensure better implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala

Yojana (PMUY) scheme to achieve the envisioned goal of safeguarding the health of women & children by providing them with a clean cooking fuel - LPG so that they don't have to compromise their health in smoky kitchens or wander in unsafe areas collecting firewood.

Dr Singh expressed hope that more such projects will come up in the State creating employment avenues for the youth besides ensuring better LPG penetration. He expressed hope that Diya Gas Bottling Plant Ltd shall ensure good hassle free services to the consumers.

Priya Sethi, while speaking on the occasion, complimented the team of Diya Gas and said that this initiative will provide better services to the consumers besides generating employment avenues for our youth. She hailed the concept of on call LPG delivery system being offered by the agency that will make the service mechanism more prompt and easy.

CEO, Sandeep Sheron, CFO, JK Handa and Janveer Singh Chandel partner also spoke on the occasion and informed about the services in offering by the organisation.

Governor, CM greet people on Lohri, Makar Sankranti

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 12: Governor N. Vohra, has extended warm greetings to the people on the auspicious occasions of Lohri and Makar Sankranti.

In his message of greetings, the Governor observed that these two festivals are a tribute to the bounties of nature and herald a change in Winter moving towards Spring.

Governor prayed for the well-being and happiness of the people and wished that these festivals would bring lasting peace and prosperity to the State.

Chief Minister, Mehbooba Mufti has also greeted people on the occasion of Lohri.

The Chief Minister said in a multilingual and multilingual State like Jammu & Kashmir such occasions bring people closer and also bring joy and happiness to the society.

Rekhi nominated as member of Evaluation Committee

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 12: Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D), Ministry of Home Affairs Gol has constituted a National Level Committee for evaluation of Police Training Institutions of States and Union Territories.

The Committee will be headed by Sanjay Benwal, Spl. CP Delhi Police as Chairman with its members from Punjab Police, J&K Police, BPR&D and MHA.

Sameer Rekhi, SSP Training PHQ has been nominated as member of the Committee having five members.

The Committee will complete the evaluation of the Training Institutions and submit its report to DG DPR&D.



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51 killed, 9,000 injured in unrest after Burhan's killing: Govt

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 12: Government today said 51 people were killed and over 9,000 injured, including over 6,000 due to pellets, during the eight months- long unrest in Kashmir after the killing of Hizbul Mujahideen terrorist Burhan Wani in 2016.

In a written reply to the question of a National Conference MLA Mubarakh Gul in the State Assembly, Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti today said 51 people were killed in Kashmir division from July 8, 2016 to February 27, 2017 in the unrest.

She said 9,042 people were

injured in firing of bullets, pellets, pava-shells and others during the period.

Of these, 6,221 were injured due to pellets, 368 due to bullets, four due to pava shells and 2,449 suffered other injuries, she said.

As many as 782 suffered eye injuries of which 510 were hospitalised, she said, adding that 5,197 cases of pellet injuries were treated at district hospitals and the rest were referred to Super Speciality Hospitals.

The highest number of deaths-16-took place in Anantnag district followed by 13 in Kulgam district, 7 in Pulwama and 5 in Kupwara, Mufti added.

Members raise issues of public importance in LC

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 12: Members of Upper House raised various issues of public importance here today.

As the House met for today's business, Legislator Ajaat Shatru Singh expressed concern over US advisory to its citizens against visiting J&K as reported in a section of press. He urged the J&K Government to take

serious notice of the development as it can be a setback to the State's tourism industry.

Legislator Naresh Kumar Gupta drew the attention of the Government towards shortage of transport facility in Baderwah area. He urged the concerned Ministry to take steps to redress the problem by deploying adequate passenger vehicles on different routes of the area.

Surinder Kumar Choudhary demanded augmentation of water supply in Nowshera area. He called for replenishment of natural sources and renovation of the Water Supply Schemes.

Legislator G L Raina urged the Government to take steps to help the people in the process of linkage of services with Aadhar card as they are facing problem in this regard.

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Last date for submission of bid documents is 03.02.2018 upto 04.00pm
Asstt. General Manager

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